

# Phuket Gazette



## Hometown hero

Annisia Tita Flynn leads the pack on the ASC women's surf tour.

**INSIDE TODAY**

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■ 'WITH THE ECONOMY GOING THE WAY IT IS, PHUKET WILL ONLY ATTRACT MORE CRIMINALS' – POLICE

# Police volunteers to combat street crime

■ Police struggle to find the manpower to stem growing tide of crime infiltrating the island

By **Atchaa Khamlo**

CHALONG Police are boosting public safety on the southern streets of Phuket by enlisting the help of local government officers and volunteers, including island residents and business people.

Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Lt Col Narong Laksanawimon told the *Gazette* that more than 20 officers from Rawai Municipality and local residents are joining police efforts in patrolling the streets, reporting any suspicious activities they see directly to officers on patrol at the time.

A "neighborhood watch center" has also been set up in the Khok Tanode community in Chalong. The center, located near Ladthiwanaram Temple (Wat Tai), has 10 volunteers, supervised by police. "We will ask for more officers from Chalong Municipality to join the campaign," Lt Col Narong said.

"After just two weeks, it already seems as if the number of robberies in the area is decreasing. So far the center's efforts have led to arrests in five cases," he added.

The move to enlist civilian help aims to curb rising crime in the area. One recent incident involved a couple being robbed in Soi Sammakee 2, in Rawai, on June 29 by a man wielding a machete.

"The man was robbed last Friday near Lion Muay Thai by a guy and a girl who approached him on a motorbike. He thought might know them," the *Gazette* was told by one local resident.

"They then put a machete to his throat, slightly cutting his face, and he just gave them everything..."



**Australian Ambassador calls on police to rid the island of all firearms and bladed weapons.** Full story on page 7

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## This Week



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# Court issues warrant for prison guard shooter

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

AN ARREST warrant has been issued for the prime suspect in the shooting and subsequent three-million-baht robbery of Phuket prison guard Danunun Teepapan near Wat Chalong on June 27.

Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Narong Laksanawimon presented to the press the arrest warrant issued by the Phuket Provincial Court for 35-year-old Narongsak "Man" Dang-ngam, who is now wanted on charges of attempted murder and illegal possession of firearms.

"Mr Danunun and Mr Narongsak had some conflict over a business they ran together. When they could not settle the issue, Mr Narongsak [allegedly] came to shoot Mr Danunun and then fled," Lt Col Narong said.

At about 8:30pm, Chalong Police received the report about the shooting from a concerned local resident, who explained that despite injuries sustained the victim had driven his vehicle to a relative's house a short distance away.

Superintendent Col Sirisak Warasiri led police officers to the relative's house in Soi Guan Yu Shrine in Chalong.

At the scene, police officers found a black Toyota pickup truck



Police found a bullet hole in the driver's side window and blood stains on the driver's seat. INSET: suspect. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

belonging to Mr Darunun.

Mr Darunun was not at the house when police arrived, as the same resident who reported the incident had taken him to Phuket International Hospital for treatment to his neck and shoulder.

An examination of the vehicle revealed a bullet hole in the driver's side window and blood stains on the driver's seat.

"We collected all of the evidence

we found at the scene. Later, we found an abandoned black four-door Isuzu pickup truck believed to have been used in the attack," Lt Col Narong explained.

The truck, discovered in Tak Daed Village, was then towed to Chalong Police Station to serve as additional evidence in the case.

Police are also investigating the identity of a Burmese man who allegedly assisted Mr Narong.

## Chinese tourist drowns during night swim along Patong Beach

A 19-year-old Chinese tourist drowned on June 30 at Patong Beach, on Phuket's west coast, after going for a night swim with a female friend.

Sakhon Chaithong, chief life-guard at Patong Beach, told the *Gazette* that the two Chinese tourists were pulled from the surf near Laem Petch, at the north end of Patong, at about 7:30pm.

Foreign tourists spotted the two in distress and rushed out to pull them back to shore, he said.

"It seems they went for a night swim," Mr Sakhon said.

"The woman was saved, but it was too late for the man," he added.

Chinese national, Tianqi Li, 19, was pronounced dead on arrival at Patong Hospital.

Mr Tianqi's female friend was also rushed to hospital.

The *Gazette* has been told that she suffered no serious injuries.

Mr Tianqi's body remains at Patong Hospital pending further action by the authorities and instructions from the Chinese Embassy in Bangkok.

His death comes three weeks after American student abroad Joshua Shane, 21, drowned at night at nearly the same location where Mr Tianqi drowned last Saturday.

— *Atchaa Khamlo*

## Chalong turns to 'community' for public safety

From page 1

"He filed a police report and a policeman told him there's a gang operating in the area," said the resident.

Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Lt Col Narong Laksanawimon told the *Gazette* that police were aware of the incident. "We know who the man is. He is known in the area for being involved in drugs. We believe he is no longer in Phuket, but we are working towards his arrest," he said.

The "machete mugging" follows the fatal stabbing of Australian tourist Michelle Smith on June 20, which gained international media attention and prompted Australian Ambassador



Lt Col Narong: 'Kata-Karon needs more patrol officers.'

James Wise to call for an island-wide weapons ban (see page 7).

It also prompted Provincial Police Commander Chonasi Wattanavangkul to order all police stations in Phuket to make

officers available for patrols in key tourist areas from 9pm to 4am each day (see page 3).

Yet the extra patrol officers offer little respite for the Chalong Police, who have the three sub-districts of Chalong, Rawai and Kata-Karon to protect and serve.

"Before [Maj Gen Chonasi's order] we had only 12 patrol officers, but since the announcement we have six more..."

"But that means we have only 18 patrol police in total to cover Chalong, Rawai, Nai Harn, Kata and Karon. That means only two officers in each subdistrict per shift," explained Col Narong.

"The tourist areas of Kata and Karon [where Mrs Smith was stabbed] should have more patrol officers," he added.



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## Police chief calls for island-wide integrated CCTV system to increase island safety

PHUKET Provincial Police Commander Chonasi Wattanavrangkul on July 2, revealed plans to ask the central government to fund a project that will see all CCTV cameras across Phuket feed live footage into a single server.

Speaking at the monthly 'Governor Meets the Press' meeting at Provincial Hall, Maj Gen Chonasi said that CCTV footage had provided essential information in solving recent criminal cases, such as the stabbing of Australian tourist Michelle Smith.

"We will present our project to the

Phuket provincial government," he said.

Maj Gen Chonasi said that CCTV could alleviate the decade-old problem of not having enough police officers being assigned to Phuket.

"We will set more checkpoints and assign officers from the Phuket Provincial Police to join local police efforts, but the number of police officers in Phuket is based on its registered population.

"Phuket has only three [administrative] districts and the number of residents registered as living here does not match the actual number of people living here. That

is why we need more officers," Gen Chonasi explained.

"We will not ask [the central government] for a big budget for this project because we will use the thousands of CCTV cameras that have already been installed in Phuket, by both government offices and private businesses," he said.

Gen Chonasi did not make any reference to the call by *OrBorJor* President Paiboon Upatising last month for the central government to provide 2 billion baht to interconnect 10,000 CCTV cameras in Phuket.

— Chutharat Plerin



Maj Gen Chonasi Wattanavrangkul

# Special operations unit on tourist night patrol

PHUKET Provincial Police Commander Chonasi Wattanavrangkul has ordered all police stations across Phuket to take part in the formation of a "Special Operations Unit" in order to boost patrols in key tourist areas from 9pm to 4am.

Maj Gen Chonasi announced the news on June 28 at a meeting of the Regional Peace Keeping Council, Phuket Office, headed by Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha.

"I have to admit that we do not have enough police officers here to be able to monitor all areas closely," Maj Gen Chonasi explained.

"That is why I have asked for special assistance from all police stations in Phuket to designate officers to help with the formation of a 'Special Operations Unit' so we can patrol main tourist areas, such as Kata, Karon, and Patong," he added.

Maj Gen Chonasi said he had also ordered officers to co-ordinate with local people in each area to help prevent crime and to provide



Former Patong Police chief Col Arayapan Pukbuakao inspects officers before their nightly patrols last year. Phuket's top cop is now calling for all police stations to help with special operation units. Photo: Gazette file

assistance to tourists in need.

"This will help tourists feel safe during their visit and it will help to restore their confidence in Phuket as a tourism destination," he said.

Maj Gen Chonasi pointed out that southern Phuket was suffering from higher crime rates than elsewhere on the island.

"I looked at our records and

found that most of the crimes committed in Phuket have been in the areas that Chalong Police Station is responsible for," said the police chief.

Governor Tri stressed the importance of how the many negative incidents in Phuket directly affect Phuket's reputation as a tourism destination.

"This is one of the most important issues that everyone has to discuss together: how we can better improve our public safety. We need to regain tourists' confidence, as well as that of local residents. Perhaps, we should be more stern in enforcing the law as part of our safety measures," said Governor Tri.

"Phuket is a popular holiday destination and a lot of tourists come here all year round. We can generate a lot of money for Thailand through tourism alone. But if we let tragic incidents like this happen again, no one will want to travel to Phuket," he said.

## Phuket MP petitions Yingluck, Chalm for more police

ONE of Phuket's two Members of Parliament is appealing for the Government to take immediate steps to shore up the island's image following a highly-damning report by a Singapore-based website that brands Phuket: "The Crime Capital of Asia".

The report which includes images sourced from the *Gazette*, without permission, describes Phuket as: "one of the worlds [sic] most dangerous destinations for foreign and local tourists and businessmen".

Phuket MP Raywat Areerob has sent two letters to top government officials requesting that steps be taken to restore the island's positive image among tourists in response to the web article.

One letter was addressed to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra requesting government help in regaining the positive image of tourism in Phuket.

The other letter was issued directly to Deputy Prime Minister Chalm Yubamrung, and requested he help provide Phuket with an extra 600 police officers to increase the safety of local residents and tourists.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Foiled tourist abduction comes amid police 'media blackout'

THE Royal Thai Police have ordered a "media blackout" for Phuket, with only the local police superintendent authorized to release information to the media, the *Gazette* has learned.

News of the blackout follows yet another disturbing report, this one of an attempted abduction of a female tourist in Patong at about 4am on July 4.

The *Gazette* tried to contact case officer Maj Prathung Pholmana of the Patong Police, but were told that under a new policy set by Royal Thai Police headquarters in Bangkok, only the superintendent was allowed to release information to the media.

Kathu Police Deputy Superintendent Lt Col Kittipong Klaikaw confirmed this, saying the new media blackout policy was recently issued due to the fact that media too often publish false information.

"When the media publish false

or misleading information, it makes our work more difficult and sullies the image of our province," he said.

Both Thalang and Chalong Police also declined to release information to *Gazette* reporters, citing the same policy.

The *Gazette* was eventually able to contact new Patong Police Superintendent Jirapat Phochanaphan, who confirmed that the attempted abduction did take place, and that the perpetrator had been arrested.

"As [the woman] approached the hotel, a man parked his vehicle in front of the hotel and got out. He then tried to grab her and pull her into his car. She resisted him and screamed for help," he said.

"Fortunately, a Japanese man came to her rescue. He suffered minor injuries during the struggle, but I can't confirm the exact nature of his wounds," said Col Jirapat.

— Orawin Narabal

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# Oil spill threatens wildlife at Krabi mangrove forest

KRABI authorities have launched a massive cleanup operation after a boat struck rocks and spilled a large volume of oil into the sea, resulting in extensive damage to protected mangrove forests in Neua Khlong District.

The spill was first reported at 9am on the morning of June 30.

How much oil was spilled is not known, but one local in an affected area in Khlong Khanan subdistrict reported oil lining 10 kilometers of coastline, with an estimated 1,000 rai of mangrove forest affected.

"This will affect wildlife and cause a lot of trouble for the environment and local residents. Government departments must do something to solve this problem immediately," said Leb Chonlatee, 49, of Laem Kruad village.

Krabi Governor Prasit Osathanon ordered local authorities to act quickly on the spill. "This could endanger or even kill animals in the mangrove forest," he said.

"The Krabi Provincial Electricity Authority cleaned up some of the oil floating on the sea, but there



Authorities are struggling to clean up the oil. An expert said that using chemicals could affect wildlife. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong.

is still oil in the mangrove forest. I have assigned the relevant departments to inspect and clean up the affected areas," he added.

Surasak Mongkolchaiyasit of the Marine Office in Krabi said

"The boat, Aor Somsak, is now in Phuket for repairs. The owner has been identified and told to report to this office by Thursday," he said.

"The owner must pay for the

damage caused to the environment," said Mr Surasak.

The boat owner faces a fine up to 10,000 baht if officers find that the boat has been used for any purpose other than that stipulated in its registration documents.

"Allowing oil to leak into the sea carries a fine of up to 60,000 baht, up to three years imprisonment, or both," Mr Surasak added.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Belanger

THE lack of information publicly released on the deaths of Canadian sisters Audrey and Noemi Belanger on Phi Phi Island last month prompted the sisters' father, Carl Belanger, to accuse the Thai authorities of covering up the true circumstances of their deaths.

The leading investigators in the case have now refuted the allegation. The *Phuket Gazette's* Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai and Orawin Narabal report.

THE international media spotlight shone intensely on the deaths of Canadian sisters Audrey and Noemi Belanger on Phi Phi Island last month. Their deaths, by apparent poisoning, were quickly branded as mysterious as local authorities failed to provide the media with quick, convenient and clear identification as to what caused the deaths.

In a decisive move, Krabi Governor Prasit Osathanon named only one police officer, Krabi Provincial Police Commander Jamroon Ruenrom, as the sole official authorized to publicly comment on the case.

Yet, Maj Gen Jamroon handed

the responsibility over to one of his deputies: Col Boontawee Toraksa.

The lack of information forthcoming from the Thai authorities gained widespread criticism, and resulted in the sisters' father, Carl Belanger, accusing the Thai authorities of a cover-up in an interview in the sisters' home province of Quebec, Canada.

Col Boontawee has refuted the allegation. "The official autopsy results have not been released yet. We are continuing to contact the Forensic Institute of Ramathibodi Hospital in Bangkok for the final results. What we had been informed of were just the unofficial results, which do not include all

# Police crack Kamala motorbike chop shop



The stolen motorbikes were seized from two houses. Photo: Orawin Narabal

PHUKET Police arrested a member of a motorbike theft ring in Kamala, seizing 15 stolen bikes and other evidence valued at 900,000 baht on June 27.

Provincial Police Commander Chonasit Wattanavrangkul presented the suspect, 19-year-old Athiwat Aunruean of Kamala, at a press conference at provincial police headquarters June 28.

Kamala Police Superintendent Natthapakin Kwanchaipruk and his team led the investigation after more than 20 motorbikes were reported stolen in Kamala over the past two months.

All of the recovered motorbikes, many of which had been stripped for parts, were presented along with stolen license plates.

Mr Athiwat confessed to being a member of a three-member gang, identifying his accomplices as "Dul" and "Kee".

Mr Athiwat and his conspirators tended to prey on less vigilant bike owners — people who did not

lock them properly or left the key in the ignition. They also sought out bikes left in remote areas. Once stolen, many of the bikes were stripped of parts, which were then sold off to raise money to buy drugs, police said.

Investigators are now working to return the stolen bikes — or what is left of them — to their rightful owners. They are also trying to track down "Dul" and "Kee", whose full names are not yet known.

"I would like to warn motorcyclists to use the security locking system [that prevents the wheels from spinning after the ignition key is removed] every time you park. Also, try to park your motorcycle in well-lit areas," said Col Natthapakin.

Motorbike theft victims can visit Kamala Police Station (Tel: 076-385310; 076-279085; 086-690 9009) to see if their bike has been recovered.

— Orawin Narabal

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# deaths dismantled

the details," he told the *Gazette*.

"They are now conducting in-depth tests to search for any possible cause of death, which will take a long time and I don't know when the [full] results will be released," he added.

Col Boontawee explained that, unlike most autopsies requested by police, this time they did not request for any specific tests to be conducted, "We basically asked them to test for everything."

## DARK HISTORY

The unexplained deaths of Audrey, 20, and Noemi, 26, saw questions resurface from similar deaths on Phi Phi Island in 2009.

Norwegian tourist Erik Liuhagen, 48, died on April 1 after being admitted to hospital with severe diarrhea. He had been staying at Krabi Villa. A month later, on May 3, 26-year-old American tourists Ryan Kells and Jill St Onge both became ill and were admitted to Krabi Hospital. The pair had been vomiting for some time before going to the hospital. Ms St Onge died later that day. Mr Kells survived the illness.

According to police, the pair were engaged to be married and had been staying at Laleena Guesthouse, which is about 1,500 meters from where Mr Liuhagen had stayed.

On May 4, Norwegian Julie Michelle Berghem – who had also been staying at Laleena guesthouse in the room adjacent to Ryan Kells' & Ms St Onge's room – died after becoming mysteriously ill with severe vomiting. She died in hospital while talking to police, a short while after being admitted.

Extensive tests failed to provide any conclusive evidence as to what those three tourists died of.

"The unexplained deaths of the Norwegian and American tourists in 2009 were good case studies for us. [In the Belanger case] We followed the exact same procedure that we conducted in 2009," Col Boontawee said.

He also dismissed rumors that no autopsies were conducted in the 2009 deaths. "We have autopsies conducted in every single case of an unexplained death," he said.

"In the Belanger case, we collected body tissue, stool samples and vomit samples and submitted them to the Institute of Forensic Medicine at the Police General Hospital in Bangkok.

"But then the Canadian embassy and [senior] police [officers in Bangkok] requested us to have the autopsies conducted by the Forensic Institute at Ramathibodi Hospital in Bangkok, since they have specialists who are able to conduct tests that cannot be done at any other hospital," he explained.

"I can't reveal what specific tests they [the Canadian officials] requested, but I can tell you that the autopsy being conducted is to look at every single detail," he added.



Sisters Audrey and Noemi Belanger died on Phi Phi Island last month, apparently from poisoning. Photo: Facebook

## TRANSPARENCY

Col Boontawee expressed his disappointment over the foreign media who have reported police action in the Belanger case. "The Canadian media have exaggerated the situation. We have tried our best in order to determine the cause of death. I can't say much since it may affect the case," he said.

"We worked as quickly as we possibly could. As soon as we found out about the deaths, we immediately sent the bodies for an initial autopsy... We are not trying to hide anything from anyone. In this case, we are not specialists in all fields, such as public health or environment. That is why we have so many people from other units involved in the case.

"All we can do now is to wait for the result to come out, then we can continue with our investigation. We didn't want any of this to happen. I just want everyone to know that the way we work is transparent," Col Boontawee concluded.

## THE EXPERTS

Dr Pasakorn Akarasewi, Director of the Bureau of Epidemiology at the Ministry of Public Health's Department of Disease Control, heads the team called in by police to assist in the investigation.

"We went to inspect the area as per the request from the Krabi Police. The Krabi Police said they had experts for dealing with drug cases and murder investigations, but they had no specialists in public health. That's why we went down there – to offer some help," he told the *Gazette*.

"We cannot tell the police the actual cause of death, but we can provide evidence for them to consider in the investigation," he said.

The public health aspect of the investigation focuses on possible food poisoning, contaminated water or any disease that may have spread on Phi Phi, Dr Pasakorn explained.

"After collecting samples of nearly everything, we came back

[to Bangkok] and had those samples examined in the lab. We found nothing wrong with any of the samples we collected," he said.

Dr Pasakorn was also involved in the investigation into the unexplained deaths on Phi Phi in 2009.

"We sent our team from the Bureau of Epidemiology to collect samples just like we did with the Canadian sisters' case, but the situation of those deaths were not exactly the same as this latest case," he said.

"In 2009, we received a request from Krabi Police to assist their investigation. They said they suspected that the cause of death may have been food poisoning. But the test results weren't what they expected, and the police were unable to determine the cause of death," he explained.

"When we went down to Phi Phi again this year, we also wondered why such a similar incident had happened on the same island again... and again, the results from tests in this latest incident have revealed no connection with public health aspects to deaths of the two Canadian sisters," he added.

Dr Passakorn noted that the four deaths at the now-demolished Downtown Inn in Chiang Mai also faltered on the public health front. "We believe the deaths may have been from the same cause, but we were unable to determine what the cause was," he said.

As for the Belanger case, he said, "The autopsy results from Forensic Institute of Ramathibodi Hospital will be the main report

that the police will use as evidence.

"We have submitted the results of the tests that we have conducted. If they need anything else, they will make another request. But for now, the mission for our part has been completed," he said.

## In brief...

### Burglar gang targets foreigners

A MEMBER of a gang of burglars who target high-end homes of foreigners living in the Cherng Talay area was arrested over the weekend and presented to the Phuket press Monday.

The suspect, 27-year-old Wittawat Maneesri, confessed to police that he worked with a team of three others to steal valuables from foreigners' houses in Ayara Hilltops Boutique Resort & Spa, as well as other resorts and villas in and around Cherng Talay Village 3.

### Couple caught in meth bust

A COUPLE suspected of selling drugs to teenagers were arrested by Phuket Police for possession of *ya bah* (metamphetamine) and *ya ice* (crystal metamphetamine) at their home in Thalang July 2.

As a result, Weerasak Nilawong, 24, from Sri Soonthorn, and Ketkaew Benjangnara, 28, from Muang District in Phang Nga, are now in police custody.

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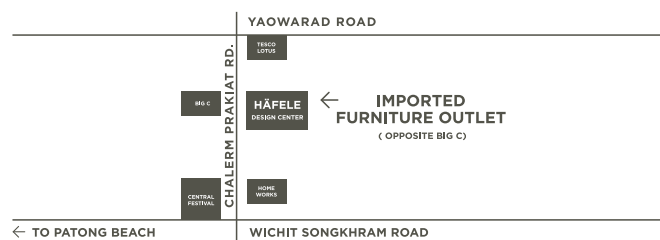
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# Call to end tuk-tuk violence

By Atchaa Khamlo

NEW Patong Police Superintendent Jirapat Phochanaphan will soon hold a meeting with all taxi and jet-ski operators in Patong in an attempt to resolve the problems arising from their "interactions" with tourists.

Col Jirapat took over on June 15 from Col Sermphan Sirikong, who served just two months as police chief of Phuket's premier resort town.

Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Kittipong Klaikaew broke the news this week, after a tuk-tuk driver was fined 3,000 baht and received a three-month suspended sentence for striking an Egyptian tourist in the face – twice.

Col Kittipong identified the driver as 40-year-old Sirapob Ngamriab.

Patong Police were notified of the assault, in front of the Jungceylon shopping complex on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road, at about 8pm on June 26.

According to the police report, when officers arrived they found 35-year-old Egyptian Ahmed Taha Taha sitting on the busy road, obstructing traffic. He refused to seek medical treatment until he had a chance to give his account of what happened to police through a translator.

Police eventually convinced him to move to the sidewalk. After telling police that he had been struck in the left eyebrow by a tuk-tuk driver, he was escorted by officers to Patong Hospital, where doctors closed the wound with eight stitches.

From there he was taken to Patong Police Station to file a report of the incident.

Before the assault, Mr Taha Taha hailed a tuk-tuk to take him and his family back to their accommodation at the Centra Ashlee Patong Hotel, a distance of about one kilometer.

When asked how many people would be travelling, he told the driver "six"; they then agreed on a fare of 300 baht.



Col Kittipong: Sometimes these stories damage tourism. The media should exercise discretion in running them because they can be a real double-edged sword. Photo: Gazette file

But noticing that more than 10 people had piled in, Mr Sirapob raised the fare to 400 baht, according to the official report.

An argument ensued, in which Mr Sirapob lost his temper and struck the Egyptian in the face twice before fleeing on foot, read the report.

Mr Sirapob came to the police station at about 11:30pm that night to give his version of events.

He told police that Mr Taha Taha refused to pay him 400 baht, berated him and approached him in an aggressive manner. Mr Sirapob confessed to losing his temper and striking Mr Taha Taha before quickly running away to avoid retribution from the tourist's family.

While at Patong Police Station, Mr Sirapob apologized to Mr Taha Taha and his family, offering to

pay him compensation.

The Egyptian accepted the apology, but refused any compensation. He also said he did not want to press any charges against Mr Sirapob, Col Kittipong told the *Gazette*.

However, as assault against a tourist is a non-compoundable offense under the Thai Criminal Code, it cannot be privately resolved between the parties concerned.

Mr Sirapob was thus charged with assault, whereupon he confessed and was sentenced by Phuket Provincial Court to three months in prison, suspended for two years, and a 3,000-baht fine.

Col Kittipong urged tuk-tuk and taxi drivers to be patient and to exercise restraint when conflicts with tourists arise.



Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Lt Col Kittipong Klaikaew. Photo: Gazette file

"We often have meetings with taxi operators to ask them to exercise self-control. Some of them are not very well-educated; they do not quite understand that when they harm tourists, they will have to suffer the consequences, or that it will damage the tourism industry that sustains them.

"However, now they have a better grasp of the fact that if they do bad things, such as assaulting tourists, they are 'smashing their own rice bowl'," he said.

Col Kittipong said that, in his experience, tourists were more often than not the instigators of conflicts with tuk-tuk and taxi drivers.

"They are usually drunk and quick to lose their temper, often pounding on tuk-tuks or shaking them, but I also accept that sometimes taxi drivers overreact and assault tourists," he said.

"I would like taxi drivers and jet-ski operators to be good hosts... Calling in police to help resolve disputes amicably is the best solution," he said.

## Drug suspect caught after year on the run

A MAN wanted in connection with a police bust involving 9,600 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills last year was arrested on the evening of June 29 while walking along Wiset Road in Rawai.

The warrant for Kriangkrai "Fad" Mahasod, 24, was issued by the Phuket Provincial Court on September 19 last year.

It followed a spate of arrests in Phuket which led to drugs with a street value of more than five million baht being seized.

Mr Kriangkrai's associate, 19-year-old Thawatchai "Em" Jokkaew, was arrested during a raid on a house in Rawai in which the *ya bah* pills were recovered.

The court issued the warrant pending charges being brought against Mr Kriangkrai for possession of *ya bah* with intent to sell and possession of an improvised firearm.

Mr Kriangkrai spent a year hiding in his home province of Krabi, but returned to Phuket about two months ago to work on a boat.

At the time of the arrest, Chalong police found two grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) on his person.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



After almost a year on the run, Mr Kriangkrai was caught back in Phuket. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Seven injured as fishing boat explodes

SEVEN people were rushed to hospital after an explosion aboard a fishing boat queued up to take on ice at Por Pichai Company wharf in Rassada on July 1.

Police were notified of the explosion at 8:10am and attended the scene along with Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers.

At the scene, rescue workers found the *Sathaporn 7* half sunk and seven men injured.

The captain, Prawai Tongmee, 52, and a man identified as "Mr Nikorn", 37, suffered severe burns. Five Burmese crewmen were also injured in the blast.

All seven were rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

From their initial investigation, police believe that after the *Sathaporn 7* finished unloading its haul of fish at the nearby Fish



The 'Sor Chock Anada' attempting to salvage the 'Sathaporn 7'. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Marketing Organization wharf the previous day, it queued up to take on ice at the Por Pichai wharf for its scheduled departure.

While waiting in the queue, a crew member turned on the gas cooker, which might have had a

leaky gas hose that fuelled the explosion, said police.

The blast damaged the engine room and holed the hull, causing the boat to list and partially sink into the shallow water.

The *Sathaporn 7* was salvaged, but the owner estimates repairs will cost 2 million baht.

Norraset Roay-utara, 39, who owns the *Sor Chock Anada*, which helped salvage the *Sathaporn 7*, said, "It took us a while to salvage the boat, since it is big. We just tied buoys to the boat and let them float it to the surface.

"Then, we patched the hole and dragged it back to the wharf to be repaired," he told the *Gazette*.

Police are continuing to investigate the case to determine the exact cause of the explosion.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Phuket Gazette

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# No more weapons in paradise

## Australian Ambassador calls on all police to rid the island of all firearms and knives

By Atchaa Khamlo

AUSTRALIAN Ambassador to Thailand James Wise on June 29 called for police to launch an island-wide crackdown on weapons, including those carried by tuk-tuk drivers.

Speaking after a high-level meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall, Amb Wise said the recent fatal stabbing of Australian tourist Michelle Smith had put a spotlight on public safety in Phuket.

"There has been massive media coverage of this in Australia and it will have an effect on some people who would otherwise have come to Phuket – that is only human nature," he said.

Amb Wise said the Australian authorities were very pleased that the Thai police were able to find the suspects. "They have been charged and they will now face the courts of Thailand, as they should, but that of course is really not much comfort at all for the family of Mrs Smith," he said.

"I would hope that – given the nature of the crime – the police will move very quickly to confiscate knives and guns and other weapons which people are carrying in Phuket. I understand tuk-tuk drivers quite often have weapons. They shouldn't have weapons. They don't need weapons to drive a tuk-tuk," he said.

Amb Wise suggested that one way authorities could encourage tuk-tuk drivers to stop carrying weapons was to not only to confiscate the weapons

found, but also impound the tuk-tuks.

He pointed out that ever since his installment as Ambassador to Thailand in 2010, the authorities in Phuket have been calling for stronger support from the central government in Bangkok.

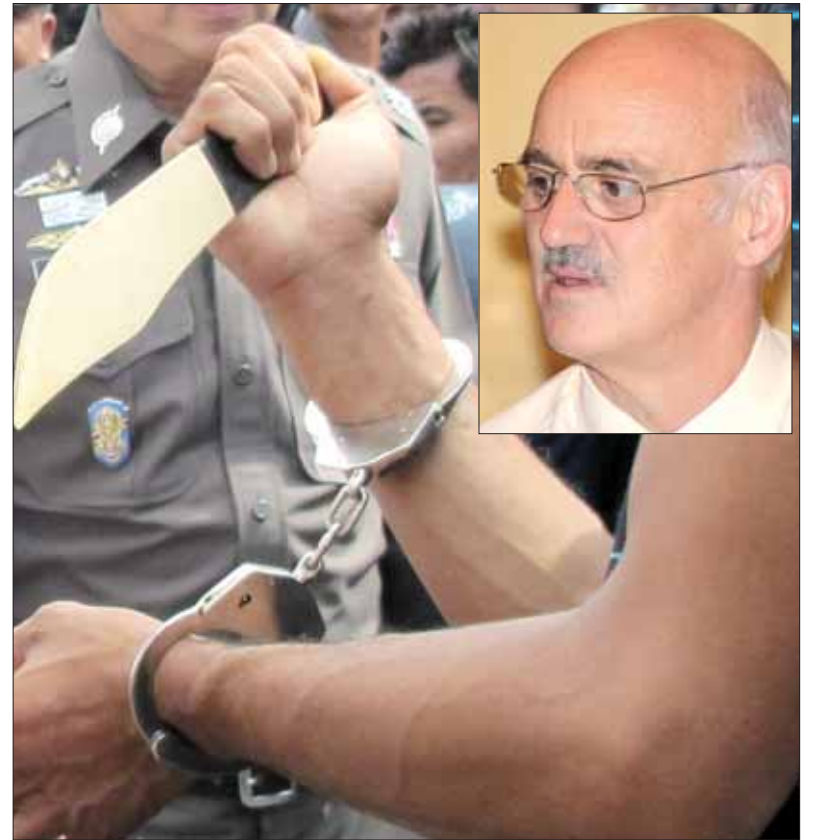
He explained that he and other ambassadors had met with senior officials in Bangkok several months ago to discuss such issues and that another meeting was scheduled for July 11.

"At that meeting we will also be drawing to the central government's attention our concerns, but also conveying to the central government the very strong wish of the authorities here in Phuket for strong support from the central authorities," he said.

Amb Wise pointed out that most Australians who visit Phuket have trouble-free visits.

"Overwhelmingly, the Australians who come here have a wonderful holiday and many of them come back again. Phuket remains a very attractive destination for Australians, but the case of Mrs Smith last week – the very, very tragic murder of Mrs Smith – does put the spotlight on the security situation here in Phuket.

"I think it provides an opportunity for us in the diplomatic community, for local authorities here and for local people here to say, 'Look, enough is enough'. We need to fix some of these problems that we have been talking about for years – but let's take this opportunity to deal with these issues, to fix these issues, not just talk about them," he said.



**WISE MOVE:** Australian Ambassador James Wise called for an island-wide ban on carrying weapons. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

## Phuket Tourist Association blasts officials for inaction over island's foreign mafia

PHUKET Tourist Association Vice President Sarayuth Mallam on June 27, lashed out at local government heads for failing to see the importance of solving tourism issues and succumbing to the pressures of "foreign mafia".

"Department heads are not placing the proper importance on solving these problems. Even at this meeting, for example, many heads of the relevant organizations are not here, such as the Phuket Police Commander, the Tourist Police Superintendent and the Immigration Superintendent.

"Instead, they send their subordinate officers to represent them," said Mr Mallam at a meeting headed by Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha.

Mr Sarayuth explained that it was necessary for the heads of relevant offices to listen to the meetings in their entirety. "Many of them would like to work in Phuket, but some of them don't know anything [about Phuket]."

Mr Sarayuth said that mafia in Phuket, especially those headed by foreigners, were having deep-reaching effects on public safety.

"The presence of foreign mafia in Phuket is more frightening than local mafia. They are not afraid of the police," he said.

Mr Sarayuth cited for Governor Tri the example of a staff member of a Patong timeshare company attacking a tourist.

"The tourist reported the attack to the police and the timeshare worker was questioned at Patong



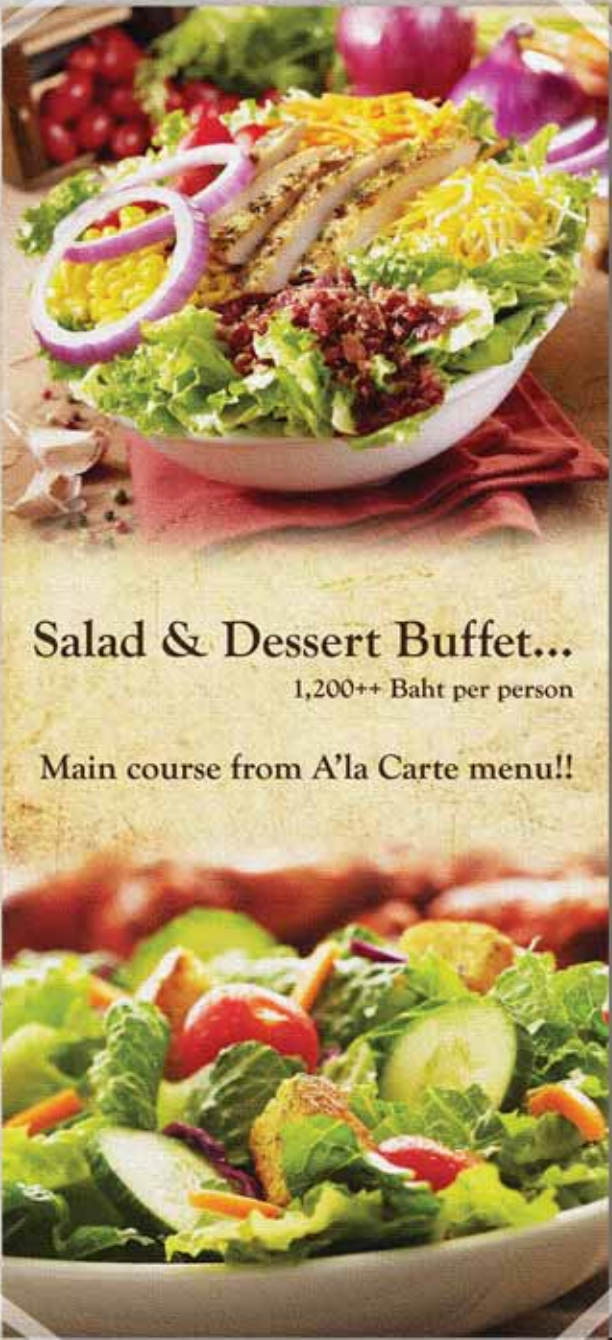
**Phuket Tourist Association Vice President Sarayuth Mallam.** Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Police Station. However, the company called a powerful policeman from outside Phuket, who cleared the case. All the Patong Police could do was issue him a warning," he explained.

Mr Sarayuth is already very familiar with suffering violent intimidation tactics. In 2002, he was attacked from behind and hit in the head with a hammer after leaving an appointment at Phuket Provincial Court.

Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada pointed out that at a recent meeting in Bangkok, Deputy Prime Minister Chalerm Yoobamrung ordered provincial governors to send reports to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra every 30 days, especially provinces that have issues with jet-ski rentals, black taxis and tourists being taken advantage of.


– Atchaa Khamlo




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## Supporters' Club James Lakin passes away



James 'Shaggy' Lakin. Photo: Richard Dillon

JAMES Lakin, Phuket resident and one of the founding members of the Phuket FC Rawai Supporters' Club, has died at the age of 38.

Mr Lakin, nicknamed "Shaggy" by his friends, died on the evening of June 23 of coronary failure.

His funeral was at Wat Sawang Arom in Rawai on June 30. Following that, his many friends attended a memorial gathering at the newly named Shaggy's Bar.

Originally from Wall Heath, a village outside Wolverhampton in the West Midlands, England, Mr Lakin was an engineer before moving to Phuket in 2005 to set up a small maintenance company.

Mr Lakin settled in Rawai, where he became a respected and well-liked member of the local community.

Known for his passion for West Bromwich Albion and Phuket FC, he was a founding member of the now well-known Rawai Supporters' Club, which has faithfully supported Phuket FC since its formation in 2009.

Friends described Mr Lakin as having a great personality and a keen sense of humor.

Mr Lakin was married on June 10 of this year and is survived by his wife Phadala.

— *Phuket Gazette*

## Creepy craft spooks Chiang Mai zookeepers

THE managers of the Chiang Mai Zoo Aquarium recently had three ancient boats moved off their premises after a series of ghostly goings-on had staff scared stiff.

After the boats arrived at the property, weird things started happening, including ghostly sightings and sounds – and the boats were held responsible.

Narithat Charoensetsin, deputy chairman of Chiang Mai Zoo Aquarium, said he bought the three boats, which were carved out of extremely hard Malabar ironwood, for 70,000 baht from some villagers in Lamphun Province.

Villagers had found them submerged in the Ping River. Despite being at least 100 years old, they were still in perfect condition.

One boat was eight meters long, a second just over seven meters

**QUEER**  
news

long and the smallest just over four meters in length. The plan was to use them to decorate the aquarium's underwater observation tunnel, but they were still kept in a warehouse for inspection and disinfection when the trouble began.

Staff and security guards started reporting weird things happening at night. Some of them saw a woman dressed in old-fashioned Thai clothing walking near the warehouse; others saw her sitting on the warehouse roof. There were also reports of mysterious screams.

Scared silly, employees started refusing to work the night shift. They claimed that the happenings were related to the three old boats.

Eventually, the management had no choice but to get rid of the haunted boats.

— *Daily News*

## Airport director Prathuang hails anti-cheat measures a success

By Orawin Narabal

SECURITY measures taken at Phuket International Airport to prevent airport service staff, and the likes of illegal taxi drivers, from taking advantage of tourists were declared successful by Airport Director Prathuang Sornkham on June 30.

The announcement follows police joining forces to launch a campaign in March to put a stop to illegal taxi drivers overcharging people and to stop tour guides and touts from harassing arriving passengers before and after they leave the airport building.

"Though sometimes people tried to cheat tourists or steal their belongings, we did our best to control and eliminate the problem, so as to make tourists feel 100 per cent safe while they are at the airport," Mr Prathuang explained.

He added that the airport was critical in providing new arrivals with a positive image of Phuket as it is the first place they see when arriving on the island.



Arriving tourists no longer face running the gauntlet once outside.



And the end of being taken for a ride by illegal taxi vehicles.

At the press conference held at the airport on June 30, Mr Prathuang noted that the airport expansion project was scheduled to start in August and be completed by the beginning of 2015.



Airport Director Prathuang Sornkham declared the measures to protect arriving passengers a success. Photos: Orawin Narabal

The renovated airport will be able to handle about 12.5 million passengers.

"Last year, we had a total of about 8.4mn passengers, but the current airport was designed to

handle only about 6.5mn people."

"Already this year, we have seen a 12 per cent increase in the number of passengers month-on-month compared with last year," Mr Prathuang said.

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## Waterspout destroys five houses in Krabi

FIVE families are seeking refuge at a local public health clinic after a waterspout demolished their homes in Krabi on June 27.

The waterspout struck the small waterfront community of Khlong Kanan in Nua Khlong District, which comprises about 100 stilted homes raised about 15 to 20 meters above the water.

Jira Butraha, 30, said her seven-year-old daughter saved her from being caught inside her home as it collapsed.

"I was cooking in the kitchen when I suddenly heard a sound like a very heavy storm outside. Then my daughter came running in, yelling at me to get out of the house," Mrs Jira said.

"So I ran outside and stood in front of my home. Less than a second later, the whole house collapsed into the sea. Luckily, no one was injured," she added.

The water spout destroyed four other homes belonging to Mrs Rorpia Tawamak, 50; Mr Jumnie Boonyarat, 65; Mr Soonthorn



An officer at the scene points to one of the houses in Khlong Kanan in Krabi that collapsed into the water below. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Labsaeng, 48; and Mrs Saorada Ryatalay, 49.

Talengsak Puwayannapong of the Krabi Office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM-Krabi) led a team of officers to inspect the site and render assistance.

"Local villagers said a 'tornado' rose up from the sea. It blew to-

ward the houses, causing a lot of damage. Our initial estimates put the damage at a minimum of 1.5 million baht," Mr Talengsak said.

The DDPM-Krabi will provide 30,000 baht cash and a household "survival kit", including rice, cooking oil and bedding, to each family.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



# NASA climate project shelved

A PROPOSED project that would see the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) use U-Tapao airbase for a climate research project has collapsed amid political squabbling and recriminations.

Members of both the government and the opposition Democrat Party accused each other of failing to properly manage the request for the project.

In an open letter, Thai scientists implored the government to facilitate the collaboration, which would have investigated the hypothesis that Southeast Asia during its monsoon season is the primary place and time when near-surface pollutants are pumped high into the stratosphere, with potential environmental effects for the entire planet.

"I think this project is essential for Thai people because it is concerned directly with the atmospheric environment of the country," said Associate Professor Serm Janjai of Silpakorn University's Department of Physics.

"We are in the zone where aerosol pollution creation is intensive due to agricultural waste burning,

## AROUND THE nation

especially in Thailand and neighboring countries. These pollutants affect clouds and, consequently, rainfall distribution, which is vital for this region. The mechanism of interaction between aerosols, clouds and rain is currently unclear," he explained.

But the project will have to be shelved for some time. Parliamentary squabbling between the government and opposition meant the project could not start in time to take the required measurements during the height of the monsoon season, NASA said.

"On June 26, 2012, NASA cancelled the SEAC4RS mission, which was scheduled to begin in August 2012, due to the absence of necessary approvals by regional authorities in the time frame necessary to support the mission's planned deployment and scientific observation window," the NASA



The NASA Southeast Asia Composition, Cloud, Climate Coupling Regional Study (SEAC4RS) project was to be based at U-Tapao airbase. INSET: SEAC4RS logo. Photo: The Nation; Inset: NASA

website announced.

NASA planned to launch the project for two months in August and September, but stiff opposition in the Kingdom over the issue barred the Thai government from granting timely approval for the project.

The opposition Democrat Party

accused both governments of having hidden agendas. Members of the party claimed the research had a secret military purpose to contain China in the Asia-Pacific region in exchange for a US visa for former PM Thaksin Shinawatra.

The argument baffled some

observers, who noted that U-Tapao airbase was already being used by US military planes as a transit point for operations in Asia.

The base was one of several Thai sites used by the US during the Vietnam War to bomb Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

## Firm presses forward with controversial Mekong dam

THAI engineering firm Ch Karnchang is pressing ahead with the development of the controversial Xayaburi Dam on the Mekong River despite bitter opposition from villagers' and environmental groups.

Opponents of the project say the US\$3 billion structure will devastate communities and ecosystems downstream in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

The company's actions allegedly fly in the face of a decision by the Mekong River Commission, which comprises water and environment ministers from the affected countries, to ban further construction on the project until the results of an environmental impact assessment are released.

Ch Karnchang claims it is only doing "preliminary construction", though critics claim that work such as the building of roads goes further than that.

"The definition of 'preliminary' keeps expanding," said Kirk



Villagers hold banners reading 'Love Mekong, No Dam' during a demonstration against the Xayaburi dam in 2011. Photo: The Nation

Herbertson, Mekong Campaigner for International Rivers, as reported by *Asia Sentinel*. "Ripping up the riverbed and resettling entire villages cannot be considered a preliminary activity."

Last week, hundreds of villagers in Cambodia demonstrated against the project, which will supply electricity to the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT).

## Ten die in Surat Thani horror smash

SIX tourists and four others have died, 17 more were seriously injured, when an inter-provincial bus left the road and crashed into an electric power transmission pole on Tuesday.

The driver lost control of the first-class, air-conditioned Transport Co Ltd vehicle and it crashed into a divider strip and then slammed into the power pole on the Surat Thani - Nakhon Sri Thammarat Road in Kanchanadit district.

Among those killed were the driver and Amit Jain,

an Indian national. Five other bodies had yet to be identified and were sent Surat Thani Hospital.

Another 17 passengers, including both Thais and foreigners, were injured and being treated in local hospitals.

The bus, carrying 24 passengers, the driver and two bus attendants, left Bangkok at 7:50pm on Monday evening en route to Surat Thani. The passengers' ultimate destination was Koh Pha-ngan, an island off Samui known for its infamous "full moon" parties.

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# Time for tourism bodies to act on surf safety

A recent *Phuket Gazette* online poll revealed that readers were evenly divided on which was the best of six possible approaches to minimize the number of lives lost to drowning during the monsoon season now underway.

As noted by many readers who commented in our readers' forum, the results seem to indicate that perhaps there is no single best solution to this very serious problem and that a multi-tiered strategy combining all the approaches is needed.

As argued in this space before, however, the *Phuket Gazette* continues to believe that in-flight warnings, either spoken or in video format, would be the most effective and easy-to-implement strategy for educating tourists about the dangers of rip currents.

Putting up more signs in more languages would be a fine idea if our beaches weren't so cluttered with obnoxious signage already. Lifeguards face a similar signal-to-noise problem; tourists are so bombarded with touts, propositions and other unwanted attention that they naturally tend to "tune out" anyone who approaches them – even if that person might come bearing critical information that may save their lives.

The idea of getting police involved might likewise save some lives, but it is hardly rational to expect law officers to help keep beach tourists out of the water if they can't even keep motorists on the correct side of the road.

In-flight warnings would be far more direct and effective. For a start, airplane passengers are the very definition of a captive audience. People may tune out when the flight attendants go into their pre-takeoff safety spiel, but they are far more likely to pay attention if they are at 30,000 feet and the captain comes on and speaks to them in their own language about safety issues.

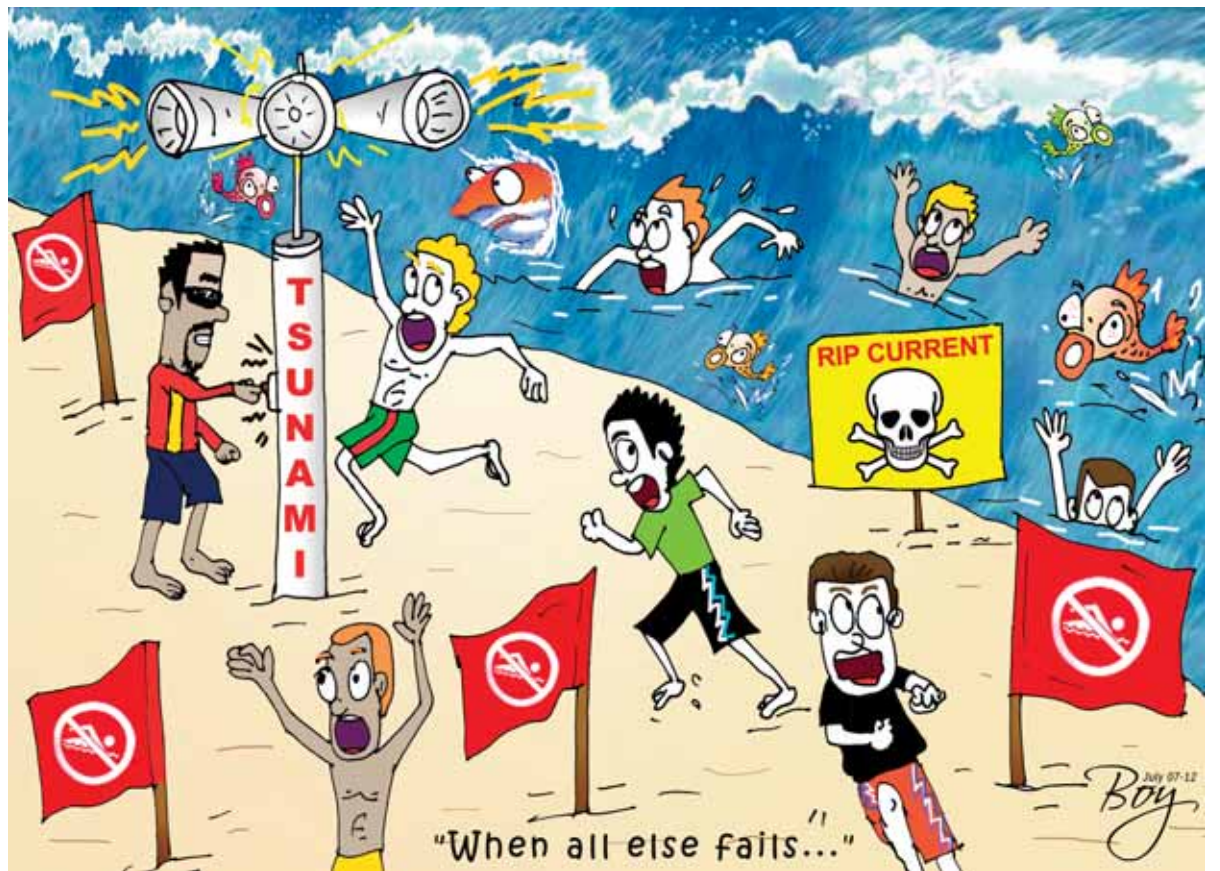
A short video explaining the dangers of rip currents in a matter-of-fact way would probably be even more effective, and the *Phuket Gazette* would be happy to provide the necessary footage to any airline willing to show it to passengers.

The *Gazette* has already attempted to persuade one of the most popular inbound carriers to spread this information, but without success.

We were told that the request "had to come from local tourism authorities".

For this reason we plead that the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Tourist Police, the Thai Hotels Association Southern Chapter, Phuket Chamber of Commerce, Phuket Tourist Association, Phuket International Airport, Honorary Consuls Association and related agencies and groups work together to draw up a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for presentation to each and every carrier with scheduled and charter services to Phuket.

It may be impossible to cut the number of monsoon season drownings to zero, but we are morally obliged to try.



## Gazette editors: raise the bar

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Sports: FIVB Grand Prix update, June 27*

Just writing to express my utter dismay and disappointment at that opening sentence on your FIVB story about Thai ladies and the way they handle balls.

It's just a cheap way to get some laughs at the expense of the athletes, and Thai women in general.

It's totally unnecessary and out of step with the times. I'm especially disappointed given that some of the editors at the *Phuket Gazette* have Thai daughters and are doing nothing to stop perpetuating the negative stereotypes of Thai women.

I feel sick to think that when my daughter is old enough to read, that she might be reading such rubbish in her local newspaper.

Lana Willocks  
Phuket

### Access granted – pretty please

Re: *Gazette online, Singapore buyer shells out B1.4bn in Evason Phuket buyout, June 28*

I hope LC Development keep public access to Laem Ka Beach (Noi and Yai) open. After all, they've always been popular with local Thais and are among the minority of beaches on Phuket where swimming is safe all year round.

Agogohome  
Gazette forum

### Don't document crimes, prevent them

Re: *Gazette online, Poll: Boosting tourist safety in Phuket, June 27*

All of the [security measures mentioned] above are important, but you missed the most important item: Visible enforcement! The police need to be on patrol 24

### Letters to the Editor

hours a day.

In an area like Kata it should be done on motorbikes, as well as on foot, as foot patrols go slow enough to see everything that is going on. It's what New York and other crime-prone cities do.

Me  
Gazette forum

### Get the results

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Life: Daunting decisions, June 27*

This was an article with some valid points, but neglects to mention more important aspects of making the right choice for your child in finding a good international school. Results!

In making your choice, look at the achievements of the school, pay particular attention to the exam results. It's no good sending your child to an international school if there is no international-level qualification at the end.

Paul  
Gazette forum

### Bothering with Kamala Beach

I am writing as a concerned resident of Kamala with regards to the terrible state that the beach is in.

I have been walking my dog on the beaches in Kamala for the past six months, and recently have noticed that there is a tremendous amount of trash and debris that remains on the beach. No one seems to care, or for that matter, even take notice, of the garbage or the impact that this may have on the environment.

To make matters even worse, for the past two days, I have

seen oil on the sands.

I would like to believe that the businesses in Kamala would seek to maintain a clean beach to attract tourists and visitors to help the business environment, but it appears that all of this goes unnoticed or perhaps the businesses simply do not care.

In any event, I would like to see something done to clean the area, as other beaches in the area seem to be "trash free zones" (Patong, Surin, Kata, Karon and so on) that do attract many holidaymakers, as well as locals.

Steve Betz  
Kamala

### Roads to runes

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket villagers plead for new road, June 25*

Speaking of bad roads, I would like to draw attention, and hopefully some form of reply from whichever department that is responsible, to the appalling condition of the road we live on in Moo 6. It's part of the Baan Don to Banya Road in Srisoonthorn.

This road was completed only about four years ago, but is now, in some parts, in such a state of disrepair that it is difficult to drive along at anytime, though particularly bad after rain.

About a year ago, road workers built storm-water pits along the full length of the road, these are above the current road surface by upwards of 30cm. Presumably the new road surface and drains will be built up to the level at some time in the future.

We presumed that once the storm-water pits had been completed on our road, the next stage would be to repair the existing road surface, curb and gutter; thus giving the residents of our street some relief from the mess we have to endure.

Andrew Collins  
Thalang

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# Cleaning up Patong is about good timing

## FIRST PERSON

WE HAVE a clear trash-collection system established in Patong to keep it beautiful. The people of Patong must cooperate with us by not leaving garbage bins out during the daytime, but by placing them at specifically designated places by the side of the road by night.

People must place their garbage bins and trash bags at set locations for collection between 8pm and early the next morning, during which time our seven garbage trucks are out collecting trash around town. During the other hours of the day we only have one truck out collecting rubbish.

If we catch people putting out their trash during the day, which is unsightly, we will issue them a warning. If they do it again, we will fine them up to 1,000 baht each time they do it. This is in accordance with the Public Health Office's ordinance for disposal of sewage and trash.

We will also keep a list of repeat offenders.

The project, now about two years old, was originally started along just two roads, Nanai and Phra Baramee. However, every year we run a campaign to boost support and awareness of the project. This year's campaign will be held for the entirety of next month.

The beginning was a struggle, because not many people cooperated with us, but more people are starting to understand the importance of the project.



**Somyod Singsumrung, 37**, is head researcher for Patong Municipality's sanitation. He took over last year after working for two years as a safety officer for Univanich Palm Oil Public Co Ltd in Krabi. Here he calls upon the Patong public to cooperate in a project designed to keep rubbish off the streets and the town beautiful.

The campaign next month, costing about 300,000 baht, will be conducted in Thai and English. We run the program in English as well as Thai because there are so many foreigners living in Patong.

The well-known Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road will be our focus for the next fiscal year.

Patong produces the second highest volume of trash in all of Phuket, just behind Phuket City. The town generates about 100 tons of garbage a day during the high season and 96 tons a day in the low season. It's expensive to deal with that much rubbish.

Patong Municipality provides more than 59.6 million baht for garbage management in the fiscal year, but it's still not enough, as we have to pay a fee to have the trash burned at the incinerator – last year we spent more than 17.8 million baht in incineration fees.

We also have many other expenses, such as paying the salaries of the 96 employees who collect the trash.

I am applying my management



**Patong street sweepers hard at work.** Photo: Patong Municipality

experience from my previous jobs here and it is working well. However we do have some problems when new people and tourists visit Phuket. They often don't know anything about the project. To prevent them from causing issues with the project I think it would be best for hotel and guesthouse staff to inform their guests to dispose of their rubbish properly, inside their accommodations.

## Stop saying that

IT IS dumfounding to me that government officials, from police duty officers to the very top in Phuket, all come out with the same business-based phrase to justify their pursuit of wrongdoers: this could have a negative effect on Phuket's tourism image.

Perhaps some of the fault lies with media outlets that propagate this phrase as a standard side one, track one. But unless English-language media sources across the nation are truly twisting the words of officials, the government should bury that particular phrase.

In their defense, officials are stating the obvious: yes, the senseless and horrific slaying of Michelle Smith, the unknown cause of death of the young Belanger sisters and even the Cherng Talay motorbike chop-shop gang are all bad for Phuket's image. Unless the tourism industry shoots for a very different and morbid market, the killing and robbing of tourists will not be good for it.

When police explain to the world that they are searching for a criminal because what they have done was "bad" for Phuket's image, the message many will receive is that "destination branding" trumps the rule of law on these shores.

Such pronouncements certainly do more harm than good, ultimately creating the impression that officials care less about the tourists themselves than potential lost revenue if Phuket's image is tarnished.

Police officials running the halls crying about the most recent murder will not save lives, nor will their babbling on about how it will affect the tourism image. So let them stay away from the extremes and play the game by the book and



**SERIOUSLY: Please stop selling the 'Image of Phuket'.** Photo: Suedehead

## Island View

By Alex Stone

*Do you have an opinion to voice?  
Email Editor@PhuketGazette.net*

instead say: "A person committed a terrible crime against another person. We will do our best to arrest them and see that justice is served".

It may be understandable when a head official is speaking at a meeting composed of fellow officers and officials to highlight how high-profile crimes can have long-term negative effects on the island, thus stressing the need to close such cases as quickly as possible. But to send the same message to the international media in high-profile cases like the killing of Michelle Smith continues to seriously backfire.

Tourists want the police to care about them and rigorously uphold the laws in place to protect them. When it comes to crime in Phuket, most foreign visitors can handle the truth better than boldfaced efforts to spin it for marketing reasons.

## Issues & Answers... ...asking the questions that affect you...

### Adoption in Thailand

I have been living and working legally in Thailand for two years. I am a 30-year-old, single male and have intentions becoming a long-term resident of Phuket. I recently decided that over the next two years I would like to adopt a child.

However, I was disappointed to find out that despite meeting the criteria of legally working here and raising the child in Thai culture, I, as a single male, cannot adopt a Thai child. Has anyone any advice on this matter?

CR  
Phuket

### Nalin Thantong, Social Development Worker of Child Adoption Center in Bangkok replies:

Being a single male foreigner should not disqualify you from legally adopting a child.

Because you are a foreigner living in Thailand and want to adopt, you must contact our office in Bangkok. We will need to know personal information, including your nationality, because different

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.

Submit your issue at

[www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers](http://www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers)

countries have different age guidelines when it comes to adoption

Once we have that information, we will be able to inform you what documents you need in order to request certification from your home country's embassy in Thailand confirming that you are qualified to adopt a child.

Then you can return to our office with the document and begin the interview process.

Call us at 02-3547500, 02-3547509 or 02-3547515; or you visit our office at 255 Ratchwithi Road, Ratchathewi District, Bangkok, 10400.

### Can I bring deli goods in my suitcase?

When I return to Thailand, what can I bring back with me in my suitcase? I am mostly concerned about importing "delicatessens", such as cheeses, for personal consumption. Also, where can I find a list of restricted items?

Ric

### An officer at the Thai Customs Department replies:

You are allowed to bring cheeses and other delicatessen products with you, but you must first obtain a permit from the Thai Food and Drug Administration before you enter the country.

After obtaining the permit and arriving at the airport, go through the Goods to Declare channel. Be sure to inform Customs officers of all the controlled items that you are carrying and present your import permit.

If the items you are bringing have a combined value more than 10,000 baht, you will have to pay import taxes and duties at the



**WHO CUT THE CHEESE? You must get a permit before bringing deli goods into Thailand.** Photo: anneh632

customs counter.

If you have any questions, call us at 076-351124 during office hours or call our 24-hour-call center at 1164.

### Thanet Klinming, Food Technical Officer at the Thai Food and Drug Administration, replies:

To import food into the Kingdom, you will need to contact the Food and Drug office in Bangkok and the officer will need details

about the food, such as the brand name, type and amount.

The officer can then explain which documents will be needed for the import permit.

If you have friends or relatives in Thailand, the documents can be sent to them along with a statement of Power of Attorney, and they can process and receive the import license from the Bangkok Food and Drug office for you.

However, if you don't have any friends or relatives in Thailand, you can inform the Thai FDA in Bangkok of which items you intend to bring with you and the flight details of when and where you will be arriving in Thailand.

That way, if your permit is approved, we can have it waiting for you at the Thai FDA office at the airport when you arrive.

For more information you can contact us on 02-5907186 or 02-5907189 during office hours. We also have a hotline you can call at 1156.



# Sunken Deep Sea Port upgrade project resurfaces at meeting

## Infrastructure Development

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

TRANSPORT Minister Charupong Ruangsuanm has told a consortium of Phuket officials and the operator of Phuket's Deep Sea Port that he will raise the problem of the stalled 100-million-baht plan to develop the facility with Cabinet.

However, Mr Charupong said the project must clearly provide benefits for local people if the plan is to go ahead.

Mr Charupong was in Phuket on Saturday to hear in person what the expansion plan entails. His visit follows that of Deputy Transport Minister Kittisakdi Hathasongkorh in December, who vowed to support the plan to expand the port, which has run aground over its environmental impact assessment (EIA) report.

Wathanachai Raunglerpanyakul, Director of Chaophaya Terminal International Co Ltd, which has the government concession to operate Songkhla and Phuket Ports, explained in December that not one local resident surveyed as part of the EIA agreed with the expansion project.

"The residents are afraid that the runoff from the construction



**BIG TIME:** Officials tour Phuket's Deep Sea Port, which was initially built exclusively for cargo, not passengers.



Transport Minister Charupong Ruangsuanm.



Wathanachai Raunglerpanyakul.

and extra activity will affect the water so much that it will impact their making a living. Not one person has agreed with the project, and so the EIA has not been approved," he said.

Mr Wathanachai explained that the project, to cost more than 100 million baht, includes extending the dock by 60 meters

so two large ships can dock at the same time.

"This involves dredging about 4,000 square meters of underwater earth. We will also install two large mooring poles in the bay," he said.

"The main objective of the expansion project is to enhance the capability of the port to be able to handle ships from 9,000 to 20,000 Dead Weight Tons. Big ships should easily be able to dock at the port to load or unload goods or passengers," said Mr Wathanachai.

The plan aims to expand the facility to cover 106 rai of land.

"The port will be able to handle ships 210m long, but not more than 27.5m wide, and the ships' draft cannot be more than 9.4m. The port will be equipped with one 1,600-horsepower tug boat, 10 forklifts able to lift three tons of goods and eight forklifts able to lift five to seven tons," Mr Wathanachai told the minister.

If the plan goes ahead, the port will be able to handle 360,000 tons of goods and 300,000 passengers per year, he added.

"In 2010, 203,652 tons of goods were exported via the port, rising to 211,578 tons in 2011. Most of the goods were MDF [Medium Density Fiberboard] wood and rubber being exported to America and the Middle East," he said.

However, it has been the rising number of cruise liners bringing tourists to Phuket that

is fueling the need for expansion, said Mr Wathanachai. "A lot more cruise liners are coming to Phuket, about 150 to 200 each year. In 2010, 164,422 passengers from both Asia and Europe passed through the port. In 2011, that number rose to 200,559 passengers," he said.

He repeated his explanation that the Phuket Deep Sea Port was originally designed to be a cargo port only, and that [the addition of passengers] was

expansion plan includes building a separate passengers' lounge and improving the roads and parking spaces, Mr Wathanachai explained.

Despite Mr Wathanachai's best efforts to describe the "public benefit" to be gained from the expansion project, Transport Minister Charupong said, "The Government has no control over the committee of the Office of National Environment Board because they are an independent agency, but after hearing about this problem, I can tell you that this has not only happened in Phuket, it has also happened in other places."

"I have discussed this issue with Cabinet members. They suggest that the public and private elements of the project should be clearly separated. Otherwise, the project cannot be approved easily. Anything that will benefit people at large should be highlighted first," he added.

Mr Charupong cited the Koh Klong Pee project as a good example of a project that had received approval from the Government despite underlying environmental concerns.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and her Cabinet, at the mobile Cabinet meeting in Phuket in March of this year, granted special permission to build the Koh Klong Pee project, which includes an elevated road over a protected mangrove forest, so that motorists in the south of Phuket would have easier access to Phuket Town.



The Deep Sea Port can handle some 200,000 tons of goods. An upgrade will increase this by 50%.

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## Island Investor

By Anthony Lyman

WHEN we talk about financial markets, to say the last few years have been a struggle would be a little bit of an understatement. First it was the US housing market, which then led to the credit crunch, and now we're seeing banks remain in financial trouble and Europe on the whole in dire straits.

I mentioned a few weeks ago, that even though markets are seeing unprecedented levels of volatility, there are opportunities to be had. European stocks do look cheap, but there is another way of benefiting from the peaks and troughs of an uncertain market place.

Anyone who saves on a regular basis will probably have seen their portfolio values drop in recent times, but should this be something to be concerned about? Well, this all depends on how long an investment time frame you have.

If you have regular savings investments maturing within the next 12-24 months, then it will probably be hard to get back into positive territory, not saying that it's impossible – though in many cases it is.

For those that have regular savings plans with 24 months or more left to run, then this could be just what's needed.

You may think, "what is he talking about, how can markets that are down be a positive thing?"

Well, it all comes down to something we call dollar-cost averaging. It is a very simple concept really, and it helps smooth out the ups and downs of financial markets.

No doubt this will be teaching many people how to suck eggs, but for a new investor or even an experienced investor who may be a little disgruntled with how their portfolio is performing, then this could be a good refresher. Perhaps it may give you a little more confidence and help you to see that it is not all doom and gloom.

### The art of dollar-cost averaging

THE BASIC philosophy is that when markets drop, you begin to purchase units at a lower price, meaning that over the long term when markets do stabilize and begin to rise, you are in essence holding more units, which should in turn produce

# Benefiting from a volatile market

a higher profit margin.

As I said, this is dollar-cost averaging in its very basic form, and there are many considerations to take into account, such as, are you invested in the correct funds and is the policy being actively managed?

Also, when discussing dollar-cost averaging, what we need to take into account is the amount of funds that have already been built up inside the portfolio.

A two pronged strategy needs to be adopted when viewing a regular savings plan, dependent on your attitude towards risk. For funds already built up inside the policy it is prudent in times of economic uncertainty to take a more defensive view, while maintaining on-going contributions. Find a strategy that fits your appetite for investment risks, this ensures a certain degree of capital consolidation while at the same time bringing dollar-cost averaging into play with future contributions. The illustrations to the right give a brief overview of the dollar-cost averaging technique:

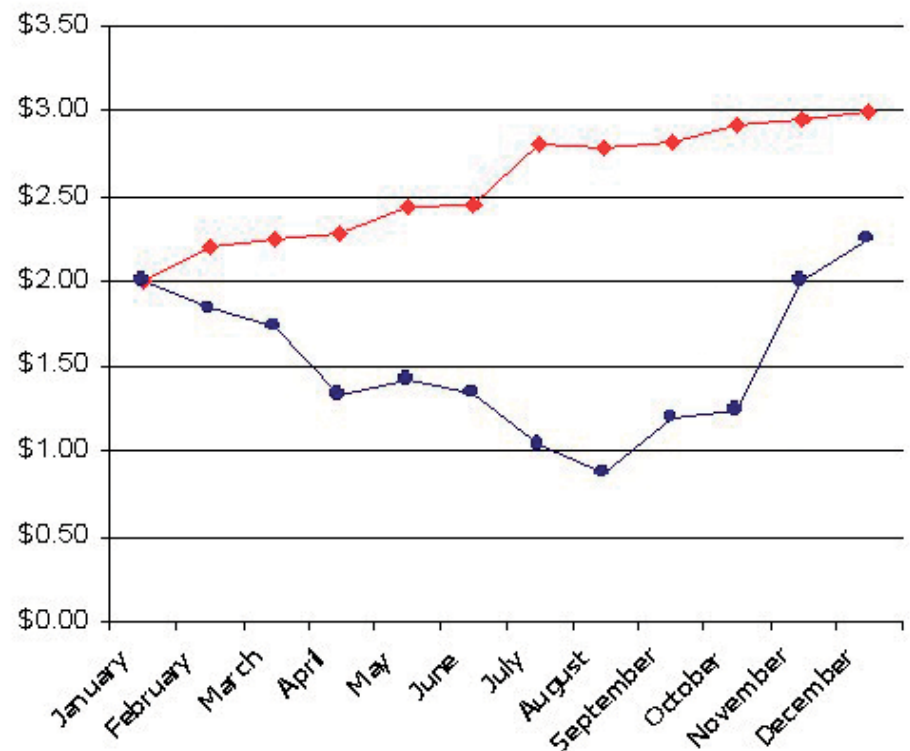
**With Investment A:** You would have purchased a total of **23,740** units, at a closing price of **US\$ 2.99** per unit, giving you a market value of **US\$ 70,983.21**.

**With investment B:** You would have purchased a total of **42,530** units, at a lower closing price of **US\$ 2.25**, giving you a market value of **US\$ 95,692.70**.

This is certainly dollar-cost averaging in its most basic form, and again there are numerous factors that would need to be taken into the equation. However, this is certainly one means of smoothing out the market swings we are seeing.

This, however, will only work hand in hand with a portfolio that is regularly reviewed. Certainly even though things are tough at the moment, once again, there are still opportunities to be had.

Anthony Lyman is a Senior Financial Consultant for the Montpelier Group. For any questions relating to dollar-cost averaging or for portfolio reviews, please contact [Alyman@montpeliergroup.com](mailto:Alyman@montpeliergroup.com)



The red line represents investments in "Fund A" plotting share prices in up markets, whereas the blue line, "Fund B", reflects the current state of today's markets.

	Price		Invested Amount	Units Purchased	
	Fund A	Fund B		Investment A	Investment B
January	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$5,000	2,500	2,500
February	\$2.20	\$1.84	\$5,000	2,273	2,717
March	\$2.24	\$1.73	\$5,000	2,232	2,890
April	\$2.27	\$1.33	\$5,000	2,203	3,759
May	\$2.44	\$1.42	\$5,000	2,049	3,521
June	\$2.45	\$1.34	\$5,000	2,041	3,731
July	\$2.80	\$1.04	\$5,000	1,786	4,808
August	\$2.78	\$0.88	\$5,000	1,799	5,682
September	\$2.82	\$1.20	\$5,000	1,773	4,167
October	\$2.91	\$1.24	\$5,000	1,718	4,032
November	\$2.95	\$2.00	\$5,000	1,695	2,500
December	\$2.99	\$2.25	\$5,000	1,672	2,222
Total				23,740	42,530

This chart illustrates the benefit of making consistent purchases into a fund during a down market.

## Automobile tyre sales up in Southeast Asia

Consumer research indicates that after last year's floods there is now a boom in the sale of pneumatic tyres for cars

DEMAND for replacement car tyres in major cities of four emerging markets of Southeast Asia saw a surge of 14% in the first quarter of this year over the previous quarter, research by GfK has revealed.

According to the global leading research firm's tracking data covering bustling cities in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand – where vehicle ownership is highest – some 2,557,600 car tyres were replaced in the first three months of the year (Q1).

The findings attributed most of the positive growth in Q1 to demand boosts in the Bangkok metropolitan area as well as Malaysia's Klang Valley, which registered incremental sales volume growth of 38% and 16% when compared to the closing quarter of 2011.

"While the healthy sales performance of replacement car tyre in Malaysia was driven by seasonal demand brought about by the festive Chinese New Year period in January, the sudden sales spike in Thailand was an exceptional occurrence. A result of the flooding disaster, which took place at the end of third quarter last year," highlighted Ms Jasmine Lim, Account Director at GfK Asia.

"As a result, replacement car tyre sales fell by 26% in quarter four last year, but pent up demand drove sales up considerably in the following quarter," she added.

Cities in Indonesia covered by the survey included Jakarta, Bodetabek, Surabaya, Medan, Bandung and Makassar, while the Philippines metropolitan area covered the National Capital Region.

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# Scratch that, CAT's back



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

THREE weeks ago, I lamented the imminent passing of CAT's EV-DO service – the original high speed wireless “AirCard” that ushered in a new, faster way of surfing the web without getting plugged in.

At the time, I was told that EV-DO would continue to work through the end of the year. Today, I found out differently. CAT's going to dismantle its entire EV-DO network, at least in Phuket, by August 31. The end is near.

If you currently have CAT EV-DO, you need to figure out what you're going to do with that soon-to-be-useless USB dongle, and how to move on to the next version of wireless internet.

Fortunately, there's a good alternative. CAT. No, really. Even while they're pulling up their old service, they're rolling out a new one, called My Click. I can't say much for the branding, but the service itself is compelling.

Keep in mind that CAT is using the TrueMove-H network. (I guess, officially, TrueMove-H is using the CAT network, but that's kind of a political hot potato at the moment.) That means CAT has a well-established, functioning HSPA+ network, here in Phuket – available at a very good price.

I had a chance to talk about the service at length with the folks at the CAT office in Central Festival (opposite the Apple store), and I was amazed at what they told me.

First, coverage. The CAT HSPA+ network hits just about

everywhere in Phuket, up to Kao Lak, over to Krabi town, Koh Lanta, Ao Nang, and Phang Nga town, with other locations coming on quickly.

That matches my experience. I was astounded to find a 3G signal (from TrueMove-H) north of Kao Lak several months ago, at the ferry terminal for Koh Kao Khao. Believe me, that's off the beaten track by a kilometer or two. CAT's rolling the equipment out everywhere.

If you live in a spot in Phuket that may be iffy, all you have to do is leave your address with the folks at the CAT counter in Central. They'll check your actual location and let you know if the signal is strong enough to reach. They have people who go out and check every weekday.

CAT has a Google map of coverage areas at: [W.mybycat.com](http://W.mybycat.com).

Note that you don't need to have a laptop or tablet computer to take advantage of wireless broadband: you can stick a dongle on any USB port on your desktop computer, too.

You may find the reception's better if you have a USB extension cord, and can twist the dongle around a bit. And, yes, USB dongles work on Macs, too (although you need the “3G” version of an iPad to get the CAT service – a WiFi-only iPad cannot connect).

It gets better. If you go to Bangkok, or travel through much of central Thailand, you can use your CAT dongle (or CAT SIM card in your phone or tablet) to get on their HSPA+ network everywhere that TrueMove-H has coverage – which includes



GOODBYE AIRCARD: Dongle the CAT says so long to his predecessor, EV-DO. Photo: Peasap.

almost all of the urban areas in Thailand. The trick: you have to choose roaming with TrueMove.

Although you're theoretically roaming, there's no roaming charge – something about an agreement that TrueMove has with CAT.

If you do have an EV-DO “AirCard,” there isn't much you can do with it. You have to buy a new USB dongle.

At this moment, CAT's run out of dongles, but they're readily available at JIB and Banana IT for about 1,300 baht. Almost all dongles these days will work with the CAT network, but if you have any questions, be sure to look for HSPA coverage at 850 MHz. That's the magic combination.

Once you have a USB dongle for your computer, or a new SIM card for your phone or iPad (cost: 99 baht), you have to sign up for one of CAT's service plans. The best deal, by far, is their “unlimited” plan which gives you up to 4 GB of data per month – enough for almost everybody except those who upload or download lots of videos, or run torrents for movies or TV shows.

After you hit 4 GB of usage, the line gets cut down to a much slower speed, until the month's up and you go back to sailing.

The speed reporting site at [www.phuketinternetspeed.com](http://www.phuketinternetspeed.com) shows download speeds between 600 Kbps and 1,400 Kbps – which is comparable to many wired connections on the island.

I've tested the TrueMove-H connection in Patong, Sam Kong, Sai Yuan, and inside Central Festival, and consistently see speeds of 450 to 650 Kbps. That's downright decent for a wireless

connection, although the CAT EV-DO service has been running around 850 to 900 Kbps. Much depends on your line-of-site proximity to a CAT tower.

CAT's “My Click 590” package is 590 baht per month, which is quite a bargain, even by international standards. No wonder they're selling a ton of them. They're competing directly with TrueMove-H, which offers pre-

The prepaid service is quite reasonable. The last time I checked it was 399 baht for 15 days “unlimited” which is, in fact, throttled after you hit 4GB of data traffic.

The 800 pound gorilla sitting in the CAT office is the long-anticipated auction of new “3G” spectrum, which may or may not happen this year.

If the government finally gets its act together long enough to attract bidders and allow them to start building out their systems, we may be treated to some much faster wireless internet speeds. Some day. Maybe.

In the interim, right now, you can get decent wireless access for about 1,300 baht plus 590 baht per month. Even if you switch in six months (or a year, or two, or three) that's a good deal.

Seth Bareiss holds computer sessions on every-other Wednesday afternoon, from 1 to 3pm. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, drop by one of Seth's free afternoon sessions, or come to one

of our free Sunday morning roundtables at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Details in the Events Calendar. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Shoot him mail at [Woody@KhunWoody.com](mailto:Woody@KhunWoody.com), follow him on Twitter, @PhuketLiveWire, or “like” his page at [facebook.com/SandwichShoppe](http://facebook.com/SandwichShoppe).

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# Northern exposure

## Seeking out the Phi Ta Khon festival in Loei province

By Atchaa Khamlo

VISITING Udon Thani, a civilized, integrated and respectable city in the Northeast, we joined in the merry and colorful festivities of the traditional *Phi Ta Khon* festival, in Loei province.

The festival teaches us to be interested in history and to pay respect to tradition. We also planned some fun activities to do during the trip.

Our group flew with AirAsia to Udon Thani from Phuket. We arrived in Udon Thani by late afternoon and visited the legendary temple, *Wat Phothisomphon*, which was built in the late reign of King Rama V about 106 years ago, before checking into our hotel in the city.

Udon Thani is full of religious relics. There are many temples, shrines and city pillars. The people of Udon Thani and Thai tourists still believe that the sacred items which reside there, will bestow blessing upon them.

*Wat Phothisomphon's* pagoda, which contains royal holy Buddha relics, was completed nearly four years ago. We were very impressed by the towering paintings, hung high above on an octagon wall, which surrounded the room at the pagoda's third floor, where the holy relics are kept. The paintings each tell a part of the Buddha's story. We can see the

artists' professionalism, since the drawings appear to be slightly three dimensional.

Keadtipong Kotchawong, Assistant Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Udon Thani Office, told us over dinner that Udon Thani Airport is a hub for tourists who want to cross the border into Vientiane, Laos. According to Nong Khai Immigration statistics, more than 300,000 tourists, nearly 200,000 Thais and more than 100,000 foreigners, cross into Vientiane each year.

The next morning, we left Udon

Unfortunately for us, the water level was very low because at the time not much rain had fallen for a month or so. We made it only 4.4 kilometers of the 13 km total route. However, we still enjoyed our river adventure, rafting past large rocks, small cliffs and lush forest.

Our two rafts were often struck by rocks, and the staff on each raft worked hard to push us away from the rocks – we could see how exhausted they were. It took more than an hour for us to complete a trip that normally takes about 20 minutes, when the water level is normal.

Every time the rafts struck rocks, we had to cooperate with the raft-guides and move ourselves forwards and backwards, to pry the raft free of the rocks.

Only one man in our canoe did not fall out at some point. Parts of the river have such a strong current that the raft would need to be maneuvered abruptly to avoid passing rocks. (Each time someone fell out, the other people on the canoe seemed a bit pleased.)

San River Co opened for rafting tours in September of last year and is open from June through November every year.

When we finally reached the end of the route, some villagers, who live next to the river, mostly children, welcomed us back with their smiles. Young boys swam



near our canoes. The village did not get many tourists as we could sense that the villagers were a little excited when strange new faces appeared in their area.

After a short meet and greet with the local people, we took two

pick-up trucks to a local Thai restaurant. Sitting in back of the truck we felt crisp cool weather and admired the beautiful sky and mountain-side view.

After warming ourselves with a hot beverage, we headed to the



Thani for Dansai district in Loei, to join the *Phi Ta Khon* festival. It took us three hours by van to reach our destination.

Before reaching Dansai, we stopped for lunch and decided to have some fun on an exciting river rafting adventure in the Phurua district of Loei. We divided into two groups, each with a raft.



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Rungyen Resort in Dansai.

After we got off the main road and onto a small dirt road, we were seemingly deep in the forest. Obviously, not many vehicles traveled this road and we were quite relieved when the welcome sign for the resort came into view. Beyond the sign there was a small lake with a pedal boat in the shape of a white swan.

The resort seemed to have been there for many years, since their bungalows were not new, but we were pleased to stay overnight amidst the fresh air and among the abundant trees. It felt calm and peaceful. We didn't need air-conditioning, since the air temperature was around 25 degrees at night and in the morning.

We woke up early the next morning for the *Phi Ta Khon* festival in Dansai town. We joined in the procession on the second day of the festival. The streets were crowded with people, both foreigners and Thais – though mostly Thais.

According to local legend, the *Phi Ta Khon* mask is made from coconut husks, soft wood and woven bamboo.

Our guide told us that *Phi Ta Khon* (which means ghosts that follow people in Thai) reflects the story of a past life of the Buddha, known at that time as Phra (prince) Wetsandorn. In the story, King Sancha and Queen Phutsadi, Wetsandorn's father and mother, invited Wetsandorn and his wife Matsi to return to town after they had been sent away. The ghosts of the parade are meant to be following Phra Wetsandorn back to the town.

Characteristic of *Phi Ta Khon* festival, participants wear costumes made of rags and colorful scraps of clothing.

They hang tin cans and a *mak-ka-lang* around their necks or waists to create rattling sounds when they move and dance. A *mak-*

*ka-lang* is a traditional wooden bell worn around the neck of cattle and buffaloes, which creates a tinkling sound, enabling their owners to keep track of them.

Some of the *Phi Ta Khon* figures carry symbolic weapons made from soft reeds with a splash of red paint on the tip. The figures carrying these phallus-shaped objects often interact with the crowd who are highly amused by their antics.

The traditional merit ceremony of *Phi Ta Khon* has been passed on from generation to generation.



*Phi Ta Khon* is part of *Bun Luang* festival, which is the most important celebration of the year, to the people of Udon Thani. The people of Dansai have combined two festivals, *Bun Phra Wet* – the festival of the fourth lunar month, and *Bun Bang Fai* – the festival of the sixth lunar month, commonly known as the bamboo rocket festival.

*Bun Phra Wet* is a religious ceremony where local people congregate to listen to as many as thirteen continuous Buddhist sermons. It is believed that participants will "make merit" and be brought closer to meeting lord *Si-Ariya*, the next lord after lord Buddha, in their next life. *Bun Bang Fai* festival is held to wor-

ship spirits, the protectors of the village, and to ask for sufficient rain to arrive in time for the coming season.

This year the festival was held from June 22 – 24.

The procession started with traditional Thai dancing from Loei students, followed by various parades, consisting of many people disguised to be *Phi Ta Khon*. Most participants were students, walking alongside vehicles beautified in traditional Thai styles. More than a thousand people participated in the procession.

Hundreds of photographers and cameramen, both amateurs and professionals, hurried about taking photos, while groups of people alongside the road stood admiring the delightful procession.

Even though it was not well organized, those who attended were filled with joy to see the cheerful parade.

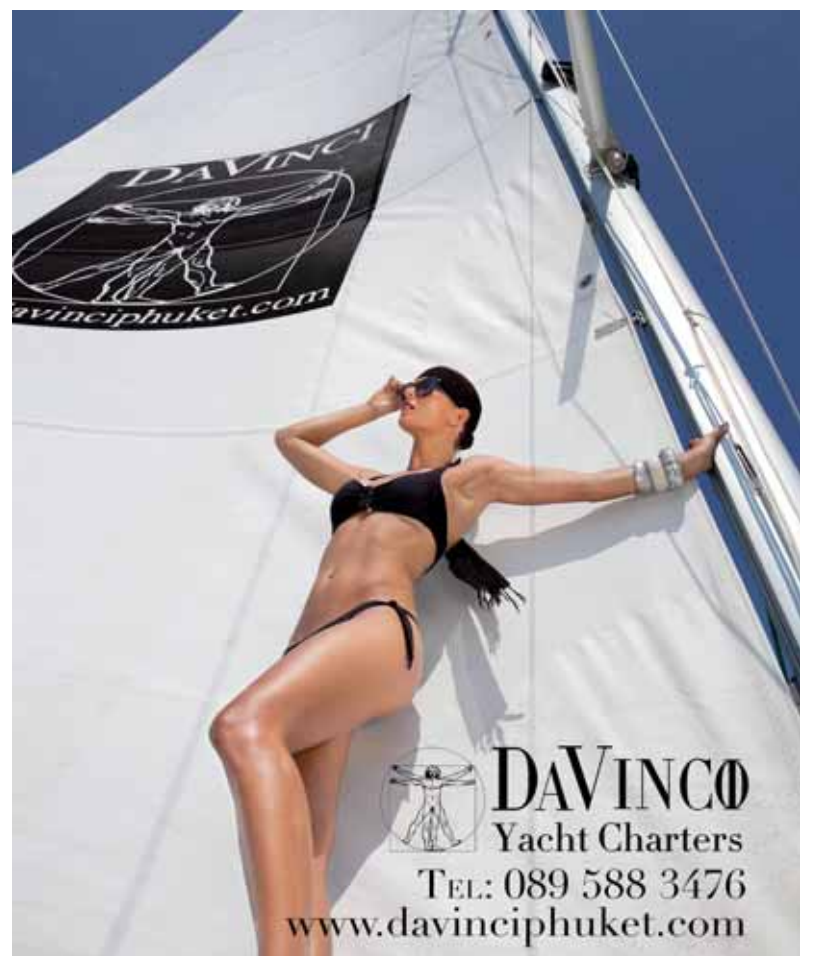
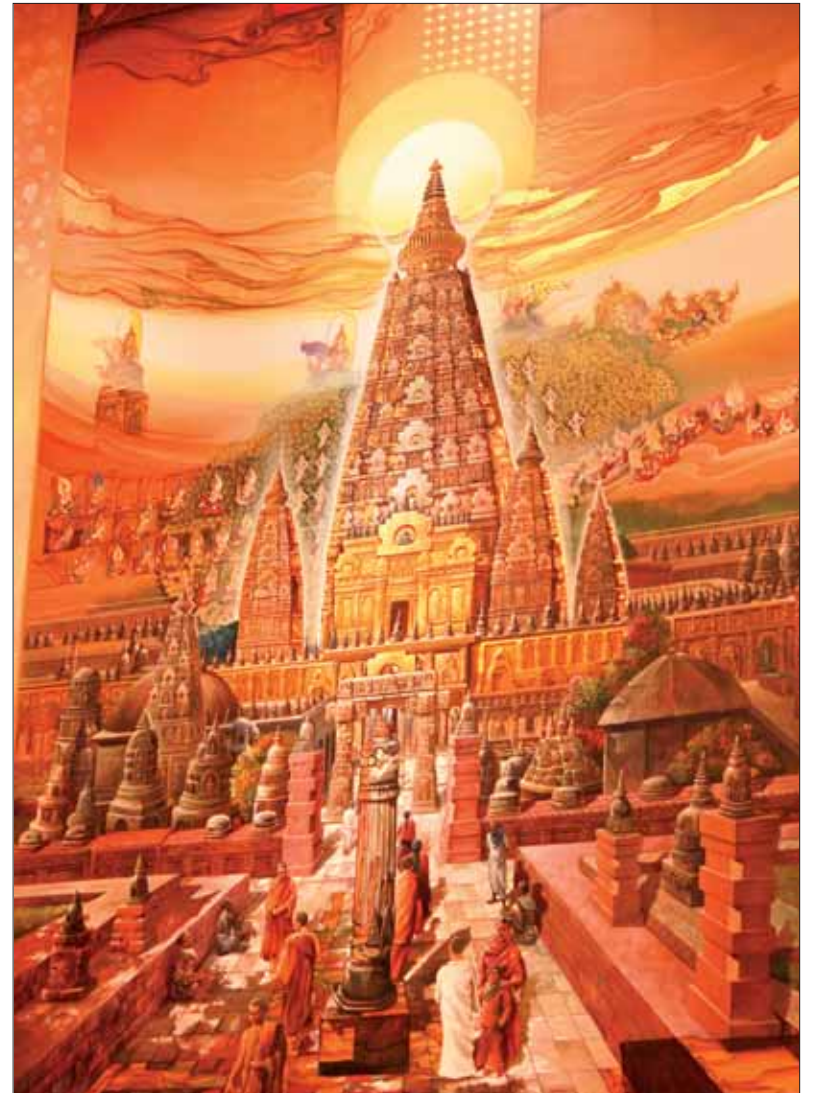
Cheap products from the festival were available for purchase along the road, including clothing, food and souvenirs.

The long and splendid procession moved slowly to *Wat Phon Chai* (*Phon Chai* Temple) where the *Phi Ta Khon* museum is located. There a film was shown explaining the history of the *Phi Ta Khon* ceremony, and one expert demonstrated how to make a *Phi Ta Khon* mask.

According to the Loei Provincial office of Tourism and Sport, last year 45,000 tourists, including foreigners, joined in the *Phi Ta Khon* festival. Annually, it brings more than 23 billion baht in revenue to the province. This year, 30,000 tourists spent approximately 21.6 million baht.

It took around three hours for us to reach the Udon Thani Airport and fly back to Phuket.

AirAsia has daily flights to Udon Thani from Phuket. Visit [airasia.com](http://airasia.com) for more information.



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For more details of all events, see page 15- every issue of your weekly Phuket Gazette!

**Indian sisters dead of poisoning**  
Two Indian sisters died of poisoning after eating seafood, mushrooms or even chicken.

**Phuket Sports: FIVB Grand Prix update**  
Phuket, Thailand continues to live up to their reputation as one of the world's best ball control artists, with the final round of the Federation Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) 2012 Grand Prix, providing the latest stage for them to demonstrate their considerable skills.

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# Art Dinners designed to expose local artists

By Bruce Stanley

MICHAEL Earle is an architect and local magazine publisher with a mission to expose and support Phuket's local artists.

"I moved to the island three years ago after working as an architect in Spain for many years. I immediately noticed a great number of interesting art galleries operated mainly by local Thai artists in Phuket Town. They were not getting much exposure or recognition for their work from the international community."

While wanting to actively support this local art community, Michael, with his partner, Trisha Miller, decided to first launch an international-style art magazine, now known as *Think Design*. Their first issue appeared in January, 2010.

"Our mission is to expose good design in all forms, whether it is industrial, architecture or interiors, from every region in the world. There's an emphasis on eco-friendly and technological innovations, but we also publish articles on developing trends in design as well as profiles on past and current icons who have been major influences in architecture and other forms of design," says Michael who trained in the United

States at the Boston Architecture Center. He has been very busy these past two years promoting his upscale magazine to an island not generally known for sensitivity to a beautiful or interesting environment. He hopes to change that by supporting intelligent and eco-friendly design.

He writes most of the articles in *Think Design* based on research and his vast knowledge of the history of art and design and has

never lost his interest in the Thai art community. Last December, he produced one of Phuket's largest art festivals at the Royal Phuket Marina, which was a showcase mainly of local painters with some international artists represented.

Michael Earle

"It then occurred to me that we could produce art dinners on a regular basis promoting one Thai artist at a time. This would be a great way to expose the local talents and provide an entertaining evening for those who care about painting. The objective of these art dinners is to encourage artistic cross pollination of art through different mediums."

He began to produce these art dinners earlier this year at such prestigious locations as Andara, Centara Grand, Le Meridien Phuket and at upscale beach clubs as Up at Nai

Thon and Bliss at Bang Tao.

His formula for the evening is quite unique. He chooses a local artist that he believes deserves the exposure and then chooses six of their paintings. Then he gives them to the Executive Chef at the venue who visualizes and designs an artistic six course gourmet dinner inspired by each painting. The meals are joined with wines to match.

Before each course, a painting is presented and Michael describes the techniques and the influences drawing upon his vast knowledge of art. Then the chef describes how the painting influenced his choice of each entrée by ingredients, shape and color. It makes for a stimulating environment where what the eyes see and what the tastes experience are meant to combine for an extraordinary marriage of arts.

Last week, the Think Design Art Dinner was held at the Kata Beach Resort, featuring painter Inthira Plangklang, who has a studio at Surin Beach. Inthira has been painting for more than 10 years, working at learning her craft with other painters as well as some university training. She is drawn to abstract paintings, but ones with a meaning.

"I wanted to paint about my feelings about the flooding in Bangkok, so I read the media and government reports and then made a painting to express my sadness about the effects of the floods on the local people. First I covered the canvas in gold leaf and then wrote about the floods in Thai language. I then used rather dark, basic colors to cover both the gold leaf and the words."

To match her painting, Executive Chef Soonthorn Ratchpol created a dish he named Oyster



ART LOVERS: Michael Earle, Inthira Plangklang and Andrew Sawatpakdi.



The painting entitled 'Bangkok Floods' was paired with this oyster tower.

Tower, which reflected her use of gold leaf and used a marine theme.

Italian Chef Massimo Marcato, who is part of Chef Soonthorn's team at Kata Beach, provided half of the menu's cuisine including the dessert finalé named The Balance which imitated Inthira's painting of swirling figures and bright colors.

The six paintings ranged from softly muted meditations on loss to celebrations of Thai culture with the references to rice fields and elephants culminating in a six -

panel explosion of dancing red-and-orange design motifs cut through by a stripe of gold leaf.

The cuisine produced at Kata Beach Resort, hosted by General Manager Andrew Sawatpakdi, was equally exciting with courses such as the Naked Prawn, the Flooding Scallop and a Lobsterlamb duo accented with a tomato reduction.

The next event will be July 20 at Dedos Restaurant. For more information please contact [info@thinkdesignmagazine.com](mailto:info@thinkdesignmagazine.com).



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Chef Massimo Marcato with his culinary interpretation of Inthira Plangklang's painting 'The Balance' seen behind them.

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# A head start ahead of the rest

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

SATURDAY is usually a fun day for everyone. It is the beginning of the weekend and most people are looking forward to spending time doing what they want and being with the ones they love.

Saturday, June 30 was an especially happy day for students of the Head Start International School (HSIS). It wasn't just a regular Saturday but the day when students could celebrate the end of the school year and the beginning of their summer break.

Each year, HSIS holds a special event to mark the last day of a long and hard year of school.

"Today is the end of year performance for our foundation. Students performing are in kindergarten and primary school. It's a nice way to end the school year. It's a great opportunity for students to take some time to perform for their parents," said Head Start International School Director Jazon Edouard.

"They have been preparing songs, plays, and sketches. Now that examinations are all over, and all the hard work for the year is done, this is a nice and pleasant way to end the year. The children have been looking forward to it for a long time," he added.

"They have been preparing for this the whole semester, but most of them go into high-gear when exams are over. For the last two weeks, a lot of classes have been putting on works in the performing arts, including drama," he added.

Mrs Miki Edouard, wife of Head Start International School Director Jazon Edouard, also attended the event to support students, as well as the administrative team of Head Start International School.

"All of the children's performances are the highlight of the day. They will be smiling, singing and dancing. For them it is very special to be on stage with the lights and music," said Mrs



HEADS UP: Head Start International School Director Mr Jazon Edouard and his wife Miki Edouard.

Edouard.

"We don't only pick the gifted students or those who have a special talent for performing to be part of the show. Everybody gets to perform on the stage equally. I think it is very good experience for them to learn to be in front of a crowd," she added.

Head Start International School was founded in 2005. The school is a unique educational institution in that it provides well-rounded learning from pre-school through to the secondary level.

"Our school started right here in Phuket, and our target from day one has always been to provide quality international edu-

cation at affordable prices in a setting, which is ideal for the local community. Sixty per cent of our students are Thai and the rest are foreigners," said Mr Edouard.

"It's very important to us that the education we provide to the children lets Thai children keep their identity as well as their culture," he added.

Besides the year end party, in which students and teachers celebrate together, the school also has one other special reason the celebrate this year. That reason, is the achievement of students who scored well on

the Cambridge international standardized test.

"We are the only school on the island to actually use the Cambridge progression examination and check point examination from year 3 all the way through year 12 to test the students," said Mr Edouard.

"Testing is only a small part of their education, and education is not only about papers, textbooks or tests. There is a lot more than that. However, the examination is an important indicator, which helps parents and the school see whether a students' education is on the

right track," he said.

"Nevertheless, standardized testing is an important part of being an international school like we are. We have 364 students from 37 different nations. It is essential to have a strong benchmark. That is why we use the Cambridge test. What we saw was a comparison of our school's average result with Cambridge's world wide result, and we have been very pleased with the result," he explained.

"Education is an ongoing process, it never stops. So, our next step is to continue what we are doing. Our team will continue to work hard to make sure that we improve the results of the next examination," he added.

Head Start International School will be the first and only school in Phuket that offers the Cambridge curriculum to students.

"We are going to start the 'A Level Program'. We will be the only school on the island that offers that program. It is an after high school certification program, which leads students towards university enrollment. It takes place over their last two years at school: years 12 and 13," said Mr Edouard.

"For the students who've already finished year 11 this year, they will continue on to the A Level next year. Our school is the only school on the island that offer Cambridge curriculum all the way to year 13," he added.

Mr Edouard emphasized that the school doesn't just focus on academics, students are also encouraged to have fun as part of their learning process.

"We have a very good team here, who work very hard at their job. The performances aimed to show that the children are not only working hard learning, but are also having a good time," Mr Edouard concluded.

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# Indo jet crash shines light on Russian record

THE mysterious crash of a Russian-built Sukhoi Superjet 100 into an Indonesian mountain in early May not only spoiled President Vladimir Putin's election celebration party, it also has implications for Phuket – although there is certainly no need to panic.

The Sukhoi Superjet 100 crashed on a demonstration flight in Indonesia, one of the few countries outside of Russia, Cuba, Iran and parts of Africa to express interest in buying it.

While Myanmar, Pakistan and Kazakhstan were also on its visiting schedule, Thailand was not. Thai Airways International, for example, has expressed no interest in buying any Russian-made aircraft.

However, there is a Phuket connection through Orient Thai Airlines, which in 2010 signed a memorandum of understanding to buy 12 Sukhoi Superjet 100-95s to replace its aging McDonnell Douglas MD-80s and four Boeing 747s. Delivery was set for 2011-2014. Orient Thai Airlines regularly flies to Phuket.

The airline certainly needs a replacement for the MD-80s. The average age of the six aircraft in its fleet is 23.7 years, ranking 52nd in the world of 74 airlines still operating this type of aircraft. The new (introduced for commercial use in April, 2011) relatively cheap (USD35 million) Sukhoi air-



## Aviation

By Alastair Carthew

craft, looks to be an ideal fit for Orient Thai's network.

The Superjet 100 is highly unlikely to fly long haul from Russia to Phuket. It is a single aisle, up to 95 passenger aircraft, with a maximum range of 4620 kilometres. The distance between Moscow and Phuket is 7488 kilometres (4653 miles). But it would be an ideal fit for an airline servicing domestic Thailand and regional routes.

However, with Russian tourism in Phuket increasing by 57 per cent, to 1,014,000 persons in 2011, up to fourth place from eighth in 2010 (Malaysia, China and Japan are ahead of Russia), driven by continued increases in air traffic between Russia and Thailand, the types of aircraft Russian airlines are using becomes of some interest given the somewhat chequered history of Russian aviation.

The two Russian carriers flying to the island, Aeroflot (via Bangkok) and Transaero (direct) use mainly Airbus and Boeing aircraft in their fleets.

Transaero has no Sukhois in its 82 aircraft fleet. Aeroflot has been receiving the Superjet 100 since 2011 and aims to acquire a total

of 126 Russian-built aircraft of various types through 2020.

In fact, Sukhoi is best known as a military aircraft manufacturer. In 2005 it was reported in Russian media that Thailand was to buy 12, two-seat, Sukhoi SU-30MK fighter jets – but this deal never seemed to materialize.

The Sukhoi Superjet 100 is intended to replace the aging Tupolev Tu134 and Yakovlev Yak-42, two Russian built short and medium range aircraft. Its main competitors are the Brazilian built Embraer E-Jet and the Canadian Bombardier CRJ. Sukhoi claims the purchase price and operating costs of the Superjet 100 are considerably lower than its competitors.

At last count, there were 122 Sukhoi Superjet 100s on order, 30 of them to Aeroflot and the rest to small airlines servicing Russian and nearby state destinations. No aircraft had been sold to any major Western airline.

Unfortunately for Sukhoi, it will now have more difficulty in marketing the Superjet 100 outside of Russia until the cause of the fatal crash is determined. Of note, however, is that Pakistan's Indus Air allegedly showed an interest in purchasing eight of the aircraft, the day after the Indonesian crash.

The other types of Russian aircraft are the Ilyushin, a turbo prop



**SHORT SHRIFT:** The Superjet is ideal for short-haul flights, but Russian engineering reliability is now under scrutiny. Photo: Mika Stetsovski.

designed for shorter local routes and the Tupolev-Tu 334, a medium range aircraft. They could not be used on a long haul route, such as between Moscow and Phuket.

For the Russian airline industry, which has struggled to make an impact internationally, the Indonesian crash merely underlines a history of fatal crashes involving Russian-built aircraft dating

back to 1990.

The vast majority of aircraft involved were Tupolevs of various designs and virtually all the crashes were within Russia or nearby states.

The Indonesian crash only occurred there because the Sukhoi Superjet 100 was on a demonstration flight to try and increase its international sales.

## Thai Smile's new Airbus takes off

THAI Smile, the new brand airline under Thai Airways International, has taken delivery of its first A320-200. The new jet will serve the airlines' Bangkok-Macau route from this Saturday.

Thai Smile plans to have 11 aircraft in its fleet by next year and increase this number to 20 by 2015. By the end of this year, three new A320-200 jets will be delivered.

The new airline, which will still fly under the TG banner, was set up to respond to changes in the regional airline industry that will be caused by the launch of the Asean Economic Community in 2015.

Thai Smile will concentrate on some domestic routes and key cities within a three-hour flight time of Suvarnabhumi Airport. The airline will focus on new travelers, especially younger people, tourists, businesspeople and government officials.

With ticket prices 10-15 per cent lower than THAI's, its advantage over rivals, especially low-cost airlines, is that passengers can collect air miles under the same system as THAI.

Thai Smile plans to offer passengers "a trendy, friendly, and worthy service," managing director, Woranate Laprabang, said.

– The Nation

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# Boorman bores right to the end

I HAVE recently read and reviewed three rather grim novels and I needed a break, so I turned to my old faithfully funny friend Charley Boorman.

Back in 2004, Charley and actor Ewan McGregor rode 750cc BMW motorcycles for 20,000 miles from London to New York, via Russia and Alaska, and made a BBC documentary and book called *Long Way Around*. They followed this with *Long Way Down* from Scotland to

Capetown. A year later, Charley took off on his own from Ireland to Sydney, using a widely mixed bag of local transportation in *By Any Means*.

Now Charley appears on a small appendix of a puddle-hop journey from Sydney to Tokyo. It is, perhaps, a journey too far.

In *Right to the Edge* (Sphere, London, 2010, 317pp), you get the feeling that there was no compelling reason to make this journey, except for money.

Charley is his usual lovable self, a shambling figure in paunchy t-shirt, cargo shorts, long matted hair, scraggly goatee and a devilish gleam in his blue eyes. He is always full of enthusiasm, his two main expressions being "Amazing!" and "Incredible!"

But you can become bored with an endless litany of them

"These guys had weapons, but in our body armour and helmets we looked like a bunch of stormtroopers from Star Wars."

— Charley Boorman

and bedeviled by some howling errors. Cooktown in northern Queensland, for example, wasn't founded in 1895 by miners searching for tin. It was gold.

Still, as usual Charley has fun. He travels up the west coast of Australia mainly by motorcycle – BMWs, Triumphs

and Kawasakis – interrupted by plane journeys in a Spitfire and a Cessna to outback cattle stations, a snake farm, and remote northern islands.

At the snake farm, a grizzled keeper tosses a highly poisonous snake at him. The snake hits him in the chest, as Charley nearly dies of fright, then falls to the floor, motionless, made of rubber.

A boat trip to Papua New Guinea falls through, as do nearly all their boat trips, so Charley and his camera crew fly to Papua New Guinea. The motorcycling is magnificent.

"The country was stunning – like the highlands in Ethiopia, only this was rainforest with water tumbling in runaway rivers and palm trees soaked by torrents that came down so hard whole tracts of land had been

washed away. The mountain tops lay hidden in mist."

Here they face what had never happened to them in all their journeys through Africa and Asia: the threat of violence.

Charley is in a caravan of off-road Yamahas, bashing through jungle-covered mountains, when they are stopped by a barricade and a machete-wielding gang demanded US\$150 for passage. Suddenly there's a lot of angry shouting.

"For a moment I wondered if it would all kick off. These guys had weapons, but in our body armour and helmets we looked like a bunch of stormtroopers from Star Wars."

The thugs back off. Days later, they are stalled at a flooded river crossing and face a night-time mob of violent drunks.

Denied entry to Irian Jaya, the Indonesian half of New Guinea, they fly off for more motorcycling – this time aboard 1994 Road King Harley-Davidsons – in Sulawesi.

By the time they fly to the Philippines and link up with another club of Harley-Davidson enthusiasts, Charley's itinerary has pretty much settled into the tourist track.

So it goes through Taiwan. Then he's off on another flight north to Japan. Charley is sobered by visits to Okinawa and Hiroshima but shakes off his thoughts of wartime mayhem by paragliding from the foothills of Mount Fuji.

"Now the adrenaline was

Bestselling author of *Long Way Down*

Charley BOORMAN  
RIGHT TO THE EDGE  
Sydney to Tokyo  
BY ANY MEANS



PLANES, BIKES AND AUTOMOBILES: Forced to travel like a normal tourist, Charley Boorman's latest book doesn't live up to his previous adventures.

pumping. With the chute inflated, the instructor ran me right to the edge and pushed me off. The next thing I know I was paddling the air with my feet, the exhilaration of take-off stopping the breath in my throat.

I was floating. I was flying. I was an eagle, a hawk, I was a *hayabusa* – a Japanese falcon –

it was fantastic."

This journey often bored me, but it's too early to swear off Charley Boorman.

A prospect is being floated that he will link up with Ewan McGregor again to bike from the southernmost tip to South America to the northernmost tip of Alaska: *A Long Way Up*.

## Saint John's swan songs

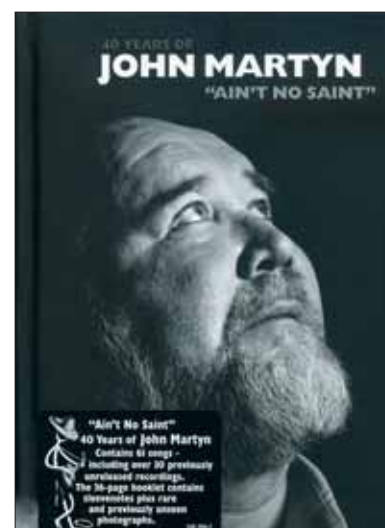
### Music

By Marc Mulloy

THE late John Martyn is a musician's musician and his albums often included input from the likes of Phil Collins, David Gilmour and Eric Clapton.

Starting as an acoustic "folkie" in the 1960s, his later music included jazz, blues and rock with progressive and even funk elements, while some of his songs in the 1980s veered towards mainstream pop. He died in 2009 leaving behind over 40 years of great music all of which is reflected in *Ain't No Saint*, a wildly varied, well-packaged 4-CD collection, first released in 2008 to celebrate his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Much more than a retrospective on John's career this is a high value release for his fans like myself as it is packed with out-takes and previously unavailable live performances. Carefully mixed and mastered by



Paschal Byrne of The Audio Archiving Company, sound quality is simply outstanding.

There are 61 tracks here, including one song from each of his 22 studio albums, along with rarities and out-takes and more than 30 previously unreleased recordings that range from over-extended experimental pieces to

patches of sheer brilliance.

The set starts with *Fairy Tale Lullaby*, an almost naive story of pixies and goblins that appeared on his first studio album in 1967, and ends with one of his last performances of *Over the Hill* (with John Paul Jones of Led Zeppelin joining him on Mandolin) performed at the 2008 BBC Radio 2 Folk awards, where he received a lifetime-achievement award.

His output in the intervening years, though erratic, has constantly relied on the strength of his live playing represented here by his workings of favorites such as *May You Never*, or the rousing *I'd Rather Be the Devil* from the mid 1970s.

This 312-minute collection was released a year before John Martyn passed away in 2009, but now stands as a testimonial to the musician's great talent. Whether you're a John Martyn connoisseur or not, this release deserves four stars as the definitive Martyn compilation.

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# Janpim Aewpoo

A GLEAMING black Mercedes Benz pulls in front of the sales office of Chic Condo in Karon. Janpim Aewpoo, in smart, light gray dress, steps out from the driver's seat and greets me.

Janpim, 36, is one of the island's successful young property developers who's riding the success of the thriving real estate market here.

Back in the 1970s, Janpim's parents had a small construction business in Phuket Town, but she was in no way interested in the world of commerce at a young age. All that changed, when, having finished her high school education, she embarked on a course in finance at a reputable institution in Bangkok.

"I just thought that I might have a better chance of getting a job if I had a degree in finance. During the course, however, I developed a liking for this field. Finance is all about analyzing the present so that you can predict the future, and the whole thing fascinated me. From a girl who was doing so-so in school, I became one of the top students."

Having obtained a degree in finance, Janpim went on to study business administration, adding an MBA to her qualifications. After a few years working as a finance officer for Krung Thai Bank in Bangkok she transferred to Phuket.

While at the bank in Phuket Town, Janpim met a client who would change her life. The



gentleman, who was impressed with Janpim's poise and brains, had two things in mind: to persuade her to work for him and for her to meet and marry his son.

His foresight proved correct, when Janpim eventually met his son Vaiyavit, fell in love, and the couple married in 2006.

It just so happens that Vaiyavit's family runs a successful business, Chalong Concrete, or CLC, that produces construction materials. Now joined by a capable Janpim, forming a formidable team, they've set forth developing various properties in town. Their well-known brands are large modern housing estates like Phuket Topland (two branches) and Tawan Place in Bang Tao.

After much success in these housing projects, the company branched out into developing condominiums, and built *Good Condo* in the Gugu area, north of Phuket. CLC's latest project, *Chic Condo*, named by Janpim herself because "it's easy to remember," features smart apartments, complete with modern amenities. The project is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in 2013.

As an astute businesswoman with a sharp analytical mind, Janpim is an important part of the company's success.

"I love the challenge that comes with each project, which are all very different in nature. My father-in-law gives us a location, and we have to work out the form and concept of the property from the ground up. Then comes the planning, marketing and finance. When I worked in finance, it was all about figures. Managing a real business is a whole new game, which has its own contributing factors and problems to solve."

Calling herself a "property lady," Janpim believes the future of Phuket is in high-rise buildings. The business here is lively, she says, with many big players from Bangkok taking part. She also reveals that 98 per cent of her clients are foreigners, with Russian buyers leading the pack.

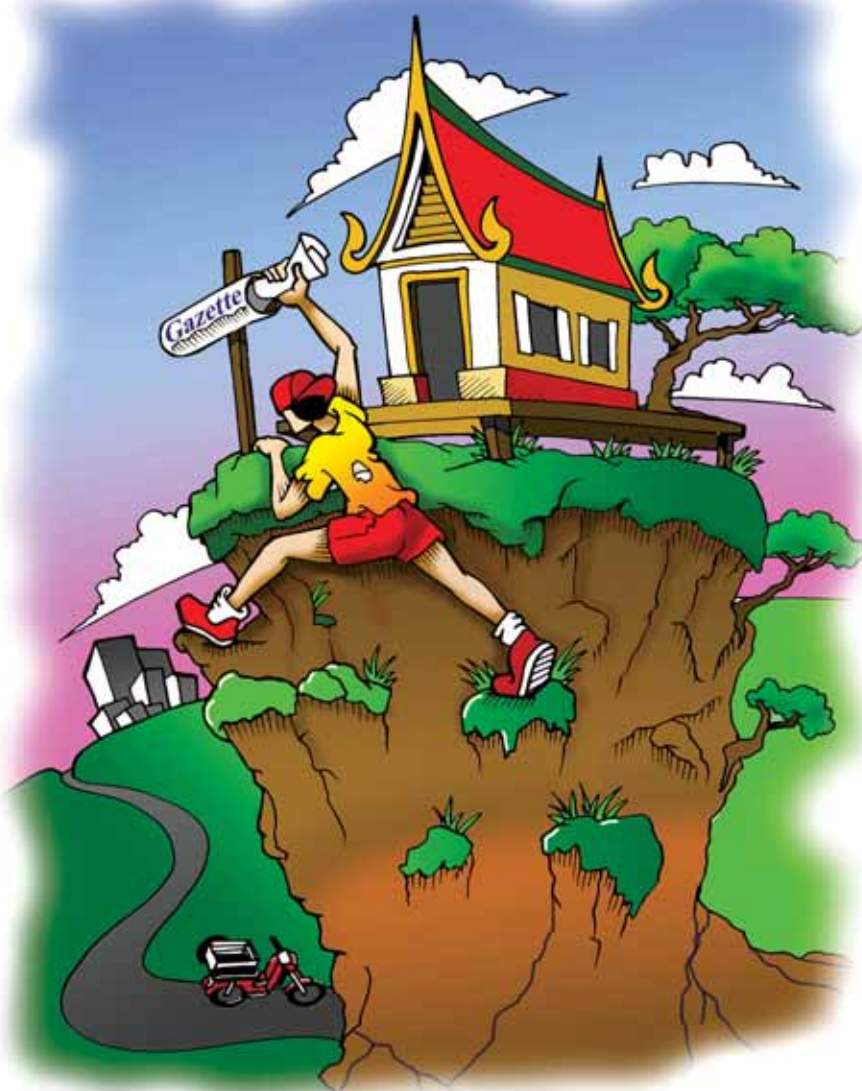
When asked about environmental concerns, that are an inevitable part of over-development, Janpim admits that there are some foul plays. The existing building regulations, she says, are quite adequate and "it's up to the authorities to take a closer look and exercise tighter control over 'rogue' constructions."

"We still sell, we still make a profit, therefore the property market is still going strong," she says with the confidence of a savvy and fearless entrepreneur.



## About Thai Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Thai Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an *international* community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an interest in interacting with different cultures. They are people who in our experience help make the lives of expats far more enjoyable here than might be the case without them.



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**GREEN DAY:** Vice Governor of Phuket, Dr Sommai Preechasin (in blue jacket) presided over the closing ceremony of the Greener Business Asia, joined by Dr Sirichai Silapa-archa, Chairman of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, Vincent Jugault, ILO Senior Specialist on Environment and Decent Work as well as management of participating hotels and the Prince of Songkhla University. Photo: Dan Miles



**SET THEM FREE:** Robinson (Jungceyclon Branch) recently released turtles into the Andaman Sea as part of their current Corporate Social Responsibility initiative.



**GIVING BACK:** Real estate developers Sansiri PCL recently hosted a lunch at Holiday Inn Mai Khao with Phuket Media to promote the firm's CSR initiatives.



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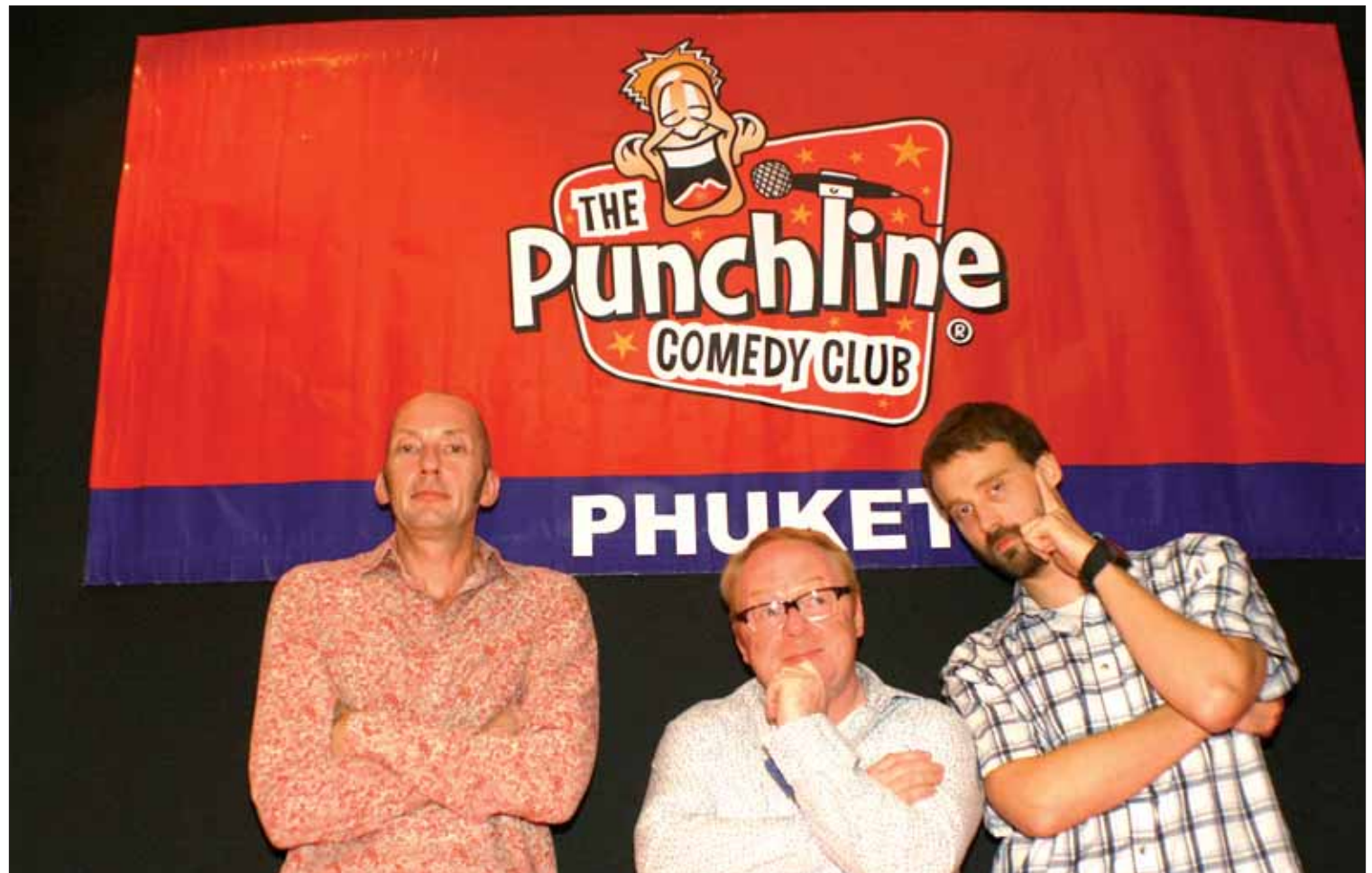
**A BEVY OF BEAUTIES:** ThaiBev PCL's Chang recently partnered with Real Madrid and Barcelona to launch the Chang Road to El Clasico national football tournament. To read about the Phuket playoff results, see story on page 46.



# YOUR Phuket



**FUNNY MAN:** Coco the clown helped Americans celebrate Independence Day at HeadStart school. Photo: fotocom agency



**FUNNY MEN:** The Punchline comedy stand-up comedians left Phuket laughing at their recent Holiday Inn show. From left are Jeremy O'Donnell, Brian Higgins and Paul Myrehaug. Photo: Marc Mulloy



**HARD SAYING GOODBYE:** Hard Rock Cafe Phuket held a private party to bid farewell to their popular GM Shabbir Godil who has moved on to greener pastures. Photo: Tony Pope - Island life photos.



**GOOD CLEAN FUN:** Prominent members of the PADI dive community gather in Patong as the "Go Eco Phuket" project starts to gain momentum for its September 30th reef clean-up.



## Inspiring New Menu at Patong's Best Restaurant

Discover Sala Bua, the Award winning restaurant's inspiring new Mediterranean cuisine menu with an Asian twist. Helmed by celebrity chef Dirk Schroeter, experience his signature dishes from heaven done in his inimitable trademark heartfelt style with dazzling views of the Andaman Sea. For an unforgettable experience blending first class cuisine, cozy atmosphere and impeccable service, visit Patong's Best Restaurant..Sala Bua. Open Daily from 06.00 am - 12 Midnight

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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### July 6 - 8, from 5 to 10pm: 3-day seminar on silk dress making

This 3 day seminar will allow you to create your own classic shift dress in Thai Silk. Join European craftsman and designer Templeton Dean, and learn how to create your own silk garments. Machines, fabric and supplies are provided, so a basic knowledge of sewing and a passion for clothing are all that is required. Class costs 7,500 baht. (The dress you make retails for more than the class costs.) For booking, call 083-521 9993 and do something a little 'Brit' different. For dates, times and locations contact: templeton\_dean@hotmail.com

### July 12, 6pm to 12am: Martini Manicure Ladies Night @ RE KATA

Free express manicure for ladies. Free Martini for ladies on arrival, and 50 per cent off drinks list for everyone all night long. From 6pm to midnight – DJ tunes till late.

**July 13, 7-10pm: Indian Night at Les Anges, Royal Phuket Marina**  
Phuket's best Indian buffet is back with a new chef and a new menu. Special promotion @ just 449 baht. From 5-9pm. Buy one drink get one free! Reservations recommended. Call Mr Murat on 081-797 3364.

**July 14, 7 to 8:30pm:**  
**Exhibition Opening works by Robin Gillow & Libby Harrison**  
"Oceans Apart". Divided by an ocean, yet linked through art and



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friendship, Phuket-based artist Robin Gillow and South African artist Libby Harrison will be showing their newest work. They have known each other since their teens and attended the Johannesburg College of Art together. The exhibition's ocean related theme perfectly suits the duo's subject matter. Oceans apart in life, the style of the work being shown is very different and suits a varied audience. The exhibition also offers a wonderful opportunity to experience South Africa and Asia in true colour. Gallery open daily from 11am to 8pm.

**July 18-22, 10:30 to 12:30am :**  
**Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek**

Now in its ninth year, Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek comprises four days of world-class yacht racing and four nights of magical, beachside parties at the luxurious Cape Panwa Hotel – all captured for international TV broadcast to 140 million households.

The regatta is run over six classes, including cruising and charter yachts. It's competitive, high-octane racing for the serious boats and fun courses around the islands for the less serious racers. The evening parties are legendary. According to one competitor, "It just gets better and better. It's my favorite. We're very lucky to have such a regatta on our doorstep."

This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV.

### July 19, 6pm-12:00am: Martini Manicure Ladies Night @ RE KATA

Free express manicure for ladies. Free martini for ladies on arrival, and 50% off drink list for everyone all night long. From 6pm to midnight – DJ tunes till late.

### July 20, 7-11:30pm: Think Design Magazine Art Dinner at Dedos

This Think Design Art Dinner will feature local Thai artist Khun Watcharin, combining six pieces of Mr Watcharin's art with a specifically designed dish and wine responding to and influenced by the artwork itself. Each individual piece of artwork will be discussed and reviewed as the dish is devoured. The objective of these Art Dinners is to encourage artistic cross-pollination of art

through different mediums. Help make Phuket a cultural destination. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

### July 20, 7-11pm: Curry Fridays Phuket

We present Phuket Curry Fridays on every first and third Friday. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet every Friday. "Chicken Tikka Masala", very hot "Mutton Vindaloo", succulent Kebabs, Goan fish curry and much more... all served with Nan bread and Basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett! Draught Beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discounts on beverages. Venue: Navrang Mahal India Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Time: 7 to 11pm. For reservations, please call: 076-286464, ext 4.

### July 21, 12-3pm: Saturday Brunch @ Two Chefs!

Saturday brunch at Two Chefs Kata Center. Every Saturday we are setting up our brunch buffet, filled to the limits with home-made delights. In our smoke house, we smoke all of our fish and meats ourselves and in the bakery we bake all our own bread. With very well trained chefs and a Swedish head chef, we can promise you that you won't leave hungry or thirsty. All this for only 395 baht, and if you add an extra 300 baht you can choose to drink what you want from our free flow alternatives. For more info, please visit W: [twochefs.com](http://twochefs.com).

### Aug 2, 2012: Asarnha Bucha Day – Public Holiday

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago. In Thailand this day is celebrated as a public holiday and many places will not serve alcohol.

## Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic

Is Windows driving you nuts? Looking for a good internet connection? Need to know how and where to get your PC repaired, or your confounding questions answered? Drop by the new Afternoon Computer Clinics, hosted by Woody Leonhard and Seth Bareiss. Bring your computer. Bring your questions. Bring your sense of humor and let's see if we can solve your PC problems. Second and fourth Wednesday of every month, 1-3pm, at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

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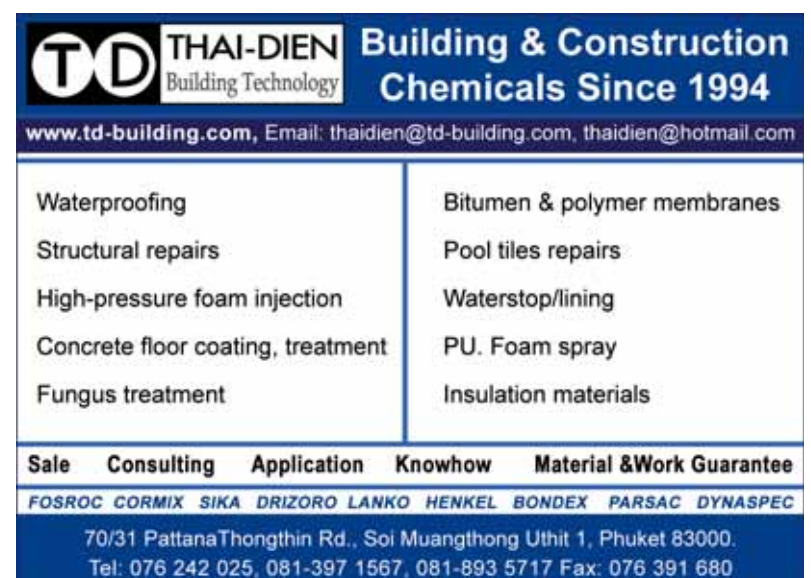
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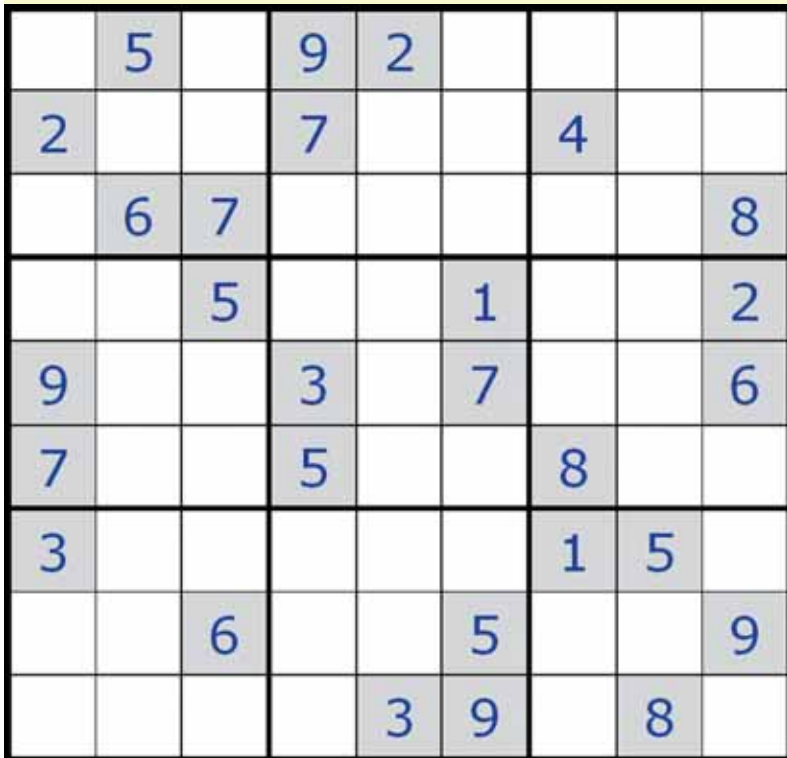
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**SUDOKU:** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

## COFFEE break

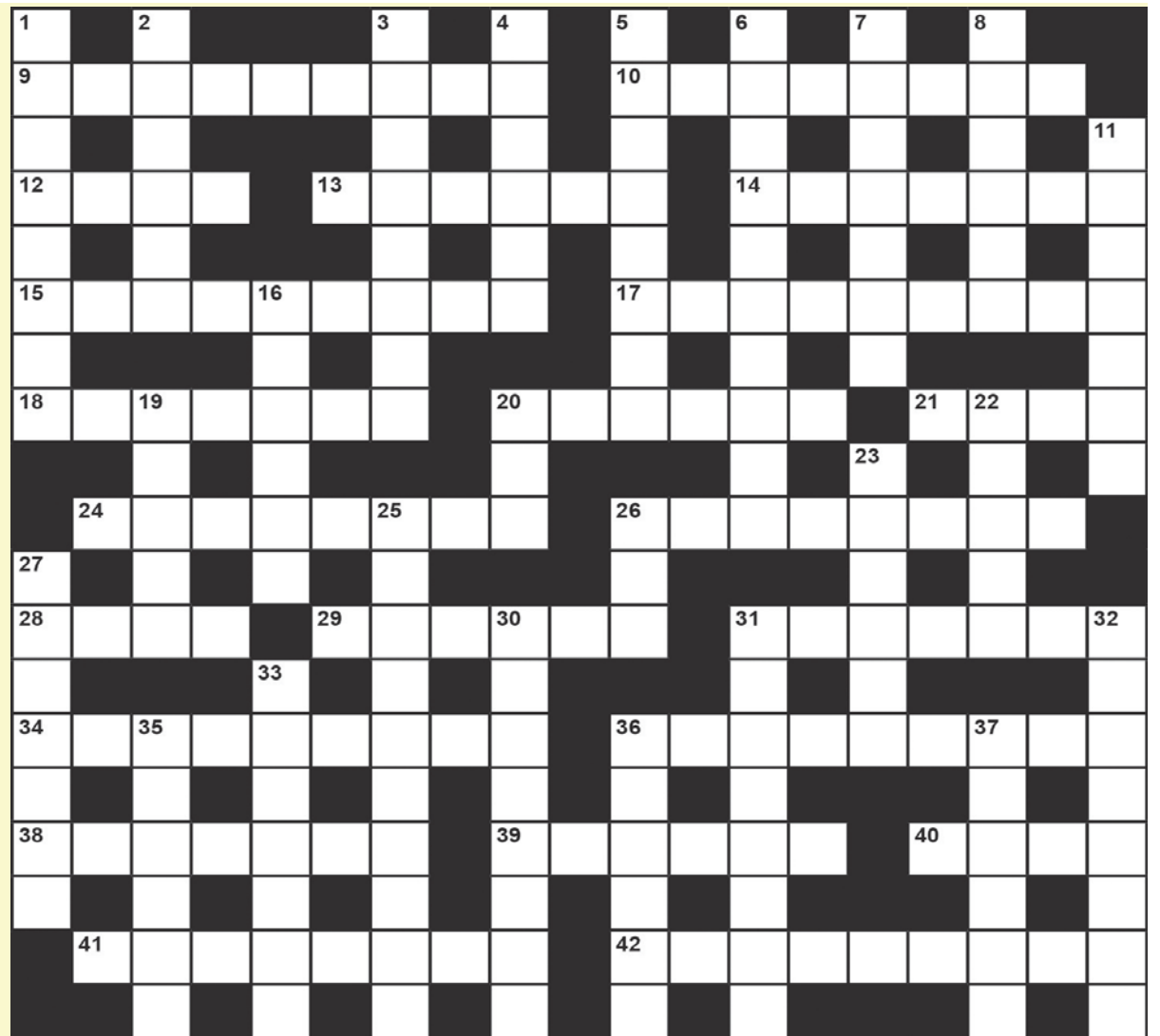
### Across

9. No trace in new vessel (9)  
10. Rush person into track (8)  
12. Born, died, in poverty (4)  
13. Painter has skill first (6)  
14. A number gone in time shortly after the hour (3,4)  
15. Dire scene around dwelling (9)  
17. Flower possibly not in a following vehicle (9)  
18. OK, tear out East to find a hard-wood producer (3,4)  
20. Cushion medication with a cry of pain (6)  
21. Faint, leap awkwardly (4)  
24. Son without is not working (8)  
26. Come together with a chap to make Thai curry (8)

28. Slope for river current measurement (4)  
29. Plus one court for a drug user (6)  
31. Remark upon cot containing minute beings (7)  
34. Support the Spanish, the French, restricted from making a screw (9)  
36. Each give evidence against associates away not trying so hard (6,3)  
38. Feeling deeply, sent in agitated note (7)  
39. Red gold mixture it ain't! (6)  
40. I had the French standing about (4)  
41. A crime an upset for one from the land of the free (8)  
42. Satan moved onto the continent in the person of a Russian Grand Duchess (9)

### Down

1. I rose, can change how the situation will play out (8)



2. Registers teens moving around, right (6)  
3. Grab attention in the way in (8)  
4. Express admiration for Paris, movingly, with a hidden note (6)  
5. Crucial fault-finding (8)  
6. Coming out on top, the winner has proofs of debts (10)  
7. Can rail about things to do with the head (7)  
8. Alas, I'm ruining savory food (6)  
11. Underdeveloped troubled student (7)  
16. Free credit is to the point (6)

19. North of Patong, get a milk shake (5)  
20. Goody goody, grand for a dirty person (3)  
22. Nowadays mature saying (5)  
23. Stop fellow being a pub employee (6)  
25. Include gen rearranged for gratification (10)  
26. Dull, flat Scottish cap turns up (3)  
27. This item in the 'Gazette' is described as difficult to understand (7)  
30. One posh car moving, tain't something to upset you! (8)

31. Give part to a wife, ay, one who was deserted (8)  
32. Hard materials to make gowns from (8)  
33. Concerning record for returning into the atmosphere (2-5)  
35. Note, I'm unusually punctual (2,4)  
36. Second helpings for the actors in the crowd (6)  
37. Most peculiar, not even set out (6)

*This cryptic crossword was compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 43*

### CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Spending quiet time alone will allow Cancerians to get to grips with what is happening in their lives. There are signs that you will make sensible decisions if you rely on your intuition, but this is not an auspicious time to be influenced by others' opinions. Those with a birthday in the coming year are forecast to get back on an even keel in the world of work.

### LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



Jealousy in the world of work should be nipped in the bud. The stars suggest that some Leos may be feeling that others are being favored. This phase will pass around the middle of June; keeping a strong focus on your achievements and capabilities is recommended in the meantime. Your love life benefits from a sprinkling of stardust this week. A relationship that has been flagging is forecast to be reenergized.

### VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



Emotions can run high this week, particularly where personal relationships are concerned. The stars indicate that Virgoans who are trying to leave the past behind could encounter some unforeseen obstacles. Tuesday and Wednesday

are the most auspicious days to have constructive conversations. Finances fall under benevolent astral conditions, with emphasis on investments paying off more lucratively than you anticipated. Wear the color aqua blue to encourage a cool perspective.

### LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Life will be kind to those born under the sign of Libra until the middle of this month. The stars advise that your relaxed mood will put others at ease and progress at work is highlighted to be smooth. This is an auspicious time to reconnect with people who you haven't seen lately – an earth sign will particularly appreciate hearing from you. Lucky days for love are Wednesday and Thursday.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Dreams are highlighted to have hidden meanings this week. Those born under the sign of Scorpio who have been searching for answers should be enlightened. Where relocation is concerned, the stars are on your side and an offer made by the middle of the month will be well worth consideration. In the realm of romance, getting closer to an air sign loses appeal when details of this person's situation are revealed.

## YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Work matters are forecast to be troublesome early next week. If this is due to another fire sign's short fuse, you are advised to keep a calm countenance and not force changes. The second half of July is the time to diversify interests and take some calculated risks. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, meeting an earth sign can prove that opposites attract. Lucky days for finances are Monday and Tuesday.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Your social skills are strong until the middle of the month. Capricorns who are normally content to keep a low profile are forecast to find themselves in stimulating situations. Meeting people with varied interests should encourage you to expand your horizons during the summer. A water sign can be a good friend, but romance should be ruled out – those seeking a partner will have better luck with other earth signs.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



Finances are well starred for those born under the sign of Aquarius, with emphasis on assets being worth more than you realized. There could be a tendency to cut corners in the world of work, which will end up costing more of your valuable time later this month. In the realm of romance, a rebound relationship with a fire sign may lead to more involvement than you had bargained for.

### PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Another water sign could lead you up the jungle path this week. The stars advise keeping your options open where work is concerned. Those actively seeking different employment should wait until later this month when the astral atmosphere will be more supportive. Where love is concerned, positive thinking can help put a relationship with an earth sign back on firmer ground. Auspicious days for money matters are Sunday and Monday.

### ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



Thinking outside the box allows Arians to see solutions hidden from others this week. The stars indicate that your ability to turn dreams into reality will bring respect and rewards. This weekend is an aus-

picious time for recapturing romance – an air sign who drifted out of your life earlier this year could take you by surprise. Those already committed have reason to see that their partner's heart is in the right place.

### TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Organization is the key to success this week. Taureans are likely to be sidetracked by situations arising out of the blue, but the stars indicate that energy could be wasted. Where work is concerned, another earth sign's opinion may seem far fetched midweek, but will be well worth consideration. A family obligation this weekend turns out to be more enjoyable than anticipated. Lucky days for finances are Monday and Tuesday.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Catching up with old friends this weekend could remind some Geminis that they have allowed life to grow stale recently. The stars suggest that a fire sign blast from your past may extend an invitation that will spark off an exciting summer. Business is well-starred until the middle of July, but you are advised to remember that money shouldn't be the only motivation. Sparkling days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday.



# PROPERTY Gazette

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# Save the planet, the bottom line

TEN Phuket hotels recently celebrated the completion of an environmental awareness and initiative training and advisory program, a laudable benchmark in the latest private-public sector cooperative effort to clean up the local hospitality sector's image.

Dubbed the Greener Business Asia (GBA) Project, the first of two planned phases was highlighted by a number of "Go Green" exercises, seminars and workshops, held on the island between October 2011 and May 2012.

The initiative was organized in collaboration with the Phuket provincial government, Phuket Chamber of Commerce, Prince of Songkhla University Phuket, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Japan Multi-bilateral Programme.

Participating hotels included Club Med, The NAP Patong, Peach Blossom, The Peach Hill, Andaman Cannacia Resort & Spa, Kata Palm Resort, The Royal Phuket Yacht Club, The Royal Palm Beach Front, Karon Beach Resort and Malisa Villa and Suites.

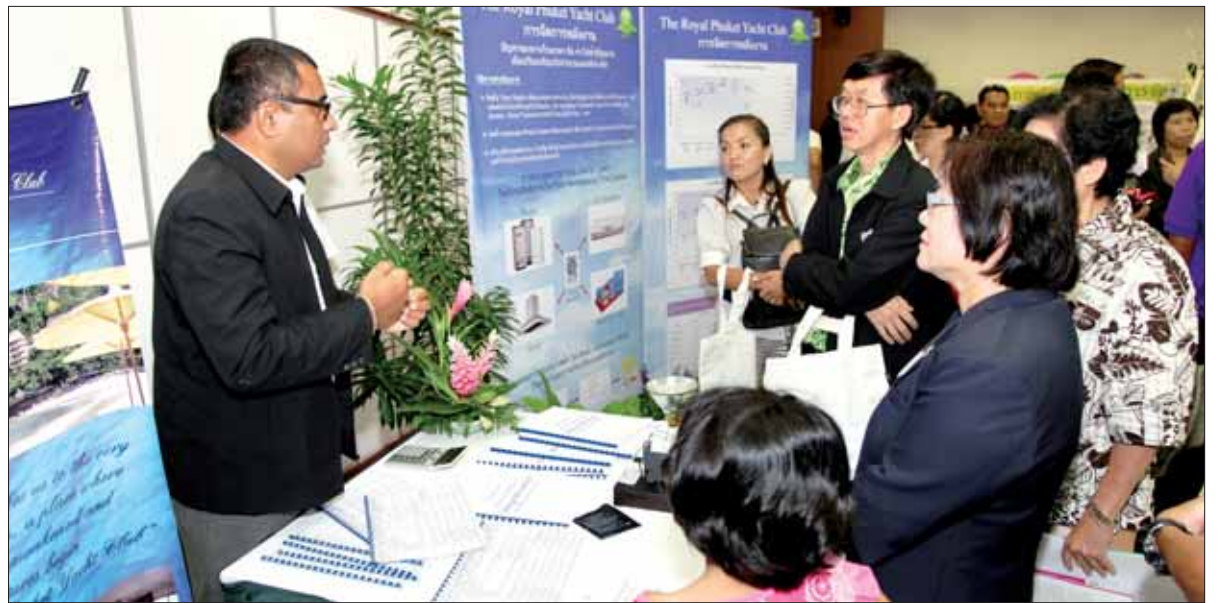
In her opening remarks at GBA's first phase closing ceremony on June 30 at PSU's Phuket cam-

pus, Vice Governor, Dr Sommai Preechasin said: "It cannot be denied that the Andaman cluster and Phuket island, has been regarded as a strategic location in Thailand for tourism. Arrivals in Phuket reached approximately 4.5 million last year, and the top source markets have shifted from Europe to markets such as China, Australia, South Korea, India and Russia.

"However, to survive and maintain our destination in the long run, the tourism industry should be developed in a more sustainable manner and must be based on a careful, coordinated set of planning and development strategies to avoid environmental and social degradation and their negative impacts."

Dr Preechasin took this opportunity to talk about environmental issues affecting the island, outlining various environmental problems including waste management issues, water supply, coastal area and coral reef degradation, as well as climate change resulting from global warming.

"In order to better cope with these problems resulting from the expansion of tourism, which is frequently cited as one of the major causes of environmental problems,



**CUT POLLUTION, CUT COSTS: A GBA hotelier presents valuable knowledge to Phuket officials.** Photo: Dan Miles

we have to call for continuing support and committed cooperation from all stake-holder groups. . . Everyone needs to work hand-in-hand in order to stimulate a collaborative effort to rectify these issues. . . We should serve to promote better public awareness on environmental issues and further seek efficient and effective mechanisms, practical solutions and preventative approaches to save our destination," she pleaded.

In addition to the V/Gov, several more distinguished speakers took command of the podium – all keen to emphasize the importance and role of the GBA program in raising the environmental bar, while sustaining growth in the local tourism industry.

Among them were Vincent Jugault, ILO Senior Specialist on Environment and Decent Work, Assistant Professor Sontaya

Anakasiri, Assistant to the President of PSU and Dr Sirichai Silapa-archa, Chairman of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce.

Though varied in background and expertise, all speakers shared a mutual tone: It is important that we work together to not only make a difference in the degrading environmental situation, but also in the bottom line of maximizing profit gains through ethical practices.

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# The Allan Zeman effect: second act



## Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

THERE is little doubt that the effect Allan Zeman has had on Phuket remains great bedside reading for the success-oriented – counting multi-million dollar villa sales beats counting sheep any day (or night).

Zeman's play is hard to fault especially when some are wondering if Phuket has lost some

of its glittering shine, down on Millionaires Mile.

Andara's second act, the 13 villa ultra estate tagged as Signature, launched some six months ago. Since then, five properties have been sold, and two more are on offer. What's more notable is that pricing remains strong with units ranging from US\$6.6 to 8.2 million.

In a sector which typically sees average monthly take-up rates at .15 to .25 (meaning it takes four to six months to trade just one villa)

Andara has again set the gold standard of performance.

Looking at the historical resales of Andara villas over the past two years, there have been five secondary transactions and all traded at well over 100 per cent of the acquisition price. Calculating the cash on cash return on purchase, annual appreciation for total resales is up over 30 per cent. Any investor in today's market who can get that return, please take a place at the front of the line.

I recall, in the early days of the initial project launch, speaking to Allan about his philosophy when developing property and he had the poignant saying "always leave money on the table for the next buyer." That coda has proven successful in retaining clients and keeping forward momentum.

Phuket is a small place and the social circles of high net worth individuals from places like Hong Kong is amazingly small. Whispers about money made or lost can spread like wildfire and the ultimate marketing tools remain word of mouth and satisfied investors.

Added to the mix has been the attached hospitality-led product 'the residences'. Positioned more as an investment return and usage model, there have been two resales within the past year, with gains in double digits.

Bringing in respected hotelier Daniel Meury, after a long stint at the well known Chedi (now Surin),

resort turned out to fit like a glove, in terms of the client mix and market experience. Rental pool revenue for the first quarter in 2012 achieved a remarkable growth factor of 50 per cent over the same period last year.

Twinning 'Brand Phuket' and Allan Zeman has proved that the island continues to be a draw card for the rich and famous. High net worth individuals are still in the rink and the mid-term report card on Andara Signature is looking to deliver its promise.

And as for the Hong Kong entrepreneur's commitment to the local real estate trade, he's opting to build up the project irrespective of sales, with a timeline of 24-30 months to completion. One can only wonder what will be the next Andara-inspired project in Phuket?

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through W: C9hotelworks.com



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# The easy way to stay in Phuket

FORMER Bangkok resident Mimi Chalisa, 40, has a passion for Phuket property – and helping her friends find their ideal home. That's why she decided to launch her own property service website last year. Since then, Phuket Easy Stay has morphed from an idea to a successful website with 169 properties for rent and sale. Mimi also plans to add removal, gardening and maintenance services to her website soon.

The *Phuket Gazette* sat down with Mimi to find out what advice she has for people looking for a mid-range property in Phuket right now.

**Phuket Gazette: What's the most popular type of property on your website?**

Mimi Chalisa: Most of my customers who are looking for a long-term rental want single-bedroom homes with a garden in quiet areas of the island. Short-term rental customers usually want a bungalow with a shared or private swimming pool. In most cases, our customers are looking for properties between 10,000 and 30,000 baht per month.

**PG: How is this low season going compared to last year?**

MC: Obviously, because we had just launched the website last year, this low season has been much better for us as more people have heard about our rental services. This low season I've helped more than 30 customers find their ideal home.

**PG: What is the first piece of advice you give people searching for property?**

MC: They shouldn't rush into a decision. Make contact with real estate agencies or

consultants in Phuket and keep in mind that realtors normally do not charge any additional commission to tenants in Thailand. They will save lots of time, energy and even money if they talk to the agencies.

**PG: Why do you think your website has been so successful in such a short time?**

MC: I think it is because we make our customers happy. Word of mouth has spread because of this and I wholeheartedly believe if you care about your customers you will be successful.

**PG: What area is the most popular with your clients?**

MC: We have properties all over the island, and also in Phang Nga province and on Koh Yao Noi island, but most of our properties are in Phuket Town and Chalong areas. We are expanding rapidly and hope to reach 1,000 properties listed on our site by this time next year.

**PG: Why should people use your rental service and not others in Phuket?**

MC: The feedback we get from people tells us that we are one of the few companies focused on the low-to-mid price range on the island. When you search online for property in Phuket you will get a lot of websites dedicated to the high-end market. We provide another option.

We mainly provide properties for re-

tired expats who want to live in Thailand and enjoy a nice lifestyle but without spending a fortune. Also, our relationship with our clients does not end after they sign a contract with us. Other services we provide for our customers is helping them find cars or motorbikes, set up an internet or cable TV account, find cleaning services, gardeners, plumbers, handyman, pool maintenance and more.

**PG: What are the common problems people have when looking for a short-term rental?**

MC: In most cases, home owners are not keen to rent their homes for less than six months. Many

home owners on Phuket want to find long-term tenants with minimal stress. This can also work to the advantage of the tenant as some home owners offer discounts on longer-term leases.

**PG: What are the main problems foreigners have when looking for a property?**

MC: The biggest problem is the language barrier. Many of my foreign customers also think that the English-language rental websites may be more expensive than the Thai rental services. Also, some of my customers say they have driven around to find a property but then can't



**EASY DOES IT:** Mimi Chalisa is creating a buzz in the mid-range rental market with her website [phuketeasystay.com](http://phuketeasystay.com) (left).

communicate with the home owners because of the language barrier. This can be very frustrating for foreigners' trying to find property – and this is where we help.

**PG: What do you hope you can achieve in the next five years with your business?**

MC: Our goal is for Phuket Easy Stay to become the first place people go to online to look for properties in our market.

*For anyone seeking accommodations in Phuket, please don't hesitate to visit W: [Phuketeasystay.com](http://Phuketeasystay.com)*



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# Another golden boy facing the elements

“HELIOTROPISM” – now there’s a word to conjure with, but what does it mean? Don’t use big words if you don’t explain them.

Well, for the uninitiated, heliotropism is a plant’s diurnal motion, its capacity to slowly and imperceptibly turn towards the sun. (*Helios* is the Greek sun god, *trope* means turn in Greek).

By doing this, a plant derives maximum benefit from the sun’s beneficent rays. There is even a cool-climate plant called the heliotrope, so named on account of its capacity to pivot both flowers and leaves towards the light over the course of a single day.



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

Of course, some plants detest sunshine and do their very best to avoid it. If these shade lovers are over-exposed, they will, like fair-skinned people, literally get sun burnt. The result: scorched foliage and dried-out leaves.

But most plants in the tropics revel in the endless sunshine. One such plant is the sunflower (*helianthus annuus*). It is associated with the sun for a range of reasons. First, its name.

Second, its appearance. With its huge deep orange flower heads and flame-shaped yellow petals – yes, it’s another golden boy – the flaming *helianthus* is so akin to a floral sun that it was used by the Mexican Aztecs as an emblem of their solar deity.

More recently, it has been celebrated in a still-life painting by Van Gogh, and a poem by William Blake. Third and last, the sunflower is – and here’s that word again – heliotropic. Its leaves and buds turn from east to west in order to follow the sun’s motion across the sky, and thereby promote the life-enhancing business of photosynthesis.

As the botanical epithet (*annuus*) implies, the *helianthus* is an annual – but what an annual. It will, given fertile soil and plenty of sunshine, grow to two or even three meters in a single year.

The flat, heavy blooms, in reality a mass of tiny, densely packed flowerets fringed by golden yellow petals, are huge – up to a foot in diameter. Since it grows tall and straight, it is an ideal plant to command the back of a herbaceous border, or stand in serried ranks at the front of a garden wall.

Just remember that it is, in common with all fast-growing plants, a voracious feeder and will need plenty of phosphate-rich fertilizer and regular watering to give its brilliant best. And at its very best, it has been known to reach eight meters in height – a giant among annuals.

Moreover, the sunflower is not only beautiful but exceedingly useful. You may have seen a field



**SUN WORSHIPPER:** *Helianthus annuus* follows the giver of light as it transits across the heavens. Photo: Maja Dumat.

of sunflowers – a sight to behold here in Phuket. For, the *helianthus* is not only planted in local gardens for its massive visual impact, but is also cultivated for its seeds.

The flower heads – which quickly turn to seed – produce an oil, particularly rich in unsaturated fats, which, together with soy and palm oil, is used worldwide as an ingredient in cooking.

The seeds are also made into a bread that is popular in Germany

and, as Thais well know, they make a delicious and nutritious snack. Little is thrown away: even the leaves and discarded flower heads are used as cattle feed.

That’s the beauty of plants: they can be life-enhancing, gorgeous, and utilitarian – all at the same time.

*If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email him anytime at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com.*

## Tip of the week



**EGGPLANT.** Photo: Richard North.

## Pot luck

GROWING your very own plants in pots, gives you the benefit of eating ultra-fresh vegetables untainted by contact with pesticides.

Herbs such as basil, chives, spring onions and mint, are always a good option, but you can also try

more substantial vegetables. Chinese kale (*kai-lang*), *pak choi* and some varieties of lettuce should be okay, even some varieties of aubergine (eggplant) or okra.

Use a potting mix that is not composed solely of commercial compost. This has little nutritional value and should be supplemented by decent top-soil.

Plant your veggies in containers with drainage holes (those for water plants have none) and remember to water regularly, if not excessively. If you are growing from seed, you can find packets in supermarkets or, even better, at the shop that specializes in fertilizer on Thepkasattri road, south of Super-Cheap.

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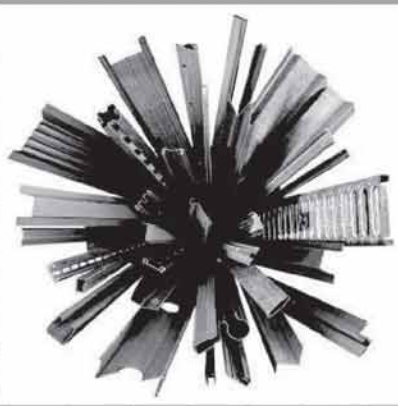
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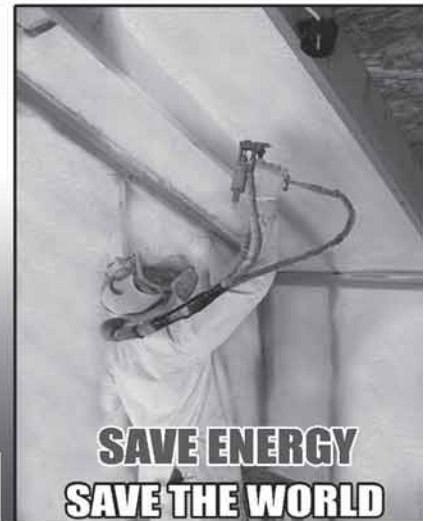
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## Properties For Sale

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For sale: 2 million baht; 200,000 baht yearly payment. Furnished, 300m to the pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

### OUTSTANDING SEA VIEW VILLA



For sale. Great value and located in Nai Thon. Tel: 084-841 7921 (English). Email: excellentseaviewproperty@gmail.com

### HOUSES FOR SALE

Bang Tao area, 1/2/3/4 bedrooms for sale, fully furnished, large pool, Sat TV, ADSL, nice location, Chanote title. Tel: 090-156 7927.

### KARON TOWNHOUSE

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, aircon, ADSL, car parking. Price: 5.3 million baht. Tel: 089-594 0423.

### KATHU: LAND FOR SALE

Near the British International School, 500sqm including road, water, electricity and security. 3 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

### HOUSE & FURNITURE

Single house, 60sqm. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. In Chaiyapruet Village at Land & Houses Park, Chalong. Good location and entrance from bypass road. Built 2 years ago. Tel: 084-627 7001.

### SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Price: 2.4 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

### 3-BED, 2-BATH HOUSE IN CHALONG

2 storey detached house with small garden, 3 beds, 2 baths. Tel: 076-282308, 089-655 7480. Email: suppmas@live.com

### LAND FOR SALE IN KATHU

Near the British International School, 3 rai with public road access. 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

### PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

At Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Tel: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

### LAND FOR SALE

Near the main road to Baan Don-Cherng Talay. 68sq wah. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@yahoo.co.th

### NICE HOUSE 88SQ WAH



4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons, sofa, cable TV. Near Jomthong Village on Khwang Rd. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 086-774 2034. Email: hataimata@hotmail.com

### FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE FOR SALE



Chao Fah Garden Home 3 in Koh Kaew near BIS, 10 mins to Lotus. 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 aircons. Nice living & kitchen room, car park, fully furnished. Ready to move in. 2.85 million baht near Boat Lagoon. Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

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### LAND FOR QUICK SALE

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### CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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### LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



Pa Khlok. 2 rai 32sq wah, 60m wide. Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@hotmail.com

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### PENTHOUSE KATA

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1-2 bedroom, furnished houses, beautiful garden, Chalong area 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

### SEA VIEW, 2 BEDROOMS

Quiet, clean building. Fully furnished and great area, cable TV, WiFi. Rent: 32,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 8208.

### SEA VIEW HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, prime location for long holidays & hostel business. Tel: 081-595 7986, 089-871 6599 (English & Thai). Email: phudit1979@hotmail.com

### RAWAI BEACH FRONT POOL VILLA

Rawai, beach front pool villa. For rent and sale. 3 bedrooms, furnished, land: 1 rai. Contact Siriporn. Tel: 089-649 9939.

### ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Stylish serviced apartments. Studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Rooftop pool, Free WiFi. Also beachfront condo. Tel: 081-892 0038. For further details, please see our website at [www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com](http://www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com)

### KAMALA BEACH

New houses, apartment for rent. 2 to 4 bedrooms, furnished, cable, WiFi, cleaning lady. All included 15,000-20,000 baht per month. Very quiet and safe. Tel: 084-716 0502.

### RAWAI POOL VILLAS

For rent in quiet area. Long term and short term. 3 or 4-bed villas. Villas for sale at 7.2 million baht with 60% finance option. Super deals on rentals in June, July, August. Tel: 087-893 8747.

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Your key to fast-track placement and easy payment for ads at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace. Hundreds of new ads every week! Like to have one?

Mail: [AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net)







**HeadStart**  
International School Phuket

**Position**  
**Thai Principal**

- Thai nationality
- Excellent written and spoken English
- Bachelor Degree in Education
- Master Degree in Educational Administration
- Minimum 5 years teaching experience
- 2 years administration and management experience
- Salary 50000++

Email: jazon@headstartphuket.com

#### THAI STAFF WANTED (COOK)

Cook needed, can make Thai and European food. Please contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5 9 6 3 . o r E m a i l : cc@bayshoreprojects.com

#### CONDOMINIUM GENERAL MANAGER

The Sands Condominiums is looking to appoint an experienced and qualified leader to manage the common area facilities and services, with the following qualifications:

- Capable of leading a company with hands-on management
- Familiarity with the functions of a condominium
- Experience in accounting and budget management
- Experience in property systems, operations, maintenance and management
- Experience in leading a team of employees
- Excellent spoken and written English. Please send cover letter, CV, current and expected salary, and job references. Email: thesandsboard@gmail.com

#### JOB FOR HOTEL WORKERS

Hiring reception & house-keeping positions now. Experience preferred. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English), 086-902 8566 (English & Thai). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

#### THAI STAFF WANTED

Work on shift schedule, can speak English, with customer service. Good salary with bonus. Office in Patong. Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963, or send your CV to me at the link above. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com



**Marriott Vacation Club, Asia Pacific**, the leader in the global vacation ownership business, is looking for a competent individuals and active professionals to join our team in the following positions;

#### Marriott Vacation Club, Phuket

- Sales Executive (All Languages)
- Marketing Executive (In-house)
- Marketing Executive (OPC)
- Owner Referral Marketing Executive
- Inhouse Activity Co-ordinator
- Guest Arrival Co-ordinator

We require proactive, self-motivated and confident people with excellent interpersonal skills. An intermediate degree of proficiency in English is necessary.

Candidates with the above qualifications should submit a resume with a recent photograph to [nattavut.mila@vacationclub.com](mailto:nattavut.mila@vacationclub.com) or [nachon.obyam@vacationclub.com](mailto:nachon.obyam@vacationclub.com)

**Marriott Vacation Club (Thailand) Ltd.**  
234 Maikhao, Talang, Phuket 83110, Thailand  
Tel: 076 338200

## PA ADMINISTRATOR

Property Development Group based in Bangkok is opening an office in Phuket to manage the development and marketing of Luxury Villa & Apartment Project requires a highly motivated person to assist Phuket based Director in establishing & managing Phuket operations.

#### Experience Required

- Degree in Business or Accounting.
- Held Senior Admin Position in Service Industry.
- IT Capable & Familiar with Relevant Business Software.
- Sales / Marketing Experience an Advantage.
- Proficient in Written & Spoken English.

Must be confident, highly organized & able to work with minimum supervision.

Excellent Salary & Working Conditions.  
Interested candidates please email resume & current photo to [info@imedgeconcepts.com](mailto:info@imedgeconcepts.com)

#### JAPANESE STAFF

Wedding coordinator: Japanese female, good English and computer skills. Sa-mer Wedding (Boat Lagoon). Email: [info@sa-mer.com](mailto:info@sa-mer.com) Please see our website at [www.sa-mer.com](http://www.sa-mer.com)

#### ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER

Salary 20,000 baht + excellent commission & benefits. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-782 1200. Email: [ying@phuketpooltables.com](mailto:ying@phuketpooltables.com)

**HORIZON GROUP**

A HOTEL GROUP IN PHUKET HAS TWO FOUR STAR RESORTS, ONE IN PATONG AND IN KARON AND HAS THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES.

<b>FRONT OFFICE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Front Office Manager</li> <li>Duty Manager</li> <li>Guest Relation Officer</li> <li>Assistant Front Office Mgr.</li> </ul>	<b>HOUSEKEEPING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistant Housekeeper</li> </ul>
<b>FOOD &amp; BEVERAGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restaurant Supervisor</li> <li>Night Room Service</li> <li>Hostess</li> <li>Waiter</li> <li>Waitress</li> </ul>	<b>MAIN KITCHEN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Sous Chef</li> <li>Sous Chef</li> </ul>
<b>RESERVATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reservation Officer</li> </ul>	<b>ACCOUNTING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Accountant</li> <li>Storekeeper</li> </ul>
	<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistant Human Resources</li> </ul>
	<b>ENGINEERING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistant Engineer</li> </ul>

**WELFARE:** SALARY, BONUS, SERVICE CHARGE, LIFE INSURANCE, STAFF APARTMENT, TRANSPORTATION, UNIFORM, MEALS, SOCIAL SECURITY, BIRTHDAY PARTY, STAFF PARTY, STAFF PICNIC ETC.

If you are confident, please send your full details with recent photograph to E-mail: [apply@horizonbeach.com](mailto:apply@horizonbeach.com)  
Tel: 076-292526-30, 076-284555

**LAND & HOUSES**

**Sales Executive 2 positions**

L.H. Muang Mai Co Ltd, a subsidiary of Land and Houses Public Company Limited

- Female, aged under 30
- Bachelor's Degree in any related field
- Fluent in English
- Own Car

**Contact: 081-892-1715**

**Villa Attendant**

A private villa in Talang is looking for a female villa attendant who can do housekeeping, cooking, service and flower arranging.

**Qualification:**

- Thai female with pleasing personality
- Communicate very well in English
- Team player, honest and flexible
- Previous experience working in the hotel or villa is an advantage

**A very attractive salary is awaiting the right candidate.**

**Contact person:** Khun Siwaporn  
**Email:** [interior@shangdumail.com](mailto:interior@shangdumail.com)  
**Tel:** +66 (0) 81 891 5454

#### PROJECT MANAGER / SALES

Male 25-30yrs, Civil Engineer or related field. Proficient in English & AutoCAD. Willing to learn about products, travel & sales. 2 years minimum experience preferred. 20,000 baht + benefits and sales commissions. Send CV. Tel: 076-304 307, 081-823 9448 (English). Fax: 076-304 306.

#### PLAY GROUP

English-speaking Russian person wanted for playgroup. Must enjoy working with young kids. Tel: 084-442 3671.

#### PHILIPPINE STAFF WANTED

Good salary, good English. Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

#### SALES STAFF NEEDED URGENTLY

A Phuket Town gallery is looking to hire a Thai national with excellent spoken English and organizational skills. Good salary given. Tel: 086-509 7510 (English). Fax: 076-223 677. Email: [simon@colonial-connection.com](mailto:simon@colonial-connection.com)

#### VARIOUS SALES & MARKETING

Sales and marketing roles. Native English speakers or other nationals with fluent English-speaking skills. A proven track record in sales is a must. Send CV & recent photo to Email: [careers@pp-intl.com](mailto:careers@pp-intl.com)

#### KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Female, caucasian native, English-speaking teacher with experience to teach class of 10-12 children, ages 2-6 years old, 8-4 years old. Monday-Friday. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: [buds.span@yahoo.com](mailto:buds.span@yahoo.com) For more information visit our at [www.buds-phuket.com](http://www.buds-phuket.com)

#### FRENCH DELI BUTCHER

Good experience, speaks English, serious and hard worker, looking for work. Tel: 082-517 0544. Email: [rex-jason@hotmail.fr](mailto:rex-jason@hotmail.fr)

#### VILLA MANAGER

Must speak Russian and English. Tel: 080-879 6058. Send your CV to Email: [e555@yandex.ru](mailto:e555@yandex.ru)

#### SALES & INTERIOR DESIGN

Oriental Living Interiors Phuket is looking for bright and motivated staff: 1 Sales representative, Russian; 1 Admin/Sales staff, Thai; 1 Designer, Thai. Please call for an appointment. Tel: 076-325 419, 081-400 4678. Email: [orientalsamui@gmail.com](mailto:orientalsamui@gmail.com) For further details, please see our website at <http://oriental-living.net>

#### STAFF WANTED

1 chef and 2 waiter staff wanted for restaurant bar in Karon. Good salary, bonus. All year round work. Must speak English, friendly personality required. Tel: 085-655 9008.

#### RECEPTION STAFF

Responsible Thai female needed for reception at Patong hotel. Monthly salary: 12,000 baht. Tel: 081-892 1621.

**Looking for a job?**  
**Looking for a better candidate?**  
**Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [www.PhuketGazette.Net/](http://www.PhuketGazette.Net/)**





www.lagunaphuket.com

**Are you ready for a great career with Phuket's largest hotel, resort and property group?**

Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Company Limited is a respected and responsible developer whose interests combine hotels and real estate, with an emphasis on quality and environmental protection.

To meet the Group's exciting expansion plans, we are currently seeking qualified candidates to sell Banyan Tree Residences and Laguna Property in these positions:

- **Property Sales Manager (Russian)**
- **Sales Executive (Thai & Foreigner)**

**THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR EACH OF THESE POSITIONS:**

- At least 3 years real estate sales experience in selling luxury branded residential properties with an international sales team
- Candidates for the Sales Manager position should have at least 2 years experience at managerial level
- Excellent command of both written and spoken English
- Proficiency in MS Office

**The successful candidate will be offered attractive working conditions, together with an excellent remuneration and benefits package.**

If you think you are a high-calibre candidate with the right attitude, please submit your CV with photograph and expected salary to:

**Human Resources Department, Laguna Resorts & Hotels Public Co Ltd**  
390/1 Moo 1, Srisoonthorn Road, Cherngtalay, Thalung, Phuket 83110, Thailand  
Tel: (66-76) 362300 ext. 1510 Fax: (66-76) 362300 ext. 1505  
Email: career@lagunaphuket.com

*Please be informed that only short-listed candidates will be notified.*



**Secure, Clean & Cost Effective Self Storage**

MY STORAGE – Thailand's No.1 Self Storage facility located at Jungceylon Shopping Center, Patong, Phuket – is seeking a well organised and enthusiastic Facility Administrator / PA.

**Facility Administrator / PA**

- Bachelor's degree or related field
- Thai national 25 years old or older, fluent in English (written and spoken)
- Minimum of 3-5 years experience in the related field
- Computer literate with good knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Excellent administrative and communication skills required
- Bookkeeping and office management skills required
- Self-motivated, proactive, flexible and well organized
- Service-minded and must pay attention to detail
- Experience in property management an advantage.

Submit your CV with recent photo and a covering letter in English to hr@mystorageasia.com or call 076 29 29 09 for further information.

Want to know more about MY STORAGE? Visit [mystorageasia.com](http://mystorageasia.com)

**EZYSTAYS CO LTD**

Ezystays (Travel Club), located in Patong, is looking to recruit a Thai Admin Assistant for its busy sales office. Candidates must have a good command of the English language and be able to work efficiently with Word and XL, and basic knowledge of accounts. Salary is negotiable depending on experience. All applicants must apply with a cover letter and CV in English with photo. We offer an excellent working environment and a 5-day work week. Tel: 076-341 421. Email: clientliaison@ezystays.com

**SALES MANAGER REQUIRED**

Thai national. Must have a good command of spoken and written English. Proven sales experience and own car. We provide full training, generous basic salary and unlimited commission potential and bonuses. Car expenses and fuel paid. Working 5½ days with generous holidays. Please send CV to don@rainwater-solutions.com

**JOBS FOR HOTEL WORKERS**

Hiring reception & housekeeping positions now. Experience preferred. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English), 086-902 8566 (English & Thai). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

**ENGLISH-SPEAKING VILLA MAID**

Good salary with accommodation and benefits. Contact HR. Phuket Villas & Homes Co., Ltd. Tel: 076-527 633. Email: hr@phuketvillasandhomes.com

**OAKMEADOW INT'L SCHOOL**

We are looking for a qualified Thai female teacher. Tel: 076-521 550, 084-847 0732 (English). Email: info@oakmeadowphuket.com

**TOUR GUIDES NEEDED**

For popular speedboat charter and events company. Thai nationals only. Tel: 076-383125. Email: info@coralseekers.com

**SHOWROOM REPRESENTATIVE**

Showroom in Panwa. Ability to Speak English, Artistic background a plus. Have transportation. Tel: 081-927 4954. Email: nacmmail@aol.com

**MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER**

Seeking more bike guides to join our growing team. Must speak good English, be passionate about biking, and be a Thai national. Tel: 087-263 2031. Email: info@amazingbiketours.thailand.asia

**THAI LADY**

Live in to take care of house and give massage to farang. 14,000 baht/month. Age 35-50, speak English. Email: ltnesneg@aol.com

**TELEMARKETING STAFF WANTED**

Thai staff only, good salary and bonus. Tel: 081-270 1370. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com



**Real Estate, Phuket**

Ocean Worldwide is a leading real estate agency that offers a proven international marketing system balanced with dedicated personnel who are committed to maintaining the highest standards of conduct and professionalism. An opportunity is now available to proficiently communicate information on our recommended Phuket properties with our multi national clients. We are looking for a conscientious and ambitious person to join our team.

**Sales Support Executive**

You must be enthusiastic, have a positive attitude and possess above average communication skills. You will be expected to liaise with existing and new clients in person, on the telephone and through e-mail correspondence. You will enjoy a dynamic lifestyle with high earning and advancement capabilities. Basic Salary + commission + international travel expenses. Thai nationality required.

**Administrator**

Well organized candidate required. Basic office skills including computer database, good command of spoken and written English, good interpersonal skills, team player, service-minded and self motivated. Thai Nationality Required.

**Accounting Officer**

**Qualifications:-**

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or related field
- Min 2-3 years experience in Accounting
- Have knowledge of Accounting, Taxation and Withholding tax, etc.
- Computer knowledge in MS Office (Excel, Word), Email and Internet
- Fair English skills, both spoken and written

Email your CV, with references to [sandra.oneill@oceanwwp.com](mailto:sandra.oneill@oceanwwp.com)

**Ocean Worldwide Company Limited**

382/76 Lagoon Road, Cherng Talay, Thalung, Phuket 83110 Thailand  
Tel: +66 76 325 986 Fax: +66 76 325 988 [www.oceanwwp.com](http://www.oceanwwp.com)

**WANTED: PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

Person or company that has experience in project management. Good salary for a person. A company can give a quotation. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

**CAR RENTAL CO.**

Is hiring 2 receptionists and drivers. Basic English required. Thai nationals only. Office is in Boat Lagoon. Please contact Khun Nui at Tel: 081-970 5204. or send email to info@mobilecarrent.com

**SALES REPRESENTATIVE**

Experienced English speaking sales representative required to join existing team at Club Mangosteen. Must have experience in fly buy / in-house or cold line sales within the holiday ownership industry. Excellent package available for the right candidate, including first month housing allowance, visas, work permit etc. To arrange an interview or for further information, call David at 076-289 399, 083-643 5949 (English). Fax: 076-289 389. Email: club@mangosteen-phuket.com For further details, please see our website at [www.mangosteen-phuket.com](http://www.mangosteen-phuket.com)

**SEO SPECIALIST**

- 2-3 years experience in demonstrating website & SEO improvement for client sites
- Wordpress CMS system
- Both on-site, and off-site, SEO work
- Working knowledge of HTML, CSS, and PHP coding will be beneficial
- Good English (written) 30-50,000 baht salary depending on experience. Tel: 076-324 184, 089-874 0040. Please send your CV to [orn@imarketingonly.com](mailto:orn@imarketingonly.com)

**FEMALE AND MALE CREW WANTED**

on live-aboard 60ft yacht based at Phi Phi. Tel: 081-891 9726 (Thai), 082-839 7701 (Eng).

**Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**

**CHALONG**

- **Julapan Stationery** (Chao Fa East Rd) Tel: 076-282254
- **KL Mart** (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: 076-280400
- **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282403

**PATONG**

- **Taurus Travel** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
- **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-290468
- **Deli Supermarket** (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: 076-342275

**PHUKET CITY**

- **Earth Language Training Centre School** (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
- **Sin & Lee** (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369
- **iTree complete printing service** (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone Tel: 076-255425

**CHERNGTALAY**

- **Chaba Supermarket** (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

**RAWAI**

- **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

**KARON**

- **EuroStyle Tailors** (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911



## Articles Wanted

## FULL-SIZED USED BATH WANTED

Looking to find an old plastic or stone full-sized bath to use in a pet washing parlor - something large enough to put big dogs in the wash them. Please email gone2thedoggies@gmail.com with photo

## EXTENSION LADDER WANTED

Used 20 to 24 foot (6 to 7 meter) ladder wanted to either rent or purchase. Tel: 081-797 2110. Email: iolare@yahoo.com

## Audio/Video Equipment

## SOKEN SURROUND SYSTEM

Amp + 5 powerful speakers, crisp treble & solid bass. Paid 15,000 baht, sell 7,500 baht. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.web@gmail.com

## GERMAN STEREO SYSTEM

Soken AMP & 5 speaker surround sound, solid bass. Cost 16,000 sell 8,000 baht. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.web@gmail.com

## Bulletins

## Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business  
If you want to stop that is ours  
**Daily Meetings**  
Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon & Cape Panwa

081-895 4763  
081-956 4031  
email: phuketaa@yahoo.com  
Google AA Phuket

## SPONSOR A CHILD

The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol. Tel: 087-417 8860 or contact Sue. Tel: 087-277 6948. For More information please email us to info@phuketiwc.com

## Articles For Sale

## SONY PS3

Used for only 2 months, 2 remote controls, English manual, 1 HD World Cup football & 1 HD action game; 12,000 baht or best offer. Call or email for appointment. Contact Eric or Fon. Tel: 076-219061, Fax: 076-214803. Email: jairak@phuket.ksc.co.th

## HIX HEAT PRESS DUAL PADS

I am selling my Heat Press Made in USA, very highly used (about 60 t-shirts), like new. I bought it in Bangkok. Paid 125,000 baht, selling 60,000 baht. Tel: 076-283004, 086-742 3437. Email: joelvdo@hotmail.com

## FURNITURE AND OTHER ITEMS

Wooden frame "L" sofa with mustard color upholstery. 16k. Modern glass chandelier 5k. Huge silver candelabra 5k. All in excellent condition. Standard Lamp 1,500. All reduced for quick sale. Email for photos at beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

## FURNITURE AND MORE

Furniture, sofa, TV and bookcase, chairs, lamps and more. All in good condition. Please call or email for photos. Khun Arno. Tel: 087-827 4991 (English). Email: arnyfirst@hotmail.com

## NEW INVICTA WATCH FOR SALE

Very large Invicta Men's 6913 Corduba Collection Interceptor Chronograph Blue Polyurethane watch, comes with box and guarantee. Tel: 076-319699. Email: sunparasol@gmail.com

## COFFEE TABLE

Bamboo coffee table for sale. Excellent condition. 110cm square with inset in center (for flower decoration, etc). 10,000 baht ono. Email: beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

## 7KW. 3-PHASE WATER PUMP



Barely used (10 hours). Have 2 units for sale. Price: 15,000 baht each. Contact Margy on 089-908 7486.

## FREEZER, FUGE TABLE

Sanden freezer, excl cond, 8,500 baht. Fugeball soccer table, as new, 10 baht per game, 35,000 baht. Tel: 086-283 9100.

## CHINESE TEA

Quality Chinese tea for sale. Contact Peter to arrange a free tea tasting. Tel: 082-278 1575.

## Business Opportunities

## LEASE N&amp;N FASHION SHOP

Viset road, Rawai. Full equipment with LED TV and cloths, shoes, accessories included, very good condition. Tel: 081-728 6759 (English), 081-573 2036 (Thai).

## SHOP RENT/SALE, BANGLA ROAD



New shop in great location, near KFC and 7-Eleven, 40sqm, 3 years on lease: 100,000 baht per month. For sale: 1.5 million baht. For rent: 390,000 baht deposit + 130,000 baht per month. Contact Mark. Tel: 080-141 6040, 085-591 6605. Email: hmthailand@yahoo.com

## RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Established restaurant located in the heart of the island currently serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Just completely renovated with new kitchen, toilets, private roof top terrace etc. Two connected shop houses on main road. 40+ seat dining area with room for expansion. Huge owner apartment above could easily be converted into rooms for rent or otherwise. Must see, ready to move in. Owners relocating. Contact us for details and pictures. Price: 15 million baht. Tel: 081-956 3166. Email: voute.a@gmail.com

## BAR FOR SALE

Patong, Soi Tiger. 14-month lease from July 1. Rent per month: 36,000 baht. Sale: 1.8 million baht (neg). Tel: 085-472 4427 (English). Email: thaimand@hotmail.com

## RESTAURANT FOR SALE



Only 250,000 baht, beautiful decorated, 100sqm, space plus 2x2 upper floors for living or storage. Rent: 50,000 baht per month, 1km east from Heroines Monument. Tel: 081-892 2419 (English & Thai). Email: kirjon@gmail.com

## 800SQM HOME AND OFFICE

On the main ChaoFa-East Road, one large building with 3 rooms, living room, kitchen, 1 bathroom, 1 office, ready to work and live in, another building with 3 offices, showroom, 2 bathrooms, large parking plot and garden, aircons and ADSL, 7 years renewable contract. Lease: 40,000 baht per month. Sale: 2.5 million baht. Tel: 076-374760, 088-768 1260 (English), 085-690 0038 (Thai). Email: fepigada@yahoo.it

## HOTEL FOR RENT/SALE

28 rooms + 2 shops + big restaurant in the heart of Patong near beach. Rent/key money 3 million baht plus 150,000 a month. Sale: 9 million baht. Tel: 086-943 4447 (English). Email: hollywood-beach@hotmail.com

## SHOP FOR RENT - BANGLA ROAD

Great location, near KFC and 7-Eleven, no key money. Rent only 35,000 baht per month. Contact Mark. Tel: 080-141 6040.

## EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP

Offer from now: BKK-HKT. Email: adventuraintern@hotmail.com

## GASTONE PIZZERIA RESTAURANT



For sale: new Italian pizza restaurant at Kata Beach. Fully equipped with latest-generation pizza oven, great location, attractive price. Contact Claudio. Tel: 081-270 9698 (English). Email: claudiothai@hotmail.it, www.restaurantgastonephuket.com

## GUEST HOUSE: PAY IN 20 YEARS



Rawai beach, sell: 9 million baht, land 400sqm, 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 300m to the pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

## CEMENT CONCRETE PLANTS

For sale, 21 rai and 136sqm (factory space+machinery 5 rai). Can be operated on immediately adjacent streets Thepkasattri, Mai Khao, Phuket. Contact Chanakrit. Tel: 081-738 7099.

## BAR HOTEL: PAY IN 15 YEARS



Rawai Beach. For sale: 15 million baht. Land + building, 9 bedrooms, 100m to the pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

## BEACH BAR &amp; RESTAURANT, PHI PHI

For sale on Phi Phi island. Buy for: 1.7 million baht or become a partner without investing and rent the land for: 100,000 baht per month. Crowded area in Loh Dalum bay, 3 staff rooms and tattoo shop included. Contact Wing: 081-091-7196 (Thai), Oa: 087-041-5003 (English). Email: anchana.aa@gmail.com

## BAR FOR SALE, PATONG

Fantastic looking bar (has everything) on hotels route to and from the beach (good location), huge potential. No key money. Rent: 25,000 baht, must see. Sale: 1.6 million baht (neg). Call for more information. Tel: 080-530 7798 (English & Thai). Email: lyn toncraig@gmail.com

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre?  
Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd  
T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE for a full year - 52 issues!

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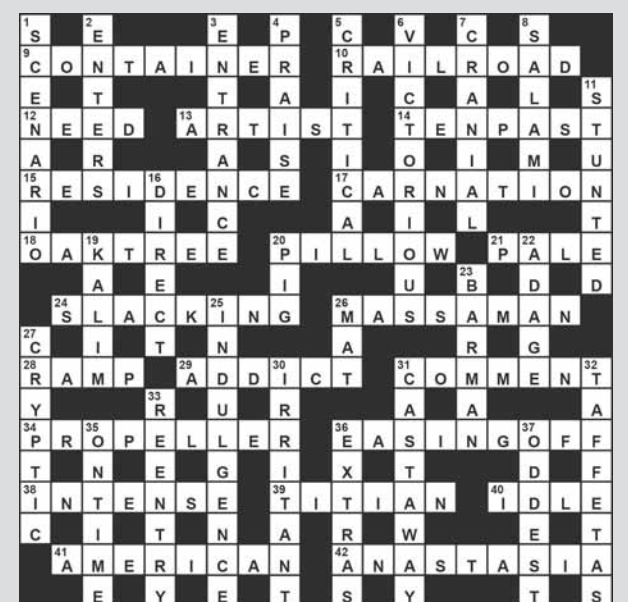
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#### SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S Cryptic Crossword

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# International Sport

## Moans, malpractice and onto Maggotts



### Formula 1

By The Digby

VETTEL knows how to celebrate victory, but he is a bad loser. After the race at Valencia, he said the safety car which took away his lead was not needed. Vettel (and Grosjean) retired because the Renault alternator failed. Renault has no answer yet as to why they failed, but the two cars had different faults. Unless the alternators failed because of their time behind the safety car, Vettel has little cause to whinge.

Vettel's comments were exacerbated by Helmut Marko who said "Vettel was too far ahead and so the field was brought back together." This hints at Red Bull feeling that they are the paddock's target.

Who is Helmut Marko? Since 2005 he has been advisor to the Red Bull Racing F1 Team. From 1999 he has overseen the Red Bull driver development programme, which *inter alia* nurtured Sebastian Vettel. He is a doctor of law who owns two Austrian Hotels.

Gerhard Gribkowsky is the Ger-



man banker who took bribes from Bernie Ecclestone in connection with BayernLB's 2006 sale of F1 shares to private equity.

Gribkowsky says Bernie bribed him, and Bernie says Gribkowsky blackmailed him. This has led to a review of Bernie's affairs both by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs and The Serious Fraud Office. The private equity firm has been reducing its F1 interest, and may itself have a case to bring. F1 requires Sponsors, Governments, Fans, Teams and Cir-

cuits. A corruption scandal could scupper sponsorship deals, with sponsors already suffering in the global economy. It could also endanger government subsidies if it becomes a national *Cause Célèbre*.

The 2013 Concorde Agreement is a contract between the *Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile* (FIA), the Formula One Teams and the Formula One Administration. It agrees the terms by which teams compete and share television revenues and prize

money.

In 2004, Bernie offered £260,000,000 over three years in return for unanimous renewal of the then current Concorde Agreement.

After many negotiations all the teams agreed until December 31, 2012. But it is now urgent to conclude a new agreement.

So a strong captain is needed, and while other names have been touted, no-one has yet emerged to take over Bernie's role.

Returning to this weekend, the deserted 1943 bomber airfield was used for an impromptu 1947 race. In 1948 the RAC leased the airfield. Their first two races were held on the airfield's runways, with long straights separated by tight hairpin corners.

For the 1949 meeting, racing switched to the perimeter track. For the 1975 meeting a chicane

was introduced to tame speeds through the mighty Woodcote Corner. There was a major redesign between the 1990 and 1991 races, transforming the ultra-fast track into a more technical one. In 1994, many Grand Prix circuits were modified to reduce speed, and the Abbey kink became a chicane.

The entry from Hangar Straight into Stowe Corner was modified in 1995 to make it less dangerous and challenging.

Red Bull looked frighteningly strong at Valencia and must fancy their chances at Silverstone.

But the 3.7 mile lap race is wide open. It's the British GP, so expect rain. I think it will not change the leading group.

Practice will be at 7pm Saturday with the race at the same time on Sunday. Shown live at the GreenMan, Chalong.



Nigel Mansell gives Ayrton Senna a lift back to the pits after his win in 1991.

## Wimbledon hits the heights



HIGH SPEED: Serbia's Novak Djokovic serves at 100mph against Viktor Troicki. Photo: AFP

WIMBLEDON enters its final stages over the weekend. The tournament has once again been cursed with the British summer affecting play.

Andy Murray, who usually gets center court, played his fourth round on number one court against Marin Cilic on Monday and due to rain stopping and starting play, he didn't finish until Tuesday afternoon. The rain didn't affect Murray's game too much as he defeated Cilic 7-5 6-2 6-3 to set up a quarter final match against David Ferrer who knocked out Juan Martin Del Potro.

The All England Club helped Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer progress to the quarter-finals by scheduling Murray's match to court one and allowing them to play on the roof covered center court.

The biggest shock of the men's singles tournament was Rafael Nadal, who could have met Murray in the semi-finals for the third straight year, being knocked out by world number 100 Lukas Rossol in the second round.

If Murray gets past Ferrer in the quar-

ter-final he will play the winner of Jo Wilfried Tsonga and Philipp Kohlschreiber in the semi-final.

The women's singles tournament is already



POWER HOUSE: Serena Williams storms past Czech Petra Kvitova and into the semi-finals against Azarenka. Photo: AFP

up to the semi-final stage with a rampant Serena Williams looking to restore some pride to the family name after the shock of her

sister's early exit. Serena knocked out defending champion Petra Kvitova 6-3 7-5 in the quarter final to set up a semi-final date with Victoria Azarenka. The other semi-final clash involved Angelique Kerber versus Agnieszka Radwanska. Number one seed Maria Sharapova was knocked out in the fourth round by Sabine Lisicki.

The semi-finals were scheduled to be played on Thursday July 5 and the final on Saturday.

The biggest shock of the first week didn't involve tennis players, but the disappearance of a Harris Hawk, known as Rufus.

Rufus patrols the courts of Wimbledon keeping pigeons away from the hallowed grass. Thieves snatched him from his cage late last week and kept him until Sunday, when they handed him over to the RSPCA.

Rufus is trained to circle above the courts in the morning and evening before play at Wimbledon to scare away any pigeons.

- Phuket Gazette

### SPORTS briefs...

**FOOTBALL:** Manchester United hope to take a sizable chunk out of their £423 million debt by listing on the New York Stock Exchange.

The club aims to raise £64mn. Manchester United were bought by the American Glazer family in 2005, and despite being the world's most valuable club, according to Forbes, is laden with debt after the takeover.

Last year, the club looked at the possibility of a US\$1 billion floatation on the Singaporean stock market, but financial uncertainty in Europe and Asia stalled this idea.

**STRANGE SPORTS:** The World Toe Wrestling Championships will be held on July 14 in Ashbourne, Derbyshire with Alan "Fiasty" Nash looking to defend his title.

Wrestlers must link toes, and feet must touch flat on their opponent's. After a starting chant, usually "one, two, three, four, I declare a toe war", the fighters proceed in an attempt to pin their opposition's foot for three seconds, while avoiding the same.

Pinning is accomplished by placing one foot on the same foot of the opponent. It is understood Tom "100m" Martin will a strong challenger.

**CYCLING:** Slovakian Peter Sagan won the 122-mile third stage of the 99<sup>th</sup> Tour de France on Tuesday.

The world's most prestigious bike race started on June 30 and will finish July 22.

Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland retained the yellow jersey by winning the opening day time trial prologue and finishing fourth in the third stage.

Defending champion Cadel Evans is back in 7<sup>th</sup> place. Over the next week the cyclists will travel 746 miles through the French countryside from Abbeville to Bellegarde-sur-Valserine.

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# Living the life of an endless summer



**CUTTIN' SOME RUG:** Annissa Flynn cuts back in the curl of a wave during a competition heat.

THE *Phuket Gazette* recently caught up with hometown hero miss Annissa Tita Flynn, to talk about her recent accomplishments. If you haven't heard much about this 14 year old surfing starlet, "Anni", as her friends call her, has been traveling and competing in recent months on the 2012 Asian Surfing Championship tour (ASC).

**Phuket Gazette: What is it like to be the youngest competitor on the ASC Tour?**

Annisia Flynn: It's really good, I get to hang out with my friends in really good surfing spots... and I get off school.

**PG: Is that really true? Where do you go when you get time off school for surfing?**

AF: I go and hang out with my surfing buddies at world famous surf breaks like 'Uluwatu' and 'Chengu' in Bali, 'Macaroni's', in the Mentawais Islands off the coast of Sumatra, 'Cimaja' in West Java and 'Cloud 9' in the Philippines.

**PG: Tell us a little about what it's like to be on tour.**

AF: "It's really good fun, I get to travel with my dad, surf these incredible waves, and during competitions there are only four girls on the wave, so it's heaps better than free surfing.

**PG: How do you keep up with your homework?**

AF: I take some class notes with me, but it's pretty hard to concentrate on maths when the waves are pumping and the sun is going down, and to be totally hon-

est with you, my dad's a bit of a pushover, so mostly I just catch up with schoolwork when I get back. Last year, I had to attend summer school over the holidays and re-sit the exams I missed.

**PG: What was the best place you surfed this year?**

AF: I'm a goofy foot, so for me – Macaroni's in the Mentawais was definitely the best.

**PG: What's a Goofy Footer?**

A Goofy Footer is a surfer who puts their right foot forward, so if the wave breaks left, your left foot is back, and your chest faces the wave. This means turns are easier and it's more fun...and Macaroni's is a left.

**PG: The most beautiful place you've been to?**

AF: Cimaja in West Java. It has



**OVER A BARREL:** Anni looks to get herself barreled inside the tube.

thousands of polished black stone boulders, with smaller rounded rocks in between. It was like a Japanese garden.

**PG: What's your routine when you visit a new break?**

AF: I watch the water first, look for the currents and rips, where to go out. I talk to everyone, and when I go out into the water, I ride the smaller waves first and then get bigger ones as I get more comfortable. Eventually you get right out the back...and I try not to think too much, just watch the wave and wait 'till a good one comes and I try and catch it.

**PG: Do you ask for advice when you're out on the water?**

AF: Well, usually people talk about everything. Everyone knows each other so there's a lot of joking around. There's always one surfer, who's a local, who'll be giving everyone advice about where to sit and what to look out for.

**PG: We hear that you are doing well on your second year with the ASC tour.**

AF: Yes, I'm really stoked, I'm in first. Bonne Gea is right

behind me on points. She's the four-time Indonesian champion, and Brenda Lee from Malaysia is close as well while Nelbie from Philippines has won back-to-back competitions in Cimaja and Cloud 9. So the competition is strong now.

**PG: When and where, does the ASC Tour finish?**

AF: The ASC tour finishes here in Phuket, at Patong Beach, the Quiksilver Best Event. It will be held around September 17 - 19, so I have to wait a while.

**PG: Who are your sponsors, and people that you might like to thank Annissa?**

AF: I'd like to thank mum, dad and my school, Satree Phuket, for letting me and compete internationally; Roxy and the Quiksilver Team for sponsoring me. I want to thank Adam from Ark Surfboards. Gecko Glue, SaltWater Dreaming and everyone at my second home at Nautilus Surf Shop in Kata Beach.

Annisia is the youngest competitor and current leader of the ASC tour.

## Two local squads tread Road to El Clasico

A TOTAL of 165 goals were scored in the Phuket playoffs for the "Chang Road to El Clasico", an unprecedented 4-aside national football tournament.

Held at the Phuket Soccer Arena in Phuket Town, the provincial showdown consisted of two divisions – Under 20 and general – each with 16 determined home-grown squads.

With all their heart and passion, players battled through 10-minute matches, keeping their eyes on the ultimate prize: a visit to Spain to watch live one of the oldest and most famous football rivalry matches on the planet: Real Madrid vs Barcelona.

The teams who won their divisions in Phuket will go on to play in a regional final held on July 28 at the soccer field in front of Big C, Surat Thani. The winners of this tournament then go on to national finals in Bangkok, hoping to claim the once in a life time prize.

Representing Phuket for the U-20 category will be The Hulk and in the general category Talad Yai; both teams finished the tournament undefeated to be crowned champions.



**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS:** The Hulk will next contend the regional finals in Surat Thani on July 28.

Following their single-goal victory over Tek Kim in the U-20 finals, the Hulk finished the tournament with an +8 goal difference and will look to maintain their winning streak going into the tournament at Surat Thani.

Likewise, following a narrow 2-1 victory

over Portrait FC, the pressure will also be on for Talad Yai later this month in Surat Thani.

The two teams from Phuket will face the respective champions from Haad Yai, Nakhon Sri Thammarat and regional hosts, Surat Thani.

The Southern champion from each division will be awarded 15,000 baht in cash, a trophy and one final shot in the national championship against other regional champions on August 5 at Crystal Football Club in Bangkok. The final round will be the last hurdle on the Chang Road to El Clasico.

In addition to round-trip airfare between Thailand and Spain, as well as tickets for the Barcelona vs Real Madrid match – worth an estimated 180,000 baht – the winning team will also be awarded a trophy and 30,000 (U-20) and 40,000 (general) baht in cash.

Runners up will receive a trophy and an appropriate cash prize.

The first tournament of its kind in the Kingdom has been made possible thanks to a strategic partnership between Spain's two most famous clubs and ThaiBev PCL's world famous beer and water brand.

Tournament sponsors Chang have allocated 3.5 million baht in prizes for this tournament, complimenting its strong track record as a key corporate sponsor who has boost support and professionalism of football in the Kingdom.

– Steven Layne



# More hulls means more fun

THE Rawai – NaiHarn Multihull Regatta returns to Phuket's shores next weekend for its fifth straight year.

This popular sailor's regatta is unique in that it's only for multihull yachts; crews that normally sail on monohull boats get the chance to try multis – often for the first time.

The event will take place in Chalong Bay, under the auspices of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC). The fifth annual Multihull Regatta has 3 new sponsors this year, and consequently, new party venues.

After registration on July 12, racing will be held to a tried and true formula. The event will consist of two races on both Friday and Saturday, with a final race to be held on Sunday. All races to count.

There will be prizegiving and a party on Friday, July 13 at the Palm Garden resort in Chalong and Saturday in the early evening at the ACYC. The final prizegiving and party will be held at Serenity Resort and Residences on the last day of the races, Sunday, July 15.

A new award will be given out this year at the sole discretion of the race committee, which will weigh a number of factors that may include anything of merit observed throughout the races – not just the boats' score.

"At the end of the regatta it will be a bit like the Oscars," says Peter

Dyer, event organizer, "Individuals can nominate whomever they choose for the 'Outstanding Contribution Award'."

Registration will begin at 6pm at the ACYC, where contestants can collect their regatta information packs including t-shirt, racing instructions and other notices.

The competition will have two categories for contestants – Firefly 850 one design and Ocean Multihulls.

This year, in the Firefly class, there will be two new owners, two charters, and an unknown quantity on Sea, to challenge the consistency of Moto Inzi (the longest owned boat) and Voodoo Child. Both boats are expected to place in the top three this year.

"This class always produces great action and surprises," says Dyer.

The Ocean Multihull lineup looks to have stiff competition with local winners such as Miss Saigon, Sidewinder, Thor and Da Vinci, all set to be challenged by a new Sea Cart 26 "Sweet Chariot" and a new Sidewinder. In addition, there are a number of well-sailed Corsairs and other local multihulls who could steal the show – remember what happened at the Bay Regatta!

Event organizers say they will run a class for cruisers as well, if four or more enter, and would give them a handicap to make the racing fun.

– *Phuket Gazette*



A HULL OF A GOOD TIME: Crews ready for the start of last year's Multihull Regatta.

## Thai ladies set new Grand Prix benchmark

THAILAND'S senior womens volleyball team set a new benchmark last week, finishing fourth in the *Fédération Internationale de Volleyball* (FIVB) 2012 Grand Prix – two spots above

last year's best-ever finish.

Though the Thai ladies were defeated in their respective final matches, held in Ningbo China, against the USA (world #1), Brazil (#2) and Turkey (#11), the

world's current #12 squad showed once again that they have become a ball-setting force to be reckoned with.

Having qualified for the finals after winning seven of their nine matches in pool play throughout last month, the Thai ladies concluded with a fourth place finish in the finals after winning two of their five final matches.

Their win against hosts and

world number five, China on June 29 was an epic three over two sets.

Indeed, cheers could be heard across the Kingdom following Thailand's second win ever against the Asian powerhouse.

Wrapping up the tournament strong, Thailand had little trouble in their final match beating world number 10 Cuba in three straight sets.

While the result will certainly boost their rankings, Thai volley-

ball fans are still regretful that their lady reps will not have the chance to prove themselves further in the London Olympics.

Thailand narrowly missed out on qualifying after finishing fourth in the World Olympic Qualification Tournament in May, where only the top three finishers – Russia, South Korea and Serbia – filled the remaining 12 allotted spots.

– *Steven Layne*



WELCOME HOME: The squad poses on arrival in Bangkok. Photo: SiamSports



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