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■ FORENSICS REPORT AND INVESTIGATION BY EXPERT WITNESSES PROMPT CHARGES

Tiger roars back over fire deaths

■ Tiger CEO and parent
company charged with gross
negligence causing death

By **Chutharat Plerin**

THE operator of the ill-fated Tiger Discotheque has told the *Gazette* he will fight the police charges of gross negligence causing death and injury filed against Tiger Group CEO Piya Isaramalai and Tiger Group's parent company, Sara Entertainment Co Ltd.

Both Mr Piya and Sara Entertainment will also be charged with allowing the Patong nightclub to continue trading after hours. On August 17, Thamrongsak Boonrak, Legal Counsel for Tiger Group, explained that "heavy rain started to fall at about 1am, the time we usually close. That's why people did not want to leave the club."

Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan announced the charges on Tuesday after reviewing a report by expert building inspectors citing numerous breaches in fire-safety regulations at the nightclub.

The disco had improper placement of fire extinguishers, substandard emergency-exit ladders and used a highly-flammable foam for wall and ceiling decorations, said the report.

Also reviewed was a formal report compiled by Royal Thai Police forensics investigators indicating that the....

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DIVING TO RECORD DEPTHS
GO ECO Phuket cleanup campaign sets world
record as hundreds of divers take to the seas to
clear underwater debris from coral reefs at prime
Phuket dive sites.

Full story on page 5

**Mayor Pian blasts
land investigations**

PIAN Keesin returned to Phuket politics this week after being installed as the Mayor of Patong for his third consecutive term.

Minutes after the inaugural meeting of the Patong Town Council on Tuesday, Mayor Pian fired an opening salvo at the investigations into land titles being illegally issued so that national park land ends up in private hands. Top of his concerns were the "seemingly selective" way that plots were being targeted.



Mayor Pian Keesin

Full story on Page 3

Phuket crabs march on

PANIC strikes at the heart of Phuket Town residents as thousands of crabs take to the streets, bound for the enticing mud of nearby mangrove forests.

Full story on Page 7

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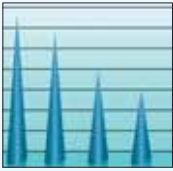
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This Week



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AirAsia drop Phuket flights in strategic shift to China. **Page 12**



Business

ASEAN is due to face hurdles over Fair Trade Agreements. **Page 15**



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Go Eco Phuket. A clean sweep of the record book. **Page 18-19**



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Crash, bang, wallop: Meet Phuket's very own stuntman. **Page 21**



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A very naughty bear appearing in a cinema near you. **Page 22**



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Sunday



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Tiger parries attack

From page 1

fire started inside the building.

Mr Piya and Sara Entertainment Co Ltd will be charged under Section 291 of the Thai Criminal Code, which states, "Whoever, doing the act by negligence and that act causing the other person to death, shall be imprisoned not out of ten years or fined not out of twenty thousand baht."

The deadly fire broke out in the nightclub at about 4am on August 17, while hundreds of revellers were still inside.

Four people died in the blaze, including two tourists. Eleven people were also injured, including one Frenchman who was so badly burned that he was airlifted to Bangkok for medical treatment there.

"We will collect every bit of evidence to defend ourselves, and we will give our true testimonies to the police," said Mr Thamrongsak.

"We have video clips taken by mobile phones proving that the electricity went off about five minutes before the fire started. They cannot say we overused electricity [and thus caused the fire] since it went off," he added.

Initial witness reports taken hours after the blaze attested that there was a loud boom before the fire started, prompting many people to report that the transformer supplying electricity to the club was possibly struck by lightning.

"It is possible that the trans-



Thamrongsak Boonrak, Legal Counsel for Tiger Group, said they would fight back against the criminal charges. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

former was hit by lightning, causing the power to go off and starting the fire, because the power lines could not handle that much electricity," said Mr Thamrongsak.

"This is a natural incident. I do not understand why the Provincial Electricity Authority Patong (PEA-Patong) office panicked so much about that," he added, in reference to PEA-Patong chief Atipong Thongyon staging a press conference the day after the fire to show to the media that the two transformers supplying the nightclub were fully operational.

"They took away the transformers to check them. Why didn't they wait for the National Office of Forensic Science to in-

spect the transformer?" Mr Thamrongsak asked.

At the time of going to press, the *Gazette* was unable to contact Mr Atipong for comment or an explanation as to why the transformers were allegedly removed without the police investigators inspecting them.

Asked about the future of the fire-gutted building, Mr Thamrongsak said, "We are waiting to demolish the building. We are not going to keep it. We want to get rid of it."

"It is not good leaving land standing unused. We all know how valuable Phuket land is. The sooner we can get rid of the building, the sooner we can start a new business," he added.

Missing student found drowned

RESCUE workers on September 27 recovered the body of Nithipol Lorlaem, 17, who was swept away by strong waves when he entered the sea while with friends at Nai Yang Beach two days earlier.

Mr Nithipol's friends told lifeguards that on the fateful afternoon they went to the beach and sat near the police box to eat meatballs.

"They told us that Mr Nithipol accidentally dripped some meatball sauce on his shirt and he wanted to wash it off before going home, so he went into the water," explained a lifeguard.

"The area in front of the police box is a 'no swimming' area. We marked the area with red flags to indicate this," he added.

He added that lifeguards were on patrol at the time, but not



The body of Mr Nithipol was recovered about 500 meters from where he entered the water.

where Mr Nithipol drowned as officers at Sirinath Marine National Park had forbidden them to set up a lifeguard station there.

Park Chief Cheewap Chawee-tham was surprised to hear the news and vowed to clarify the situation immediately.

— *Orawin Narabal*

Construction of underpass delayed

CONSTRUCTION of Phuket's first underpass, at the Darasamuth Intersection in front of the Central Festival Phuket shopping mall, will not commence until at least October 9, the director of the Highways Department's Phuket office confirmed on Wednesday.

The government tender for Italian-Thai Co Ltd, Thailand's largest construction contractor, to formally take on the project was supposed to be signed on September 28, said Director Samak Luedwonghad.

"However, with the government budget year ending on September 30, and Director-General of the Department of Highways Wanchai



On hold for now, but the impending motorist misery is still on the way.

Phaklak retiring on that date, there will be a delay," he explained.

The incoming Director-General of the Department of Highways,

Chatchawan Boonjaorenkit, will need to review and approve the contract before it starts, he added.

— *Chutharat Plerin*



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New governor en route to Phuket



Phayao Governor Maitree Intusut (pictured) has been appointed as the new Governor of Phuket, effective immediately. Photo: PR Dept

THE Thai Cabinet has named former Phayao Governor Maitree Intusut as the new Governor of Phuket. The appointment by Cabinet is effective immediately.

The Cabinet announced the appointments and transfers for 19 provincial governors on Tuesday, two days after former Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha retired.

Sommai Prijasilpa, Phuket's senior vice-governor, has been filling in as Acting Governor in the meantime.

The first working day for Governor Maitree as Phuket Governor has yet to be announced.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Pian blasts Phuket land probes as 'hypocritical'

By Chutharat Plerin

MINUTES after the inaugural meeting of the newly elected Patong Town Council on Tuesday, Patong Mayor Pian Keesin blasted the effectiveness of the current spate of ongoing and ever-increasing Phuket land investigations.

"I want to see real law enforcement on this issue. Land in Phuket needs to be preserved and its development planned with a long-term view," Mayor Pian, who was born in Patong, told the *Gazette*.

"Sometimes it seems like the law is fighting itself. For example, some people have documents issued by the proper authorities to prove they own land on hills that are way above the legal limit to own or build on.

"But then law enforcement later comes along and orders buildings on these properties to be pulled down," said Mayor Pian.

"The government must be consistent in this issue. They must reclaim all government land, not just pick bits and pieces that they



Don't investigate some illegal land plots in Phuket while ignoring others, said Patong Mayor Pian Keesin. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

want to target," he said.

Mayor Pian also criticized the government for appearing to back off in its efforts to redress illegally owned land.

"The Government shouldn't be

hypocritical when resolving these problems. It appears they don't like anyone who works conscientiously and is prepared to stand up to illegal land ownership," he said.

"Take Damrong Phidet for

example, the former Director-General of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Conservation. He was working on land encroachment but has since retired. We don't know if the new chief will continue the investigation," he added.

Mayor Pian's comments also follow the sudden transfer of Dusadee Arayawuth from his position as the Secretary-General of the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission to a post as the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice, effectively removing him from his investigations into corrupt officials.

"I want to send a clear message to those who have the authority in these matters. Be fair to everyone, take the task seriously and be unrelenting in the pursuit of wrong-doing," Mayor Pian said.

"Public land must belong to the public, not to one person or group interest. From the hills to the sea, if we can preserve national land in Phuket, then that beauty will survive for the coming generations," he said.

New Police chief targets drugs, tourist safety

PHUKET's new Provincial Police Commander, Maj Gen Chote Chawanwiwat, has vowed to make drugs and tourist safety his top priorities.

Gen Chote was installed as Phuket's top cop on Monday after arriving from Narathiwat in Thailand's troubled Deep South, where he served as provincial police commander.

His first order to the police chiefs of every police station on the island was to prepare for the upcoming tourism high season.

"A new Tourist Safety and Information Center will be set up in Patong to assist tourists. This will be staffed by Provincial Police, Tourist Police, officers from the TAT [Tourism Authority of Thailand] and interpreters," Gen Chote revealed.



Gen Chote arrives in Phuket after serving in the troubled Deep South. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

"This will be our first Tourist Safety and Information Center. Others will be set up across the island later," he added.

Included in his plans is the expansion of the Patong Safety Zone to the rest of the island.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Case closed on Belanger sisters' deaths

KRABI Police have closed the case on the deaths of Canadian sisters Audrey and Noemi Belanger with no more investigations to be conducted.

Audrey, 20, and Noemi, 25, from Quebec, were found dead in their hotel room on Phi Phi Island on June 15. Both had suffered a violent physical reaction to suspected poisoning.

Autopsies conducted by forensic police identified that both women had ingested an undisclosed amount of the insecticide DEET, possibly from a "party cocktail" known locally as "Four times 100". The regular form the "cocktail", however, does not contain DEET or any insecticide.



Audrey and Noemi Belanger

"We have been asked by the Canadian Embassy and the [Belanger] family to not reveal anything about the case. We are standing by that. The cause of death in the police report to the embassy

is 'Unknown'," Lt Col Jongrak Pimthong of Krabi City Police told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"We are now preparing the documents to be sent to the Canadian Embassy. I have informed them that the case is closed. All the official documents will be sent as soon as we finished copying them," he added.

All police investigations related to the case will cease, including any attempt to question the man last seen with the two sisters before they were found dead.

"If the embassy would like to reveal anything further, they will hold a press conference on it," Col Jongrak added.

— **Chutharat Plerin**

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Elephant bone, says Mr Chob; dinosaur bone, say the villagers. Call in the experts they all say. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Fossil shell cemetery discovered in Krabi

A VILLAGER clearing land to plant oil palm trees in Krabi last month unearthed what he believes is fossil graveyard.

Since the original discovery, Chob Pankaew has had regular visits from the residents of Nong Phak Bung village in Kling Thom district, all coming to see the fossils.

"Two weeks ago, I was clearing the land ready to plant oil palm trees. I had dug down to about two meters when I found fossil shells and one big bone, which looks like it may have come from an elephant," said Mr Chob.

"I had no idea there were fossils under my plantation," he added.

Some villagers even believe the large bone Mr Chob recovered from the ground might have belonged to a dinosaur.

The villagers believe that thousands of years ago the whole area was under the sea, the only conditions that would rationally explain the find.

They now want the experts to inspect the area and tell them more about fossils and how they came to be under Mr Chob's plantation.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Temporary fix for Patong Hill landslide road begins

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET Highways Office workers have begun making temporary repairs to the Patong Hill road where a landslide sent dislodged earth tumbling into a rubber plantation below during heavy rains last week.

The section of road, west of the Chinese shrine at the top of the hill, first collapsed during heavy rains last October, then again in early May with the advent of this year's monsoon season.

Construction workers at the site explained that they will clear away the loose earth at the site then fill the "hole" with wire mesh.

"We will fill the mesh with boulders and other large rocks, and then fill the gaps with earth before paving the road over the top again," one worker explained.

"The repairs are only temporary until we get the budget to fix it properly," he added.

The temporary repairs, costing 3 million baht, will take two weeks to complete, said Phuket Highways Office Director Samak



The permanent repairs to the Patong Hill road will start nearer the end of the year and take about 90 days to complete. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Luedwonghad.

"But that's if we don't have any more heavy rain. If we get more rain like we did last week, it will probably take longer. Once the temporary repairs are complete, the lane can be reopened to traffic," he added.

Mr Samak said that permanent repairs to the road were likely to start in November or December.

"That project will take at least 90 days to complete," he added.

The news follows then Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha in June requesting an emergency budget of 80mn baht to repair the road as the main thoroughfare joining Patong and Phuket Town was deemed at high risk of collapsing due to the heavy annual monsoon-season rains.

Lone Korean snorkeler dies off Phi Phi Island

HOSPITAL staff in Phuket have confirmed that "drowning" has been listed as the official cause of death of the 29-year-old Korean tourist found dead while snorkeling at Phi Phi Island last Saturday.

An International Department officer at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town confirmed to the *Gazette* that the Jungkook Kim, initially named by Tourist Police as "Jury Kuk Kim", was the same person.

Doctors at Phi Phi Island Hospital declared Mr Kim had died by drowning before his body was transferred to Phuket.

Mr Kim drowned after going snorkeling alone a short distance from the beach. Within an hour, foreign tourists swimming nearby noticed that Mr Kim was floating immobile and that his snorkel was submerged, so they went to check on him and found that he was unconscious.

Mr Kim was first taken to Phi Phi Island Hospital but declared dead on arrival.

Medical staff at Phi Phi Island Hospital on October 3 told the *Gazette*, "We found no wounds, but found water in his lungs, so we have determined the cause of death to be drowning."

The doctor, who asked not to be identified, said that no autopsy was performed at the Phi Phi Hospital, as the facility does not have the resources to conduct such an in-depth examination.

"We asked the police to which hospital we should forward the body to, which ended up being Vachira Hospital in Phuket," the doctor explained.



Tourists swimming nearby tried to revive Mr Kim before taking him to the Island Hospital. Photo: Gazette file

Staff at Vachira Hospital morgue told the *Gazette* that Mr Kim's body was collected by South Korean embassy officials on October 3.

Family members were not present.

Lt Siwa Sanaha of Phi Phi Island Police Station told the *Gazette* that Mr Kim's relatives have accepted drowning as the cause of death.

"We were notified of the cause of death by the hospital, and we passed that information on to Mr Kim's family. They have not expressed any doubt in that conclusion and have not requested an autopsy be conducted," he said.

Another drowning occurred off Phi Phi on Tuesday. Edgar Johnston, 49, drowned off of Koh Yung while snorkeling with his wife, said Phi Phi Hospital staff.

"His wife has told us that Mr Johnston had no pre-existing conditions that would have led to his death," a hospital staffer told the *Gazette*.

— Atchaa Khamlo

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Reef cleanup

Record just the start for Go Eco Phuket

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE Go Eco Phuket group officially kick started its presence in Phuket, Thailand and the world with the biggest reef cleanup ever on September 30, and is looking to maintain the momentum for years to come.

"It's a record. Obviously we are very pleased with the event. There were hundreds of divers today [September 30], together removing more than 15 tons of debris from the reefs around Phuket," said Tony Andrews, Thailand's West coast PADI Regional Manager.

The inaugural event surpassed the group's expectations, as 502 participants stepped onto Chalong Pier and registered to get on a boat to help "Dive Against Debris". Of those participants, 370 were divers, the rest helped as snorkelers, debris sorters or took part in beach cleanups.

Not included in the group's total number of participants were the over 100 government volunteers, ranging from Royal Thai Navy personnel who provided assistance to divers to the local administration organization workers who helped unload the debris at Chalong Pier to



ensure that it was transferred to a landfill and did not find its way back into the ocean.

The group, heavily sponsored by PADI and Project AWARE, lifted 15 tons of debris off the reefs surrounding Koh Racha Noi, Koh Racha Yai, Phi Phi Island, Koh Khao Nok and Koh Hei ("Coral Island").

"This is amazing. It's kind of unprecedented. Not only the number of divers you have taking part, but you have the Thai government, you have the TAT [Tourism Authority of Thailand], the Royal Thai Navy... you have everybody rallying behind it, which is outstanding," said Henrik Nimb, the Vice President of PADI Asia Pacific and Director of the Project AWARE Foundation.

"One thing we can all agree on is that we have to save the reefs.

We don't want to see this as one event, but [would like to see] the dive centers continue with it and keep the momentum," he said.

Though grateful for the "PADI power" that helped unite the island's competing PADI dive centers to achieve the record-breaking cleanup, many members of the Go Eco Phuket group hope to include all dive centers on the island, regardless of affiliation, in future events to ensure the reefs of Phuket and surrounding islands remain pristine and world-class diving attractions.

"Go Eco Phuket isn't all about PADI... I am working very hard for Go Eco Phuket... I would like to have all the dive centers be part of Go Eco Phuket, it doesn't matter what organization they are from... I need every dive center to unite and work with the local government," said Narong Chaimo, who acted as liaison between Thai officials and the Go Eco Phuket group for the event.

Kerry Leach, one of the event organizers, echoed Mr Narong's desire to incorporate all dive companies on the island in the Go Eco Phuket group.



Members of the Royal Thai Navy, local fishermen and divers worked together to remove the 4.5ton fishing net. Photo: Kerrie Adams

One of the highlights at the event for many of the professional divers taking part in the cleanup was the lifting of a 4.5ton tangle of netting from Banana Bay on Koh Racha Noi, explained Geoffery Cole, Khao Lak Scuba Adventures trip leader.

Divers spent three dives carefully removing the netting from the coral reef and attaching lift bags before the Royal Thai Navy and a local fishing vessel were able to lift the net from the water.

The crane attached to the fishing boat was bent in the five-hour attempt to lift the net, explained Ms

Leach. Unwilling dump the huge net back into the ocean, the Royal Thai Navy directed the fishing vessel towards the RTN *Wang Nai 774*, which lowered its beach landing ramp into the water.

"One of the head Royal Navy officers on the boat with us *wai'd* the fishermen who had helped," said Ms Leach, when asked about some of the most memorable moments of the event.

"We really need to thank the Royal Thai Navy, without them we would have never lifted the 4.5ton net out of the water," said Mr Narong.

Carnage to marine life continues

IN JUST one day, half a dozen Olive Ridley sea turtles were rescued in Phuket, all suffering lacerations caused by fishing nets.

Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, head of the Endangered Species Unit (ESU) at the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC), said on September 27 they received reports of the turtles washing up on Karon Beach, as well as on the coastline of Mai Khao and Phang Nga.

All six turtles were mature female turtles.

In addition to damaged flippers, examinations revealed that their shells were in poor condition, exhibiting bacterial or fungal growth. From that, ESU staff assessed that the turtles were caught in fishing nets for about a month.

According to Dr Kongkiat, over



A female sea turtle missing her a flipper. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

the past five decades the number of Olive Ridley turtles laying eggs along the western beaches of Phuket and Phang Nga had dropped from somewhere between 500 to 1,000 to only about 10 to 30. However, he hopes that the number of injured washing ashore is a sign of them returning to their old breeding grounds.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



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A struggle for Liberty, after crash

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

ON AN island where almost any crash that isn't fatal is missed in the news, countless personal struggles and victories of the victims of Phuket road accidents are overlooked.

Liberty Jefferson had been an English-language teacher at Kanjonkietsuksa School for three and half years, before her leg was shattered in a motorbike crash.

Heading north on Thepkasattri Road from Phuket Town, Ms Jefferson realized that she was going the opposite direction of her home, so she stopped at a break in the road to make a u-turn.

"I always get turned around in town! Too many one ways and lack of street signs," she told the *Phuket Gazette*.

While she made a u-turn, a pickup truck came speeding through the yellow light, which turned red before the vehicle had left the intersection, and she was hit – hard.

"I turned and just bash – that was it. I woke up in the ambulance," she said.

Ms Jefferson's leg and ankle were broken in six places.

After receiving emergency care, Ms Jefferson stayed on Phuket for two surgeries and two months of bed rest. However, the surgeries were unsuccessful and Ms Jefferson was forced to return home to the US with a crippled foot.

In June, she went to a local medical specialist for a checkup on how her foot was healing.

"They said that they had no good news for me – that actually the bones have not healed properly. My ankle was shattered so bad they had to put this external fixator in to keep the bones stable," Ms Jefferson said.

"It looks like I will need three further surgical procedures until the leg is fully corrected. If I do not get any financial help from the government here, the cost will be astronomical," she explained.

Earlier last week Ms Jefferson, family and friends came together in hopes of raising about US\$5,000 at a silent auction and a concert held at a local bar in her hometown of Eugene, Oregon.

"The fundraiser actually went awesome.



Ms Jefferson had been a Phuket teacher for over three years, before her leg was shattered in a motorbike crash. Subsequent surgeries left her crippled. Photos: Liberty Jefferson/Facebook

Way better than I ever expected... such a good turnout, with people I have known for years and total strangers who just wanted to lend their support. We have nearly made our goal of US\$5,000," she told the *Gazette*.

"Luckily, I did not have to pay for treatment while in Thailand. I was fully covered by my insurance, that is why I did not go home after the first emergency surgery. I thought it would be a better idea to get it taken care of in Phuket, since that is where

I had medical coverage," she explained.

Ms Jefferson, who has no medical insurance in the US, has since then been turned away by two government aid programs.

However, she explained, the son of a surgeon that specializes in her type of injury heard about the fund-raising efforts. The son contacted his father, the surgeon, who has now agreed to see her.

Financially unable to support herself since the accident, Ms Jefferson has relied

on family and friends to make ends meet. She currently sleeps on a family friend's couch and is forced to rely on money her mother gives her each month.

"Until my leg is corrected, it is difficult to stand for a long time or walk any sort of distance. I hobble around, walking on two still-broken bones, always in some sort of pain. And as the weather gets colder, the pain gets worse, as well," she explained.

Ms Jefferson said that she had originally no intentions of moving back to the US soon, due to the current state of the economy and the difficulty of finding jobs there.

"I was planning on being abroad for at least another year, possibly more. Despite my accident, I still love Thailand and Phuket," she said.

"I spent three and half years there and it was some of the best times in my life," she added.

"I met so many great people, but more importantly I got to teach so many wonderful students. Teaching really made me realize what I want to do long term and regardless of the stresses of work and teaching, it just take one smile or hug from one of my lovely students to make everything better. I miss them a lot. I miss Thailand in general. It is a lovely place," she said.

Despite her passion for Phuket and Thailand, Ms Jefferson explained that she wished she had been taken to an international hospital instead of a government hospital after the crash.

"It is nothing against the government hospitals, it's just they are way overworked and understaffed. As a foreigner in an emergency situation, in an overcrowded hospital, where you get very little attention, it was just as scary as the accident," she explained.

Ms Jefferson proposed to the *Gazette* the idea of having "in case of emergency please take me to international hospital" on insurance cards in Thai and English for those, who, like herself, are knocked unconscious in an accident.

"Either way, I am lucky and thankful to be alive, Thailand is a wonderful place, and if you have ever thought about teaching before, give it a shot, it's a wonderful experience," she said.

Car cut in half by utility pole collision, three seriously hurt

POLICE are investigating what prompted a 57-year-old driver to accelerate to such a speed in the early hours of September 30 that when his car flew off the road it was cut in half by a roadside power pole.

Thalang Police duty officer Patiwat Yodkwan was notified of the high-speed accident at 2:45am.

Due to severity of the initial reports, he arrived at the scene, at the u-turn on Thepkasattri Road near the Karn Keha housing estate in Srisoonthorn, Thalang, with Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers, Baan Nai Klum volunteers and Thalang Hospital EMS staff.

At the scene, they found a Toyota Corolla cut in half, with the front half still jammed to the power pole.

About five meters from the wreckage were the three car occupants aged 46 to 57, who had all suffered serious injuries.



All that remains of the car after the high-speed collision with the post.

Two were rushed to Thalang Hospital and the third to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Police believe they know who was driving as his lower right leg had been severed and was still stuck to the accelerator.

Police believe that the driver was accelerating in order to chase another car.

As he reached the u-turn, he lost control of the vehicle, which slammed into the power pole.

– *Thawit Bilabdullar*

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Scoot in Style

Settlement for electrocuted worker

THE Arrow Media advertising company has agreed to pay 100,000 baht compensation to the family of one of its workers who was electrocuted by a bare high-voltage power line at the Darasamuth Intersection on September 28.

Wai Hayoung, 32, was killed instantly after being electrocuted by a 115,000 volt (115kv) power line while climbing an advertising board to make repairs.

An Arrow Media spokesperson, expressed the company's regret over the tragic death of Mr Wai, saying that he had been a skillful worker and a good team member.

"Mr Wai's family should receive about 20,000 baht from the accident insurance and probably more than 100,000 baht from the social security benefit policy. In addition, Arrow Media will pay 100,000 baht compensation," she said.

According to the spokesperson, the electric billboard that Mr Wai was sent to repair when he was electrocuted does not belong to their company. Having noticed some parts were broken they sent workers to fix a competitor's billboard, she said.

"We are aware of the dangers

of high-voltage cables and our company tries to avoid placing signs around high-voltage equipment and cables. However, it's difficult to avoid as the power cables in Phuket are messy and unorganized. You try to avoid one, but run straight into another."

"I have reiterated to our workers the need to be extremely careful when working [near electrical infrastructure]," she added.

The *Gazette* contacted the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) to find out how Mr Wai had come into contact with a high-voltage power cable so close to the advertising sign he was repairing.

"I arrived at the scene about an hour after he was electrocuted," said Permpol Tunsakul, an electrical engineer at the Operations & Maintenance Department.

"The position of that billboard is in a high voltage danger zone. The PPEA has several times issued written warnings to advertising and construction companies not to erect structures around that area, but some have not heeded our warnings," he said.

Mr Permpol explained that at that site were two kinds of



Electricity Authority workers use a 'cherry picker' lift to recover Mr Wai from on top of the sign. Inset: Rescue workers prepare Mr Wai's body for the journey to Vachira Phuket Hospital. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

electricity cables; a 33,000 volt (33kV) cable and an extremely high voltage 115kV cable.

"According to the media, Mr Wai died after coming into contact with the 33kV cable, however our investigation places him closer to the 115kV cable. It wasn't the 33kV which was far below where he stood. I understand that he was standing on top of the billboard close to the 115kV cable, holding a galvanized panel," he said.

Mr Permpol explained that electricity supplied by Thalang power substation was carried along 115kV lines before being converted to 220v and distributed to Chalong, Patong and Phuket City.

"The 115kV cable is bare because we would have to spend a lot of money if we were to encase those cables in plastic jackets," he said.

The minimum safe clearance from a 115kV cable is 2.5m and

60 or 90cm for a 33kV cable, depending on the type of building, he explained.

"We have sent this information to all concerned, including advertising companies. With buildings, usually there isn't a problem as before construction begins they talk to the PPEA to ask about electricity distribution. We then can check to see if they are building in a high-voltage danger zone.

"However, advertising companies don't have to inform us before they erect a billboard," he added.

"When we notice billboards in high-voltage danger zones, we send the advertising company a warning letter, requesting that they remove the signs as we will not be held responsible for accidents. Many comply, but some take no action. We can file a complaint with the police, but can't do anything ourselves as we don't own the land," Mr Permpol said.

Contacted to find out if an investigation of Mr Wai's death would lead to those responsible being prosecuted, investigating officer Lt Col Nanon Pitakkultorn of the Phuket City Police declined to provide any information.

— *Orawin Narabal*

Crab army on the march



WE COME IN PEACE: Having waited for a low tide thousands of mangrove crabs migrate to egg laying sites within Phuket's mangrove forest.

PHUKET Town residents received a shock on September 30 as they witnessed an invading army of crabs marching through the streets in the direction of the nearby mangrove forest.

Fortunately, the rare phenomenon was not an alien invasion by the crab-men from outer space.

The natural event, which occurred at about 7pm, involved thousands of mangrove crabs, also known by locals as *pu preaw* (sour crab), making the journey along Sakdideet Road Soi 1, opposite the Phuket Mangrove Development Station, to lay their eggs among the mangroves.

Some people stopped their cars to watch the spectacle, many said they had not seen anything like it.

A few thought that the temperature underground might have climbed to the point where the crabs decided to move out.

Others thought that poor water quality was to blame for the mass migration.

Some people believed it was an

omen of an impending disaster, such as an earthquake or tsunami.

The voice of reason came in the form of Surachat Chalarat, who heads the Phuket Mangrove Development Station.



Mr Surachat told the *Gazette* that the event was nothing more than a natural phenomenon and certainly nothing to worry about.

"Normally, mangrove crabs lay their eggs between September and November, usually coinciding with a low tide. That's why we see them moving around in big groups toward the sea," Mr Surachat explained.

"This is not the first time, I have seen this many times before in Phuket," he added.


"The villagers who had watched told me that there were a lot of eggs under the crabs' stomachs, which is a good sign. It tells me that the mangrove forests in Phuket are in a healthy condition and suitable for animals to live," Mr Surachat said.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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Burglar 'gift-wrapped' for police

PHUKET City Police arrived at a shophouse in response to a burglar alarm raised early morning of September 27, only to find the thief already bound up.

"We went to the scene with Kusoldham rescue workers, however the entrance to the clothing shop on Soi Surin [near The Metropole Hotel] was locked. We had to break the lock to enter the building.

"Inside, there were obvious signs of a struggle... and a man was laying in the middle of the room. His hands were tied up with clothes and he was wearing jeans and a white t-shirt covered with blood," said Phuket City Police Somachai Nhuboon.

The 23-year-old man, Somchai Jiamsantia, was found with 800 baht in his wallet, which police suspect was stolen from the shop.

In addition to the injured Mr Somchai, the shop owner, Sornchai Sriluck, 47, was also injured in the scuffle with the alleged thief.

"The man entered through our restroom on the third floor and then went downstairs to the clothes shop to search for valuables," alleged Mr Sornchai.

"My wife and I were asleep on the third floor. I heard dogs barking, so I came downstairs to check if everything was okay. I caught the suspect searching for items and we got into a fight," he explained.

During the fight Mr Somchai says he used a piece of glass to cut Mr Sornchai.

"I fought back until I was able to tie him up," Mr Sornchai said.

Kusoldham rescue workers administered first aid to both men before taking them to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Capt Somchai added that Mr Somchai was released recently from prison after serving a sentence for a previous theft.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Thai Navy mount 'Operation Gangnam'

THAI sailors at the Navy Third Area Command, based at Cape Panwa on Phuket's east coast, have broken their stoic mold and posted a video on YouTube showing that they can have fun too, by dancing in the now globally infectious Korean "Gangnam Style".

As of October 2, the YouTube clip had received 407,470 hits.

"The video was created for the farewell party for all service-

men and servicewomen to be transferred from Third Naval Area Command," explained special reporter Jirayu Naragoon-phithak, who assists the Navy base's public relations staff.

"We wanted to portray a new image of the sailors at the Third Naval Area Command. Every time we appear in the media, we are always shown conducting serious activities and exercises.

"This time we wanted to show

that we can have fun too," he said.

The video includes all the high-ranking officers at the naval base, including the Commander, Vice Admiral Taratorn Kajitsuwan.

"We also did the video because we have the US Navy coming next week. Some US sailors have done a similar video and they had about 2 million views on YouTube.

"We are gunning for around 3 million hits," Mr Jirayu said.

— **Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai**



Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command sailors have the 'Gangnam Style'. Image: YouTube

Parliament enters land fray

Bangkok heavy-weights to scrutinize more resorts encroaching Sirinath National Park land

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

NARIT Khamnurak, Chairman of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Land, Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE), this week led a parliamentary inquiry to follow up the investigation into resorts accused of encroaching on national park land on Phuket's west coast.

At Sirinath Marine National Park headquarters, Mr Narit together with nine officers on September 28 reviewed the investigation reports compiled by Royal Forest Department (RFD) officers who conducted the raids against the 10 Phuket resorts on August 15 under orders by National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department (DNP) Director-General Damrong Phidet.

After reviewing the progress made, Mr Narit ordered the teams investigating the four "new" cases, including the home of French businessman Bernard Gautier, to complete their work as soon as possible.

The deadline for completing their investigations was September 25, Mr Narit reminded them.

However, Sirinath National Park chief Cheewapap Cheewatham pointed out his officers learned of Mr Gautier's



Narit Khamnurak wants the investigation completed soon, however Sirinath National Park chief Cheewapap Cheewatham (pictured) is routinely uncovering new areas to investigate. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

house only at the end of August, and that the two Malaiwana projects and the Istana project now under investigation were added to their "to be probed" list only last week.

"Hopefully, we will be finished surveying the sites by the end of next week, but we will still have to send our surveys to the DNP to check our surveys with aerial photographs of the area.

"We all know that will take time, so I don't know when they

will finish," he said.

Mr Cheewapap added that his office had encountered problems, specifically what he called "communication difficulties" with investigating Mr Gautier's house.

"The man will not let my officers inspect the area around his house although they have presented him with a search warrant," said Mr Cheewapap.

Mr Narit, a Democrat Party MP for Phattalung, told park chief Cheewapap, "The investigation

teams should have their work completed within a month. After that the DNP teams will start to examine the land ownership documents of all 379 plots along the national park border."

"I want every national park chief in Thailand to review their park boundaries and clearly mark them, so that if developers try to encroach on national park land, it will be obvious and easier for the officers to inspect and take legal action against them," he added.

Lucky escape from truck smash

A YOUNG man escaped from serious injury when the Isuzu pickup he was driving slammed into an 18-wheeled truck and trailer on Thepkrasattri Road on September 29.

Thalang Police duty officer Patiwat Yodkwan arrived at the scene, near the Baan Muang Mai market in Thalang, at about 1:30pm to find Ken Patan, 19, still pinned inside his black Isuzu D-MAX pickup truck.

Kusoldham Foundation rescue workers removed him from the vehicle and took him to Thalang Hospital, where he was treated for minor injuries to his left wrist and cuts to his face.

Police told the *Gazette* that Mr Ken was reportedly cut off by the 18-wheeler as it made a sudden u-turn in front of him, leaving Mr



The driver, 19-year-old Ken Patan, escaped with only minor injuries.

Ken no option other than to crash into the truck.

Police are still searching for the driver of the 18-wheeler, which reportedly had no goods on its flat-bed trailer at the time of the accident.

The speed of the pickup at the point of impact was not reported.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**



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HONDA

Canadian sex beast nabbed on home turf



'Swirl Face' was captured after leaving Thailand. Photo: Interpol

THE Canadian pedophile known as "Swirl Face" was arrested by police after arriving from Thailand at Vancouver Airport, *The Star* reported.

Christopher Neil, 37, was returning home after being released from a five-year sentence for sexually assaulting a nine-year-old boy in Thailand.

Mr Neil is alleged to have abused other children in Vietnam and Cambodia, though he was not convicted for those crimes.

The former English teacher was caught after German computer experts analyzed internet images of child pornography that depicted an adult raping children. The man's face had been rendered unrecognizable by a "swirl" effect.

But the investigators were able to undo the facial distortion, leading to the identification of Mr Neil as "Swirl Face" and his subsequent capture and prosecution in 2007.

When he stepped off his plane last Friday, he was greeted by Canadian officers from a child exploitation unit.

He was taken back into custody to assess the risk he poses to children in his native country – and to apply conditions to his release to protect them.

Fresh wave of violence kills seven in South

AROUND THE nation

VIOLENCE in Thailand's troubled Deep South has reached fever pitch, with gunmen shooting dead at least seven civilians and security personnel in three days.

The spate of killings came a day after store owners were forced to close their shops after a leaflet campaign threatened violent reprisals against them if they opened on Friday, the Islamic day of rest, *The Nation* reported.

On Saturday and Sunday, at least six people were killed and 27 wounded in a series of attacks in all three southern border provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat, according to AFP.

In Pattani, suspected insurgents shot dead a Muslim police officer, a 74-year-old Buddhist and a Muslim security volunteer in separate incidents.

The same day in Yala, a Buddhist couple were shot on their way to a market, injuring the husband and killing the wife.

In Narathiwat, another couple was targeted, this time security volunteers, with the husband surviving his slain wife.

Also in Narathiwat, militants fired two M-79 grenades into a local One Tambon, One Product (OTOP) market, injuring 23 people.

The violence continued on Sunday, when an 18-year-old Muslim



A bomb squad personnel on September 28 inspect the site of a bomb blast in Narathiwat. Photo: AFP

man was found shot dead in Yala.

On Monday, a 20-year-old was shot dead in Pattani's Thung Yang Daeng District.

The wave of violence came after vendors in Pattani and Narathiwat were forced to close after they received leaflets threat-

ening them with punishment if they continued to trade on Fridays.

Residents in Pattani had been uneasy since a car bomb explosion in Sai Buri District earlier last month that killed six police officers and injured scores of others.

Last month, about 100 militants

supposedly handed themselves in to the Thai state, though analysts questioned whether the mass surrender was as significant as claimed by the Thai authorities.

The latest violence suggests the move may indeed have caused ripples in the insurgency.

Deputy PM in shock resignation

DEPUTY Prime Minister Yongyuth Wichaidit announced his resignation last Friday, reportedly in a move to prevent the ruling Pheu Thai party from being dissolved.

Mr Yongyuth's surprise decision came after the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) found him guilty of wrongdoing in a decade-old scandal.

Mr Yongyuth, who is also the Pheu Thai leader, told a news conference he had decided to step down out of fear that remaining in position in the Cabinet would be against the law.

The abrupt decision led to doubts about whether he had voluntarily opted to step down.

Pheu Thai sources said ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra, who is believed to be pulling the strings from behind the ruling party, wanted Mr Yongyuth out after he was implicated in the so-called "Alpine" scandal.

The NACC had found Mr Yongyuth guilty of unlawfully



Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Yongyuth Wichaidit, flanked by his colleagues and red-shirt leaders. Photo: The Nation

endorsing the 2002 sale of monastic land owned by Thammikaram Temple to Alpine Real Estate Co and Alpine Golf & Sports Club Co while he was serving as deputy permanent secretary for the Ministry of Interior.

Last week, the ministry's Civil Service Committee resolved to expel Mr Yongyuth retroactively, but

it also said he was qualified to benefit from the 2007 Exoneration Act.

The anti-graft agency later said Mr Yongyuth was not eligible for exoneration because he had never served the term of his punishment – a condition stated in the law.

Mr Yongyuth insisted the decision to quit did not result from pressure from any outside parties.

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Public transportation should take a dive

FOR all the bandying about of the term “sustainable tourism”, Phuket might just have had the victory it needed in the Go Eco Phuket reef cleanup staged last weekend. That single record-breaking feat has provided a model to follow in breaking the mold of inaction and setting island development off in the right direction.

The event had all the elements vital for a successful campaign. The organizers branded the concept under their own banner “Go Eco Phuket” and they secured not one, but two internationally recognized organizations that are expert in the relevant fields: the world-renowned PADI dive tour and instruction brand, and the globally respected Project AWARE marine conservation foundation.

Having international partners lead the way made it much easier to get local government and other major organizations on board, including the Royal Thai Navy, the Marine Department and the Governor’s Office.

But more importantly, and without in any way diminishing the hundreds of volunteers making the record-breaking feat possible, the organizers created a focal point that locals could support through action – not just words. It is through the participation of local people, agencies and businesses that true progress can be made. In fact, everyone can benefit to the detriment of no one.

Deserving of special mention are the owner, captain and crew of the Thai fishing boat *Aroon Samuth 5*, which with assistance from the Royal Thai Navy lifted off the seabed a discarded fishing net weighing 4.5 tons.

Pamuke Achariyachai, who heads the Kata Group of hotels and resorts, also deserves credit for publicly announcing an open invitation for more ideas to help contribute to preserving Phuket’s natural environment. Support would be forthcoming, he pledged.

Despite what cynics may think, many government officials and industry leaders have been right in repeatedly reminding us that Phuket’s natural beauty remains the single-most powerful attraction we have in drawing millions of tourists to our shores every year. As our former governor points out (see ‘First Person’ on facing page), this natural beauty can easily be rendered subordinate if negative issues continue on the path to domination of visitors’ or potential visitors’ impressions of our island.

It is in tackling issues such as traffic congestion, public transport and water pollution, that Go Eco Phuket has become a role model with its unified-community approach to problem solving. It is a strategy involving all people affected, and it worked in enabling officials last month to make significant inroads into the problems with illegal taxis. Within weeks, the officials were able to get hundreds of drivers to register their vehicles and to begin to accept the call for standard fares island-wide.

Now, with this unified approach and the news that government concessions for public bus services are up for grabs across the island, how can we all help to bring those services to fruition?



Go Eco Phuket sets example for world

Re: Phuket Online, Phuket’s ‘Dive against Debris’ reef cleanup sets new world record, September 30

Much of the debris that rests on the floor of the sea off Phuket doesn’t originate here. Most sea debris is mobile, so it’s a world-wide problem.

What was wonderful about the day’s effort was that news of it will be published, televised and “You Tuber” worldwide, hopefully inspiring other coastal communities to emulate Phuket.

Those who contributed to the event have truly done Thailand proud.

*Matt Henderson
Gazette forum*

Use the turtle safety valves to save lives

Re: Carnage to Phuket’s marine life continues, September 28

The Turtle Excluder Device, which allows the turtles to escape through an opening in the rear of the net, has been used by fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico for decades with great success.

The device is now standard equipment on shrimping boats.

*Bubba Gump
Gazette forum*

Tired of AirAsia ‘winging’ it

Re: Phuket Online, AirAsia move to axe Phuket-Bali, Ubon flights sparks ire from ‘stranded’ travelers, September 29

Looks like AirAsia are taking on too much without enough planes to go around. I used to fly AirAsia all the time, but I have had a couple of flights cancelled by them, not to mention them moving airports, first in the UK and now in Bangkok. I will be flying with anyone who flies into Suvarnabhumi Airport, so I do not have to endure another two or three hours

Letters to the Editor

added onto my journey for the transfer from Don Mueang Airport.

*Rich
Gazette forum*

Hiding in plain view

One group of people that have been virtually ignored in the grand underpass plan to totally bugger up the island’s traffic flow are the garland vendors.

These harmless tinkers ply their trade at the very junctions that are soon to be the sites of abject motorist misery.

Will they be allowed to continue business during the mayhem, or will they be allotted a patch on one of the cunningly well-thought-through alternative routes?

Err... Oh yes, I remember now. It was Phuket Provincial Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada who ordered that they all be removed from the medians of major junctions, as that sort of thing gave visitors to Phuket a bad impression.

Someone really ought to tell him that the garland sellers are still there.

*Artful Dodger
Samkong*

New broom

Re: Gazette online, New Phuket police chief targets tourist safety, drugs, October 2

I bet he’s very happy to be here and away from the dangers of Thailand’s Deep South. Because of that he’s fresh and looking to really prove himself. No one has their hooks into him so he’s ready to rock and roll. Give him a chance. Good luck Sir.

*Ivan Gort
Gazette forum*

Spot the difference

Re: Gazette online, Roads re-open, but residents still on high alert, September 27

Season after season we see the same pictures. How hard can it be to cut a culvert to the beach? It is an island; the water should just run off. I guess there is no profit, so it doesn’t get done.

*Sceptical John
Gazette forum*

Snorkeling, a deadly aquatic sport?

Re: Gazette online, Korean tourist to Phuket found dead snorkeling off Phi Phi Island, October 1

I don’t understand why so many people snorkeling in Krabi and around Phuket, specifically off Phi Phi Island, die.

The French man who was slaughtered by a speedboat is horrific, but at least the cause of death, if unreasonable, is understandable. The case of this Korean and many other tourists, I just don’t understand.

Snorkeling simply isn’t so exciting that people should be having heart-attacks by the underwater sights, nor should they be drowning from simply forgetting to breathe.

Despite snorkeling being one of what I would normally consider a “safe” activity, the number of deaths is unnerving.

Are boat operators properly briefing their customers about how to clear a snorkel and other basic skills?

I simply don’t believe in coincidences, and I am of the opinion that writing off these individual deaths as “random” is just too easy. There seems to be a consistency that should cause concern for tour operators and local government alike.

*Tony Bertozzi
Phuket Town*

Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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The views expressed in the Phuket Gazette are those of the writers and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Publisher, the Editor, the shareholders or the directors of The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd.

Volume 19 Issue 40

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Goodbye Gov Tri

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

OVER the years, my top concerns for Phuket have been flooding, traffic and wastewater. Flooding and traffic are no longer grave concerns for me because many projects have already received funding and many are already underway.

That said, with the new Phuket Governor due to arrive imminently, I would like him to rate traffic as the first priority. Traffic is now number one problem in Phuket. No one wants to be in a place where the traffic is so bad.

After the new governor arrives, I will come back to Phuket and explain what needs to be done in order to continue developing Phuket to make it a better place.

Further, what does worry me is that there are no major projects being planned to resolve the wastewater problem. I have received reports that only 70 to 80 per cent of wastewater in Phuket is treated to a safe standard before being discharged.

The areas that I worry about the most are those areas where there are many hotels and resorts. If the wastewater management system is inadequate, it can affect the environment of the whole community.

Environmental issues are one indicator that can rank Phuket as one of the top tourist destinations in the world. If we fail on environmental issues, then it will not look good for us and no one would want to visit Phuket.

Phuket is already known as a world-class tourist destination,



Tri Augkaradacha was Governor of Phuket for two years, culminating with his term ending on September 30 so he could enter retirement, bringing to an end 36 years of civil service. Before his appointment as the island's top official, Mr Tri had already served four years in Phuket as a provincial vice-governor.

Here, former Governor Tri talks about his farewell wishes for the island and his vision of the future of Phuket.

but there is still a lot of room for improvement. We must not forget that the environment is an important aspect that should be treated carefully.

I have seen many towns that are fully developed but they [town administrators] have forgotten all about the environment. I think that towns like that show a lack of responsibility for the whole community. I don't want Phuket to fall to that position.

I want Phuket to attract all kinds of tourists who enjoy a variety of activities: eco-tourism, cultural tourism and sports tourism.

I would like to pass this message on to the new governor: develop Phuket while preserving the environment. All the infrastructure that can serve locals as well as tourists should continue to be developed, but not at the expense of the beautiful natural environment that we have.

In my six years on Phuket I

have watched the island grow so quickly, but I feel that the budget from central government has not come fast enough to accommodate Phuket's fast rate of development.

Phuket generates more than 100 billion baht per year, but we receive only 100 million baht a year in return. If you ask me, I would say it is not enough to pay for everything that needs to be taken care of in terms of public affairs.

Most of the money spent covers the salaries of government officials. There is only about 20 per cent of the budget left for the projects we have planned over the years.

I would like central government to consider making all top destinations in Thailand, including Phuket, special administration zones. That way we can administer ourselves and use an appropriate amount of the income that we make per year on local projects.

Bum gun or bust

I WAS recently on a business trip in Bangkok, where I was put up for a few days in a five-star hotel. Not only were all my travel expenses and hotel paid for, but so were all the lavish, international buffets. I certainly gained a few pounds during this trip, to say the least.

After long and tiresome days of work and all that wholesome, free eating, you can imagine how much I looked forward, each evening, to 'laxing out' in the luxurious serenity of my hotel room, with all of its infinite promises. Once again, however, the misleading "Five Star" tag has let me down.

From my observations, most four and five-star hotels are not much different. What often separates the "best" from the "rest" is the bathrooms. The five-stars tend to go overboard with their marble tiling, gold faucets and Jacuzzis – okay maybe not that extreme, but you get my point.

This last trip made me realize my preference for a three-star, Thai hotel over the typical five-star western hotel, based solely on the merit of the bathroom offerings, or lack thereof. Perhaps I've been in Thailand too long, but the fact is I just can't live without the "Bum Gun" – that little water sprayer on the side of most toilets that looks familiarly like the dish sink sprayer back home (and so I'm told that's where it originates from).

Now I'm no fan of the traditional Asian squat toilet, and if it's a choice between my hand and toilet paper, I'll take the latter without hesitation; but throw the bum gun on the cards, and it's a no-brainer. Not only is it more hygienic than toilet paper, but it gets the job done consistently, regardless of the outcoming consistency!



Give the man a bum gun.

Island View

By Thep Soulawynne

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

Back at the hotel, as my stomach began to stir with its diverse culinary concoction of the best of Japanese, American, Thai, Italian and Indian cuisines, oh how I would have traded the crystal chandelier and silver soap dispenser for a simple ol' bum gun.

It just boggles me why many of these so-called high-end establishments in Thailand (not only hotels, but even many of the "Western grade" department stores) don't provide a bum gun – yet claim to combine the best of east and west. The perfect bathroom should have both options – a bum gun and toilet paper for drying afterward. On second thought, a perfect bathroom has not been mastered by the Thais, not yet anyway, but rather, the Japanese. Their automated bum sprayers, heated air driers, air fresheners and noise diversion melodies highlight the best of luxury, comfort and practicality. But until such awesome technology is universal, the bum gun will do just fine for me.

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

How to improve the neighborhood

I live on Soi Namjai, near the Sea Shell Museum. I live along the back part of the road, and to get to Wiset Road, I have to travel along about 400 meters of road that is completely dark at night. There is just no illumination offered by adjacent street lamps. Where can I apply to have street lights put in?

In addition to there being no light on the 400-meter stretch, there is about 200m of it without proper drainage, which leaves people cut-off from the main road after a heavy rain, unless they have a big-wheeled car. Where can I apply to have drains put in?

Lastly, I want to know who I should contact about two garbage disposal points, which fill up with rats after sundown.

Otto Northe
Rawai

Vai Choochan, Social Welfare Department Acting Chief at Rawai Municipality, replies:



Mabye new drains aren't the best idea. Photo: Der Krampus

I suggest that you come in to see us and file a formal complaint at our administrative office. This way you will be able to give us more information about the situation.

We will need to establish exactly where your house is so we can determine if the street is on public or private land.

If the street is on private property, we cannot do anything unless

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.
Submit your issue at
www.PhuKetGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

the land owner donates the street to the public.

Additionally, if you see street lights without working bulbs, you can file a complaint to us. We will then have our workers change the bulbs.

Also, if you could provide us with more information about the garbage disposal points, we can have our workers take a look at the situation and see if we can find a solution.

We can be contacted at the Rawai Municipality office Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm, or by telephone at 076-613801.

Banking on differentials

I have been a customer of the Kasikorn Bank in Phuket for more than 10 years and I have maintained a sizable amount of funds for the majority of that time.

Four years ago, I applied for a Kasikorn Bank Visa Credit Card, which was approved.

The only proviso was that I open another savings account as a guarantee with the same amount as the limit on the credit card.

Two months ago, I asked the bank's help center if the guaranteed savings account was still required. I was informed that after two years, and as long as the Visa account had remained trouble-free, the guaranteed savings account was no longer necessary.

So after several trips to my Phuket branch and with the pass-book being waved in my face, someone changed their mind about the decision.

I was then told that I was required to have a work permit.

I am interested in having the Kasikorn Bank clarify its position.

Disappointed Customer
Phuket

Sasiwimon Klajit, cashier at the Kasikorn Bank branch on Thepkasattri Road in Koh Kaew, replies:

You must always have another account set up with the same amount of money as the limit on the credit card as a guarantee for as long as you have the card.

A work permit is required if you are working in Thailand. However, if you are married to a Thai citizen or have a retirement visa you do not need to have a work permit. If this is the case, you must have at least 50,000 baht in your guarantee account.

You will also be asked to verify that you are staying by providing either a marriage certificate (if you are married to a Thai citizen) or by a verified address document issued by Immigration.

You are more than welcome to come into our office and handle the situation in person.

AirAsia shift to reap Chinese pie

AS PART of its latest strategic marketing shift, Low Cost Carrier (LCC) AirAsia last week canceled its Phuket flights to Ubon Ratchathani and Bali, topped off with the cancellation this week of its Thailand-Sri Lanka route.

Meanwhile, the leading LCC has reinstated its Phuket-Udon Thani route, while revealing additional plans to shift and expand regional focus to the high-volume, high-growth, Chinese market.

AirAsia announced on its Thai Facebook page: "Due to the 34% increase in Chinese passengers over last year to Chongqing and Wuhan, we have decided to 'move forward' and open a new route [from BKK] to Xi'an."

The new route, which will connect more of Thailand's low-fare passengers directly with the city of the famous "Terracotta Warriors", is set to launch by the middle of next month.

Meanwhile, AirAsia's final flight from Phuket to Ubon Ratchathani was on September 29, with Bali's terminal flight on September 30. The company will cease its Bangkok to Colombo, Sri Lanka services as of October 10.

Daily service from Phuket to Udon Thani, which had previously been suspended, was reinstated on Monday, with flights departing Phuket at 3:45pm.

The strategic changes came as the LCC

moved its Thailand base in Bangkok from Suvarnabhumi Airport back to Don Mueang Airport on October 1.

The Bangkok-Xi'an flights will launch with promotional one-way prices from 2,790 baht, with more destinations to be covered, said Tassapon Bijleveld, CEO of Thai AirAsia.

Quoted in a report by The Nation, Tassapon said: "China is growing rapidly and AirAsia is very focused on this market. We are the first and only LCC to offer daily direct flights to Xi'an, one of China's most popular tourist destinations, located in the central area of north-west China."

"Once again, we are very proud to be opening up more opportunities for investment and tourism revenue in cities with great potential and Xi'an is no exception."

At present, AirAsia's Thailand-China (and its special

territories) flights include two daily flights between Bangkok and Hong Kong, as well as Macau (4 daily flights), Guangzhou (1 daily flight), Shenzhen (1 daily flight), Chongqing (1 daily flight) and Wuhan (1 daily flight).

Apart from this, AirAsia also offers direct flights from Thailand's northern city of Chiang Mai to Macau (1 daily flight) and direct flights from Phuket to Hong Kong (1 daily flight).

At 600,000, Chinese travelers now make



AirAsia staff promote the new Xi'an flight.



A BUSY CONTINENT: The list above shows Asia's busiest airports last year, as measured by the volume of passengers. This year will see even more traffic. Image: Gazette Graphics

up the largest group of international passengers of Thai AirAsia, accounting for 11% of total passengers from January-September. This is a significant increase of 34% compared to the same period last year.

"Our direction for the remainder of 2012 and 2013 is to focus on further expansion in China and to add additional frequency to our popular domestic and international destinations. We are confident that as a result of this, we will hit our target of 8 million

passengers this year and eventually 10 million passengers by 2013", said the CEO.

Known as the 8th Wonder of the World, Xi'an is also one of China's four historical capital cities, famous for The Terracotta Warriors of Emperor Qin Shi Huang, a collection of over 7,000 life-sized depictions of cavalry, war horses and chariots buried in an over-25,000-square-meter section of the monarch's mausoleum.

— *Phuket Gazette and The Nation*

Why Phuket continues to buck recession

THERE is no question that Phuket over much of the last decade has recovered from global recession. However, what is more noticeable is how resilient it has been in terms of tourism, despite a global financial meltdown and political instability on a national level. This resilience allows Phuket to grow while other tourism areas of the world are suffering.

THE CRISIS BEGINS

The global financial crisis generally hit everyone in 2008. However,

in that year Phuket's tourism was chugging along fairly well, only four years after the major South Asian tsunami. Ironically, political issues in other parts of Thailand helped drive more tourism to Phuket and away from Bangkok.

Tourism did decline compared to the previous year, when times were good, but the region still attracted folks who still had cash and hadn't lost their shirts on the financial markets. This was helped by Phuket hotels and vendors lowering their prices to lure more customers.

TWO YEARS LATER

Well into the global crisis by 2010, when most countries were struggling and Europe was showing signs of serious collapse, Phuket truly became a getaway island.

Tourism to the island during this period was strong and consistent; Phuket simply didn't exist in the same world as the rest of Thailand. This support was due to a number of reasons: Geo-exports out of Australia increased ten-fold in 2010 as China's demand for natural resources started making Australians rich with cash to spend. Those working in and receiving support from the mining industry reaped the benefits of selling copper, coal and iron to Asia.

That income flow then allowed Australians to flood Phuket, especially when airlines began flying direct to the island and financial services firms started to offer the full range of services including banking, investments and income protection. According to the New York Times, by 2010 Australians became the biggest group of foreign visitors to Phuket annually.

Swedes and Russians are popular visitors to Phuket. Both saw increased financial strength due to the currency machinations in

Europe, especially since both countries were not directly drawn down by the sinking Euro. This was a good trend since it helped offset the loss of tourists coming from traditional European markets such as England, Germany, and France.

By 2010, tourism and other related segments made up the income of more than two-thirds of the labor on the island. Furthermore, during that year, the sector provided Thailand with an estimated US\$3.15 billion in aggregate revenue.

CURRENT YEAR

Phuket's tourism strength continues to be a positive point of news in Thailand. Not only is airline traffic to the island up almost 30% versus 2011, the tourism numbers in the month of May broke all known records.

This boom in foreign tourism business increased as linkages by low-cost airlines expanded. A number of airlines provide regular, direct flights to Phuket, further connecting more regions for quick getaways as well as being connection points from further destinations. The proof is in the numbers: arrivals jumped 1.74 million additional passengers into Phuket in 2012. Further, international arrivals

jumped by half over 2011.

Clearly, the global financial issues are not dragging Phuket down. Instead, the region is making capital investments with the ongoing tourism revenue that continues to grow. Expansion of Phuket's International Airport is expected to allow a capacity total of 12.5 million by next year. Additionally, talks are in play to increase separate terminal capacity for private chartered aircraft as well, which will increase connections for high-paying visitors.

ON A ROLL

If Phuket can continue to improve its offerings while also maintaining a diverse tourism base from different countries, there is no reason that the island can't continue its success over the next few years.

Now that various global regions are starting to show signs of economic recovery, there will be additional changes and shifts in visitor groups.

However, Phuket's tourism management visibly understands this concept and is working proactively to keep bringing in business overall, which will lead to continued success despite all the woes affecting Thailand or the rest of the world.

— *Eve Pearce*



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❖ Work permits
❖ Bookkeeping
❖ Visa service
❖ Translations

Vegan Festival to generate B600mn

By Orawin Narabal

DIRECTOR Chanchai Doungjit of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office expects this year's Vegan Festival to generate about 600 million baht in revenue for the local economy.

"Many Thais, including those of Chinese origin, will visit the festival and many are likely to travel in family groups, as the festival falls within the school holidays," Director Chanchai told a meeting at the Lor Rong Shrine, in Phuket Town, yesterday.

The meeting, chaired by Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada and attended by provincial officials and members of the Phuket Shrine Association, was held to discuss activities planned for the festival, from October 15 to 23.

Director Chanchai also expects to see an increase in tourists from Australia, the Middle East and India, but sees the largest increase coming from the Asian region.

"Our main foreign target group remains tourists from Singapore, China and Malaysia – even more so, now that we have signed 'Sister City' agreements with many cities in China. I believe that there will be more Chinese tourists visiting us this year," he added.

"Hotel occupancy is now at 80%, but during the festival we expect hotels along the procession route to have 95% occupancy. Beach hotels are currently 90% full and that is likely to rise before the festival," Director Chanchai said.

One of the main events organized for this year is a procession to honor HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej and HM Queen Sirikit. The procession will take place on Tuesday, October 16, and will start at Sanam Chai, opposite Provincial Hall in Phuket Town, and proceed to the center stage area in Saphan Hin.

After the procession, a candle-lighting ceremony will be performed to honor Their Majesties at the center stage area at 5pm.

A comprehensive guide to Vegan Festival activities across the island, detailing events, times and places, can be found at PhuketVegetarian.com.

Note from the editor: Though the festival is commonly dubbed 'vegetarian', participants must uphold a strict 'vegan' diet that forbids all animal products.



The new director of TAT Phuket office, Chanchai Doungjit.



THE HOT SOUTH: Thailand's Southern region has experienced more inflation than elsewhere over the past five years. However, this year so far, its rate has slowed. Image: Gazette Graphics

Inflation steady at 3%

HEADLINE Inflation (HI) over the last year in Thailand was steady at 3.38%, but slightly under 3% during the first three quarters of the year (January-September, 2012), the Commerce Ministry (MoC) has revealed.

The HI rate, which takes into account prices of most consumer goods and commodities, is the most commonly used indicator for cost-of-living trends in the economy.

According to a survey by the MoC, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the core factor in calculating HI, peaked at 116.67 points in September, an increase of 0.34% from the previous month.

Thailand's CPI is currently measured by comparing current prices with those of 2007, used as a base year (100 points).

In other words, the overall cost of living in the Kingdom has

risen approximately 16% in the last five years.

Meanwhile, the core CPI, which excludes various fluctuating factors such as food and energy, peaked at 108.77 points in September, representing a 0.23% increase from August, and year-on-year (y-o-y) hike of 2.94%.

Though core inflation (CI) during the first nine months of 2012 was reported to be only 2.19%, the MoC forecasts the full-year rate to be between 3 and 3.4%.

Though food is typically excluded from CI calculations, the MoC cited the continuously rising cost of food to be a key factor in the rise of both CI and HI.

One of the most substantial CPI rises, as has been the trend for several years, was in fruits and vegetables, which jumped to 201.74 points in September – a 1.4% increase from August and a

14.14% jump y-o-y.

The MoC attributed the high level of inflation in this category to increasingly heavy rainfall, which has curbed crop supplies.

Electricity, fuel and water supply has also shot through the roof, jumping in September by 3.59% from August and 14.62% y-o-y, up to 102.2 points.

Previously, this category has been one of the few to have actually fallen and remained below 100 points on Thailand's 2007-base CPI. Not any more.

However, CPI indicates that products and services in the four categories of apparel and footwear, public transportation, recreation and education and communication and equipments all remain relatively more affordable than five years ago, now at 98.9, 94.9, 92.5 and 99 points, respectively. – **Steven Layne**

Airport bus contracts up for grabs – again

PRIVATE contractors yet again have the option of bidding for the government concessions to operate three new bus services from Phuket International Airport.

Phuket Provincial Land Transportation Office (PLTO) Chief Terayout Prasertphol announced this week that he expects his superiors to approve three new routes: to Rawai; to Kata-Karon via Patong; and to Kamala.

"Once the Department of Land Transport in Bangkok approves the new routes, we will be able to present them to the governor for approval. Only then can we open the concessions to public tender.

"We expect to open the bidding by about October 15," he said.

"The schedule will be coordinated with flight schedules. The services will run at least six buses per route, departing every 30 minutes.



Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) Chief Terayout Prasertphol.

"The maximum fare would not exceed 120 baht per passenger, and we will consider allowing more buses if the operators say they are needed," he added.

Mr Terayout in November last year pointed out to provincial officials that the PLTO has offered three bus-service concessions since 2003.

"However, no operators applied to provide bus services... for fear of being attacked by 'mafia'," Mr Terayout said.

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Travel phone apps

A user friendly tech tip list for the casual tourist



HEY BABY: Your phone won't know you're on vacation and it might be an important call. Photos: Flickr; Bill S

WE ALL take our mobile phones with us when we travel, be it for business purposes or for relaxation.

The costs of international roaming can become exorbitant, however the explosion in phone apps, either free or with nominal download charges, could provide the solution.

Most will require an internet connection, though "free WiFi" is commonplace, and many offer offline features which can be prepped before departure.

Here is a small sample of apps that can provide even the most seasoned among us with hints, tips, cost savings and gems that may otherwise be missed.

Obviously there are the ubiquitous free-call providers such as *Viber* and *Skype*, and specialized SMS/MMS tools like *WhatsApp*, but what else is out there in the mobile-ether?

Stay.com is a travel guide to over 120 cities worldwide, including Bangkok, and whilst relatively new to Android and iPhone it is already receiving rave reviews.

It offers all the expected

information, such as hotel and restaurant reviews, together with must see attractions in your destination of choice.

In addition, it provides a full download option for offline use, with an incredibly small file size, bearing in mind the detail given for each city, which includes maps and directions, emergency information and a fast search facility for almost anything else you may need.

This app will automatically let you sync with friends travelling together to ensure you all have the same guide. Of course you can add your own places of interest or notes, such as a friend's apartment or meeting points, with linking to Facebook to share the experience.

HearPlanet, available either in a lite or premium version (US\$4.99) is an audio guide to places of interest with over 300,000 locations, including some notable sites in

Phuket.

HearPlanet's content is drawn from Wikipedia, though there are more detailed bespoke descriptions for many places. The maps are not the best and as a consequence the "lite" version is preferred by the 10,000+ downloaders.

For security, another useful app for Android users is *Plan B*, which allows you to find your lost or stolen phone, even if it's on silent.

It's best to install *Plan B* before you lose your phone but a 'remote install' can be performed. You remotely install the application on your phone using an email address and when it is turned on and has an internet signal the app sends a Google map with your phone's GPS location to your email address.

Woody Leonhard is taking a well deserved break, *LiveWire* will return again next week.



Tips for tech start-ups

By Jay Jootar

HERE are some tips to help reduce the chance of failure for someone who decides to start up a tech company in Thailand for the first time.

1) Think more about the market, not just the product

Two common mistakes startups make are (A) pick a product market that is too crowded, therefore very competitive; (B) pick a product that has too little or no market at all.

A lot of startups focus too much on building products and too little on figuring out who and how to sell it.

Spend a substantial amount of time finding out about the market.

Study your competitors and potential customers, to avoid making these obvious mistakes.

2) Design products that are tough to copy

Hopefully, one day Thailand will have a better environment for people who create intellectual property. But until that day comes, it might be wiser to pick products that are inherently difficult to copy by pirates or competitors.

If you are into smartphone apps, try having the features distributed between the app itself and the back end. In fact, locate most core features in the back end if you can.

3) Target regional markets from day one

Thailand is a good place to live, eat and play. But it is too small a market for tech startups.

Think of a regional market from day one. Be ambitious.

Create a network of partners who can help you expand to other countries. Be international.

Have an online presence that attracts potential customers from other countries. That means an English website at the very least.



GURU: Tech tips direct from MIT.

4) Think big, execute small

As a tech startup, you should think big in terms of the end goals of what your company will become.

That's what attracts customers, partners and investors to your camp. On the other hand, the life of a tech start-up is rife with uncertainty. It is imperative to validate your vision with realities in an iterative fashion. Develop an increment of your product, get feedback from outside, adjust your direction, and repeat. This ensures you're on track.

5) Don't wait for investors, get money from customers if you can

It is a mistake to put all your hope for funding on investors.

If there is a way for you to generate revenues from customers, do it. Startups with revenue streams look much better in the eyes of investors, and can get better deals.

Better yet, you might not even need an investor at all. The goal of tech startups should be to build a profitable long-lasting enterprise, not to get rich quick with someone else's money.

Jay Jootar (*drjaysayhi.com*) is founder and CEO of Venture Catalyst (the VC group), tech entrepreneur and investor, MIT graduate, and former telecom executive.

KBank targets 3 million cyber users

KASIKORN Bank aims to have more than 3 million users of its mobile banking and cyber banking services by the end of the year.

Art Wichiencharoen, first senior vice president of Kasikorn bank, said that the company usually invests about 100 million baht annually, to keep the bank's technologies up to date and provide a range of cyber-banking and mobile-banking services.

Currently, the bank has more than 1.4 million users of its cyber banking services, with 400,000 active users per month. It has more than 1.2 million registered users of its mobile banking service, with about 500,000 active users per month.

Mobile banking and cyber banking users together number about 2.7 million, which accounts for



Art Wichiencharoen, first senior vice president of KBank.

30 per cent of the bank's total customers. By the end of this year, the bank aims to increase that number to over 3 million.

Apart from cyber banking, KBank also has 'K Cyber Service' that includes K Cyber Trade and K Cyber Invest. Moreover, it provides a payment gateway called

K Payment Gateway (similar to Paypal).

Currently, it has a 70 per cent share of the total market value of e-payments over the Internet in Thailand. This comes from approximately 3,500 merchants.

"We also have 50 per cent of [the] market share in terms of e-transactions over Internet and mobile banking," said Art.

Last week, the bank launched its new information

services, called askKBank.com, a search engine that provides relevant information on banking and financial matters. The search engine innovation is part of the bank's digital banking strategy to meet the needs of customers in various financial matters.

- The Nation

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Calculating the Sharpe ratio

ONE statistic you will often see when looking at a fund's performance is the "Sharpe ratio".

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

As a guide post, one could substitute in the longer term return of the S&P 500 as 10%. Assume the risk-free return is 1%,

This is an attempt to quantify the excess return for a given level of risk. For example, two funds may both return 12%. If one returns a steady 1% every month while the other swings up and down, common sense and our blood pressure readings both tell us the first fund is better.

Where it gets tricky is if one fund returns 9% and another fund returns 13% with a higher level of volatility. The Sharpe ratio is an attempt to quantitatively compare which one gives "more bang for your buck" in terms of stomaching risk.

To quickly estimate a Sharpe ratio, subtract a benchmark "risk free" long term average rate, such as what a government bond pays; let's assume 3.5%, (even though that seems like a dream in today's markets). Take the return of the investment you are looking at and divide by its annual volatility.

So, a fund such as Axiom, to give an extreme positive example, returns about 12%. Subtract from this the 3.5% risk free yield to get an excess return of 8.5%. Then, divide this by the fund's annual volatility of 1% to get an amazing Sharpe ratio of about 8.5.

and the average standard deviation of the S&P 500 is about 16%. Doing the math, we get that the average, long-term Sharpe Ratio of the US market is about 0.4 = ((10%-3.5%)/16%).

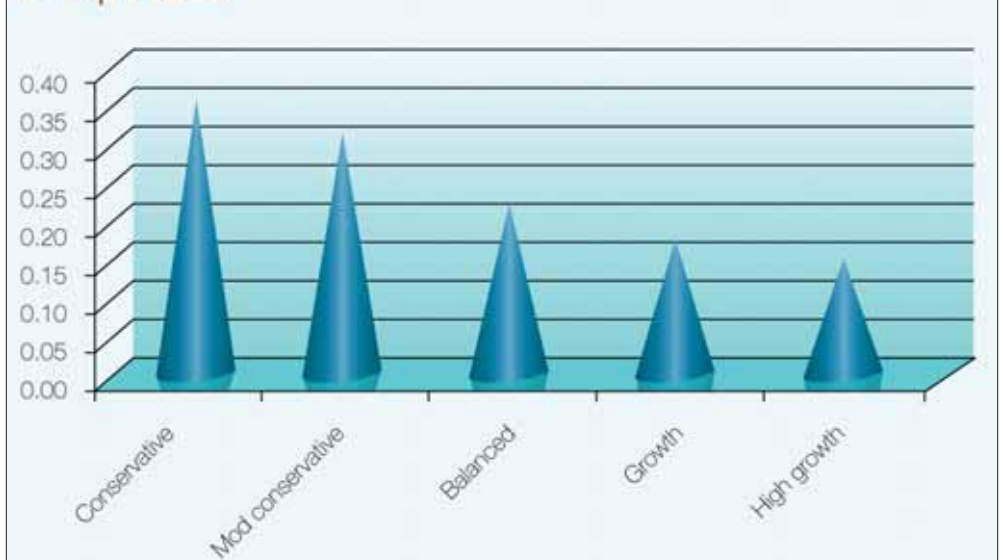
The Sharpe ratio of the Winton trend following fund, which is a very consistent market-based fund, is about 8. This fund essentially gives twice the return per unit of risk when compared to a diversified US stock market investment.

The main problems involved with the Sharpe ratio are that it is backwards-looking and ignores the negative effects of highly-correlated negative returns, or very large future negative returns, which are terms for the total failure of a fund.

If a strategy produces great results, right up until a rare event causes a blow-up, such as the famous Long Term Capital Management crisis caused by the Russian default, the Sharpe ratio will look great beforehand and have no predictive value to help avoid the enormous loss about to be suffered.

One needs to look at the entire picture when considering investments, and in my opinion the Sharpe ratio is an excellent "relative" tool. This means it helps look

Sharpe ratio



NOT THE SHARPEST TOOL IN THE SHED: This graph depicts risk over return, based on the Sharpe ratio formula.

at how funds have performed in the past, relative to each other, but it does not help predict if a fund will get into trouble in the future.

This is an extremely important distinction that you must never forget. You always need to consider as many possible scenarios in the future as you can, no matter how unlikely, and try to determine how the funds in your portfolio would be affected by these scenarios.

Nobody has a crystal ball, but if you understand what situations might negatively affect a fund you hold, then you can be on the lookout and get out if there are any signs of trouble.

David Mayes MBA lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expats around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. He can be reached at 085-335-8573 or david.m@faramond.com

Challenges ahead of ASEAN's young union

By Chris Hudon

ELIMINATING tariffs that financially penalize members of ASEAN, is one of the stated long-term goals of the AEC (ASEAN Economic Community).

When economic unions were proposed in the United States and Europe, tariffs became a defining factor that would later determine the outcome of those unions.

Now that ASEAN has decided to form an economic union – the AEC – in order to exert greater regional influence and become more financially prosperous, member-states must decide on an effective tariff structure that won't put any of its 10 member-states at a disadvantage.

Indeed, this will prove a challenge. The first question is: How will the AEC practically eliminate tariffs and promote equal business opportunities among member-nations?

According to the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN (ERIA), a government-funded think tank, the AEC's goal is to eliminate 95% of tariffs between ASEAN and other countries that it has made Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with.

ASEAN currently holds separate trade agreements with Australia, India, China, South Korea and Japan. These individual agreements between ASEAN and any one non-ASEAN country, are commonly referred to as "ASEAN +1".

With the AEC's economic integration deadline of 2015 fast approaching, ASEAN must now decide on how it will approach the daunting task of eliminating tariffs.

A similar case happened when the European Union decided to adopt a single external tariff applied by all of its member-states to imports from non-members.

Internal trade between the EU

was aided by removal of barriers to trade, such as tariffs and border controls. The case of the Eurozone was helped further by not having currency differences to deal with.

With ASEAN, according to a recent ERIA policy brief, a "Common Concession" approach is to be applied. This means that: "A country [would] strategically focus its policy discretion [and] allow for sensitive industries on a more limited number of products.

"Assuming 95% tariff elimination is the target, for example, a country can choose up to 5% of (its) products to protect, while opening up the rest [to free trade]," suggest the report's authors Yoshifumi Fukunaga and Arata Kuno.

Opening up a product to trade means that no tax, subsidy or tariff will artificially alter the price of production for certain goods.

Such restriction-free trade may

lead, some fear, to what is known in financial lingo as "dumping". According to about.com, dumping is: "An informal name for the practice of selling a product in a foreign country for less than either the price in the domestic country, or the cost of making the product."

It is illegal in many places to dump products, so that domestic manufacturers are protected from unfair competition.

For example, in Thailand, government subsidies (derived from taxes) help the country to produce rice at a lower price than its actual cost.

However, some experts, such as Jonathan Head, of the BBC's Southeast Asia Bureau, suggest that subsidies may ultimately wind up hurting the Kingdom in the long run.

He points out that even though Thailand has been the World's

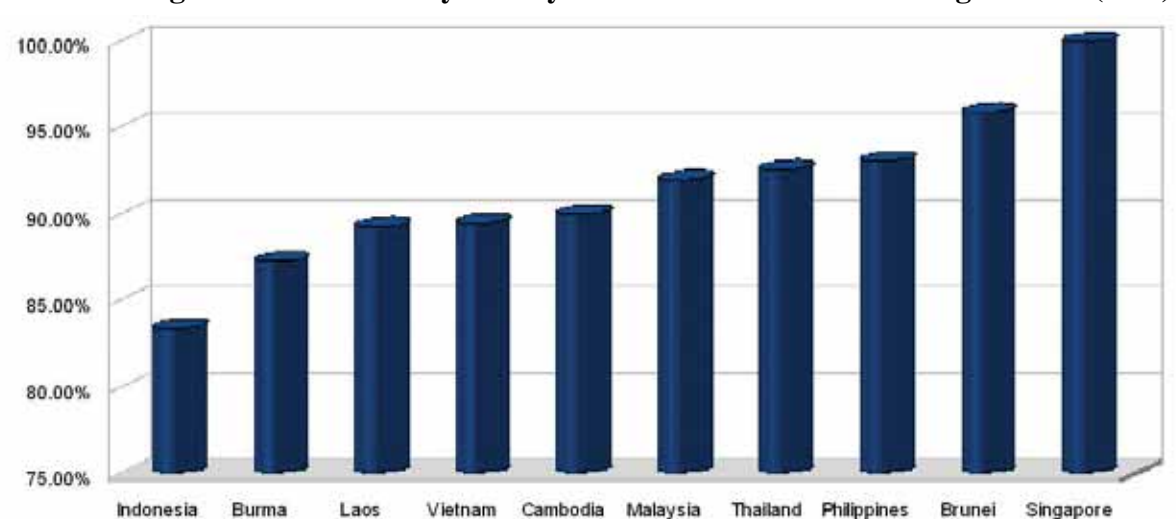
leading rice producer for over two decades, its farmers are as poor and susceptible to weather as they have ever been.

Most economists believe that subsidies are a form of "protectionism" and are inherently bad for trade because they make domestic goods and services artificially competitive against imports. But, Thailand is by no means the only ASEAN country with inward-looking economic policies.

A practical solution, in other words, detailed legislation guaranteeing "open" trade on certain products, will need to be enacted before the union takes effect.

Though few could argue that free trade will hurt ASEAN, perhaps the union should first focus inward, and decide what to do among members before making Free Trade agreements with non-members.

Table: Average tariff elimination by country under ASEAN+1 Free Trade Agreements (FTA)





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Stand up for comedy

Eddy Brimson, Mickey Hutton and Marcus Ryan are in town for one night of no-holds barred, stand-up comedy at the Holiday Inn, Patong on October 24 at 8pm.



TASTES LIKE CHICKEN: Eddy Brimson gets into character.

Eddy Brimson

ONE of the UK circuits' most in demand headline acts, he regularly works with leading promoters.

Eddy played the first-ever *Altitude Festival* in the French Alps in 2008 and the *Sydney Cracker Festival* in Australia. He has taken his comedy to such far flung places as Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain and once even played a gig naked. Initially a sports writer, Brimson has seven books to his name, plus the 1998 documentary *Tear Gas & Tantrums* about English football fans

attending the World Cup in France, which became a video bestseller.

The next year, he appeared as part of the *Gilded Balloon Mid-night Show* at the 2001 Edinburgh Fringe. He made his solo debut at the *Free Festival* with "Eddy Brimson Is Free", in 2007. He has also appeared in a number of TV shows as an actor, including *EastEnders*, where he played a villain who turned over Frank Butcher's car lot.

"We saw him last night, he was hilarious...nearly wet myself," says a Chortle.com user..

Mickey Hutton

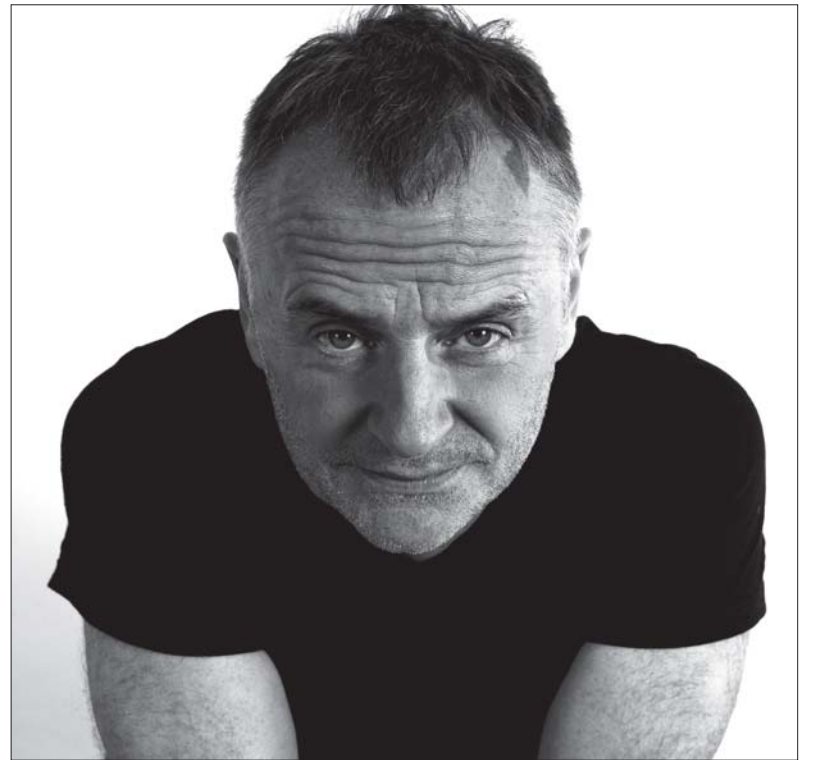
Newcastle-born comedian Mickey Hutton has performed all over the world in venues as far apart as the Falklands Islands, Shanghai, Jakarta and Mumbai. He has directed and written for television, as well as appearing in front of the camera for shows as diverse as *Spender*, *Hearts of Gold*, *Hangar 17*, *The Royal Variety Show*, *Monarch Of The Glen* and *Crocodile Shoes*. Mickey had a regular column in *The Sun* and his debut novel, *Massive* got fantastic reviews.

He still treads the boards as an actor and was recently in John Godber's award winning play, *Bouncers*. Now he is writing his second novel and is a regular compère at the Comedy Store in London. "Mickey Hutton is hilarious, cheeky and irreverent. I love him," says Judy McGuire of *Sunday Magazine*.

Marcus Ryan

Perennial globetrotter Marcus Ryan is a gifted storyteller with a natural comic bent and has been featured at so many festivals and clubs it's hard to know where home is these days. One thing's for sure, he's right at home on stage.

A laid back yet engaging stage presence, Marcus charms his audiences with tales from the road and a sharp wit. He has written for radio, television and stage. His comedy stylings have been featured at both the Edinburgh Comedy Festi-



CLASS CLOWNS: Mickey Hutton (above) and Marcus Ryan (not above).



val and Montreal's *Just For Laughs*. As an MC he has performed in Australia, USA, Canada, Belgium, Holland, Spain, Guatemala, Ireland and UK.

"Marcus Ryan came with a well-honed act, good, solid, funny stuff delivered with a great deal of personality," says the *Edinburgh*

Evening News in April of 2009.

"His free-flowing delivery and exceptional take on standard stand-up material is worth catching at any time."

The Phuket Gazette is a sponsor of the the Punchline Comedy Club. For more info see our What's On page.

Festival goers over the moon

Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE MOON Festival, also known in China as the Mid-Autumn Festival, ended recently at Queen Sirikit Park in Phuket Town.

"The Moon Festival has existed for centuries. This festival is important to Chinese people because many of their celebrations are connected with the moon," said Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana at the opening of the festival.

"People will pay respect to the moon with fruits, peanuts and moon cake," she added.

In Chinese culture, apart from the practice of giving mooncakes to family and friends, there are other regional traditions.

In some parts of China, the festival is also used for matchmaking. Dances are held for young men and women to find partners.

Young women are encouraged to throw their handkerchiefs to the crowd. The young man who



LUNAR MADNESS: These 'moon' cakes will be for sale throughout the island.

catches and returns the handkerchief has a chance of romance.

Mayor Somjai explained that many Phuketians who had either settled overseas or lived in other provinces will come back to visit their parents, visit temples and eat mooncake together.

"The aim of the festival is to preserve the culture and tradition

of Phuket, which we want to keep. During the Moon Festival, several kinds of mooncake along with local dishes will be on sale at many places," she added.

Mayor Somjai invited one and all to join in tribute to HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on the occasion of his 85th birthday on December 5.



Chalong's Rintang

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

The first thing you notice when walking into Rintang@Chalong is its smart ambiance. Past the intricately carved wooden door, is a light and airy space, tastefully decorated with Thai *objet d'art* and minimalist furniture.

Tall glass windows invite in the surrounding flower garden and the tantalizing views of Wat Chalong beyond.

Talking to the staff, we learn that Rintang started life some fifteen years ago as a humble roadside shack, whose modest menu included only a few local dishes. However, it was famous for serving the best *chao kuey* in town. This popular black jelly in iced syrup soon became Rintang's signature dessert.

Having expanded and opened their first restaurant on Tungka Road, Rintang, has carved out a niche that combines an eatery serving tasty food and, to cater to Thai tourists, a shop that stocks the local produce Phuket is famous for – dried fish, curry paste, and of course the famous black jelly.

Its latest branch Rintang@Chalong, opened two years ago, and has kept its tradition in tact by dedicating one large area of space at the back to stocking these dried delicacies.

The eating areas are sectioned into three zones: an air-conditioned indoor-space, serving lunch; an outdoor cafe area with oversized rattan chairs and its own coffee bar, and a charming balcony dining area surrounded by a lush garden and overlooking a lagoon.

For a quick lunch, there's no better place to be than close to the fastfood counter that runs the length of the indoor space.

Don't let this canteen-styled setting put you off, the food laid out behind it – although a common fare – is of fresh and good quality. You can choose from various curries and stir-fries, but there's also a noodle bar where you can order soups or fried noodles, which are freshly made for you.

Moving along the counter there's a *som tum* bar where

papaya salad with soft-shell crabs can be rustled up exactly to your liking. For example, we like it medium hot, without peanuts and with plenty of crabs.

Don't like pre-made food? No problem. Rintang's menu offers many local delicacies: Malaysian-styled *kari mai fan* (chicken curry with tofu); or the creamy and sweet curry with crab meat, both accompanied with fine rice noodles; noodle soup with pork ribs; *mee hokkian* (famous Phuket stir-fried yellow noodles) and an assortment of meats and seafoods.

Of course, to end the meal and cleanse the palate, you must try the stuff that made Rintang famous: its refreshing health-giving black jelly in iced syrup. There are also a few other iced desserts – our favorite being the multi-grain

cereal in coconut milk. But Rintang also serves a very good *crème brûlée*.

Rintang's location opposite the side gate of Wat Chalong means that any overindulgence can be walked off as you stroll over to the temple grounds to enjoy the beautiful architecture. Rintang@Chalong is a favorite luncheon spot for many

local Thais and Koreans, but the assistant manager notes that expats tend to come in the evening when the indoor section is closed and life continues on outside at the balcony.

The dinner menu features many delectable seafood dishes such as tamarind prawns, fish cooked in many different styles and sauces. Our favorite is fried whole fish served with green mango salad. Try also the *yam apple* or apple salad, which combines apple slivers with plenty of sliced lemon grass (a great combination), shallots and cashew nuts in a dressing of lime, fish sauce and mint.

For quality food and super ambiance, Rintang@Chalong is definitely unbeatable. What's more, is that the price is quite reasonable too.

Open: 8:30am to 11pm daily
Location: Soi Luang Por Cham (the road beside Wat Chalong that runs between Chao Fah East and West)
Tel: 076 374911, 089 7305388



IMPRESSIVE: The entranceway to Rintang restaurant in Chalong is adorned with ornate wooden carvings.



Staple Thai fare. Chili dip with fresh vegetables.



Apple salad with shrimps.

Boathouse Wine & Grill

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Boathouse on Kata Beach will host a night of fabulous Laurent-Perrier Champagnes complemented by a four course dinner, with entertainment by Boathouse Jazz Band.

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Photo: Marc Mulloy



Photo: Marc Mulloy



Photo: Dan Miles Media

When the going gets ecological...

MOTHER nature provided almost perfect weather on the day over 500 people decided to give her a helping hand by removing over 15 tons of trash from under the waves. The Sunday event was called 'Go

Eco Phuket' and was part of the PADI and Project AWARE-sponsored 'Dive Against Debris'. Those involved can now proudly say they assisted in the biggest reef cleanup of any kind in the world.

14 PADI dive boats and over 400 divers participated in cleaning reefs off Koh Racha Noi, Koh Racha Yai, Phi Phi Island, Koh

Khao Nok and Koh Hei.

The united effort, brought together dive operators, local resorts and tourism-dependent businesses, government agencies and even the Royal Thai Navy. The *Phuket Gazette* was also a proud sponsor and, in the belief that a picture is worth a thousand words here are some images of the day.



Photo: Dan Miles Media



Photo: Christian Mouchet

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Photo: Dan Miles Media



Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

Go Eco Phuket

Phuket's divers speak, and the world listens

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

PADI dive professionals, from dive master to instructor examiner, united and made Phuket's reefs their number one priority last weekend by taking part in Go Eco Phuket's record breaking reef cleanup.

Tasked with bringing up the bigger debris and the 4.5 ton net in Banana Bay those on board Khao Lak Scuba Adventures Manta Queen III were obviously excited about the opportunity.

Divers with hundreds of dives returned to our boat after their first dive with enormous tyres and debris bags stuffed – all smiling like discover scuba divers after seeing their first lion fish, or game hunters with a prize Kudu in tow. And as day one of the event turned into day two, those smiles never faded.

Geoffrey Cole, trip leader of Khao Lak Scuba Adventures' Manta Queen III

It went amazingly. Everyone deserves the same amount of congratulations for what they've done. Also, thanks to the Thai Navy for helping us out so much. Without them it wouldn't have been possible to lift that huge net out of the water. Thanks to the fishing trawler as well, which came along and helped us out when we needed it.

It's a nice sight seeing that massive mountain of netting lifted off the reef and floating along. On the last dive you could see spots where things were, but had been lifted, and probably in two days you'd never know anything was there.

Hopefully the next time someone is there, they will pick up a little bit, even when they are out fun diving.

Matt "F5" O'Connor, freelance PADI Instructor

This is some of the most fun I've had underwater since I was a student. It's not all the time we get to play with lift bags and do search and recovery patterns.

...To put our skills to work and see the difference we made just from the debris on the back of the boat, it's quite a feat for everyone here.

Robert J Scammell PADI Instructor Examiner

I think it's a great compliment to the dive industry of Phuket for everyone to collaborate and make such a successful event. The dive centers and dive store owners need to continue their relationship of being supportive of each other and the environment they want their customers to enjoy.



Helen Maceen, PADI Course Director at Blue Guru Conservation and Diving

So we did three dives [on the 4.5 ton net]. On the first dive we went down to assess it. A lot of the net was caught on coral bommies, so we spent the whole of the first 50 minutes dive just carefully cutting it away so there was no damage [done to the corals] and [ensured that it was] free of marine life caught in it, such as sea cucumbers...[On] Day two, they sent in another two lift bags, including one 1,000 kilogram lift bag, and with all of [them] we were successful.



I think that it's great that so many dive centers and staff are giving up their time and boats to make a bigger difference than we all could individually.

Kevin Black, PADI Master Instructor for Kiwidivers.com

The real point of being on re-breathers for a 90min dive was that it enabled us to sit at a deeper depth for the entire 90min and cover deep areas. It was actually surprising the amount of stuff, out over the sandy, that we could find and bring up. We turned up a purple Wellington boot, but I didn't end up taking it with me because it had marine life living in it.



It is often very difficult to decide if something is going to do more damage to the marine environment by bringing the alien matter that shouldn't be down there up, or whether it is better to leave it down there as artificial reef.

I think the trick would be to do cleanups more often, so you can get the rubbish while it's fresh, rather than after it's become part of the marine habitat.

Tomoi Arakawa, Freedom Divers PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer

I just wanted to help [even with sorting the debris brought up]. I think we should do it annually, which Kerry said will happen. I would love to join next year too.

The highlight was to cleanup dive sites that we normally go to, so we don't have to show all the underwater rubbish to customers.

Niklas Konradsdal, Andaman Ocean Safaris tour leader

Until we actually do something like this, you might not realize how much stuff is actually in the water – it opens your eyes. I think something like this needs to be done more often. It is getting done every now and then, but just considering the amount of the stuff they found – apparently not often enough.



Renate Stein, Khao Lak Scuba Adventures PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer

The amount of debris we found here was much more than I expected. And what's even more, is the amount we had to leave behind. I would love to spend one week in this bay with a boat like this, a group like this, and just clean. There is more work to do.



Andrei Zavarin, freelance PADI instructor

Seeing people working together in one direction because of one thing, to clean our sea – it's awesome. And everyone is working for better dive sites – that's why I love it. Look at every boat and there is tons and tons of rubbish, and all



Participants in Go Eco Phuket reef cleanup lifted over 15 tons of debris from the ocean. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli, Headshots: Robert J Scammell

that rubbish that comes out, it kills less, so it definitely has an impact.

Robert Coehoorn, PADI Open Water Diver

It shows that even on your sixth dive you can do something to get the oceans clean. And I reckon that this will happen again every year, but we might as well, every now

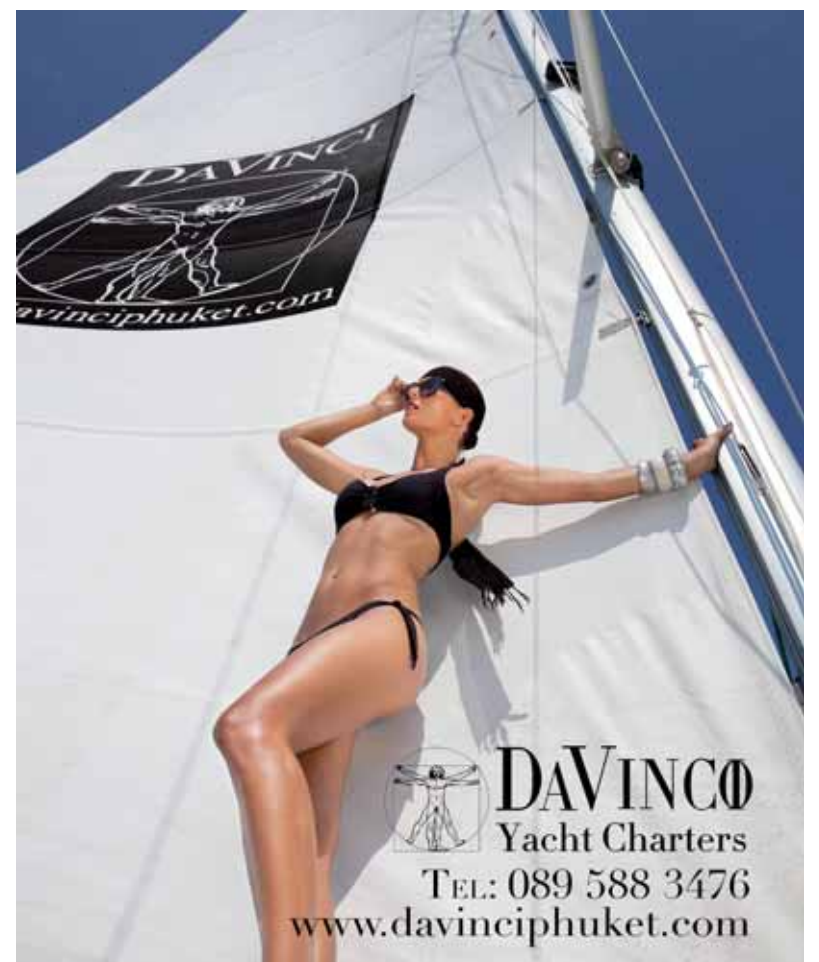


and then, sacrifice one dive and clean some rubbish up.

Everyone can do it, and I guess I prove that as brand new open water diver.

For more information on Go Eco Phuket and future projects visit goecophuket.weebly.com/go-eco-phuket-blog.html or contact Kerry Leach by email by writing to: phuket@subaqua-divecenter.com. Also, you can contact Tony Andrews at Tony.Andrews@padi.com.au

For more coverage of the event see opposite page, p5 and p10.



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Imponderables

- Why does your gynecologist leave the room when you undress?
- If a person owns a piece of land, do they own it all the way down to the center of the Earth?
- Why can't women put their mascara on with their mouth closed?
- Why is it called alcoholics anonymous when the first thing you do is stand up and say "Hi, my name's Bob. I'm an alcoholic?"
- Why are they called stairs inside but steps outside?
- Why is there a light in the fridge but not in the freezer?
- Why does mineral water that has trickled through mountains for centuries have a use by date?
- Why do toasters always have a setting on them which burns your toast to a horrible crisp no one would eat?
- What do people in China call their good plates?
- If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?
- Why does Goofy stand on two legs when Pluto remains on four? They're both dogs.
- What do you call male ballerinas?
- Can blind people see their dreams and do they dream?
- If Wile E Coyote has enough money to buy all that Acme stuff why doesn't he buy his dinner?
- Why is a person who handles money called a broker?
- If quizzes are quizzical, what are tests?
- If a man is alone in a forest and no woman is there to hear him is he still wrong?
- Why is it that when someone tells you that there's billions of stars in the universe, you believe them. But if they tell you there's wet paint somewhere you have to touch it?



One sign could hide another...



PC HUMOR: Photo submitted by Bob Mott



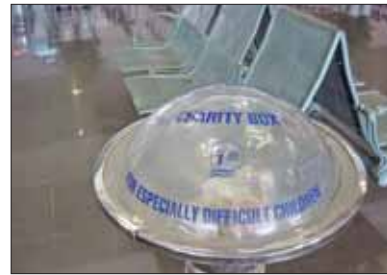
BRIGHT SOLUTION: Photo submitted by Prompun Punpuing



DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO JOIN? Photo submitted by Bob Mott



DANGEROUS GOATS? Photo submitted by Bob Mott



An interview with a Higgs boson



THE wonderful world of particle physics is agog at the recent discovery of the 'Higgs boson'. This is not to be confused with the 'Higgs bosom', a stunning anatomical configuration possessed by Miss Fanny Higgs, an exotic dancer in Las Vegas. No. A Higgs boson is a subatomic particle. Through my extensive mafia connections I managed to score an interview with one of them, a gregarious little chap named Freddie.

Me: Exactly what is a Higgs boson, Freddie?

Freddie: We are the tiniest of subatomic particles. And we hate being called the God Particle. We don't like being called the Higgs boson, either. It's too easy to confuse us with the stupendous superstructure of Miss Fanny Higgs, which is considerably larger than we are – and much more attractive.

Me: But why are you so important?

Freddie: We give other particles mass. They then bunch up and coalesce into matter.

Me: How do you give them mass?

Freddie: We sit there and wait till another particle comes whizzing by and say, "Hey, Dude, would you like some mass?" Usually they say yes. We hand over some mass, and they continue on their way.

Me: What if they don't want any mass?

Freddie: Then they die. Subatomic particles have a very short life. But if they can latch onto some mass, they last longer. Think of a sprinter running a race. If he's not carrying anything, he'll zip past in a flash. But if you throw him an anvil to carry, he'll stick

around longer.

Me: Where do you get the mass from?

Freddie: Mostly Massachusetts.

Me: What a terrible pun.

Freddie: True. But what agitates our subatomic brains is the brutal way the physicists went about finding us. They dug a humongous subterranean tunnel in Switzerland, built the Large Hadron Collider, and used giant magnets to smash particles into each other at incredible speeds. The particles broke open and we came tumbling out. Is that not cruel? Is that not inhumane? Is that the behavior of a civilized species?

Me: I guess not.

Freddie: If they had just asked us politely, we would have been happy to come out. But no, they had to destroy billions of particles in the most vicious way possible without so much as a friendly "Howya doin'?" The particle-rights activists are planning to file a complaint.

Me: If you were in Thailand, it would be different. Here they would welcome you with smiles and music and offer you *khanoms* and teach you to dance the *ramwong* beneath a crescent moon. The TAT would change your name to the *Miracle Particle*, rename 2012 "Thai Miracle Particle Year," and sponsor beauty contests to choose Miss Thailand *Miracle Particle*. They'd give you vouchers to go shopping at Siam Paragon and charm you with discounts, promotions, and "buy one, get one free."

Freddie: That would be a lot better than being smashed to smithereens in a cold, dark European tunnel.

Ye Olde Curmudgeon can be lauded for his scientific expertise c/o s.tsow@gmail.com, except when he's in Las Vegas looking for Miss Fanny Higgs.

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LaGUNA PHUKET

Phuket's own daredevil



Jamieson at his home near Cape Panwa. Photo: Chris Hudon



FLYING OFF THE HANDLE: Jamieson takes off like Superman over four buses, in Poznan, Poland, after ditching his bike.

By Chris Hudon

PHUKET is sometimes compared to the Wild West, and, although a dramatic comparison, it can be true. You never know what *can* happen here, or *who* you might find doing it.

Phuket has a tendency to draw extraordinary individuals. Quiet neighborhoods overlooking the ocean that house the secretly rich and famous. You might meet the person who invented the "winged suit", the sailor that set a record for circumnavigating the globe, or a Bollywood film star looking for a secluded beach.

One such character has been living in Phuket for many years, though you may not have had occasion to meet him – yet. He was a personal friend of Evel Knievel, and has been performing death-defying stunts for several decades. The real deal.

Now a man of more advanced years, he says he's not ready to give up performing, and wants to make a dramatic comeback to the business of being a daredevil. Best of all, he wants to do it right here on our sunny paradise island.

What stunt will he perform?

All things in their turn, but first, the life and times of Phuket's-own professional daredevil.

Ian Jamieson was born in Adelaide, Australia. He was a sickly child often told he couldn't do a thing, only to do it anyway.

Ian says he never really wanted to be a stuntman: "Originally, I wanted to be a film producer but stunts were the only way I could think of to break into the film industry."

Ian and three close friends toured Poland in 1986 performing stunts to packed arenas. He says that experience gave him a unique insight into the "Iron Curtain" of the former Soviet Bloc.

He says that as much as the US and Australia were worried that Russia would bomb them, Polish people were deathly afraid the US and Australia would bomb Poland.

In Warsaw, while performing a high-fall from thirty meters, blindfolded, into explosives, he narrowly missed his landing pad and hit the ground in front of 83,000 people who looked on in terror.

"I had many signals, red flags that I brushed aside," says Jamieson, "I should have known better."

"I had many signals, red flags that I brushed aside," says Ian, "I should have known better."

After suffering a cracked sternum from that incident, Jamieson pulled through and performed the same trick three weeks later to the same arena, only this time with thunderous applause from the crowd.

After a couple of near-misses while touring in Poland, he decided to stop performing for a while and move on to something different.

In 1991 he came to Phuket to set up 'Tarzan's Bungy Jump' in Kathu and has been here ever since.

Now, at the age of sixty, he isn't in the shape he was as a young man. Does he have a deathwish?

"Phuket is still the Wild West – so many people come here to escape or start a second life," says Jamieson, adding he's no exception.

"You hear many stories and you don't know if they're true or not. Phuket just attracts unusual people from around the world."

"But, I'm trying to be sensible,"



DON'T JUMP: Moments before the accident in Warsaw, Poland, in 1986. After this accident Ian performed the same trick three weeks later.



Ian (left) stands with his mentor and friend, Evel Knievel, at Evel's home in Butte, Montana, in the summer of 1979.

he answers before I can ask the obvious question; noting that people often ask why he would risk his life so foolishly. "A helicopter is less distance [than I'm used to jumping] but [it] still looks dangerous to the audience."

Jamieson has been brainstorming with several event managers on the island. He wants to figure out what is coming up in the high season that his performance could be included in. The stunt would require a crowd large enough to sustain the spectacle (several thousand at least), the blessing of the government and a helicopter.

"There're a lot of powerful people in Phuket now, who, when I started, were starting," says Ian, "And I think there could be

a lot of interest in me performing this stunt and people putting up money or helping knock down hurdles so it can happen."

Jamieson says he's made Phuket his adopted home and wants to give back by creating a performance unlike anything else in the Kingdom.

He reveals that he would crash his motorcycle into a wall, catapulting him over the blades of a military helicopter.

Details will be in the *Gazette* as they become available and you can see Jamieson this week on the *Phuket Today* show (Channel 9) and UBC/True Visions (Channel 99).

If you are interested in sponsoring Ian or know of a potential venue, contact: ibjamieson@gmail.com.

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This bear is obscene

Film

By Alexander Maycock

TED is not an animated children's film! It's a devious adult comedy, directed and co-written by Seth MacFarlane, the creator of TV's *Family Guy*. The film stars Mark Wahlberg and Mila Kunis in MacFarlane's feature-length directorial debut.

Met with widespread critical acclaim, *Ted* is currently the highest-grossing R-rated film of 2012, as well as the 9th highest grossing film of 2012.

The story begins in 1985, at a small suburb of South Boston, where a lonely kid wishes that his new Christmas gift, a large bear he names Teddy, or "Ted", will come to life to be his best friend. His wish comes true on a falling star and Ted is brought to life.

Flash forward to 2012, where John (Mark Wahlberg) and Ted (voiced and motion captured by Seth MacFarlane) live in Boston's South End – raunchy, immature roommates, enjoying a hedonistic life.

The film has the mood of *Old School*, or *Knocked Up*, or *The*

40-Year-Old Virgin: a sort of man-boy world where guys accept the reality of working for a living, but try to escape it.

Tensions arise when an adult John wants to pursue a serious relationship with a woman named Lori Collins (Mila Kunis), who could be the love of his life.

When their fourth anniversary approaches, Lori hopes to marry John, but she says he won't move on with his life until Ted is gone for good.

At this point, Ted's novelty has worn off everyone and he becomes a dirty, vulgar, pot-smoking burnout teddy bear (the funniest kind).

Narrated by Patrick Stewart, who moves the plot along in a *Christmas Carol* sort of way, his voice adds a lightheartedness to the fairy tale part of the story that almost fools the audience

I saw the film with a female friend, who, several times had to blush at the sheer audacity of the movie's dialogue; its willingness to exploit digital FX and make a seemingly-cute teddy bear do unspeakably hilarious things.

into thinking it really could be a heartwarming fable.

Let me assure you – it's not. This hilariously obscene film is written in the style of *Jay and Silent Bob*, *Dogma* and *Superbad*.

I saw the film with a female friend, who, several times had to blush at the sheer audacity of the movie's dialogue; its willingness to exploit digital FX and make a seemingly-cute teddy bear do some unspeakably hilarious things.

Our theater was a diverse crowd with a mixture of uproarious laughter and disgust (among some of its obviously more conservative viewers). They had clearly mistaken the film for something it was not.

Think about how easy it might be to mistake this movie for a Disney film if you didn't know.

Imagine, you are a Thai mother and you don't speak English. You see the poster of a movie with a lovable teddy bear and think, "The kids have been good. How about that English movie with the bear? 'It will help their studies.'"

Then, as the bear proceeds to say things that would never be allowed on TV – in Thailand or America – the realization hits that you may have made a mistake. This was the case for some



BEAR NECESSITIES: Ted is a well-deserved laugh for everyone.

families in our theater, I think.

While certainly not a film for children, *Ted*'s a genuine good time if you like the dry humor of *Family Guy* and *South Park*.

In its own shameless way, *Ted* is really very funny.

I particularly enjoyed John and Ted's bizarre exchanges on the subject of white-trash names, their final falling out, and the brutal man-on-bear fight that

extended far longer than it should have.

This film could well be described as "comedy is very subjective" – used by critics to mean: "This is absolutely and objectively unfunny but I am far too mature to argue about it."

In my opinion, *Ted* may offer little in the way of an intricate plot, but there are loads of laughs to be had.



Phuket artist Watcharin Rodnit at the Chino Art Group 'Abstract art exhibition by 10 artists' held at Jungceylon until October 7. Photo: Dan Miles media

Sek Loso to play in Phuket

SCANDAL-battered rock star Seksan "Sek Loso" Sukpimai will be among the acts performing in Phuket, on October 13 at the second annual *Life Music Festival*.

GMM Grammy – who tore up Sek's contract late last year, when he refused to admit he had an increasingly violent drug problem – say they couldn't be happier. Mr Paiboon Damrongchaitham says the label is ready to welcome him back with no hard feelings.

"I haven't met him lately, but during his rehab he came and apologized. We didn't take it seriously because we knew he was under the influence [of drugs]," but he says if the fans can forgive Sek, then Grammy will too.

Not only is he booze and drug-free now, he's performing live again and as far as the fans are



SEKTACULAR: Loso has eight platinum albums, which sold a million copies each. Photo: Daniel N Reid

concerned, there's no "if". With his rehabilitation continuing, Sek is fully booked, around 20 nights a month with an estimated take

of 15 million baht.

Sek's recent shows have been packed and he says he's quite excited to be back, but admits that he hasn't had much time to rehearse lately.

He recently said to a crowd that he honestly believes his performance might not yet be 100 per cent. Under the circumstances, much less is still welcome.

The first *Life Music Festival* was a hit and featured Phuket's own Dome, who is now nicknamed 'Famous Dome'.

Organizers say that they expect this year to be even bigger and better.

The concert will be held in Phuket Town off Phang Nga road. Tickets are between 300 and 500 baht depending on seats.

For reservations or more information call 082-411-0888.

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Oscar Chitamitre

YOU may have heard Oscar 'The Big O' on the radio, and you'd be forgiven for thinking that he is a *farang* for his flawless English, but DJ extraordinaire Oscar Chitamitr is not someone you can easily pigeonhole.

Born and raised in California to Thai parents, Oscar spent the first 21 years of his life on the American West Coast. "I had a typical American upbringing, very family-oriented. We lived in a safe environment where kids played outside. My brother and I would either walk or bike to school."

Then his world shattered when his parents broke up and his mother returned to Thailand leaving Oscar in the care of an aunt.

A period of difficult childhood followed, when he mediated between schools, part-time work and "being a stupid teenager." But he was always a clever boy in school, excelling in English and art. At 19, when he had no money for college, he tried joining the army, hoping to receive an education grant from the so-called GI bill. He was turned down because the test showed him to be color-blind.

The revelation was a surprising one but he took it in his stride. "Color-blind? No problem. Just use bolder colors," he says nonchalantly.

Then a call came from his mother asking him to join her in Bangkok. He did, and instead of an

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

American education, Oscar enrolled in a course in communication arts at Assumption University.

The funniest thing he recalls, was when the college insisted upon him taking English aptitude tests. "I was like, really? Dude?"

His first two years back in a country he hardly knew was difficult for Oscar. Deprived of familiar friends, weather, and lifestyle, he was "homesick for America."

But things were looking up. Working part-time as an artist liaison officer for a concert production company (a job that got him up close and personal with the likes of George Benson and Whitney Houston, among others), he was invited to try out as a DJ for Virgin Radio Bangkok.

And so followed a successful 10-year career in radio shows where Oscar diligently applied himself and learned everything there was to know about radio work including writing scripts and creative copy.

All in all, Oscar never lost sight of his self, which in his words is a wacky, laid-back hippie. "I grew up

in California after all. I always have a skewed view of things."

Nevertheless, he can be dead serious when it comes to work. The artist and perfectionist in him is never happy with any achievement. "I am my own worst critic," he admits.

Then came an offer to manage a radio station in Phuket. At the time, due to political unrest and the resulting scrutiny on the media, some radio stations "fell through the cracks," and working in Bangkok was beginning to lose its shine.

Since 2008, Oscar has been working for Phuket Blue Wave FM. His job is multifarious: a station manager, program director and a disc jockey. In creating radio shows, Oscar likens himself to "a chef trying to cook good food for every taste bud."

Oscar likes it here in Phuket, its pace reminds him of California. At 39, his laid-back attitude and the insouciance in him emerge once more to rule the day.

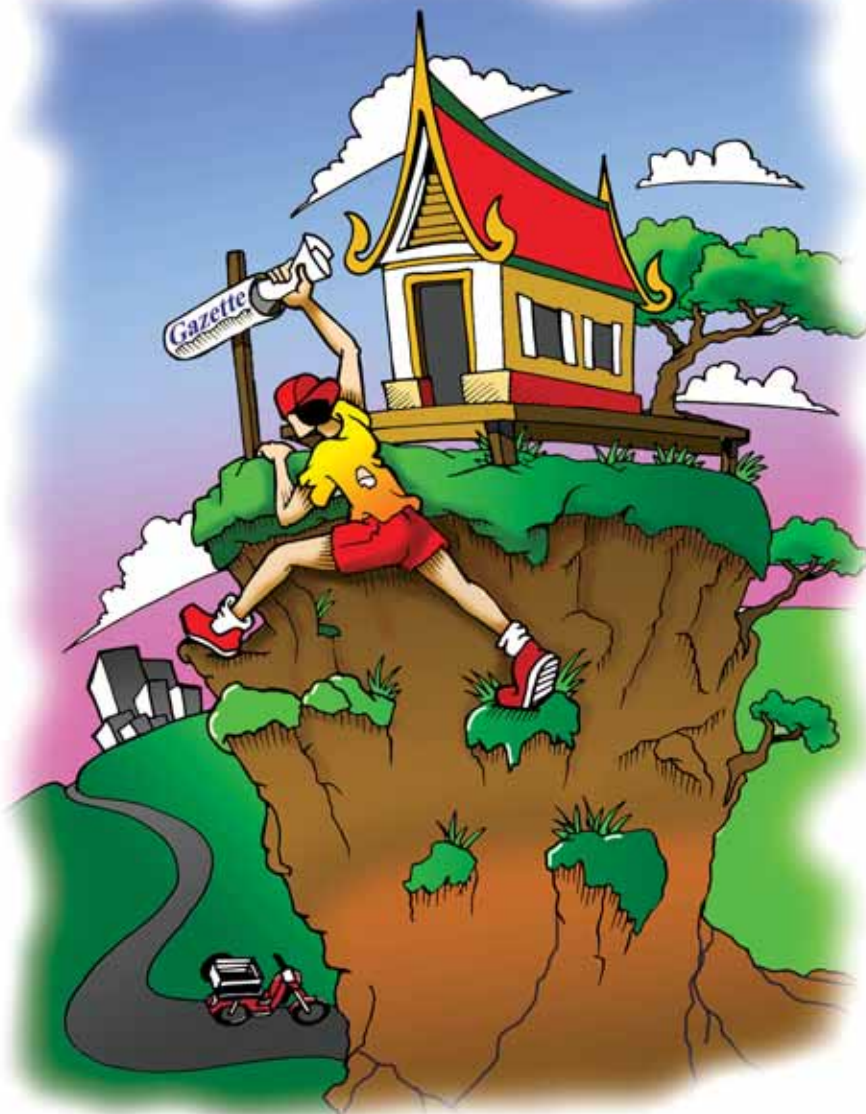
"There's a song that comes close to representing myself and my attitude towards life. Not totally, but close, and that's 'The Joker' by the Steve Miller Band. Without being morbid, this is the song I'd like played at my funeral."

"Morning Rhythms with Oscar" runs Monday to Saturday from 9am to 12pm on Blue Wave 90.5 FM.



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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WE'RE OPEN: Thanyapura's Open Day was another success on Sunday with group classes, clinics, games and competition. Pictured above (from left) are Sonthaya Thongmeesukh, director of rooms; Shaun Dünhofen, GM - Hotel Operations; Sudanong Samantararat, director of human resources and Jakkrid Kwan-iad, activities desk attendant. Below are three children about to enjoy the pool.



WHAT A TEAM: From left: Director of Sports Academies, Craig Johns; Director of Triathlon Academy, Juergen Zack; Head Swim Coach, Raul Bernal; President of Thanyapura, Robert Hauck; Director of Aquatics Academy, Simon Jones; Head Coach of Phuket Soccer Schools, Martin Hill and Director of Tennis, Roger Cochrane (also below right).



WINNING WINES: Italiasia recently held a wine tasting event at Thanyapura's Booster Bar. From left are the winemaker's representative, Ms Annie Lundin; Robert Hauck, president of Thanyapura; Gian Carlo De Cesare, country manager (Thailand) for Gruppo illy products and Seremony Or, director of food and beverage.



ARTISTIC FAMILY: Artist Anuwat Sirirattanaajit exhibits his work and family at the Abstract art exhibition in Jungceylon. Photo: Dan Miles Media

**YOUR
Phuket**



JOB DONE: Go Eco Phuket organizers (from left) Narong Chaimo, Tony Andrews, Henrik Nimb and Kerry Leach were jubilant at the after party, especially when MC Ricky Zen (below right) introduced a surprise guest; Thai reggae star Job 2 Do (below center) seen here with members of the Rockin' Angels band. Photos: Christian Mouchet (above) and Marc Mulloy (below)



RALLY GOOD: The Mission Hospital, Phuket organized a charity rally to Khao Lak to celebrate their 72nd anniversary.





A BREATH OF FRESH AIR: The soft opening of the O2 Beach Club was held in Chalong on Friday. From left are Pisan Trankasombut, CEO of Thailand resort.net Group; Miss Thailand Universe, Vanessa Muangkod Pong Herrmann and Rujirapa Trankasombut. Below are Sasichol Thongnark, director of sales and marketing at Hard Rock Cafe Patong and Weerapong Noipukdee, O2 Beach Club's executive marketing manager.



MEET AT THE SALA: SALA Phuket Resort & Spa sales teams thanked agents and media at Mai Khao beach. From left are Regional General Manager, Mr Jon Ashenden; Vice President of Sales & Marketing, Mr Michael Howard and Executive Assistant Manager (Room Division) Mr Ake Laochan.



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October 6, 13; 7:30 to 10pm:
BBQ Buffet at RPM Yacht Club
 BBQ Dinner Buffet with live music every Saturday. Special promotion for just 500 baht ++. Reservations recommended. Call Mr Murat at 081-797 3364.

October 6-7, 8am to 5pm:
Thanyapura Open 2012 at the Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club

Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club is holding its first 6-a-side soccer tournament in a 32-team draw for the Open Category with a round robin round and final to be held at the club's 1,500-seat 'Limonta Soccer Pro' artificial turf complex in Thalang. The winner, runner up, 3rd and 4th placing's will receive cash prizes of 20,000, 10,000, 4,000 and 2,000 baht, with trophies respectively. Registration fee is 3,000 baht per team and there is an insurance fee of 1,000 baht per team. The insurance fee will be fully refunded to the team after completion of the tournament without any penalty.

October 8, 5 to 11:30pm:
Carpineto Wine Dinner at Cape Sienna Hotel Phuket

Cape Sienna, IWS and Carpineto Winery invite you to a celebration of Tuscan Food and Wine at the Plum Restaurant – Cape Sienna Hotel & Villas on Monday, October 8. Only 1,850 baht net per person, including matching wines. For reservations visit: fb@capecienna.com or call 076-337300.

October 13, 27; 12 to 3:30pm:
Saturday Brunch @ Two Chefs

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October 18, 11:30am to 2pm:
Phuket International Women's Club Monthly Lunch

The Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch will be held at The Boathouse in Kata. All are welcome but registration is essential. Members 500 baht and guests 650 baht. Contact info@phuketiwc.com.

October 19; 7 to 11pm:
Curry Fridays Phuket

Curry Fridays at Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian curry buffet. Dishes like chicken Tikka Masala, very hot Mutton Vindaloo, succulent Kebabs, Goan fish curry and much more. All served with Naan bread and Basmati rice. All you can eat for only 449 baht nett. Draught beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Located at Navrang

Mahal India Restaurant in Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. From 7 to 11pm. For reservations: 076-286464, ext 4.

October 23: Chulalongkorn Day – Public Holiday

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

October 24, 8 to 11pm: Phuket's Punchline Comedy Club

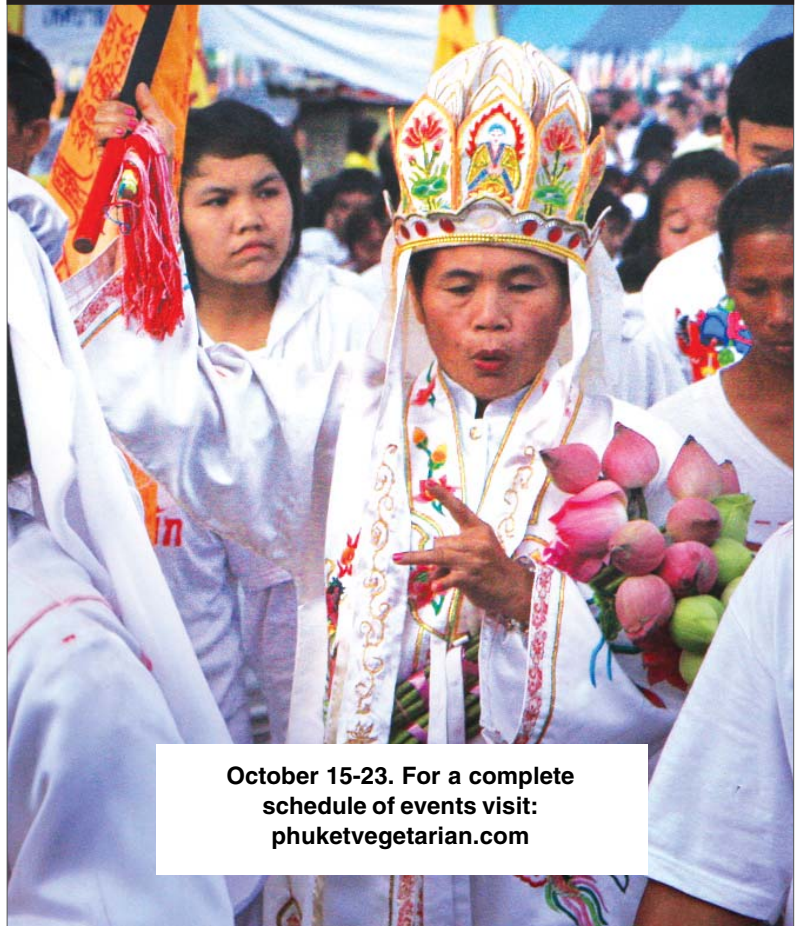
Eddy Brimson, Mickey Hutton and Marcus Ryan are in town for one night of hilarious no-holds-barred stand-up comedy. Early bird tickets only 960 baht; or 1,200 baht at the door. Phuket's Punchline Comedy Club performances are sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. For more information email Khun Jane at tickets@phuketgazette.net

November 6, 9am to 4pm: The Melbourne Cup

The Phuket International Women's Club will be hosting The Melbourne Cup, 'The Race That Stops a Nation', on Tuesday, November 6, at Latitude. Get a hat, come along and enjoy the fun. Tickets are 2,000 baht, and include an Australian-themed lunch, limited drinks, fashion and music. A full day of surprises is in store for you. 100 per cent of the proceeds will go to the scholarship program of the Phuket International Women's Club. The Phuket International Women's Club is supported by the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact: info@phuketiwc.com.

November 10, 24; 12 to 3pm:

Phuket Vegetarian Festival



October 15-23. For a complete schedule of events visit:
phuketvegetarian.com

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November 21-24, 5pm to 6pm:
Phuket International Sport Fishing 2012 at Chalong Bay

Registration will be on November 21 from 5pm onwards. Fishing days are November 22-24. Prize giving party on the 24th. For more info, please see our website at phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV. We hope you will join us for another great tournament.

November 24, 6pm to 12am:
Thaivisa 10 years party at Phuket Sports & Tennis Club

Thaivisa members only. Please sign up at: thaivisa.com/forum/topic/583277-phuket-party-10-years-of-thaivisacom-rawai-sports-club/

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 Sandwich Shoppe Chalong - October 23, 1-3pm

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Across

1. E.g., e.g.
5. Fighting
10. Teachers' favorites
14. So long!
15. Author Alexander
16. Buddhist monk
17. Naive
20. Quizzes, trials
21. Orch. section
22. Mindlessly stupid
23. Snookered
25. Gaucho's rope
27. Lovable
31. Most desperate
35. What's ___ for me?
36. Experience again
38. "Fancy that!"
39. Implore
40. LP speed
41. Caesar of comedy
42. Oysters ___ season
43. Carnival site
44. Greek god of the winds
46. Confined
47. Filled with fear
49. Performs surgery
51. Nasal grunt
53. Knock vigorously
54. Idaho capital
57. Shoshone language member
59. Gallows loop
63. Sending signals everywhere
66. Curtain holders
67. N Atlantic archipelago
68. Cong. meeting
69. Horn warning
70. With cunning
71. Leisure

Down

1. ___ above
2. Twining stem
3. Low in pitch
4. Tiny plant part
5. Powdery residue
6. Michael Moore's "Downsize ___!"
7. Spendthrift
8. Cave

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COFFEE
break

9. Thor Heyerdahl craft
10. Two dimensional
11. I could ___ horse!
12. Revenuers, for short
13. "No Ordinary Love" singer
18. Pitchfork shaped letters
19. Occupied by a city
24. Underwater missile
26. Counselor
27. Seventh sign of the zodiac
28. ___ by land.
29. Vitality
30. Office note
32. Heron, usually white
33. Paris divider

34. Camp sights
37. The jig ___!
40. Showered
45. Method of raising money
46. Indian baby
48. Help
50. Title bestowed upon the wife of a raja
52. Rustic
54. Low quality diamond
55. Melville novel ___ European
58. Earth Day subj.
60. Draft classification
61. Back talk
62. Ultimatum word
64. Conditions
65. Mystery writer Josephine

Provided by BestCrosswords.com as Patong Bill is indisposed for a while. Solution on page 43

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Too much drama in personal relationships could bring Librans down this week. The stars advise refusing to get involved in what doesn't directly concern you. Those with a birthday during the week ahead can look forward to more freedom in the year to come. Romance is sweet and sour; another air sign's inclination to keep secrets could prompt heated moments this weekend. Wear the color sky blue to encourage relaxation.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Certain Scorpions could discover that something they thought they wanted to happen is no longer relevant. The stars hint at new priorities coming into your life, with emphasis on a romantic connection having influence on where you live and what you do for work. Relocation before the end of this year is well-starred. Answers to mysteries involving money should be clear by the middle of the month.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

Getting the message across can be a challenge for those born under the sign of Sagittarius until the middle of October. Crossed wires are forecast to make communication

more difficult and patience is advisable. In the realm of romance, a friend's experience causes you to take a trip down memory lane, but the stars advise that moving towards the future will be easier if you can leave the past behind.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Action continues to be the keyword for Capricorns this week. The stars indicate that the second half of October will be a quieter time, although there is chance of unexpected visitors then. Your luck with money matters is strong, with focus on a new investment possibility being attractive. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, another earth sign's game-playing becomes too complicated. Flirtation with an air sign can result in a romance.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Waiting around for others to make up their minds can be frustrating for Aquarians this week. A fire sign is likely to cause delay in your world of work, but the only thing you can do is go with the flow. In the realm of romance, an earth sign's hesitation to commit to holiday plans may make you think there is something more afoot. Best days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

Finances are well-starred until the middle of October for Pisceans. A difficult decision made last month proves to have been right, with your bank balance reflecting this. A mystery in the realm of romance is cleared up, but your feelings about the person concerned could be affected by what you learn. A slow moving relationship with another water sign is forecast to become more serious after pouring out your heart this weekend.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Leaving everything to the last minute is not recommended this week. There are signs that Arians could suffer unnecessary stress by not being organized. Monday is an auspicious day for tying up loose ends and scheduling appointments. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, another fire sign's confession comes as a shock this weekend. Love with a water sign becomes smoother sailing when you accept how important family is in their life.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Sharper intuition this week gives Taureans advantage in the world of work. There are hints that an air sign is not presenting the full picture where a possible project is concerned, but you should quickly pick up on this. The stars advise not making agreements until all your questions have been fully answered. In the realm of romance, a fire sign is ready for commitment before you are.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Words spoken in the heat of the moment this week need to be forgotten fast. Another air sign appears intent on provoking a reaction and ignoring this person is the only way to make them stop. Geminis who have been asked to make a personal loan are reminded that friendship and finances aren't always a good mix. Your romantic outlook is fine; those who thought a fire sign's attention had wandered are reassured.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Slow progress is better than no progress for those born under the sign of Cancer this week. The desire to see quick results can be compromised by events beyond your control. Appointments are likely to be delayed

and a fire sign contact is forecast to be sidetracked by other matters. Avoid frustration by concentrating on other areas of your life; a situation in the realm of romance should not be ignored for too long.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

A bureaucratic issue that you were not looking forward to dealing with turns out to be relatively straightforward. This should leave Leos free to concentrate on other matters, one of which is probably connected with your domestic situation. Where romance with an earth sign is concerned, the stars advise following your heart with a certain amount of caution. Another fire sign's gesture lifts your spirits this weekend.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

The stars advise Virgoans to check with others before making arrangements that concern them. Another earth sign is forecast to have their own agenda, and a water sign won't be pleased if you take their involvement for granted. In the world of work, sharing your concerns with trusted colleagues will help you to see that you have been making mountains out of molehills. Hot days for romance are Monday and Tuesday.

PROPERTY Gazette

News | Construction | Gardening | For sale | For rent | Classifieds

Award winning Renaissance GM

By Andrew Scott

JASON Nuell, General Manager of Renaissance Phuket Resort and Spa, has been named by Marriott International the '2012 GM of the year' for the Renaissance brand.

The affable GM fended off competition from 160 Renaissance hotels worldwide to snatch the coveted award. Nuell flew to Los Angeles earlier this year to claim his prize.

Here, he speaks to the *Phuket Gazette* about his achievement and the Renaissance hotel in Mai Khao.

Phuket Gazette: What is the criteria for the award?

Jason Nuell: The award covers about six areas from business acumen to customer satisfaction and hotel performance. Basically the whole way the hotel operates.

How were you assessed?

We have what we call a 'Brand Standard Audit'. From a financial point of view it is easy to get information, but the assessment is really based on how your hotel performed and how you are performing as a leader.

The hotel is also assessed

through customer satisfaction surveys. A mystery shopper comes to the property and audits the hotel to make sure we stick to our brand.

There are many different facets that need to be met.

Do your staff also give feedback?

Yes. Once a year we do an Associate Opinion Survey (AOS). The survey is done anonymously, online, and every associate including myself conduct a survey.

I actually assess my boss. The Marriott has been doing these surveys for 60 years and every hotel does it.

What was your prize?

I received a trophy, US\$10,000 to use anywhere in the world with Marriott and US\$5,000 in cash. At the end of the day, it's not the money but the recognition. I didn't win this award on my own, my hotel won this award.

I couldn't have done this by myself. And, the great thing about this property is that it's had very minimal turnover since starting. I have a great team and I couldn't do it without them and the credit goes to us as a team.

When did you start work at the hotel?

I started in January, 2010, and was here for the pre-opening. The hotel had its first paying customer in March but didn't open officially until October.

What is the 'no name tag' initiative and what does it bring to the hotel?

Our concept is to look for emotional connections. We want guests to love the staff, love the property and ultimately want to come back.

The 'no name tag' initiative is to try and create an emotional connection between the associate and the customer...not just a name.

What it does is help train the associates so the customers know them and they know the customers. To do this an associate has to go above and beyond.

Last year, the hotel finished number one in customer service in the Asia-Pacific region for all Marriott brands. I contribute a lot of that to our training and the name tag is an important part of that.

PG: How is Renaissance different from other hotels in this area?

The Renaissance is Marriott's entry-level lifestyle brand. Its core values are: "Intriguing, Indigenous and Independent", and everything we do is wrapped around the concept of "comfortably cool".

Big points include: architecture, technology and our delivery of service and experience. Whether it's the car that picks you up from the airport or the music being played in the hotel.

The hotel represents a person's brand and [idea of] themselves – more than just a place to stay on holiday. The hotel is aiming for a couples' market, with our facilities and villa product.

The average age of people who stay here is 24 to 44.

Renaissance has a 'Navigator' program instead of a concierge.

A Navigator, is a local expert who won't send you on day trips you can pull out of a magazine.

These are day trips where you leave Phuket having experienced it like a Thai person would.

We still have standard day trips, but the Navigator finds hidden gems.



TEAM PLAYER: GM Jason Nuell.

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Where have Phuket's artists gone?



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

IT'S hard to trace back exactly how Phuket came onto the global stage as a leading beach destination. These days the campfires of old gather round the internet, and storytelling is an arcane memory.

While I hear some catcalls from the cheap seats way out back about how the island is finished, and its impending doom signed, sealed and delivered, for those of us living in the real world, the upcoming tipping point of five million airport arrivals would suggest otherwise.

Of course, our alien voyage is not one traveled alone. Last week the Huffington Post published a scathing article about another island destination, Bali, and its rapid fall into the dark shadow-filled abyss of over development. This, of course, comes at a time when that particular island is reaching an all time tourism high.

Yet, as I go back into that distant memory bank that is cluttered and really needs some spring cleaning, I can recall that idolized tome *Southeast Asia on a Shoestring* from the 1970s. In what was a prequel to the Lonely Planet Guidebook success story, this book sent the young and restless to every corner of Asia, including Phuket.

While this generation has its *Harry Potter* and *Twilight*, the battered and bruised Lonely Planet Guides captivated the world with visions of an exotic Asia. Here lay the promise of endless beaches,



THE SHOP AROUND THE CORNER: Local paintings hang in a small studio off Phang Nga road in Phuket Town.

with a few bungalows thrown in under palm-fringed sunsets.

Things have changed as the world seems to have spun off its axis. Our wild animal friends have learned and humans to follow – evolve or die is a reality check that's been imposed on us.

What's evident is that Phuket is no longer just about the beach.

Over the past few months, Natasha Eldred and the Phuket PR Network, together with AMCHAM, have been holding a series of Brand

Phuket seminars on how exactly to define the DNA of our island's tourism mix. It's been an interesting voyage seeing how sports tourism is a significant demand generator for the island, through big events such as the King's Cup, Ironman 70.3 and the Phuket International Boat Show.

The most recent event will cover cultural offerings, with Phuket Town highlighted along with a drive to obtain UNESCO status and retain the *Peranakan* history of the area, it's legacy and

influence on the community.

Later, AMCHAM plans for a Patong focus, which could not be more relevant. Patong, over the next three years, will have 50 per cent of the island's hotel rooms within its confines and is the emerging second city of Phuket. Hotel occupancy is at its highest levels in the area and it out trades the market as a non-seasonal offering with strong visitor appeal.

Aside from this Phuket of course have a vivid marine and yachting

scene, international medical facilities and schools, and a wide array of golf offerings.

But one question that often comes up with friends is the island's somewhat lackadaisical attitude towards art. Is this an island traveling on a hedonistic bender? Where are the artists, writers, cultural events?

Bali, of course, has Ubud, and in a broader sense, a more defined attraction to a local art scene, but Phuket with its significant base of global expats and well-heeled locals should also have artists. What has happened to the creative culture?

To date, the only reactions I get when I ask people where all the artists are is that: "they must have moved to Chiang Mai/Shanghai/Bali, or they are out in the island somewhere and must be hiding."

Notable efforts have been the *Think Design Art Dinners* and, yes, Lori Ashton with her *Art & Culture* magazine. There is even a new music studio with lessons at Boat Lagoon and Thanyapura is offering an increasing variety of adult education classes. Yet, this is not enough for an island this size with such vast resources.

Perhaps going forward we will have literary and music festivals on a wider range, more local publications, which focus on the arts, and yes, the ability to evolve the island from not just being about the beach into a broader destination. For now, it's baby steps, but at least there is a movement afoot.

Bill Barnett is managing director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through C9hotelworks.com.

Thai investment in the UK

LEADING multinational real-estate firm Jones Lang LaSalle says it expects to attract Thai and other Asian investors to buy more commercial properties in London because of price stability and other favorable factors.

Wealthy Asians are seen as a leading source of capital flowing into London's commercial real-estate market, says Alistair Meadows, head of Asia Pacific International Capital Group at Jones Lang LaSalle.

Asian investors have been increasing their investment in central London, especially in the commercial real estate market, according to the firm. It is reported that the percentage of Asian investors increased from 6 per cent in 2010 to more than 20 per cent in the first half of 2012.

There has been a surge in the inflow of Asian capital in the past 12 months, Meadows said.

Asian investors attracted to London commercial real estate range from sovereign wealth funds, such as employees' pension funds from Malaysia, to wealthy investors from China, Indonesia and Thailand, he said.

The London property market is attractive for several reasons. Besides being a mature market, it offers good risk-adjusted returns in the office, retail and residential sectors. No restriction on foreign ownership is another attractive feature for investors.

The firm expects to see continued increase in demand from Asian buyers in the central London office market, Meadows said.

It is expected that there will be an increase in Asian investors venturing into London's hotel and residential markets as buyers of residential units and residential investment blocs, as well as major hotel deals in London's glitzy West End.



NOT FOR SALE: Westminster, London. Photo: Jim Trodel

Jones Lang LaSalle is among many foreign firms promoting overseas investment after the Thai government's recent incentives on investing abroad. The move aims to encourage Thais to invest overseas in an effort to soften the baht currency.

Regarding the Eurozone crisis, negative effects are less prominent in the UK, which is not part of the zone – clinging to the pound sterling. As a mature market, property prices are relatively stable when compared with other European real estate markets.

Greece, Spain and Italy are among the major European economies hardest hit by the sovereign debt crisis, which has threatened the viability of the single currency, while the UK is a member of the 27-country European Union, but not a member of the Euro, which is used in 17 European nations. To solve the crisis over the long run, there have been proposals for fiscal and banking unions among all member economies of the Eurozone because the current monetary union alone is not viable. – *The Nation*

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CGI image of what the Best Western Patong will look like.

Best Western to build fourth hotel in Phuket

BEST Western International is launching a new hotel in Patong in 2014. The hotel will feature 220 guestrooms with flatscreen TV, free internet access and a rooftop pool.

The hotel in will be the fourth Best Western hotel on Phuket, alongside Best Western Phuket Ocean Resort in Karon, Best Western Allamanda Laguna Phuket and Best Western Premier Bangtao Beach Resort & Spa.

The company currently has 15 hotels in Thailand and has already opened four hotels in the Kingdom this year.

Glenn de Souza, Best Western International's vice president of international operations in Asia and the Middle East, high-

lights the attractions of Patong:

"We are delighted to announce the opening of yet another Best Western property in Phuket, and our first in the buzzing beach resort of Patong.

With its idyllic sandy beaches, turquoise seas and excellent facilities, Phuket has become one of Asia's most popular and tourist-friendly resort destinations.

"And as the main hub for entertainment, dining, watersports and nightlife, Patong is at the heart of the island's success. We are certain that all visitors to Phuket will love Best Western's combination of comfort, convenience and excellent service," he said.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Rosewood Phuket set to open in 2014



BY THE SEA: View looking out from one of the rooms at the planned Rosewood hotel in Patong.

ROSEWOOD Hotels has announced plans to open a resort on Patong's headland, in 2014.

The beachfront retreat, located near a 40-acre Banyan tree forest, will have 87 one and two-bedroom villas, 20 residences ranging from two to nine bedrooms set on a half-acre each, and six exclusive forest 'hideaway hillside homes'.

These hideaways will be comprised of two to three-bedrooms,

each with private gymnasium and lap pool. The property will feature six restaurants and lounges for dining and entertainment.

This particular site has a long history and was originally going to be developed by Taiwan's Evergreen Group, then later by Bangkok's Srivikorn family.

The InterContinental brand and Park Hyatt were both linked to the site over the years.

The property is being developed

by an affiliate of Hong Kong's New World Group, who also acquired the Rosewood chain last year for US\$229.5 million.

The group are targeting the top end accommodation market, and expect to trade in the luxury tier with Amanpuri, Trisara, Sri Panwa and Andara.

Rosewood plans to add 10 more properties to its Asia profile within the next five years.

— *Phuket Gazette/Bill Barnett*

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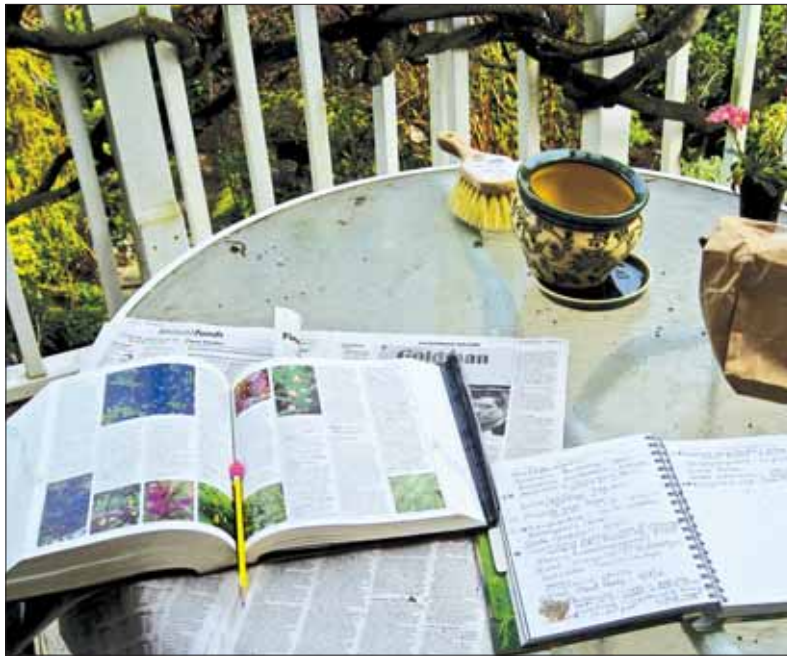
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Books on tropical gardening



USED: Texts help. Photo: Brewbooks



TASK AT HAND: Books help gardeners with research. Photo: spakattacks

MUCH of the knowledge one acquires about plants is learnt in the acid-bath of experience. And certainly there is no substitute for hands-on gardening. How often we find ourselves puzzled by the advice we find in books by so-called "experts".

Nonetheless, we often do need to check things – names, cultural requirements, growing habits and so on. And different books are useful in different ways.

The very first book I bought in Thailand has proven to be one of the most serviceable.

Its dog-eared appearance testifies to that. Entitled, *A Field Guide to Tropical Plants of Asia*, its authors, David Engel and Suchart Plummait, have conveniently divided things into main sections: trees, listed by flower, foliage and fruit; shrubs, vines and ground cover plants are all classified in the same way.

Flowers are grouped according to color: red, pink, yellow and



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

white. Each description of flower, fruit or foliage, is accompanied by a color photograph (300 in all).

Botanical names are followed by common English ones and Thai phonetic equivalents.

Especially useful if you are visiting a plant nursery. Just open the appropriate page and sing out the Thai name.

First published in 2000, by Marshall Cavendish, it has been reprinted many times – an indication of its enduring popularity.

It retails at around 900 baht. Some information about nomenclature is out of date, but then there is an ongoing discussion about plant categories.

Tropical Garden Plants, by William Warren, (Thames and Hudson, 2001) is a more substantial opus, with 449 color

illustrations. It has more information about each entry, and the photographs, by a professional, are especially fine.

My main cavil is that while the chapters are logical enough – trees, shrubs, annuals, foliage plants, vines and so on – the non-alphabetical arrangement means constant forays into the index to locate a particular species.

Having said that, its later sections on exotics, water plants, palms and orchids might usefully be emulated by other writers.

An odd title for a seriously weighty tome, *Plant Materials in Thailand*, by Uamporn Veesommai and Thaya Janjitikul, is the closest you will get to an exhaustive, yet compendious reference book.

Primarily for local consumption with plants indexed alphabetically in Thai, there is a helpful parallel text in English and 1,320 photographs of the country's flora. It has, once and for all, solved the myriad of questions I have had over the years about flowering tropical plants. If you want to put a name to a floral face, you will assuredly find the answer here. Expensive, but encyclopedic. A must for the serious gardener.

In the quest for good horticultural books, I have extended the net beyond Thailand. Two books match the detail of plant materials. One is the self – explanatory *Complete Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs* (Thunder Bay Press, 2001).

Published in California, I picked up my copy in Sri Lanka, of all places. Compiled by a large team, it does not cover non-shrubby flowers, and has a distinct North American bias, which means that, "south of the border, down Mexico way", is dealt with less comprehensively. Vines are excluded. Small cavils in a book that describes 8,500 woody plants, many illustrated. It is superb on trees. Another remarkable piece of botanical research.

Coincidentally, last year at the bookshop of California's Stanford University I discovered *Western Garden*. West Coast America is not



CULTIVATE THE MIND: A tropical garden in Chonburi. Photo: TaQpets

Thailand, and this book consequently has limitations. Moreover, the illustrations are mostly the work of artists – good in themselves, but no substitute for photographs. But both coverage and organization are excellent: plants are described alphabetically according to their botanical names,

and the cultivation notes are very full. Yet another book for the keen gardener.

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

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Tip of the week

AT VARIOUS times, I have talked about propagating and reproducing plants by seed, layering, cuttings and division. Some so-called "mother plants" give birth to plantlets, which can be separated from their parent.

I was reminded of separation and division after reading a piece written by Normita Thongtham in which she visits a garden that specializes in ferns.

Ferns mostly regenerate by producing tiny spores, which appear on the underside of leaves. And, like many seeds, these spores can result in new plants which are "sports" or mutations, quite different from the parent. As the fern grower remarked of a *neptrolepis* fern: "I've never seen one (new plant), which grew to look exactly like it". Fascinating.

But, if you must have an exact copy of the parent, the only way is by plant division. This is the best method for most gingers, *cannas* and *heliconias* – as well as ferns.



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Stylish, 2-bedroom-plus-study apartment in well-managed development on absolute secluded beachfront. Fully furnished and equipped. Great grounds, views and pool. Price reduced to 5.65 million baht for quick sale. Tel: +61-439-886520. Email: mark footner1@hotmail.com

VILLA FOR SALE, PHANG NGA

Khok Kloy area. House of 400+ sqm on 4 rai of land. Large 3 bedrooms and 2 baths. Laundry, storeroom, garage. Price: 10 million baht. Tel: 076-494166, 087-284 9679 (English & Thai). Email: g_lovece@hotmail.com

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

Great location, road access, 5 mins to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm with title deed. Contact Lychee. Tel: 081-891 3048 (Eng & German).

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

CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK



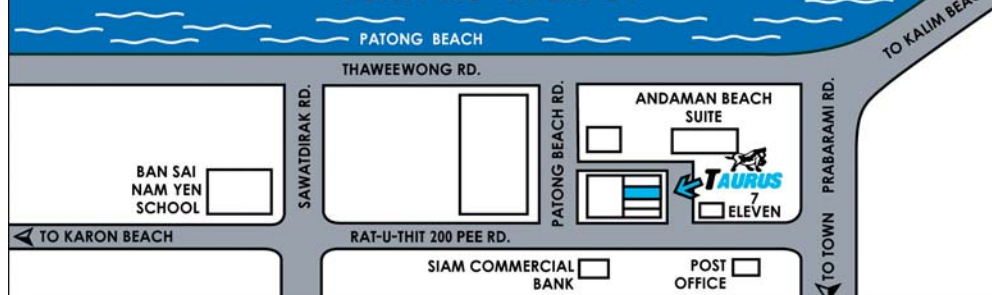
for sale. Near Seng Ho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.9 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2 floor, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 089-469 1813, 086-476 9612.

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Taurus Travel



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is seriously for sale.

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Properties For Rent

VASSANA RESIDENCE



For rent, 3-exclusive luxury apartments in Rawai, each comprising 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and large Euro-style kitchen and living room. Large balconies, back and front, with sweeping views over Rawai and the Andaman sea, LCD TV, WiFi. Ground-floor swimming pool and a rooftop whirlpool where you can relax and take in the sea and hill views. Each apartment also has its own private whirlpool. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com www.premierpropertiesphuket.com

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

4 bedrooms, pool, 5 bathrooms, Bang Tao, bungalows, houses and apartments also available. Tel: 081-538 2110, 087-279 6532.

SUPERB 5-BED SEAVIEW VILLA

Still available at high and peak season, awesome sea views, huge pool, sauna, lift on exclusive estate. Comes with 2 staffs. 5 minutes walk to the beach. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

PATONG 1-3 BED APARTMENTS

WiFi, maid, pool, gym, security, cable TV. From 24,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

CONDO IN PATONG

At Phuket Palace. 1 bedroom, 54sqm, parking and pool. Long-term rent: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 1621.

DISCOUNT RENTALS

Luxury pool villas, near Laguna. Daily/weekly/monthly rent with car rental. Tel: 089-594 4067.

CONDO FOR RENT

2-bed, 2-bath luxury condo overlooking pool. Fully furnished. Available now. Prefer long-term tenant. Tel: 085-792 2815 (English). Email: bern@global.net.au

PRIVATE RENTAL-PATONG

1-bed apartment. Available now. Gym, WiFi, washing machine, swimming pool. 800m to beach. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



Near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 086-607 7493.

PATONG SEA VIEW



Pool villa for rent. Long term only. Tel: 083-656 3784. Email: peterrantala@gmail.com

TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



Corner unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

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

BOAT LAGOON HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. On canal, furnished, close to BIS and major malls. Long-term rent only 25,000 baht. Tel: 081-958 7684.

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

HOUSE IN CHALONG

For rent, near Palai beach, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, ADSL, fully furnished, cable TV, car park. Tel: 089-728 8311.

2-BEDROOM HOUSE, BANG TAO



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, living room, parking, fully furnished, cable TV, internet, 2 aircons, hot water. Only 5 mins to Surin Beach, Bang Tao Beach and Lotus Cherng Talay. Tel: 089-470 7488. Email: nattamon.m@gmail.com

5 STUDIOS & POOL AT CHALONG



1 bed, kitchen & share pool: for short, long term. Quiet place. Price: 14,000-20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-809 2625. Email: phuketdee1@yahoo.com

BOAT LAGOON VILLA

Luxury pool villa, 4 bedrooms, garden, security. Long-term rent: 70,000 baht. Close to BIS and major malls. Tel: 081-958 7684.

CHAOFA GARDEN HOME, 2 BEDS

Fully furnished, 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 aircons, living room, kitchen, fridge, dining and washing machine. Long-term rent: 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-048 6906 (English & Thai). Email: j7chin@gmail.com

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT, PATONG

1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, living room with full western kitchenette. All extras. Aircon, internet, LCD, IBC. Modern furnished, quiet setting near Nanai. Rent: 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-185 8536.

NICE HOUSE IN CHALONG



Single house (74sq.wah) with lovely garden for long-term rent in Soi Parichart, Land & Houses Park. It has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, 24 hr security + clubhouse facilities. Price: 25,000 baht per month or special price of 20,000 baht per month without furniture. Contact the owner. Tel: 081-867 6466 (English & Thai). Email: bow.jariya@gmail.com

ALLAMANDA (LAGUNA)

Residences/Phuket Condo unit, half of a deluxe twin house, fully furnished and equipped, set direct on the picturesque lagoon with balcony right over it. 3 bedrooms, each with shower/bathroom roof terrace. Long-term rent or sale. Tel: 081-737 0365. Email: utaipan@yahoo.com

PATONG SEA VIEW APARTMENT

1-bedroom apartment with big balcony in Baan Suan Kamnan at the south end of Patong. Very nice, green and clean residential area. WiFi. Come have a look. Edwin & Kag. 36,000 baht a month, inclusive of weekly cleaning and water. Tel: 086-786 3350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

KATA BEACH APTS.

1 bedroom, WiFi, kitchens, aircon, electric fan. Cheap! Tel: 081-970 4638, 086-595 8512. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

KATHU HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, aircon, internet. Tel: 086-739 3220.

URGENT SALE/RENT



House in Patong. Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 stories, 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-469 1813.

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For Sale. Price: 4.2 million baht. No agents!, not furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

MANGO HOUSE
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Thailand's most charming fishing village.

Weekly from 10,000 THB
Monthly from 30,000 THB

25% discount with mention of this ad

www.mango-houses.com
086 948 6836

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Price: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

2 BEDROOM HOUSE KATHU

Part furnished 2-storey house near Shell station in Kathu. Aircon bedrooms, hot showers, microwave, fridge, TV, gas cooker and washing machine. Minimum rental period: 6 months. 12,000 baht per month. Farang-friendly neighbourhood. Tel: 076-202679, 081-676 2629 (English & Thai), 081-970 3526 (English). Email: petersoffshore@hotmail.com

KATA HILL ONE BEDROOM

Fully furnished, 1 bedroom, terrace, bath, kitchen, aircon, internet and cable TV. Rent: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

POOL VILLAS FOR RENT

1, 2, 4 bedrooms, fully furnished, ADSL, SAT TV. Bang Tao area. Tel: 090-156 7927.

QUIET AREA HOUSE



1 aircon bedroom, near Ao Makhamb Bay, free WiFi, 3km from town, 1km to Panwa Beach. Rent: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311 (English & Thai).

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The Racha is Thailand's leading 5 Star beach resort located on the beautiful island of Koh Racha Yai, just 30 minutes by boat from Phuket.

We are growing and looking for the following talented individuals to join our dynamic team:

Human Resources Manager

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Human Resources Management or other related field
- Previous experience in similar position in a 5 star hotel
- Excellent interpersonal and leadership skills
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Strong problem solving and decision making skills

Chief of Security

Qualifications:

- Male
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Solid background in similar position

Guest Service Officer

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree, fresh graduates are welcome
- Customer oriented, motivated
- Able to communicate in English and Mandarin is an advantage

Purchasing Officer

Qualifications:

- Previous experience preferred
- Motivated, a team player

Waiter & Barman

Qualifications:

- Basic knowledge in F&B
- Customer oriented with pleasant personality
- Able to communicate in English

Operations Technician

Qualifications:

- Male with previous experience
- Committed to work

Beach Club Manager

Qualifications:

- Male
- Bachelor's degree
- Previous experience in similar position in a 5 star hotel
- Excellent command of spoken and written English
- Strong leadership, great personality

Demi Chef de Partie

Qualifications:

- Vocational or Culinary degree
- Previous experience in similar position in a 5 star hotel
- Good attention to detail
- Able to communicate in English

Spa Receptionist

Qualifications:

- Female with pleasant personality
- Diploma or higher with previous experience
- Good command of spoken and written English

Spa Therapist

Qualifications:

- Female with pleasant personality
- Previous experience
- Good command of spoken and written English

Sports and Beach Attendant

Qualifications:

- Male with previous experience
- Able to communicate in English
- Customer oriented

Security Officer

Qualifications:

- Male with previous experience
- Committed to work
- Able to communicate in English

Attractive salary with guaranteed service charge

If you have what it takes and wish to join a people-oriented company that prides itself in excellence and the belief that people are our most important assets, then please submit your resume and a recent photo to: executiveoffice@theracha.com



The Racha
42/12-13 Moo 5, Rawai, Muang,
Phuket 83130, Thailand
Tel: +66 (76) 355455 Ext. 402
Fax: +66 (76) 355637

BARISTA/CAFE MANAGER

1-2 persons needed for April start, at the re-opening of the Trees Club Resort Cafe. English speaking required. Tel: 086-268 3238. Email: billy anthony6@hotmail.com

COOK NEEDED (FEMALE)

Cook (f) needed urgently for only morning shift (Breakfast/Thai/Europe. Tel: 082-270 6385 (English). Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

SHOP STAFF NEEDED

Need more staff for our shops in Kamala and Patong. Rent out motorbikes. English speaking Thai. Tel: 085-158 7638 (English). Email: pierre_hammar@yahoo.se

HUMAN RESOURCES

Group of companies operating in the property and F&B market, is looking for a Human Resources Manager with experiences in recruitment and evaluation to support the organization's business goals. The ideal candidate is a Thai national, organized, and confident. Tel: 076-383 435. Email: info@obiettivothailandia.com

EXPERIENCED ELDERCARE NURSE

Nurse/helper for older person or invalid. Two years experience with alzheimers patient. Reliable, hard-working, excellent references. Some English. Tel: 089-196 0940. Email: woody@khunwoody.com

NEW HOLIDAY CLUB IN SAMUI

Infinity Vacation Club is opening soon in Koh Samui. We are in need of a sales manager, good salespeople, OPCs and receptionists. If you are a proven performer, we want to talk to you. Our commissions and bonuses are the best in Koh Samui. We are looking for top people who want to grow with us in South-east Asia. Contact James. Tel: 086-690 6977 (English). Please send your CV to tjrgolfer72@gmail.com

SALES ADMIN INTERIOR DESIGN

We are hiring a motivated person with a passion for sales/admin to join the team at our furniture showroom in Bang Tao. We offer an attractive salary and benefits. Tel: 076-325 419, 081-400 4678. Email: orientalsamui@gmail.com, for further details, please see our website at oriental-living.net

TIGER GRILL JOBS

- Waiter/ Waitress
 - Kitchen Staff
 - Assistant Kitchen Manager
 - Executive Chef Secretary
- Good pay, benefits, fun job, training etc. Tel: 076-367071 Email: cheffy@tigermuaythai.com, www.tigermuaythai.com

MANDARIN TOUR GUIDE

Tour guide for Chinese tourists. Must be fluent in Mandarin and English. Tel: 084-415 0546(English). Email: careers@gojittravel.com

EMPLOYMENT WANTED

Reliable English-speaking Thai woman with cooking experience in hotels and villas requires fixed-term cooking, childcare or housemaid work, live-in if required. Contact Taew. Tel: 081-084 2708.

URGENT CHEF INT'L CUISINE

High salary + service charge + bonus and all benefits. Tel: 089-908 7486.

SALES PERSON

NewspaperDirect Phuket seeks a full-time Sales Person to join our long-established team. The role is especially suited to a foreign person with good English skills. The main focus initially will be to sell advertising in our supplementary local publication, with increasing involvement in expanding our newspaper customer base as familiarity with our product and service evolves. The successful candidate must be self-motivated and target driven and able to manage their own time and workload to ensure monthly targets are met. Flexible package comprising salary + commission/bonus with monthly OTE of 60,000 baht + within 3 months and significantly higher earnings potential beyond. Please apply with CV and covering letter to recruitment @ newspaperdirect-phuket.com

TOUR GUIDES NEEDED

For popular speedboat charter and events company. Thai nationals only. Tel: 076-383125. Email: info@coralseekers.com

2 NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHERS

Required for Rainbow Land, Fisherman's Way, Chalong, to teach a mixed group of 2-5+ year olds. Call, text or email for more information. Tel: 082-812 3610. Email: turnery5@gmail.com

HEAD OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

We are looking for a Thai female with teaching skills for four English teachers and our security guards. Tel: 076-336 084, 081-607 6637, Fax: 076-336 085. Email: pornthip@sgsphuket.com

SALES EXECUTIVE

Jagota Brothers Trading Co., Ltd. Long-time, well-established food importer and supplier to hotels and restaurants welcomes applications from experienced salespeople. Must be fluent in written & spoken English. Background in food industry preferred. Must have own car to visit customers. Tel: 082-790 5143. Please forward resumes and references to George. Email: george_d@jagota.com

NEW HOTEL OPENING

Opening 01 October in Patong. Staff required in all areas: Housekeeping, Front Desk, Security, and Bar Hosts. Men preferred. Tel: 60-16-974 6968 (English). Email: LouisLovestrand@yahoo.com

EXPATRIATE MARINE MECHANICS

Looking for experienced expatriate marine mechanics. Duties include general and preventive maintenance of corporate and yachts positioned within the SEA region. Attractive remuneration package for those with the necessary qualifications and experience. Tel: 080-078 3731. Please contact Mark Jones and send resume to markjones288@gmail.com

NES TEACHERS REQUIRED

November start. KG teacher (38-40K baht), Early Years teacher (43-45K baht). Degree and recognized TEFL/TESOL certificate and 3 email references required. Preference given to experienced teachers. Tel: 084-846 9109(English). Email: stegee68@gmail.com

Live in Cherrng Talay?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Chaba Supermarket



Simply write out your ad, pay for it and leave it with Khun Na. Tel: 076-325586 or 081-3977307.

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Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** in the Gazette Online!

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Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!

NEWLY RENOVATED HOTEL

CC Bloom's a Boutique Hotel located in the lush hills of Kata/Karon is looking for dynamic English speaking Thai nationals to join our expanding team as bookkeeper, wait staff, engineer, receptionist, bartender, driver, housekeeping and cooks. For more information, please contact Tel: 076-333222. Fax: 076-333234. or submit your CV together with recent photo and expected salary to sales@ccbloomshotel.com We welcome walk-in candidates.

SENIOR TEACHER

Phuket Has Been Good To us require a senior teacher for the English education program. Leading a small, dynamic team of ESL teachers in 2 Thai schools in Phuket, you will be an experienced educator with strong leadership and ESL skills. Experience in the Thai educational system and the ability to communicate in Thai is advantageous. Salary 65,000-70,000 baht/month. Full position descriptions at www.phukethasbeengoodtous.org. Please submit a 1 page letter of application, CV and a recent photograph by August 31st to info@phukethasbeengoodtous.org

WORK CS @ HOLYCLOTHING!

Customer service agents needed for expanding internet fashion retailer. Are you CS experienced, Thai, hard working, computer savvy and fluent in English? Salary of 17-27,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-289472. Email: grahamkay@mac.com. For full details see our website www.holyclothing.com/htmlx/work.html

PRIMARY TEACHER

International School in Chalong is looking for a native English speaking primary teacher to join our dynamic team. Tel: 082-323 1188. Please send your CV to Email: phuketinternational@asia.com

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER WANTED

We are looking for a native English kindergarten teacher to join our team to teach 10-12 children aged 3-6 years. Must have a minimum Bachelor's degree or equivalent. Tel: 076-383150, 084-5204978. Fax: 076-383150. Email: info@cravensnurseryphuket.com

RECEPTIONIST KATA

Reliable female staff is required. 2 days off per week. Tel: 081-892 1621.

CHEF WANTED

Wanted for the Ao Chalong Yacht Club.

- An English speaking chef. Must be Thai national.
- Would prefer a young person experienced in Thai cooking and willing to learn Western style.
- Great opportunity for right person to learn from award-winning Australian chef.
- Salary negotiable.

Please contact Kim Mitchell. Tel: 090-705 9466, or email resume to kim_a_mitchell@hotmail.com

VILLA STAFF

Looking for two live in staff for a seven bedroom holiday villa in Patong. Must be able to cook, clean and speak English. Experience and references are mandatory. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

MAID FOR APARTMENT NEEDED

Maid needed for apartment in Karon. Full day. Salary 14,000 baht. Age 20-37 years. Tel: 083-640 0616 (English), 084-734 0122 (English). Email: likhovro man@mail.ru

SENIOR ARCHITECT

Phuket-based architectural practice urgently requires a senior architect to oversee design of luxury villa and hospitality projects. Proficiency in written and spoken English required. Please send CV and expected salary to: info@imedgeconcepts.com

IT OR AV ENGINEERS

Thai nationality, can speak English. Please send CV to Email: info@techworx-project.com

THAI STAFF MANAGER

With good spoken and written English. Salary from 20,000 baht. Tel: 080-879 6058.

LOOKING FOR STAFF

Need 1 Chef, 1 Sous Chef, Help Cook, Waitress and Waiter for Thai and International Restaurant. Please Contact K. June 081-970 5830 or Laurent 081-693 3940. Email: alain.laurent8@gmail.com

WEBSITE PROGRAMMER REQUIRED

Must have solid HTML and CSS coding experience with knowledge of JavaScript and PHP. Design and English skills are the advantage. Immediately start. Email your CV to messenger.alexander@gmail.com

TECHWORX PROJECTS CO LTD**1. IT/AV Engineer**

Qualifications:

- Thai national.
- Bachelor's Degree in AV or IT engineering.
- Basic English.
- Experience in AV/IT programming and installation.
- Can drive with valid driver's license.

Salary:

Based on qualifications and experience.

2. Administrative Assistant

Qualifications:

- Thai national.
- Bachelor's degree in administration or related field.
- Good written and spoken English.
- Basic accounting knowledge.
- Experience in HR and accounting support.
- Can drive with valid driver's license.

Salary:

Based on qualifications and experience.

Please submit your resume with photo and expected salary to office-manager@techworx.asia or call: 081-080 3773 for more details.

HOME TUTOR K2 & GR 1 LEVEL

Need an English Kindergarten teacher to home tutor 4/5 mornings a week. Salary 35,000 baht neg. Tel: 076-321 738, 091-042 0471 (English). Email: m@bez.com.sg

ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEE

Responsible for relations with our agents and for the day-to-day operation of our company. 5 days a week. Must speak and write good English. Tel: 076-390980, 085-787 5187. Fax: 076-390 980. Email: info@phuketphototours.com

WINE & TAPAS BAR

Staff required in Phuket town, available on October 2012: bartender, helpcook, waitress. Tel: 083-969 7807.

EXPAT PRIVATE YACHT CAPTAIN

The open position is for Philippine based jobs. Applicants must hold a valid license and have the necessary qualifications & experience. Tel: 080-078 3731. Please submit your resume to markjones288@gmail.com for review by the client.

BARTENDER REQUIRED

Full-time position. Good salary and great fun. Accommodation if needed. Thai national only. Please call Russell: 089-587 9112. Email: sunsetbarphuket@yahoo.com

PERSONAL SECURITY

I am looking for a Job as your Personal Assistant to you and your family being safe and secure around the island! I speak many languages and work as a personal fitness trainer and can be your private dive instructor. I got a very nice personality and am easy going with children. Very strong build and very fit. Very confidential! Have Thai work permit. Tel: 084-188 4544. Email: mikeflysthai@me.com

ASSISTANT HOTEL MANAGER

To assist GM in maintaining a successful and profitable hotel - 42 room boutique hotel in Karon

- Bachelor's degree in Sales or Hotel Management or at least 2 years management experience
- Managing 32 staffs
- Thai national, fluent in English
- Knowledgeable in MS Word, Excel, Photo Shop
- Salary 18,000 baht per month plus service charge
- Tel: 086-604 1333 (English). Email CV to sales@ccbloomshotel.com

PHILIPPINE STAFF

Please send CV at cc@bayshoreprojects.com Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

NEW ESTATE OFFICE PHUKET

Require 2 persons: 1 experienced and 1 keen to learn. Tel: 081-958 3830.

THE KARMA ROYAL GROUP NEEDS YOU NOW IN BALI!!!

The Karma Royal Group has had a Record year in Sales Volume. Therefore we have expanded our Team to meet the demand.

That's where you fit in, we require 6 Unique Individuals, who aren't adverse to Making 6 figure incomes, for our Sales Department. We require individuals with the following Characteristics; Self motivated; Goal driven; Thick Skinned, Quick learners. Sales Experience isn't necessary as FULL Training is provided in Bali.

Please NOTE: If you're unable to relocate to Bali within 2-3 weeks time - Then DO NOT Apply!!

Email CV to: ekayanti@royalperspective.com

Accountant

- Female age 25-30 years
- Bachelor degree in accounting
- 2-3 years experience of accounting
- Knowledges of property or villa management business will be useful
- Responsible for Account Receivable, Payable & Taxation
- Timely payments to suppliers
- Able to speak English is a plus
- Own transport, office at Cherngtalay
- Hard working, able to work in a team and so delegate

**Good salary and benefits, please contact HR
Luxury Villas & Homes: 076-527633, 087-8810003**

IRANIAN PR STAFF NEEDED

The Absolute Group is currently looking to recruit an Iranian national to work in their promotions department. For more information contact Neda. Tel: 089-724 1935.

MARKETING REPS NEEDED

EZYSTAYS looking for marketing representative. No experience required, full training provided, work permit and good income. Email: leoinphuket@gmail.com

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**CHALONG**

- Julapan Stationery (Chaofa 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 For Sale

POOL EQUIPMENT
FOR SALE

Hayward 55kw pool pump with filter, 200-liter sand filter with valve, and electrical box with switches. 2 LEED lights and more. 3 years old. Make an offer. Tel: 081-893 7068.

FARANG SELLING
WASHING MACHINE

Samsung, 9kg, 6 months old, security. Price: 5,000 baht. Tel: 083-635 2414.

2ND HAND GOODS
FOR SALE

Shelves, executive tables and more. Prices negotiable. Tel: 081-978 2725.

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: armyfirst@hotmail.com

Bar &
Restaurant
EquipmentCAPUCCHINO,
COFFEE MACHINE

2 coffee stations with steam and hot water, Brasilia with Saeco coffee grinder. Price: 200,000 baht. Tel: 089-964 2188.

RAWAI BAR FOR SALE

2-bedroom house attached pool table, big TV, more than 30 seats. Big potential offers. Email: nz_prosinger@yahoo.co.nz

PATONG BAR
FOR SALE

Popular bar, open air. Beer bar in busy tourist area, fully furnished. Urgent sale: 1.6 million baht. Tel: 081-550 7379, 087-893 1753.

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International Sport

Turns, turncoats and turnups

Formula 1
By The Digby

THE big news last week was that Lewis Hamilton jumped ship after fourteen years with McLaren. I said a few weeks ago that I would be surprised and disappointed if he did so.

I'm disappointed, but was less surprised after watching, with a sense of awful foreboding, as his gearbox blew him from winner to DNF in Singapore. Hamilton is fragile and this incident helped, as the commentators noted, push him to Mercedes.

McLaren handled the negotiations badly with Hamilton's managers XIX, who also moved Beckham from Real Madrid to the LA Galaxy. Parallels are clear, but while Beckham could rationalize a remunerative backwater for his autumn days, Hamilton is in early summer.

Is it a good move? The timing is awful.

Hamilton has to endure six races, during which, McLaren will isolate him from knowledge that could affect 2013. Niki Lauda, now non-executive chairman of Mercedes F1, is the opposite of Lewis Hamilton. Niki is a blunt no-nonsense fellow,

whereas Lewis is "Master Cool".

McLaren built the team around Hamilton, and Mercedes was built by Brawn with Schumacher. Hamilton will make more money, but at this stage in his career that is pretty academic. He will be in a car that will not win in 2013, when the McLaren could. If he does not win races, his popularity and self esteem could plummet.

Mercedes has won only one



The Suzuka circuit

race in three years and has bet the ranch on the 2014 car. And now so has Hamilton.

Will Mercedes 2014 really outperform under the rule change that replaces the 2.4 liter V8 with a "greener" 1.6 liter V6 turbo? And remember, Bernie Ecclestone thinks the 2014 specification will be scrapped, saving 30 per cent of team budgets. Hamilton's career might hang on this.

As a replacement, McLaren has taken Sergio Perez from under the nose of Ferrari, and that looks a good move.

There is circuit news too. Bernie Ecclestone has, in principle, agreed to a Bangkok Night Road GP (Grand Prix) with the Thai Government, but he is giving the New Jersey sponsors a hard time. The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) has approved the Austin Circuit, but France looks less likely to have a GP in 2013 as the government refused public funds.

Anyway, it's on to Suzuka 2012, the only F1 circuit with a Figure of 8 layout; the back straight including an overpass above the out straight.

After the Start/Finish Straight and the first corner, Suzuka has several high speed flowing corners followed by the out straight and the hairpin.

Turn 12 leads to the double apex Spoon Curve, the back straight and the infamous high speed 130R. The 130 meter radius turn starting after the Crossover has seen serious accidents and is often compared to Spa's Eau Rouge.

Finally the Casio Triangle Chicane takes drivers back to the Start/Finish Straight. All of this makes rhythm critical to speed at Suzuka.

The circuit demands a high



OUT WITH THE OLD: Schumacher and Hamilton after a qualifying session of the Malaysian Grand Prix. Photo:AFP

downforce setup to ensure high speed stability. Engine power is important too, to run high wing levels. The abrasive surface and high speed corners mean high tyre degradation, exacerbated by high fuel demand, which means heavy cars.

Expect a lot of three-stop strategies. Strategy will be critical, and since it is a difficult circuit to overtake, qualifying is very important.

Suzuka rewards excellent aerodynamics, so Red Bull will be thirsting for another Vettel win. Alonso has a habit of qualifying

fifth, if he can repeat that, and work his way to a podium finish, he will not be unhappy. Button is a perfect Suzuka driver, smooth and clean, and McLaren will not now sacrifice him for a Hamilton win. And Räikkönen has a good package for the race. We are promised sun, but at Suzuka, you never know.

It's not over yet!

The race is on Sunday at 1pm, and the practice is on at 12pm on Saturday. It will be shown live on the big screen at the Green Man

Europe beat US

Golf Guru
By Martin Platts

THIS week the European and American Ryder Cup teams played at Medinah Country Club in Chicago, Illinois.

Europe knew it was going to be a partisan affair with the Americans on home soil, and the only way they could keep the crowd quiet would be to play better golf than the American team.

On the first two days, in the foursomes and the fourballs, Europe made a number of errors on the golf course and were outplayed by the American team with a score line of 10 - 6 in the American's favor.

The press thought it was all over with the

US needing 4 points from 12 available to win the Ryder Cup. How wrong they were!

On the last day Europe had their 13th man playing for them, Seve's spirit.

The full force of Seve's spirit was apparent during the match between Garcia and Furyk on the 16th hole. Garcia was bunked 30 yards away, Furyk was 15 feet away and both golfers were going for birdies. Garcia's bunker shot came out hot, landed next to the pin but stopped instantly, as if his golf ball had hit a road block. Furyk's putt went in the hole and then out again, his golf ball defying gravity like somebody had held it up in the air. Garcia went on to win the match on the 18th hole.

After Europe won the first five singles matches, the momentum of the Ryder Cup was swinging in their direction and Europe



COMEBACK KINGS: Team Europe pose with the Ryder Cup after their victory. Photo: AFP

started to believe they could win. A few American players put up some resistance, but with the crowd quieting down and the rest of the American team overwhelmed by the Europeans outstanding play on the last four holes, Europe came out on top.

Europe had won the singles 8½ to 3½, final score 14½ to 13½ in favor of Europe.

Just twelve hours before Europe's greatest golfers celebrated a Ryder Cup win in the US, it was a similar scene for European golfers in Phuket. It was even the same score in last Sunday's singles matches, with Europe winning 8 of 12

matches with one draw, at both the Medinah Country Club outside Chicago, and at Phuket's Blue Canyon Country Club.

European captain in Phuket, Jeremy Stokes, was presented with the trophy after his team won convincingly, 21 points to 15.

"There are a lot of similarities between our Ryder Cup and that other one. While we are not the same caliber of golfers, the intensity of play along with sportsmanship and camaraderie are not far off the real thing we watch on TV," said Stokes.

Email Martin at: W: golfguru.com for golf tips.

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES		PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE	
SATURDAY, 18:45	06 OCTOBER 2012	TEAM	PTS
Man City vs Sunderland		1 Chelsea	16
		2 Everton	13
SATURDAY, 21:00	06 OCTOBER 2012	3 Man Utd	12
Chelsea vs Norwich		4 Man City	12
Swansea vs Reading		5 Tottenham	11
WBA vs QPR		6 WBA	11
Wigan vs Everton		7 West Ham	11
SATURDAY, 23:30	06 OCTOBER 2012	8 Arsenal	9
West Ham vs Arsenal		9 Fulham	9
SUNDAY, 19:30	07 OCTOBER 2012	10 Newcastle	9
Southampton vs Fulham		11 Swansea	7
SUNDAY, 21:00	07 OCTOBER 2012	12 Stoke	7
Liverpool vs Stoke		13 Sunderland	7
Tottenham vs Aston Villa		14 Liverpool	5
SUNDAY, 22:00	07 OCT, 2012	15 Aston Villa	5
Newcastle vs Man Utd		16 Wigan	4
		17 Southampton	3
		18 Norwich	3
		19 Reading	2
		20 QPR	2

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Relegation threat looming

Phuket FC fell into 14th place following their most recent loss, with only five matches left to prove their Division 1 worth



By Steven Layne

A 1-0 loss to Sri Racha Suzuki FC last Sunday night in Phuket has left the Islanders in a dire situation ahead of an up-hill, October battle for survival.

Despite a wide margin in league points, Sunday's match, played in front of 3,100 fans, could have gone either way, with the Sri Racha "Blue Marlins" enjoying only slightly more possession than Phuket.

Indeed, it was looking as if Phuket FC – reinforced with the leadership of a capable new head coach, Anuruck "June" Srikerd as of Wednesday – were going to earn at least a point.

The home crowd were on their feet on a number of occasions with near-scoring chances enjoyed early on by Phuket's Narakorn Wisetthanakarn and Koreans Boas Chun and Seongwon Byeon.

However, Sri Racha's Thai Chinese keeper Chanin Sae-ie coordinated well with his Brazilian backs, team captain, Douglas Cobo and Diego Mendes to greatly limited Phuket's attacking game.

For much of the game, Phuket's midfielders Niran Panthong and Roland Vargas stepped up their defensive game to reinforce Nenebi Slyvestre and Nonthapan Jiensathawong in the back line.

Sri Racha kept up their attack but their two leading scorers, Argentine Gaston Raul Gonzalez (11 goals) and Japanese Korjima Seiya (9 goals) were unable to beat Phuket's Kampon Phatomakkakul, who made a number of commendable saves.

Sri Racha's African-Belgian import Nlome Ndebi Berlin came off the bench to replace Gonzalez in the second half, a



ALMOST DOESN'T COUNT: Sri Racha's Chanin Sae-ie (top left and inset) was a key factor in his side's win on Sunday. Sri Racha enjoyed more possession. Photos: Steven Layne

smart move for the visitors.

Berlin proved to be a menace for Phuket's defense, breaking through on a number of neck-hair raising runs.

In the 86th minute Berlin broke through again, this time beating Phuket's keeper who had run out in a desperate attempt to clear the ball, with the Belgian comfortably sending the ball through to the open goal and netting his fourth of the season.

Phuket responded and earned a few set-play chances in the dying moments, with one header by Ivorian Makalou Kanoute appearing to have bounced over the line before being cleared by the Sri Racha defender.

Sri Racha held on to the final whistle, securing their 3rd place standing – the final promotion place.

With only five matches remaining – three away and two at home – the Islanders face an uphill battle in the final month of league play.

Their next match, this Saturday, October 6, is a tough away fixture against 2nd place Suphanburi. With little time to recover, the Islanders will fly back to Phuket – courtesy of President Pamuk Atchirachai – to take on Khon Kaen FC at home in a midweek, Wednesday,

October 10, match at Surakul Stadium.



















Currently one place below Phuket, Khon Kaen are in just as much threat of losing their Division 1 standing as Phuket, so tensions are expected to be high for both sides playing for survival.

After that match, Phuket will immediately hit the road to play current 4th place side, Bangkok United three days later on October 13, followed by a week's rest before their next match, away at Rajpracha on October 20.

Then, they will return home for their season finale on October 27 against JW Rangsit FC, who are also trying to climb out from the relegation pot.

To escape relegation, Phuket will need to finish in at least 13th place. Usually, only four teams are relegated from the Thai first division (Thai Yamaha One). However, the number of relegated teams this year has been set at five in order to allocate an additional spot in the league next season for Nakhon Pathom FC, who were banned for two years following a stadium riot after a failed-playoff match against Sri Saket FC, in which the club (Nakhon Pathom) were ruled responsible.

However, the team that finishes in 14th

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1  Nakhon Phanom	29	21	5	3	73	24	47	68
2  Suphanburi	29	19	5	5	51	16	35	62
3  Sriracha	29	19	4	6	58	31	27	61
4  Bangkok United	29	19	4	6	47	27	20	61
5  PTT Rayong	29	17	4	8	55	28	28	55
6  Krabi FC	29	15	5	9	41	24	17	50
7  Royal Navy	29	11	9	9	44	35	9	42
8  Nakhonchaisima FC	29	11	9	9	34	38	-4	42
9  Air Force United	29	11	8	12	38	37	1	39
10  Saraburi	29	10	8	13	42	45	-3	36
11  Pattalung	29	7	13	9	33	42	-9	34
12  Songkhla	29	8	8	13	31	42	-11	32
13  Bangkok FC	29	8	7	14	48	47	1	31
14  Phuket	29	7	10	12	36	41	-15	31
15  KhonKaen FC	29	8	6	15	28	44	-16	30
16  JW Rangsit	29	8	7	18	29	54	-25	25
17  Rajpracha	29	5	7	14	27	48	-21	22
18  Chanthaburi	29	0	3	26	21	102	-81	3

*PTT Rayong and JW Rangsit played on October 3, not included above.

*PTT Rayong and JW Rangsit played on October 3, not included above.



Nlome Berlin (32) scored the only goal.

may still have some hope, following speculation that Songkhla FC will be dissolved after this season. Though the Southern Fighting Bulls last season boasted the largest fan base in the league, turnout figures this season plummeted due to the province gaining a new team to root for in the elite Thai Premier League: Wua Chon United – a club formed out of the promoted and disbanded Division 1 champions, Buriram FC.

In other Phuket FC news, midfielder Thawadech Aunthong has been selected to play for a national U-19 side in friendly matches against the United Arab Emirates from October 9-11 in Malaysia. If the youngster performs well, he may be selected for Thailand's U-19 squad in the Asian Championship finals in UAE next month.

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Captain survives wreck

PHUKET FC alternating captain and starting striker Watcharapong "Pae" Jun-ngam was involved in a serious accident following the match against Sri Racha.

"Pae has some minor scratches, but he is safe. He has not suffered any broken bones or any serious injuries from the accident," Paitoon Silapawisut, the personal secretary of Phuket FC President Pamuke Achariyachai, told the *Phuket Gazette* on Monday.

Mr Paitoon told the *Gazette* that Mr Watcharapong was driving alone to his home in Thung Yai District, in Nakhon Sri Thammarat province, when the accident happened: "He stopped to eat at Sapam [in Phuket] before driving home, but he fell asleep. . . and his car ran off the road and hit a tree. The



Pae and fans hours before the accident. Photo: Thanaree

car flipped onto its side and into a ditch. He was knocked unconscious for about an hour."

Mr Paitoon also told fans not to worry about the upcoming match this weekend: "He can still go with the team for the match in Suphan Buri on Saturday. However, whether he plays or not depends on him as he is still in shock," he added. – *A Khamlo and S Layne*

Phuket Dinghy Series helps youngsters sail



SAIL AWAY: Optimists and Lasers competing off Nai Yang beach in the first of the three – event Phuket Dinghy series, organized by the Phuket King's Cup Regatta. Photo: MarineScene.asia

THE Phuket Dinghy Series, launched in 2010 by the organizers of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, returned last weekend. The series comprises three weekend events at different Phuket locations in the lead-up to the Phuket King's Cup Regatta.

Santi Kanchanbandhu, a member of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee explains what the Phuket Dinghy Series is: "We provide a variety of sailing conditions at different locations, giving the youngsters a mix of experiences and testing their sailing skills. A big part of each weekend event is the sailing clinic, which is lead by an experienced sailor who can give advice and tips to the youngsters, and help them improve their skill and technique."

The first event in the 2012 Phuket Dinghy Series attracted 17 sailors and took place off Nai Yang Beach on September 29 and 30, off Phuket's Northwest coast.

Strong winds and rolling seas summed up the first day of racing, but the rain held off, and the youngsters tested both their technique and strength over the three races.

The sun appeared on the second day and with blue skies and calmer seas it was a very different sailing experience.

Rising star, Anaphat Ngamdee from Chonburi was undefeated in the first event for the Optimist Class, winning six of six.

Places were swapped through the rest of the fleet with Songkhla native Chareef Rakpongbandit holding out to take second overall by one point from Phuket youngster Sumet Pandam.

In the Laser Class, numbers were down a little from last year's series, but the competition was still high with another Chonburi native taking the win, Akarapong Chayim, with six from six. Phuket-based Teeranai Petcharat finished second with Songkhla's Jittawat Boonrat in third.

The event was established with the aim of providing youngsters with an opportunity to sail competitively in Phuket, and test their skills against sailors from other regions.

People from Phuket, Phang Nga, Songkhla and as far away as Chonburi took part in the Phuket's first Dinghy Series event.

The next event will take place on October 27-28 at Bang Tao Beach, with the final event of the series taking place off Cape Panwa on November 24-25.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Cricket's finale

IN AN action-packed double header on Sunday, September 30, at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG), Patong took on the Village and Laguna squared off against ICC in matches that would decide the finals berths for the Outrigger T20 league.

Patong put the Village into bat after winning the toss. However, a solid opening partnership of 69 runs by Martin Foster (37) and Craig Paterson (21) got the Village off to a great start. Patong eventually got the breakthrough in the 11th over with the scalp of Foster and also removed Divan Mydeen (1) cheaply in the same over.

They were on a roll when they removed Mark Ashman (0) for a golden duck in the very next over, quickly followed by Paterson. Tom Gordon (20) and captain Kevin Quilty (14 not out) joined forces for an important 24-run partnership, before Gordon was stumped by Anthony Van Blerk.

Quilty and Chris Hart (10 not out) then managed to steer the innings to a total of 136 runs from their 20 overs.

Patong got off to a cautious start before losing opener Seemant Raju (7) in the fourth over with the score on 22. Opener Richard Desmond (11) and Dave Thomas (27) then combined for a partnership of 25 runs before Desmond was caught by a diving Divan Mydeen at slip. Thomas and Manesh Sadarangani (18) then combined for a 41-run partnership to take the score to 89 before the innings came to an end in the 16th over with the total on 106 runs.

Laguna, who won the toss and batted first, suffered an early loss with Bill Stahmer (5) falling lbw in the second over. Dave Kelleway (0) then fell for the day's third golden duck in the next over. ICC picked up the scalp of Raj Raymaji (4) shortly thereafter and at 3 for 22, Laguna looked like they were in trouble. However, captain Stuart Reading (31) and Neill Culpan (60) combined to steady the innings with a 54-run partnership. Culpan and Roshan Jayasuriya (27 not out) combined for another solid 40-run partnership before Culpan was eventually dismissed in the 19th over. Laguna finished with 147 runs from their 20 overs.

ICC captain Anand Chand (57) lead by example, putting on a solid opening partnership of 75 runs with fellow opener, Pawan Kothari (12) until Roly Cooper achieved the breakthrough in the 10th over clean bowling Kothari. Imtiyaz Mushtaq (15) then joined with Chand for a 32-run partnership and ICC were



FIRST BALL: Dave Kelleway's golden duck

looking on target for victory until Neill Culpan dismissed Chand with the score on 107 in the 14th over. Culpan then followed this up with the dismissal of Mushtaq in his next over. However, Roly Cooper proved to be the match winner taking a further 3 wickets in the final overs to prevent ICC from snatching victory.

After this round of matches, Laguna finished on top with 10 points, followed by ICC on 6 points and Patong and Village on 4 points.

This weekend's action in the Outrigger T20 league will see Laguna take on ICC in the final and Patong will battle it out against the Village in the plate at the ACG on Sunday, October 7 at 9am.

The senior league will commence on Sunday, November 18. Any one interested in joining a team or entering a full team should contact Martin Foster at: clubaffairs@phuketcricketgroup.com.

For more information on Phuket cricket, visit: phuketcricketgroup.com.

– *The Phuket Gazette*



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