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# Phuket Gazette



## Aldhouse pleads guilty

Confession may save him from death penalty

INSIDE TODAY

25 Baht

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## PATONG OPERATORS PAY 50 MILLION BAHT A MONTH IN BRIBES

# I'm no bagman

## Leading Patong businessman denies collecting fees for corrupt officials

By **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

PHUKET businessman and adviser to the Thailand Trade Organization Chart Chindapol has refuted allegations that he is a Patong extortion artist, and instead has pointed the finger at a government official.

Although unwilling to name the official, Mr Chart said that 50 million baht a month was collected from Patong businesses alone, while the "bagman" pocketed 3 million baht for himself.

A letter accusing Mr Chart of "distressing, threatening and persecuting local entrepreneurs" was sent to the Phuket Media Association on July 23 and signed off by the Association for Honest Patong Entrepreneurs.

The letter alleged that Mr Chart bragged of having local government officials, police and media all in his pocket, and was therefore able to engage in extortion more effectively.

"I know who wrote the letter and why the letter was written," Mr Chart said. "This individual is a local government officer, who has been impacted by the anti-corruption project that I initiated. But I cannot reveal the person's name at this time."

"I personally have received many complaints from Patong business owners about local government officers demanding extortion money,



Chart Chindapol claims a government official is at the heart of corruption in Patong. Photo: PR Dept

totaling about 50 million baht a month. One corrupt official skims about 3 million baht off this a month," Mr Chart said.

Patong business owners bribe officials from at least 17 local government offices, Mr Chart alleged. The payoffs are to ensure officials overlook closing times for night-entertainment venues, the

sale of pirated goods and the use of illegal workers, among other illicit activities, he said.

Mr Chart also questioned the authenticity of the Association for Honest Patong Entrepreneurs, which he said was not a registered association...

Continued on page 3

## Australians blame dope for heavy baggage

TWO Australian tourists claim marijuana was placed in their luggage in Bangkok before they checked in for a flight to Phuket, but authorities say the allegations made by the couple don't add up.

Full story on Page 2

## Beat slows in Krabi killing rap

POLICE keep looking for clues in the Little Longhorn Saloon stabbing case in Krabi. Investigators can't find the weapon, the suspects don't like the translator and the case has yet to go to trial, despite one of the suspects confessing to the stabbing.

Full story on Pages 4-5

## Patong water up the creek

PHUKET'S leading environmental officer says brown sea water at Patong was caused by an algae bloom, while the expert in charge of testing the water says the bloom is being fed by wastewater dumped into the town's canal.

Full story on Page 7

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## This Week



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Central Festival East now fully open with new shops. **Page 13**



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Savour the true taste of Phuket at the famous Lock Tien. **Page 34**



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Discover the fast-paced sport of adventure racing in Krabi. **Page 36**



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# Aussie scam claim puzzles authorities

By Orawin Narabal

AN AUSTRALIAN couple who told the Australian media that their luggage was tampered with and marijuana planted in it as they were leaving Bangkok may not have been telling the truth, the *Gazette* has found.

Georgia (a pseudonym) told an Australian radio station that she and her boyfriend believe they were set up to be scammed by corrupt Thai airport officials.

When the couple checked in at Suvarnabhumi International Airport for their flight to Phuket, Georgia said, they learned that their luggage was overweight and were told to lighten it or pay a fee.

When they left the airport and went to a nearby hotel to repack the bag, they noticed damage to two suitcases: a broken lock and a rip. On closer examination, they say, they found a handful of marijuana in a small bag in one of the bags.

After finding the marijuana, they contacted the Australian Embassy in Bangkok for advice, Georgia told the radio station and also the Australian national daily, *The Age*.

The embassy, Georgia said, advised them to throw away the contraband and change their travel



Travelers should lock their luggage before leaving their hotels, not leave it unattended and not trust strangers to watch it. Photo: Gazette file

plans for their own safety.

However, when contacted by the *Gazette*, the Australian Embassy in Bangkok stated that it had no knowledge of the conversation.

"We would not give such advice," an embassy staffer said, "we would advise them to follow legal processes."

Further doubt was cast by air-

port official Chainarong Phutharutsud, Chief of Phuket Airport Customs Law Enforcement Sub-Division, who said luggage problems were generally discovered and reported by staff at the x-ray point.

Chief Chainarong advised reporting suspected scams to his department or the Tourist Police.

## Bartender saved from the drink

FRIENDS of an intoxicated Phuket bartender saved him from drowning on August 26 after he decided to go for a swim at Patong Beach.

Surachai Junmee, 29, and five friends were drinking at Loma Park after they got off work at about 2am, Patong Police Capt Teerasak Boonsang explained.

"At about 6:30am, when they were quite drunk, they went for a swim – but Mr Surachai was carried away by the waves and disappeared," he said.

"His friends searched for him, and eventually found him and pulled him out of the water," Capt Teerasak said.

Mr Surachai was unconscious when pulled from the surf.



Friends rescued Mr Surachai after he disappeared under the waves.

"He was taken to Patong Hospital and admitted to the Intensive Care Unit," Capt Teerasak said.

Patong Hospital staff confirmed to the *Gazette* that Mr Surachai has recovered from his ordeal, and been discharged.

– **Thawit Bilabdullar**

## Italian expat arrested for temple theft

AN ITALIAN expat down on his luck was arrested on August 26 after he stole 100 baht from a donation box at a Phuket temple.

Monks at Karon Temple (Wat Suwankirikheth) reported to police that a man had stolen money from a donation box several times, said Karon Police Deputy Superintendent Sophon Borirak.

When police viewed temple CCTV footage, they saw a man use a stick with chewing gum attached at the end to fish money out of the donation box.

Anticipating that he would come back, police hid in the temple to wait for him, said Lt Col Sophon.

"At about 6:30 pm yesterday, he came back, walked directly to

the box and used the stick to take money from it again," he explained.

"Officers waited until he put a 100-baht banknote in his pocket before they moved in and arrested him," he added.

The man, identified by police as Franco Minichelli, 54, confessed to police that he stole the money, said Col Sophon.

"He told police that he had been living in Phuket for 10 years and owned a seafood restaurant in Rawai that went bankrupt.

"He was destitute, so he turned to stealing the donation money," Lt Col Sophon said.

Mr Minichelli has been charged with theft.

– **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



Mr Minichelli shows how he used chewing gum on a stick to retrieve bills from the temple donation box.



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# Aldhouse pleads guilty

## Confession may help British kickboxer to avoid death penalty

By Irfan Jamdukor

LEE Aldhouse, the British kickboxer extradited from the UK to face murder charges in Phuket, on Wednesday entered a plea of guilty to murdering former US Marine Dashawn Longfellow in Rawai two years ago.

The plea was entered after Judge Montri Saroj, speaking via a court translator, reminded Aldhouse that a guilty plea would likely "help" commute a possible death sentence.

"The highest penalty for this charge is death. If you accept the charge before the witness testimony, your confession can help commute the death penalty," Judge Montri said.

The court watched for 15 minutes as Aldhouse consulted with his lawyer, Public Prosecutor Tawan Sukyiran, and his translator before prosecutor Tawan turned to the judge and said, "Mr Aldhouse enters a plea of guilty."

Judge Montri asked to confirm with Aldhouse that the guilty plea was accurate, to which Aldhouse silently nodded.

Despite Aldhouse admitting to the crime, the trial will continue, Judge Montri explained to the court.

"Even though the suspect has pleaded guilty, we will continue with the witness testimony to be

fair to both parties," he said.

Court was adjourned and the next trial date for hearing witness testimonies was scheduled for September 2.

Aldhouse, also known by his kickboxing nickname "The Pitbull", fled Thailand on August 17, 2010, three days after the slaying of Mr Longfellow.

Accompanied by his girlfriend, he hired a taxi to take them to Koh Samui, but along the way decided to take a bus to Bangkok instead. They then made their way to the Klong Yai checkpoint at the Cambodian border.

Mr Aldhouse was able to depart the country and enter Cambodia at the remote checkpoint, which at the time had no online connection with Thailand's Immigration database.

Immigration Police only realized Aldhouse had slipped out of the country six hours after the fact.

The girlfriend, who may yet testify, returned to Bangkok by bus and was later picked up for questioning by police. She confessed to her role in aiding Aldhouse's escape and told investigators of his plan to return to England.

However, British sources familiar with the case told the *Gazette* that Aldhouse had fled the UK years before, after serving two



Lee Aldhouse, pictured arriving in Phuket in December as the first person to be extradited from the UK to Thailand in a 100 years. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

years in a Birmingham jail for his part in an armed robbery. He served two years of a five-year sentence for illegal gun possession, the source said.

He was arrested by British authorities upon arrival at Heathrow Airport, London.

Aldhouse is the first person to

be extradited from the UK to Thailand since a treaty was signed between the countries more than 100 years ago.

Before Wednesday, Aldhouse had long maintained that he stabbed 23-year-old Longfellow, but did not have the premeditated intention of murder.

## In brief...

### Phuket resorts next up for demolition

MANOPAT Huamuangkaew, director-general of the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, has warned that Phuket is now at the top of his priority list in demolishing illegal resorts encroaching on national park land.

Mr Manopat specifically identified Sirinath National Park, on Phuket's west coast, as his key interest in protecting public land in Phuket.

Meanwhile, the chief of the DSI's Consumer and Environment Protection Office, Prawuth Wongsinil, said his office would investigate only two of 11 resorts previously identified as encroaching on Sirinath National Park, and would not release the names of those alleged to be involved in the encroachment, including government officers.

### Owner's mobile not on the menu

PHUKET City Police have released CCTV images of the man who robbed the Tung Ka Cafe at the top of Rang Hill on August 5 in the hopes that the public can help identify him.

The bearded, dark-skinned man stole the owner's 15,000-baht Samsung Galaxy and 2,400 baht she had left on the counter in the 7am robbery.



Anyone with information can contact Deputy Superintendent Prawit Engchuan at 081-4158668 or the Phuket City Police at 076-212129.

### Bones may bolster sea gypsy claims

HUMAN bones found at the sea gypsy settlement in Rawai may help bolster the gypsies claim that they have lived on the land for generations.

Parts of skull, arm, leg, and chest bones were found 20cm deep in a Department of Special Investigations (DSI) excavation that started August 20.

Prawuth Wonginil, a DSI chief, had earlier noted that if bones were found, outsiders making land claims would need to explain why they had allowed the sea gypsies to bury their dead on their land.

## Stolen visas turn up criminals, cocaine in Phuket

PHUKET Police have recovered at least one of the 300 visa stickers stolen from the Thai Embassy in Malaysia late last month.

The stolen visa was discovered in the passport of Nigerian Ebogbulem Chinwemdu Romanus, 33, who was arrested by Karon Police on August 23 for possession of 1.33 grams of cocaine.

Phuket Immigration were notified on about August 19 and told to be on the look out for the missing stickers.

"We notified immigration officials at Phuket International Airport and every police station in Phuket," said Capt Angkarn Yasanop of Phuket Immigration.

By August 24, the Immigration Bureau reported that 11 suspects had been arrested with stolen visas so far.

Five were caught at Suvarnabhumi Airport and two in the border province of Songkla.

According to the Foreign Ministry, more than 250 of the stolen visa stickers have already been used. "As of August 24, authori-



Mr Romanus had the only stolen visa discovered in Phuket. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

ties had retrieved 55 of the visa stickers", said said Immigration police investigator Col Chatchai Eam-Seang.

The stickers, which have all been cancelled, bore the numbers A4049901- A4050000, A4055901-A4056000 and A5801901-A5802000, said Suvarnabhumi Airport Immigration commander Col Withoon Decho.

A Thai woman referred to as "Mama" was allegedly behind the case.

"She's active in Bangkok's Pattanakarn area. She's still in Thailand," a source told *The Nation*.

Ongoing investigation suggests that the foreign nationals handed over their passport, a photograph and 10,000 baht to "Mama" to apply for the visa, and a few days later, they were required to pay another 20,000 baht to retrieve their passport with the relevant visa.

Five Thai government officers are suspected of involvement in the visa theft.

Members of the group, which includes one Malaysian woman, had bank accounts showing transactions of over one million baht a month, said Col Chatchai.

The visa theft was initially kept under wraps by the Foreign Ministry in order to protect their investigation, said Deputy Foreign Ministry Spokesman Jakkrit Srivali.

— **Orawin Narabal and Kritsada Mueanhawong**

## Patong businessman spills the beans on corruption

From page 1

...He also took his moment in the media spotlight to promote Patong as a Special Administration Zone, which he said would adjust the laws in the party town in a way that would cut back on corruption.

"Mindful that nightlife in Patong only really gets going at around 8pm, we could extend opening hours of entertainment establishments. Then business owners can

be fairly taxed by the government, which is a preferable alternative to paying local officials under the table," he said.

Mr Chart said he was not worried about his personal safety, but more concerned about how the official would be able to convolute the truth for his own personal gain.

"I don't know how much power the persons has. He might be able to turn black into white, who knows," he said.


Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat said police were powerless to act on the letter or Mr Chart's allegations until a formal complaint had been filed with the police.

"We have not heard of this case. However, if somebody wishes to file a police complaint, an investigation would be started," Maj Gen Choti said.

"We would of course provide fairness to all parties."

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## Deputy PM calls for 'one-stop' police counters for Phuket tourists, expats

DEPUTY Prime Minister Pracha Promnok has called for every police station across Phuket to have a dedicated section to receive complaints from foreigners.

The call came at a meeting at The Metropole Hotel in Phuket Town last Saturday, attended by Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut, Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat and other top-ranking police officers from the Andaman provinces of Phang Nga and Krabi as well as Surat Thani.

"The superintendent of every police station in the province should set up 'one-stop' sections to serve tourists and expats. This will make it much more convenient for people to file complaints and make it easier for officers in the police station to do their work," Deputy PM Pracha said.

He also called for police on the island to work together with the governor to help boost public safety in Phuket.

"Police and officials should share information in order to be able to provide better safety and security in Phuket. Security is a top priority not just for Phuket, but



Deputy PM Pracha called for every police station across Phuket to have a dedicated section to receive complaints from foreigners.

for every province in Thailand in accordance with the policy laid down by the prime minister," Deputy PM Pracha said.

Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat highlighted efforts to boost police presence in tourist areas by involving Thai and foreign volunteers.

"Our officers work with many volunteers – Thai and foreign. In some police stations in tourist areas we have translators available

to assist tourists," Maj Gen Choti said.

"Also, additional officers will patrol areas where many tourists stay. We are continuing our efforts to have illegal taxi and jet-ski operators become legal, and so far we have 343 CCTV cameras around Phuket.

"We will add 2,400 more cameras with a budget of 89 million baht," Gen Choti said.

– *Orawin Narabal*

## One fateful

**THIS Saturday marks four weeks since three Thai musicians were quickly arrested for the stabbing murder of American tourist Bobby Ray Carter Jr and the assault of his 27-year-old son in Krabi.**

**Since then, however, the case has slowed to a crawl. A trial date has yet to be set, police have yet to press formal charges and all three suspects are out on bail.**

**The Gazette's Chutharat Plerin reports.**

KRABI Police arrived at the Little Longhorn Saloon bar in Ao Nang at about 1:30am on July 31 to find blood spattered on the ground and reports that two foreigners had been seriously injured in a brawl with three band members at the venue.

One of the foreigners, 51-year-old American tourist Bobby Ray Carter Jr, had suffered deep stab wounds. His son, Adam, 27, had also been hurt in the fracas, suffering serious head injuries and a stab wound to the arm. Both had been rushed to hospital.

Bobby Carter was pronounced dead soon after arriving at Krabi Hospital.

The three band members – R a t i k o r n Romin, 27, from Phang Nga; Nopanan Yoddecha, 26, from Krabi; and Sathid Somsa, 40, from Bangkok – did not flee the scene and were immediately arrested.

Hours later at Krabi Town Police Station, all three accepted charges related to brawling, but denied any intent to kill.

"We accept that we attacked them, but we didn't intend to kill anyone," Mr Ratikorn said in his statement to police.

"The father and son came to the pub and they joined us singing on the stage. Then we had an argument with them because they refused to stop singing when the time was up.

"The father knocked our tip-box to the floor. We left the stage and sat [outside] in front of the bar... After a while they came outside and started another argument with us. The father knocked me to the ground first, and I could not breathe because he was sitting on my chest.

"Then I spotted a sharp piece of metal nearby, so I grabbed it and stabbed him," Mr Ratikorn said.

All three suspects were charged with inflicting bodily harm causing the death and assault. Mr Sathid was also charged with possession of an illegal firearm after he was found at the scene with a homemade gun.

Despite the fast initial action by police, however, the case has now drawn out beyond expectations and the initial murder charges by police have been rounded down to manslaughter.

"The three suspects have now been charged with causing death by inflicting injury upon the body of such

person without intent to cause death," Krabi Town Police Deputy Superintendent Noppadol Mukda confirmed this week.

"We are now collecting more evidence so we can hand over the case to the Public Prosecutor as soon as possible," he added.

"The suspects have not been



**'The fact that the suspects had not fled the scene and had made partial confessions stood in their favor. That is why the court granted them bail'**

**– Gen Nantadech Yoinuan, Krabi Provincial Police**

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# night at the Longhorn Saloon

formally charged in court. So far they have only been presented with police charges," Lt Col Noppadol said.

"We have also yet to find the weapon," he added.

In order to continue their investigation, police were forced to hand the suspects over to the court, which subsequently granted all three bail.

"Police can detain the suspects only 48 hours before we must release them, so we asked the court to take them into custody. The court then granted them bail. That was the court's decision," Col Noppadol explained.

Officers at Krabi Court declined to reveal over the phone any information regarding the bail posted by the three suspects, including how much bail was posted or who may have provided a good behavior surety.

However, an officer at the court's bail division explained, "Bail is normally set at 500,000 baht for murder suspects, and at about 180,000 baht for assault causing death."

Krabi Provincial Police Commander Nantadech Yoinuan supported the court's decision.

"The fact that the suspects had not fled the scene and had made partial confessions stood in their favor. That is why the court granted them bail," he said.

To expedite proceedings, Bobby Ray's son, Adam, was permitted to give his statement to the court on August 5-7 and then return home to Dallas, Texas.

However, Krabi Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Boontawe Toraksa declined to relate to the *Gazette* any statements given by Adam.

## TRANSLATORS

Adam's pre-trial testimony also raised the issue of which translators may be used in giving evidence, as the suspects refused a translator provided by the US Embassy in Bangkok.

"They had the right to refuse the translator, whether or not it postponed proceedings," Col Noppadol explained.

"As they were out on bail and the trial had not yet begun, they were asked to attend the sessions during which Adam gave his testimony. We could not force them," he said.

"The suspects were concerned the version of events relayed by the translator provided by the embassy would not be entirely accurate. However, they agreed to



The scene of the stabbing brawl, the Little Longhorn Saloon in Ao Nang, Krabi. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

use a translator provided by the court," he added.

Suspects must accept a provided court translator, but if a court translator is not available, they can demand to have one they deem appropriate, Col Noppadol explained.

"If everyone agrees, proceedings may go ahead and will be recognized by the court," he said.

"However, every person has the right to have a translator

present to assist in understanding evidence presented to the court," he said.

Krabi TAT office Director Wiyada Srirangkul confirmed that the TAT Krabi office does offer to provide translators for foreigners involved in criminal cases, a development that arose from the case of a

Dutch female tourist who was allegedly raped in Ao Nang late last year. The case made international headlines following the posting of the YouTube music video "Evil Man from Krabi".

"We provide translators for tourists at the request of the tourists themselves or of their embassies. However, we did not provide a translator for Adam because the US embassy decided to handle it," she said.

## NO PRESSURE

In bringing the case to trial, the public prosecutor in charge explained to the *Phuket Gazette* that police have 84 days from the day the suspects are presented to the court to actually press formal charges.

"We cannot tell how long it will take. The police have to finish their investigation first," the prosecu-

tor said, declining to be named by the press.

"We have not set a deadline for pressing formal charges, but it must be done within 84 days of the suspects being handed over to

the court," Col Noppadol confirmed.

Asked whether the case deserved to be prioritized, Col Noppadol said: "That is the judge's decision."

## JAIL TIME

Although manslaughter charges incur jail sentences of three to 15 years, Mr Ratikorn confessing to stabbing Bobby Carter is likely to result in a relatively light sentence being handed down.

"If suspects confess, the sentence handed down is usually less severe. However, that all depends on the judge," the case prosecutor told the *Gazette*.

If jail time is demanded, the suspects are likely to serve it at Krabi Prison, which incarcerates prisoners who receive sentences of 10 years or less. Prison terms are normally served in the province where the crime was committed.

"However, if they receive sentences of more than 10 years, they will be sent to the maximum security prison in Nakhon Sri Thammarat," the case prosecutor explained.

Prisoners also receive reduced sentences for good behavior, which means they are likely to not serve full terms, he added.



'We accept that we attacked them, but we didn't intend to kill anyone'

— Ratikorn Romin, 27, from Phang Nga



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## Police move to detain Rohingya at purpose-built regional shelters

THE Royal Thai Police are lobbying Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to build detention centers across Southern Thailand to house Rohingya refugees.

The move aims to relieve pressure on already-overflowing detention centers at immigration offices in Phuket, Phang Nga and Ranong.

Maj Gen Kraibun Suadsong from the Office of Police Strategy revealed the push for regional camps during a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Pracha Promnok in Phuket last Saturday (see page 4).

"The Royal Thai Police thinks that it might be easier to take care of all 1,722 Rohingya being detained in Thailand if they were kept in the same place," Gen Kraibun said.

He explained that initial efforts to build a single facility to house all 1,722 Rohingya met strong opposition from local residents in Cha-uat District in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, the selected site for the proposed mega-camp.

"Local residents did not agree with the idea, so we selected another site at Dan

Singkorn in Prachuap Khiri Khan province," Gen Kraibun explained.

"However, by that time the committee involved in the project believed that having so many Rohingya held at the one location might make it easier for them to escape," he added.

"Instead, the committee finally agreed to seek to have the Rohingya at new purpose-built shelters in Nong Khai, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Ranong and Songkhla," he said.

— **Orawin Narabai**

See 'Rohingya escapes' on page 10.



Maj Gen Kraibun Suadsong



Mr Thawan (left) explains the warning system to Governor Maitri.

## Landslide alarm installed on hills above Patong

A LANDSLIDE early-detection system costing 4-million-baht has been installed in the Patong Hills.

The system was installed because of high risk of landslides in Patong, Kathu and Karon, Thawan Sukkho of the Bureau of Geotechnology, Department of Mineral Resources, explained to Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut during an inspection last Friday.

"Usually landslides are triggered by rain of more than 100 millimeters. If this much rain falls, the device can calculate how soon a landslide could take place, and send a warning to the Mineral Resources Department, indicating whether we should evacuate the area in 30 minutes or two hours," Mr Thawan said.

"We will report it to local government offices in the risk area," Mr Thawan said.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

# Dokset trial hears of gruesome discovery

By Irfarn Jamdukor

THE senior officer in charge of collecting forensic evidence at the home of Norwegian national Stein Harvard Dokset recounted to the court on August 22 what his team encountered when they discovered the gruesome remains of Mr Dokset's slain ex-girlfriend, Runnupa Suktong.

Mr Dokset, 50, stands accused of murdering Ms Runnupa and leaving her remains to dissolve in an acid-filled trash bin in the basement of his Kata villa.

Mr Dokset appeared at Phuket Provincial Court at 9:40am. He entered the court room with a smile and greeted the lawyers present, including the prosecutors, with a respectful *wai*.

Proceedings got underway at 11am with testimony from Lt Col Kittisak Nuphueng of the Phuket Office of Forensic Science.

Col Kittisak explained to the court that Chalong Police called him to inspect Mr Dokset's luxury six-bedroom villa in Kata at 2pm on February 27, 2012.

His team went to inspect the house the next day at 5pm, coinciding with the raid during which Mr Dokset was arrested.



Officers found the remains of Runnupa Suktong (inset) rotting in an acid bath in the basement Stein Dokset's luxury villa. Photos: Gazette file

"In the bathroom of the basement bedroom, we found bones in a bin that was sealed with tape," Col Kittisak said. "There was still flesh on some of the bones."

"The bones were in a black plastic bag. On inspection, we believed the bones were human," he added.

His team also found red spots that looked like blood along the stairway to the second floor and

in a bathroom adjoining a bedroom on the third floor.

"We took photos and collected samples for DNA testing," Col Kittisak said.

The samples were sent for forensic examination, he said.

"In a desk drawer inside the home office on the second floor, we found a woman's shoulder bag containing a loaded 9mm gun. Also inside the bag was a permit for

the 9mm handgun issued to Ms Runnupa," Col Kittisak said.

"As the senior officer in charge of collecting forensic evidence at the scene, that was the end of my role in the investigation," Col Kittisak told the court.

The lengthy delay in starting the trial proceedings on August 22 drew stern words from one of the judges presiding over the trial.

"This case is taking too long," he cautioned the prosecutors.

Three witnesses failed to show and a mix-up over who would be providing an English-language translator for Mr Dokset saw the judges waiting more than an hour and a half for proceedings to get underway.

"Four witnesses were scheduled to testify today: Col Kittisak, two case investigation officers and one of Dokset's ex-girlfriends," explained Suriyatham Thongsai, the lawyer representing Mr Dokset.

"But three of them failed to show up," he said.

The next trial date for witnesses' testimonies was set for November 8. In the meantime, Mr Dokset will celebrate his 51st birthday behind bars at Phuket Prison on September 9.

## Market vendor arrested for decade-old murder

A USED-CLOTHING vendor at the Baan Lipon market in Thalang was arrested on August 21 on a Songkla murder charge dating back to 2002.

Police received word from police in Padang Besar that Jatejit Boonchai, a 36-year-old Trang native, was living in Thalang.

"We found out that he was selling secondhand clothing in the market," said Thalang Police Superintendent Sirisak Wasasiri said.

"So we went to the market yesterday afternoon [August 21] at about 3:30pm and arrested him as he was working. We brought him back to the station, and now are



Jatejit Boonchai was arrested on Songkla murder charges.

waiting to transfer him to Songkla to face the charges," he said

Mr Jatejit also faces charges for the illegal possession of a firearm in connection to the 2002 murder.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**

## Warship bursts into flames – again

THE decommissioned warship HTMS *Lanta* burst into flames last week while workers were repairing damage caused by a previous fire that broke out at the tourist attraction on July 3.

No injuries were reported.

Krabi Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) firemen took about an hour to squelch the flames on the warship, a tourist attraction in Krabi Town, on August 23.

Police believe that the fire started in the engine room on the second floor of the ship and then spread to the first floor.

"It is very possible that the fire was caused by a spark from welding being done on the second floor," Krabi *OrBorJor* President

Somsak Kittitornkul said. "The spark might have landed on the insulation foam, which is flammable."

The blaze is estimated to have caused more than 100,000 baht of damage, Mr Somsak said.

"We will have to reiterate the importance of being careful to the construction team. We don't want this to happen yet again," Mr Somsak said.

Some local villagers, however, believe that careless construction workers were not the source of the fire. Some explained that the *OrBorJor* might have set up the ship museum without conducting the necessary prayers and letting resident ghosts know first.

Nonetheless, the HTMS *Lanta*,



Firemen took about an hour to squelch the flames.

measuring 98 meters bow to stern, is expected to re-open to the public as a floating museum some time next year.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



# Dodging the Patong solution

By Irfan Jamdukor

PHUKET's leading environment officer this week speculated that the color of the seawater at Patong Bay turned an off-brown over last weekend possibly due to a "plankton bloom".

The news came two days after officials staged a press event, led by Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut, promoting the launch of a campaign to regularly test the quality of seawater at Phuket's key tourist beaches, starting with Patong.

"The initial tests on August 23 showed the seawater quality at Patong was within normal parameters," Dr Pornsri Suthanaruk, director of the Phuket Environmental Office Region 15, told the *Gazette*.

"However, we believe that the brown color of the water [on Monday] might be the result of a plankton bloom," she said.

Dr Pornsri explained that excessive amounts of "nutrients", in the form of nitrogen and phosphorus, likely fed plankton growth in the bay, spurred on by the days of bright sunshine Phuket had recently enjoyed.

Regardless, Dr Pornsri maintained that her office would await test results from samples collected before taking action.

"The Phuket Marine Biological



A wastewater pump station stands beside a small community by the banks of the canal. Photo: Irfan Jamdukor

Center [PMBC] will test the water samples [collected on August 23] for coliform bacteria, total suspended solids and nutrients. We will also have experts collect samples of the plankton bloom to determine the exact type of plankton and what caused it to bloom,"

the environmental chief said.

PMBC Director Ukkrit Satapoomin, however, told the *Gazette* he had no doubt the bloom was the result of untreated wastewater being released into Klong Pak Bang, which discharges straight into Patong Bay at the

southern end of Patong Beach.

"The are two main sources of wastewater that are emptied into the Pak Bang Canal. I would estimate that about 40 per cent is overrun from the wastewater treatment plant. The remaining 60 per cent is from residents, hotels

and other private establishments in Patong," he said.

"The wastewater treatment plant cannot treat all the wastewater in Patong. The officials at Patong Municipality know about this problem and are trying to find a way to solve it – by setting up another wastewater treatment plant," Dr Ukkrit explained.

"However, this requires a large budget and the problem has yet to be resolved," he said.

Dr Ukkrit explained that his office has previously tested water in the canal.

"We found elevated readings of nitrogen and phosphorus, among other 'nutrients' [sic]. This could have come from only one original source: residents and businesses in Patong," he said.

Meanwhile, it may take weeks for the bloom to dissipate from Patong Bay, Dr Pornsri explained.

"If the plankton bloom is not fed further, the brown water will return to its usual clear-blue color after about two weeks. Plankton has a short lifespan and will die off," she said.

"In the meantime. Patong Municipality has been asked to forward water quality reports of hotels and companies operating in Patong to the Phuket Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment as soon as possible," Dr Pornsri added.

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Noraworn Thonghom, a jet-ski operator, led the rescue effort.

## Dolphin rescue fails at Patong

A DOLPHIN that washed ashore at Patong Beach on August 21 died despite the best efforts of bystanders to keep her alive.

The female striped dolphin was first spotted by a tourist, who informed a jet-ski operator, who in turn called the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC).

"I was walking along the beach when a tourist came to tell me about the stranded dolphin, so I reported it," said the jet-ski operator, Noraworn Thonghom, 27.

"When I first saw it, it was very weak. We took it back to the water, but it died before the experts arrived," he said.

PMBC veterinarian Dr Patcharaporn Gaewmong told the *Gazette*, "It was a female striped dolphin, not over 10 years old, and about 30 kilograms in weight. She had a wound on her fin."

"This kind of dolphin is common in the Andaman Sea. We believe she was sick. We took her body back to the center to determine the cause of death," she said.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

# Fishery chief vows action after net drops on divers

By Saran Mitrarat

THE Chief of the Fishery Management Center in Krabi vowed to bolster patrols at Phuket dive destination Shark Point after photos surfaced of a gill net being dropped over the protected marine area when divers were in the water.

"To ensure diver safety, we will increase the frequency of our patrols in the area to prevent any type of fishing," said Jaroenchai Srisuwan, chief of the Fishery Management Center in Krabi.

"However, this is only a short-term solution," he added, promising to present the issue to Krabi Governor Prasit Osathanonda for a permanent solution.

Musang Rock, better known as Shark Point, is a marine conservation area and is protected under the Fisheries Act, Mr Jaroenchai said.

"No fishing of any kind is allowed in the area," he explained.

The gill net that sparked Mr Jaroenchai's concern this week was set up about a week ago by fishermen while divers were still in the water.

"The net itself is nearly invisible. Staff on our dive boat tried to warn the fisherman in the longtail boat that divers were in the water below, but the fisherman ignored them," said Joe Blasy, a dive instructor and twelve-year resident of Phuket.

Divers underwater at the time



The gill net, hanging below the diver, was dropped at protected marine site Shark Point. Photo: Jennifer Parker

estimated the net was about 200 meters long.

"It was wrapped around the entirety of Shark Point Pinnacle One, then up and over Shark Point Pinnacle Two, ranging in depth from about seven meters to 30 meters," Mr Blasy said.

"The net was tangled on several tube and bush corals. There is no doubt that had we not... carefully removed it, the coral, which are actually colonies of thousands of

tiny organisms that take years to grow, would have been pulled up, broken and killed," he explained.

Mr Jaroenchai said the recent patrols of the area had yet to turn up any illegal fishermen, but urged the community to help his office protect the reefs.

"The area we are responsible for is far too large. We need everyone's help," Mr Jaroenchai.

"If you witness illegal fishing please contact us immediately by

calling 075-62 0510. We are on duty 24 hours a day," he said.

Those arrested for illegal fishing will be handed over to the police for processing and can face charges carrying a penalty of 5,000 to 10,000 baht, one year in prison, or both, he said.

"We will continue to do our best to educate people about the importance of the environment and the need to protect it," Mr Jaroenchai said.

## Thieves 'tagged' after CCTV images posted on Facebook

PHUKET City Police have arrested two suspects after posting CCTV images of the criminals on their Facebook page.

The first crime took place on August 5, when Tippaya Pho's room on Phun Pol Soi 2 in Phuket Town was robbed of a 35,500-baht MacBook and a black Lenovo laptop valued at 33,300 baht.

Police collected CCTV footage from Mr Tippaya's apartment complex and posted images of the thief on their Facebook page, Phuket City Police officer Prawit Engchuan said.

"People sent us information that enabled us to arrest the suspect, Udom Janthong, 22, in a rental room in Phuket Town on Monday," Col Prawit said.

"Mr Udom confessed that he wanted money to travel, so he sold the computers to Burmese workers at a low price," he said.

The second crime solved with the help of social media was the theft of water taps in Phuket Town.

Residents reported the tap thefts to police on August 8 and by Monday this week Rongroj



ANTI-SOCIAL: Mr Udom (left) and Mr Runroj hold copies of the CCTV images posted on Facebook that led to their arrests.

Pramutmatyakul, 33, was in police custody.

"Mr Rongroj confessed to stealing taps twice, but he couldn't remember how many taps in total he had stolen. He said he wanted

money to buy drugs and pay computer fees in game shops," Col Prawit explained.

Both men have been charged with theft.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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## No indictment for Red Bull heir, again

PROSECUTORS have postponed the indictment of Vorayuth Yoovidhya, the Red Bull heir accused of killing a police officer in a hit-and-run accident, for the fifth time.

The statute of limitations on the charge expires on September 3. If prosecutors fail to indict Mr Vorayuth before then, he will not face trial for the killing of Pol Sen Sgt-Maj Wichian Klanprasert, who died last September.

Recordings from CCTV show Mr Vorayuth driving at 170km per hour at the time of the accident.

Police have said that traces of cocaine and illegal levels of alcohol were found in the suspect's blood on the day of the accident.

Police have pressed two charges against Mr Vorayuth: reckless driving that caused a death, and failure to stop his vehicle and come out to help the victim.

"Police investigators have to question four more witnesses, including two speeding experts. The investigation report on this part has not been concluded," said Reuchai Krairerk, a senior expert public prosecutor.

Mr Vorayuth is the youngest son of Chalerm Yoovidhya, one of the richest men in Thailand. The family fortune is built on sales of the world-famous energy drink Red Bull.



Police have until September 3 to press charges. Photo: The Nation

# PAD bows out; members free to join other parties

## AROUND THE nation

THE People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD), the yellow-shirted activist group that succeeded in bringing down two governments in 2008, are no more – at least for now.

In a statement last week, leaders Sondhi Limthongkul and Chamlong Srimuang said they were bowing out of leading the movement.

They said ousting the Yingluck Shinawatra government "would only result in a vicious cycle, as the ruling Pheu Thai Party would only be voted back into power," *The Nation* reported.

The leaders also said they did not want to risk violating their bail conditions. Both face charges relating to PAD actions in 2008, in which the group seized Government House and Bangkok's two main airports in a successful bid to bring down the Samak Sundaravej and Somchai Wongsawat governments.

The decision means PAD supporters are now free to join other rallies or movements.

The PAD, however, may make a return in the future once political reform takes shape, to ensure it can finally be completed, the leaders said.

The Democrat Party has been in talks with the PAD over a possible alliance.

The party has vowed to bring



Sondhi Limthongkul, after deposing two prime ministers, has vowed to give up street protests. Photo: The Nation

down the "Thaksin regime" through actions both inside and outside Parliament.

PAD leader Mr Sondhi called on the Democrats to resign from Parliament and come to rally on the street to "prove themselves". But the Democrats had refused, the PAD claimed.

The PAD, former allies of the Democrats, said the party was partially responsible for its problems in Thai politics and was an obstacle to the overhaul.

For now, the PAD's decision on whether or not to join in mass

street protests depends upon the government's next maneuver.

PAD leader Pibhop Dhongchai said: "We can't say whether we'll join hands [with the Democrats]. It depends on the 'issue'."

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has set up a council on national reform to find solutions to the country's political crisis.

The Democrats have refused

to participate unless the government drops its Amnesty Bill from deliberation in Parliament.

'We can't say whether we'll join hands [with the Democrats]. It depends on the 'issue'.'

– PAD leader Pibhop Dhongchai

The law would grant amnesty to people who took part in protests since the 2006 coup.

The Democrats claim it is a ploy to secure the return of Pheu Thai Party patron Thaksin Shinawatra, who was convicted in 2008 of corruption, to Thailand.

## Wave of Rohingya escapes

A TOTAL of 163 Rohingya detainees have escaped from Thai Immigration Detention Centres (IDCs) in four separate incidents around Thailand over the last month.

Almost 2,000 Rohingya, who come mainly from Myanmar's Rakhine State and refugee camps in Eastern Bangladesh, are currently being detained in Thai IDCs, including in Phuket.

On August 9, 30 detainees managed to get out of the Songkla provincial IDC.

On August 20, 86 of the 137 male Rohingya being detained in Songkla's Sadao district managed to break out of the IDC.

The detainees apparently climbed up to the roof through the ceiling before abseiling down the eight-meter-high building and escaping via the rubber plantation at the back of the building.

On August 23, 10 detainees escaped from the center in Ranong. Two were recaptured and charged



Rohingya escaped from four detention centers in August. Photo: The Nation

with destroying state property.

The next day, 37 of 115 Rohingya detainees escaped from Prachuap Khiri Khan IDC. A manhunt involving 180 police, state officials and volunteers was launched soon afterwards, though at the time of writing only three had been found.

Writing in *The Nation*, Brad

Adams, executive director of Human Rights Watch's Asia division, called on the Thai government to release all Rohingya detainees and allow them to acquire migrant worker status.

Many of the detainees have fled horrific persecution in Myanmar. Naypyidaw refuses to grant Rohingya Myanmar citizenship.

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# Court frees suspects in model's grisly murder

By Siva Sithraputhran

A MALAYSIAN court has overturned the conviction of two policemen found guilty of shooting and blowing up a Mongolian model linked to a former associate of Prime Minister Najib Razak.

The release of the officers, who were part of Najib's personal security detail at the time of the 2006 murder of 28-year-old Altantuya Shaariibuu, appears to distance the prime minister from the case.

But the ruling also revived public outrage over her mysterious death and raises further questions as Najib prepares for a possible leadership challenge from within his ruling party in October.

A three-member panel on Malaysia's Court of Appeal unanimously decided that the conviction of Chief Inspector Azilah Hadri and Corporal Sirul Azhar Umar had been unsafe.

Among the grounds cited were that a key witness, Najib's then aide-de-camp, hadn't been called to give evidence and that a police diary that may have given one of the men an alibi hadn't been considered.

"It is our judgment that the cumulative effect of the non-directions by the learned trial judge rendered the conviction of the appellants unsafe," state news agency Bernama quoted one of the three judges, Justice Tengku



Policemen Azilah Hadri and Sirul Azhar Umar arrive at court in Kuala Lumpur in 2009. Malaysia's Court of Appeal freed the men on Monday, overturning convictions for blowing up model Altantuya Shaariibuu. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE region

Maimun, as saying.

The high court that found the policemen guilty and sentenced them to death in 2009 never established a motive for the crime.

Najib's one-time close associate, Abdul Razak Baginda, a political analyst, was charged with abetting the murder but was acquitted in 2008.

Civil society groups and Malaysia's political opposition have alleged that Altantuya's killing was connected to her role as an interpreter and associate of Razak Baginda in Malaysia's purchase of two Scorpene-class submarines from French ship-

building giant DCNS in 2002.

Najib, who was defence minister at the time, has strenuously denied allegations of corruption in the purchase and of having any links to the murdered woman.

But his government has declined opposition requests for a public inquiry into the case – which is currently the subject of a French investigation – and has only given brief responses to questions raised in parliament. – *Reuters*

## 50 houses torched in Myanmar riots

OVER 200 soldiers and police officers imposed order after a riot broke out in Htankone village, in the Sagaing region of northwestern Myanmar.

The riot began following rumors of an attempted rape of a girl by a Muslim man on the evening of August 24. Rioters torched some 50 houses in the village.

"My niece has to come from Zeepintha village to Htankone for work. On the way back to her house from the work, a Muslim young man of Htankone village attempted to rape her in the field near the entrance to the village. Villagers arrested him and sent him to Htankone Police Station," claimed an uncle of the girl.

After the suspect was handed over to Kanbalu Police, a mob of about 200 gathered near the Htankone Police Station to demand the police hand over the accused.

Around 7pm, the mob increased to over 1,000 angry men who started to destroy and set fire to Muslim houses and shops in the village.

"The mob first destroyed shops near the railway station. At 8pm, they set fire to a chicken farm near the village. At that time, the crowd



A boy rummages amid burnt debris at Htan Kone village. Photo: Reuters

numbered about 1,400," said one Htankone resident.

Upon investigation, the attackers were found to be locals from nearby villages.

"About 50 houses were burnt to ashes and 10 shops were destroyed," said another resident.

The rioters wielded rods, knives and catapults as they set fire to shops and houses. Some members of fire-brigade, the police and a monk were injured.

"The police at first deployed 70

officers from Shwe Bo district. We faced difficulty controlling the mob," said a police officer.

"We managed to extinguish the fire around 1am. They set fire to a rice mill and a house. They cut off the hose with knives while we were filling water," a firefighter said.

The police fired guns into the air to disperse the mobs around 1am and 3am and the violence subsided around 3:30pm.

– *Eleven Media*

## Pork Barrel protests stifle central Manila

TENS of thousands of predominantly middle-class Filipinos converged on Manila's Rizal Park on Monday to call for the abolition of the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) – also called the "pork barrel fund" – and the prosecution of the people who misused it to line their pockets.

The protesters marched across Manila and streamed into the park to stage a leaderless gathering called through Facebook and Twitter to express national rage at corruption in the government.

Police estimated the protesters numbered at 85,000 to 100,000.

President Benigno Aquino tried to head off the protest on the preceding Friday by announcing the abolition of the fund, which channels money to congressional districts, but allocations for it are set down in the budget drawn up in the preceding year.

But angered by a series of reports on the alleged plundering of the PDAF by a businesswoman in connivance with legislators, the people appear to have rejected



Demonstrators wearing pig masks pose during the anti-corruption protest on Monday. Photo: Reuters

President Aquino's solution and proceeded with the march to demand the complete abolition of the pork barrel.

The protest was the first mass protest assembly since President Aquino was elected in 2010.

Civic groups called the protest after a state audit showed some lawmakers had funnelled 10 billion pesos (7.35bn baht) to non-existent projects and groups under the previous government of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who has since been charged with plunder and electoral fraud.

– *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

## In brief...

**Cambodia political leaders under close police surveillance**

CAMBODIAN National Rescue Party (CNRP) leaders Sam Rainsy and Kem Sokha are being closely watched by authorities over the next two weeks for any nationwide mass protests in the lead up to the final official election result.

The CNRP had announced earlier that they are planning a nationwide mass demonstration throughout the country if the election irregularities are not resolved. – *The Cambodia Herald*

**Landslides kill 16 in Laos deluges**

AT LEAST 16 people have died after torrential rain caused landslides to swamp six villages in Laos, reports children's charity Plan International.

"It is not known how many people are missing or have been injured, but aid workers from Plan International have been deployed to conduct a rapid assessment," said the report. – *Phuket Gazette*

**Hagel in Indonesia for defense talks**

US DEFENSE Secretary Chuck Hagel arrived in Indonesia on Monday for bilateral talks on defense. The talks during the two-day visit included counter-terrorism, Indonesia's plan to buy a primary weapons defense system from the US and capacity development of military personnel. – *Jakarta Post*



## In brief...

### Brazilian minister resigns over case of Bolivian fugitive

BRAZIL's Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota resigned on Monday after one of his diplomats acknowledged that he had helped a Bolivian senator, who had been accused of corruption, cross the border into Brazil.

President Dilma Rousseff accepted Patriota's resignation but appointed him as Brazil's envoy to the United Nations, her office said in a statement.

The current Brazilian U.N. ambassador, Luiz Alberto Figueiredo, will become foreign minister. A career diplomat, Figueiredo was Brazil's lead negotiator in climate change talks until his appointment to the United Nations a year ago.

### Taiwan women put overies on hold

WORKING women in Taiwan are increasingly opting to freeze their eggs at fertility clinics as they postpone marriage and motherhood.

Female employment in Taiwan is the third-highest in the Asia-Pacific region.

A slowdown in the economy has made job security an even more pressing priority.

"I was not sure when my ovaries would start degenerating but I was sure that I would probably marry late and that I wanted to become a mother," said Linn Kuo, 34, who chose to freeze her eggs.

Taiwan's average marriage age has risen to 30 today, from 24 in the 1980s, and has resulted in driving up egg freezing.

### Cuban state eases control on eateries

MORE than 20 Cuban state restaurants are about to become employee-run cooperatives as Raul Castro's communist government continues its retreat from running just about everything on the island.

The restaurants will become cooperatives in October, with hundreds more likely to follow if the experiment succeeds.

The restaurants are the first to be ceded by the state since communist authorities took over all eateries in 1968.

## China rebuffs Japan over lingering islands dispute

CHINA sees no reason to hold talks with Japan over their dispute about ownership of a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea, Chinese deputy foreign minister Li Baodong said on Tuesday.

Relations between the world's second- and third-largest economies have been strained for months, largely because of the spat over the islands, known as the Senkakus in Japan and the Diaoyus in China.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is keen to improve ties and has called for high-level dialogue with China, though he has rejected any conditions on talks and China has shown no inclination to even want talks.

Li said Japan's call for high-level talks was not genuine, but merely grandstanding.

"If Japan wants to arrange a meeting to resolve problems, they should stop with the empty talk and doing stuff for show," Li said.



A Japanese vessel at the islands. Photo: Reuters

# Assad stares down barrel of Allied punitive strikes

By Khaled Yacoub Oweis and Matt Spetalnick

THE United States and its allies are gearing up for a military strike against Syria that could come within days, and would represent the firmest action thus far by the West since the Middle Eastern nation's civil war began about 30 months ago.

Western envoys have told the Syrian opposition to expect a military response soon against President Bashar al-Assad's forces as punishment for a chemical-weapons attack last week, according to sources who attended a meeting with the rebel Syrian National Coalition in Istanbul.

Amid a quickening drumbeat of preparations, Australia, a close US ally and incoming chair of the United Nations Security Council, on Wednesday endorsed possible action against Syria even if the security council fails to agree.

U.S. Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Tuesday that US forces in theregion were "ready to go" if President Barack Obama gave the order.

Obama – long reluctant to intervene in the Syrian conflict – worked to solidify allied support, including calling the leaders of Britain and Canada, while U.S. intelligence agencies assembled what they are sure to say is final confirmation of the Syrian government's culpability for Wednesday's poison gas attack near Damascus.

White House spokesman Jay



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad heads a meeting with ministers in Damascus in late August. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE world

Carney said it would be "fanciful" to think that anyone other than Assad's forces was behind the large-scale chemical attack, which activists said killed hundreds of people as they slept.

Top US national security aides gathered to review the situation on Tuesday night in a meeting chaired by Obama's national security

adviser Susan Rice, officials said.

Obama has yet to make a final decision on the US response, Carney said, but left little doubt that it would involve military action.

The President insisted, however, that Washington was not intent on "regime change", signalling that any military strikes would be limited and not meant to topple the Syrian President.

The British military was also drafting plans. Prime Minister David Cameron, anxious, like Obama, to avoid another unpredictable Middle East war, said any strikes on Syria would be "specific".

UN chemical weapons investigators postponed until August 28 a second trip to the location where the chemical attack took place.

While evidence of chemical warfare could bolster an argument for intervention at the in the face of likely Russian and Chinese opposition, Western leaders and the Arab League have already declared Assad guilty.

Ahmad Jarba, president of the Syrian National Coalition, met envoys from 11 countries at an Istanbul hotel, including the US ambassador to Syria. The rebel leaders proposed targets for cruise missiles and bombing. – Reuters

## Boko Haram sect slaughters 14 in raid on pro-government vigilantes

NIGERIAN Islamists killed 14 pro-government youth vigilantes in an attack on the northeastern town of Bama, a local official who attended a mass funeral for the victims said on Monday.

The attack last Sunday was one of a spate of deadly assaults by the Boko Haram Islamist sect this month that raises doubts about whether a military offensive against it since May can succeed.

Local vigilante groups run by youth volunteers have been instrumental in helping the military capture Boko Haram members, but they have also made them a target for the insurgents, drawing civilians further into the conflict.

Alhaji Baba Shehu Gulumba, chairman of Bama local council, told journalists in the nearest main city of Maiduguri

that insurgents disguised as soldiers lured the youths into a trap. Nine others were wounded.

"They were on guard duty when the sect members dressed in military camouflage came and told them that they were needed at a meeting nearby," he said. "When they had been lured away from their duty posts they were then attacked and killed."

Bama is in Borno state, the centre of the insurgency. The town is not far from a mountainous area along the Cameroon border where many Boko Haram fighters are believed to be holding out, after being cleared from other areas by Nigerian forces.

Their four-year battle to revive an ancient Islamic caliphate in religiously mixed Nigeria remains the main security threat to Africa's top oil producer. – Reuters



More than 1,000 reinforcements were dispatched to fight Boko Haram Islamists in May. Photo: Reuters



# Life on the east side

Central Festival Phuket East officially opens, GM hints at plans for Thainaan plot

By Anthika Muangrod

CELEBRATIONS were held last week for the official grand opening of Central Festival Phuket East, the latest addition to the island's premier shopping center. The opening ceremony was presided over by Phuket Governor Maitree Inthasut, with management teams from Central Retail Corporation also there to ensure the smooth running of the event, which was entitled the "Grand Fun Festival".

Several celebrity guests were on hand to provide entertainment, such as popular Thai actor Ken Phupoom, a well-known singer, "Oat" from the R-Siam record label, and there was also an "IT Showcase and Motor Show" event.

It has been nearly a decade since Central Festival Phuket first opened its doors to the public and it was the first shopping complex of its type on the island. This latest addition, linked to the original shopping center by a footbridge over the street, has increased the island's shopping options substantially.

The modern design of the building and the diversity of goods and services on offer is aimed at increasing the Central Group's market share to a wider demographic.

"Central Festival East used to be Home-work plaza, which had mainly home decoration products. We want to combine Central Festival West and East and we plan to add more lifestyle products in the Central Festival East [building]. It is designed to be



a place for the whole family to enjoy their time together," said Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree, Central Festival Phuket general manager.

The 16,000 sqm Central Festival Phuket East was opened to ensure the brand could continue to accommodate its ever increasing customer base and to accommodate the various retailers who wanted to be part of Central Festival Phuket. It will also provide customers with a much-needed 1,000 additional parking spaces.

"As Central Festival East is near Dara Samut School, we added a supermarket for housewives, new interesting restaurants and a "Top food court for those parents who come to pick their children up after school. Next month, we will also have a grand opening for Toys R' Us shop. It's a shop that has many kinds of toys for all ages," said Ms Wilaiporn.

The company also plans to expand on and build new sky-walks which will link all the Central Festival buildings together for pedestrians.

"We will build new beautiful sky-walks which will link Central Festival West, Central Festival East, and Central Luxury



WHERE THE SUN RISES: More than home decorations, Central Festival East is offering a supermarket, restaurants, toy store and much more for families. Photo: Supplied

[official name of future project yet to be announced] together. The bridges are designed to have movable walkways and air-conditioning. When completed, Central Festival will be the first place in the South of Thailand that has connected flyovers between buildings. The bridge will be better than the BTS sky-walk in Bangkok because our design team will create an even more lively atmosphere," she added.

"I want everybody to be proud of Phuket, as we are going to have a world-class shopping mall within the next two years at Central Luxury [project planned at the site of the Thainaan Restaurant].

"In the beginning of 2016, we will see super-brand products selling here. Then, we don't need to go shopping at Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore or Bangkok. You can buy everything in Phuket," she concluded.



This imagery is for conceptual purpose only and may not be the same as the actual complete project.



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# A bright horizon

## Real estate investment sentiment upbeat despite declining transaction volumes

Sydney Harbor. Photo: gmetrail

SOUTHEAST Asia continues to see upbeat investment sentiment with Thailand seeing real estate owners inject assets into property funds while overall commercial real estate transaction volume in Asia Pacific declined by 11% q-o-q to US\$ 19.2 billion after an unusually strong Q1 2013.

The market remained active and the quarterly total was in line with volumes recorded last year, according to the latest Asia Pacific Capital Market View report published by CBRE, a leading property consultancy firm.

Active markets were led by Japan although transaction volume fell by almost 50% q-o-q after surging in Q1, 2013. Other upbeat markets included Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea, which all recorded a q-o-q increase in

investment turnover.

Comparatively subdued markets included Hong Kong, where the imposition of double stamp duty resulted in the exit of speculators from the market. Taiwan was also quiet as domestic insurance firms remained inactive following the rise in minimum yield requirements on

commercial property introduced in November 2012. China also recorded a decline in investment volume by 22% q-o-q but market sentiment remained positive.

An improvement in cross-border investment activity was recorded in Q2, 2013 with transaction volume surging by 73% q-o-q. Asian capital and international institutional investors were the major buying forces. There were also more western property funds with recently raised fresh capital start-

ing to acquire new assets although they remained net sellers in Asia as a number of funds approached maturity.

"There were a number of major acquisitions by locally listed property funds in Thailand and a number of new property funds with several more scheduled to be listed in the second half of 2013," reported James Pitchon, Executive Director - Head of CBRE Research, Thailand.

Capital values in Asia Pacific continued to increase slowly and outpace rental growth on the back of solid investment demand for quality assets. Yield compression for core assets was observed in several markets including Sydney, Brisbane, Tokyo, Seoul and Singapore.

Dr Nick Axford, Global Head of Research at CBRE commented: "On the back of strong investment demand for yield accretive assets, capital values are expected to increase at a steady rate although markets with ongoing weak

### Acquisitions by Market



Source: CBRE Research

occupier demand could see some mild downward adjustment."

"The Asia Pacific market is expected to remain active in the second half with a large pipeline of deals in Australia, China and Japan. The steady regional

economy, combined with high levels of liquidity and relative low borrowing costs, will continue to fuel buying momentum," said Mr. Greg Penn, Executive Director, CBRE Investment Properties, Asia. - *Phuket Gazette*

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## Residential rates climbing

RESIDENTIAL prices may rise 3 to 5% in the second half of this year from the first half due to recent increases in land prices and construction costs.

Pruksa Real Estate Plc has increased its residential price by up to 4% in the second half of this year over the first half, attributing the move to rising costs of both land and construction raw materials. Sansiri Plc has also adjusted its residential prices upwards by 2-3%, citing the same rising costs. LPN Development Plc has continued to maintain its condominium prices, but has adapted the designs of its projects to match its rising costs while taking into account customers' purchasing power. SC Asset Corporation Plc has also revised upward its residential prices by between 3 and 5%.

Pruksa Real Estate's president and CEO Thongma Vijit-pongpun said the company has been forced to increase its residential prices. This follows land price increases of

between 5 and 10% and similar rises in construction raw-materials costs. Residences account for about half the firm's total construction costs. As a result the company has had to adjust its residential prices upward by an average of 4% in the second half of this year compared with earlier in 2013.

Sansiri Plc chief operating officer Wanchak Buranasiri said the company has boosted its residential prices by between 2 and 3% following the rise in land and construction raw-materials prices.

"We did not adjust the residential prices directly but we have re-sized our residences and maintained prices to match our customers' purchasing power," LPN Development Plc managing director Opas Sripayak said.

He added that although the company does not plan to raise prices, it looks to maintain its sales and net profit by changing its designs and reducing costs, while maintaining prices to match demand.

- *The Nation*



# Two new Bugatti properties in works

A NEW upstart hotel chain Bugatti with financial pedigree is using Greater Phuket as a springboard for a larger global expansion.

Two hospitality led developments with luxury residential components are currently under construction with one on the island's east coast and the other on Ko Phi Phi.

While Bugatti is being led by hoteliers Michael H. Wetzlar and Steve Renard, the thread that ties the budding hotel chain and Phuket developments together is a common investor Johan Hansen.

Hansen is a large-scale property developer from Europe with his primary company Skyline Projects NV. Here in Phuket he is a major force of development firm Beach Projects

Bugatti is also in the midst of new projects in Bali, Bahamas and Myanmar.

At the Bugatti Retreat Phi Phi 99 branded suites and 47 residences are planned. Suites start at 144 square meters. The hotel is expected to open in 2016, though a beach club restaurant, bar and initial residences are expected to be completed by mid 2014.

An affiliated company Dolphin Seaways will operate two hydrofoils between Phuket's deep sea port at Ao Makham and to the Bugatti Retreat pier and also public pier on Phi Phi. Dates are yet to be confirmed when the service will start, though the two watercraft have already been acquired.

The second project Silver Beach is situated near to Laem Hin. Here, a combination of Bugatti branded suites with 16 units and 12 villas, along with 63 condominiums and 48 apartments, will be built.

The first phase of the development has reached 60% completion and is scheduled to open in the first quarter of 2014.

An impressive set of design consultants has been assembled including landscape by Bill Bensley and Arcas Euopre for architecture. Interiors have been split between P. Tendercool and Halo.



Johan Hansen of Skyline Projects NV is a property developer from Europe.



Front Office staff and Suttinun Pornsirikul (3<sup>rd</sup> left), Managing Director of the newly opened Viridian Resort in Patong, show off the property's new eco-boutique theme.

# Green oasis in central Patong

HAVING recently transformed into a "tropical garden oasis with eco-friendly appeal" the newly-opened Viridian Resort in central Patong is attracting more couples and families seeking a boutique, yet green and convenient holiday experience

Since taking over in February, 2012, Deva Sanctuary Co Ltd, the new owner and operator of the 78-room property, formerly the Sea Sun Sand Resort, has revamped the venue into an eco-boutique hideaway with a "romantic garden oasis" and upgraded the poolside rooms.

"We have upgraded the services and facilities and given the place an entirely new personality while keeping the rates affordable for guests who want a tranquil green space in the heart of Patong," said Viridian Resort Managing Director, Suttinun Pornsirikul.

Before reopening in July, garden-view

rooms were upgraded to "deluxe", "grand deluxe" and "superior" types, newly fitted out with contemporary tropical viridis-coloured decor and furniture, giving the place a fresh new personality and a modern romantic touch.

"Viridian, derived from the Latin word 'viridis', is used to describe a blend of aquatic blue and spring green hues. The modern back-to-nature theme reflects our 'green' policies to minimize power consumption and reduce waste water," said Mr Suttinun.

"As Viridian Resort is located in the heart of Patong, about 300 meters back from Patong Beach on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Road, we have focused on creating a tranquil and romantic setting giving guests garden-view rooms coupled with the convenience of being a short walk from Jungceylon Shopping Center and the entertainment on Bangla walking street.

- *Phuket Gazette*

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# Is there life on Mars?

## Pondering such a question while contemplating life after property

I FOUND myself singing the David Bowie classic from Ziggy Stardust just this morning in the shower, with that classic line "Is there life on Mars?" I'm not quite sure of the answer, though sipping cocktails while viewing a lunar Martian sunset certainly sounds like a good idea. That just may be the penultimate sundowner.

Yes, the danger signs of my tendency to digress peek out around the corner and catch my attention for just a moment. Either a gentle tug of the arm or perhaps a full blown slap on the face might be called for? My demons now stand front and center, blocking my progress on the journey back to the point.

Another thought has just struck me blind. Is there life after property?

This starts me thinking with a near religious fervor. Was it Karl Marx that said, to paraphrase, "religion is the opium of the people?" I'm barely into the piece and question marks are starting to mount like speeding



### Last Call

By Bill Barnett

tickets for an out of control high-velocity freak juggernaut. Now firmly off the road and onto the shoulder, all this talk of Mars, religion and property must come to a point – so perhaps let us elevate it to one of art. It's a natural conclusion given the thin white line or even the thin white duke.

Art and real estate are not really a yin and yang or even kissing cousins. Strangely, it is a pleasant surprise that I don't have to stray far from Phuket to find a converted soul. A case in point is former Banyan Tree property salesman Richard Skene. Scottish by birth, he first travelled to Thailand in the 1990s, backpack in tow. Some five years later he returned to the Kingdom to ply his trade – selling properties.

Over the years, and after a stint in Singapore, he came back

again to the posh W Samui. Like so many expatriates of our age, the magnetic draw or shall we say allure of all things Thai was profound and life changing. Inspiration somehow grew, from an ideal to reality, trying to find a voice beyond the commercial bounds of day to day life. Art came knocking at Richard's door.

Over the past year or so, Richard has been feverishly putting together his thoughts, ideas and inspirations into all sorts of medium – graphic design, photography, video and light installation. Over the past two months his dream has become a reality and a Bangkok exhibition self titled "The Road of Excess leads to the Palace of Wisdom" has been showcased at the stylish venue Eat Me.

While it's exceedingly hard to put a finger on the pulse of his creative ambition, Richard points

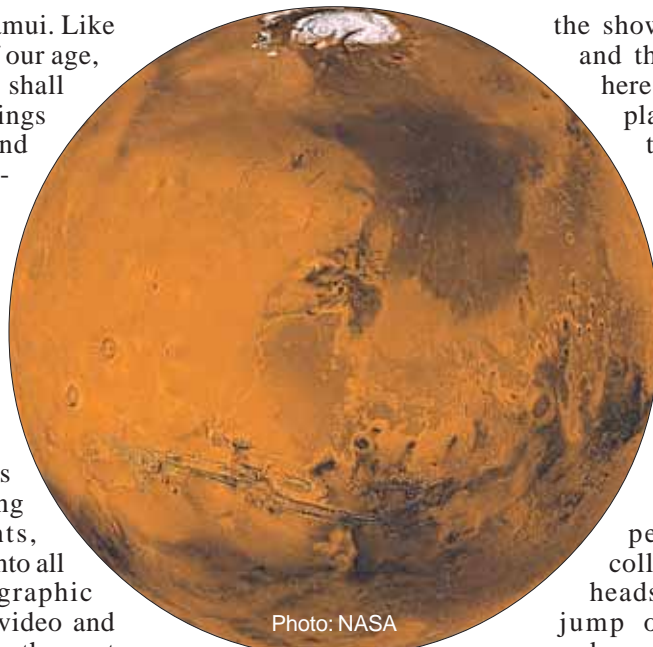


Photo: NASA

the showcase has been strong, and there is an undercurrent here of something bigger at play. Richard jumped off the train and hurled himself into the unknown, exposing himself to the forces of nature with a pack of wild dogs biting all along the way. To say it's not the destination but the journey is nearly a sappy greeting card line – but oh so appropriate.

For all those property people with big ideas collecting upstairs in their heads, perhaps it's time to jump on the train as well and go out and try something extraordinary. It doesn't mean you have to go all the way to Mars, but taking chances and risks has its meaning to each person in a different way.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 hotelworks he can be contacted through [C9hotelworks.com](http://C9hotelworks.com)



Real estate salesman turned pop artist Richard Skene. Photo: Supplied



A print by Roy Lichtenstein. The pop artist was a key source of inspiration for Richard Skene. Photo: Leafar

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## Taiwan tries to draw more Thai tourists

THE Taiwan Tourism Bureau has launched more aggressive marketing campaigns to boost the number of Thai visitors by 10-20%. Thailand is an important market for Taiwan, which last year welcomed about 100,000 Thais, but only 30,000 of them were real tourists.

This year, the country will spend 10 million baht on activities throughout the year to promote various aspects of Taiwan's charms, David Tsao, a director of the Taiwan tourism bureau based in Malaysia, said yesterday.

Beyond natural beauty and

friendly people, Taiwan is still safe and its transport system is convenient. All existing facilities to serve tourism are ready to welcome a growing number of travellers.

Regional tourism is very competitive with promotional campaigns executed by countries to capture a bigger share of the Thai market, which is considered as a key source, he said.

Countries are giving importance to their tourism industry to help strengthen their economies. Recently, Japan scrapped visas for Thai tourists. This is fanning

competition. Now Thais will think twice before deciding where to travel, Tsao said. Taiwan is easing its own visa-application process for Thais as a way to reduce barriers.

Taiwan has an edge over such rivals as Japan and South Korea in terms of cost and shorter flight times. Costs there are similar to those in Thailand.

Last year, 7.6 million foreigners arrived in Taiwan, with mainland Chinese on top, followed by Japanese and Hongkongers. In SE Asia, Malaysia was its biggest source, sending over 340,000. – *The Nation*



# Cut costs on investments

## Five money-saving tips for expats

IF YOU are like many expatriates, you have probably failed to realize the impact trading or investment fees can have on your portfolio's return, as such costs are often hidden and can quickly add up over time.

In a rising market, these costs may not be so noticeable; but in a stagnant or falling stock market, they may quickly become very apparent. With that in mind, here are a few ways you can cut your investment costs in order to boost your investment returns:

### Consider all investing costs

Trading is only one investment cost you must deal with and even trading fees can vary considerably as some investment products come with large front-end or back-end loads or both.

Other fees you might encounter when investing include annual fund expenses, custodian/ account fees, advisory fees, forex transaction charges and bid ask spreads, with the later being particularly hard to evaluate as a lousy spread can quickly increase your trading costs.

Remember, there are some investment fees that can't be avoided, but there are also plenty



Finance

By Don Freeman

of other fees that can be minimized or completely avoided – so long as you are made aware of them before you invest. That's why it's critical for your financial advisor to be transparent about ALL of your fees. If he or she isn't being completely transparent, then find someone who is.

### Invest in ETFs rather than expat target products

Many ETFs have no extra commissions beyond normal transaction costs and have average annual expenses of just 0.49% while the average stock mutual fund will cost investors around

1.57% in annual fees.

However, many managed fund or offshore investment products targeted for expats come with high up-front fees (often 5% or more), annual fees of around 2% and a sales commission when they are sold. When these high fees are combined with taxes, inflation and currency fluctuations, you might be left with little to no return at all on your money.

### Buy and hold rather than trade

Even if you are investing in low cost products like ETFs with a discount broker, the best way to reward your broker rather than yourself is to trade frequently as trading will generate them commissions. You should only trade when changes in your personal situation, market conditions or the value of an investment calls for changes in your portfolio's investment allocation.

Otherwise, a general portfolio review each quarter and around the beginning of the year should be sufficient for making necessary portfolio adjustments. I often get calls to review expat portfolios. One common problem I see is advisors that buy and sell often because they get a commis-



Photo: Images\_of\_money

**Don't break into your savings in order to pay unnecessary fees.**

sion. Be careful of this and ask your financial advisor to list all fees and commissions.

### Limit forex transactions

As with frequent trading, moving in and out of currencies can be both costly and unnecessary. Ideally, you should use the currency of the country or countries you hold citizenship of as a base currency for your investments and invest only in products that transact in your base currency (e.g. for Americans, an ETF listed on the NYSE) to gain exposure to other currencies or markets.

### Consolidate your accounts

While having multiple financial accounts may seem like a good way to spread your financial risk around, it likely means you won't have economies of scale with any single financial institution. After all, the larger your account balance is with one financial institution, the more interested they will

be in servicing your account and keeping you happy as a client by offering lower investment and trading fees. They may also be able to offer you investment products not available to clients with lower account balances.

Investing isn't free, but you can drive expenses down to a reasonable level, including personalized one-on-one investment advice. Cutting the fees you pay puts a lot more wealth in your pocket over the years. Call me to discuss ways you can save for retirement or if you have questions related to eliminating unnecessary fees.

*Don Freeman is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket, Thailand. He has over 15 years experience and provides personal financial planning and wealth management to expatriates. Specializing in UK and US pension transfers. Call 089-970-5795 or email: freemancapital@gmail.com.*

## Two airlines vying for Manila - Phuket market

FOLLOWING Tourism Malaysia recently announcing the closure of its Phuket office, another Southeast Asian source market is poised to link up directly with Phuket – the Philippines.

Indeed, two Southeast Asian based airlines will service direct flights between Manila and Phuket International Airport.

The Philippine's largest national flag carrier, Cebu Pacific (CEB) pioneered the route, with the inaugural flight taking place on August 16. Meanwhile, recently rebranded budget airline, Tiger Airways Philippines will see its maiden flight depart from Manila on September 3.

"We are proud to be the first airline to offer direct services between Manila and Phuket, so more travellers can visit Phuket's world-famous beaches," said CEB VP for Marketing and Distribution Candice Iyog in a press release.

Phuket is CEB's 21st international destination.

"Similarly, foreign tourists now

have the option to add Manila to their itinerary, after they visit Phuket. With CEB's trademark lowest fares, this route can contribute to tourist arrivals to both Thailand and the Philippines," he added.

CEB's Manila-Phuket thrice weekly service will be every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The maiden flight departed Manila at 8pm and arrived in Phuket at 11pm. The return flight departed Phuket the next day at 12am and arrived in Manila at 5:35am.

Phuket is CEB's 2nd destination in Thailand, aside from Bangkok,

where CEB operates 14 times weekly from Manila, Clark and Cebu. Lowest year-round fares to Phuket start at PHP3,499 (about 2,500 baht).

Also looking to cash in on the new Manila-Phuket direct route, budget airliner, Tiger Airways Philippines is offering the same P3,499 round-trip fare for its inaugural flight from Manila to Phuket, Thailand, planned to commence from September 3.

"We are happy to announce that effective September, we are flying to Phuket, Thailand twice

a week every Tuesday and Saturday to accommodate as many passengers who wish to visit Phuket," said Olive Ramos, CEO of TigerAir.

After rebranding as TigerAir Philippines on July 3, the Singapore-founded airline indicated that it planned to open new

direct routes that would enable guests to travel faster and more conveniently to major destinations across Asia-Pacific.

On July 18, the airline launched the first and only direct flight between Kalibo and Singapore.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Cebu Pacific is the Philippines largest national flag carrier. Photo: Aero Icarus

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# Reining in the rogues

CORRUPTION has publicly reared its ugly head as a topic of much heated debate, with one and all tacitly accepting that the situation in Phuket is out of hand. However, few are offering any realistic strategies to combat the problem at its roots: the well-entrenched mind-set that “playing by the rules is for suckers”.

The good news is that corruption, the island’s most fundamental problem, is finally getting the attention it deserves in the national and international media. Nonetheless, if concrete progress on tackling the problem is not achieved through efforts now underway, the only result will be more negative press for the island’s all-important tourism industry.

It’s true that Phuket’s tourism industry has been remarkably resilient over the years, having literally endured “hell and high water” (the 2004 tsunami disaster), horrific accidents (the OG269 plane crash in 2006), high-profile murders of foreign tourists and sustained environmental degradation, as well as many of the social ills that tend to occur in poorly regulated, rapidly urbanizing environments.

Despite all this, tourists continue to make their way here in record numbers. It appears possible that, if we seriously tackle these issues now, there is hope that Phuket can maintain its allure as one of the world’s premier resort-island destinations well into the future, at which time we would be able to look back at the current situation and view it simply as a period of “growing pains”.

However, reaching that stage will require some real leadership and genuine personal bravery, not the kind of blindfolded self-preservation and finger pointing that has appeared as a result of some recent allegations [see page 1].

Who might step up to the plate and take that role is anyone’s guess, as Thailand has not exactly excelled at producing grassroots leaders in its fight against corruption. Perhaps the country’s best-known anti-corruption figure is none other than Chuwit Kamolvit, the former massage-parlor tycoon who went public with his own tale of paying millions of baht in bribes to cops, not initially on an ethical basis, but because he feared for his life.

It is easy to dismiss corruption as an “inevitable” part of doing business and to point out that no country in the world is completely free of it. However, it cannot be ignored that the problem in Phuket has reached grave proportions and is extremely harmful to the island’s future.

For this reason it is imperative that these latest anti-corruption efforts not only achieve tangible results, but are also seen by the public as transparent and fair. It is only by convincing the public that the law applies to everyone equally that we can move forward to build the truly civil society that we are striving for.

## Phuket Gazette

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## Smuggling elephants in plain sight

*Phuket jungle-trek camps raided in search for phantom elephants, August 22*

Granted, you could smuggle an elephant across the Thai-Myanmar border, but how the heck do you smuggle an elephant onto Phuket?

There is only one land crossing, and it has a check point. It seems someone is turning a blind eye or no one at the check point is doing their duty.

*Lonewolf  
Gazette forum*

### Using race to define citizenship isn’t right

*DNA checks will help poor prove they’re Thais, August 22*

I’m stunned by the report of the Ranong governor, who says: “the government recognizes DNA test results as proof of one’s nationality”.

I know the governor is just reporting what is presumably a fact here, but the fact would be utterly impossible unless the definition of “Thai” were based solely on race.

I would have hoped that would be impossible in the year 2013.

*Sage  
Gazette forum*

### Rx for insurance

*Phuket Opinion: Health insurance for tourists at 7-Eleven, August 17*

Kasikorn Bank used to have an accident policy available for all foreigners with bank accounts. Then they stopped it and only allowed those with work permits to apply for it.

This essential insurance would be good business for the banks and I echo the opinions in the article above.

Anyone who travels without travel insurance needs their head examined and preferably not after an accident!

*Mister Ree  
Gazette forum*

## Letters to the Editor

### Punish land cheaters

*VIDEO REPORT: HM the King’s historic visit may bolster Phuket sea gypsy land rights, August 20*

I commend the DSI for their important work in finding out the true owners of this land.

Are there heavy penalties for those who make false or misleading claims over land they know has never belonged to their families and have lied on their claim documentation in order the steal other peoples’ land?

*Chob  
Gazette forum*

### Take a long view on transportation plans

*Seawater quality to be monitored, results sent to island’s consulates, August 21*

In foresight, a light rapid transit (LRT) monorail, as proposed by the Korean and Chinese consortiums is a true solution to Phuket’s traffic woes.

If these new bypass projects will need to be dismantled to build an LRT in the near future, then this really will represent a decade of pedaling backwards.

*Lion  
Gazette forum*

### Doesn’t matter what you call a taxi

*Phuket’s Organized Crime Center keeps eye on the prize – illegal taxi industry, August 22*

Are the “legal” taxis those that violently operate an inherently illegal monopoly of fixed prices under a concession with the AoT and the “illegal” taxis those that

operate within a more-or-less free market system?

If so, I choose the “illegal” taxi operations.

Please deliver a transparent, metered taxi system with rates comparable to Bangkok.

*Jimmy C  
Gazette forum*

### Highway to heaven

*Family escapes injury in Phuket tour bus shunt, August 19*

As a regular visitor to Phuket, I love keeping up to date with the news via the *Phuket Gazette*.

It seems that almost every week I read about an accident on Thepkasattri Road. Luckily, this one was not too serious but sadly this isn’t usually the case. It’s time something was done about this dreadful stretch of road.

*Anita, UK  
Gazette forum*

### No confidence in water testers

*Officials tackle Patong Beach’s ‘big brown’ water problem, August 23*

Well, it also needs to be honestly and faithfully reported. How do we know that these new reports will provide an honest stool count? There’s a lot of corruption in Phuket and money talks.

Is it possible to buy some kind of testing kit for personal use so that my family and I can feel comfortable if we decide to go there again in December?

*Janet Kennedy  
Gazette forum*

### Go grandpa, go!

*Sexagenarian on cycle tour of Thailand stops by Phuket, August 22*

Mr Manit is an inspiration. May I be so fit at his age.

*Giles  
Rassada*



# How to steer children as they surf the web

## FIRST PERSON

THE internet has brought about big changes in school children, some good, some bad.

In the past, students were more timid and didn't dare reveal their ideas when talking to adults or during discussions in the classroom. Nowadays, they have a lot more self-confidence and are more willing to speak up. This is a good thing, and it has happened because they have more access to information as a result of the expansion of cyberspace.

Still, access to information presents its own problems. Students often don't have enough life experience or knowledge to judge which websites are trustworthy. And they can become confused when they encounter different information on different websites.

While students are more confident nowadays, they are also prone to more delinquent behavior than in the past. These days they often don't pay attention in the classroom, they bully each other, and they are less obedient to their teachers and parents. In the worst cases, some of them get involved in drugs, inappropriate sexual behavior, and violence. I think this is also due to the internet – the online movies, social networks and video games.

I'm not saying we should ban the internet or try to stop its progress. For one thing, this is impossible, and for another, we would be denying ourselves the tremendous benefits it brings.

What we need to do is understand it and use it wisely.

First, the government should put restrictions on what internet



Here he talks about how parents and teachers can work together to help children benefit the most from technology.

**Chalam Attatham**, 54, has been the Director of the Phuket Primary Education Service Office since 2011. In 2010 he served in the same capacity in Pattalung. A Phuket native, he has a BA in Education from Srinakharinwirot University and an MA in Education from Thaksin University.

sites are available to young people under age 18.

Secondly, parents and teachers need to work together to guide children's online experiences.

In the classroom, teachers should teach children how to determine if a website gives credible information or not. This means they need to teach youngsters how to analyze information they come across. Teachers should also guide children to websites that are related to what they are studying, so they can continue to learn outside of school.

As for parents, the first thing they need to do is make sure their priorities are straight.

Many parents nowadays become so focused on academic success that they equate it with their child's value. They think, "my child is getting good grades, so that means that my child is good."

I don't agree. The way I see it, we should have three goals for children: First, that they be good people, then that they gain knowledge, and finally, that they be happy.

If they are good citizens, the other two goals will follow automatically, so we must first help

children become responsible, disciplined, honest and polite.

To do this, parents and teachers need to work together in a coordinated way. I arranged this in a small village where I used to work, and it was a success.

When parents and teachers meet, they discuss their expectations of who will teach what. Parents are told what the school curriculum is, so that they can reinforce it at home.

Parents also supervise their children's internet use at home, and guide their children to sites useful for their school work. A side benefit of this is that the parents and children spend time together, which deepens relationships.

It used to be the case that children learned something in class, then practiced it at home. Now, with the internet, they can learn at home and do practice – through discussion and games – in class. We call this "flipping the classroom".

Once we accept that technology deeply influences many aspects of our lives, we can understand that we need to use it with care, and teach our young people to do so too.



Even the right choice doesn't give you everything. Photo: Nick Walker

## Things I don't miss

I DON'T miss real bread and real butter, cheese and steak tartare.

I don't miss walking my dog through winter's first snow, skiing in the French Alps or the mountains of the Czech republic. I don't miss autumn strolls in my local park or the relief of springtime.

I don't miss the first tulips, young potatoes, fresh raspberries and peaches in the summer. I don't miss wine, visiting vineyards, attending tastings.

I don't miss traveling across Europe to see my favorite bands perform live in Berlin or Paris. I don't miss the empty streets, wide sidewalks. I don't miss partying with my friends, talking till the early morning.

I don't miss my mother's tomato soup or my father's apple pie.

I don't miss overcoats, gloves and scarves. I don't miss weekends by the lake or in the mountains. I don't miss movie festivals, art exhibitions, university lectures, open air concerts...

I don't miss any of these things. Not everyday. I'm too busy, consumed by my daily life in Phuket, by my girlfriend and daughter, the beaches, sunny weather, great food and kind people. When one is content there is no time for looking back;

## Island View

By Maciek Klimowicz

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

happiness is the best cure for nostalgia.

But once in a while it gets to me. Sometimes for almost no reason at all – a sound, a scent, a ray of light brings distant memories, makes me stop, puts me out of balance. Sometimes the reasons are serious. The news from far away is usually really, really good or really, really bad. That's when I miss home the most. That's when Facebook and Skype aren't enough. That's when I'd like to be closer.

But I made my choice. And it was the right one. I'm good, I'm happy where I am. But that doesn't mean I didn't lose something on the way. Nothing comes for free.

I dedicate this to my friend Andrew who passed away a few days ago due to brain cancer. Andrew was one of the most intelligent and optimistic people I know. He's outlived by his beautiful girlfriend and not yet born child. He was 32 years old. He will be missed.

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

### Violations and fines

I read online that someone was stopped by police while driving and got fined 1,000 baht for not having his passport with him and for having pirated CDs in his car.

Is there an official written list of traffic violations and fines?

Peter  
Kata

**Sarawut Meeboon, Thalang Police Deputy Superintendent, replies:**

The Thai traffic laws are available at [www.trafficpolice.go.th/law.php](http://www.trafficpolice.go.th/law.php)

Foreigners must always carry their passports with them. It is the law in Thailand.

Expat Registration Act BE 2493 stipulates that foreigners must carry an identification card or passport and be able to present it on request. Anyone not carrying

a passport who can later produce it is still liable to a 1,000 baht fine.

**A Department of Intellectual Property officer replies:**

The 1,000 baht fine was not due to the pirated CDs in the vehicle. It is not illegal to possess pirated CDs for personal entertainment. We target the production, distribution and selling of copyrighted goods as dictated by the Copyright Act BE 2537 section 5.

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

Submit your issue at

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

## Replacing a lost marriage license

I married a Thai national in 2007. We are still happily married and have two children. We have moved around a lot and now live in Chiang Mai.

I recently discovered we have lost our marriage papers, which I need to get my visa extension.

Can I get a new copy without having to come to Phuket?

My wife is eight months pregnant and getting all the way to Phuket could be difficult.

Pete  
Chiang Mai

**Naruemon Pitsung, an officer at the Civil Registration Section, Phuket Muang District Office, replies:**

You or your wife can obtain a copy of your marriage certificate from your local district office.

Anyone who registered a marriage in 2004 or after can obtain a copy of the marriage certificate at any district office in Thailand. This is because we have entered all the data from that year on into our national database, which staff at any district office can access online.

If your wife applies for it, she will need to present a signed copy of your passport at the district office when she files her request for a copy of the marriage certificate.

If you go, you must present a signed copy of your wife's national identification card.

Anyone who registered a marriage before 2004 must travel to the original district office where the marriage was registered in order to obtain a certified copy of the certificate.

For more information call the

Civil Registration Section at the Phuket Muang District Office at 076-224911.



Marriages started to be registered online in 2004. Image: Gazette files



## YOUR Phuket

# CENTRAL FESTIVAL PHUKET EAST NOW FULLY OPEN

Central Festival Phuket East is now fully open and offers customers a huge range of products from leading international brands



Dancers performing during the official opening celebrations.



Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut (center) attended the official opening of Central Festival Phuket along with several popular Thai celebrities.

## ANDAMAN CRUISES HOSTED YACHT INCENTIVE WITH TOP MANAGERS OF PANASONIC



Andaman Cruises organized a luxury yacht incentive on August 22, hosting 30 top managers from Panasonic Australia onboard of their stylish yachts. The group was here for a corporate incentive and went on a luxury cruise around Phuket and Phang Nga. "The company is one of the world's leading brands. Panasonic is well-known for its electronic products. We are proud that we could welcome their Australian management team to a corporate incentive onboard one of our yachts. Due to the passion and enthusiasm of our whole team it was a great success and we made their day.", said Christian Schwind, General Manager of Andaman Cruises.

## 12TH ANDA FOCUS ANNIVERSARY BUSINESS SUCCESS & THANK YOU BENEFACTORS PARTY!



Guests were welcomed by owner of Anda Focus Natchanok Sucharitkul, second from right.

## THANK YOU MEDIA BY THE WESTIN SIRAY BAY RESORT & SPA PHUKET.



A warm welcome from The Westin Siray team. From left: Personal Assistant to General Manager Attaya Suriyawonghae; Director of Rooms Sayamon Sittirit; General Manager of The Westin Siray Bar Resort & Spa Phuket Janet McNab; Director of Sales Liann Loo; and Marketing Communications Executive Umaporn Reonwajanawong.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

# ISLAND TRADER

Phuket's **LARGEST CLASSIFIEDS** Marketplace – in Print and Online\*

August 31 - September 6, 2013 | [PhuketGazette.Net](http://PhuketGazette.Net)

\*The Gazette is the top-ranked Website for Phuket. (Google Analytics)

## PROPERTY of the week



See page 22

## JOB of the week



See page 26

## WHEELS & MORTORS of the week

**WHITE FORTUNER  
FOR SALE**

See page 30

## BOAT of the week

**Boatshedphuket.com**  
INTERNATIONAL YACHT BROKERS



See page 31

All Property, Boat and Business Ads are **PAID!**

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**PROPERTY AND MOTOR INSURANCE** LBI

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- Group Health and Individual
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- Motor Insurance

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Phuket Boat Lagoon  
info@lambertbrothers.co.th  
Tel: + 66 76 273 385

www.lambertbrothers.co.th

LAND & HOUSES  
PARK, CHALONG

Villa for sale. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished and equipped, garden, 240sqm. Price: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 083-394 4536 (English), 084-443 5389 (English & Thai).

ON PCC GOLF  
COURSE

3 bedrooms. Freehold penthouse. See PhuketGolfCon do.com (SALE or RENT). Call Paul at 081-676 0740 (English & Thai). Email: dconbeer@hotmail.com

472SQM,  
LAND FOR SALE

Land for sale overlooking Loch Palm Golf Club. 472sqm 1.4 million baht. Tel: 086-686 4170 (English & Thai), 086-950 1760 (English & Thai). Email: fredrikphuket@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE IN  
BAAN PROMPHAN

2.5 floors, 5 mins to town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Good for stay! 2.85 million baht. Tel: 083-506 9155. Email: sumitra.saetan@gmail.com

SINGLE HOUSE  
FOR SALE/ RENT

In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

## NAI HARN LAND

Soi Naya. Private estate plot for sale. Mountain view. Please call 081-370 9661, 086-478 0201.

HABITOWN,  
KOH KAEW

115sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, includes built-in furniture, 2 floors. Re-sale down 130,000 baht. For more info call 089-772 7012. Email: gyb\_giff@yahoo.com

## HOUSE &amp; FURNITURE

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

HOUSE IN PHUKET  
VILLA 5 FOR SALE

46sq wah, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, carpark. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-787 7675.

URGENT SALE/  
RENT

House in Patong. Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 086-476 9612.

## HABITIA KOH KAEW



Modern style, Shino-Portuguese, area: 36.50sq wah with 118sqm living space approx. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car park. Sale down payment 500,000 baht. Tel: 087-270 9093.

## D CONDO 1, KATHU

-29.94sqm, mountain view, price 1,278,000 baht.  
-29.70sqm, mountain view, price 1,280,000 baht.  
-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.  
-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht.  
Contact Vutdy on 081-892 3709.

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 (English & German).

PRIVATE SALE OF  
HALF A RAI

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

CONDO IN  
SUPALAI PARK

For sale. Near Sengho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.55 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

PHUKET VILLA 5  
VILLAGE

For sale. Price 4.5 million baht. No agents, no 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.

## 1 RAI KATHU LAND

Beautiful valley land, lakeside views forever. Chanote. 8.4 million baht. Tel: 087-900 8445.

CHARMING 4-BED  
HOUSE

Quiet and private. Great for families. Photos available. 5km east from Heroines Monument. 15 mins to schools/shopping. Within small housing estate (Ploenchana 2) with security gate. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-892 2419 (English & Thai). Email: linphuket@gmail.com

**HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG**  
Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 47sq wah. Tel: 089-909 2771.

BOAT LAGOON  
LAND

Land in Boat Lagoon Park Residence, 664sqm, 7.5 million baht. Chanote. Negotiable. Tel: 088-826 5766, 087-621 1299 (English).

**Baan Yamu Residences**

**Condominium available for sale**

**PHUKET'S EXCLUSIVE RESIDENTIAL HIDEAWAY**

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Please contact: 091-034 9909 or 089-729 8126  
E-mail: info@baanyamu.com  
Tel: 076-310507

LAND AT  
CHERNG TALAY

1 ngan, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5. Price: 2 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

## 3-BED SEAVIEW VILLA

Private estate, Cape Yamu, 992sqm land plot, pool. Price reduced 12-7 million baht. Tel: 086-279 6283. Email: kdesmond59@yahoo.co.uk

HOT DEAL - CONDO  
AT THE POINT

Opposite Big C, one bedroom with nice view, includes furniture. 55sqm. Price: 3.5 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 082-276 1817, 081-614 5372.

## WONDERFUL HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Pa Klok House. 112sq wah/400sqm. Must see! 3.99 million baht. Tel: 083-131 2002.

## BEACHFRONT LAND

At Naka Yai Island. 600sqm with house. Price: 8,xxx baht/sqm. Tel: 081-691 2446 (English). Email: wut@tamtaraspa.com

## 30 RAI IN TOWN

Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

NEW CONDO: URGENT  
SALE/ RENT

Special price, modern style, 30sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, 1 pantry. In Kathu, 3km to Patong. Full set of built-in furniture. Ready to move in! Contact Ya. Tel: 081-797 5138.

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at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)**



## Properties For Rent

### COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN



A high-grade built house, furnished and conveniently located minutes from Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. 2 spacious bedrooms with en suite bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. Aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage removal service. 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-383 0936 (Khun Nui). Email: hunt17@hotmail.com

### 3-BEDROOM SUPER DEAL

3-bedroom pool villa for rent in Rawai. Fully equipped kitchen. Aircon in every bedroom and the living room. Private swimming pool. Cable TV and WiFi internet. Home cleaning and bed/towel changes. Close to the beach. Only 2,990 baht per day. Tel: 087-8938747.

### LUXURY POOL-VILLA NEAR LAGUNA

Resort setting, has all, 3-month or 1-year contract. Only 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

### KAMALA 3 BEDROOM CONDO

Convenient and quiet, 5 minutes walk to beach. Well kept and clean, fully furnished and good facilities. Long-term rental. Tel: 089-780 4568. Email: taareel@gmail.com



### HOUSE NEAR LOCH PALM GOLF COURSE

Newly built in Sabai Village, Kathu. 2 stories, 2 bedrooms & bathrooms, aircon in master room, kitchen, living room. 24 security.

**Tel: 086-476 9612**

### PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

1 bed, 60sqm, fully furnished apartment for rent. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-693 0052. Email: c-maylam@hotmail.com

### THAI VILLA AND POOL

Nai Harn, 2 bedrooms, luxury villa. Long term: 37,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-421 1020. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

### CONDOS IN PATONG

Both at Phuket Palace and Patong Tower. Long term only, newly renovated and well furnished. Tel: 081-892 1621.

### PRIVATE POOL VILLA AVAILABLE NOW



3 bedrooms, fully furnished, located in security area. Special price now. Tel: 089-472 9870, 086-471 5226. Email: dchaibut@gmail.com

### KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

Fully furnished, seaview and non-seaview apartments, available for long-term rental. From 19,000 to 40,000 baht per month. Located on Kata Hill. Tel: 076-330641. For further details, please see our website at [www.oceanic-global.com](http://www.oceanic-global.com)

### MAIKHAO DREAM PROPERTY

For rent or sale. 20 rai of land with Chanote title. Located on Thepkasattri Road (main road). 12km from airport. Tel: 081-738 7099.

### HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



Near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. 25,000 baht per month with 30,000 baht deposit. Tel: 086-607 7493.

### SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT/ SALE



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

### 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.

### FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

1-3 bedrooms, Chalong area + Panwa area. Start from 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at <http://palaigreen.weebly.com>

### 600,000 BAHT YEARLY RENT-RAWAI

Rawai Beach. Siam BB Resort. 9 rooms, bar+shop, reservation online with Agoda, Booking.com, Asiarooms.com. 60m to beach. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

### CHEAP RENT

Live in a luxury pool villa resort near Laguna. Weekly/monthly. Tel: 089-594 4067.

### LUXURY 1 BEDROOM

Ground floor, condo 65sqm, fully furnished, 1 month minimum rental, located in very heart of Patong. Please call 087-887 9070 or send email for details to [ianscondo@yahoo.com](mailto:ianscondo@yahoo.com)



### CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Phuket city, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 45sqm, 3 Fl at the corner with swimming pool view. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, hot water, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, 24 security and internet provided). P/s contact 086-4769612. Email: [annanot1@hotmail.com](mailto:annanot1@hotmail.com)

### 3-BEDROOMS SEAVIEW RAWAI

House 200sqm on 3 levels. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, spacious living/dining area, fully equipped. American kitchen with all appliances, new and top quality; aircon throughout and WiFi. Common swimming pool with panoramic seaview. Long-term rental at 40,000 baht per month. Contact Jackie: 085-786 6303. Email: dp1102@gmail.com

### CONDOS IN PATONG

Both at Phuket Palace and Patong Tower. Long term only, newly renovated and well furnished. Tel: 081-892 1621.

### CONDOMINIUMS



Kathu. Fully furnished, 1-bed suite, WiFi, cable TV, guard, pool, fitness. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-894 9042, 081-970 1499.

### GOLF VIEW VILLA ON PRIVATE HILL

For rent. Kathu. 3 and 1 bedrooms, big pool, overlooking lake and valley on Loch Palm Golf Course, 4km to BIS, furnished VIP, WiFi. Long-term: 65,000-32,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-269 8492.

### SEAVIEW CONDO IN TOWN FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 1-bed suite, guard, pool, fitness. 15,500 baht monthly. Tel: 094-319 5176.

### HOUSE FOR RENT - RAWAI

Long-term, private pool, new, in development with security. Tel: 087-893 8747.

### NEW CONDO FOR RENT



Short or long-term rent at Kathu, fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness, quiet and secure. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at [www.phuket-condo.net](http://www.phuket-condo.net)

### 120SQM 2-STOREY HOUSE



Soi Laem Hin, Sapam, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, unfurnished. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-689 3289.

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The Network property office



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with  
**Khun Anna: 076-388144, 086-4780201, 088-1685032**

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The **Gazette Online** is always on top in **Google!**



**Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.**  
**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**



**RECEPTION WORK**

Thai female for hotel, Nanai Road, English and computer skills required, good wage and commission paid, holidays. Call for more details. Tel: 088-444 7801.

**RUSSIAN SALES CONSULTANT**

Experienced Russian Sales Representative needed for Real Estate. Good command of English and Russian required. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to c@bayshoreprojects.com

**SHOP MANAGER**

Urgent need shop manager for boutique shop in Surin, fluent in English. Send CV to bliss@online.com.kh

**FITNESS INSTRUCTOR / SALES**

Club Asia Fitness requires 2 Fitness Instructors and 1 Sales Consultant. Thai National who must be able to communicate in English. Tel: 080-698 5021, 087-275 3614 (English), 089-126 5671 (Thai). Email: coco\_ivy@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.clubasia phuket.com

**ASSISTANT MANAGER**

What we are looking for is a great all-rounder as this job has multiple roles. You will need excellent computer skills to manage operations and you will be assisting with the sales and marketing activities of the company. Thai nationality 30 years old with an excellent command of English. University degree or proven experience. People management skills. Outgoing, committed and energetic. Prepared to work in Patong & travel across the island. Email: info@newspaperdirect-phuket.com Find out about us on www.newspaperdirect.com

**Phuket Gazette**

*The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:*

**WEB PROGRAMMER**

- ▶ Degree in Computer engineering, Computer Science or IT related field
- ▶ Minimum of 2 years experience in web programming and web development
- ▶ Experience in: PHP, asp, asp.net, OOP, Java Script, HTML5, CSS, JSON, AJAX, JQuery
- ▶ Expert in use of database tools and in SQL command (MS-SQL, MySQL)
- ▶ Experience in php frameworks would be a plus
- ▶ Ability in spoken and written English
- ▶ Ability to work with team
- ▶ Ability to work under pressure and time constraints

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to big@phuketgazette.net

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555 Ext. 303 Fax: 076-615240

**TEACHERS WANTED**

We currently have the following job positions available: 1 x full - time English teacher, female under 35 years old, Degree + TEFL or CELTA. Must be from an N.E.S country: UK, USA, AUS, CD or NZ. 1 x part time English teacher, N.E.S. + SA, TEFL, male/female under 40 years old. 1 x part-time Russian teacher. English teacher applicants must be good with young students. Tel: 091-647 5465. Email: giles@ecc.ac.th

**EXECUTIVE FOR PROPERTY**

We are looking for new sales and marketing executives, Thai national only, to help us at our sales and showroom offices. You should have experience with working in a property environment and taking care of local real estate agencies visiting our showrooms. Great conditions are promised. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Please send your CV to info@phuket-condos-homes.com

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT**

Thai male translator. Part time to perm. Reply to: Phuketbiz79@gmail.com

**CLEANER WANTED**

Located on Surin Beach. Fluent spoken English, cleaning and helping in the villa. Contact Jariya. Tel: 081-367 7965 (English & Thai). Email: mayphu@hotmail.com

**ACCOUNT MANAGER - URGENT!**

- experience as account manager/chief of over 5 years
- can speak, read, write English; good accounting knowledge and skills; can close financial statements, AR, AP, etc
- good team leader
- can start soonest/immediately. Tel: 081-979 9911 (English & Thai).

**British International School, Phuket**

British International School, Phuket is looking for candidates to fill positions in the following areas:

**IT Technician****Qualifications**

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science or related fields
- Excellent knowledge of Computer
- Experience working with MacBooks and Windows Server
- Ability to communicate in English
- Able to work in team and independently
- Hard working and team work attitudes
- Excellent communication and coordination skills

**Art Assistant****Qualifications**

- Thai nationality
- Ability to communicate in English
- Interest in the visual arts and the workings of an art department
- Able to work in team and independently
- Able to use equipment in the design technology area to assist in the cutting and preparation of materials

**Business Development & Service Officer****Qualifications**

- Thai nationality, Male/Female, aged 25-30 years old
- Bachelor Degree in any field
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Good personality and be service minded
- Computer Literate : MS Office programmers and Internet usage

Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: British International School, Phuket



59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200  
Tel. 076 335555 # 2113 Fax. 076 335573  
E-mail : kojchapant@bisphuket.ac.th , sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th

**Phuket Digest Magazine****Looking for an ADVERTISING SALE EXECUTIVE**

- Strong spoken English & Good written English
  - Experience Selling magazine advertising
- Interested please send resume to:  
**phuketdigest@gmail.com**

**Employment Wanted****EXPAT LOOKING FOR WORK**

Long-term expat looking for a job in the boating industry, selling, charter manager, managing, lots of experience; here in Phuket or could re-locate. Tel: 087-264 2244 (English). Email: john@pymasia.co

**Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:****CHALONG**

- ▶ Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd)
- ▶ KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle)
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd)

Tel: 076-282254  
Tel: 076-280400  
Tel: 076-282403

**PATONG**

- ▶ Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza)
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza)
- ▶ Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd)

Tel: 076-344521-2  
Tel: 076-290468  
Tel: 076-342275

**PHUKET CITY**

- ▶ Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd)
- ▶ Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd)
- ▶ iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone

Tel: 076-232398  
Tel: 076-258369  
Tel: 076-255425

**CHERNG TALAY**

- ▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

**RAWAI**

- ▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-388144

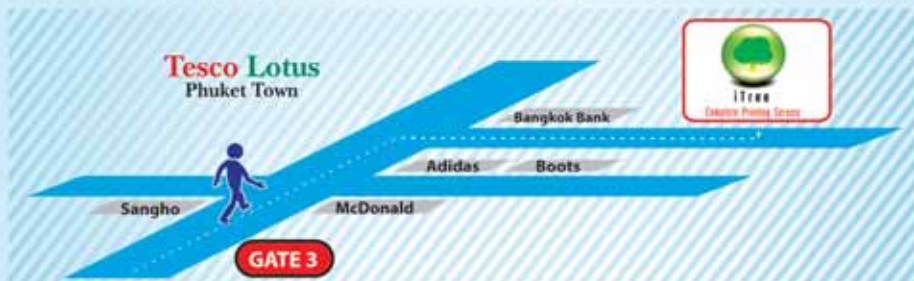
**KARON**

- ▶ EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

**Live in Town?**

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at iTree Complete Printing Service



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Nan: (076-255425)**

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**The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!**

**Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!**



**DRIVER 16,000+,  
COOK 15,000+**

Private villa. Thailand area. Thai national only. Basic English. Contact Todd. Tel: 089-005 0700. Email: toddplay@hotmail.com

**ACCOUNTANT  
POSITION**

Can speak, read and write English. Good accounting knowledge and skills. Can work under pressure. Salary 20,000 – 25,000 baht. Tel: 076-620071. Contact Lang or Apple. Email: accounts@socialwithwoulfe.com

**MANAGER'S  
ASSISTANT**

In international company. Woman. Thai & English speaker. Computer skills. Tel: 076-612843, 083-737 7878. Email: md@expertmedia.asia

**NATIVE ENGLISH  
TEACHER**

Need experienced preschool teacher 10-14 children, start immediately, Chalong, 40hr week, send resume to phuket teacher@yahoo.com

**ACCOUNT  
MANAGER -  
URGENT!**

- experience as account manager/chief of over 5 years
- can speak, read, write English; good accounting knowledge and skills; can close financial statements, AR, AP, etc
- good team leader
- can start soonest/immediately. Tel: 081-979 9911 (English & Thai).



**Waitresses 2 Positions**

Qualifications:

1. Female
2. English ability
3. Good attitude, personality and a team player
4. Good customer service skills

**Cook 2 Positions**

Looking for male or female who is interested in French cooking. Must have spoken English skill.

Tel: 083-634 1411, 076-290 492.  
Email: restaurant@leversace.com

Radhlin Boonyathong (Ant) | Sales & PR Director | Suite 106/5-6 | Prabamee Rd | Patong | Kathu | Phuket | 83150 | Thailand

**THAI NURSE**

Thai nurse. Will be trained in detox. must speak English. Thai national. Good salary! Email: Info@phuketfit.com

**GUEST RELATIONS**

Thai national only. Must have car driver's license. Must have excellent English written and spoken skills. Email: liam@phuketfit.com Please email for details.

**ENGLISH-SPEAKING  
THAI WOMAN**

Looking for a Thai woman with good written and spoken English for office work. Computer literacy is a must. Tel: 084-060 7050. Email: info@molokophuket.com Please see our website at http://molokophuket.com



MSquared Interior Design needs a talented individual to join its growing team on Phuket. The successful applicant will have the following attributes:

**Interior Designer / Interior Architect**

- Bachelor's degree in Interior Design or Interior Architecture
- At least 3 years experience in design (ideally with a focus on hotels and resorts)
- Creative thinker, great time management, well organized. Bilingual fluency (Thai & English)
- Excellent skills in: AutoCAD; Photoshop; 3D modelling (Sketchup & 3D Max would be advantageous)
- Excellent understanding of the entire design process, from conceptualization through to construction stage
- A great team player with excellent people skills
- Hard working and able to work flexible hours. Conscientious and trustworthy
- Ambitious and willing to grow with a new and fast-paced business
- An existing portfolio of successful work is required

The job will be based in the company's new office in Boat Lagoon and will offer a generous basic salary, plus performance bonus for the right person.

Want to join a great team? Please email your resume to **david@msquared-design.asia**

**DANISH STAFF**

Danish-speaking, 20-30 years-old staff wanted. Send CV and photo to naturejob13@gmail.com

**HEALTH FOOD COOK**

Organize and control health food kitchen. Thai nationals Only. Good English language skills required. Email: info@phuketfit.com

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Thai male wanted, in Patong, must have English and computer skills. Tel: 081-088 1451.

**ACCOUNTANT**

Thai or foreigner, start immediately. English a must, Thai an advantage. Full or part time. Tel: 087-897 0501 (English). Email: aleksa@thai-evagroup.com

**2 WAITRESSES  
WANTED**

Good salary. Speak English. Thai nationals only. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

**ENGLISH-SPEAKING  
SALES GIRL**

Needed to manage a small souvenir shop in Phuket Town. Good salary and commission. Start immediately, 6 days per week. Tel: 086-509 7510. Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

**HOUSEKEEPER -  
SURIN BEACH**

A self-motivated person to clean in detail and make beautiful. must love cats and speak English. Live in villa and have references. Tel: 083-103 1330.

**ACCOUNTANT NEEDED**

Japanese wedding company Sa-mer Wedding at Boat Lagoon. is seeking an experienced accountant. Requirements: over 3 years experience in accounts. Good command of spoken and written English. Good salary based on experience. Please contact us by email: fumiko@sa-mer.com

**SALESPERSON  
WANTED**

Must live permanently in Thailand and organise own residency status. Must speak fluent Thai and English. Must have experience selling food/alcohol to executive chefs and purchasing managers. Experienced in food service. Must have own car. Only people meeting all above criteria need apply. Please send resume to george\_d@jagota.com



**BONDI AUSSIE BAR & GRILL @ JUNGCEYLON**  
**STAFF WANTED**

In October 2013, Bondi Aussie Bar & Grill is opening in Phuket after 4 successful years with 2 Restaurants / Pubs in Koh Samui.

We are looking for qualified, honest and hardworking staff members to join our Bondi Team @ Jungceylon Phuket!

**Positions:** Chef / Supervisor x 2 / Bartenders / Service Staff / Line Cooks

- Thai national only!!
- 5 day work week!!
- Good salary!!
- No early morning or late night shifts!!
- Established company!!

Contact **Kirk** Tel: 081-895 1186.  
Email: **kirkstucker@bondisamui.com**

**www.bondisamui.com**

**ADMIN ASSISTANT  
WANTED**

English speaking & writing. Will be trained in Detox. Thai national. Good salary. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

**CUSTOMER  
RELATIONS REP**

Must speak and write English. Thai national. Good Salary. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

**THAI CASHIER WANTED**

Thai cashier wanted! At Kata. Tel: 089-401 8506. Email: vladim1r@me.com

**BARMAN - THAI COOK  
- WAITRESS**

Barman, Thai cook and waitress wanted. Thai nationals only. Tel: 081-895 5852. Please call or email to phuket8757@gmail.com

**FRONT DESK STAFF  
SAMUI**

Plus Wellness Manager required by detox resort. Tel: 077-602096. Send CV and photo to fasthealing@yahoo.com

**DRIVER 16,000+,  
COOK 15,000+**

Private villa. Thailand area. Thai national only. Basic English. Contact Todd. Tel: 089-005 0700. Email: toddplay@hotmail.com

**GYM ATTENDANT  
WANTED**

Good salary. 1pm - 10pm. Thai national only. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

**MAID /  
HOUSEKEEPER**

Expat (American) requires an experienced housekeeper/maid with good English and Thai-speaking ability. Cooking experience a plus and can be live in or live out. Experience letters and recommendations from previous employers are a must. Top notch salary will be paid for the right person! Contact Robert. Tel: 089-765 3126.

**REAL ESTATE EARN  
100,000+ BAHT**

Thai and English-speaking real estate broker required with experience in sales in Phuket (real estate is a bonus) must be very hungry and looking to make serious amounts of commission 100,000+ baht a month. Tel: 092-474 6157. Please send CVs to Paul@livephuket.com

**SECONDARY EP  
VACANCY**

ELT Phuket is looking to appoint a qualified, enthusiastic and experienced teacher of English (M1-4) to start at PPAO Ban Taladnua School, as soon as possible. Applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree plus a recognised teaching certificate (TEFL). Please email a letter of application and CV. Email: bantaladnuaep@gmail.com



**Live in Patong?**  
**Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at**  
**Taurus Travel**

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Kai: (076-344321-2)**

**GAZETTE CLASSADS** - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

**The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!**

**Looking for a job?**  
**Looking for a better candidate?**  
**Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [WWW.PhuketGazette.Net/](http://WWW.PhuketGazette.Net/)!**



## Business Opportunities

**CHALONG**

3-storey shophouse, restaurant or bar and living quarters, near pier. Sale: 3.5 million baht. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 0299. Email: colona@loxinfo.co.th

**RESTAURANT**

Urgent sale. Indoor-outdoor, in Chalong area, equipped. 14 months on lease. Rent: 5,000 baht per month. Contact Eye. Tel: 082-807 9312.

**BAR FOR SALE  
OTOP MARKET**

Good location, low rent, owner is going home. 1.4 million baht. Tel: 087-893 1753.

**HOTEL WITH  
RESTAURANT  
FOR SALE**

Chanote title, central position, new building, 4 years old, 20 rooms, reception and restaurant fully furnished, lift. 32 million baht negotiable. Contact Stefano. Tel: 086-279 8175 (English/Italian). Contact Ning. Tel: 084-840 1566 (Thai).

**SPA/ MASSAGE  
FOR RENT**

In a large estate at Bangtao between Laguna and Surin. 3 rooms, fully equipped for immediate operation. Operator must speak good English. Contact by email: bp\_oc@yahoo.com

**INVESTOR NEEDED:  
MOBILE APP**

Zom Ammara, a famous Thai celebrity, is raising 6 million baht from investors to promote and monetize on lady safety mobile app project called "GuardMe". We will gain US\$4 million profit within 3 years with celebrity marketing strategy. Contact Zom Ammara. For details, please call 02-673 9280, 081-381 5111.

**RENT BEACH FRONT  
RESTAURANT**

Excellent location on Surin Beach. Fully operational with outdoor beach furniture, full service kitchen; seating capacity of 120+, 3-year lease for 2.4 million baht + rent 70,000 baht monthly. Please call 091-034 1200 (English). Email: issam.tawil@gmail.com

**BANGLA BAR CHEAP!**

Absolute stunner! Cheap. Aircon, 2 floors, 160sqm, contact for photos. Only 1.8 million baht, full fitout. Good rent option. Bargain! Tel: 087-881 7600. Email: cocodi.orster@gmail.com

**BEAUTY SALON  
QUICK SALE**

Fully furnished beauty salon, 75sqm for quick sale. 300,000 baht. Foreign clients. Busy area. Tel: 090-154 6115. Email: aselia8989@mail.ru

**UNIQUE  
GASTRONOMY  
BUSINESS**

Best location at Kata Center, with operating concept. Interested parties need a proven record and a professional background. Email: yongyut.bauer@gmail.com

**SPA/ SAUNA LEASE  
FOR SALE**

Busy established Spa and Sauna business for sale. Great location. Junction of Nanai Road and Nanai 2. Renewable lease. Price 2.5 million baht. Tel: 087-078 6379, 082-286 5171 (English & Thai), 080-718 1226 (English). Email: nanaisauna@yahoo.com

**HOTEL WITH  
24HR RESTAURANT**

Top location at Kata Center, inside entertainment zone, for rent. 19 air-conditioned rooms. Email: yongyut.bauer@gmail.com

**NO-NONSENSE  
OPPORTUNITY**

30 rifle laser tag system, complete. Low overheads, high potential income. Team Building, tourist attraction and local business. Cash purchase 300,000 baht. Tel: 089-071 0169 (English). Email: nigelburt51@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=08xcTTGHYU0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08xcTTGHYU0)

**KARON  
GUESTHOUSE**

For sale. Estimate 14 years old, Chanote title, 5 storeys, 12 rooms, laundry, sala, bar, net profit 2 million baht. Sale: 12 million baht. Owner retiring. No offers. Tel: 081-728 1862 (English), 081-370 8733 (Thai).

**FITNESS CENTER  
FOR SALE**

A well established fitness center with a large membership base, situated in Phuket Town, for sale. Price reduced to 8 million baht. Tel: 087-275 3614 (English & Thai), 080-698 5021 (Thai). Email: coco\_ivy@hotmail.com

**HOTEL  
BEACHFRONT  
PATONG - RENT**

The best location in Patong Beach, seaview, fully furnished, 16 rooms, very good occupancy rates. Opportunities. Contact Mark. Tel: 080-141 6040.

**RESORT  
FOR LEASE**

In the heart of Patong. 20 rooms well furnished, fully operational with very good occupancy rates. 6-year lease for 6 million baht + rental fee 150,000 baht per month. Tel: 088-765 0165.

**HOUSE&BUSINESS  
ON 24 RAI**

For sale. Tried of the traffic and high prices of Phuket? Or just want a weekend getaway? I have built in Farang spec and style, a beautiful retreat, a main house with 2 big garages, a guesthouse with garage, a bungalow and a 900sqm exercise gym. It all rests on 24 rai and is currently a working shrimp farm, but could be used for many purposes, located 2 hours north of the island. Price: 12 million baht, this price will not last long, the houses are worth more than 12 million baht. Please call 081-728 8269 or email to jrp@loxinfo.co.th

## Bulletins

**SPONSOR A CHILD**

The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors – small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol. Please call 087-417 8860 or contact Sue. Tel: 087-277 6948. For more information please email us at [info@phuketiwc.com](mailto:info@phuketiwc.com)

**RENT GUESTHOUSE  
PATONG**

Nanai, cheap rent, 8 years on lease + strong starting. 12 rooms. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

**RAWAI INVESTMENT**

We run a business in Chalong that has paid back 50% of its cash investment in the first year of operation. An opportunity for a similar business exists in Rawai. This is not a hotel, guesthouse, restaurant, dive shop, car rental or real estate, This business benefits Thai society as a whole and is neutral on the environment. We are looking for 1-3 equity investors to make a total 20 million baht investment. Email: tayana55islandgirl@yahoo.com

**HOTEL  
BEACHFRONT  
PATONG - RENT**

For rent or sale. 20m from the beach, well-furnished, 38 rooms, swimming pool, restaurant, parking, fully operational with very good occupancy rates. Opportunity. Long-term contract. Contact Mark. Tel: 080-141 6040.

**LAUNDRY KATHU  
975,000 BAHT**

High capacity machines only two years old. Wash, dry, iron, roll iron. Automatic soap dosing. Reason for selling is expansion. Shophouse with 4 bedrooms. Rent: 22,000 baht per month. Possible cooperation for the right buyer. Ready to take over. Tel: 089-882 0894 (English), 089-652 0975 (Thai). Email: peter@conceptfeeling.com

**21 ROOMS + REST +  
BEACH ROAD**

Located central on the Beach Road. 3.7 million baht key money, 8 year lease, modern rooms. Call today. Contact Frank. Tel: 076-346875, 084-078 2753 (English). Email: info.realpro@gmail.com

**STEAKHOUSE  
NEAR BEACH**

Texas Steakhouse for sale. Lease on 4.5 years. Rent: 40,000 baht per month. Staff and equipment, Thai company included. Turnkey. Asking 2.5 million baht for quick sale. Please call 085-215 8660. Email: fstailslide@hotmail.com

**GOGO BAR /  
NIGHTCLUB**

For sale in Bang Tao. Needs slight alterations. Comes complete with kitchen and all furniture, website and marketing package. 1 million baht or nearest offer. No business like this within 20km. Fantastic business opportunity. Contact Lee. Tel: 081-787 9767.

**SPORTS BAR KARON**

Newly renovated, trendy sports bar in Karon, Phuket. This bar comes fully equipped with three large plasma TVs, pool table, two bedrooms and website. Please call +44-20-8688 4544. Email: nm.windowcleaning@hotmail.co.uk

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre?  
Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd  
T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE  
for a full year - 52 issues!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐  
☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)  
☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)  
☐ Thai Baht 9,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Surname (as appears on card) Given name(s) (as on card)

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Issuing Bank: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Deliver To:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State or Province Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Country: \_\_\_\_\_



To ensure clarity,  
please airmail.  
Do not Fax!

**HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE**

Contact: [realestate.luxuryphuketholidays.com](http://realestate.luxuryphuketholidays.com)



## Business Products &amp; Services



**DINO DAYCARE CENTER**

Accepting children 3 months old - 4 years old. 7am-7pm.

- Experienced nannies.
- Nutritious meals.
- Reasonable rates.
- Outdoor activities.
- Skill development activities.

**CALL NOW:**  
082-539 8252 (Thai).  
081-868 7676 (English).

**HOTEL BOOKING LIST SERVICE**

Hotel registration and monitoring on AGODA, Sawadee and Booking.com Tel: 083-394 5863. Email: tperke@googlemail.com

**BUDS INTERNATIONAL KINDERGARTEN**

Phuket's oldest international child care facility. High-quality, time-proven schedule and curriculum. Now in brand-new purpose-built school. Experienced native English teachers to teach ages 1.5-8. Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Bus service available from Patong, Karon, Kata, Phuket, Rawai and Chalong. Tel: 076-384638, 080-624 7060. Please see our website at [www.buds-phuket.com](http://www.buds-phuket.com)

**TRICK ROPING LESSONS**

Showing and teaching the art of western cowboy rope tricks. For more information, please call 084-447 5257.

**WHEATGRASS JUICE**

Lumpoons Coffee House. At Chalong. For more information, please call 081-476 5808.

**SLUSH MACHINE**

Our two-tank slush machines are great value for the money. We offer you the cheapest rate in Thailand for both the machine and the mix. A fantastic product which will give you an even better return. Inquire now or call us 087-139 9225. Email: [info@funfoodthailand.com](mailto:info@funfoodthailand.com)

**FREE ITALIAN ESPRESSO MACHINE**

Coffee capsules machine on loan, good organic Italian coffee, fair prices, 6 blends available, direct import into Phuket. Tel: 076-374760, 088-768 1260 (English & Thai). Email: [fepigada@yahoo.it](mailto:fepigada@yahoo.it)

## Bar &amp; Restaurant Equipment

**SNOOKER & BABY FOOT**

Snooker: like new 45,000 baht. Baby foot: 2,500 baht. Located at Patong. For more information, please send email to [nc.residence@gmail.com](mailto:nc.residence@gmail.com)

**GAS GRILL FOR SALE**

Commercial large S/S grill. Purchased from Lucky Kitchen for 38,000 baht. Sale now: 28,000 baht. Please call 080-316 8435.

**RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT**

We are selling the complete contents of a coffee, gelato shop, including 2 freezer showcases, 1 dessert showcase, 2 group espresso machines, bottle cooler, upright freezer, gelato makers and pasteuriser, together with all furniture and other light equipment. All stock only 12 months old. For more information, please call 087-894 1384 (English & Thai), 089-065 5514 (English & Thai). Email: [info@conciergeinphuket.com](mailto:info@conciergeinphuket.com)

## Fitness Equipment

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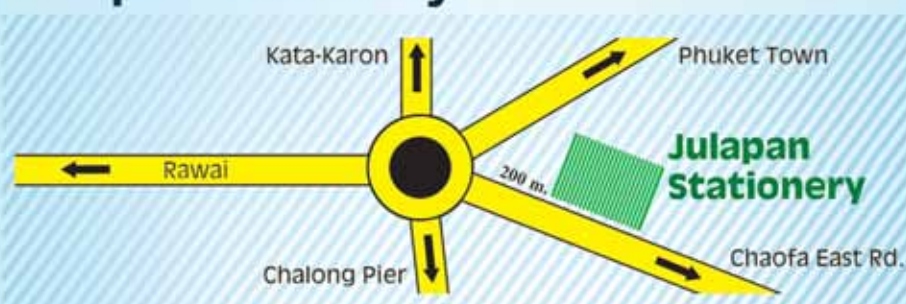


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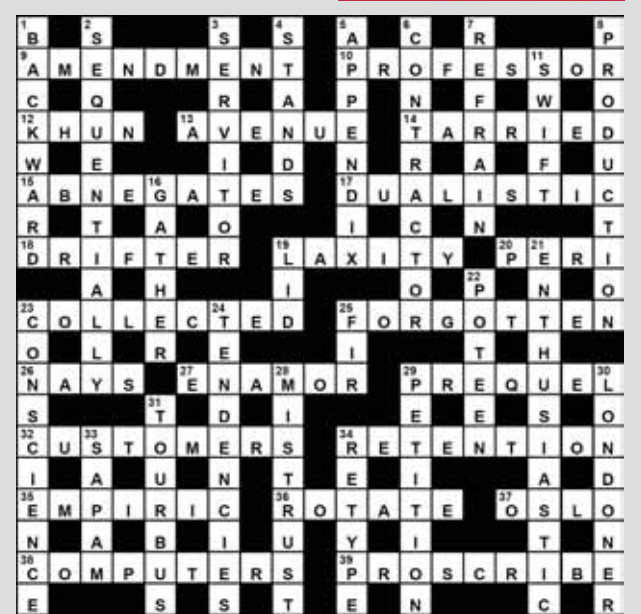
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**THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S**  
**Cryptic Crossword**

**COFFEE**  
**break**









# BISP ALUMNI DAY

British International School Phuket (BISP) opened in 1996 with its first class graduating in 2001. There are now over one thousand alumni located in all parts of the world. On Saturday August 17, alumni from the graduating class of 2003 organized a full day and night of fun activities including netball and football games against current teachers; and later, a gala evening at KanEang for "Alumni Day 2013". Many travelled down from Bangkok for the event, but some past students came from as far afield as Hong Kong, Australia, Japan and UK.



From left: BISP Alumni Thai Pop/ R&B singer Chin Indracusim joins BISP Marketing Manager Kirsten Smallcombe and Head of Arts Neill Thacker for a photo.



All 138 alumni gathered for a group photo at the BIS Phuket amphitheatre before team-building games, netball and football in the school's sports hall.

# GO ECO PHUKET



Phuket Gazette staff accept a media support certificate from Go Eco Phuket. From left: Manager of Advertising and Television Promotion Krisana Matzenberger; Managing Editor of News Isaac Stone Simonelli; Phuket Gazette Managing Director Oranee Hildebrand; Go Eco Phuket's Jirayu Naragoonphithak; and Phuket Gazette Events Manager Kanjana Sriboonsom.

# PHUKET INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



General Manager of Phuket International Airport and Executive Vice President of Airports of Thailand (AOT) Prathuang Sornkhom (center) reports on the progress of the renovation of Phuket International Airport during a press conference.

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# A true taste of Phuket

By Mark Knowles

WITH so many Western-style restaurants and the longstanding popularity of Northeastern-style Thai food in Phuket, it is sometimes easy to forget that the island has its own unique cuisine. You won't find it in the tourist areas though, for an authentic taste of local food, you have to head to Phuket Town, and in particular, to the famous Lock Tien food court which has been serving up classic Phuket dishes for generations.

The style of food at Lock Tien is a result of centuries of intermixing among Thai, Malay and Hokkien Chinese cultures. In the 18th and early 19th centuries thousands of Chinese workers from Fujian Province came to Phuket in search of their fortunes in the dozens of tin mines that were rapidly springing up all over the island.

At several times, these Chinese migrants vastly outnumbered the local Thai population, but overtime they intermarried and began to forge the unique culture known as Baba, a term which denotes the descendants of mixed Thai-Chinese parents. Phuket's Baba culture was deeply influenced by, and still shares much in common with, the Peranakan culture, which is most prominent in Penang, Malaysia – where Chinese migrants inter-mixed with the Malays.

But Phuket's Baba culture and food developed along slightly

different lines to those in Penang, the lack of Muslim influence meant that pork still plays a prominent role in Baba food, unlike its



**KIEN:** Minced pork stuffed into tofu skins and deep fried, served with a tangy sweet sauce.

Penang counterpart.

Putting the history lessons aside, let's have a look at some of the most popular and delicious Baba dishes to try when you visit Lock Tien. This is a bit like a food court, with wait staff taking your order, then collecting your chosen food from the various



**POR PIA AND SATAY MOO:** Fujian style fresh spring rolls and juicy pork satay with peanut sauce.

stalls which each specialize in two or three dishes. Then as the food is brought back to your table, you pay for each dish or drink as it arrives.

For starters, try some delicious *Moo Satay*, tender tiny strips of pure pork, barbecued and served with peanut sauce and cucumber.

Next, there is *Kien*, which is spiced, minced pork stuffed into tubes of tofu skin then deep-fried and served with a sweet barbecue sauce – this one is a must try. Another popular yet very simple starter is *Mee Hoon Pa Chang*, thin rice noodles stir-fried with soy sauce and topped with fried shallots and fresh spring onions. It is normally accompanied by a delicious pork-bone soup, a thin

broth with chunks of pork ribs covered with tender flesh. For adventurous diners, there is *Loba*, or as the menu describes it in English “assorted deep fried pig offal – but this is perhaps more of an acquired taste.

Finally there are the *Por Pia* or Fujian style fresh spring rolls, served not unlike Peking duck, they consist of a soft pancake filled with red pork, lettuce, bean shoots, pork skin and several other ingredients, which is then wrapped up, cut into bite sized pieces and smothered in a sweet sauce. These spring rolls are hand prepared by Ko Lai, who has been cranking them out to hungry locals for more than 40 years. He told the *Gazette* that he is the third generation of his family to man their stall at Lock Tien. He began helping his parents when he was a child, before taking over from them in his



**OODLES OF NOODLES:** Spicy Mee Nam Tom Yum Kong (left) and the more traditional Chinese ‘Ancient Style’ noodles. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

early 20s. Watching him prepare dozens of the rolls with a deft hand, it's clear that he has had plenty of practice and the walls of Lock Tien are covered in photos of Ko Lai with visiting celebrities who came to taste his famous spring rolls.

Next, it's onto the main dishes and here the traditional Fujian saying “It is unacceptable for a meal to not have soup” continues to hold sway. There are several noodle dishes served “dry” with soup on the side and also dishes where the two are combined. The most obviously Thai-Chinese or Baba dish is the *Mee Nam Tom Yum Kong*, which mixes Hokkien-style noodles, prawns, pork, egg and vegetables with a spicy-sour *Tom Yum* soup. The “Ancient Style” noodles are similar but omit the *Tom Yum* soup for a strong pork based broth that is not as spicy. There are also several stir-fried noodle dishes to try, with various combinations of seafood, vegetables and noodles stir-fried in a spicy paste.

To wash all this down you can choose from a wide variety of fruit



**TRADITION:** The venerable Ko Lai is the third generation of his family to run this spring roll stall.

shakes, some of the more unusual flavors include sapodilla, dragon fruit, cantaloupe or tomato. But to complete your meal in true local style, order a *Oh Eaw* a concoction of shaved ice, banana jelly, beans and syrup. Very refreshing in the midday heat.

All the dishes are a steal at between 30 to 50 baht, so don't be afraid to try a few different ones. Lock Tien is located in the heart of old Phuket Town, on the corner of Yawarat and Dibuk roads, opposite a beautifully restored, green Sino-Portuguese building.



**LUNCH TIME:** Members of the Gazette team enjoying lunch at Lock Tien.

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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

**Aug 30, 2013, 7pm-11pm, Indian Curry Buffet.**

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 449 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken and mouthwatering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort. For more information contact Jaspal Singh on +66-76-286464, or email at info@navrangmahal.com, or visit their website at navrangmahal.com.

**Sep 1, 2013, 12pm-3pm, Sunday Poolside BBQ at Westin Siray Bay.**

Indulge in a lavish BBQ buffet with a variety of meats and seafood, live cooking stations, your favorite Italian dishes, and scrumptious desserts. Every Sunday throughout September 12pm-3pm at Prego by the Beach, The Westin Siray Bay Resort & Spa, Phuket. THB990++ per adult plus free access to Prego pool. THB495++ per child (7-12 years old). Call +66 76 335 600 or visit westinsiraybay.com

**Sep 7-8, 2013, 9pm-1am, Phuket 80s Night**

XANA beach club will be holding a Phuket 80s Night, bringing the best music from one of the most iconic decades. On the night there will be 80s themed cocktails, canapes and entertainment. And of course a dress code, so glam it up with 80s clothes and accessories! More information contact Annabel Fox on +66-76-324101 or visit website at xanabeachclub.com

**Sep 19, 2013, 11:30am-2pm, Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch.**



September's lunch will be at The Holiday Inn, Patong. Always a popular venue. All are welcome but registration is essential. Members B500 and guests B650. Contact: info@phuketiw.com or Carole Dux 076-316711 or visit their website at phuketiw.com

**Sep 27, 2013, 7pm-11pm, Indian Curry Buffet.**

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 449 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken and mouthwatering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort. For more information contact Jaspal Singh on +66-76-286464, or email at info@navrangmahal.com, or visit navrangmahal.com.

**Oct 8, 2013, 6 pm-10:30 pm, Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards 2013.**

The Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards is a National competition recognizing the efforts and expertise amongst the hotels, restaurants, cafes and wine bars in the development of wine culture in Thailand. The competition is open to all food and beverage establishments with wine lists. The online registration opens in May 2013 and culminates in the announcement of Thailand's best wine list at the Awards ceremony in October. Contact directly to Jon Hyams on +66-80-4718713

**Oct 5-13, 2013, Phuket Vegetarian Festival.**

This festival is an annual event held during the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar. Though the origins of the festival are unclear, it celebrates the Chinese community's belief that a strict diet of vegetables will purify mind and body and constitute merit-making. Sacred rituals are performed at all Chinese temples in Phuket. The processions from

each temple show strict vegetarians, known as devotees, ostensibly possessed by gods, piercing their tongues, cheeks and other parts of the anatomy with sharp implements. The devotees apparently feel no pain and show no sign of real injury.

**Oct 17, 2013, 11:30am-2pm, Phuket International Women's Club at Cape Panwa Hotel.**

Another new and fascinating location for our October lunch: the

historic Panwa House at the Cape Panwa Hotel. As usual, booking is required but all are welcome. Members: 500 baht; non members and guests: 650 baht. Register at info@phuketiw.com or contact Carole Dux on +66-76-316711.

**Nov 13-16, 2013, 5am-6pm, Phuket International Sport Fishing 2013**

Registration will be on November 13 from 5pm onwards. Fishing days are November 13-16. Prize giving party on the 16th. For more info, please see our website: phuket-international-sportfishing tournament.com or contact Khun Uwe Schittek on +66-76-282036 or email uweschittek@yahoo.com. This event is sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show.

**Dec 16-18, 2013, 6pm-11:30pm, Asia Superyacht Rendezvous**

The Asia Superyacht Rendezvous is a prestigious invitation only event for superyacht owners, captains and their VIP guests. This year's event takes place December 16-18 at Kata Rocks. The annual Rendezvous is proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV, and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show, broadcast daily on True Visions (channels 99 and 58). For more information one can contact +66-817-974100, or email to pr-comm@asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com

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If you need to talk with someone, drop by one of the informal Sunday morning computer discussion groups, starting about 10am every Sunday at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong (about 1 km north of Chalong Circle on Chao Fah East road). Consolation, commiseration, and old fashioned help await – for free.

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Phuket Today is a 30-minute lifestyle show about Phuket. The show features resorts, villas, restaurants, yachts, private aircraft, nightlife, sports, leisure activities and events. Produced by PGTV, the television arm of the Phuket Gazette, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community resident in Thailand.

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Wednesday:	10:10am	
Thursday:	01:10pm	
Friday:	04:10am & 07:10pm	
Saturday:	01:10pm	
Sunday:	06:10pm	
<b>True Freeview Channel 58</b>	8 shows a week	MCOT World
Monday:	05:10am	
Tuesday:	11:10pm	
Wednesday:	10:10am	
Thursday:	01:10pm	
Friday:	04:10am & 07:10pm	
Saturday:	01:10pm	
Sunday:	06:10pm	
<b>Phuket Cable Company (PC)</b>	Covers all Phuket.	
<b>Channel 1 - 19 shows a week</b>		
Monday - Friday:	10:30am, 6:00pm, 9:00pm.	
Saturday & Sunday:	10:30am, 9:10pm.	
<b>Rawai Cable</b>	Covers Rawai, Chalong, Kata, Karon.	
<b>Channel 1 - 28 shows a week</b>		
Monday - Sunday:	10:30am, 7:00pm, 10:00pm.	
<b>Channel 43 - 8 shows a week</b>		
Monday:	05:10am	
Tuesday:	11:10pm	
Wednesday:	10:10am	
Thursday:	01:10pm	
Friday:	04:10am & 07:10pm	
Saturday:	01:10pm	
Sunday:	06:10pm	

Online: [www.phuketgazette.net/tv](http://www.phuketgazette.net/tv) | [www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket](http://www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket)

And in 4,600 hotel rooms around the island, international hospitals and Phuket Immigration Office.





FAST-PACED FUN: A competitor in the inaugural Krabi Trophy 2012 Adventure Race. Photos: Supplied



FULL-STEAM PADDLING: Team kayaking is a common discipline in many adventure races.

# Race for adventure

## Phuket's neighbor Krabi to host global adventure race

ADVENTURE Racing is a sport that is rapidly capturing the imagination of sporting and adrenaline junkies in Thailand and around the world. These non-stop races, ranging in length from 4-8 hours, require teams to run, trek, mountain bike and paddle, while navigating a course through the wilderness. Likened to an expedition with a stopwatch, adventure racing requires teamwork, perseverance, strategy and determination.

The rules of adventure racing vary depending on location, terrain and disciplines but most races abide by the following

general rules: No motorized travel; no GPS assistance; teams must travel together for the entire race usually within 50 meters of each other; no outside assistance except at designated transition areas but assistance from competing teams is generally permitted; and teams must carry all mandatory gear.

Adventure races are held in spectacular natural locations all over the world and attract an equally diverse range of international competitors. Phuket residents have a chance to get a taste of the action soon, with an upcoming race in neighboring Krabi

scheduled for late September.

The Sheraton Krabi Trophy brings the spectacular and fast growing sport of Adventure Racing to the South of Thailand. Supported by Sheraton, MBK Group, PTT, Singha and the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the second edition of this exciting race is set to attract 100 teams from around the world.

Scheduled on September 21 this year, and part of the Amazing Thailand Adventure Race Series, the race will start and finish on the magnificent Klong Muang Beach where the Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort is located. Adventure Racing is a highly visual and dynamic sport genre, making it a great spectator sport, as well as stretching competitors to their limits.

After the tremendous success of last year's inaugural event, we are very excited to bring back the competition to stunning Krabi,



Krabi's beautiful tropical beaches are a big lure for race competitors.

explains Serge Henkens, race director and managing director of Active Management Asia.

"Krabi is one of the most scenic places in the world with dramatic limestone peaks, the blue ocean, forests, mountains, waterfalls, sandy beaches and a very rich fauna and flora. The perfect recipe for great adventure racing," continued Mr Henkens.

"As we offer two divisions, 'Adventure' [easier course] and the 'Extreme' [longer and tougher course], the race is really accessible to everyone," said Mr Henkens.

The Krabi Trophy 2013 consists of three days of fun activities, which will include an expo for sponsors to promote their products and services, parties and VIP hospitality, a spectacular Sprint Adventure Race, sports activities on

the beach, shows, dances and entertainment, and much more.

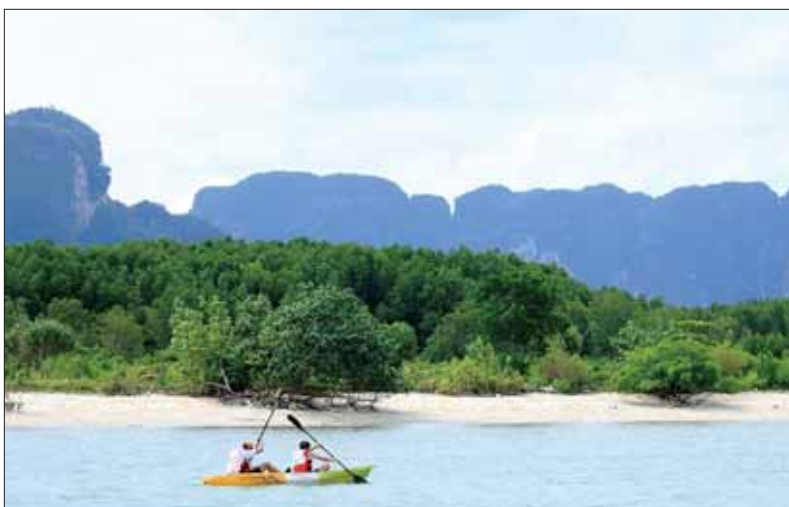
The Krabi Trophy Adventure Race will offer four disciplines: running, cycling, kayaking and swimming. The competitors will hike and run through unspoiled jungle, paddle and swim on the turquoise waters of the Andaman Sea and cycle over the hills with spectacular views of the ocean.

The winners of the extreme division are expected to complete the course in approximately four and a half hours. The fastest team in the Adventure division is planned to finish in around three and a half hours.

The Race will offer two divisions: "Adventure" – a short course for newcomers and weekend warriors and an "Extreme" – a long course for confirmed athletes and experienced racers.

Competitor categories will be: Men, Women, Mixed, Masters Men (over 80 years combined) and Seniors Men (over 100 years combined). – *Phuket Gazette*

For more information about adventure racing and how you can get involved in the the Krabi Trophy Adventure Race visit: [ama-events.com](http://ama-events.com)



The race course in Krabi includes open sea and mangrove kayaking

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Mountain bike racing action from last year's Krabi Trophy adventure race.



# Parks in the malls

RECENTLY the letters column in a Bangkok newspaper featured a debate about parks versus malls. One faction argued that we need more parks in Bangkok. Another faction maintained that the space wasted on parks should be used to build more shopping malls, which are better because they make more money. This demonstrates the lofty values cherished by the deeply spiritual Bangkokians.

My friend Fardley Nerdwell dismissed the debate with the disdain he always reserves for lesser minds.

"Our species has an unfortunate tendency to think in terms of 'either-or' instead of 'both-and'," he pontificated.

"A warm and inclusive view of reality would suggest that we don't have to choose between parks and malls. We can have both. We can put the parks in the malls."

I blinked. "Come again?"

"Yes," Fardley affirmed.

"I recently visited the giant Mega Bangna mahasuperhypermall. It is the size of a small city. It even has its own transportation system. Modified golf carts speed foot-



weary shoppers from one enormous concourse to another. One or more parks could so easily fit within its vaulted vastness."

"A park requires trees,"

I noted. "How are you going to fit trees inside a shopping mall?"

Fardley snorted. "Obviously you've never seen Mega Bangna. Its lofty battlements would easily permit trees to be planted within a central area, lined by shops on every floor. 'Shop 'n' stroll - this can easily become the defining slogan of my 'parks-in-the-malls' concept."

"Note, please, that the trees would provide oxygen for breathless shoppers. There would be no need to import oxygen from outside the 'mall-o-sphere'. Oxygen-independent malls would leave more oxygen for the wretched population languishing outside the malls to breathe. These unfortunate outcasts will inevitably be known as mall exiles, or mall outies."

"So mall culture will divide our population into two sectors?" I inquired. "Mall outies and mall innies?"

"Mall innies are already called mall rats,



**BACK TO NATURE:** Some mall designers in America may have already taken Fardly Nerdwell's advice on creating parks inside their malls. Photo: Margaret Napier

mallsters, or mallies," Fardley replied. "Mall outies is a new concept."

"To enhance the natural ambiance, shopper-friendly fauna such as birds, squirrels and monkeys will be allowed to roam free in the park, with perhaps a tiger or two to provide excitement. Shoppers will have to be careful to avoid falling bird droppings, which might soil their persons and their purchases. This will sharpen their instincts and hone their reflexes, atrophied by too much civilized living. Grabby squirrels and monkeys, together with the occasional pouncing tiger, will convey the same benefit. They will provide alertness training and exercise for sluggish shoppers."

"I have a problem with the tigers," I said. "Most shoppers will not want to have to keep an eye peeled for tigers waiting to eat them at the checkout counters."

"The tigers will be kept away from the checkout counters," Fardley conceded. "Our love for nature must not be allowed to impede the smooth and stately course of commerce."

"In that case, I foresee a rosy future for parks in the malls," I agreed.

*Ye Old Curmudgeon can be flamed c/o s.tsow@ymail.com, except when he's on the lookout for tigers in the shopping malls.*

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# Enjoy the fruit of your labor



**CORNUCOPIA:** In the tropics it is so easy to plant your garden with fruit trees to ensure a year-round supply of delicious fruits such as mango, guava, rambutan and longan. Photo: Kevin Poh



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

SEPP writes to say that he owns three villas in Phuket and “would like to change the gardens to [include] more fruit trees, fruit bushes and nice flowers”. He adds: “Can you help me to find the right ones?” and asks “which books could I buy?” Well, Sepp, even to attempt an answer all your wide-ranging queries would take several articles, so I am going to concentrate on the fruit tree issue. In any event there are not many *bushes* producing edible crops unless you want to include vines such as pumpkins, water melons or bitter gourds, all of which will need support, or vegetables such as aubergines or tomatoes which do fit the bill as bushes.

My choice of fruit trees suitable for a garden is listed later in this article. Moreover,

most fruit trees do sport attractive flowers, so they can double both as decorative additions to your garden[s], and as sources of delectable fresh fruit for your table.

In no particular order, my recommended fruit trees are as follows: mango (*manuang*); papaya (*malakan*); lime (*manao*); pomelo (*som-oh*); mangosteen (*mankhut*); rambutan (*ngaw*); Guava (*farang*); avocado; pomegranate (*taptim*); star apple (*aphoen*); and longan (*langart*).

I considered including the *dillenia* or elephant apple (*mataat*) a small shrubby evergreen tree which has globular fruit and pleasant five-petalled yellow flowers, but is used in Southeast Asia mainly for chutneys. The jack fruit tree and its relative the bread fruit were other possibilities, but despite their exotic fruit and glossy foliage, they are slow to reach



**A mango tree not only provides tasty fruit but ample cool shade as well.** Photo: Mauroguanandi

their mature height of 15 meters and are perhaps better as specimen trees for a large open space. Bananas have instant appeal: they are fast growers and heavy croppers. But the huge sail-like leaves do become tattered so if orderliness is a key criterion, than the *kluay* may not be for you.

The mango must rank high on anyone's list. A favorite yard tree in Thailand, it grows quickly, has a neat habit and thick foliage –

pinkish when young – making it ideal as a shade tree. Nor does it need me to extol its virtues as a luscious and distinctive dessert fruit, sweet and mildly perfumed. It can also be eaten green in savory dishes.

The papaya is just as ubiquitous. Like the banana (not technically a tree), it has a fleshy, hollow stem and will grow almost anywhere. The massive, marrow-shaped fruits are carried at

the top of the tree just below its crown of deeply indented leaves. Papayas are a staple of Thai cuisine, especially in *Isaan* where the unripe fruits are used to make *som tum*. When ripe, the flesh takes on an orange-pink tinge and is sweet, and scented. The papaya is good as a starter tree, since it is short-lived (two years or so) and easy to remove once it has finished cropping.

On the other hand, the lime,

referred to here as a lemon, is more difficult to establish. Easy to find in nurseries, it dislikes being transferred from a pot, so be careful not to disturb its roots when transplanting. It has glossy, leathery, evergreen leaves, white star-shaped flowers and carries spines on its stems. More a bush than a tree, *citrus aurantifolia* tends to sprawl, so it may need staking or pruning. But nothing can beat the acidic zest of a lime straight from the tree. Put it on your list.

There are of course other citrus varieties in Thai gardens and orchards including several kinds of orange, the diminutive *cumquat* and the enormous grapefruit-like *pomelo*. Interestingly, all the major citrus fruits have evolved in cultivation from just three wild parent species; the citron, the shaddock or *pomelo*, and the mandarin. During the growing season, all of them need plenty of water and sunshine accompanied by some nitrogenous fertilizer.



**Once established, an avocado tree will provide prodigious amounts of glossy green fruit which turns black when ripe.** Photo: Walknboston

## Tip of the week

### Mushrooms: Growing your own

THERE is a bar in Rawai called “The Magic Mushroom”. Its name is testament to the fact that some mushrooms are hallucinogenic or psychedelic: for example the small *psilocybin* toadstool. Some are downright poisonous. But most mushrooms, and certainly all the cultivated varieties, are not only good to eat but are rich in medicinal substances such as *betaglucon* and *polysaccharides* which can help reduce blood-sugar levels, boost the immune system and act as anti-inflammatories.



**Some popular edible mushrooms in Thailand.** Photo: Asian mushrooms

In Thailand, local markets usually sell several kinds: straw mushrooms (*hed fang*), termite mushrooms (*hed khone*), white coral mushrooms (*hed nu noo khao*) and Jew's ear mushrooms (*hed hu noo*). Some of these are cultivated; some are “foraged” from the wild.

If you want to cultivate your own supply, the process is relatively easy since you do not need sun or rain or conventional soil. Growing kits can be obtained from stores such as Macro and Super Cheap.



# Rotarians flock to Phuket

By Maciek Klimowicz

CHANCES are you've heard about Rotary, an omnipresent charity organization with a staggering 1.2 million members around the globe, and counting. The chances are even higher that you spotted a Rotarian or two if you passed by Phuket Fantasea last Monday.

On that day, the popular tourist destination experienced a real Rotarian invasion – a crowd of 700 Rotary members from India who arrived to the island on board a cruise ship, met with 300 Thai Rotarians in the vast dining hall of Phuket Fantasea. The huge group was led by a number of top-ranking Rotarians, among them the president of the organization – Ron D Burton.

Mr Burton and his fellow Rotarians only spent five hours in Phuket, mostly in Fantasea's dining hall and theater to enjoy the world-famous show. But between

the hearty buffet dinner (with some wonderful Indian vegetarian dishes on offer) and before Mr Burton disappeared out of my reach, inside The Palace of the Elephants, I had a chance to ask him a few questions about Rotary's role in Asia in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## What can an organization like Rotary do for developing countries like Thailand?

There's a lot of things. Clean water and sanitation, basic education and literacy. All of these things are what Rotary Clubs, Rotary districts and Rotarians do every day of the year, every minute of the day. There's all kinds of opportunities for Rotary to serve as to improve the quality of life in the world for everyone.

## Rotary is 108 years old. How did the role of the organization

## change over the decades?

It's critically important that we try and reach out to the younger generation. We have a new generation's conference that will be occurring on October 5-6 in Chennai, India where we will have our youth exchange students and others talking to Rotarians about how we can get them involved, and make the transition from those organizations to Rotary International. So they will also get sort of a bug to get back to the community and to build communities and to make the world a better place.

## Does Rotary Thailand stand out in any way?

We had a convention in Bangkok in 2011 and that was my first opportunity to come to Thailand. I know many Rotarians who come from Thailand and they are very dedicated, hard working, community-minded



ROTARY PRESIDENT: Ron D Burton gives a speech about Rotary's mission.

people, so it's a great core that we have to build on here to work with Rotarians in other parts of the world, to help do the things that Thailand needs which are different from the needs of other parts of the world.

## How would you encourage people to join Rotary?

I think we all have an obligation to get back to society for the space we occupy in the world. And that applies to everybody in the world. We all need to be aware that we're not alone in this world, that we need to care for our brothers and sisters and we all need to make our communities better than they are.

# Star manager appointed

STARWOOD Hotels & Resorts recently appointed Janet McNab as Area General Manager, South Thailand, and General Manager of The Westin Siray Bay Resort & Spa, Phuket.

Building on a successful role as General Manager of The Four Points by Sheraton, Sukhumvit 15, Janet now brings a wealth of knowledge and professional experience gained over 25 years with Starwood Hotels & Resorts.

"I am delighted to be in Phuket and to be working closely with the Westin team to support them to reach their full potential," said Janet.

"Being on the private cove of Siray Bay featuring all stunning sea-view rooms, suites and villas, allows our guests a great opportunity to fully relax in a peaceful surrounding and access the amenities of nearby Phuket Town.

A distinguished hotelier, Janet is Australian and started her first Starwood experience at Sheraton Brisbane Hotel & Towers. Upon completion of an MBA in Australia, she began an international career by moving to China. Subsequently, she became general manager at Le Meridien Nirwana Resort & Spa in Bali, Indonesia.



Janet McNab

Thereafter, she pursued her career goals, to land a general manager role in Bangkok, Thailand.

# New blood at Law Office

VALENTYNA Zhorova, a lawyer from the Ukraine (LL.B. Specialist) recently moved to Phuket to work with International Law Office, Patong Beach, at their Phuket Town head office and will begin work this month. Ms Zhorova has seven years experience in the field of law in Kiev. She speaks Russian, English and German and is joining the team of ILO to help with the growing market of Russian clients as an advisor, interpreter and contract translator.



Valentyna Zhorova

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Photo:esharki

## A party next door

HEAR that banging behind the wall? It's our neighbors partying! This week it's time for Malaysia to celebrate their National Day. It was August 31, 1957 when the Federation of Malaya proclaimed its independence from British colonial rule. It took six more years for Malaysia to appear on maps of the world.

These days Malaysian tourists flock to Thailand with over 1.5 million who visited the Land of Smiles so far this year. Malaysians easily make it to the top five nationalities visiting Phuket as well with 50 to 80 thousand of them coming to the island each year.

How can you celebrate? Finding a joint serving satay, an original Malaysian delicacy, shouldn't be hard. For a hint, check out page 34 of this issue. If you're hungry for a more complete Malaysian menu there's a few Muslim/ halal restaurant in Phuket serving Malay food. Or just go for a visa run or weekend trip to Penang like thousands foreigners do every month.

Celebrating the National Day of a Muslim-majority country might not be the best excuse to raise your glass, but not to worry, there are other reasons. How about Vietnam National Day? This country famous for, among other things, its beer (ever heard of Bia Hoi?), will celebrate on September 2. It was that day in 1945 when Vietnam declared its independence from France. Later came war with the US which changed the face of the country and the whole region, including Thailand rest assured, Pattaya or Patong wouldn't be what they are today if it wasn't for the American soldiers taking a break from fighting the Viet Cong. But enough of this ancient history. Over 600,000 Vietnamese tourists visited Thailand in 2012 and this number is growing each year.



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LAGUNA - SHOPPING

# This week in history

### AUGUST 31

- 1314 The capital of Norway moved from Bergen to Oslo.
- 1888 Jack the Ripper's murdered his first victim.
- 1897 Thomas Edison patented the first movie projector.
- 1920 Bolsheviks defeated by the Polish Army in Komarow.
- 1962 Trinidad and Tobago became independent.
- 1980 Solidarity trade union is formed in Poland
- 1987 Thai Airways Flight 365 crashed near Phuket



HOPE 1980 Photo: b\_d\_solis

### SEPTEMBER 1

- 1902 A Trip to the Moon, one of the first SF films, was released.
- 1939 Nazi Germany invaded Poland, beginning World War II.
- 1939 Adolf Hitler signed an order to kill mentally ill and disabled people.
- 1952 Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea" was first published.
- 1985 American-French expedition located the wreckage of the Titanic.
- 1991 Uzbekistan declared independence from the Soviet Union

### SEPTEMBER 3



FEAR 1888 Photo: Jay Caruso

- 301 San Marino, world's oldest republic still in existence, was founded
- 1658 Richard Cromwell become Lord Protector of England
- 1783 American Revolutionary War ended.

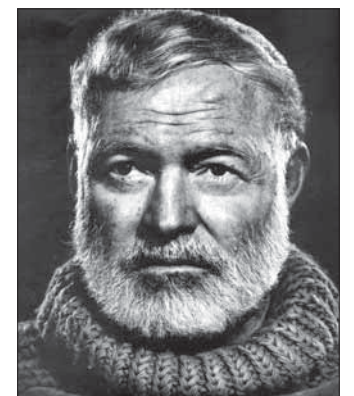
- 1935 Sir Malcolm Campbell exceeded 300 mph in a car.
- 1971 Qatar became an independent state

### SEPTEMBER 4

- 1886 Apache leader Geronimo surrendered in Arizona.
- 1888 Kodak film roll camera was patented.
- 1951 The first live transcontinental television broadcast
- 1998 Google was founded.

### SEPTEMBER 5

- 1839 UK declared First Opium War on the Qing Dynasty of China.
- 1882 The first United States Labor Day parade was held in NYC.
- 1944 Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg constituted Benelux.
- 1984 The Space Shuttle Discovery landed after its first voyage.



TOUGH 1952 Photo: Yousuf Karsh

### SEPTEMBER 6

- 1492 Columbus sailed out to cross the Atlantic
- 1522 Magellan circumnavigated the world
- 1885 The Unification of Bulgaria was accomplished.
- 1901 US President McKinley shot and fatally wounded
- 1952 First television station opened in Canada
- 1991 Russia's Leningrad becomes Saint Petersburg
- 1991 Baltic states gained independence from USSR
- 2009 SuperFerry 9 sunk in the Philippines



SCIENCE FICTION 1902 Photo: Georges Melies

### SEPTEMBER 7

- 1812 Napoleon defeated the russians army near Borodino
- 1979 ESPN started transmitting
- 1986 Pinochet, president of Chile, escaped assassination.
- 1999 A 5.9 magnitude earthquake in Athens, Greece.
- 2005 First-ever multi-party presidential election in Egypt
- 2012 An earthquake in Yunnan, China, kills 89 people



DISCOVERY 1984 Photo: NASA





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Bamboo House Resort  
Baumanburi Resort  
Cannacia Resort  
Cape Panwa Resort  
Cape Sienna Hotel  
Centara Grand West Sand  
Centara Kata Resort  
Centra Ashlee  
Club Med Resort  
Deevana Patong  
Destination Patong Hotel & Spa  
Diamond Cottage Resort & Spa  
Diamond Cliff  
Dusit Laguna Resort  
Eden Bungalow Resort  
Front Village Resort  
Graceland Resort  
Hemingway Phuket  
Holiday Inn Phuket Resort  
Horizon Karon Beach Resort  
Horizon Patong Beach Resort  
Ibis Karon  
Ibis Patong  
Imperial Adamas Beach  
Indigo Pearl Resort  
Karon Beach Resort  
Karon Orchid Resort  
Karon Sea Sand Resort  
Karon Whale Resort  
Karona Resort & Spa  
Kata Beach Resort  
Kata Garden Resort  
Kata Sea Breeze Resort  
Kata Thani Resort  
La Flora patong  
Marina Resort  
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Mercure Resort  
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Novotel Hotel Phuket  
Orchidacea Resort  
Pacific Club Resort  
Patong Merlin Resort  
Peach Hill Resort  
Phuket Island View  
Print Kamala Resort  
Ramada South Sea  
R-mar Resort & Spa  
Royal Crown Hotel Patong  
Royal Global  
Royal Palm Resort  
Sai Roun Residence Hotel  
Sea Sun Sand  
Serenity Resort & Residences  
SM Resort  
Sugar Palm Resort  
Swissotel Resort Phuket  
Thanyapura Phuket  
The Beach Boutique House  
The Kee Patong  
The Nap  
The Palm Resort  
The Viridian Resort  
Tri Trang Beach Resort  
Tropical Garden Resort  
Vijitt Resort  
Woraburi  
Yorkshire Hotel  
Royal Phuket Yacht Club  
Andaman Embrace  
Aloha Villa Phuket

### RESTURANT & BAR

Absolute Bar  
Absolute Celyon  
Ali Laem Singh  
Aloha  
Angus O'fool's Restaurant & Bar  
Ausie Bar Under Tiger Pub  
Baibao Restaurant  
Barbeque Hut Restaurant  
Blue Coral Bar  
Bum Bar  
Butterfly Restaurant  
Chaba Dang  
Chaba Restaurant  
Coffee Mania Patong,kata  
Cocktails & Dreams  
D&D Bar  
Dolphin Bar  
Delish Patong  
Dubai Restaurant I, II, III  
East Restaurant  
Harry's Steakhouse  
Hero Bar  
Hog's Breath Café  
Honky Tonk Bar  
Karon Hut  
Karon Café  
Kata Food Restaurant  
Kata karon Seafood Restaurant  
Kata Seafood Restaurant  
KHALIFA  
Lai Mai Hotel  
Lai Mai Inn  
Las Margaritas Restaurant  
M Laem Singh  
Mai Thai  
Mali Chic  
Mali Seafood  
Mama I,II  
Marpopolo  
Mr.tan Seafood  
Nai harn lomtala  
Nok Seafood  
Ocean View Bar  
Old Sailor & Restaurant  
Patcharin Seafood  
Phuket Man  
Piak paradise  
P'Lek Patong  
Ratchnee Seafood  
Ryad  
Restaurants Ann  
Rosco's Restuarant & Bar  
Sabai Sabai Thaistyle  
Salt & Pepper  
Shake Paradise Bar  
Shakers Restaurant  
Sitney Patong  
Sorrento's Restaurant  
Sun Rise Bar patong  
SURF HOUSE PHUKET  
The Family Rawai  
Tom Yum Goong  
Totom Bar  
Up Seafood Restaurant  
Viking Restaurant  
Wamida Restaurant  
Witapon  
Yin Bar Patong

## KOH SAMUI

Ananata - Rasananda  
Baan Chaweng Resort  
Banana Pan Sea Resort  
Centara Villas Samui Hotel  
Central Cottage  
Chaba Beach Resort  
Chaba Cabana Resort  
Chaloklum Bay Resort  
Chaweng Cove Resotel  
Chaweng Villas  
Coco Beach  
Harbor View Restaurant  
Ibis Samui Hotel  
Imperial Boathouse Resort  
Impiana Resort Samui  
Islander Samui  
Kandaburi Resort  
Le maraya Resort  
Long Bay Resort  
Nara Beach Resort  
Nara Buri Resort & Spa Samui  
Peace Resort  
Pha ngan Bayshore  
Pinnacle Resort  
Renaissance Resort  
Sades Restaurant  
Salad Beach Resort  
Samui Buri  
Samui Paradise Chaweng Beach  
Samui Resotel  
Samui Verti Color  
Shamrock Samui  
Weekender Resort & Spa  
GILDA GUESTHOUSE  
The Sea Koh Samui  
Sabai Bay Resort  
Fenix Resort Samui  
First Bungalow Beach  
Papillon Resort  
Lae Jay esan Restaurant  
The Five Island Restaurant  
Crystal Bay Samui  
The Bamboo Restaurant  
Terminal D Restaurant  
Good View Samui  
Uncle Doll Samui  
Relax Bar  
Gringos Cantina  
Uncle Don's Ice Creamery  
Classico samui  
The sea  
BITINI BAR SAMUI  
Fenix Resort  
The Island  
A's Resort  
Fair House Villa&Spa  
Reggae Pub  
Swing Bar  
Synergy  
Kirikayan luxury Pool Villa  
Kirikayan Buotique Resort  
Evergreen  
Frist Bangalow  
lae Jay Esan Restaurant

## KHAO LAK

Seaview Resort  
The Sensimar Khaolak  
Bhandari Resort  
Mukdara Resort  
Kao Lak Resort  
Kao Lak Beach Front  
Kao Lak Laguna Resort  
Kao Lak Paradise Resort  
Diamond Beach Resort  
Apsaras Resort  
Suwan Plam  
Sudala Beach  
MuMu Cabaret Show  
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## KRABI

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Ao Nang Villa Resort  
Auyteeya Resort  
Beyon Resort  
Blue Mango Restaurant  
Centara Krabi  
Coconut Bar Krabi  
Krabi @ National Park  
Krabi La Playa Resort  
Krabi Resort  
Krabi Thai Village Resort  
Luan Siam Restaurant  
Mandawe Resort  
Mercure Deevana Krabi  
Peace Laguna Resort  
Sala Krabi Resort  
Salathai Resort  
Sand Sea Resort Lilay  
Success Resort  
The Cliff Hotel  
The Cliff Resort  
Tubkaak Resort  
White Sand Krabi Resort  
Yao Island Village

## RANONG

Krua Khun kao Restaurant

## TRANG

Anatara Si-Kao  
Centara Chan Talay Resort&Villa

## PHI PHI

PP Princess Resort

## KOH LANTA

Andaman Lanta Resort  
Crown Lanta Resort & Spa  
Lanta Palace Resort  
Lanta Palace  
Cha Da Lanta

## TRAT

Centara Koh Chang Tropicana Resort

## CHAIANG MAI

Centara Duangtawan Hotel  
Le Meridien Chiang Mai Hotel

## HUA HIN

Springfield @ Sea Resort & Spa  
Anchana Resort  
Springfield Village Golf & Spa Hotel

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Arnoma Hotel  
Bourbon Street  
Dubai Restaurant  
Tony Roma Restaurant  
Siam@Siam Boutique Hotel

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# It's all in the game

By Kanyawarat Pramprasert

ON FRIDAY August 23, teachers and students of the Prince of Songkla University, Phuket College joined representatives of the US Embassy to welcome Erin Hoffman, an American video game designer and book author who came to Phuket to conduct a workshop on game designing.

Erin Hoffman is a lead game designer at the Institute of Play's Glasslab project – which is focused on introducing educational elements into computer games. Erin is also a novelist; her latest fantasy novel, *Shield of Sea and Space* was published this year. Born in San Diego, Erin still lives in California. She started programming when she was just 14 years old.

The *Phuket Gazette* spoke to Erin before the workshop to ask her about her creative approach to both game design and writing:

## What is your inspiration when creating games?

Erin: I like animal games – I like systems, biology and the way that biology can be introduced into game mechanics and game systems. I love online game design and people connecting with each other through the internet. I wrote six or seven online games, not counting mobile [telephone based] games.

## What motivates you to write a fiction?

Erin: I've always been interested in fantasy, particularly

science fiction and futurism. I think that the features of science fiction and technology are going to be more female oriented. We will see more usability and software being

to play and those who make games that other people want to play. These [second type of designers] are reacting more to other people needs. I think that the most important thing is being able to put a game in front of a person, watch them play it and observe if they are confused, or understand the game and learn from that experience.

## What can a novel writer teach to a game designer?

Erin: Books have a much greater sense of pacing, they are full of twists and climaxes. Games often don't have that sense, their pacing can be off. The way that you get introduced to a concept can be

human which will influence science fiction as well.

## What do you enjoy about writing fiction?

Erin: It is a connection between people. When you write something, like the books that I write, people read them and they feel very connected to me. I also enjoy giving people an experience they can not have in reality.

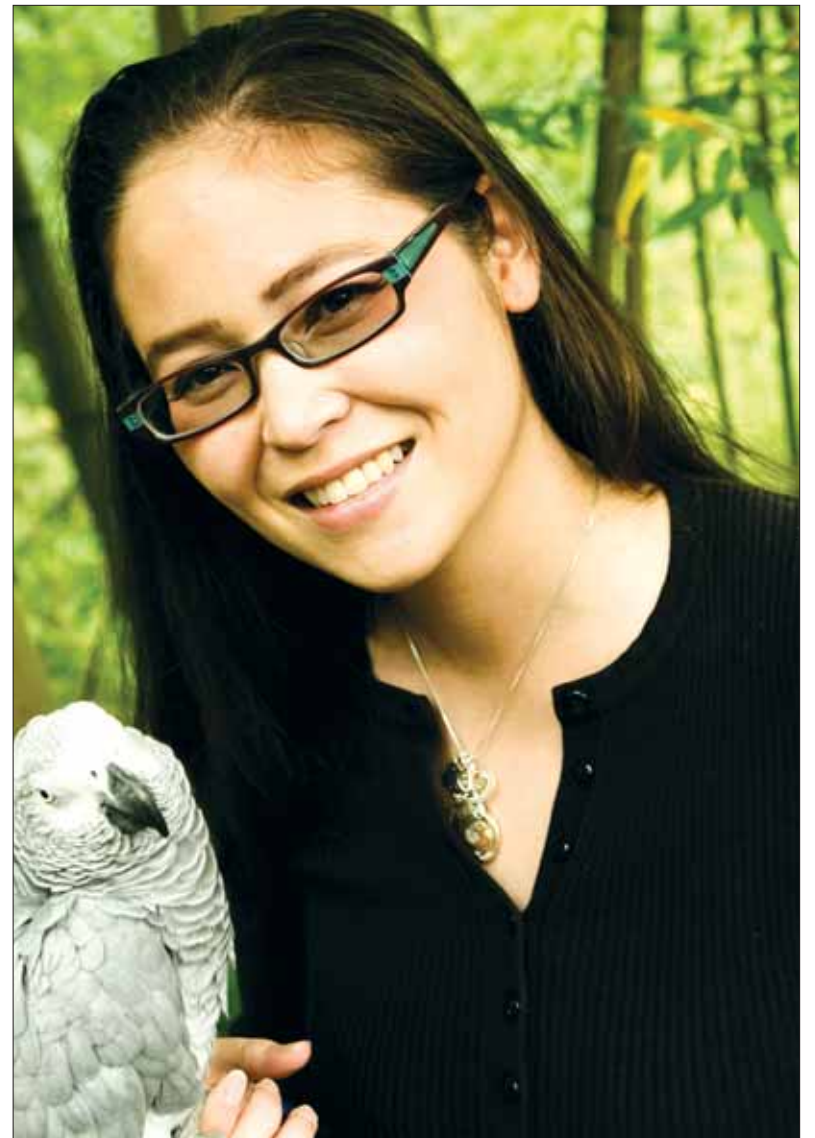
## What are the most important elements of good game design?

Erin: There are two kinds of game designers, those who make games that they want

either too fast or too slow. I think that the story telling of a novel can give a game a better sense of pacing, games that have a very good story also tend to be better paced.

## What are you working on right now?

Erin: I'm working on an educational game. It will teach argumentation, logical thinking and how to evaluate if something that somebody tells you is true or not, whether it has evidence that supports it, so when children grow up and they are listening to the news, they can evaluate whether they agree with it or not.



Erin Hoffman is a lead game designer at the Institute of Play.

It will be a free tablet game.

## What do you expect from this workshop?

Erin: I'm hoping to learn a lot from the students in Phuket. About what they want to be doing in games. I'm very inter-

ested in what kinds of games people in Thailand want to make if they could make games based on their own experiences. I'm travelling to the different universities, trying to connect with students to see what ideas are out there.

## Thai smart-phone trends

MAJOR PC manufacturers Lenovo and Acer – newcomers to the mobile-phone arena – have picked up pace in the Thai smart-phone market, while local providers are increasingly competing on price in a bid for a bigger slice of the 8-million-unit market this year.

Subhasiddhi Rakkasikorn, managing director of Samart Multimedia, a local company providing smart phones and mobiles under its i-mobile brand, said the 3G smart-phone market in Thailand was highly competitive as demand continued to rise. The smart-phone market is now in a period of intense price competition. "We therefore try to provide our local brand with affordably-priced smart phones. Mobile phones priced at less than 5,000 baht are in high demand, therefore the firm will come out with both feature phones and smart phones to reduce the gap and cover all segments of the market," he said. "Samart Multimedia, which currently offers more than 30 mobile-phone

models, has divided its devices into three segments: premium smart phones, mass smart phones, and feature phones. It sold more than 1 million units in the first half of the year, and expects the full-year figure to come in at around 2.2 million. Acer, a leading PC-maker that jumped into the global mobile-phone arena last year, is now strongly focused on the Thai market this year. Last week, the firm announced a new smart phone, the Acer Liquid Z3, which is an Android-based device that comes with Dual SIM capability at a price of just 2,590 baht.

Acer is concentrating on the mid to entry-level market and hopes to break into the top three in the Thai entry-level smart-phone market in the next couple of years. Having set up a Thai business unit and team to support the new market, the company now provides devices to cover the entry, medium and high-end markets, with six models.

– *The Nation*



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# Ironwoman: Get moving!

INSPIRATIONAL “Ironwoman”, Australian Triathlon Hall of Fame member, Belinda Granger shed light on her inspiring career at an “Empowering Women Workshop” held at Thanyapura last week.

Belinda Granger is one of the most influential and successful triathletes Australia has produced, with an incredible 15 Ironman distance wins and five Top 10 finishes at the Ironman World Championships at Kona, Hawaii, putting her second in the all-time list of female Ironman champions.

Following her 10<sup>th</sup> and final appearance at the 2013 DATEV Challenge Roth event, the “Tour de France” of triathlon which attracts crowds of over 250,000 spectators to the hamlet, Ms Granger said she couldn't wait to return to Thanyapura to conduct the workshop and training camp.

The workshop focused on the reasons why it's good, and why sometimes not so good, to be a woman. Ms Granger also spoke passionately about promoting equality for women in professional sports.

“In Wimbledon, the prizes for women are much lower than for men. Some might say that it's because women play two sets and men play three sets. So [the theory goes] women don't work on the court as long as men, so they get less. But if you gave women a choice, they would be the first ones to say 'we might as well play three sets, we don't care',” she said.

“But in triathlon they don't have this excuse. Women run the same distance, compete on the same day and in the same conditions. I'd love to hear the director of such race explain why there are such differences in prize money.”

She also spoke about her personal approach to sport and the mental attitude she adopts

when competing.

“I never get to the finish line and give an excuse. There are excuses in racing, don't get me wrong. But I just don't like it. When you turn up at a race, you race as good as you can and give it all you got.

“As long as you give your 100 per cent, it doesn't matter if you come first or tenth or last to the finish line. As long as you know that you've given the best you have on that day, it's not a failure,” she said.

“I am 43 this year and I am nowhere near ready to give it all I still love the sport so much and I still feel I have so much to give. I am living proof to all those women out there who think they are too old to do triathlon, that you are never too old or too slow or too inexperienced.

“But you don't have to compete in triathlons. Just notice something that keeps you energetic and lively and keep adding more of that element into your life,” she added.

The workshop was part of Thanyapura's “Month For Women” held over August with a host of exciting activities and world class athletes gracing its campus in Phuket.

Besides the “Empowering Women Workshop” Ms Granger also conducted a three day, intensive “Women Only Training Camp” for female athletes. Speaking before the camp last week she told the *Gazette* about some of the topics and techniques that would be covered during the camp.

“I will be giving away many of the secrets to my longevity in the sport and maintaining a healthy balance between triathlon and lifestyle – something that many people struggle with,” Ms Granger said.

“I will also be talking about nutrition for training and racing.



Belinda Granger, 43, is a fifteen-time Iron Distance Triathlon Champion. Photo Maciek Klimowicz

The camp is aimed specifically at women in triathlon. It does not matter what level you are at, the camp is open to women of all abilities, from the experienced racer to the 'newbie',” she said.

“The facilities at Thanyapura are second to none. There is nowhere else in the world where you have access to so much state-of-the-art equipment right at your finger tips. That is why my husband and I often stay there. It makes training so easy.”

Ms Granger ran the training camp in tandem with Thanyapura's Triathlon Senior Coach, Juergen Zack, himself a legend in the sport and record-breaking, eight-time worldwide Ironman winner, whose Ironman Bike Course Record was 4 hours, 14 minutes and 12 seconds, which he held for 14 years.

Thanyapura President Robert Hauck said he was delighted to welcome Ms Granger and all the camp participants to Thanyapura and he said it was



EMPOWERMENT: Belinda speaks about woman and sport.

an important milestone in cementing Thanyapura's leading role in transforming Phuket into one of the world's leading triathlon destinations.

So go out – move, run, cycle or swim. It might be that you'll just

lose some weight and get healthier. But who knows, soon enough you might be running towards the finish line of a Triathlon. After all, women have the power.

– Anthika Muangrod and Maciek Klimowicz



Ten women of various nationalities get ready to join the “Month of Women” camp at Thanyapura.

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# Snot squeezes and secrets

## Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THERE was an issue before we even boarded the boat. We had been waiting all weekend to photograph the artificial reef at Viking Cave off of Phi Phi Island and weather delays had pushed us back to our last day on the island, and now, looking at the pile of green mucus in my tissue, it was clear there was a problem – I had a cold.

For a BASE jumper, downhill skier, rock climber or sailor, a little congestion is just snot – for a diver it can be the difference between the perfect diving holiday in paradise and having to explain to everyone at the dive club back home that you bailed on the lifetime goal of spotting Manta rays in Thailand.

The fundamental difference between most activities and diving in this sense is equalizing – the need to make the pressure of the air trapped inside our sinuses and air passages the same as the pressure exerted by the water around us. The smallest fraction of difference in that pressure can cause mind-zapping acute pain, known as a squeeze. And pushing too hard to equalize can have serious consequences.

There are people out there, including dive doctors, who have pushed through congestion for a last dive – and it was their last dive. Their mucus blockage turned out to be tougher than their eardrums. As they floated in the water, with fingers pinching their noses, blowing hard to push air through their sinuses into the air space in their ears, they ruptured their eardrums – and finished their diving careers.

The pressure on divers, from dive professionals who pay the bills by being in the water to the once-a-year holiday dive junkies, can be enormous. It can cloud a diver's judgment.

After shutting the air-conditioner off, I sit in the hot shower, hoping the steam will start to loosen some of the mucus from its moorings deep within my sinus passages. Sadly, the hotel did not have a neti, so no warm salt water snorting solution was on the table.

My dive buddy is banging on the door, worried we will miss our boat.

In no time at all, the boat is bobbing over the dive site. Already suited up, I get the nerve to let

my dive buddy and our dive guide know that I might have issues equalizing. This is a big moment. However unlikely, there is no sure way to know if the dive master will

call off my dive for my own safety.

Suggesting cures for congestion is taboo among divers because the way we have been trained to deal with it. The reality of how many of us deal with it are at odds with each other.

Because serious issues can arise from equalization problems, the books say: "See a dive doctor to be cleared, or don't dive". Despite the fact that issues relating to the ear, nose and throat are the most common conditions that the Divers Alert Network (DAN) receives calls about, the vast majority of divers seem to be allergic to seeing a dive doctor for "the sniffles". So many divers, and ashamedly I am one of them, occasionally cast caution to the wind.

Bobbing just one meter below the surface, I gently attempt to equalize, over and over again, as I watch the other divers easily continue their descent to the fish and corals below.

The underwater wonderland doesn't seem that far away.

"Standing" vertical in the water I breath out and let myself sink 20 centimeters deeper – excruciating pain penetrates my head. It's too much.

Relaxing, I take a deep breath and ascend a bit. The pain disappears, and I return to gently equalizing.

It is a strange sensation to see what you want, and where you want to go, but to be unable to get there. If there were a wall, a fence or a line of police officers with guns, my mind could wrap itself around the situation. But sitting at one meter, my obstacle was simply an invisible wall of pain just below my fins.

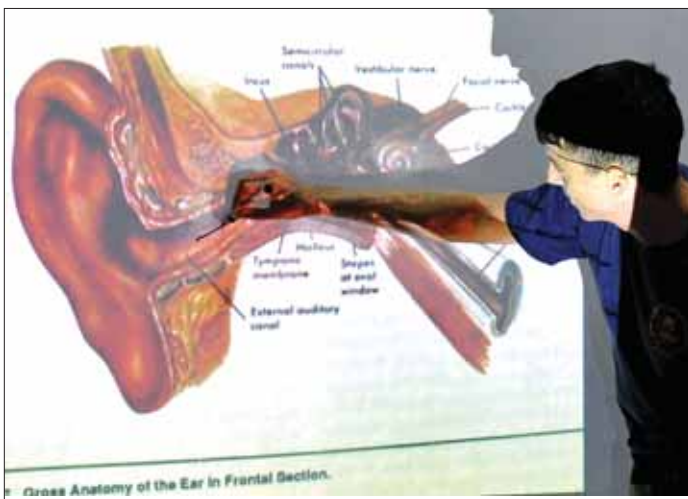
Another descent attempt yielded the familiar, sickly squeak reminiscent of earwax and tiny creaky doors; a few molecules of air had managed to squeeze by the well-fortified mucus barriers and relieve the pressure in my right ear. Then the left ear squeaked. I was almost down to three meters. Gently equalizing, my ears continued to create their own internal



Fancy a fun dive? Beware of a cold. You're probably NOT OK to dive if you're congested. Photo: Pachango



If you find yourself doing this, you might be better off staying on the surface. Photo: James Gathany



Ruptured eardrums mean no more diving. Photo: Gregory N Juday

topic of congestion. They know they aren't supposed to give professional advice, which can open them up to liability, and is best left to dive doctors. However, they also know the territory, and they know it well.

This "insider" information marks the divergence between what some people do and what the book says they should do. These are the bits and pieces that are taboo.

The best trick in the book (on the up and up) is to dive – a lot. The majority of

working dive masters and dive instructors spend enough time in the water that their bodies adjust. For some, practice makes perfect, and even with some congestion their

nasal passages and sinuses make way. For others, equalizing isn't perfection, it's second nature: their bodies simply adjust to the change in pressure.

Most of us don't have the luxury of spending so much time in the water. Though a salt water neti can help, many turn to decongestants. If having congestion is the problem, something that removes the congestion seems a logical answer.

Decongestants come with their own dangers. When descending, a congested diver can "escape" to the surface, away from the pain of a squeeze. But if a decongestant starts to wear off below the surface, a diver can be trapped by the pain of surfacing – a reverse squeeze.

Many people turn to Actified as a decongestant of choice – sticking to the 12 hour stuff as a precaution to it wearing off mid-dive. They take it about 30

minutes before a dive, and go for it. There are still risks, but they are risks they understand and are willing to except.

Descending at the rate of phytoplankton, I was regretting not having taken a decongestant.

Finally at the sea bottom, there is a pit in my stomach as I watch our dive team follow the slowly sloping sands deeper. Not willing to push further, I float several meters above the group jealously playing with their bubbles as they photograph and explore the lower concrete blocks of the artificial reef.

Back on the surface, I was safe. The necessary photos were captured, but it hadn't been a fun dive by any stretch of the imagination. On the boat, stripping off my gear with the warm tropical sun beating down on me, it was hard to imagine what would have been so bad about skipping the dive and working on a tan.



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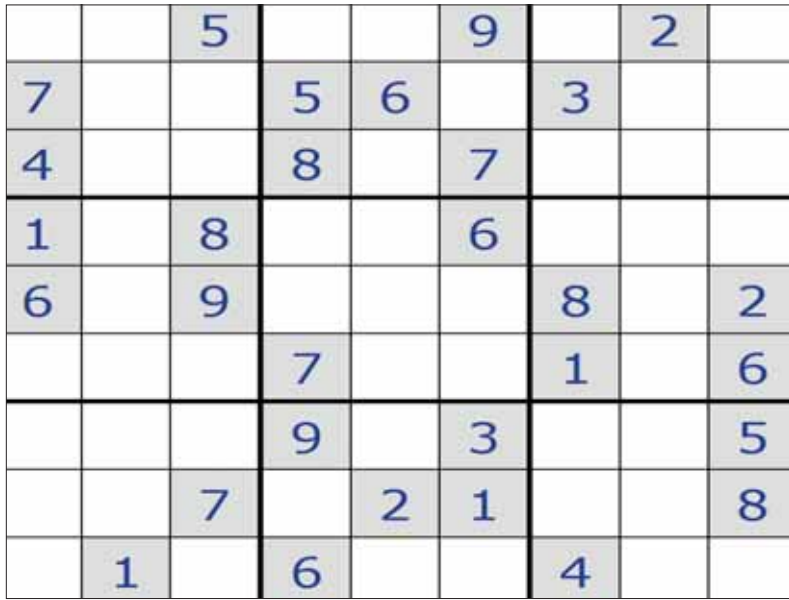
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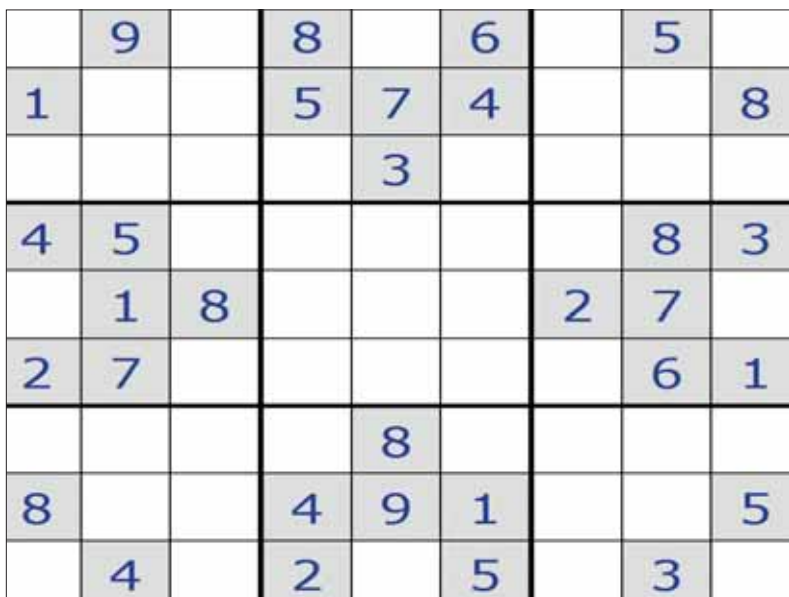
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**SUDOKU:** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)



#### Your weekly pith:

“For a good life: Work like a dog. Eat like a horse.  
Think like a fox. And play like a rabbit.”

– George Allen

This quote was taken from Ian Hewitt's book  
‘QUOTES for PROSPERITY’

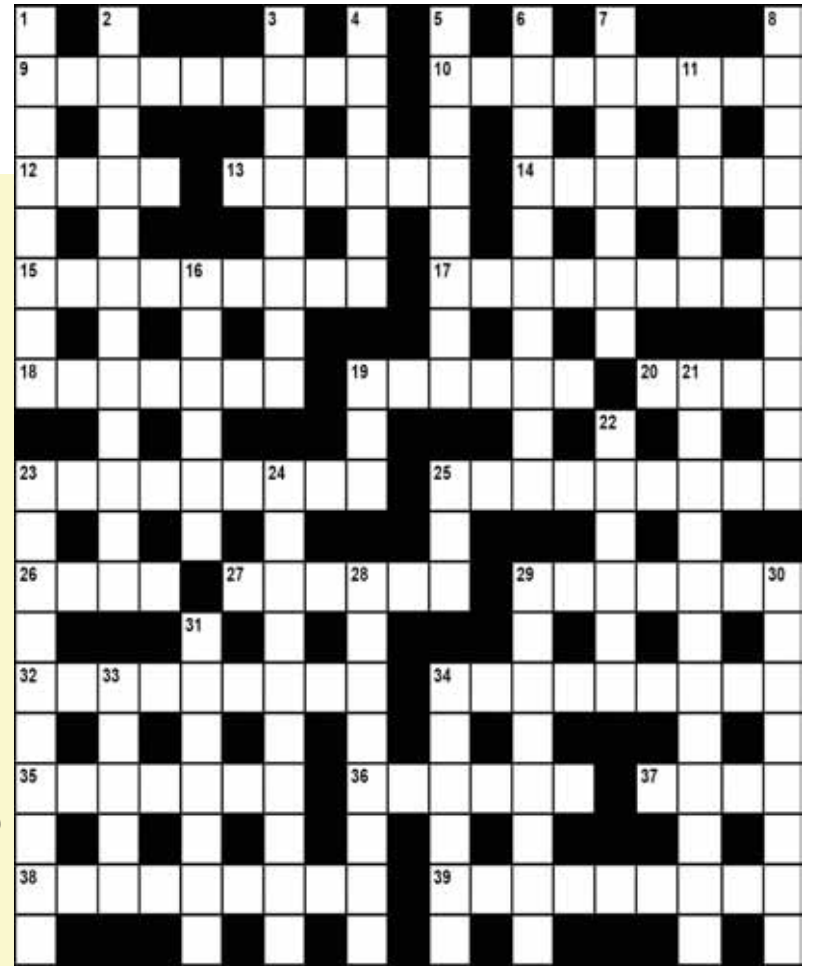
## COFFEE break

#### Across:

9. Correction, so be it - date, men, time (9)
10. Senior academic for posse turning out, right? (9)
12. 'Hunk' can be a polite form of address in Thailand! (4)
13. Approach a location for an event (6)
14. Thanks. Possibly drier, being hung around (7)
15. Denies sailor invalidates (9)
17. Daughter, socially acceptable A-list, I caught recognizing two opposing sides (9)
18. Fred, it could be right, is a person without purpose (7)
19. Slipshod behavior, left taxi turning over, Yankee! (6)
20. Ripe, maybe, for a graceful genie (4)
23. Elect cold assembly! Cool! (9)
25. Overlooked, did not remember number (9)
26. Any changes, son, in those voting against? (4)
27. More an unusual charm (6)
29. Past queer arrangement left story leading up to previous scenario (7)
32. Clients possibly cross, mute (9)
34. Keeping about ten moving into (9)
35. Experimental prime move I caught (7)
36. To tear about, go round (6)
37. Traveling solo to a capital (4)
38. Customer may be hiding past electronic devices (9)
39. In favor of old document copier ban (9)

#### Down:

1. Primitive to support charge (8)
2. Following an order, yells



- 'Quiet', an error (12)  
3. Attendant voter is out, right? (8)  
4. Is on the feet in the stalls (6)  
5. Attach nine for a supplement (8)  
6. Construction company caught on vehicle for haulage (10)  
7. Hold back from the chorus (7)  
8. I prod count to produce show (10)  
11. Rapid, something like a swallow (5)  
16. Get together, understand! (6)  
19. Left four hundred and ninety nine to cover (3)  
21. Zealous, thus I can site carefully (12)  
22. 'A drop o' the cratur' is a drug, poetic even! (6)  
23. Moral sense is against a practical

- branch of knowledge (10)  
24. Trends to entice! Send possibly! (10)  
25. Free one river from wood (3)  
28. Mark one's confidence, be suspicious (8)  
29. Appeal it? No, pet, I agitate (8)  
30. Or lend no variation to a cockney (8)  
31. Rubs out replacement coach for trip (4,3)  
33. Carefully maps a place near Phuket's East coast (5)  
34. Again use keyboard right, note style (6)

**Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.**

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

September is forecast to be a successful month for those born under the sign of Virgo. It should be possible to tap into new sources of earning, with focus on something that you've never considered becoming a viable option. Those celebrating a birthday during the coming days will become more involved in hobbies in the year ahead. Romance is sparkling on Sunday and Monday. Your lucky number this week is one.

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

Librans are forecast to be as keen as mustard about a work project at the start of September. The stars suggest that juggling with finances during August has left you determined to get onto a more profitable track. Relationships should be more harmonious as the astral atmosphere supports communication; this could be an auspicious time to rekindle romance with an old flame. The number eight can bring good fortune this week.

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

Where business is concerned, those born under the sign of Scorpio are predicted to have an easier time during September. A fire sign you

fell out with recently is forecast to see the error of their ways, with reconciliation highlighted during the coming days. Those who feel they didn't get enough of a summer break from the grindstone should see a way to compensate for this. Number nine shines this week.

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

Taking better care of your body and mind is forecast to be important for Sagittarians during September. The stars are ready to support your efforts to adopt a healthier lifestyle, with family members and friends likely to be influenced by these changes. Those who have been struggling with issues at work will find solutions by getting to the core of problems. The number five attracts good luck this week.

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

The stars indicate that you could feel taken for granted at the start of September. An over-sensitive mood is probably the cause, but this could be the right time to examine the balance of some of your closest relationships more carefully. An air sign romantic partner should understand your viewpoint, but a water sign's priorities will be hard to change. Number seven stands out for Capricorns this week.

## YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

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

Your energy flow can be interrupted by a sluggish astral atmosphere as September commences. The stars suggest that trying to force too much activity will only result in frustration. Take care of the basics and spend time planning how to be more productive as the month progresses. You can be blowing hot and cold where romance with another air sign is concerned. Your lucky number this week is two.

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

Work matters should take care of themselves and this is a promising time to focus more on personal relationships. Pisceans who have been putting themselves first recently could have some ground to make up where romance is concerned. The stars recommend finding ways to show your partner how much you really care this weekend. Money matters are luckiest on Monday and Tuesday. Number three shows signs of being fortunate this week.

#### ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Your money zone is better starred and these auspicious cosmic conditions can result in surprise financial gain for those born under the sign of Aries this month. A trip away at the beginning of September might not go according to plan, but will help you appreciate more what you have at home. Romance is vibrant on Wednesday and Thursday. The number five can be auspicious for Arians this week.

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

Renewed energy enables Taureans to stay on the ball in the world of work as September gets underway. Where a romantic relationship with another earth sign is concerned, absence makes your heart grow fonder. Taking the time to get to know this person from a distance is forecast to lead to commitment. Those who are single enjoy crossing paths with a water sign. Your golden number this week is six.

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

Your enthusiasm can be easily drained by too much routine as September begins. The stars advise taking more control to shake things up a little, both in your working life and

on a personal level. Those with an earth sign partner may need to prove that spontaneity can be fun; the relationship is forecast to blossom as a result. The number four is predicted to be special for Geminis this week.

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

This is an ideal time to settle unfinished business. Two heads are definitely better than one where a personal problem is concerned. The stars suggest that Cancerians who have been seeking solutions to no avail will be relieved when a friend offers useful advice. In the realm of romance, another water sign is forecast to become important in your life after paths cross this weekend. Number two can lead to good luck this week.

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

Fantasies can turn into reality during the month of September, but the stars indicate that you should be careful what you wish for. The influence of others can be hard to resist, but staying true to your own ideals will bring real rewards. This is an auspicious time for creative pursuits, with writing highlighted to be a possible new source of income. Leos' lucky number this week is three.



## International Sport

# Federer cruises, Duval shines



Roger Federer of Switzerland reacts after his win over Grega Zemlja. Photo: Gary Hershorn



Victoria Duval of the US returns a backhand to Samantha Stosur. Photo: Mike Segar Segar

A TEENAGE American girl with a squeaky voice and an incredible tale of survival stole the spotlight at the US Open on Tuesday with a stunning upset win over the former champion, Sam Stosur.

While Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic and the rest of the sport's old order calmly went about their business, 17-year-old Victoria Duval became the toast of New York.

Making her second appearance in a grand slam event against the Australian who beat Serena Williams in the final just two years ago, the pint-sized Duval clawed and fought her way to a 5-7 6-4 6-4 first-round win.

It was a remarkable performance but made all the more astonishing because of her background.

When she was seven years old,

Duval was taken hostage by robbers at her aunt's house in Haiti, a terrifying incident that convinced her parents, both doctors, to move back to the United States.

"It's not a good memory, so I try to forget as much as I could about it. I don't remember too much of it anymore, which is great," she told reporters.

In 2010, her father was buried alive in the Haiti earthquake. He survived by digging himself out but suffered serious injuries, including broken legs, broken ribs and a punctured lung.

Duval took to tennis instantly and has quickly risen through the American junior ranks but Tuesday's win was by far her biggest.

With her family watching from courtside and chants of "U-S-A!"

echoing around the Louis Armstrong Stadium, Duval had to battle all the way to beat the vastly more-experienced Stosur.

"I think I'm very much of a child at heart ... (but) on the court, you have to be a warrior because that's just the sport we are in," she said.

Stosur paid tribute to Duval, saying she deserved the win, but said she had contributed to her own downfall with a whopping 56 unforced errors.

"I'm not going to be a sore loser and say she didn't do anything," said Stosur. "But, you know, I think I certainly helped her out there today, that's for sure."

Federer and Djokovic blasted their way into the second round with ruthless efficiency, crushing their hapless opponents in straight sets.

Defying the sceptics who had

dismissed his chances of winning a sixth title in the Big Apple, Federer was in vintage form as he brushed past Slovenia's Grega Zemlja 6-3 6-2 7-5 in a delayed afternoon match at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Djokovic then lit up Tuesday's night session with a dazzling combination of power and precision to defeat Lithuania's Ricardas Berankis 6-1 6-2 6-2.

The world number one hardly broke sweat on a balmy New York night as he took the first step toward a possible fourth straight appearance in the final.

"I'm in a good spot right now. I want to enjoy it as long as it lasts," Federer said.

Twelve months after her agonising defeat in the women's final, Victoria Azarenka made a triumphant return to Arthur Ashe

Stadium, chalking up a rare double-bagel win by thrashing Germany's Dinah Pfizenmaier 6-0 6-0 in just over an hour.

Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki survived a tough examination to join grand slam winners Petra Kvitova and Ana Ivanovic in the second round.

With her boyfriend, golfer Rory McIlroy, watching from the stands, Wozniacki had to dig deep to beat Chinese qualifier Duan Yingying 6-2 7-5.

Wozniacki raced through the opening set in just 35 minutes then reeled off five games in a row to seal the win after falling behind 5-2.

"It's not about being pretty," Wozniacki said. "It's about just getting the job done. I did that, so I'm happy about that."

— Reuters

## Bombers fined millions for doping

ESSENDON Bombers have been thrown out of the eight-team Australian Rules finals that start next month and fined two million Australian dollars (57.5 million baht) after a probe by an anti-doping agency.

The Australian Football League (AFL) also suspended Bombers coach James Hird for 12 months as it announced on Tuesday the heaviest sanctions in the sport's history.

"It's a drama we hope we'll never see again," said AFL commission chairman Mike Fitzpatrick in a statement.

"This is powerful affirmation that no single club or individual is above our great game."

The top-flight club and four of their senior officials were charged two weeks ago after the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) submitted an interim

report into the use of performance-enhancing drugs in the country's professional leagues.

The Bombers, one of the league's oldest and most storied franchises, have also been stripped of draft picks for 2013 and 2014.

Manager Danny Corcoran was banned for six months, two months of which is suspended, while assistant coach Mark Thompson received a fine of

30,000 Australian dollars.

Club doctor Bruce Reid will fight on Thursday the charges that were levied against him.

The Bombers have been under a cloud throughout the 2013 AFL season as ASADA probed the programme of supplements the club gave to players in 2011 and 2012.

The team announced in February they were cooperating with the investigation and commissioned an

independent review which found governance failures at the club had contributed to a "disturbing picture of a pharmacologically experimental environment".

The probe, which also targeted a club in the National Rugby League, sent shockwaves through sports-mad Australia which has long prided itself on a reputation as a nation that plays fair.

— Reuters



Essendon captain Jobe Watson will likely keep his Brownlow Medal despite the scandal. Photo: Smjbk

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**SUNDAY 28TH JULY**



# Fierce competition on Phuket's waters

By Scott Duncanson

FIFTY competitors in ten yachts lined up for the second race of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club series two, proudly sponsored by Asia Yacht Agency. Sunny skies and a 12-17 knot South Westerly breeze made for a near perfect day of yacht racing around Chalong Bay and beyond.

In the Multi-hull class, challenging race one winner *Hurricane* was *Afterburner*, *Nina* and *Moto Inzi*. As the seconds ticked down to the midday start it was clear both *Afterburner* and *Moto Inzi* were premature starters and were awarded a one minute penalty. *Hurricane* quickly passed *Afterburner* who decided to reef their mainsail in the fresher conditions and then proceeded to slowly overtake *Moto*

*Inzi* just before rounding mark one. Completing a loop in Chalong Bay and then sailing around Koh Lon, *Hurricane* sailed the 14 nautical mile course largely unchallenged to take line and handicap honors followed by *Nina* in second and *Moto Inzi* third.

Meanwhile, in the increasingly competitive cruising class, six yachts battled it out around a slightly shorter course, also around Koh Lon. Hungry for victory after just missing out in race one, *Fidji* quickly took the lead and reveled in the fresher conditions taking first place, followed by *Govoka* and *Aqua* in second and third respectively.

A notable performance by new yacht *Dek-Talay* saw them finish in the top five in their first outing. Podium prizes of fine

red and white wine, plus limited edition club shirts were awarded by the race sponsor Oliver Payen from 'Asia Yacht Agency' and club Vice Commodore, Scott Duncanson. Race three is scheduled for the September 15 and all yachts are welcome to attend.

All are welcome to join ACYC (Ao Chalong Yacht Club) Sunday sailing races. Breakfast is available at the club from 8am onwards. Anybody wishing to sail but doesn't have a boat is advised to turn up before 10:30 am and we will do our best to get you on a vessel.

For more details about sailing, how to become involved and enjoy the fantastic club facilities please visit the ACYC website [acyc.asia](http://acyc.asia)



Despite some solid sailing *Afterburner* was unable to take a place.

## ACYC Sail School Open Day

ON SUNDAY September 8 the ACYC Sail School is holding an Open Day, which kicks off at 10am.

Club members will be taking kids and adults sailing in the Open BIC dinghies and taking bookings for our dinghy sailing program.

There will also be kayaks to use, Mirror dinghy and Tasar sailing and onshore games – including a

bouncy castle.

The aim of the day is to give new comers a taste of sailing and an introduction to the yacht club and its sailing school.

Barbecue will be available all afternoon for a small contribution and the famous Sunday Roast will be served as usual from 12 till 4pm. So bring the family and join the fun! Info: [school@acyc.asia](mailto:school@acyc.asia)

# ICC on a roll, Youth team crush Laguna

IN ROUND 8 of the Outrigger T20 league, ICC took on Patong in the morning session, while the Youth side faced Laguna in the afternoon session.

In the morning match, Patong's total of 136-5 was comfortably chased down by ICC who reached 139-3 in the 17<sup>th</sup> over. In the afternoon encounter, the Youth side amassed the league's highest innings total this season with 202-3 which proved too much for Laguna who could only manage 154-8 in reply.

In the morning match, after winning the toss, Patong chose to bat and set a target, but lost opener Mike Khan (7) early being

stumped for his second innings in a row. However, fellow opener Imtiyaz Mushtaq (53) was in good form and he combined with Paddy Morton (30) to post a solid 79 run partnership to bolster the innings until Morton was run out with the score on 89. Dave Thomas (22) then took on the anchor role along with Niel Quail (9) to take the Patong total to a defendable 136-5 from their 20 overs.

ICC, who were coming off a victory against the Youth side the previous week, were looking to consolidate their second place on the league ladder with a back-to-back win.

However, they too suffered the loss of an early wicket with opener Deepak Mehra (3) having his stumps skittled in the 3<sup>rd</sup> over. Shah Ullah (24) and Ali Khan (41 of 20 balls) then got the innings back on track. When Khan fell in the 8<sup>th</sup> over with the score on 61, Arif Mushtaq (46 not out) then combined with Ullah for a 56 run partnership, taking their total along to 117-3 before Ullah was dismissed in the 15<sup>th</sup> over. Mushtaq then combined with Balesh Dessai (10 not out) to guide ICC home reaching 139-3 in the 17<sup>th</sup> over.

In the afternoon match, the Youth side were looking to set a solid target for Laguna when they chose to bat first after winning the toss. Best (27) and fellow opener Tristan Sheridan (88) did exactly that, with a 61 run partnership, before Best was dismissed in the 7<sup>th</sup> over. Youth captain, Pao (15) then combined with Sheridan to add a further 29 runs before he fell in the 10<sup>th</sup> over just before the drinks break with the score on 90-2. A missed stumping and a dropped catch of Sheridan cost the Laguna side significantly, as Sheridan powered on with a display of hard hitting and excellent running between the wickets with partner Andrew McMillan (41 not out). Sheridan finally fell in the 20<sup>th</sup> over

just 12 runs short of his century. However, by then the damage had been done, with the Youth side amassing a total of 202-3 from their 20 overs, the biggest innings total of the season.

Laguna coming off the back of three defeats, again got off to a nightmare start, losing opener Darren Shaw for a golden duck in the first over and then fellow opener Damian Clowes (4) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> over. With their tails up, the Youth side were looking assured of victory unless one of the Laguna batsmen could produce a remarkable innings. Manish Sadarangani (58) tried his utmost despite a pulled muscle suffered during his innings. He combined for a 41 run partnership with Pir Sami (17) until Sami was run out in the 8<sup>th</sup> over with the score on 47-3. Stuart Reading (18) and Sadarangani then put on a 43 run partnership, but with 13 runs per over required after the 10 over drinks break, it was always going to be a near impossible task. Waqar Bhat (24 not out) tried his best, but it was all to no avail as Laguna could only manage 154-8 from their 20 overs.

The league table sees ICC in clear second place ahead while Laguna, Youth and Patong are battling it out for a top 4 spot to assure a semi-final berth. – *Phuket Gazette*



Youth's Best dispatches Roly Cooper's (Laguna) ball to the boundary. Photo: Michael Way



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# Training with a friend

GOING to the gym is 'my time', I love being able to put my head phones in and just forget about everything else for those 45 minutes.

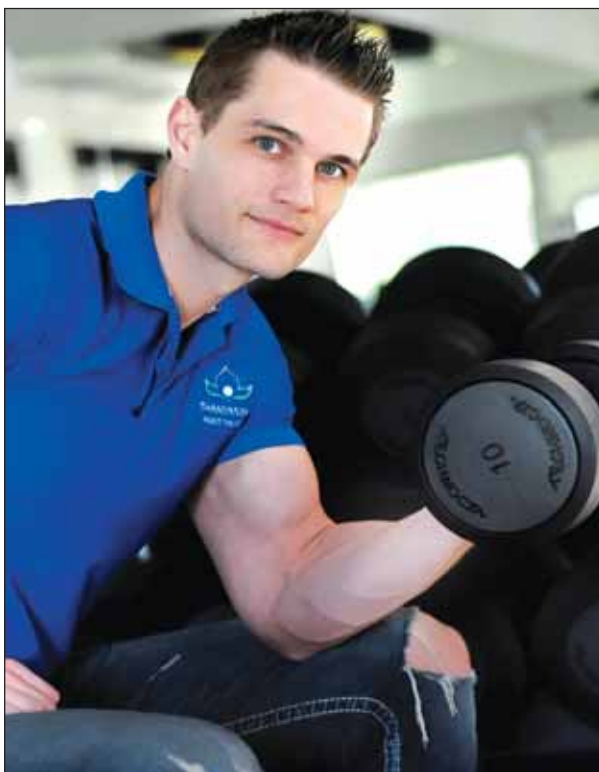
For many people though this is not the case, it can often be hard to find that motivation to get to the gym, especially by yourself. One of the best ways to keep yourself motivated is to find a partner or two that you can train with.

Training with someone else has numerous advantages, the most obvious one being the social aspect one gets from going to the gym with a friend or partner but a couple of less obvious ones can really make a huge difference in whether or not you will achieve those results you are hoping for.

On those days when you don't feel like going to the gym it can often be a motivating factor to know that you have someone else waiting there for you to show and often will be enough to get you to go, after all getting to the gym is half the battle.

Another benefit of training with a friend is the internal competition it will often create.

This one may not be obvious and may be one that people will not admit but when you are training with a friend, you want to push yourself to be able to do everything that they can do. Each of you



Brian Finniss, Thanyapura's Fitness Manager.

want to make sure that you are able to do everything and will often allow yourself to push beyond normal limits that you may not have done if you were training alone.

This competitive nature is perfectly normal and also can be a great motivating factor to help you achieve the results you are looking for, which after all is the real reason we go to the gym!

*Tip by Fitness Manager, Brian Finniss. For more info email [tslc@thanyapura.com](mailto:tslc@thanyapura.com)*



## Aerobics for health

PHUKET Provincial Public Health Office in conjunction with Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) recently organized the "One District One Aerobic" event in order to promote public health awareness.

Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization Secretary Kraiwut Kumban presided over the activity at Satree Phuket School, where 996 people joined in the activities.

"Nowadays, technology development changes people's lifestyles. People have no time to exercise or take care of themselves and this leads to poor health and reduced immunity. More people get sick, especially with diabetes, cerebro-vascular disease, acute myocardial infarction and sickness from drugs. As a result, the government is obliged to pay more than three billion baht per year," Dr Prapornsri Narinrak, deputy doctor for public health said.

"The Ministry of Public Health thus set a new campaign Thai people must have better health in ten years (2023) and the average age must be 80 years old. The ministry will educate people with three principles: good emotion, good food and exercise, so that they can change their unhealthy behavior such as alcohol and drug consumption," she added.

Phuket Provincial Public Health Office also requested funding from the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization to provide a stereo set, aerobic training programs and public health meetings.

A number of fitness groups were trained how to use a stereo set and how to do line dancing style aerobics by Wanchai Tangutasaha and Pramote Singhapoom. Each group also exchanged their points of view about exercising and what fitness activities their groups engaged in.

— *Phuket Gazette*



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# A life-changing game

## Boys at Phuket's Youth Football Home orphanage win a chance for a better future

By Maciek Klimowicz

IT SEEMS that most of us come to Phuket to get something. For some, it's the sun, for others – relaxation or an exotic experience. But once in a while you meet a person who's here not to take, but to give.

When I arrive at the headquarters of the Youth Football Home in Thalang, a charity organization focused on providing

a home and education to orphaned and destitute boys, the daily training session is about to begin. A handful of young boys in full soccer gear circle the well-maintained football pitch in an effort to warm up before the game. Their coach, Hannu Tuukkanen, finds a minute to talk to me.

"I have been in the media quite a lot, but I feel it's the children who are the stars of the show. And they have some unbelievable stories," he says and proceeds to introduce some of the players. Among them are three boys

from Bangkok who were found at a railway station where their father abandoned them. The police took them to a foundation that takes care of the worst cases, but they ran away and ended up in a railway station again, looking for their father who never showed up. Hannu didn't hesitate to take them in, neither did he when he met a boy going by the name Owen.

"When I choose kids who stay with us it's not about football. For example one of the boys, whose nickname is Owen, lived in Laos and he used to come by boat to Thailand, everyday, to go to school. And when I saw him, it took me five minutes to

decide to admit him because he needed help. He couldn't really play football but when I saw the look in his eyes, how eagerly he followed the ball, I took him in. And now he is a top scorer," explains Tuukkanen.

Out of 31 children in the orphanage, aged between eight and 18, about half have lost both their parents. Many don't have mother or father and a few have both parents but no income, no job and no future.

They come from around Thailand but to be admitted, they need to go through trials in Phuket.

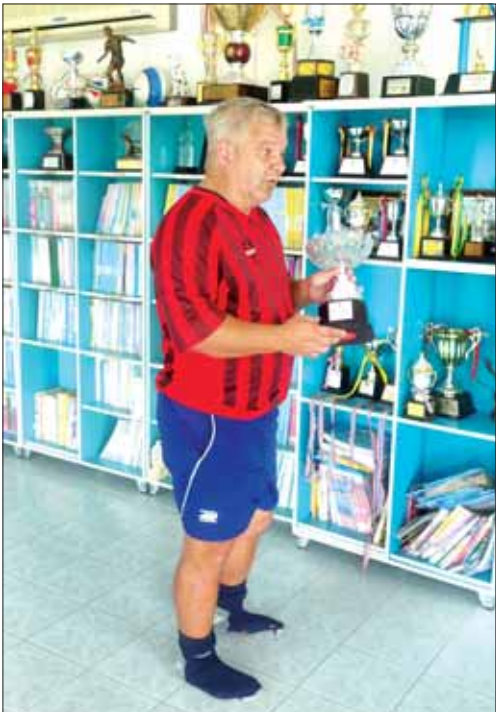
"We used to travel to different provinces to look for orphans but we faced many problems and often corruption. For example, there were people who wanted me to pay tens of thousands of baht to take a kid from a temple."

"That is why I decided that trials will be here and for every kid we will cover the costs of transport, food and housing

for as long as it takes, which is usually three days," explains the coach.

The kids get shelter, food, education and a chance to develop their football skills. The boys go to school everyday and attend full scale football training sessions throughout the week, except for Wednesdays and Sundays.

Effects? Of the three boys who will finish the school next year, one will become a professional footballer. He already has an offer from Finland but first he'll go to the well established German football club Schalke. What about the other two? They will study at university.



TROPHIES: the YFH team knows how to win.



WINNERS: Coach Tuukkanen and one of the young players, Owen. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

"As long as they want to study, the foundation will pay, even if they want to go to Bangkok or abroad. You want to be a doctor? A lawyer? Whoever you want to be, the foundation will pay," says the coach.

"When the boys get older, they realize that this is the best thing that could have happened to them. There are not many kids who can travel like we do. Normally I try to take every single child to some place in Asia or at least one time to Europe," he adds.

The Youth Football Home property consists of a dormitory for 32 boys, a residential building for staff and a full size football field plus training areas. The staff comprises two nannies, a cook, cleaning, security and ground personnel, and the coach. The whole place is filled with the spirit of football, starting with the numerous trophies presented in a large room on the first floor, ending with an impressive collection of football jerseys, all of them original and most of them signed by famous players who became the patrons of the foundation, among them Sir Bobby Charlton, Sir Geoff Hurst, Uwe Bein and others, many of whom visited Phuket and trained with the

boys at the Youth Football Home.

All this is paid for by the foundation which was started by the late Henrik Lorenz, a Hong Kong based entrepreneur.

"We don't accept any money donations from outside. We want to keep this pure and clear of all bad thoughts, corruption and so on. If you have old football shoes, I'd really love to take those, as boys use three pairs per year. If you're in the market and can buy some bananas, bring them. But no money," explains the coach. "There was some officials who offered help but they always want to come and play here and show off for political reasons. But we don't make noise. We have celebrity players come and stay with us, but we don't brag about it. We don't want this place to turn into a circus," he adds.

Of course there are challenges, the usual mess of getting visas and work permits (and visas for the boys willing to play in the West). But knowing what some of these boys chasing the ball on the pitch went through, all this seems just a minor bump on the road. With so much passion, focus and devotion, it seems that the Youth Football Home's team have found a winning formula.



TRAINING: Boys at the Youth Football Home learn more than just football.



COLLECTION: One of multiple celebrity football jerseys on the walls of the orphanage.



# New goal: survival

## Islanders cling to mid-table on the back of two draws and as many losses

By Steven Layne

IF THERE was any hope left for Phuket FC to still get promoted after their home-draw last Wednesday (August 21) to 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Air Force, then it was all but relinquished with an away-loss the following Sunday night (August 25) to 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Singhtarua FC.

Played in front of an energetic “Klong Toei Army” crowd at the PAT Stadium in the heart of the Thai capital, the match was both side’s 25<sup>th</sup> of 34 fixtures in the Yamaha League One (YL1) 2013 season.

Once again, Phuket took an early lead – through a fabulous goal by Cristian Alex five minutes into play – and once again, they let such a lead slip away, with Singhtarua’s Serbian sensation, Ivan Petrovic scoring the equalizer on 34 minutes.

In terms of possession and chances, it was a one-sided match in favor of the home team, who found what would prove to be the winning goal through Leandro Oliveira, scoring his 16<sup>th</sup> of the season nine minutes into the second half. Leandro is now second for the golden boot race, trailing Bangkok’s golden boy, Lee Tuck who has 17 goals.

Meanwhile, Phuket’s Brazilian attacking duo of Alex and Luiz “Dudu” Purcino found far and few chances, and even Chana Sonwiset and Geoffrey Doumeng, fresh off the bench in the second half, could not find the means to effectively penetrate a solid Port Lions’ back line.

The result ensured that the Port Lions retain their 3<sup>rd</sup> place standing with 46 points – tied with Bangkok FC – both now 12 points ahead of Phuket, who dropped back into 7<sup>th</sup> place, still with 34 points.

There are nine matches left in



KILL SHOT: Singhtarua’s Leandro Oliveira scores the winning goal.



Leandro shows sportsmanship. Photos: Pannathorn Prapoj Sukmanont

the season – 27 possible points – but even if Phuket wins all remaining matches, promotion prospects still look slim.

If Bangkok and/ or Singhtarua win six of their remaining matches – or even win four and draw four – the Islanders would not be able to advance to Thailand’s elite league, a privilege reserved for only the top three YL1 teams.

Although promotion prospects now appear ever so dim, Phuket FC are faced with a new season challenge and goal: to avoid relegation!

While 7<sup>th</sup> place might sound like a snug position, the Islanders are only 7 points ahead of the fourth and final relegation spot of 15<sup>th</sup> place, currently occupied by Thai Tobacco Monopoly.

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE						
	TEAM	P	F	A	GD	PTS
1	PTT Rayong	25	31	12	19	54
2	Air Force	25	34	19	15	52
3	Port Lions	25	43	28	15	46
4	Bangkok	25	53	42	11	46
5	Korat	25	30	20	10	39
6	Saraburi	25	34	26	8	36
7	Phuket	25	29	24	5	34
8	Trat FC	25	43	47	-4	34
9	BBCU FC	25	26	30	-4	34
10	Krabi	25	31	35	-4	31
11	Nakhon Pathom	25	32	32	0	30
12	Khon Kaen	25	28	36	-8	29
13	Sriracha	25	34	39	-5	27
14	Royal Navy	25	32	38	-6	27
15	TTM FC	25	22	31	-9	27
16	Ayutthaya	25	22	31	-9	23
17	Rayong FC	25	28	46	-18	17
18	Rayong Utd.	25	23	39	-16	15

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE

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## Eyes on the prize: Chonburi

AT THE time of going to press, Chonburi Blue Wave’s chances were looking good to advance to the semifinals round of the 2013 AFC Futsal Club Championship, being contested among the world’s top futsal clubs in Nagoya, Japan since August 27, to conclude on September 1.

Coming from behind 3-1 in their second group stage match on August 28, against last year’s champions, Giti Pasand Isfahan of Iran, the Thailand futsal champs scored a last minute goal to win 4-3.

The victory followed their opening 2-2 draw against top Uzbek side, Ards Tashkent. Chonburi played their final group match on August 29 against Qatar club, Al Sadd.

To check Chonburi’s results/progress, log on the-afc.com



SKILLS: Chonburi’s Supawut Tueanklang demonstrates ball control against Ards.

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## SPORT

# Sky's not the limit



**DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME:** Despite a jaw-dropping attempt by the player in blue, the ball is effectively blocked.

IF IT'S Muay Thai you're seeking, check the hoards of gyms in the south and west of the island. Up here on the north side, it's all about the high-flying, upside-down, precision-perfect scissor-kick acrobatics for which Takraw is famed. And if you had to read that word twice, then you haven't really experienced Thailand yet.

On August 24 and 25, Srisoon-

thorn municipality staged their inaugural Takraw subdistrict-level competition, officially dubbed the "First Srisoonthorn Municipality Sepak Takraw and Circle Takraw Cup". It featured three classes: Sepak Takraw (combined age of teams at least 120 years) had 16 teams contesting; Sepak Takraw (general population) had eight teams competing and Circle

Takraw, also open to general population, had nine teams competing.

Presiding over the competition, Srisoonthorn mayor, Worawut Songyot launched the event with these words: "The objective of organizing this competition is to encourage youth, teens and the general populace to know about using their free time as a benefit [to be] distanced from drugs by playing



Photos: Fang Khao Si Fa

**SABAI SABAI:** Circle Takraw requires individual and collective skills.

sports; it's also about showing sporting ability – knowing how to follow the rules, about losing, winning, forgiving and being kind athletes. Moreover, it's about main-

taining relations, loving and unity among the youth and general populace. Finally, it's about preserving circle takraw for coming communities." – *Phuket Gazette*

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