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INSIDE TODAY

December 7 - 13, 2013 | [PhuketGazette.Net](http://PhuketGazette.Net) | In partnership with [The Nation](http://The Nation)

25 Baht

■ 'I WILL NEVER ACCEPT IT TO THE DAY I DIE... ROT IN JAIL'

# Historic verdict for hero's killer

■ Aldhouse handed  
25-year sentence for  
murder of American  
Marine Longfellow

By [Irfarn Jamdukor](#)

LEE Aldhouse, the first British national to be extradited to Thailand in over 100 years, was handed down a sentence of 25 years last week for the 2010 murder of decorated US Marine Dashawn Longfellow.

Aldhouse entered a guilty plea on August 28, but the presiding judge, Montri Saroj, ordered that a trial be held to "be fair to both parties".

"The court found Mr Aldhouse guilty and initially gave him a life sentence, but that was reduced to 25 years due to his confession," Kampon Siriwatanyoo, the lawyer representing Aldhouse, told the Gazette.

Aldhouse, known in kickboxing arenas as the "Pitbull", has one month to appeal the sentence.

"He has yet to decide whether to file an appeal," Mr Kampon said. "However, if he does so, he will..."



Continued on Page 3

A prison truck prepares to take Lee Aldhouse to his sentencing. Photo: Irfarn Jamdukor

**Aussie killer  
sets house on  
fire, says wife**

THE widow of a 72-year-old Australian expat said the man locked the doors and set the house on fire in an attempt to kill himself and his family.

Richard Port and his stepson died in the blaze. His wife was saved by Ao Nang rescue workers.

Full story on Page 2

**Doors remain  
shut in face of  
island protest**

THE doors of Phuket Provincial Hall have remained closed, as have those of several other government buildings after pressure from local protesters.

However, it's business as usual for most officials who are holding meetings and working off-site.

Full story on Page 3

**Dive industry  
worried over  
coral damage**

CONFLICTING reports have rolled in concerning the level of damage done late last month to corals at popular dive destinations at Koh Racha. Members of the dive industry fear the worst after seeing the site.

However, the Phuket Marine Biological Center reports point toward a speedy recovery.

Full story on Page 4

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## This Week



### Property

Brand new 21,500 sqm paradise for builders now open. **Page 13**



### Business

Invest in the UK and get there easier with fast track visa. **Page 17**



### Humor

A man's world would be nothing without the better sex. **Page 37**



### Arts

Italian artist brings vintage-style pinups to Phuket. **Page 39**



### Food

The most important meal of the day at Baketastic. **Page 40**



### Sport

Winners and... more winners of the Laguna Challenge. **Page 50**

Saturday



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Sunday



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Monday



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Thursday



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# Aussie real estate agent in arson murder-suicide

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

JEALOUSY and his stepson's obsession with the internet drove an Australian real estate agent to burn down his house around him with his family inside, the man's wife told Krabi Town Police.

The only survivor, 38-year-old Naruthai Port, who is recovering in Krabi Hospital from serious burns across 60 per cent of her body, told police that her husband, Richard Port, 72, locked all the doors to prevent anyone from escaping and then started the fire.

"Before he started the fire, we had an argument about my son playing around on the internet instead of reading books - he was also a very jealous man," Ms Naruthai said from her hospital bed.

After Mr Port allegedly locked all the doors, he cut the line to the cooking-gas cylinder and lit it to kill himself and his family, she said.

"I tried to unlock the doors with my keys, but he had changed the padlocks and my keys didn't work," she said.

"Rescue workers were able to save me. However, I've lost my husband and my son at the same time," she said through her tears.

Rescue workers arrived at the burning home in Ao Nang early last Saturday morning to the screams of Ms Naruthai, who was trapped inside.

"Nobody was able to leave the house as the fire blocked all the exits. We could hear a woman



Rescue workers remove the bodies of Mr Port and his stepson.

screaming for help through the front window," said Krabi Town Police Deputy Superintendent Noppadol Mukda.

Firefighters immediately rescued Ms Naruthai by removing the bars from the front window. She was rushed to Krabi Hospital for treatment.

It took firefighters about 20 minutes to control the blaze at the Watchara Home housing estate.

"We went inside to inspect the house and found the burnt body of Mr Port face down by the bed," said Lt Col Noppadol. "The body of Ms Naruthai's son was found lying face down in the kitchen."

At the back of the house, police

found a 16kg cooking-gas cylinder with the valve open and the rubber tube cut to allow a free flow of gas, Col Noppadol explained.

Additionally, two motorbikes were found with seats lifted, gas lids removed and towels soaked with fuel dangling from the tanks.

"We were able to move the two bikes away from the house before they caught fire and exploded," Col Noppadol said. "It's very lucky that the motorbikes didn't blow up."

Lt Niwat Timkate of the Krabi Town Police confirmed on Monday, after hearing Ms Naruthai's testimony, that the case was still under investigation.

## Hon Con reports violent abuse by taxi drivers

THE Honorary Consul of Ireland last week revealed to the Phuket Governor how she was threatened and intimidated at a resort in Rawai, where taxi drivers refused to let her leave after picking up a friend and her children.

The news came at Governor Maitri Inthusut's quarterly meeting with Phuket's honorary consuls at Phuket Provincial Hall on November 26.

"I went to pick up my friend and her children, but the taxi drivers in front of the resort did not allow us to leave," Honorary Consul Helene Fallon-Wood told Governor Maitri.

"They insisted that I leave my friends there and that my friend and her children must take a taxi to leave the resort. The drivers surrounded my car. They



Helene Fallon-Wood

shouted and kicked my tyres," she said. "Finally, I drove out of the resort, but carefully to avoid hitting them," she added.

Ms Fallon-Wood explained to Governor Maitri that this was not the first time she had encountered abuse and intimidation from taxi drivers at the resort. She declined to name the establishment, however.

Governor Maitri acknowledged that such violent behavior by taxi drivers

had become common in Phuket.

"That problem has been happening for a long time. It might take us some time to fix, but we are now working on resolving that issue," Governor Maitri said.

- Saran Mitrarat

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# Business as usual

## Government offices maintain workflow despite protest closures

**By Irfarn Jamdukor**

THE government offices in charge of keeping the island's economy ticking over have reported no major disruptions to workflow despite Provincial Hall being shut down more than a week ago.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthussat agreed to close Provincial Hall on November 27 to acquiesce to the thousands of anti-government protesters who rallied in front of the building that day.

Two days later, however, Governor Maitri assured the public that everything was “business as usual”.

“The main gate is closed and Provincial Hall is silent, just as the protesters requested, but I am still doing my job. My schedule has been reorganized to continue as usual, but outside the office,” he told the *Gazette*.

Somyos Lowchoo at the Phuket Land Office on Tuesday confirmed no disruptions at his workplace. "We send any appli-



**Protesters vowed not to attempt to close Phuket Airport or bus stations in Phuket as they continue their campaign.** Photo: Saran Mitratrat

cations or permits that need the governor's approval to his official residence for him to sign.

"We can confirm there are no delays for processing any documents for projects because of the protests," Mr. Somvos said.

Usanee Sirikul at the Department of Business Development (DBD) office in Phuket Town confirmed her staff were back to work at their stations. "Any delays due to the closures have been cleared already," she said.

The Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO), which is responsible for issuing work permits to foreigners across the island, was experiencing more difficulty after being asked to shut down, but were making arrangements on Tuesday to avoid any further delays.

“Our office closed yesterday and today after a protest arrived at our building,” PPEO chief Yaowapa Pibulpol explained on Tuesday.

"At this stage we are not sure when we can reopen the office, but all authorities involved in enforcing work permit regulations are already aware to not arrest any foreigners whose work permits expire while our office has been closed due to the protests," Ms Yaowapa assured.

"Please call our office daily [Tel: 076-219660] to confirm when we have reopened. Once we do reopen, do not delay filing your application to renew your work permit," she stressed.

# Kamala meth dealers caught in hotel sting

POLICE arrested two *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) dealers in a sting operation at a Kamala guesthouse on November 27, seizing a total of 1.6 grams of the drug.



## The suspects

Popeye's Place guesthouse, near Phuket FantaSea, where plainclothes officers arranged to buy 1.6 grams of *va ice* for 4,500 baht.

The sting was set up after officers received reports that Anont Promchaikhao, 29, and Jinda Meebang, 18, had been selling drugs to teenagers in the area.

"They were arrested at about 8pm, after they had accepted the cash and handed over the drugs," Lt Suchart said.

"They were both charged with possession of a category 1 drug with intent to sell," he added.

– *Thawit Bilabdullar*

# Aldhouse sentence spurs family's grief

*From page 1*

...need to contact his embassy to find a new lawyer, as I have no further involvement in the case.”

In the meantime, Aldhouse will remain incarcerated at Phuket Prison, which is rated to detain convicts handed down jail terms of 15 years or less.

“The Department of Corrections has yet to determine which prison will detain him,” Mr Kampon confirmed.

The 25-year jail term evoked heartfelt outrage from the victim's family. Marquis Longfellow, one of Dashawn's two sisters, voiced her disappointment with the sentence less than an hour after it was handed down on November 28.

“Lee deserves to rot in hell,” Ms Longfellow posted on the Dashawn Longfellow Memorial Facebook page.

"Don't get me wrong 25 years is better than nothing, but it damn sure is not long enough for a man who intentionally took the life of an American hero for no other reason than a bruised ego,"

Dashawn's mother, Tammy Longfellow, was inconsolable, posting an outpouring of grief no more than two hours after the sentence was announced.

“I will never get over this. I have tried to move on with my life, but to get that I have to accept this. I will never accept it to the day I die...

“Rot in jail, Lee. I will never accept you saying you’re sorry,” she posted.

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# Contradicting coral damage reports

Some dive industry experts fear popular site devastated, PMBC reports 'no issue'

By Chutharat Plerin

MANY members of the Phuket diving industry stand at odds with the Phuket Marine Biological Center's (PMBC) assessment of damage to corals at Racha Yai Island caused by a storm that lashed the region late last month.

"The storm that Saturday was not the first time corals in the area have been damaged by inclement weather," PMBC Director Ukkrit Satapoomin told the Phuket Gazette last week. "Nature will soon heal them."

Three bays were heavily affected by the storm: Ao Khon Kare, Ao Tue and Ao Lah.

Mr Ukkrit estimates that there are enough undamaged coral polyps at the bays for the corals to rebuild themselves to pre-storm levels within three years.

However, many leaders in the dive industry see the damage done to the corals as a game changer.

"There is little doubt that it will have a profound effect on the industry, as this is one of the more popularly visited dive sites," said

an industry expert, speaking on condition of anonymity. "In such a situation, it would be preferable for the authorities to close off access and allow these bays the time to recover. It is now the beginning of the busiest part of the year and these sites could end up in an even worse state because of certain parties' practices."

The PMBC estimates that about 60 per cent of all coral at the sites is damaged. However, that estimate includes dead coral that had been destroyed previously, either by dropped anchors or coral bleaching.

"Being damaged by the waves does not mean they are all dead. Live pieces of them can still continue to grow," said Dr Ukkrit.

However, Sea Bees dive instructor Terry Davis, who dives the site regularly, was shocked at what he saw after the storm.

"It's an absolutely devastated dive site; it has become a completely different dive site. A new map will be required," he said. "It looks like a bomb has hit, not just inclement weather."



The PMBC said in their report that much of the coral damage at the dive site was historic. Photo: PMBC

Mr Davis noted that groups of staghorns, fragile hard corals, had completely disappeared and that large coral blocks had been broken up and moved.

Nonetheless, another member of the local dive industry, Managing Director of Andaman Ocean Safaris David Minnaar, who describes the Koh Racha sites as his "bread and butter", wasn't overly concerned about

the level of damage.

"There is a lot of sand in the shallower corals, but once you get deeper, where people are diving, the damage isn't so bad," Mr Minnaar said. "It happens... there is always something going on, it's the life of a reef – and this reef is still very much alive."

Mr Minnaar did mention that the shipwreck on the site was shifted by the storm, but only by

a few meters.

"We go there everyday. If anyone was going to be worried, it would be me, and I'm not worried at all," he added.

Mr Ukkrit from the PMBC told the Phuket Gazette that he was open to coral-rejuvenation projects to help return the site to its previous condition, but that there were no such projects planned at the moment.

## Snorkeller death in Similans heart attack, not drowning

A 78-YEAR-OLD American snorkeller died from a heart attack in the Similan Island National Park on November 26, a doctor at Thai Muang Hospital confirmed.

William Aloyuisus McCleary's motionless body was spotted by Royal Thai Navy officers on tourist safety patrol in the area, Royal Thai Navy Commander Sombat Saengchaiyaphum explained.

Officers administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation, but failed to revive Mr McCleary, he said.

"About 30 minutes later, we were able to locate and contact the dive company the man had booked his trip with," Lt Cdr Sombat said.

However, a statement issued by the dive company, Sea Dragon Dive Center, presented a very different account of events.

"Shortly after entering the sea he [Mr McCleary] was spotted lying motionless in the water by his snorkeling guide, who immediately rescued him and took him to the beach, where resuscitation was attempted for 15 minutes, after which he was pronounced dead by the National Park doctor at the scene," a dive company spokes-



Officers preparing to return the body of Mr McCleary to the mainland. Photo: Royal Thai Navy

person wrote in a statement.

Family members on the trip and a dive center staffer accompanied Mr McCleary's body back to the mainland by speedboat.

"The family were then accompanied to their hotel in Phuket, where we offered translation services and any other assistance the family required, until... we were unable to assist the family any further in their tragic loss," the spokesperson said in the statement. "We are thankful to the Royal Thai Navy and national park officials for their quick and efficient assistance." – Chutharat Plerin

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## Taxi drivers' actions in DSI sting likely to bring full investigation

THE head of the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) in Phuket believes that evidence from a recent sting operation on a violent taxi rank warrants a full investigation into the ranks' actions.

After receiving complaints about taxi drivers threatening people who were picking up hotel guests at the Merlin Beach Resort at Tri Trang Beach, DSI officers devised a sting operation.

"We set up a foreigner as a guest waiting to be picked up at the hotel, and then had one of our

officers in plainclothes arrive to pick him up," said Somboon Sarasit, head of the DSI's Bureau of Special Crime Unit 3.

"One of the taxi drivers parked a motorbike in front of the officer's vehicle, while other drivers started approaching the guest, telling him not to get into the vehicle," Lt Col Somboon said.

"One of the drivers opened the door of the vehicle and tried to pull the plainclothes officer from it, but the officer resisted."

It was at this point that another

team of DSI officers arrived at the scene to defuse the situation.

"The other team identified themselves as DSI officers," Col Somboon said.

Charges were not pressed against the taxi drivers, and unrest in Bangkok has delayed official approval of a full-blown investigation, Col Somboon said.

However, he vowed to continue following up on complaints about taxi drivers in order to reduce the power of illegal taxi operations.

— Chutharat Plerin



Lt Col Somboon Photo: Gazette file



The company looking to bring a Ferris wheel to town is associated with the London Eye. Photo: Wikipedia

## Patong eyes Ferris wheel to get high season rolling

PHUKET officials are scrambling to find a location to set up the Global Wheel, a giant Ferris wheel that is hoped to spin out fresh revenue during and after the Phuket Carnival starting on December 15.

"The Patong Eye could generate money to compensate for financial losses from Thailand's National Youth Games last year," said Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukban. Though it is officially known as the Global Wheel, Mr Chairat would like to re-brand the joyride as the "Patong Eye" during its possible stay in Phuket.

"I originally wanted to install it at the entrance of Bangla Road near the police box, but beach vendors and other operators nearby rejected the idea," Mr Chairat said.

If officials are unable to find a location, the Global Wheel, which was set up in Chiang Mai in 2011-2012, will roll past Phuket.

"No matter what though, it is only a temporary attraction," Mr Chairat said.

The Global Wheel is run by Freij Entertainment International, a Dubai-based company associated with the construction of the London Eye and many other giant Ferris wheel projects around the world, Mr Chairat said.

# Meter running out for long-term taxi parking

By Saran Mitrarat

PHUKET officials put taxi ranks on the chopping block on November 26 in hopes of allowing police to take quick action against illegal parking.

As a result, all taxi rank operators in Phuket must identify themselves to local police stations by December 31, the deadline for all taxi, tuk-tuk and tour van drivers on the island to become legal.

"Almost all the taxi ranks on the island are in front of hotels and along popular beaches, so we want to clear these areas for residents and tourists," Jaturong Kaewkasi, Chief Transport Technician of the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO), told those in a meeting at the Organized Crime Center in Phuket Town.

The requirement was signed into effect by a Phuket Provincial Government proclamation issued on November 18, Mr Jaturong said.

The move received emotive



Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan said steps to free up parking spaces will be issued within weeks. Photo: Gazette file

support from Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan.

"Every time we inspect a taxi rank, the drivers say they have the

PLTO's permission to park their vehicles along that section of the street," he said angrily.

"If the PLTO can clarify, then we will know exactly who should

be working where, and take action accordingly," he added.

"In the past, illegal taxi drivers protested when police arrested them, and if we didn't arrest them, people said we weren't doing our job. Now we will be able to arrest those who aren't working within the confines of the law," he said.

Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada assured those at the meeting that the authorities will enforce a zero-tolerance policy of drivers flouting the law after the December 31 deadline.

"Every District Office will decide where taxi ranks will be allowed [and not allowed]. After all the taxi ranks have been affirmed and approved by the PLTO, I will not allow any more to take root on our island," he said.

The number and location of all legal taxi ranks will be announced at a later date, Vice Governor Chamroen confirmed.



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Phuket Rajabhat University hall

## Birthday wish book moved to Rajabhat hall

WHILE Provincial Hall remained closed this week (see page 3), the public book for people to scribe their birthday wishes to HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej was moved to the Phuket Rajabhat University.

The Public Relations Department, which has its main office at Provincial Hall, issued a notice informing the public that the main doors to the island's provincial government headquarters were locked on Monday.

Phuket Rajabhat University, north of Phuket Town, also hosted the annual gathering of the island's top officials to honor His Majesty for his birthday. The event, which was open to the public, was held at the university's main conference hall. — **Saran Mitrarat**

# Royal birthday festivities start early with a splash

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

MORE THAN 500,000 specimens of marine animals were released in Phuket last Sunday to celebrate the 86<sup>th</sup> birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, marked by Thais around the world on Thursday, December 5.

Among the animals were over 100 brownbanded bamboo sharks, released as part of an effort to rebuild declining shark numbers in Thai seas.

Five species of shark were added to the Endangered Species list at the Convention of International Trade of Endangered Species in Bangkok earlier this year, and the drastic reduction in their numbers is behind the creation of the Thailand E-Shark project, which aims to document shark sightings in Thai waters between November 1 and April 30 next year.

"In addition to honoring HM the



More than 100 bamboo sharks were released. Photo: Markus Jacobson

King, we are attempting to rebalance the marine ecosystem," said Phuket Marine Biological Center Director Ukkrit Satapoomin.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut and Vice Governor

Sommai Prijasilpa together led the ceremony to release the 119 sharks, 199 harlequin shrimp, 500,000 tiger prawn, and 30,000 barramundi.

In addition to the animal release,




Children observe the release.



Harlequin shrimp. Photo: Kiwidiver.com

the Phuket Aquarium also honored HM The King's birthday by this year providing free admission to the aquarium from last Sunday through December 5 – for those who came with their fathers.









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Cyclists proved pedal power can top petroleum. Photo: Cherng Talay OrBorTor

## Cherng Talay turns out in joyful force

LOCALS in Cherng Talay turned out in force last Saturday to join a cycling and beach cleanup event held to celebrate the 86<sup>th</sup> birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on December 5.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut officiated the opening of the event, organized by the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), before leading the merit-making ceremony to honor His Majesty.

"In this special event honoring the birthday of His Majesty The King of Thailand, I would like to repeat the words of our king, reminding people to be kind, united, honest and fair," Governor Maitri said.

After leading the crowd of about 600 in paying their respects, Governor Maitri became the first to sign the well-wishing birthday

book, followed by local officials, dignitaries, residents and visitors.

Proud of their association with the Cherng Talay area, groups massed behind signs identifying themselves as local businesses, community groups and even the local cycling club.

Leading the activities, Cherng Talay *OrBorTor* President Ma-ann Samran spearheaded the 10km cycle from Surin Beach to Layan Beach, where a beach cleanup was held.

"We wanted to hold an activity to preserve our environment as a gift for His Majesty. The cycling event showed that everyone can use their natural energy instead of petroleum energy. This can save energy for all of Thailand, save money and reduce pollution," Mr Ma-ann said.

— **Saran Mitrarat**





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PM Yingluck Mr Suthep

## Yingluck, Suthep trade rhetorical blows over power

PRIME Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and her political adversary Suthep Thaugsuban are at loggerheads following a tense meeting brokered by Army Chief Prayuth Chan-ocha on Sunday.

During the meeting, held at a secret location, Mr Suthep told Ms Yingluck in no uncertain terms that she had “no legitimacy” to govern the country and that she must “return the mandate back to the people”, The Nation reported.

Mr Suthep, who is leading protests with the declared aim of “uprooting the Thaksin regime” from Thailand, insisted that a council should be set up and new “democratic rules” be drafted before a new election is held.

Mr Suthep said PM Yingluck did not say anything during the meeting. “This will be the only meeting between the premier and I,” he said.

The next day, PM Yingluck addressed the nation on live television to reject Mr Suthep’s demands.

She said that what Mr Suthep and his group, the Civil Movement for Democracy, wanted was “unacceptable under the constitution”.

Regarding Mr Suthep’s demand for an unelected council to pick a new premier, she adopted a conciliatory tone.

“I don’t know how we can proceed” with that, she said. “We don’t know how to make it happen. Right now we don’t see any way to resolve the problem under the constitution.”

“If there is any way I can restore peace I am willing to do it.”

# Bullets fly in Bangkok

THE worst political violence since 2010 rocked Bangkok after anti-government protests led by former deputy premier Suthep Thaugsuban turned violent.

Though the police charged with containing the protests say they are using only “proportionate” methods of riot control that “meet international standards”, several people have been shot by live ammunition, leading to speculation that an unknown third hand is trying to provoke more serious conflict, *The Nation* reported.

There have been at least three deaths, all of which occurred last Saturday night at Ramkhamhaeng University in Northeast Bangkok.

Conflict sparked when students clashed with red shirts who were travelling to a rally at nearby Rajamangala Stadium. The university campus also reportedly came under attack by unknown gunmen, suspected to be the so-called third hand.

By midnight the Erawan Center, which coordinates Bangkok’s emergency response, had reported two people killed and 45 injured in the fighting.

Human remains were later found on a bus that was set alight behind the university.

National police chief adviser Pol Gen Charamporn Suramane said he suspected the body, found lying face-down near the bus door, was a person who had tried to flee the bus but choked on smoke and died.

Several thousand students became trapped on the RU campus for at least a night due to the attacks. They were eventually evacuated by the army.

The red shirts were also dispersed, reportedly in order to ease tension and make the government’s containment operation easier.



An anti-government protester throws a teargas canister towards the police during clashes. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE nation

The next day, protesters attempting to storm Government House were held back by police, who used tear gas, water cannons and rubber bullets to repel them. The protesters tried to demolish

protective barricades but were not able to enter the compound.

Amid the chaos, at least three people were reportedly shot and injured by live rounds. As of 4pm that day, the toll of people injured in the unrest since November 30 was 221, according to Pradith Sinthawarong, the Public Health Minister.

On Tuesday the protesters moved to invade the Metropolitan Police Bureau, following a fiery speech by Mr Suthep the previ-

ous day in which he all but declared war on the government.

Speaking at the Government Complex at Chaeng Wattana, Mr Suthep said that the Met Police office, as well as the national police HQ and Government House, were the three centers of government power, and that protesters should invade the former “peaceful”.

Police have issued an arrest warrant for Suthep and three other leaders on charges of insurrection.

## Battle for media control raging

A BATTLE for control of the airways is under way between the government and the so-called People’s Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC), which is attempting to bring down the Yingluck administration.

On Sunday the protesters, who

believe the government to be illegitimate, marched to the offices of Thailand’s six free-to-air TV stations, namely Channels 3, 5 and 7, Modernine, NBT and Thai PBS, *The Nation* reported.

They demanded that the stations broadcast a speech by Suthep

Thaugsuban, the insurrection leader. All of the stations except one complied with the demands.

The actions drew condemnation from academics and media associations, who likened the protesters’ actions to “dictatorship”.

Veteran journalist Somkiat Onwimon tweeted that the demonstrators should not put pressure on or intimidate the media, since doing so was not consistent with the democracy they claimed to want to build.

In retaliation to the action, red shirts in Chiang Mai threatened to seize a relay station for Thai PBS unless it promised to stop airing statements from the PDRC.

The group claimed that Mr Suthep’s statements declaring the government to be illegitimate were illegal.

At a rally in front of the relay station, a leader announced that the red shirts would burn down any station that continued to air Mr Suthep’s speeches.

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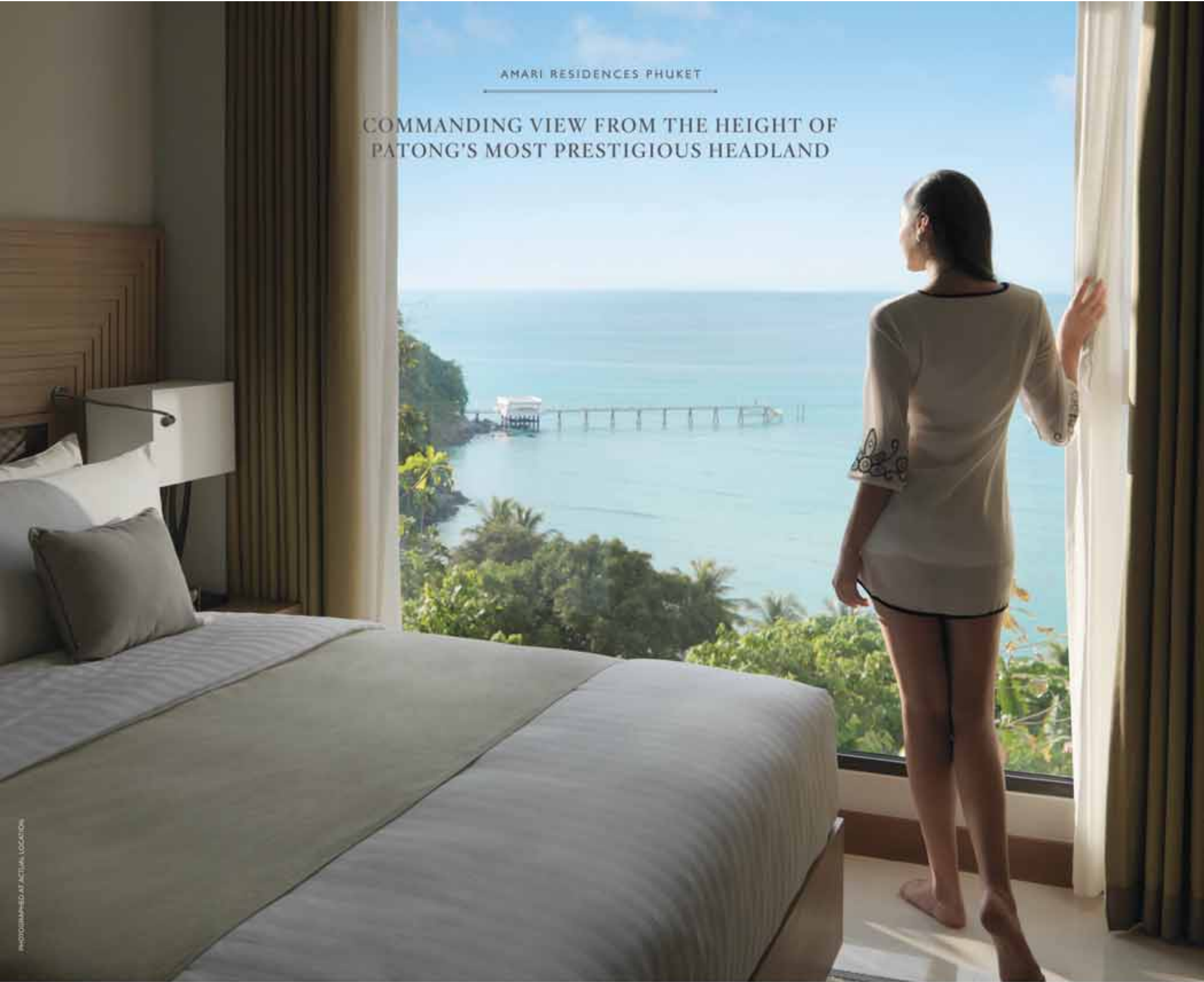
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## In brief...

## Filipino recovery may be costlier, longer than Aceh's

THE Philippines' post-typhoon reconstruction could take as long as 10 years, with the leadership of President Benigno Aquino put to a test amid complex problems such as property rights, missing title deeds and land zoning, experts have warned.

The task will likely take longer and cost more than the rebuilding of Indonesia's Aceh province after the 2004 tsunami, they said.

Super typhoon Haiyan wiped out or damaged practically everything in its path as it swept ashore on November 8, with seven-meter storm surges destroying about 90 per cent of the city of Tacloban in Leyte province alone. — **Reuters**

## Outrage as housing developer bulldozes tomb temple ruins

A HOUSING developer who is said to have demolished an ancient tomb temple in Kedah could have deliberately failed to inform the local Council about the structure within its development plan.

Expressing disappointment over news reports that the tomb had been demolished, Kedah state executive council member Mohd Rawi Abd Hamid said he did not know how the council had approved the development plan.

— **The Star**

## New German subs bound for Singapore

SINGAPORE will for the first time buy brand new submarines. The Defence Ministry said in a statement on Monday that it had inked a deal with German defence contractor Thyssenkrupp Marine System to buy two Type 218SG vessels.

The contract includes a logistics package and the training of Singaporean crew in Germany.

— **Straits Times**

## Indonesia smarts over Singapore spy claims

By Ina Parlina and Nadya Natahadibrata

THE Indonesian government has taken a cautious approach in dealing with allegations that Singapore was involved in US-led surveillance operations in the region, including on Indonesia.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Michael Tene said last Friday that Indonesia would follow the development regarding the spying claims against Singapore, but firm decisions had yet to be made.

Mr Tene said the Indonesian ambassador to Singapore had asked for clarification from the city-state and was assured that the allegations were baseless.

Last Friday, Singapore made clear that the city-state would not be drawn into confirming or denying allegations that it was part of a US-led electronic spying network in Asia, AFP reported.

Singaporean Foreign Minister K. Shanmugam said at a forum that neighbors Indonesia and Malaysia, which summoned Singapore's envoys last week over reports that such a network existed, were aware that the city-state had no intention of harming relations.

"You cannot say this is 5 per cent true or 95 per cent true, that we work with the Americans and Australians on this aspect of counterterrorism but not this aspect," he said in comments carried by the *Straits Times* website.

The ensuing back-and-forth on any Singapore statement on specific intelligence issues would be "never-ending", he said. "The point is that the Indonesians and Malaysians know that we won't do anything to harm their interests," he said at a forum hosted by the newspaper.

Singapore's stance regarding the snooping allegations is similar



Indonesian Trade Minister Gita Wirjawan said agreements with Australia were being reviewed. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE region

"We will discuss it later; we are now focusing on the problem with Australia," the minister said following a hearing with House of Representatives Commission I on foreign affairs last Thursday.

Several legislators have raised concerns over Singapore's alleged complicity in the spying operations as Indonesia still relied on communication equipment controlled by the neighbouring country.

Australia's Sydney Morning Herald reported that access to the major international telecommunications channel, facilitated by Singapore's government-owned operator SingTel, had been a key element in an expansion of Australian-Singaporean intelligence

and defence ties over the past 15 years.

Communication and Information Ministry spokesperson Gatot Dewa Broto said nine cellular operators had submitted their internal investigation findings over the wiretapping allegations to the ministry on Thursday.

"The documents leaked by Snowden mentioned the role of SingTel, which has shares in Telkomsel. However, we can't yet tell the extent of involvement (of Telkomsel), if any, because we haven't finished evaluating the internal findings," Gatot said. "However, we will surely take note of Snowden's statement."

— **The Jakarta Post**

## Thein Sein urges civic agencies to negotiate, not confront unrest

MYANMAR President Thein Sein has urged civic organizations to adopt dialogue instead of confrontation in carrying out their political, economic and social work.

The president made the remark during the conference of "The role of civic organizations in building a peaceful nation" held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University on December 1.

"Civil society groups and community-based organizations in Myanmar have the freedom to perform the political, economic and social development tasks out of their own goals and belief. But in this time of fragile situations, uncertainties, and challenges, con-



Thein Sein delivers a speech at Yangon University. Photo: EMG

frontation should be avoided and solutions should be sought through negotiations," he said.

The approach the organizations and individuals take should incor-

porate the view to sustain political reforms, he added.

The nation's peace process is now in the final stage of negotiation. However, mutual trust among the government and the people that has been lost for a long time must be restored to achieve national unity, he said.

"Previous political experiences caused suspicion between members of today's civil society. This remains a challenge for making political reforms with momentum. I believe civic organizations can help to build trust among the public which is critical for future political developments," he said.

— **Eleven Media Group**

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## In brief...

### India's mission to Mars enters second stage

INDIA's first mission to Mars left Earth's orbit early on Sunday, clearing the first hurdle in its journey to the red planet and overtaking the efforts in space of rival Asian giant China.

The success of the spacecraft, scheduled to orbit Mars by next September, would carry India into a small club of countries whose probes have orbited or landed on Mars.

### Cameron moves beyond China Dalai Lama row

BRITAIN has put a diplomatic rift with China over the Dalai Lama behind it and Prime Minister David Cameron has no plans to meet Tibet's spiritual leader again, a senior source in his office said ahead of a visit by the British leader to Beijing.

Instead, Mr Cameron will use a three-day visit to China next week, his first since the Dalai Lama rift, to focus on deepening trade ties with the world's second largest economy, taking with him a delegation of around 100 business people.

### South Africans call for ouster of President Zuma

THOUSANDS of South Africans on Saturday called online for the impeachment of President Jacob Zuma, after a newspaper revealed a government document detailing the use of public funds for lavish upgrades to his private home.

## US offers to destroy Syria's chemicals at sea, says OPCW

THE United States has offered to destroy Syrian chemicals on a US ship, a global chemical weapons watchdog said last Saturday, and is looking for a suitable Mediterranean port where processing can be carried out.

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has been under pressure to find an alternative plan for the destruction of Syria's poison gas arsenal after Albania backed out of hosting the work.

The OPCW said 35 firms had expressed

an interest in bidding for commercial contracts by last Friday's deadline for the treatment of about 800 tonnes of bulk industrial chemicals that are safe to destroy in commercial incinerators. But another 500 tonnes of chemicals, including nerve agents, are seen as too dangerous to import into a country or process commercially, and will be treated offshore on the US ship.

The Hague-based organization, which won the Nobel Peace prize last month, has been

given the task of overseeing destruction of Syria's chemical weapons stocks under an agreement which averted US missile strikes.

It followed a sarin gas attack on the outskirts of Damascus in August which killed hundreds of people.

Sigrid Kaag, head of the joint UN-OPCW Syria team, said on Saturday the mission faced a challenge to get the most lethal chemical agents out of Syria by the end of the year target, in the midst of the civil war. — Reuters

# Ukrainians stage mass rally against u-turn on Europe

## AROUND THE world

By Natalia Zinets and Richard Balmforth

UKRAINIAN opposition leaders called on Sunday for President Viktor Yanukovich and his government to resign at a huge pro-Europe rally of about 350,000 people, which was marred by violent clashes between protesters and riot police.

In the biggest protest in the capital Kiev since the "Orange Revolution" of nine years ago, opposition leaders denounced Mr Yanukovich for walking away from a pact offered by the European Union and swinging trade policy back toward Russia.

"They stole the dream," heavy-weight boxer-turned-opposition politician Vitaly Klitschko told crowds on Independence Square.

The opposition urged people to demonstrate peacefully and avoid



Protesters clash with riot police during a pro-EU rally. Photo: Reuters

being provoked by the authorities into antagonizing police.

But violence erupted nonetheless with police using tear gas and stun grenades near the presidential office building. Police later clashed with a group of masked protesters trying to pull down a monument to Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin.

Tens of thousands of Ukrainians

swept on to Kiev's Independence Square, chanting "Down with the Gang!" and waving the Ukrainian flag and EU standard, in condemnation of Mr Yanukovich's u-turn away from the EU.

After months of pressure from Russia, Mr Yanukovich last month suddenly back-pedalled from signing a deal, long in the making, on

closer relations with the EU in favor of renewed economic dialogue with Moscow.

TV footage showed special forces police striking people on the legs and body with batons or kicking them as they lay on the ground.

Kiev's medical authorities said 112 people were given first aid treatment for injuries on Saturday, 42 of whom were kept in hospital. Police said 100 officers had been injured in the violence during the day.

An online TV station, called Public TV, on Sunday listed 29 journalists, mainly cameramen and photographers, who had suffered at the hands of police while covering the weekend events in Kiev.

At least 12 of these had been beaten by riot police. Those hurt included a Reuters cameraman who was beaten on the arms and whose camera was destroyed.

"If this government does not want to fulfill the will of the people, then there will be no such government, there will be no such president. There will be a new government and a new president," declared Klitschko, a contender for the next presidential election due in 2015.

Far-right nationalist leader Oleh Tyahnybok, also of the opposition, called for workers' support. "From this day, we are starting a strike," he declared. Backing for a national strike may indicate the protests' staying power in the coming days.

— Reuters

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# A builder's heaven

New 21,500-square-meter construction mega-store opens the 'floodgates' in Thalang



The booming real estate market is fueling demand for the new Thai Watsadu materials supply store near the Heroines Monument, which dwarfs many of its competitors. Photo: Supplied

## PROPERTY Gazette

By Steven Layne

NUMBERED are the days for expensive and overpriced construction, home improvement, furnishing, landscaping and gardening materials in Phuket: The Central Retail Group have officially opened the doors of their Thai Watsadu Phuket store on Thepkasattri Road in Thalang, just north of the Heroines Monument.

Phuket Governor Maitree Inthasut presided over the ribbon cutting ceremony on November 28, which was also attended by a number of local officials, executives and media. In his inaugurating speech, Gov Maitree described the new center as a "supermarket for builders".

Following the recent opening of a Thai Watsadu store in Trang, the Phuket store is the second yet largest Thai Watsadu outlet to open in the five-province "Andaman cluster", which includes Krabi, Phang Nga, Trang, Ranong and Phuket, the governor noted.

"Phuket now sits at the head and center of this regional cluster in terms of the construction and real estate sectors, which



Various building materials fill the cavernous warehouses. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

have been experiencing considerable growth as seen by the large number of new subdivision and condominium projects... One important factor we must all consider – whether in construction and real estate or the island's primary sectors of tourism and hospitality, is the shortage of skilled labor and job prospects for locals. I hope that you [the construction and real estate companies] keep this in mind and continue to provide jobs for locals."

"Home improvement" doesn't do justice for the store's classification – "city improvement" is a more accurate term considering its sheer size and selection of materials; superior to anything else on the island or region for

that matter, Thai Watsadu Phuket stocks everything individuals and companies could ever need for building, refurbishing, electrical, plumbing, landscaping and gardening – boasting over 100,000 items at unbeatable wholesale prices.

With retail space of over 21,500 square meters on a 41 rai plot, the new outlet will be operated on a membership basis, with promotional memberships being offered this morning for as little as 20 baht.

Allocated parking for up to 120 vehicles, the new Phuket outlet – Thai Watsadu's 35<sup>th</sup> and reportedly largest branch thus far in the Kingdom – employs 300 locals, and represents an 800 million baht investment.



Governor Maitree joins in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Photo: Saran Mitratrat

The new Phuket Thai Watsadu is open from 7:30am until 7pm. For more information, call 076-601-300 or visit [thaiwatsadu.com](http://thaiwatsadu.com) on the web.



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# Amari gets makeover

AMARI Coral Beach Phuket has been a favorite for holiday-makers since it opened 29 years ago. Following an 18 month "enhancement period", the popular family resort is introducing its new-look guest rooms, public areas, spa and restaurants. The property has also changed its name to Amari Phuket.

Guests visiting the revamped property will be able to see the new contemporary design in all areas. The changes include a fresh look for all superior and deluxe guest rooms and suites and a new design for the lobby. The restaurants have also received a makeover; La Gritta, Amari Phuket's fine dining Italian restaurant always boasted an impressive position overlooking Patong Bay but has been renovated as a chic destination restaurant sure to wow the senses. La Gritta Terrace is now a stylish venue for enjoying creative cocktails, premium wines, and accompanying tapas. Rim Talay all-day dining restaurant and Breeze Spa have also undergone the makeover treatment and are showcasing their new fresh design.

A new guest lounge, Voyager, has been introduced, offering

snacks and light refreshments, a wash and change area, library as well as a selection of games to keep minds active.

General Manager Warakorn Jarusirikul said: "We are very proud that our resort attracts a large number of repeat visitors year after year. We recognized that it was important to reinvest into the physical product we offer, and provide an enhanced overall experience for our guests."

"The finished look is fantastic, very contemporary and above all comfortable and functional. Amari is about offering guests warm and friendly service and quality accommodation, I hope we exceed at doing both."

In 2015, in conjunction with the property's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a further 160 units, comprising 148 residences and 12 pool villas will be added to Amari Phuket, bringing the total inventory to 257 rooms. The additional 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units will also offer an investment opportunity to buyers who can enjoy private use of the residences but also the option to pool the units back into the hotel inventory, generating a rental return. - *Phuket Gazette*



The fresh new design of Amari's Breeze Spa is sure to please guests. Photos: Supplied



All superior and deluxe guest rooms and suites have also been given the makeover treatment.



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# Boutique or bust

OBSSESSION is quite a long word – with its three little Ss that sort of roll off the keys with winding twists and turns. Nothing is as it appears, nor is there a straightaway to pull away from the pack.

When it comes to design hotels, these enigmatic properties just love to live the “S” life, where the squares get rounded more often than not. My love affair with these beasts of tattered dreams has a pretty large dose of skepticism and doubt thrown in.

I can trace these feelings back to my childhood spent in Southern California and winter trips to Palm Springs. Here the spirit of *nutra* and modern design coexisted with the blazing sun and Joshua Trees. Arching roof-lines and glass shimmering from here to eternity. And yet those stark arrows reaching into the sky brought about thought provoking inspiration.

Later in life, as my travel life enriched to the world of boutique accommodation of Starck and Schraeger, the new world turned in to that truly awful term “hip”. Note to self – if I never again have to hear the reptilian one liner “hip hotels” it will be okay. Perhaps not okay but better, much better.

Still, latter day Bill did indeed move with the times, staying in Ws, Citizen M, and passing through the roster of Singapore’s



cornucopia of independent themed, designed, tweaked (yet not twerked) boutique houses of sleep.

At the same time, I have often struggled with where to sit, or to put my suitcase. Or stared aimlessly for hours at a black and white television wondering under which accent pillow or hand painted montage fresh from the wild kingdom the remote control lay under. You, my intelligent readers, will know the answer to that one. There is no labor saving battery operated device that works with the ancient rotary dials.

And yet I dabbled, on some occasions checking into the road less travelled and feeling good about myself at times. Not unlike an afternoon spent at the museum where you stare at paintings in deep appreciation of the genius of creation and hopefully becoming a little smarter in the process. That entire theory runs off the rails once you find yourself preferring to go to the gift shop instead or lingering at the espresso bar.

Here we go again back to caffeinated excess. But of course, design hotels require the same rigor and dogma, or creating DNA out of the dozing elephant left in

an empty room. Small, as we know, is back in vogue, as is Berlin. The latter’s back alleys and art scene thrive in boho chicness.

A debate does exist in resort destinations such as Phuket and Bali over design and boutique-ness. Do they add to a commercial offering or are they just plain fad? Twinpalms in Surin and the W in Seminyak are shining examples of how well it works (when it works) all the way down to the bottom line.

And yet the frailty of art does often come at a cost. In this case to the guest who wishes for an intuitive relaxing getaway and while appreciative of the concept of an outdoor toilet with no walls, can’t quite concentrate at the task in hand while batting away an air-force of mosquitoes.

In design, there is form and there is function. Where they meet in hotels and boutique properties can in many instances not be a point-to-point journey. Let’s go back to the “S” theme, or even more appropriate – take a side-trip to sideways. All these S’s in one place and no place to put them. Boutique may not be for everyone, but as in art, there is always the gift shop as an alternative reality.

*Bill Barnett is Managing director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through [C9hotelworks.com](http://C9hotelworks.com)*



The new ‘design hotel’ Mira Moon in Hong Kong is designer Marcel Wanders’ vision of boutique chicness. Photos: Supplied



Small is clearly back in vogue, judging from Mira Moon’s designer bathrooms



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# UK fast-tracks biz, work, investor visas

UK VISAS and Immigration (UKVI) in Thailand has extended its priority visa service to include all business, work, investor and entrepreneur visa applicants.

The service is already available to business visitors, tourists and family visitors who meet certain criteria, as well as Tier 4 students, and has proven extremely successful with over 18,700 applicants taking up the service since its launch in January 2012.

The priority visa service is a fast track processing service which aims to return visa decisions within three to five working days, compared to the standard 15 working day service, and is available to eligible applicants who pay an additional fee.

British Ambassador, Mark Kent, said: "The UK is open for business and we are working hard to ensure we have the right services in place to encourage growth and support those who we want to attract to the UK. This includes our visa service and I am

very pleased to announce that we have extended our already successful priority visa service in Thailand to include anyone travelling for business, investment and work purposes".

As part of its economic plan, the government has also announced further improvements to the visa system to attract the brightest and best to work, do business and invest in the UK.

The improvements include the launch of the GREAT Club, an invitation only, bespoke account management service providing top business executives with bespoke support from UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). The Club will start in the new year as a 12-month pilot aimed at around 100 global business leaders who use the visa service and have strong links to the UK. The establishment of a global business and growth network to identify priority businesses that use our visa system and to give them access to a quick, responsive service, including a

"Business Helpdesk" in the UK, providing direct access to qualified UKVI staff.

Furthermore, UKVI will expand its same-day visa service, currently available in India and soon to be available in China, to several further key locations by the end of 2014.

The extended priority visa service and other initiatives are set to support the continued strong demand for UK visas in Thailand. In the 12 months to June 2013, UK Visas and Immigration issued approximately 65,700 visa applications to Thai nationals, 16% more than the previous 12 months including a 29% increase in tourist visas and an 18% increase in business visitor visas. Of Thais who apply for a UK visa, 95% are successful.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Further information on the UK visa service and available premium services in Thailand can be found at [ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/countries/thailand](http://ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/countries/thailand)



Under the new arrangements Thais applying for business, work and entrepreneur visas will receive them within 3 days. Photo: Lachlan Fearnley

## Intensified demand propels smartphone sales in SE Asia

THE ongoing trend of upgrading from basic mobile phones to smartphones, particularly in South-east Asia's emerging markets has further deepened smartphone penetration in the region and is driving robust sales of the popular gadgets. In the first three-quarters of this year, consumers from Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines have spent US\$10.8 billion on nearly 41.5 million smartphones.

Among these seven individual markets tracked, Indonesia has the greatest smartphone sales volume and value. Since the beginning of this year, Indonesian consumers have already bought 14.8 million smartphones worth over US\$3.33 billion. Thailand and Malaysia are countries with the next highest smartphone sales volume with 7.2 million and 6.4 million units sold respectively. However, in terms of smartphone sales revenue, the ranking of these two countries are switched, with Malaysia garnering \$2.25 billion while Thailand raked in \$1.96 billion from January to September 2013.

"The increasing affordability of smartphones, particularly in the developing markets is helping many consumers in these countries make the switch from their basic feature phones to own their very first smartphone," said Gerard Tan, Account Director for Digital Technology at GfK Asia. "It is worth highlighting the significant milestone of September being the month whereby sales penetration reached the halfway mark; where

one in every two mobile handsets purchased in the region is now a smartphone."

According to GfK findings comparing January to September in 2013 to 2012, the fastest growing markets for smart-phones were Vietnam and Thailand, both of which reported more than two-fold surge, by 156% and 118% respectively in volume, and 113% and 114% in value.

In terms of operating systems, Android, with its 72% market share continues to be increasingly sought after across six of the markets. This platform is most widespread in the Philippines, Malaysia, and Singapore, where the operating system now makes up 91%, 83% and 81% of total smartphone sales in the respective countries. In Indonesia, the proportion of Android smartphones sales jumped by 23% within a year, from 37 to the current 60%.

"The latest trend in the market now is phablets, which is defined as mobile devices with cellular voice phone functionality and a display between 5.6 and 6.9 inches," said Tan. "Launched only recently around mid-2013, over 460,000 have already been sold and we will likely see greater take-up as more models enter the market," said Tan.

"50% of feature phone buyers in Southeast Asia who have yet to convert to using a smartphone present much potential for manufacturers, and we predict a continued uptrend and exponential growth in the smartphone market in this region," he concluded

— *GfK*

## Central Festival launches free Wi-Fi

VISITORS to Central Festival Phuket can now go online while they shop with a free Wi-Fi service made available throughout the mall.

The free wireless internet service was launched recently, allowing shoppers access to the web through smart phones and tablets with Wi-Fi capabilities.

The service is another added convenience for the store's thousands of daily foreign visitors, said Vice President of Property Management and General Manager Ms Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree.

"We have made Wi-Fi service available to all customers but

tourists will especially benefit from the added convenience of being able to go online hassle-free, without having to sign up with a local network provider," said Ms Wilaiporn.



Ms Wilaiporn

"Most locals can use their local 3G mobile network provider but Central Festival Phuket welcomes an average of 7,000 tourists each day, many who will not be able to access

local mobile networks," she said. The Wi-Fi service is currently available for a trial period on the first and second floors of the mall, excluding Central Department Store, and will be extended to cover all four

floors of the shopping mall by the end of December.

After a simple sign-up procedure, mall visitors can access Central Festival's free Wi-Fi for up to three hours a day.

Ms Wilaiporn said the time limit was sufficient to cover the average amount of time that shoppers spent at the mall, and that it would ensure there was always plenty of bandwidth available for all customers.

The Wi-Fi service is provided by AIS. Customers can begin using the service after signing up at the Information Counter on the first floor of the mall. After the first hour, users are required to sign in again for the remaining two hours.

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# Patong's good-time juggernaut spins on

REPORTS that Patong Municipality hopes to erect a huge Ferris wheel along the beach road have generated a great deal of comment among Phuket's large and ever-growing expat community, much of the reaction dripping with irony and sarcasm.

The truth is, however, that not only does Patong want and need such an apparatus – but the fact that this is even a serious topic of discussion clearly demonstrates just how good we have it here in our little Andaman paradise.

Veteran Phuket news consumers simply do not realize how spoiled they are to live in a place where, as one Formula 1 broadcaster once put it: "Anything can happen, and it usually does."

As we slide headlong into high season in Phuket, the burning question appears to be: Do we really need a huge Ferris wheel along the Patong beachfront?

This is a first-world problem of the first order; so much so that we should all consider ourselves fortunate to be involved in such frivolous debate, even as much of our nation's population is blowing whistles at each other, draping themselves in flags (or red shirts), hurling "cracker bombs" or otherwise engaging in a wide variety of different forms of futile, counter-productive behavior.

But here in Phuket, and especially Patong, the issue our expat community more popularly chooses to opine about has little or nothing to do with the unfortunate political climate elsewhere in Thailand, and much more to do with the relative costs and benefits of the aforementioned Ferris wheel, which we are now informed is more correctly referred to as a "Giant Observation Wheel".

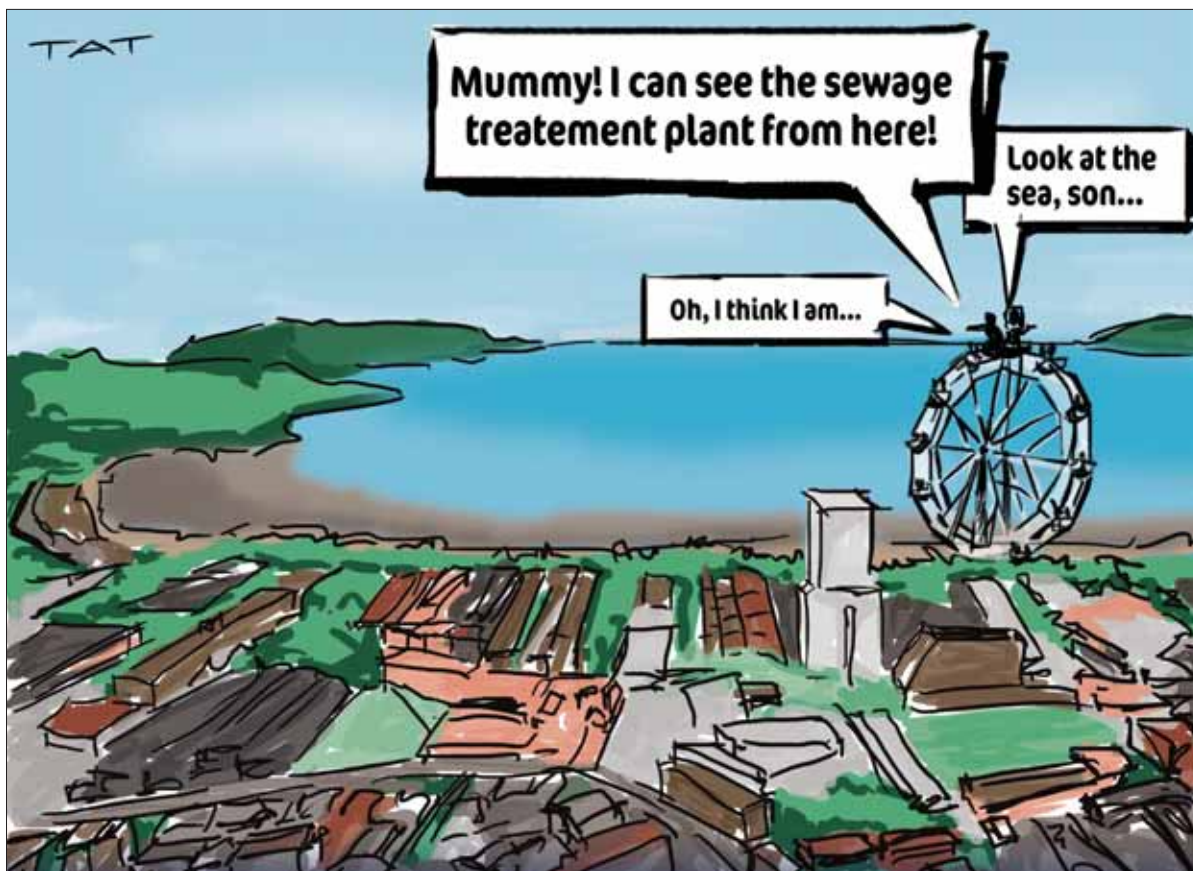
It is of course tempting to stray off topic and wonder why Monsieur Ferris has been thrown under the proverbial bus (wheel) in this instance, but time constraints force us to pursue the issue at hand: Giant Observation Wheel on the Patong beachfront: Good or bad? Right or wrong? Up or down?

At considerable risk of bucking the politically correct trend, we boldly state: Giant Observation Wheel in Patong: BRING IT ON!

Nevermind tsunamis, military coups, SARS, murdered tourists, AIDS, whatever... the pleasure train is simply moving too fast to jump off now, so it is incumbent upon one and all of us to double down and ride it to its logical conclusion – and hopefully it will not end with the erection of a huge Giant Observation Wheel in the tsunami evacuation route also known as Soi Bangla.

We could not be in more full agreement. Let's erect a Giant Observation Wheel thereupon, post haste.

Patong Municipality, remember: Once you opt for tunnel vision, don't be surprised if you're blind sided by reality.



## Landing in Phuket – warnings needed

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Changing for a Safer Phuket, December 2

In-flight warnings would be a really good idea and could include additional warnings about other hazards to tourists. They could point out the necessity of wearing helmets on motorbikes and avoiding jet-ski rentals and tuk-tuks, as well as even informing tourists of the new airport bus service to help it get established.

Peter G  
Gazette forum

### Those window bars trap you inside too

Re: Gazette online, Australian real estate agent, stepson killed in suspected arson attack, November 30  
How horrible, my condolences to Khun Nuruthai and wishes for her complete recovery.

I was in a house fire as a child, and I've often worried about having those bars on bedroom windows – so much so that I've replaced existing grates with a hinged section, keeping the key to the lock close at hand, and even practiced escaping.

I also have brought back smoke detectors on visits home, as they seem to be impossible to find here.

The Night Mare  
Gazette forum

### Can we hire some muscle to save our beach tourists?

Re: Gazette online, Sights set on a Safer Phuket, November 30

How many people have drowned off Phuket's coastline this year to date?

It seems like every other day there is a tragic loss of life!

Let's hope the intended actions happen quickly and have a positive effect.

## Letters

to the Editor

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

Often the lifeguards' advice is ignored, or maybe not understood.

The old-style Tourist Police, if allowed to patrol the shores, could, and given the opportunity would, have made a difference.

Bjay  
Gazette forum

### Keeping children out of school does not protect our future

Re: Gazette online, Anti-Yingluck protesters in Phuket pledge to not back down, November 29

Mr Amnuay expressed his satisfaction in seeing Phuket Wittayalai School bending to the demands of protesters. So disrupting children's education is seen as a step toward democracy, is it?

Who decided it was his choice to make?

This government was elected and should people not like it, they are welcome to vote at the next election – not to intimidate children.

Mister Ree  
Gazette forum

### Keep on keeping on saving the Philippines

I am disappointed that the initial blast of fundraisers for those suffering in the Philippines from super typhoon Haiyan have all trailed off. I don't know if it was just a flash in the pan exercise by the media or our island community, which needed and received ongoing international support after 2004.

I know the Patong Rotary Club has already sent some packages

and funds, but I've heard nothing about the progress of "iBless Philippines". What happened to all the money they raised?

Just as important, are these fundraisers ongoing? If so, continued media support of them, to ensure that ways to help the thousands upon thousands suffering right now remain in the public consciousness is of utmost importance.

Charities: Don't give up. Keep up the good work. Please ensure transparency.

Media: you have a responsibility, not only to highlight the underbelly of corruption in society, but to lead us down roads of change. Show us how to help those suffering in the Philippines.

Tony Kleinschmidt  
Chalong

### Go get 'em boys

Re: Gazette online, Phuket officials target taxi ranks, November 28

It is incredibly intimidating to have tuk-tuk drivers yell at you – always after you have locked your car and are walking away – to move your car as maybe they will need that parking space.

I have a friend that had his wheels chained by them. They demanded 2,000 baht to unlock it!

I wish every success to Khun Kaewkasi and Chiripat to control these bullies.

Chob  
Gazette forum

### Positive media focus

I know Phuket media isn't alone in chasing down the titillating, gory and evil side of society and labeling it news. I see what BBC and The Wall Street Journal fly high. I know that change won't come from a little island newspaper, but can we see a little more balance?

Tinay Swift  
Patong

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# Not too old to forget

## FIRST PERSON

MORE than 8 million tourists arrive on Phuket every year to enjoy the enormous variety of attractions on the island, such as the beautiful beaches, throbbing Soi Bangla nightlife, temples and the Sino-Portuguese architecture in Phuket Old Town.

However, according to a report last year, only one per cent of those tourists actually made it out to see the beautiful and rich culture of Phuket Old Town. That amounts to only about 80,000 tourists, and most of those probably spent less than an hour there.

We need help directing tourist-dollars into Old Town, because right now tourists only come and take a few photos before leaving – they put no money into the local economy.

I'm not sure why more people don't explore this interesting and beautiful part of the island. Maybe it's too hard to find parking places along the road, or the streets are too narrow to drive on.

While, those might be factors, I think the main issue is that tourists don't think there is anything to do in Old Town except have a quick photo shoot.

If Phuket continues to only be famous for its beaches and not for its culture, then our unique culture will disappear. Old Town will soon become "Abandoned Town" if we aren't careful.

Phuket's culture is so rich with its incredible blend of Chinese, Portuguese, Malay and Indonesian cultures. We have local delicacies, local lifestyles and a traditional fashion called Baba Yaya. However, all of this is still being overlooked by most tourists.

These business owners have the added pressure of living in the most expensive province.



Phuket native **Don Limnuntaphisit**, 49, is the project leader of Lardyai walking street and the head of the Phuket Old Town community. He graduated with a bachelor's degree from Prince of Songkhla University in the faculty of Science.

Here he talks about the need to revive Phuket Old Town and increase the popularity of the Lardyai street market with tourists.



Support by younger generations for Old Town is essential to its revival.

If we are unable to perk tourists' interests about Phuket culture and generate income in Old Town, then the businesses there will close their doors and collapse.

We need to focus on building the entire economy of the province, not just the beachfront areas.

To do this, we need Phuket students to stay on the island after they graduate. We need their help in finding creative ways to improve Old Town. As it is, the sons and daughters of local shop owners do not want to run the family businesses. After they graduate they want to work in Bangkok, or anywhere that they can make more money.

This leaves only the elderly to run local businesses, and without a new generation to improve and expand family businesses, these

institutes will be doomed.

Old Town is slowly becoming something like an ancient museum. However, not all the residents are giving up, which is why we are creating projects such as the Lardyai walking street to rejuvenate the area.

However, without support, such initiatives might not make enough of a difference. So please, support Old Town.

Phuket is well-known as the Pearl of the Andaman, but now it is time for tourists to look for alternatives to the beaches, and spend a night in Old Town to experience traditional Phuket.

Lardyai walking street is open every Sunday on Thalung Road in Phuket Old Town from 4pm to 10pm.

# Providing justice for aggrieved consumers

A FRIEND came to see me the other day. He had a problem. He had fully paid for a pool to be built at his rental house. The pool, measuring only 6m x 8m, took the contractor 11 months to build – and within a few months of completion, it was falling apart.

The concrete on the pool terrace is crumbling, the grout between the tiles is missing and lime is leeching into the pool.

Several emails to and from the company gained him nothing. He didn't want to engage lawyers, knowing that going to court would only delay what was needed, ramp up the cost due to lawyer's fees and pin his hopes on actually winning the case.

My friend didn't know what to do, and faces the prospect of having to pay out of his own pocket, yet again, to fix something he had already paid for.

This was a small tale of woe on the grand scale of life, but rang true as an all-too-common story in Phuket. In my 13 years on the island, one of the most frustrating experiences of being a foreigner is trying to get what was promised by a company, be it service, construction or any other commercial product.

Before I hear the howls of racism, most Thais I know are also very familiar with this problem. The only solid advice I have heard over the years is to go with a personal recommendation.

Then a light shone bright in the dark recesses of my brain: the Consumer Protection Board (OCPB).

Most expats that I have mentioned the OCPB to have been dumbstruck to learn that it exists. So have most Thais. And both have glowed on hearing of it. The mere existence of the office delivers a sense of normalcy, a sense of justice.



Struggling to keep your head above water when dealing with businesses? Photo: Ajari

## Island View

By Damian Evans

Do you have an opinion to voice? Email [Editor@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:Editor@PhuketGazette.net)

The OCPB's low profile likely stems from the Bangkok head office being established only in 2009, with provincial offices opening across the country within the following 18 months. Despite its late arrival, the formation of the OCPB spells a great leap forward for Thailand.

To be fair to officers at the OCPB, they are not a free legal service. But if the aggrieved can clearly show he has been duped, sold short or simply sold out the officers may be able to help. They aim for mediation first. But if that fails, they will call in their lawyers.

The OCPB, critical for the long-term sustainability of Phuket, is wanted, needed and can only help raise Phuket's profile as a place to live, work, visit or do business. Tell a friend.

*The Phuket office of the Consumer Protection Board is located at Phuket Provincial Hall, in Phuket Town. Tel: 076-211366 or 076-213203. Open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.*

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

# Foreigners following the yellow-book road to registration

How can I be issued a yellow book (house registration document, or *tabien baan*) to legally prove my address. It seems that someone asked my wife for 20,000 baht to ensure I would be issued this document. My wife paid, and it was issued right away.

Is there a place where I can legally be issued this book without some clandestine payment?

If so, where do I apply and what do I need to provide?

Lamb  
Phuket

**Udon Chockpaiboon, an officer at Patong Municipality, replies:**

The yellow house registration book is technically called a "TorRor13". To obtain one you have to apply to the District Office in the area where you live.

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)

Alternatively, some local municipalities – namely Karon Municipality, Patong Municipality, Kathu Municipality and Phuket City Municipality – are also permitted to issue house registration documents for foreigners living within their administrative areas.

If you rent the house where you live, the owner of the house must come with you to the office

when you file the application.

The owner must fill out the application on your behalf and we will question the owner about why you are living in the house.

As a renter, when applying you will need to bring the original plus a signed copy of:

- Identity card of the house owner
- The standard blue house registration document already issued for the house
- Your passport
- Work permit (if you have one)
- Confirmation of your address from Phuket Immigration

If you bought a house and have a Thai wife, your wife must come with you to the office when you apply.



You can land a big yellow TorRor13 for free! Photo: Gazette file

In this case, you will also need to bring the original plus a signed copy of:

- Your wife's identity card
- House purchasing document
- Marriage certificate
- Your passport
- Confirmation of your address from Phuket Immigration

There is no fee for being is-

sued the yellow book and the process takes about one working day to complete.

If you were asked for money under the table, you can report it to the police or contact us. If the person accepting illegal payment for issuing the book was an official, that official will be dismissed and handed over to the police station to be prosecuted.



**YOUR  
Phuket**

**PHUKET KING'S CUP REGATTA**

The Opening Ceremony was held at the Kata Beach Resort & Spa to launch another memorable week of world-class racing from December 1-6.



Good times at the post-race party at Katathani Phuket Beach Resort.



Phuket King's Cup Committee Vice Admiral Taratorn Kajitsuwan, Commander - Third Naval Area Command; and Phuket Governor Maitree Inthasut presided over the opening ceremony for the prestigious 27<sup>th</sup> Phuket King's Cup Regatta.

**BLUE PARTY**



(From left): Somjai Tungkoo, Group Executive Manager of the Twinpalms Group; Krisana Matzenberger, PGTV Advertising Manager; Christian Schwind, General Manager of Andaman Cruises; Kanjana Sriboonsom, Events Manager of Phuket Gazette; and Jiranthanin Bunma, Sales Executive of Sun Paradise.

**4TH ANNIVERSARY OF HARD  
ROCK CAFE PHUKET**

The Hard Rock Cafe in Patong hosted lunch for a number of underprivileged kids from the Phuket Child Watch organization



An Amari Phuket team, led by Ms Tipaporn Koonphol, Deputy General Manager, and the resort's management team, recently organized a beach-cleaning activity at Patong Beach as part of a Corporate Social Responsibility project aimed at encouraging staff members to volunteer in the community and increase awareness of environmental issues.

**AMARI PHUKET TEAM UP FOR  
PATONG BEACH CLEANING**





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## PROPERTY of the week



See page 22

## JOB of the week



See page 27

## PROPERTY SERVICE of the week



See page 25

## BOAT of the week



See page 31

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-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht.  
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E-mail: [info@baanyamu.com](mailto:info@baanyamu.com)  
Tel: 076-310507

## LAND FOR SALE LAYAN

11 rai, beautiful flat land, Chanote. Near beach. 3.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-927 4027 (English), 089-813 1447 (Thai). Email: atrennie@yahoo.com

## LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

Great location, road access, 5 minutes to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm with title deed. Contact Lychee. Tel: 081-891 3048 (English & German).

## LAND FOR SALE



Khok Kloy. 8.5 rai land, Chanote title. 2km from Sarasin Bridge. 1km from Beach. Road access and power supply. Recently measured by government. Only 850,000 baht per rai. Please contact Paew: 089-972 5378 (English&Thai), Tin: 089-288 4537 (English&Thai).

## 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.

## HOUSE &amp; FURNITURE

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

## 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. Please call 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

## BEACH FRONT LAND

Land and house at Naka Island. 150sqm. Price: 1 x,xxx baht per sqm. Tel: 081-691 2446 (English). Email: wut@tarntarasp.com

## CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2 floors, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, 2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable, 24hr security with key card etc. Please call for more details. Tel: 086-476 9612. Email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

## HABITOWN, KOH KAEW

115sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, includes built-in furniture, 2 floors. Resale down 130,000 baht. Tel: 089-772 7012. Email: gyb\_giff@yahoo.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

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

## 30 RAI IN TOWN

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

## HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



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

## HABITIA KOH KAEW



Modern style, Sino-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.

## 3-BEDROOM VILLA IN KATHU

2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, ceiling fans, fully furnished, fitted kitchen, water filter and many extras, gardens front and rear outside bar, patio and carport. 6 million baht. Tel: 082-179 2103 (Thai). Email: sylviecox54@yahoo.com

## CHERNG TALAY LAND PLOTS

3,750 baht per square meter. Tel: 086-950 2707, +32-49-329 7948 (English & Thai). Email: datacenter50@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at [www.zoutdesk.nl/](http://www.zoutdesk.nl/)

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Tel: + 66 76 273 385  
[www.lambertbrothers.co.th](http://www.lambertbrothers.co.th)

## LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

1 ngan, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5. Price: 2 million baht. For more information, please call 089-472 9118.

## BEACHFRONT LAND

10 rai of land in Ao Yon. Fantastic sea views. 6 meters from beach. 40 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-895 0475 (English & Thai).

## THE SANDS, NAI HARN

2-bed unit, ground floor. 150 sqm. A bargain at 6.6 million baht. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

## 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.

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Pa Khlok house valued at 4.2 million baht by Siam Commercial Bank, reduced to 3.5 million baht, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 112sq wah. Please call 085-248 3462 for photo and details.

This very beautiful modern villa has it all – sparkling saltwater pool, 3 huge bedrooms, 4 baths, maid quarters. Fully furnished, secure estate close to the beach. G4S alarm system. Relax and enjoy all the hard work that has been done. A must see. Tel: 081-719 4688, 085-237 1366 (English). Email: [elbei@hotmail.com](mailto:elbei@hotmail.com)

Leasehold hotel room, 2 pools, jacuzzi, 29sqm, no kitchen, 16.5 years left. Tel: 084-716 0502.

1 rai + 81sq wah, 192sqm,  
Rawai, Soi Salika. Ready to  
build. Tel: 089-645 5049.

A residential "Land Block" measuring thirteen hundred and sixty square meters (1360sqm) approx. This land is sloping and has a wide frontage (30m). It represents excellent value for money 6.5 million baht. Nor Sor 3 Gor title. Tel: 081-719 6088. Email: [info@gardenislandphuket.com](mailto:info@gardenislandphuket.com)

Near Central, quiet place, common pool, 24hr security, fully furnished, modern. Ready to move in. Tel: 087-897 0501 (English). Email: [aleksa@thai-evagroup.com](mailto:aleksa@thai-evagroup.com)

Location: Amphor Phanom,  
Suratthani, near Khao Sok  
National Park.

- Land: 120 rai + rubber plantation, 8 years old. 6 million baht.



- House: 1-rai area, furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 aircons. 1.9million baht. Tel: 081-667 1637, 082-539 6433.



50sq wah, 3 storey, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, balcony. Convenient for restaurants with too many car parking. Sale by owner. Price 13 million baht. Tel: 087-2709093.



In Kathu for sale or rent. Near Phuket Country Club Golf Course. 36sqm furnished, aircon. 1 bedroom. Sale: 1.75 million baht. Rent: 13,000 baht per month with 1-year contract. Common area included. Tel: 089-472 9118.

Beautiful island. 1.1 million  
baht. Chanote. 5 minutes to the  
pier. Tel: 081-892 8208.

Seaview land at Yamu Hills with 180° panoramic seaview, 2 rai, 2 Chanotes, 5.5 million baht/rai. Tel: 084-625 5090. Email: [phuket.turquoise@gmail.com](mailto:phuket.turquoise@gmail.com)

Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 3  
bathrooms, 47sq wah. Tel:  
089-909 2771.



Private home in Kaitiu on 650sqm. 2 storeys, 3 ensuite bedrooms, 1 office, 4 bathrooms. Spacious living/dining area with access to a large pool and Jacuzzi. The kitchen is fully fitted, the house is 85% furnished. 5-10 mins to shopping centers, Phuket Town, 4 golf courses, 15 mins to Patong. Security 24hrs. View online [www.youtube.com: type in \"pool house in Phuket\"](http://www.youtube.com: type in \). Viewing by appointment only. CALL 084-293 7923 (Thai/Eng), 081-854 0061 (Eng). Email: [mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com](mailto:mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com)

650sqm. 4 bedrooms, pool,  
near BIS. Price: 38 million baht.  
Email: ijin\_kov@yahoo.com

Beautiful (1,048sqm) seaview building land on Andaman hills, overlooking Patong Beach. Concrete road. Electricity and water. Only 8 million baht. Contact Mr Crane. Tel: +44-788-548 8091 (English). Email: craneprop@hotmail.co.uk



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

Close to Phuket International Airport. 4 rai, Chanote title. 3.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-868 7676. Email: phuketann@gmail.com

Detached house, 2 bedrooms, large walled garden. Close to the sea. No title. Contact me for details and more photos. Tel: 089-817 4864, 082-270 9733. Email: [pwhittall@aol.com](mailto:pwhittall@aol.com)



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



This villa sits on 1.8 rai in Kathu, comprising 1 main villa, 1 detached apartment, 1 leisure building, fitted kitchen, 5 ensuite bedrooms, 9 bathrooms. Separate office/maids quarters. A large swimming pool and much more. 5-10 mins to shopping centers, Phuket Town, 4 golf courses, 15 mins to Patong. Secured by CCTV alarm system and electronically controlled gates. This villa has to be viewed to be appreciated. View online [www.youtube.com/type/in?big\\_house\\_in\\_P Phuket](http://www.youtube.com/type/in?big_house_in_P Phuket). Viewing by appointment only. **CALL 084-293 7923 (Thai/Eng), 081-854 0061 (Eng).** Email: [mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com](mailto:mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com)



87 sqm. beautiful condo with 2 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, fully furnished complete with kitchen utensils, microwave, coffee machine, toaster etc., bed sheets, towels for 4 people, internet, TV etc. available from Nov 2013; 50K baht for 1 month, 35K baht/month for 6 months and 28K baht/month for 1 year contract.

CALL: 081-891 5607 or 081-432 6587

Fully furnished with all furniture, aircon, ready to sale and rent on short / long term. Please call 081-797 7199, 086-683 0786.

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms - 1km to Nai Harn Beach. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 081-081 9875 (English & Thai). Email: soundofmusic999@yahoo.co.uk For further details, please see our drop box at [www.dropbox.com/sh/ixn53ju67und4le/uEaXCFm15](http://www.dropbox.com/sh/ixn53ju67und4le/uEaXCFm15)



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

In Phanason near Kathu waterfall: House on a land plot of 580sqm and nice view. The property consists of 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Comes fully furnished. Western style open kitchen. Outside there is a private swimming pool with Sala, an outdoor jacuzzi and sauna, CCTV, alarm system. Price: 13.5 million baht. Tel: 076-322190, 081-892 0121 (English & Thai). Email: jerry40@loxinfo.co.th

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Then hand it to any of our agents.

[illegible]

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## Properties For Rent

## APARTMENTS &amp; VILLAS FOR RENT



Great value accommodation, available for short and long term. Daily from 900 baht or 14,000 baht per month. Contact us with your enquiry at:

info@resavaholidays.com  
www.RESAVAHOLIDAYS.com

## CONDO IN KATHU FOR RENT



Short or long-term rent, fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness center, quiet and secure. 12,000 baht per month. Please call. Tel: 093-742 6801. Email: thaiddoodee1@gmail.com

## 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 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.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). Pls contact 086-4769612. Email: annan01@hotmail.com

## KATA BEACH APARTMENT

For rent. Nice apartment, jacuzzi, WiFi, kitchens, aircon/fan, cable TV. 6,000-12,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-595 8512. Email: kataari@yahoo.com

## RENT APARTMENT PATONG CONDO

Pool, security, 46sqm studio, furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

## STYLIST HOUSE FOR RENT



Fully furnished 3-bedroom house for long-term rent in a gated community. Internal 230sqm & covered external 60sqm. Must see. Tel: 076-219892, 089-472 5834 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-219893. Email: charupan@yahoo.com

## LUXURY VILLAS FOR RENT - KAMALA

2 villas in modern style. one of 3 bedrooms and one of 2 bedrooms, private swimming pool, big garden, jacuzzi. Contact Francesco. Tel: 085-790 7816. Email: francesco.bonta@gmail.com www.villacheloni.com

## CONDO AT RATCHAPORN PLACE



In Kathu for rent or sale. Near Phuket Country Club Golf Course. 36sqm, furnished, aircon. 1 bedroom. Rent: 13,000 baht per month with 1-year contract and common area included. Sale: 1.75 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

## B.L. APARTMENT

At Kathu, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, swimming pool, garden and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

## RENT APARTMENT PATONG CONDO

Pool, gym, cable TV, security, WiFi, maid, 54sqm studio, furnished. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: phkreal estate@aol.com



Rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta

## 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 ensuite 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

## 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

## KATHU CONDO SHORT TERM

Kathu, 1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms. Heritage Suites. 1 month: 25,000 baht + deposit. Tel: 081-828 0972. Email: sbolls@hotmail.com

## 2-BED APARTMENT PATONG

140sqm furnished with 10sqm balcony, spacious sunken living / dining, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full build-in Western kitchen, storeroom, European standard, quiet, full aircon, fast WiFi free, LCD, Satellite etc. Long term: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-185 8536.

## FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

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

## CLOSE TO KAJONKIAT SCHOOL

Villa Suan Luang. Detached house, 3 bedrooms, some furniture. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-134 5817. Email: gung@nattayarealestate.com

## 4 BEDROOMS WITH POOL

Near Laguna Phuket, large garden and pool-terrace, open style Western kitchen, fully furnished, 5 bathrooms. Available from February 2014. Tel: 089-875 9609 (English), 087-461 9234 (Thai). Email: claudebaltes@gmail.com

## SEA VIEW POOL VILLA

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, stunning property offers amazing ocean views! Large pool, private garden, Cape Yamu, only 15 minutes to BIS/PIA schools. Long term only. 85,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 6283.

## BANGKOK SHORT TERM APT RENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 130sqm apt on Suk Soi 7. 3 months @30,000 baht + deposit. BTS. Tel: 081-828 0972. Email: sbolls@hotmail.com

## RAWAI BEACH

Studio, kitchen, balcony. Weekly: 4,000 baht. Monthly: 8,500 baht. Tel: 086-057 7714.

## LUXURY POOL VILLA - RAWAI

3/4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 3-storey, fully furnished luxury pool villa in Rawai/Nai Harn. Available on January for long-term rental: 52,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-267 1282 (English). Email: david\_rosa\_mond@yahoo.com

## KATA SEAVIEW APARTMENT



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 120sqm inside, 50sqm terrace, western bathroom and kitchen, fully furnished, parking, quiet location. Minimum 4-month lease: 35,000 baht per month. 1-year lease: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-840 1262. Email: gordy240@hotmail.com

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**Khun Anna: 076-388144, 086-4780201, 088-1685032**

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



# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

## WEB GRAPHIC / CSS DESIGNER 1 POSITION

- ▶ Thai Nationality
- ▶ Minimum one year experience in web design
- ▶ Working knowledge of standard graphics tools, e.g. Photoshop, Illustrator
- ▶ Excellence in web design, CSS, web layout, HTML, template design and JavaScript
- ▶ Experience in creating pages for portable devices (iPhone, Windows Phone, BlackBerry, etc) would be a plus
- ▶ Excellence in web/mobile user experiences
- ▶ Knowledge of HTML5 would be a plus
- ▶ Knowledge of responsive web design a plus
- ▶ Knowledge of JQuery a plus
- ▶ Knowledge of SEO a plus
- ▶ Good communication skills including ability to convey creative concepts and rationale to other team members
- ▶ Able to work efficiently under pressure with careful attention to detail

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Big (IT Manager), by email, fax or post to:

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555, ext 705 Fax: 076-615240

Email: Big@phuketgazette.net

### ASS'T BRANCH MANAGER 18 K

Assistant Branch Manager required. Salary: 18,000 baht + excellent commissions and benefits. Tel: 085-797 0005 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-264461. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

### THAI COOK WANTED

In Kata Beach sports bar & restaurant. Good working conditions. Salary + tips. Tel: 080-038 2462 (English), 091-159 0122 (English). Email: gary.mathe son@internode.on.net

### THAI TEACHER NEEDED

Qualified Thai teacher wanted for small kindergarten. Email: millingtonjackie@hotmail.com

### RECEPTIONIST WANTED

Resort looking for receptionist. Smart, good spoken English 15,000 baht per month + commissions on sales. Tel: 076-398422, 080-698 8335 (English & Thai), 081-797 8650 (English & Thai). Email: info.resort@manohra.net

### OFFICE ASSISTANT

Thai, female, 25-40 years old, motivated, English & computer skills. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: phkrealestate@aol.com

### CALL CENTER

Newly established. Call Center (outbound) in Chiang Mai looking for Dutch, French, German speaking Agents WP+Visa provided after trial period for relocations. Room provided in first month. Interested applicant, please apply with CV at jobs@cmmid-intl.com

# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

## REPORTER

- ▶ Thai national (able to read, write, speak fluent Thai)
- ▶ Ability to communicate clearly in English
- ▶ Clear thinking in order to identify what makes a good news story
- ▶ Initiative and enthusiasm to track down a story
- ▶ Photography skills
- ▶ Able to manage own time effectively
- ▶ Knowledge of Burmese an advantage
- ▶ Driver's license

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to Um@PhuketGazette.net

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555 Ext.402 Fax: 076-615240

### CUSTOMER RELATIONS REP

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

### YACHT STEWARDESS

Thai national, 2 females, good English, salary+tips. Tel: 087-384 2743.T Email: info@yacht-charter-thailand.com

### TWO CHEFS HIRING

Two Chefs are hiring in Kamala, Kata and Karon. We are hiring Sous Chefs, line chefs, supervisors, bartenders, service. We want both full time and part time. Good salary. Tel: 089-727 5753. Email: jan@twochefs.com For further details, please see our website at www.twochefs.com

### ENGLISH TEACHER URGENTLY NEEDED

At The Genius Language School in Patong. Tel: 076-296029, 089-203 9270 (English). Email: aood16@hotmail.com

### 3 WAITRESSES FOR RESTAURANT

Three English-speaking waitresses wanted for restaurant. Thai Nationals Only. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

### ALMALI RESIDENCE

Needs Supervisor Maid, English speaking required. Good salary. Tel: 091-654 6249. Email: secretary@almaliresidence.com

### HOTEL RECEPTIONIST

Thai for Hotel at Nanai Road, must speak English and use computer, good wages and commissions, paid for holidays. Please call for details. Tel: 088-444 7801.

### MARKETING ASSISTANT WANTED

English speaking Marketing Assistant with good computer and internet knowledge wanted. Tel: 086-690 0444. Please send CV to rico@Princessyachtsthailand.com

### WEBMASTER/ GRAPHIC/IT WORKER

Knowledge in photo and video and good English skills required. Thai national only. Tel: 086-690 0444. Please contact rico@princessyachtsthailand.com

### GERMAN TEACHER URGENTLY

German teacher at The Genius Language School, Patong, Phuket. 089-203 9270 (English & Thai), 089-185 5318 (English & Thai). Email: aood16@hotmail.com

### CHEF WANTED

Thai national only: Cook wanted to work in restaurant. Email or call now. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.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)

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## 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: 076-613173

### KARON

- ▶ EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!



# 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](mailto: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

# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

## SUB-EDITOR

- ▶ Fluent in English
- ▶ Able to work to strict deadlines
- ▶ A team player
- ▶ Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- ▶ Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially in PageMaker or InDesign, required.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to [editor@phuketgazette.net](mailto:editor@phuketgazette.net)

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We are currently seeking passionate and experienced candidate to join our property sales team to sell Laguna Property, and Banyan Tree Residences.

THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION;

- At least 2 years real estate sales experience in selling luxury branded residential properties with an international sales team is an advantage
- Excellent command of both written and spoken English
- Proficiency in MS Office

Send your CV to [career@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:career@lagunaphuket.com)

Call for more information: 076-362300 ext. 1510  
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Please be informed that only short-listed candidates will be notified

## KARON CLIFF

Hostess, maid, engineer, waiter, and kitchen staff wanted. Tel: 087-265 6089.

## NURSES TO FINNS

Every year, many elderly Finnish people are coming to Thailand. Some of them need help with their daily activities. If you are interested to work with them, please send your application and CV in English + photo ASAP to [virpi.perala@suomi.kotiphuket.fi](mailto:virpi.perala@suomi.kotiphuket.fi) Spoken English skills are required

## CALL CENTER NEEDS SWISS-GERMAN

We, Intercallservice Company, are seeking a Swiss-German speaking person for our call center in Phuket to support our customers in Switzerland. Good knowledge of French would be an advantage. We offer a 5-day week with Visa and work permit. Tel: 089-873 9123. For further information please contact Mr. Klaus. Email: [info@intercallservice.com](mailto:info@intercallservice.com)

## COOK NEEDED IN KATA

Farang food, 15,000 baht+ bonus, work from 12 to 10pm. Tel: 081-370 5855 (English). Send CV to [jad.nahle@hotmail.com](mailto:jad.nahle@hotmail.com)

## DANISH STAFF WANTED

Danish speaking, 20-30 years old, Send your CV and photo to [naturejob13@gmail.com](mailto:naturejob13@gmail.com)

## GUEST RELATIONS

English, Korean or Russian speaker+service mind. Salary 12,000-20,000. Dormitory ava. Tel: 085-184 9659 (English), 085-184 9682 (English). Email: [tiffany.12321@hotmail.com](mailto:tiffany.12321@hotmail.com)

## MESSAGE THERAPIST ABROAD

Zueri Home massage in Switzerland is looking for 2 massage therapists (female) to work in Switzerland's biggest city. We bring a 5-star spa to guests home. Are you interested? I am in Phuket doing interviews until November 5. Tel: 093-620 2260. Please contact George by phone or send email to [info@zuerihomemassage.ch](mailto:info@zuerihomemassage.ch)

## PROPERTY STAFF WANTED

We are looking for staff to work with us in the progressing and increasing branches at Rawai.

1. Secretary+Reception: Thai female.
2. Sale/Rental Manager: Thai or foreign national, male or female.

Both positions require: good personality and outgoing communication skills, enthusiastic, fluent in written and spoken English, good basic computer skills in Microsoft Office, own car is an advantage for Sale/Rental Manager position. Good salary and commission!! Please send resume and recently photo to: [info@harvest-property.com](mailto:info@harvest-property.com)



**NIKKI BEACH**  
Phuket

The world-famous global luxury lifestyle brand Nikki Beach is looking for hard-working people with outgoing personalities to join the Nikki Beach Phuket team. As a brand most known for its five-star service, upscale and pristine venues, gourmet cuisine, exceptional cocktails, elaborate event productions, innovative marketing tactics, and celebrity clientele, chosen applicants are sure to be exposed to a high energy, fast-paced, world-class experience. The following positions are available:

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| • Hostesses                | • Maintenance team/Technician  |
| • Bartenders               | • Barbanks   |
| • Servers                  | • Cashiers   |
| • Busboys                  | • Food runners   |
| • Beach boys/beach servers | • Bathroom attendants  |
| • Cleaners                 | • Sous chef  |
| • Line cooks               | • Prep cooks   |
| • Pastry chef              | • Baker  |
| • Dishwashers              | • Entertainers: Dancers, DJs, musicians, acrobats, circus acts, etc. |

Casting calls for the above positions will take place on 13 - 15 December at **Nikki Beach (Thailand) Ltd.** in Phuket Boat Lagoon, No 20/73 Soi 8/1 Marine Plaza. Walk-in interviews run from 9am-5pm.

For more information, please call 080-6978299

e-mail: [phuket@nikkibeachthailand.com](mailto:phuket@nikkibeachthailand.com)

## About Nikki Beach

Nikki Beach will expand its presence in Thailand with the upcoming opening of Nikki Beach Phuket. The signature world-renowned bar and restaurant will be located along the breathtaking shores of Layan Beach and will be the luxury lifestyle & hospitality brand's second location in Thailand. Since its conception in 1998, Nikki Beach has successfully established the brand as a powerhouse for those seeking opulence and excellent service in a relaxed, chic atmosphere around the globe in countries such as the United States of America, France, Spain, French West Indies, Morocco and Mexico. It was in 2009 when Nikki Beach expanded its concept to Thailand with the opening of a Nikki Beach on the luxury island of Koh Samui. In 2010, the brand expanded its Koh Samui location with the opening of Nikki Beach Resort Koh Samui, the brand's first resort in the world, located adjacent to the beach club.

## CYCLING GUIDE WANTED

Looking for freelance cycling guide. Tel: 084-185 9448 (English). Email: [info@andamannaturetours.com](mailto:info@andamannaturetours.com)

## OFFICE MANAGER

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

## OPERATIONS MANAGER

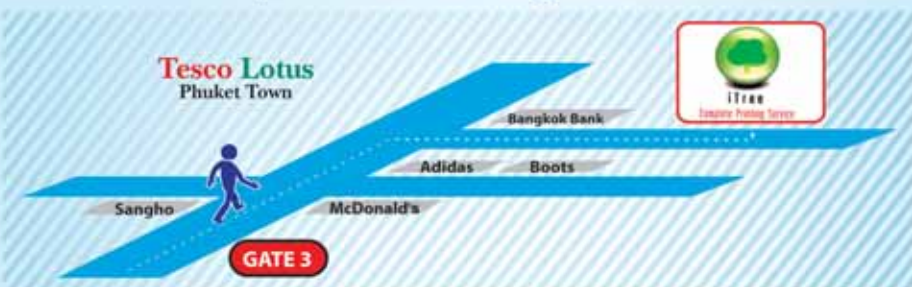
Western English speaker, able to understand Thai, maintenance experience. Flexible hours, own car and must have license. Send CV to: [phuket.villasrental@hotmail.com](mailto:phuket.villasrental@hotmail.com)

## STAFF WANTED - TIGER MUAY THAI

Receptionist: Looking for a service minded customers service representative, excellent written + spoken English is a must, salary Starts 18,000+ baht depending on experience, you will be required to interact with individuals from all over the world, Must be able to work in a busy environment. Office admin: Excellent written English is required, must be proficient in Excel, and have experience in accounting, salary is 18,000+ baht depending on experience. Please send your resume to [nina@tigermuaythai.com](mailto:nina@tigermuaythai.com)

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## Bulletins

## Business Opportunities

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084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

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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. Please call 087-417 8860, 087-277 6948.

### HOTEL FOR RENT

Patong beachfront hotel for rent, 12 guestrooms, close to Holiday Inn. Nice location. Express contact. Tel: 076-340 559.

### HOTEL + LAND FOR SALE

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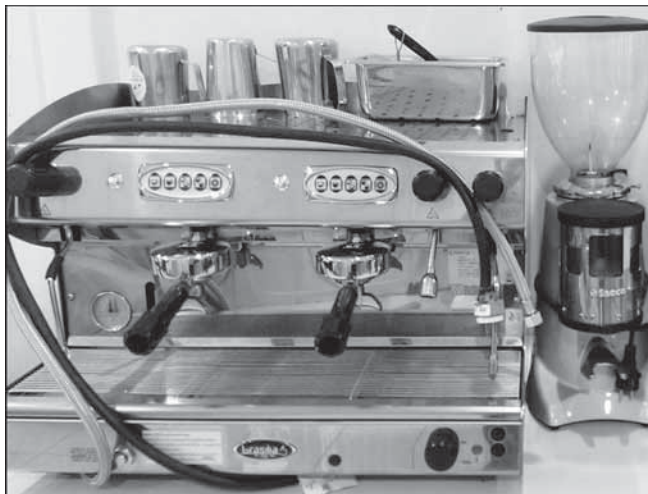
## Bar & Restaurant Equipment

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### PIZZA REFRIGERATOR

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081-5375970 : pui@widediscovery.com

### POPULAR RESTAURANT FOR SALE

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### SHOP ON PHI PHI FOR SALE

One-unit shop with three floors and roof-top terrace. 8 years remaining on lease. Great location on T junction in the center of town. Please call 081-719 3375 (English) or email for details at phil price@hotmail.co.uk

### GUESTHOUSE RESORT

Sale or long-term rent. Also 3-bedroom villa, 2 bathrooms, pool, quiet Soi, 18,000 baht per month. Must be seen too much to list. Tel: 081-808 1804. Email: ttpitstop1@hotmail.com

### MASSAGE SHOP FOR SALE

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### RESTAURANT FOR RENT



Fully furnished restaurant for rent. Professionally equipped kitchen. 30-35 seats. Tel: 076-290402, 089-593 0307. Fax: 076-290401. Email: info@siampalmresidence.com

### BAR FOR SALE PATONG

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### RESTAURANT CHERNG TALAY

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### PIZZERIA FOR SALE



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### INCREDIBLE PROJECT INVESTMENT

Luxury project for sale. 50% process done. Only 5 million baht. Tel: 080-891 1611. Email: aopoproject@gmail.com

### BAR & GRILL NAI YANG

Bar & Grill, Nai Yang Beach. 160sqm with seating for 40. Only 70m from beach. Everything included. 900,000 baht. Offers considered. Tel: 084-852 4257 (English). Email: bobcoppage@yahoo.com

### RESTAURANT FOR SALE IN CHALONG

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### FREE BIRD BAR IN NAI HARN FOR SALE

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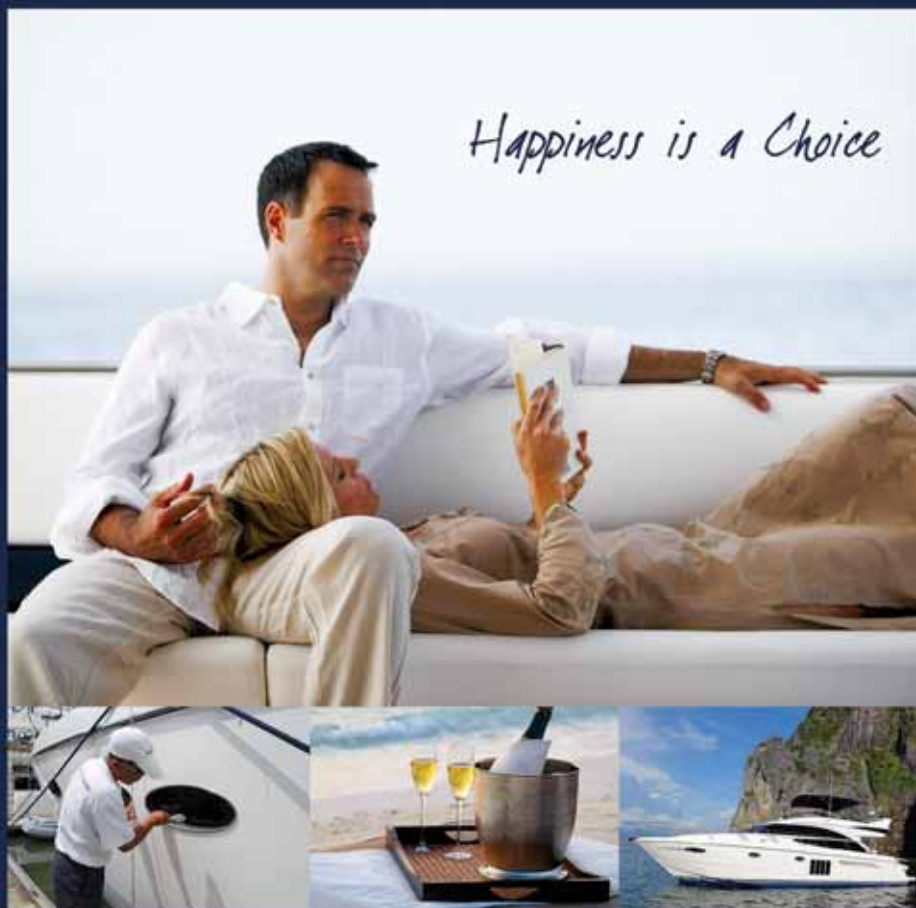
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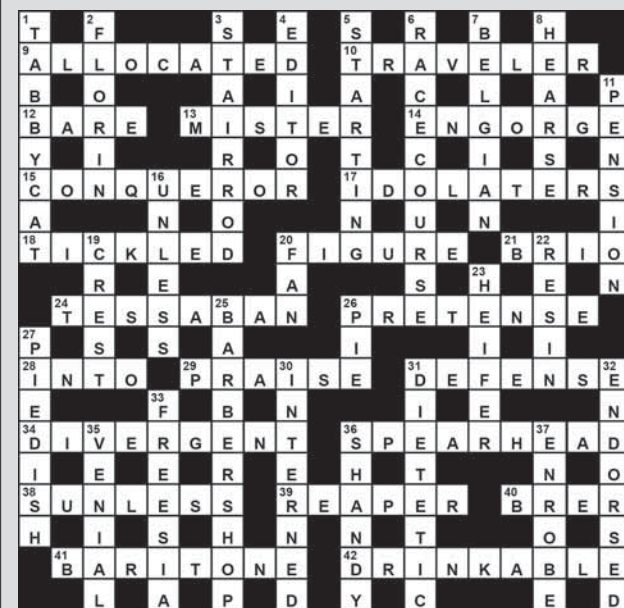
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Mr Satchapol Thongsom (2<sup>nd</sup> right) and Mrs Kanita Thongsom (far right), Managing Directors of OZONE Condotel Kata Beach, received greeting flowers from valued customers

## GRAND OPENING OF OZONE CONDOTEL KATA BEACH



Phuket Governor Maitree Inthasut received a 300,000 baht donation from The Happy Place management team – Adisak Bhaoprathum (2<sup>nd</sup> from right); Worawuth Hongtong (3<sup>rd</sup> right) and Tossaporn Wongsisang (2<sup>nd</sup> left). The money has been designated to organize not-for-profit activities to develop Phuket and the local government.

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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### Dec 7, Beach Volleyball Fun Day with BISP, 1-6pm

The event is open to children aged 11+ and adults, and no experience is necessary! Sign-up is from 1-2pm, with the tournament taking place from 2:30-5:30pm. Those participating can sign up as an individual or as a team of six (mixed teams of students and adults). Children under 11 can join 'Football Fun Activities' on the day, and do not need to pre-register. The event will also feature a special BBQ buffet – priced at just 590 baht ++ per person (with children eating at half price). Contact Annabel Fox on +66-76-32410 or info@xanabeachclub.com or check xanabeachclub.com

### Dec 12-18, 10am-9:30pm, The 17<sup>th</sup> Andaman Motor Show

Do not miss the 17<sup>th</sup> Andaman Motor Show, which is the best motor fair in Phuket. The event dates are December 12-18, at Central Festival Phuket. There will be a variety of cars, car accessories, and finance options, with special deals on offer for visitors to this show. Not only will you be with a superstar, beautiful cars and pretty girls, but you'll be able to join the Andaman Photo Contest 2013 free of charge, with prizes worth up to 30,000 baht. Presented by Chor Creative Organizers.

### Dec 12, Phuket International Women's Club Christmas Lunch, 12:00-2:30 pm

The ever popular Christmas lunch is once again at Twin Palms. This event fills up quickly, so prior booking is essential. Members: 1,000 baht; guests: 1,200 baht. For booking call +66-76-316711 or email info@phuketiwclub.com or visit phuketiwclub.com. The Phuket Gazette and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, broadcast locally on PC, RC and

## Asia Superyacht Rendezvous Dec 16-18 Kata Rocks



KDTV cable networks, nationally on TrueVision 85 and 59, GMMZ and PSI, and internationally to over 100 countries around the region, are proud long term sponsors of The Phuket International Women's Club.

### Dec 16-18, 6-11:30pm, 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 'Phuket Today' show, broadcast locally on PC, RC and KDTV cable networks, nationally on TrueVision 85 and 59, GMMZ and PSI, and internationally to over 100 countries.

### Dec 24, Traditional Christmas Eve Buffet – Locavore Style, 6 - 9:30pm

Enjoy our Christmas dinner buffet featuring slow-roasted grain fed Australian sirloin, Christmas turkey with gravy and cranberry sauce, roasted leg of lamb, Norwegian salmon, rock lobster and a selection of Christmas desserts. At Locavore Restaurant, Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort.

Adults: THB 1,950++ per person. Children: THB 950++ per child aged 4-12. For reservations, please call Food and Beverage at 076-360600, ext 2470, or email: fbs.phuketbeach@outrigger.co.th. Prices are subject to a 10% service charge and 7% government tax.

### Dec 24, Christmas at Two Chefs 6 - 11:30pm

Large traditional Scandinavian Christmas buffet at Two Chefs Bar & Grill at our Kamala and Kata Beach restaurants, at 6pm and 9pm. We will be serving: Christmas ham, pickled herring, roast beef, smoked salmon, ribs, meatballs, Janssons frestelse, ris ala malta, saffron rolls and much more for only: 1,450 baht. For more info, please visit our website, email or call us. Warm welcome!

### Dec 31, New Years Eve

This is a public holiday in Thailand.

### Dec 31, New Year's Eve Gala Dinner, 8pm-12am

Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort invite you to experience a very special evening to celebrate the last day of the year with the wonderful sound

of our live band and DJ. A gala buffet featuring fresh seafood on ice, live cooking stations and an array of Thai and international favorites will culminate in a spectacular fireworks show as the new year begins. Adults: THB 7,000++ per person. Children: THB 3,500++ per child aged 4-12. Space is limited. For reservations, please call 076-360600, ext 2470. Prices are subject to 10% service charge and 7% government tax.

### Jan 1, New Year's Day

This is a public holiday in Thailand.

### Jan 16, Phuket International Women's Club January Lunch 11:30am - 2pm

The first lunch of the year will be held at the Dusit Laguna Hotel. All are welcome but prior booking is essential. Members: 500 baht; guests: 650 baht. For booking contact info@phuketiwclub.com. The Phuket Gazette and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 89 and 58), are proud long term sponsors of The Phuket International Women's Club.

### Feb 14, Makha Bucha Day

Makha Bucha Day, which falls on the full moon of the third lunar month, commemorates the Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who had arrived unannounced from afar only seven months after the Buddha began his teachings. It is also the date the Buddha delivered his Fundamental Teachings – just months before his death.

### Chakri Memorial Day, Apr 6,

Celebrated each year, Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital.

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## KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER CLINIC

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You're not alone. Computer stuff is changing so fast, it's very hard to keep up - and some of the new stuff is so insanely great, it makes living overseas much, much easier. If you know the tricks. Join "Khun Woody" Leonhard's US-based friend, Live Wire (who's a geek emeritus and well-known computer author), in this final series of FREE Computer Clinics, now through the end of January. Bring your questions, bring your problems, bring your hatchets, don't forget your sense of humor, and we'll see what kind of headway we can make. No experience necessary – "beginner" questions are the best ones of all, because they usually have definitive answers.

The clinics run from 10am to noon on Sunday mornings, at the new Baketastic. It's in Kathu, just east of the gas station, opposite the new Krung Thai Bank. Parking around back. Seating's limited, so get there early for a chair.

**Phuket today**  
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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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<b>True Freeview Channel 59</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>Rawai Cable</b> Covers Rawai, Chalong, Kata, Karon. <b>Channel 1 - 28 shows a week</b> Monday - Sunday: 10:00am, 1:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm.
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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.



# Put 'em on the wall

## Phuket photographer revels in retro-pinup revival

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

"YOU don't know what you want! Luigi know what you want!" The Italian photographer holding his camera out to the side, his other hand gesturing – thumb pressed against the tips of his fingers as if he's plucking something out of the air and shaking it – is not Luigi. It's Adriano Trapani of Phuket Paparazzi. Standing in front of him against his kitchen wall, speed lights setup around her, is Texan model Lindsay Mayfield, who volunteered to step away from her traditional glamour and high-fashion work to do a shoot for Adriano's most recent project: Darren Wotz-inspired retro pinups.

American style pinups, such as *Esquire's* Vargas girls, were racing across the Pacific in mass by WWII. But in the west, pinups have a history dating back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when burlesque performers and actresses would promote themselves with photo advertisements. With these images, the performers constructed their identities, often challenging conventions about the place and potential of women in the public sphere. Adriano is now adding to that history as he works with professional models, Phuket school teachers and anyone else with the right spark.

To keep with the tradition of challenging social norms, each photo in Adriano's collection has a sassy or borderline insane Darren Wotz-inspired quote scrawled across it: "If you want breakfast in bed, sleep in the kitchen!" says one; "I don't need

to control my anger. Everyone around me needs to control their habit of pissing me off," says another.

"It started as kind of an experiment and now it is starting to get into my blood, and it's getting better and better every time," Adriano says.

Electric swing is blasting from the living room and Lindsay, dressed in a 1960s red-and-white dress, is standing in front of the camera, the bowl of a glass of red wine gently cradled in her palm. Adriano calls out to her, she holds a smile as – snap, snap, snap – bursts the camera accompanied by speed lights.

"I'm glamour beauty," Lindsay admits. "This is my first smiling shot in my portfolio – it feels odd."

The professional makeup artists, Katherine Gabriela, Lindsay and Adriano crowd around the camera and flip through the photos.

"Bella!" says Katherine.

"The secret is to let the model participate. By letting them choose the quote, they can kind of start feeling it. I try to do the shoot in a friendly environment. Despite having a studio, I've done most of them here in the kitchen," Adriano says.

"Every time I do a photo shoot like this kind of thing, where everyone puts in their own ideas and creativity, it's almost like a play in the theater. Out of almost nothing you recreate something. It's almost magical," he says, hands carving up the air around him.

The "set" is a cozy western kitchen with an oven and a spice rack complete with oregano and



Adriano Trapani's images deliver sassy retro-style quotes inspired by Darren Wotz. Images: Adriano Trapani

red chilis hanging over the stove. "Its prerogative is to be sexy, but not too revealing. Sometimes it's more if you see less... you have more to think about, instead of seeing it as if they're in the centerfold of Penthouse," he explains.

The catalyst for the project started far from Phuket, in Finland. Adriano was on a European tour and found himself thumbing through a collection of pinup postcards by Darren Wotz with quotes such as, "You say I'm a b\*tch like it's a bad thing."

After making connections through a social network for models and photographers, Adriano stepped out of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"Both those Swedish models I shot at their homes – the very particular thing about these two models is that they are living

their clothing is vintage style, their make up, everything."

For Adriano, and perhaps any photographer, something so true to itself was the best environment to work in, to make it look and feel real. "Once I got back from this European tour, I started asking friends and teachers, some of them models, to take part."

Blending retro-style trends with Darren Wotz-style quotes that tap into some real attitude that leaves viewers wanting more, but not quite sure it's safe, Adriano's hunt continues in Phuket in the hopes of shooting at least another 15 to 35 pinups for the collection.



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Adriano works with professional models, Phuket school teachers and anyone else with the right spark.



# How to end the sex wars



FROM time immemorial, there have been ongoing conflicts between the sexes. This is because men and women have different temperaments. Men have always been hunters and women have always [sic] been homebodies. These two roles have conditioned human behavior for thousands of years.

In ancient times, the man wanted to go out hunting mastodons; the woman wanted him to stay home and tend the fire. Nowadays he wants to go out and play poker with the boys; she wants him to stay home and watch TV. He wants to take her fishing; she wants to stay home and knit doilies.

Such weighty issues are authoritatively discussed in a new book, *Me Tarzan, You Jane: Resolving Conflicts Between the*

*Genders*, by Dr Chlamydia Skank, Associate Professor of Gender Studies at Moronia University.

Dr Skank was recently in Phuket on a lecture tour, and I scored an interview at her posh suite in the Luxuriana Palace Boutique Resort for the Obscenely Rich:

Me: Dr Skank, do you have a simple cure-all for the conflicts that constantly arise between men and women?

Dr Skank: I do, Curm. These are summarized in my Two Principles for Ending Gender Conflicts, more crudely called 'the war between the sexes' by Philistines like you.

Me: Uh, what is a Philis... never mind. What are these two principles?

DS: Principle one is based on the recent scientific discovery that women have an extra chromosome that makes them smarter than men. This principle says: In any disagreement between men and women, the woman is always right.

Me: Errrrr... that's what my ex-wife used to say.

DS: Yes, of course. And was she smarter than you?

Me: I guess so. She divorced me and walked away with my life's savings, the house, the car, the dog, and my Buck Rogers Instant Death Ray Gun, a treasured souvenir of my childhood.

DS: You see, that proves it. It's that extra chromosome that does the trick. Further proof of principle one is this: if a man refuses to accept the iron fact that The Woman Is Always Right, his life will quickly become a hell of constant strife.

Me: It sure will. And what is the second principle?

DS: Principle two is a corollary of principle one: Whenever anything goes wrong, the man is always to blame.

Me: Yes, I noticed that in my own life. It's remarkable that you've achieved such a profound insight.

DS (tapping her forehead): It's all in that extra chromosome, Curm. Some folks have the silly idea that people marry for love. That's nonsense. People get married because they're looking



**You think otherwise? You're a man and you're wrong.** Photo: J. Howard Miller for somebody to blame whenever things go wrong.

Me: I guess if everybody accepted your two principles – The Woman Is Always Right and The Man Is Always to Blame – there would be no more conflicts between men and

women, and tranquility would reign on earth forever.

DS: You got it, big boy. Pretty smart, for a man.

*Ye Olde Curmudgeon can be praised for his intelligence c/o s.tsow@outlook.com.*

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# Gar... Garden... Gardenia



A small variety of gardenia called Radicans make for great borders. Photo: Yamatsu



G. taitensis: a variety commonly found in Thailand resembles this variety. Photo: Primejyothi

ONE of the most important and widely grown tropical shrubs is the gardenia. Not only does it have sumptuous semi-double or double white blooms, an ample, bushy habit, and attractive shiny green foliage, it is intensely fragrant. Naturally, florists love it.

Quite a demanding shrub, gardenias need fast-draining but moisture-retentive soil with plenty of organic matter and exposure to lots of sun. If these conditions are not met, your gardenia may sulk and refuse to burst into bloom. This aberration is particularly common with container plants (and gardenias do look good on patios and balconies), where they will produce buds but no fully opened flowers if the supply of water and nutrients is erratic.

As you would expect of such an esteemed flowering shrub, there are many hybrids derived from the common version, often known as cape jasmine. "Aimee" has very substantial blossoms with an elegantly spiral form; "Mystery" is a vigorous cultivar that will grow 6-8 feet high and wide, with flowers up to five inches across. The double, rose-like blooms are classic subjects for corsages. The oldest variety, "Veitchii" is sold in Europe as the "ever-blooming

gardenia", and can, in favorable conditions, be an all year-round performer. While most gardenias grow to 3-4 feet tall, there are also dwarf forms of which "White Gem", a dense and compact bush is the best known – and the most suitable for containers. "Radicans" is even smaller, like the dwarf tabernaemontana, both are excellent choices for borders.

One variety common in Thailand is a yellow flowering form with single, pin-wheel shaped flowers. Though it does not put in an appearance in any of my gardening tomes, it seems to be an offshoot of G. taitensis, a species which was apparently already growing in Hawaii before Captain Cook's visit in the late 1700s. The original white flowers, however, have been transmogrified, presumably by hybridization, into deep yellow ones. I have always found it difficult to establish, but one forgotten plant on the outside wall of the house has developed into a bush some twelve feet tall with masses of starry, seven-petaled flowers. Surprising, since like all the family, it needs plenty of water. Look out for it in nurseries.

A plant with very different cultural requirements is the geranium, now generally referred



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

to by botanists as the pelargonium. While it is a staple of European gardens, it is a relative rarity here. A succulent stemmed perennial, native to South Africa, it ideally needs cool nights, as rare as rubies in southern Thailand. Though they are sun-lovers in temperate climates, your pelargoniums will need some protection from the glare of the tropic sun, if you want to grow them successfully, as one friend of mine does, right here in Phuket.

In northern Europe, they are treated as house-plants or annuals, since frosts will put paid to them, but they over-winter there in green-houses, and may eventu-

ally become woody, multi-stemmed bushes up to four feet tall. Normally, the leaves are round or kidney shaped, with scalloped edges, and aromatic, especially when crushed. The middle portion of the leaf is typically darker in color – hence the expression "zonal geranium". But pelargoniums are of course grown principally for their brilliant clusters of flowers: varieties are sold in white, shades of pink, salmon, orange and scarlet.

One of the classic house plants, they are happiest – unlike gardenias – confined in a container, for they have relatively small root systems and can tolerate dryish soil conditions. Too much moisture will not be appreciated. They are easy to propagate from seed or cuttings.

Many hybrids have been produced from P.hortorum, the common geranium: one, "Mrs Pollock" has red centered leaves with a creamy margin and brilliant vermilion blooms while the "black velvet" series sports foliage that is purplish-black leaves with bright green edges. With old-fashioned scented geraniums, foliage fragrance is the main draw; the clusters of white or lilac flowers are secondary in appeal. Good for herb gardens, window boxes or hanging baskets, the scent may be of lemons, apple, almond, even nutmeg.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured you can send me an email at: [drpaccampbell@gmail.com](mailto:drpaccampbell@gmail.com)

## Tip of the Week

### Herbs and spices



The flesh of the nutmeg fruit can be eaten, but it is the nut that is most prized. Photo: Lee Coursey

DON'T neglect to grow spices in your garden. Some are indigenous to Southeast Asia and should do well here. I am thinking cloves, pepper and nutmeg. On the other hand, the term "herb" includes a range of leafy plants used for seasoning food. There are several varieties of basil [which grow easily in Phuket], also mint and coriander. Less familiar to "expats" are Indian curry leaves, pandan, the leaves of the kaffir lime and lemon grass. The intensely pungent roots (rhizomes)

of turmeric, (which imparts a yellow color to rice), galangal and ginger are widely cultivated here.

There are also sour fruits such as tamarind (which is a large tree). The soft yellow flesh of the nutmeg which grows on a medium-sized tree can be eaten (often soaked with sugar syrup), but it is the hard nut that is prized. Cloves also grow on trees: they are picked as buds and allowed to harden by being dried in the sun.



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# On the move

The *Gazette* talks to two of Amari Phuket's newest team members

## What is your name and position?

My name is Ms Rinrapat "Namtan" Puwanutchotchai – Director, Human Resources at Amari Phuket.

## What do you see as the challenges and what are your goals in your new role?

Managing people is the challenge. It is not easy, but not difficult. Listening to people, understanding the differences, solving the problems and respecting people's dignity are crucial, which I always realise and do. My goals in my new role are to be a leader who leads by example and to develop my team to be efficient. Moreover, fostering an environment in which customer's satisfaction is valued and delivered.

## What was the university you graduated from and what qualification did you get?

I graduated in 2002 with a

Bachelor's Degree in Education, majoring in Secondary School and Advanced English from Chulalongkorn University. Then I pursued a PGD in Hotel and Tourism Management from the University Centre "Cesar Ritz", Brig, Switzerland in 2006.

## What are your previous jobs and how did they lead your current position?

I started as an English teacher in Thewpai-ngam School then I went to study in Switzerland. After that, I got an internship as a Food & Beverage Management trainee at The Sanctuary at Kiawah Island Golf Resort, South Carolina, USA. Then, I came back to Thailand and worked as a PR & Social Manager and got a promotion to be a Secretary to the Deputy Managing Director at Fair House Villas & Spa, Koh Samui. After three years on Koh Samui, I got a challenging offer as Learn-

ing & Development Manager at Amari Phuket. All my experiences in teaching people and serving the guests led me to become the Director of Human Resources.

## What is your motto?

A good objective of leadership is to help those who are doing poorly to do well, and to help those who are doing well to do even better.

## What are your hobbies?

Listening to music and watching concerts.

## What is your favorite thing to do/place to go in Phuket?

My favorite thing to do is going to the spa and getting a massage.

## How often do you visit your hometown?

Once a year, I visit my aunts in Chumphon; they took care of me when I was a child.



Rinrapat Puwanutchotchai – Director, Human Resources at Amari Phuket.



Penprapa Chooklin – Manager, Marketing Communications at Amari Phuket

## What is your name and position?

My name is Ms Penprapa "Tai" Chooklin – Manager, Marketing Communications at Amari Phuket.

## What do you see as the challenges and what are your goals in your new role?

To maintain the hotel's reputation in the market is my challenge and my goal is to create a strong image of the hotel in both international and regional markets.

## What university did you graduate from and what qualification did you get?

I graduated with a BBA from the Prince of Songkhla University (Phuket Campus); in the faculty of Service Industry, with a major in hotel management.

## What are your previous jobs and how they did lead your current position?

I started working at Laguna Resorts & Hotels and taking care of marketing for three properties there, then moved forward to do marketing for Wine Connection Thailand before joining

Amari Phuket as an Executive Secretary. All the past experiences have fostered growth in the marketing field a marketing field, and recently I was promoted to be a Manager of Marketing and Communications.

## What is your motto?

Don't shirk any task because of its arduousness.

## What are your hobbies?

Singing, listening to music, watching TV, and going to the beach sometimes on the weekends.

## What is your favorite thing to do/place to go in Phuket?

Taking care of my pets; one dog and two cats and bringing them to Sirinat National Park at Naiyang Beach.

## How often do you visit your hometown, what do you miss about it?

I do not often visit my hometown in Sisaket Province, but every single time I get homesick, I can go enjoy the peace at Srinakarin National Park; a natural sightseeing place for relaxing.

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# Gooooood morning Phuket!

By Mark Knowles

DUANGKHAE “Add” Leonhard is no stranger to the bakery business, she already has a successful commercial bakery and several cafes to her name. With her latest cafe venture Baketastic, she is bringing her signature style of freshly baked treats and delicious coffee to Kathu locals.

The small, light-filled cafe, features simple wooden furnishings, two comfy arm chairs which – along with air-con and free WiFi – make it the perfect spot for reading the paper or checking your emails while you sip your morning coffee.

The breakfast/lunch menu has all the comfort food classics, including a big breakfast with super crispy bacon and all the trimmings, Belgian waffles, pancake stacks and the trademark Max Muffin – a fluffy English muffin filled with egg, bacon, a handmade sausage patty and melted cheddar cheese.

“The menu is everyday comfort food, which you can enjoy at anytime of day, or you can come past on your way to dropping the kids of at school and grab something to eat on the way,” says Add.

There are also plenty of lighter options, including vegetarian or smoked salmon bagels, salads, the ever-popular ham and salad multigrain roll, granola with yogurt, and fresh fruit smoothies.

They stock a range of refresh-

ing herbal teas and the popular Thai beverage – green tea latte.

The coffee is superb, which Add tells me is due to her long-standing relationship with her locally-based coffee supplier.

“We like to support other local businesses... our supplier buys the coffee from the North and roasts it to our taste at his factory in Phuket. We've been with him for ten years and he really knows his stuff,”

“The first thing we do when we hire new staff is train them to make coffee – it's so important,” she says.

Add knows just how important great coffee is to her customers. She learned first-hand from one of the most successful coffee chains in the world, Starbucks – where she rose through the ranks to become manager at the company's first outlet on the island. Add credits the experience she gained there with giving her the skills, knowledge and drive needed to succeed in her own business.

So it was, that ten years ago, she and her husband Woody – a long time resident and well known computer guru – started Khun Woody's Bakery in their small townhouse in Patong. Woody, who has now retired from the business, is quick to give his wife all of the credit.

“All I do is eat!” he says. “Add asked her long-time friend Amy to help her build a new shop in Kathu,

and they've come up with a tremendous combination of bakery, coffee shop and sandwich parlor. Amy lives in Kathu. She's here every day, watching and making sure everything works just right,” he says. With Add's dedication to quality ingredients and fresh products, along with endless experimentation with recipes, she had the formula for success, and was soon supplying dozens of customers around the island with bagels, bread rolls, pastries, croissants, cakes, muffins and cookies. She then opened three more retail cafes, all supplied by her commercial bakery.

To further cement her reputation for quality, Starbucks gave her its seal of approval when it awarded Khun Woody's Bakery the contract as sole supplier of baked goods to all its outlets on the island.

So when you come to Baketastic to try their fantastic Thai-grown and roasted coffee, make sure you complement it with one of Add's delicious sweet treats – her New York style cheesecake is legendary, and her “kitchen sink” cookies (with everything but...) are divine as well.

You can be assured that everything on the menu is super fresh too. It's delivered daily, still warm out of the oven from Khun Woody's Bakery, which is located just around the corner.

So what's next for this dynamic entrepreneur?

“We want Baketastic to become more of a retail bakery, where you can come in and buy fresh rolls, bagels or pastries to take home.

“But my real passion is cake decorating. I've already made several wedding cakes for customers and I really want to expand that part of my business,” she says.

*Baketastic is located in Kathu, just east of the gas station, opposite the new Krung Thai Bank. Parking is available around back.*



Amy and Add know it's good to start the day with a smile.



Stylish outside, delicious inside. Photos: Mark Knowles



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# Long live the King

MILLIONS of Thais held up lit candles in unison on December 5 to honor and celebrate His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 86<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Highly regarded by Thais as The Father of the Nation, HM's birthday is dually celebrated in the Kingdom as the national Father's Day.

Born on December 5, 1927 at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the

United States, HM – a grandchild of King Chulalongkorn (Rama V) – is the second son and youngest child of HRH Prince Mahidol Adulyadej (the Prince Father) and HRH Princess Srinagarindra (the Princess Mother)

His name, Bhumibol Adulyadej, means "Strength of the Land, Incomparable Power".

Having reigned since 1946, King Bhumibol is the world's longest-serving, surviving head of

state and the longest-reigning monarch in Thai history.

A model father himself, HM has one son – Prince Vajiralongkorn – and three daughters: Princess Ubol Ratana, Princess Sirindhorn and Princess Chulabhorn – who have collectively bore the King 12 grandchildren – six girls and six boys.

*Soang Phra Charoen* – Long Live the King.



## King's Cup : 27 years strong

DECEMBER 1 marked the kick-off of the 27<sup>th</sup> annual King's Cup Regatta off the shores of Phuket. Considered one of the most prestigious sailing events in Asia, the five day regatta drew 171 wind-powered vessels from all over the globe to compete for the coveted trophy.

The proceedings began on Sunday (December 1) with practice races and an opening ceremony featuring the event coordinators and Phuket Governor Maitree Inthasut. Boats were registered and sails were measured in preparation for race day.

Monday morning was met with flying spinnakers while boats jockeyed for position amid light winds and calm waters. Soon, the wind picked up and so did the sailing action as crews scrambled to adjust sails and stay on course. Race officials hoped for three races but the wind

only held long enough for two.

Multiple races per day took place all week long as well as evening entertainment and prize-giving parties hosted by five of Phuket's most well-known resorts. The King's Cup ended in style with Scottish singer-songwriter Paul Ewing performing at Kata Beach Resort and Spa on Friday evening.

The regatta was first organized in 1987 in honor of the King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and to celebrate His Majesty's passion for sailing. Each year, the event has grown in popularity and participants make the journey from farther flung destinations to compete. As more types of vessels are registered to race, additional divisions are introduced such as this year's new Bareboat Charter bringing the total to 14 separate divisions.



IRC division 2 keel boats race for the starting line. Photo: Jeremie Schatz



From left to right: Kevin Whitcraft, President of Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee; Vadm. Taratorn Kajitsuwan Commander, Third Naval Area Command Third Naval Area Command; Maitree Inthasut, Phuket Governor; Pamuke Achariyachai, President of Kata Group Resorts Thailand and Host Sponsor; and Radab Kanjanavanit, Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organising Committee joined together at the official Opening Ceremony of the 27<sup>th</sup> Phuket King's Cup Regatta at Kata Beach Resort and Spa. Photo: Supplied



Ben Copley and crew aboard the "Katsu" sail in the first race of the King's Cup. Last year's King's Cup winner Frank Pong (inset). Photos: Jeremie Schatz





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# Local families raise B30k for Philippines

TWO teachers from the Phuket International Kindergarten and School Rawai – Mark White and Chris Botkin – took time last week to step away from the school curriculum and teach the primary three and five level students about the typhoon disaster in the Philippines.

To reinforce their words with action, donation boxes made by parents and children were placed around the school and families

came together to collect and count coins offered for the victims of the disaster.

A bunch of other activities were in place to keep the focus on the events in the Philippines – among them a poster making play dates and a bake sale run by the primary three and five children. Each class from kindergarten upwards were brought over by their teachers to participate.

All this effort resulted in an

impressive 30,817 baht collected!

This donation will be presented to teacher Sam Bailey who will be travelling to the Philippines with the Global Volunteer Network in January and will spend four weeks building schools in the disaster devastated areas.

– *Phuket Gazette*


To follow Sam's journey and typhoon relief efforts, please visit [samanthabailey1987.wordpress.com](http://samanthabailey1987.wordpress.com)




Cookies sold during the bake sale helped raise funds. Photos: Supplied




TOUCH OF LOVE: Kids and parents collected more than 30,000 baht for the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. The money will find its way to the Philippines with the help of the Global Volunteer Network.



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## Grumpy Old Men bring joy

By Brad Kenny

THE Grumpy Old Men's Society (GOMS) recently decided to bring some joy and excitement to the 45 children and six teachers from the BangJo Migrant Workers Learning Center after supporting the school in various other ways over the past year. The children have never had a school field trip before to break up the sometimes mundane day-to-day classroom activities.

Of the 45 children aged three to 13, only two had been to the Phuket Aquarium before, which is typical of the Burmese migrant workers children, whose parents make minimum wage and have a limited choice of both education opportunities and "fun activities" for their offspring. Some of the Burmese children have lived in Phuket for 10 years but started their education just last year through

the BangJo Migrant Workers Learning Center.

Thanks to the Phuket Aquarium providing a discounted entrance fee for this GOMS project, the children not only had heaps of fun, they also learned several important environmental lessons. Children realized the consequences of littering, how discarded plastic ends up in the oceans and how damaged fishing nets left in the seas affect the ecosystem. Not

to waste all the newly accumulated positive energy, the children finished their tour by cleaning up the parking lot and the area around the entrance of the aquarium.

A hefty lunch and ice cream added to the special treat for the children before they returned to their school in transportation arranged by GOMS. It was a fun day for the kids but also for the 10 Grumps who volunteered to chaperone the students.





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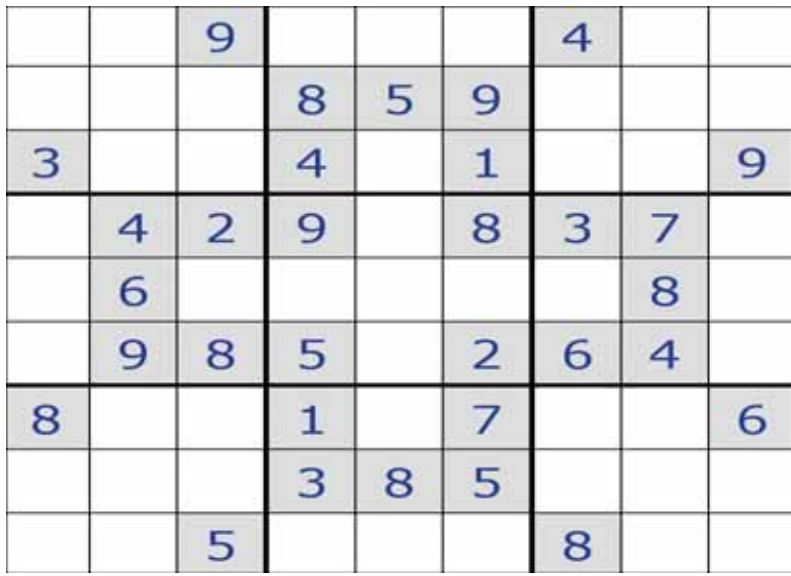
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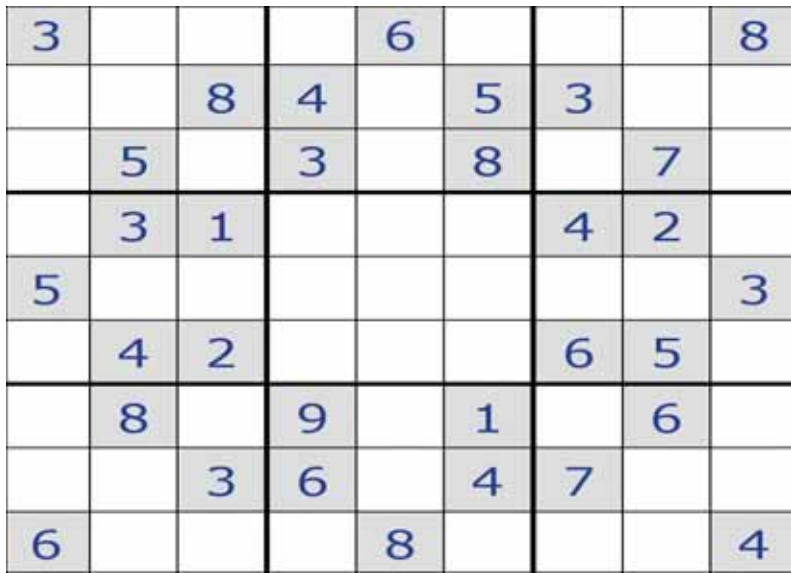
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**SUDOKU:** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)



#### Your fortnightly pith:

"The optimist thinks this is the best of all possible worlds. The pessimist fears it is true." – J. Robert Oppenheimer

"There's a fine line between hobby and mental illness."

– Dave Barry

This quote was taken from Ian Hewitt's book 'QUOTES for PROSPERITY'

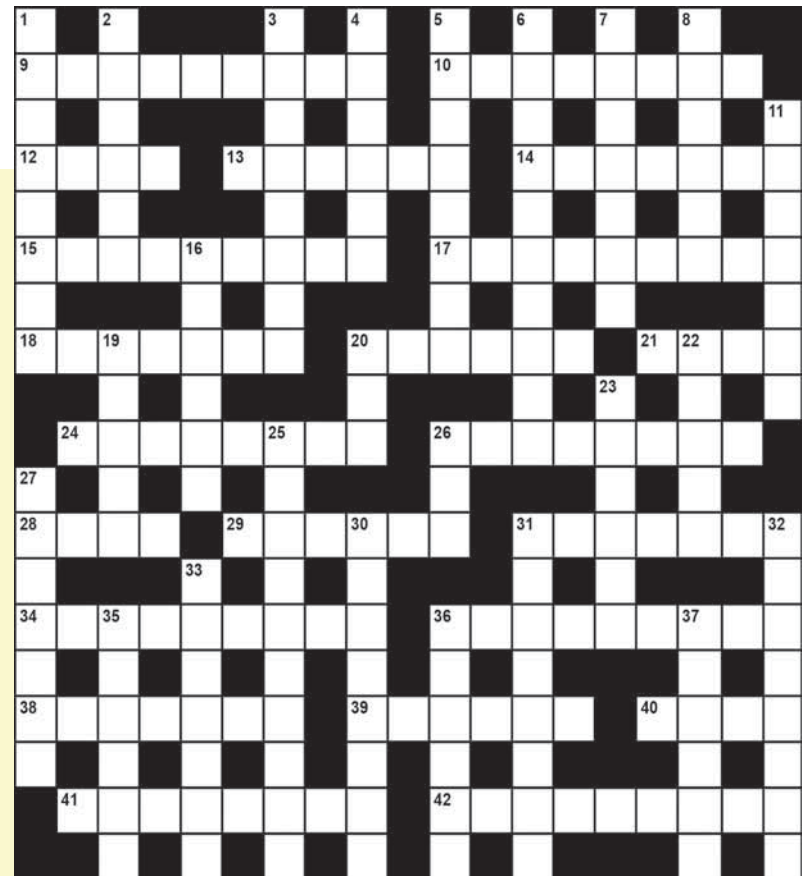
## COFFEE break

#### Across:

9. Assigned to a Liberal in a position (9)
10. The Rev. later became a pilgrim (8)
12. Naked bear is untidy (4)
13. The man, we hear, missed her (6)
14. Eat greedily, George, maybe around the North (7)
15. Victor William Norman (9)
17. Later do is arranged for devoted admirers (9)
18. Checking mark led to being amused (7)
20. Work out number (6)
21. Bravo! South American city in short has vivacity (4)
24. Back asset prohibition by local administration in Thailand (8)
26. Present move East a false claim (8)
28. No, it somehow means being enthusiastic nowadays (4)
29. Glorify the East after Paris possibly (6)
31. Seen fed out in vindication (7)
34. Moving away from underwater worker chap (9)
36. Maybe spare leader the driving force (9)
38. The second, unless it is cloudy (7)
39. Reappear with no physical education as harvester (6)
40. Brother for rabbit in stories (4)
41. Except for, I note, crazy male singer (8)
42. Sup, sailor, the French being good to quaff (9)

#### Down:

1. Time new baby act for brindled pet (8)
2. Fine line round Rupee in old



- coin from the UK (6)
3. Possibly torrid as a carpet fixer! (5,3)
4. Paper boss could be tried about nothing (6)
5. Beginning in time, staring round (8)
6. Euro, scarce around horse track (4,6)
7. European gal be in trouble (7)
8. Is aware of echo from funeral carriage (6)
11. Periodical payment in guesthouse (7)
16. Except when one French fewer (6)
19. Reach the top almost, take a break (5)
20. Fine article by devotee (3)
22. Concerning evil exudation from trees (5)

23. Young beast upset if here (6)
25. Robber has opened papa a haircutting place (6,4)
26. Tart one in Physical Education (3)
27. Page one: note shallow bowl for ovenware (7)
30. I rent den, could be detained (8)
31. Concerning regimen, cited tie possibly (8)
32. Confirmed drones deployed, note date (8)
33. Releases one a flower (7)
35. Possibly alive around noon - forgivable! (6)
36. And shy about a refreshing drink (6)
37. Or been moved to dress (6)

**Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.**

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

Your senses are finely tuned until the middle of December and this should allow those born under the sign of Sagittarius to pick up on subtle signals missed by others. The stars suggest that you will spot opportunities to make a stronger mark in the world of work in the near future. Those with a birthday in the week ahead will be more relaxed where romance is concerned during the coming year.

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

Capricorns could think that others are being too demanding this week, but the stars suggest that you have made yourself too easily available. Where work is concerned, air and water signs are keen to benefit from your skills, but you will need to guard against selling yourself short. In the realm of romance, another earth sign confesses that they feel taken for granted. Finances are luckiest on Wednesday and Thursday.

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

Life should slow down enough this week for Aquarians to make plans for the holiday season. The stars advise taking time out to consider how you want to spend the last

week of the month before committing. Those with another air sign partner can struggle to compromise about family visits at the end of the year. If you are single and seeking, reunion with an old flame is forecast to rekindle love.

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

Pisceans' faith in work related projects is forecast to be put to the test this week. An earth sign is ready to dampen your spirits, but the stars show that this is an attempt to cover up their lack of experience. In the realm of romance, an air sign's desire to take a relationship more slowly can cause you to have second thoughts. Finances are most fortunate on Monday.

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

Your diplomatic talents are in demand this week. At work, Arians should be able to prevent problems getting out of hand; a water sign is ready to listen to you and an air sign will appreciate your mediation midweek. Where personal relationships are concerned, those with an air sign partner may have some explaining to do this weekend. Friends are forecast to ask for last minute help on Saturday or Sunday.

## YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

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

Taureans' intellectual energy is strong and the stars advise that this is an auspicious time to consider learning new skills next year. At work you may have to assert your rights as a colleague can try to offload some of their responsibilities. Wednesday is the best day for a down to earth conversation. A financial windfall should mean you can splash out on a luxury item you have been wanting.

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

Your position at work is forecast to become more secure as the end of the year approaches and the stars indicate that promotion can be offered to Geminis. However, there are also signs that the offer of employment elsewhere will be tempting. This is an auspicious week to locate lost items, with focus on something of value turning up on Monday or Tuesday. Friendship with a fire sign can turn into romance.

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

Jealousy is highlighted to affect your world of work this week. The stars indicate that an earth sign's negativity is due to their inability to meet the demands of their job. There are hints that matters will come to a head during the second half of this month. Cancerians romantically involved with an air sign may tire of dealing with this person's emotional rollercoaster. Money matters are lucky on Thursday.

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

Pride can prevent Leos from accepting help this week. The stars indicate that you can start the New Year with fewer worries if you allow people close to you to lend a hand this month. If this relates to finances, some simple advice can open the door to more security. Where relocation is concerned, making the wrong move can be avoided by listening to people with more experience.

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

Finances fall under the spotlight until the middle of December and there are hints that you should budget more carefully as the holiday season approaches. Socializing

with party-loving friends can cost more than you had bargained for this weekend. Virgoans are advised to only take as much money as they can afford to spend. In the realm of romance, a fire sign is forecast to light up your life.

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

Boredom will not be an issue for those born under the sign of Libra this week. Friends from afar can drop in unexpectedly and there are hints that a water sign partner has surprise plans for you to have some fun. The stars advise that problems relating to finances should not be swept under the carpet in the midst of all this social action. Tuesday is the best day for money talks.

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

Money matters fall under the spotlight for Scorpions until the middle of the month. The stars suggest that you may need to put pressure on someone in your world of work to meet an overdue payment. Romance can be confusing; pretending to have feelings for an earth sign may seem like a good solution now, but will lead to a situation that is hard to get out of.



# Aussies dominate league final

By Patrick Campbell

THE Kangaroos duly won the Rugby League World Cup in a one-sided encounter at Manchester's Old Trafford. Scoring five unanswered tries in a clinical 34-2 triumph, they demonstrated why they are, by some distance, the best team on the planet. By the end of the game, they had gone 404 minutes without having their line crossed. Some achievement. While both teams came into the final with 100 per cent records, the pre-match hype had understandably focused on personalities: the Kiwi's Sonny Bill Williams, named International Player of the Year and boasting a tournament high 17 offloads, had already won World Cup medals at both codes. Australia had the competition's top try score in Jarryd Hayne and in Johnathan Thurston, Greg Inglis and Billy Slater three players who are already legends in the game. It would have been a fairytale ending if hosts England had managed to reach the final but it was not to be. Victims of a last

gasp try by New Zealand in the semi-final, the squad were mere spectators, along with a crowd of 74,000 – a record for any rugby league game – as Australia, hot favorites but not holders, showed why they are unparalleled at this version of the game. They had not conceded a try since Englishman Josh Charnley's effort in the opening match. Many of this Kangaroo side have played together for a long time: their collective experience and all-round know-how made a crucial difference. Apart from early in proceedings when Shaun Johnson's penalty brought the teams level at 2-2, New Zealand were always playing "catch-up" against an Australian side that had no discernable weaknesses. Their intense forward power in the tackle was matched by flawless decision-making, swift, confident passing and above all, by astute tactical kicking which frequently took New Zealand by surprise. Billy Slater – outstanding at full back – soared above the defence to collect a cross-kick and score the first try. Cooper Cronk then

gathered a kick from Darius Boyd, and more superb work with the boot by Brett Morris enabled him to cross the line. A try in the opening minute of the second half by the irrepressible Slater stretched Australia's lead. The final nail in the coffin, the fifth try was the result of an interception by Hayne who passed to Morris for the center's second score. Man of the Match Johnathan Thurston kicked seven penalties and conversions – a 100 per cent success rate.

Captain Cameron Smith, who revealed the team had received a good luck message from cricket skipper Michael Clarke, singled out the defensive effort "as a great source of pride". Coach Tim Sheens, asked if he had seen a better Australian side, replied: "Not in my time.... It is a great privilege for me to coach this team". New Zealand coach Stephen Kearney also recognized an Australian side at the peak of their powers: "Their performance was pretty faultless and they gave us a real lesson. That is as good as I have seen them play".



The Kangaroos smashed the Kiwis 34-2 to win the Rugby League World Cup 2013 at Old Trafford in Manchester. Photo: Leeds Library and Information Service

# What USA does the best

By Somchai Huasaikul

ONE of the great things about living in Phuket, and a feature we are all guilty of taking for granted from time to time, is the truly cosmopolitan nature of this island. This week alone I had the pleasure of meeting interesting people from Lithuania, the Middle East and South Africa. Ever curious, I have fallen into the habit of asking people of nationalities other than my own the simple question: What does your country do best? What do your countrymen excel at? What is your society's greatest collective achievement?

The answer to that question might be easy for a Frenchman (haute cuisine), Aussie (barbecue anyone?), Brit (comedy), Swiss (chocolates and money), or Thai (standing on ceremony and/or protesting), but for an American it is a difficult question indeed. First we drop not one, but two nuclear bombs on Japan, then we send people to walk on the moon – and that is just for starters.

Nobody has ever asked me what America (the US of A) does best, but if someone did my heart would not skip a beat before answering: NFL football.

The thing I love most is how the NFL has improved year to year thanks to gradual improve-

ment, on multiple levels, that encompasses everything from rule changes to camera work. In many ways it is the ultimate meritocracy; one we could perhaps learn something from on these shores: everyone agreeing to abide by the same set of rules and accept the results – without too much whining.

As the first major sport to introduce instant replay into both officiating and coaching decisions, the NFL still remains light years ahead of any other sport on the planet in the way it has developed itself to appeal to its fan base – hence its phenomenal appeal to those capable of appreciating it.

The NFL has always been at the razor's edge of sports technology, yet developments in Week 13 clearly show that the goal line to ultimate perfection still remains quite far off.

Week 13 was an amazing one for the National Football League (NFL) fans, with all sorts of interesting story lines on-field and off, including a few that were right on the border.

The Washington Redskins were mathematically eliminated from the NFC Wild Card hunt by an unprecedented officiating screw-up after the "chain gang" indicated they were on a first down, when in fact they were in the most precarious



CROWD PLEASER: NFL still remains light years ahead of any other sport on the planet. Photo:NYCMarines

of predicaments: fourth and one. It comes as no surprise that they called the wrong play and then failed to execute it – perhaps the worst way imaginable to have a bad season come to a dismal end. The League has acknowledged the unprecedented officiating error, which hopefully will be the first who was caught on video with a huge grin on his face after the first play – and last – of its kind.

As this goes to print, the NFL is also considering serious punitive measures against Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin for stepping onto the field and allegedly impeding the progress of Baltimore Ravens kickoff returner Jacoby Jones during what appeared to be destined as a

101-yard kickoff return for a touchdown during the Thanksgiving Night game. Rumor has it that Tomlin, one of three coaches who sits on the NFL rules committee, faces a six-figure fine and that the Steelers might also lose a draft pick as a result of impeding Jones' progress. Despite initially denying that his movements onto the field were intentional after the game, video footage of him with an ear-to-ear grin after the play will not likely work in his favor during the review process.

Intrigue also followed the New England Patriots' come from behind win (34-31) at the Houston Texans, following intimations by that team's defensive end Antonio Smith that the Pats might

have spied on the Texans defense in order to have so correctly predicted their movements in the second half, when the Pats scored 24 points to complete the successful comeback – their second in successive weeks. Pundits and Pats coach Bill Belichick dismissed the allegations as inspired by frustration in the Texan's (2-10) camp following a dismal year and last year's humiliating playoff loss to the Pats.

In the biggest matchup of the week, the Seattle Seahawks used their home field advantage to crush the highly-rated (9-3) New Orleans Saints, 34-7, on Monday Night Football. The loss will likely cement the Seahawks' (11-1) chances of hosting all NFC playoff games.



# Shining bright and flying high

By Steven Layne

IT'S not just seasoned, world champions travelling to Phuket to take advantage of premier training facilities in an idyllic tropical setting; aspiring national athletes are also realizing the "performance optimization" benefits facilitated by a holistic and integrated, active lifestyle – one that Thanyapura Phuket has championed since its inception in 2010.

The Thalang health and sports haven's latest featured guests are a brother and sister duo from Chiang Mai – accomplished Thai national youth swimmers Patarawadee "Ploy" Kittiya, 19, and Tanakrit "Nok" Kittiya, 17. Sitting atop a growing mountain of medals and accomplishments from various national and international competitions throughout Southeast Asia, Australia, South Korea, Greece and Dubai, the pair have come to Phuket to prepare for the upcoming 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games (swimming events from December 12-17) in Myanmar as well as the 42<sup>nd</sup> Thailand National Games, which will take place in Suphanburi (swimming from January 5-12, 2014).

The siblings are raising the bar and will need the best preparation and training available. To learn more about their Phuket training regime, the *Gazette* recently had a sit-down with Ploy, Nok and Thanyapura Head Swim Coach Randy Simon.

**Ploy and Nok, you're both from Chiang Mai and your parents**

**run a professional swim club there. Why did you choose to come down to Thanyapura for your training?**

Ploy: My dad was looking on the internet for a Western coach and found Thanyapura. We liked what we read and saw and decided to give it a try. Upon doing the trial, everything felt right. We were very impressed with the whole program here, how integrated everything is. When I trained at home, it was only focused on swimming, but here there is a lot of 'dry land' (strength and conditioning) as well as mind

ten use to that type of program and coaching style, and so my dad thought we should try an American coach this time as both the USA and Australia are famous for swimming.

**Can you talk about the objectives and goals of your training?**

Randy: For the SEA Games, the goal is to win medals for Thailand of course. Both Ploy and Nok are very strong swimmers and I think they have outstanding chances of achieving their goals. We won't have a lot of time for training in between the SEA Games and the Thai National Games, so depending on how they do at the SEA Games, we'll make necessary adjustments in the time we have. Both have different agendas in terms of winning events and setting Thai national records, but in the bigger picture, we are also looking to work towards qualifying times for the 2016 Olympics.

Ploy: For the SEA Games, my goal is to get the gold medal in the 200 meter butterfly, as that's my main event and for the 800 meter freestyle, I'm not sure but I'll try to get at least one medal. Aside from this, I'm also going to compete in the 100 meter butterfly and 4x200 freestyle relay.

Nok: I will be doing four events: 1,500 meter freestyle; 400 meter freestyle; 200 meter butterfly and 4x200 meter relay. My main goal is to break the Thai national record for the 1,500 meter freestyle. The current record is 15 minutes 24 seconds, and my best time so far is 15 minutes and 42 seconds.

**Why a Western coach?**

Ploy: I used to train with an Australian coach and have got-



**SHINING:** Ploy means 'jewel' and the 19-year-old definitely does shine in the 200-meter butterfly.

training routines. From these extra activities, I've noticed that I feel stronger and more confident in the water. I can pull and kick harder. It all has definitely improved my swimming.

Nok: Although I haven't been here as long as my sister, I feel like I'm definitely using my leisure time here to improve my swimming.



**DREAM TEAM:** Thanyapura Swim Coach Randy Simon is helping Ploy (center) and Nok (right) to realize their full potential. Photos: Shela Riva

Randy: Nok is very ambitious. Though his goal is achievable, it will be a very big drop. For him, most likely, we will try to get him down close [to the record time] for the SEA Games and then make some adjustments so that he will stand a better chance of achieving the goal at the Thai National Games.

**Tell us about Ploy and Nok's training regiment here at Thanyapura.**

Randy: With both swimmers, we're doing 10 training sessions a week. Typically we do both morning and evening sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and then on Wednesday and Saturday we'll do two hour pool sessions in the mornings. At the start of every swimming session, they swim 1,600 meters just for warm up! In addition to these sessions, we've also been working on strengthening and conditioning exercises and routines in the gym. Initially we started with two times a week for this, but now that we're getting close to the time of competition, we're tapering off to once a week. We've also done some separate yoga work for stretching and rehabilitation. Moreover, we've done a couple of mind training and meditation sessions with Andrea at our mind center.

**What about their diet, during training and competition?**

Randy: For a normal person, the typical diet of a person is about 2,000 calories a day, but for a swimmer in training, they'll need 8,000-9,000 calories per day. This is because their body is using that much fuel when they're swimming all the time. Although the body is used to taking in and processing that much food during training,

when it comes to the competition, we have to taper down on the eating since they're not swimming as much.

**You said you're also looking ahead to the 2016 Olympics?**

Randy: Yes, down the road... Although Ploy is not so sure about this goal yet, it's definitely where Nok wants to be. One of the challenging things for coaches is managing and guiding swimmers' dreams. Coaches can see a lot of potential in swimmers and know what's achievable based on how they train and how they work. For Ploy, in all likelihood, she will come out of the SEA Games with sufficient qualifying times in the 200 meter butterfly for the 2016 Olympics. For her, the reality hasn't sunk in yet, but for me, I'm already looking on how we can get her into a semifinal and possibly final come 2016. This is the nature between the coach and the swimmer; as coach we've got to be a step ahead.

**Do you have any other plans/ambitions for the future?**

Nok: I finished 10<sup>th</sup> grade and am taking a two-year break from school because I want to be a professional swimmer. Other than that, I would like to be a Thai food chef or run a bakery.

Ploy: I finished high school last year and now am focused on swimming. After I finish the National Games, I'm strongly considering furthering my studies in Australia, where I've already been accepted into a program in sports sciences. I want to become a swim instructor some day but I'm still not decided about college yet as Coach Randy says I still have great potential to continue my career in swimming.



**FLYING:** Nok means 'bird' and the 17-year-old is certainly looking to take flight by achieving the Thai national record for the 1,500 meter freestyle.

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# Grimes' New Orleans gambit

PHUKET based go-kart driver Ben grimes recently had the honor of representing Thailand at the Rotax Grand Finals in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. It is an invitation only, international event that has become the most prestigious championship in the world of karting. Drivers must qualify for the Grand Finals via the national Rotax Max Challenge series of their home country, as well as international Rotax Max Challenge races throughout the year. This race is unique, in that all equipment from chassis, engines, fuel, tires, tools, and even kart stands are provided to the driver to ensure a completely level playing field in trying to find the best driver in the world. The following is Ben's daily diary of his time at the championships.

## Sunday, November 10

Upon arriving at the racetrack I was so impressed by the facility. It was a massive complex, the paddock was huge and right across from the kart-track is the full race circuit. The facilities were superb and the track looked very inviting to drive.

## Monday, November 11

Today was the raffle of karts for all drivers. The first thing I took notice of at the track on Monday morning was the line up of all 360 karts. It was spectacular seeing the endless rows of karts. I drew number 55 and after a few photographs, we took our kart to the supplies area where we were handed our lead, tyres, tools and lubricants. Once all this was done, we set about assembling the kart, getting the seat position right and then we fine-tuned everything to my personal settings. Sorted for tomorrow's practice sessions!

## Tuesday, November 12

Today signaled the first day of practice for each class. Unlike in Malaysia and Thailand, in the Grand finals, there is limited practice

time each class had three 15-minute practice sessions today and then only two 10-minute practice sessions tomorrow, so adapting to the track quickly before Wednesday afternoon's qualifying session was crucial.

## Wednesday, November 13

Having had perfect, warm weather for racing on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, the temperature today plummeted to 4 degrees Celsius, with gusty winds making it even colder! This was an entirely new experience for me as I have become accustomed to driving in very warm climates, so the first practice session was different and quite tough for me to say the least as I ended up in 33<sup>rd</sup> place. The fifth session was however a major step forward and I followed a few decent drivers to try and learn from them and I improved to 27<sup>th</sup> (out of 36) in my group.

## Thursday, November 14

Following yesterday's qualifying session, I was placed in group C and would be starting my two heats today in 33<sup>rd</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> positions respectively. I placed 28<sup>th</sup> and closed the gap to the top to less than a second - an improvement!

## Friday, November 15

The track was very wet for the warm up session this morning so I drove cautiously. I ended the session in (a little disappointing) 28<sup>th</sup> place, but could and should have been so much higher up as I was not using my head and drove poor lines again in certain corners.

A dry line began to form so my mechanic and I agreed to use a wet setup with slick tyres but whilst mounting the tyres it began to rain; all hell broke loose with mechanics and drivers scrambling to try and get wet tyres but the clock was ticking and if you are not through the gate and on the pre grid in time you aren't racing!



To keep up to date with Ben's progress, follow him on Twitter at @grimes\_ben and like his page on facebook: facebook.com BenGrimesOfficial?fref=ts  
If anyone is interested in sponsoring Ben, please contact him at ben@ben-grimes.com

It was a disastrous race for me. My kart on slick tyres aquaplaned all over the place and I had to drive so slowly even on the straights and I spun off despite driving at what felt like walking speed and from there I threw in the towel (which I shouldn't have) and I was classified as 27<sup>th</sup>.

Sadly, my teammates and co-drivers from Asia Presley Martono of Indonesia and Mitchell Cheah of Malaysia suffered in the heats and they did not make it into the second chance race so I was the only driver from the Rotax Asia team to make it through.

The second chance heat is a race for drivers who did not qualify directly to the pre-finals where only the top six out of the 36 who race can advance further.

After two aborted starts, the lights finally went green, and it was every man for himself. Everyone was super aggressive, including myself. By far, I was driving the best I had all week but on the penultimate lap I made a slight mistake and spun off into the gravel trap.

I was disappointed, however it was a really positive race and a huge step forward

for me both physically and mentally and making the pre-finals and finals certainly wasn't beyond the realms of possibility had I driven like this earlier on in the week. My quickest lap was 4 tenths off the fastest lap of the race. Despite my world championship challenge coming to a premature end, I was ultimately happy with how my week had panned out and I left the track with my head held high and with few regrets.

Overall it was a fantastic week, with a few ups and downs but the experience I gained and the exposure from being at the world's biggest international kart race competing against the world's best will be invaluable and I am proud to have been a part of this great event; it has been an unforgettable experience and I truly hope that I get to race on the big stage again in the future.

I would like to give thanks to my dad and my family for their support, James for being an awesome mechanic and coach, and to Secure Wealth Management, FWD Life Insurance and Bangkok Burger Company for their continued sponsorship.

## JLL Cricket League commences



The new season of the Jones Lang LaSalle Cricket League will be played at the Alan Cooke Cricket Ground.

THE Phuket Cricket Group (PCG) is pleased to announce a new season of the Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) Cricket League at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) commencing on December 8, which will see Phuket's local teams fight for the title.

Mike Batchelor, managing director of the JLL Hotels & Hospitality Group, which has been involved in some of the leading hotel transactions on Phuket said: "We are pleased once again to be the title sponsors for the cricket league in Phuket, one of Asia's premier tourism destinations."

Mark Ashman, chairman of the PCG commented that "The

cricket scene here in Phuket continues to grow from strength to strength with much interest both locally and internationally and we are thankful for the continued support of Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels & Hospitality Group in furthering the development of cricket on the island."

The league kicks off this Sunday December 8, 2013, with the current champions, Laguna, taking on last season's finalists, Patong. Since the establishment of the island's only world-class purpose-built cricketing facility, the standard of cricket has improved significantly and spectators can be assured of seeing

some great cricketing action throughout the season.

Also making its debut this weekend will be the PCG's new electronic scoreboard, another great improvement to the ACG facility.

Teams participating for this season include Laguna CC, Patong CC, ICC, the Village Cricket Team and the Thalang Cricket Team. Matches commence at 10am and comprise 35 overs per innings.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Anyone wanting to play should contact chairman@phuketcricketgroup.com or visit www.phuketcricketgroup.com for more information.

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# Challenge of the champions



A moment of glory on the podium – The Men's and Women's top finishers. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

RASMUS Petreus of Denmark and Melissa Hauschildt of Australia are the respective men's and women's champions of the inaugural Challenge Laguna Phuket, having crossed the finish line with times of 4:05:06 and 4:30:29, respectively.

Mr Petreus was followed closely by Alberto Casadei of Italy who clocked in at 4:07:13, and his compatriot Alberto Alessandrini in 4:07:52. All three champions were the only contestants to finish the swimming part of the challenge in under 20 minutes.

From strength to strength, Me-

lissa Hauschildt of Australia, who just won the Laguna Phuket Triathlon last week, was the uncontested "woman on top" for the second week in a row clocking in at 04:30:29 and finishing 9<sup>th</sup> place overall. "In distant 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of the CLP, Hauschildt was followed by Rakha Vodakova of the Czech Republic and Tansin Lewis of Great Britain – who crossed the line 5 minutes and 47 seconds, and 14 minutes and 20 seconds after Hauschildt.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Only three triathletes completed the swim in under 20 minutes.

## Men Top 5

1. Rasmus Petreus	Den, 04:05:06 Swim 0:25:22 Bike 2:17:34 Run 1:20:12
2. Alberto Casadei	Ita, 04:07:13 Swim 0:25:25 Bike 2:17:31 Run 1:22:18
3. Alberto Alessandrini	Ita, 04:07:52 Swim 0:25:28 Bike 2:17:28 Run 1:22:41
4. Ruedi Wild	Sui, 04:11:11 Swim 0:28:08 Bike 2:20:31 Run 1:19:49
5. Massimo Cigana	Ita, 04:19:12 Swim 0:31:42 Bike 2:18:51 Run 1:26:18

## Women Top 5

1. Melissa Hauschildt	Aus, 04:30:29 Swim 0:31:07 Bike 2:29:14 Run 1:27:35
2. Radka Vodickova	Cze, 04:36:16 Swim 0:28:36 Bike 2:37:18 Run 1:27:55
3. Tamsin Lewis	Gbr, 04:44:49 Swim 0:31:40 Bike 2:36:19 Run 1:34:16
4. Belinda Granger	Aus, 04:51:59 Swim 0:31:09 Bike 2:38:31 Run 1:39:39
5. Ange Castle	Aus, 04:53:02 Swim 0:35:31 Bike 2:41:20 Run 1:33:28

## Juniors meet Challenge at Thanyapura Phuket

THE first annual Thanyapura Junior Challenge triathlon event on November 30 saw athletes and enthusiasts of all abilities and ages rise to the occasion to take on mini-triathlon courses on and around the lush "active and healthy lifestyle destination" in Thalang.

Organized as part of the Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri Fest 2013, the youth sporting event had a total of 220 participants who represented Thailand as well as Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, the UK, USA, Canada, Germany, Australia, Russia and more.

The event was presided over by Vice-Governor of Phuket Dr Sommai Preechasilpa, who presented the awards to the winners.

"It is great to see Thanyapura Phuket organizing an international event that supports

children to play sports and seeing participants coming from all over the world to join in this event here in Phuket," she said.

The participants were divided into Junior [6-8 years], Intermediate [9-12] and Senior [13-18] categories, the event giving the young athletes a chance to experience the world class sports facilities at Thanyapura Phuket including its 50m Olympic standard outdoor pool with biking routes set within the surrounding nature of Khao Phra Thae National Park and ending with the run on the cushioned track.

Winners are as follows: for male: age 6, Timofei Aleksandrow; age 7-8, Rowan McCallum; age 9-10 Mathew Trott; age 11-12, Russell Liew and age 15-18, Caleb Sadler. For females: age 6, Chiara Jessica Egger; age 7-8, Georgina Hagger;

age 9-10 Siobhain Doyle; age 11-12, Sharifah Nuraisyah Syed Yusof; and age 15-18, Hinako Kawai.

"It was great to see so many eager young up and coming athletes ready to race on a beautiful morning at Thanyapura. The atmosphere was a lot of fun and the smiles were contagious. The active healthy lifestyle environment of swim bike and run is fantastic for kids to grow up and be a part of," said the 4 time World Champion, Chris McCormack.

"Everyone was in top form today and it is good to see the improvement of many participants; especially the group from Malaysia. They were well prepared and very strong enabling them to win lots of categories this year," said legendary European Triathlete Champion and Thanyapura's Senior Triathlon Coach, Jrgen Zach.

The Thanyapura Junior Challenge Triathlon was hosted with the support from local Thalung Police Authority and Chief of Thalung District Chief, Supoj Chanakij, ensuring the safety of both competitors and spectators throughout the weekend.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Event supporters include: Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT), COKE, Bangkok Hospital Phuket, CBRE, Phuket Gazette, PGTV and 91.5 FM Phuket. For full results, go to [W:sportstats.ca](http://W:sportstats.ca) and click event name.



Jasmine Nolan (left) and a peer from the Fire Dragons relay team. Kids as young as four participated in the event. Photos: Steven Layne



EYE OF THE TIGER: Max Kennedy and Natalie Hunter close in on the finish line.



SMILE OF CHAMPIONS: Thanyapura Senior Triathlon Coach Jrgen Zach congratulates Caleb Sadler, the overall winner of the 15-18 years field.



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