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# Phuket Gazette



## Months of delays

### Illegal-working case grinds forward

INSIDE TODAY

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# Despite it all

## TOURISM FIGURES SHOW GROWTH

## Despite local and national political protests, island sets new arrivals record

By **Somchai Huasaikul**

WITH 2014 having drawn to a close, Phuket's top-ranking officials and leading tourism industry figures have avoided a year of stagnant growth, which was a possibility given the ongoing anti-government protests and a slew of other issues that continue to plague the island.

Tourism officials in both Phuket and Bangkok reported in late August that the trend in official tourist arrival statistics was on pace to achieve a record-breaking year-end figure: about 26.3 million visitors nationwide, with over one-third of these typically including Phuket in their itineraries.

Reasons for the optimism stemmed from a highly successful 2012, a 12-month span of relative political stability that, not surprisingly, ended a banner year: 22.4 million international visitors, up 16.2 per cent over 2011.

Few countries are more reliant on foreign tourism as a source of revenue, and no Thai province more so than Phuket. Though we managed to have a record-breaking year, 2013 finished far below expectations held prior to the protests.

"Even though the official 2013 tourist figures for Phuket have yet to be released, I think this year we will break the record," Santi Pawai, director of the Phuket Office of Tourism and Sports said in late December.

"According to last year's statistics, about 10,288,000 people came to Phuket. Our raw data this year, from January to November show that over 10.6 million tourists came to Phuket. We think at the end of the year it is possible that the number will reach 12 million people," he said.

The tourists keep coming despite the fact that many foreign missions – those of almost all major source markets – continue to warn against "all but essential" travel to Thailand as the protests in...

Continued on Page 2

## Top headlines of 2013

The *Gazette* looks back at the biggest stories of the year in search of those with the potential to be game changers.

### PACC it up

PUBLIC sector Anti-Corruption Commission in February dropped its probe into government officials illegally issuing land titles across Phuket.

### Public bus plan breaks barrier

AFTER decades in the planning, a new bus service was set to launch in March, but was delayed until July. Poor signage left the "hop on, hop off" service struggling, especially after it shortened its route to end in Patong instead of connecting to Kata-Karon as originally planned.

### Mafia rule

PATONG kingpin Preechavude Keesin in August pointed the finger back at officials in war on organized crime, after being named on the Department of Special Investigation's blacklist of those allegedly involved in the taxi mafia.

### Champion steps in for Rohingya

MINISTER of Social Development and Human Security Paveena Hongsakula in July pledged to approach the Prime Minister to address the deplorable conditions in which Rohingya refugees are being detained in Thailand. Reuters has most recently reported that refugees are falling into the hands of human traffickers and being held in jungle camps in the Deep South.

### Police find Deep South car bomb

THE pickup truck rigged with a bomb that was found parked at Phuket City Police Station in December was stolen from the Deep South.

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## This Week



### Business

Glimpse the beauty of Khao Lak in a new magazine. **Page 5**



### Property

Phuket real estate to replace the gray with more green. **Page 6**



### In Focus

Take a look at the events of 2014 in a crystal ball. **Page 24**



### Arts

Thai soaps: not only good for learning Thai language. **Page 26**



### Cinema

Who said that Thai cinematography was all that bad? **Page 28**



### Sport

Phuket's Dylan Young climbing the ranks in Bahrain. **Page 30**

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Sunday



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Monday



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Thursday



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# Island tourism grows

From page 1

...Bangkok continue unabated (see page 4).

In Phuket, despite the possibility of tarnishing the island's reputation as a "safe" destination, protesters showed their allegiance with anti-government protesters in Bangkok by demonstrating at Phuket Provincial Hall.

The island's largest political protest peacefully convinced the Governor to close down Provincial Hall for almost three weeks, while small protests forced the temporary closure of other government offices on the island.

As a testament to Phuket's creativity, some crafty private tour operators have been walking foreign tourists around the protest site at Provincial Hall.

The largest tourist market for Phuket in 2013 was the Chinese market, said Mr Santi. The Middle Kingdom is not only the great final frontier of Phuket tourism promotion, but also a place that takes a markedly different approach to dealing with anti-government protests. For many tourists, the chance to see genuine political protest in action is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

But the Phuket protests led to tailbacks in and around Phuket Town, highlighting the island's ever-worsening traffic problems.

Headway has been made on several underpass projects this year.

But according to *Gazette* online polls in 2013, improving Phuket's public transport system would be the best solution to traffic problems for locals, expats and tourists.

"Phuket needs to prove that we can provide public transportation for local people and tourists,"



Passengers queue at Phuket International Airport. Photo: Gazette file

Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) chief Teerayut Prasertpol said early in 2013.

Mr Teerayut was referring to the Airport Express bus service, a service it was believed at the time would be a game changer for the public transport sector in Phuket.



'Public transportation is just another option to support the island's tourism industry'

— Phuket Land Transportation Office chief Teerayut Prasertpol

"We are not targeting tourists. I believe people who prefer the convenience of using taxis will still use them, and they will be willing to pay more for the extra convenience. Public transportation is just another option to support the

island's tourism industry," Mr Teerayut said.

Since the bus service's rushed launch in July, during Phuket's low season, the company has struggled to connect with its market. In October it still did not have an English version of its website, though it does now.

Taxis have been in the news repeatedly in the last year, as have official vows to standardize them, clear them from parking places and put an end to some drivers' criminal behavior.

The Department of Special Investigation (DSI) Organized Crime Centers, established this year, were established specifically to target illegal taxis.

"Right now, we are just working on reducing the power of whoever is behind the illegal taxis in Phuket," Lt Col Somboon Sarasitt of the DSI Bureau of Special Crime Region 3 said in August.

As Phuket enters the new year, it remains to be seen if a push by the DSI and local authorities to wrangle the illegal taxis into submission and "reclaim the streets" from illegal taxi ranks, with a scheduled "D-Day" of December 31, will have a significant impact on Phuket's tourism industry.

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**Lighthouse**

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**Dickie's Light House restaurant and bar**, formerly known as Jimmy's Lighthouse, opened December 7 following an extensive refurbishment.

Featuring a new kitchen, great new deck and dining area and bar overlooking beautiful Chalong Bay, the decor is simple and complete with heavy teak tables and highly polished wooden floors.

Dickie's Light House hosts an extensive range of both Thai and Western foods and all-day breakfasts – all at prices that will astound you; the average meal is around 250 baht with all Thai dishes at or under 150 baht; steaks 350-400 baht – all very generous portions. Sunday roasts as well.

Dickie's Lighthouse also offers five accommodations, all with air-conditioning and queen-sized beds. All rooms have large windows overlooking the yachts, long-tail and motor boats moored in beautiful Chalong Bay. The sunrises are spectacular from all five rooms, which are newly furnished and very tastefully decorated.

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# Filipina stuck in legal limbo

By Saran Mitrat

A PHILIPPINE national charged with working in Patong illegally was forced to wait in limbo for five months for a trial and for her passport to be returned to her.

In the meantime, she remained stuck in Thailand without a work permit, or legal way to support herself.

Melanie Beleno, 35, was arrested on July 4 when Immigration Police came to the Phuket Sira Boutique Hotel in Patong where she was working without a work permit.

Immigration officers handed her over to Patong Police, who confiscated her passport.

"I'd been working at the hotel for only a month when I was arrested along with a co-worker. They put us in jail and took my passport," she said.

Someone from the hotel came to the police station and had the pair released, she explained.

In the intervening five and a half months, her trial date was postponed four times.

First scheduled to meet the Public Prosecutor and go to court on August 26, her appointment was pushed back to September 25,

then October 25. Her latest appointment was for December 26, where she finally had the opportunity to appear before a judge.

"I asked to get my passport back, but they said I have to wait until the trial had finished," Ms Beleno said on December 25, still not knowing if her trial would be delayed yet again.

The staff in the Prosecutor's office told Ms Beleno that the delay was because there were many cases like hers.

Case prosecutor Tawan Suknirundorn said that the postponement of Ms Beleno's arraignment

was due to the ongoing investigation of the hotel owner.

"We have to determine whether he was involved in the crime or not," Mr Tawan said. "That can take a long time."

"The police have to keep Ms Beleno's passport during this period to prevent her from fleeing the country," he added.

Phuket Provincial Chief Public Prosecutor Chiengsean Panhya confirmed that the case might take a long time.

"Some prosecutors investigate the entrepreneur and suspect separately, while others investigate them together. It also depends on

'If the delay is causing difficulties, we will help in any way we can'

— **Phuket Provincial Chief Public Prosecutor Chiengsean Panhya**



Ms Beleno arrived in court on December 26. Photo: Gazette file

how much work that prosecutor has to do. We have a lot of cases coming in every day," he said.

"In this case, Ms Beleno never told us that she had a problem or wanted to leave the country. If the delay is causing difficulties, we will help in any way we can – she should just let us know," he said. Meanwhile, Ms Beleno contin-

ues to wait.

The general manager and colleagues from the hotel has kept in touch with her, she said.

"They're worried about me," she said.

"I just pray to finish my case. Then if they give me a chance to work here again, I'll do it properly next time," she added.



Phang Sutjai was moved home.

## Elephant camp owner fined for illegal elephant

AN ELEPHANT camp owner charged in October with illegally bringing an elephant into Phuket has been fined and the elephant returned to its home in Phang Nga.

Prasob Jerkai, 37, paid a 5,000-baht fine for bringing the elephant into the province without a permit, Kathu Livestock Acting Chief Jirayu Nirunwiroj said.

A tip-off led livestock officers to Mr Prasob's elephant camp in Kathu on October 26, where they found Phang Sutjai, an 18-month-old female elephant, chained to a coconut tree.

Mr Prasob confessed to officers that he did not have the proper papers to bring the pachyderm into the province, but claimed to have legal registration documents for her. Mr Prasob was charged with importing an elephant into the province without a permit.

— **Chutharat Plerin**

## Case against violent taxi station delayed

THE investigation of a violent Phuket taxi rank whose behavior was exposed in a sting operation in late November has been postponed.

"We had expected the investigation against the Merlin Beach Resort taxi rank to get official sanction at our December 2 meeting," said Somboon Sarasit, head of the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) Special Crime Unit 3, referring to the monthly DSI national-level meeting.

"However, there were other topics we had to discuss at that meeting – such as the anti-government protests in Bangkok," he said.

Lt Col Somboon said that he would present evidence against the Merlin Beach Resort taxi drivers at the January meeting.

"We have enough evidence to get the case added to our special investigations list," he said.

The evidence he referred to came from a sting operation initiated after the DSI received reports that taxi drivers at the resort were threatening people who



Lt Col Somboon Sarasit

were picking up guests.

The DSI enlisted a foreigner to pose as a guest, and had a DSI undercover officer pick him up at the resort.

"When our officer arrived to pick up the foreigner, one of the taxi drivers parked a motorbike in front of the officer's car and told the foreigner not to get in it. Another driver opened the car door and tried to pull the DSI officer out," Lt Col Somboon related.

Other DSI officers arrived on the scene to defuse the situation, but no charges were pressed.

Another high profile taxi case in November involved the Honorary Consul of Ireland who reported a similar experience at a resort in Rawai.

"We will not stop following up on complaints about taxi drivers in Phuket. Whoever is behind the illegal taxi operations on the island must be investigated," Col Somboon said.

— **Chutharat Plerin**

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# A nation at the crossroads

## SPECIAL REPORT

AS THAILAND begins a new year, the country finds itself at a crossroads. What seems to be at stake is not only the future shape of democracy in this country, but whether it will even remain a “democracy” at all. This should worry all those who care about the future of Thailand and its people.

The People’s Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) is determined to bring down Yingluck Shinawatra’s government. They want to uproot the “Thaksin regime” and replace it with a “People’s Government”. They want a “People’s Assembly” to serve as the legislative branch of this brave new administration, and to draft legislation that would reform Thailand’s political system.

They insist that they are not anti-democracy, but support a cleaner democracy – one not corrupted by capital.

The group, led by former deputy PM Suthep Thaugsuban and several old faces from the People’s Alliance for Democracy,



An anti-government protester flies the Thai standard at a mass demonstration in Bangkok. Photo: Reuters

claim the Constitution allows them to do this. Article 3 of the charter says sovereignty of the country “belongs to the people”.

The government, they add, has violated Article 68 of the Constitution, which says that no one should

try to overthrow the system of constitutional democracy with HM The King as head of state. Because the current government says it will not heed the judgment of the Constitutional Court, which struck down its recent Senate amendment,

the administration is no longer respecting the Constitution, and has thus lost legitimacy, the PDRC claims.

Once Ms Yingluck has resigned, an eventuality the PDRC is plainly aiming to achieve, there will be a power vacuum. The PDRC then wants to invoke Article 7 of the charter, which says that when no part of the document seems to apply to the situation, the country should follow conventional democratic practice.

Since the country has been ruled by appointed prime ministers before, this would allow the head of the Senate to appoint a new premier, who would in turn bring in a new government of technocrats – “good people”, using the protesters’ term of choice.

A new “People’s Assembly” would then replace the Parliament. Its 400-strong membership would comprise 300 representatives from professional organizations, and 100 appointed by the PDRC. This assembly would then set about “reforming” Thailand’s corrupted political system.

The PDRC is right to say the system is in need of reform. Politics remains deeply corrupt. Vote buying, as the protesters claim, is indeed rife. But to claim that Pheu Thai “buys” elections entirely through the purchasing of votes, as the PDRC has claimed, is to grossly oversimplify the situation. The reality is that – for all his

serious flaws – Thaksin Shinawatra and his proxies are the party of choice for millions of Thais.

A further oversimplification is in suggesting that only one party engages in vote buying. All the parties play the “votes for notes” game. Studies have shown that some voters take money only from the party they intend to support, while others take money from every party then vote for their preferred candidate anyway. Paying for votes is the price you pay to play the game, as academics Chris Baker and Pasuk Phongpaichit have argued. It does not guarantee victory.

One further cause for caution is the leader of the protests himself. Those who have lived in Phuket long enough may remember a little of Suthep Thaugsuban’s questionable record. In 1995, as Agriculture Minister, he was responsible for the *SorPorKor 4-01* land reform scheme, in which the deeds to plots of empty land were supposed to be distributed to poor farmers around the country.

In Phuket, an investigation revealed that 11 of the island’s richest families were among the recipients of this property. The accusations had enough credibility – and seriousness – to bring down Chuan Leekpai’s Democrat government. This fact should serve as a strong signal that this conflict is driven by a lot more than just revulsion to corruption.

To lose faith in democracy at this point in Thailand’s development would be a mistake. The system is highly flawed. But one

has to wonder what kind of reforms might the PDRC carry out that could somehow ensure that when democracy is restored – within about 18 months – it is suddenly, miraculously clean.

The PDRC claims to be a peaceful movement, and so far the protests have been relatively free from violence. But those observers who support the principles of human rights and free speech have good cause to wonder what kind of reforms Mr Suthep and his fellow leaders have in mind – reforms that we are led to believe will succeed in cleaning up Thai politics where others have failed.

A nation does not make a better democracy by abandoning democracy. – *Phuket Gazette*



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# Knowing our neighbors to the north

## New glossy magazine to promote Khao Lak worldwide

THESE are exciting times for long-term Khao Lak resident Sascha Meissmer, Sales Manager of the all-new *Khaolak* Magazine. As the first issue of the quality magazine rolled off the presses recently to considerable acclaim, we managed to grab a moment with Sascha, 44, to find out more.

### So Sascha, tell us, what is the purpose of the new magazine?

The *Khaolak* Magazine aims to promote Khao Lak and the region to travellers in Thailand and beyond and to help our current visitors get as much enjoyment and satisfaction as possible out of their stay in this beautiful part of the world.

With every issue of the magazine we want readers to learn something more about Khao Lak and the superb experiences available to them in this stunning region of Thailand. In the first issue, for example, there is a photo-feature on the delights of the nearby Similan Islands – voted one of the world's top 10 dive sites by the National Geographic Society.

We also aim to showcase the quality of local businesses in Khao Lak and the region and introduce readers to great places to stay, shop, dine or unwind in the area. Did you know, for example, that Khao Lak now has over 150 places to dine – or that we have four of the top 24 beach resorts in Thailand as voted for this year on TripAdvisor.com?

### So where is the new magazine being distributed, and what's the print run?

The first print run of the magazine was 5,000 printed copies and over 1,500 of these have already been placed directly into guest bedrooms at quality hotels throughout the region – including some of Khao Lak's premier resorts such as the JW Marriott

Resort & Spa, Casa de la Flora and the Ramada Khao Lak Resort.

In addition, we have over a hundred distribution points at various businesses and other locations around the area, as well as several in Phuket, Krabi and beyond. Most importantly, we also now have a digital edition of the magazine that can be read for free online – so already we have over 2,000 more readers in 50-plus countries worldwide, from Australia to Sweden, which is fantastic!

### So now the first issue is out, how has it been received?

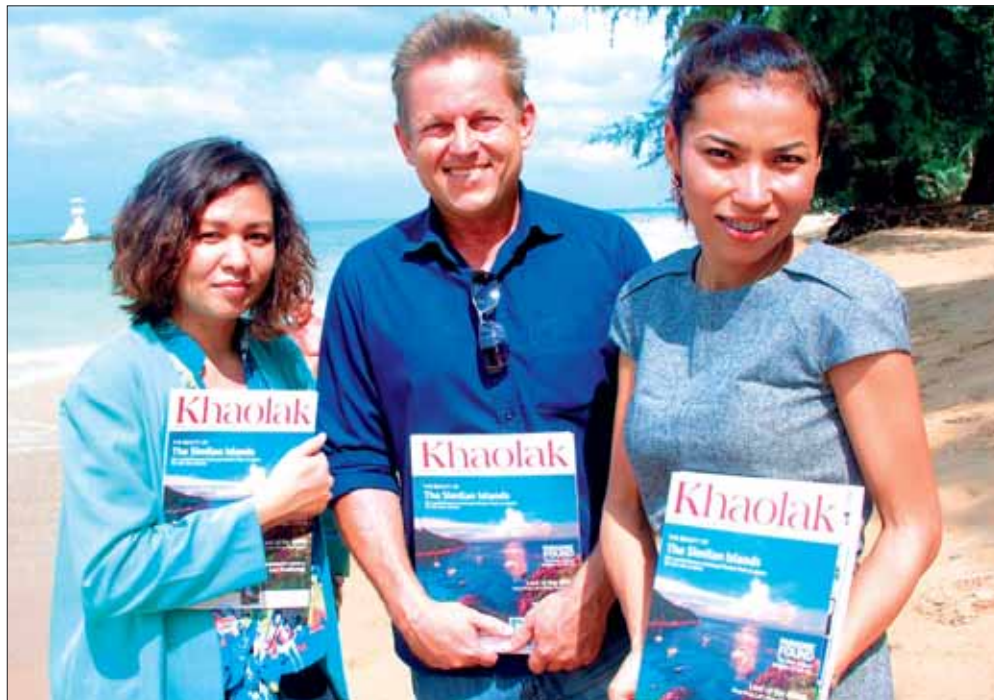
The response has been fantastic so far. The magazine has been warmly welcomed by visitors and we have had lots of very positive feedback, plus local businesses also seem delighted that there is now a quality magazine available in the region where they can showcase themselves to potential customers.

We have also received numerous messages of support and congratulations by email and social media from people all over the world – from Europe to Australia.

### The new magazine promotes Khao Lak as an eco-destination – so what are Khao Lak's eco-credentials?

Well for a start, Khao Lak boasts over 20km of pristine, unspoilt beaches – without a deck chair, beach vendor or jet-ski in sight. Plus, the entire Khao Lak region is an area of outstanding natural beauty and is surrounded by several of Thailand's finest National Parks. Khao Lak is also the closest mainland departure point for the stunning Similan Islands, one of the best diving and snorkelling sites in the world.

Last, but not least, Khao Lak makes the ideal base from which to explore the natural wonders of Phang-Nga and the



Khaolak Magazine publisher Nuchanat Arunprasert (right) with Sales Manager Sascha Meissmer (center) and Chief Designer Supansa Samanakrit (left). Photo: Supplied

region – from the breathtaking Chiew Lan Lake in the North to the beauty of Phang Nga Bay in the South.

Put simply, Khao Lak is not only a superb beach holiday location, it really is an eco-paradise, which is why we want to tell the world about it!

### What else attracts visitors to Khao Lak?

Well, apart from the incredible beaches and scenery that I just mentioned, Khao Lak also has that lovely, relaxed pace of life that you usually can only find on the smaller islands around the Kingdom.

Wherever you go here, there is a friendly, laid-back atmosphere that I've not come across in any other tourism area of mainland Thailand – and thankfully there's none of the racy nightlife, traffic congestion, scams or infrastructure issues found in some of the more developed visitor destinations worldwide.

When people visit here, they come to de-stress and unwind completely, and the laid-back, safe vibe in Khao Lak lends

itself to that perfectly.


We even have growing numbers of Phuket-based expats who come here on the weekend to relax before returning to work refreshed a couple of days later!

### How do you see Khao Lak developing in the future?



The authorities here have so far been very far-sighted and single-minded in deliberately not trying to attract the mass tourism market to Khao Lak, which has allowed it to develop gradually and organically to become what it is today – one of Asia's premier eco-friendly beach resorts.

I hope going forward we will see the same kind of intelligent, sustainable development continue so that the village-like charm and natural wonders of the region can be enjoyed by the next generation of nature lovers, couples and families.

Digital editions of the all-new *Khaolak* Magazine may be read for free online, on PC, tablet or smartphone at [issuu.com/khaolakmagazine](http://issuu.com/khaolakmagazine)



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# Ready for the Green Revolution?

Consultant says gray out, green in for Phuket's real estate boom in 2014 and beyond

By Steven Layne

BACK in November, an energetic Chilean man paid a visit to the Phuket Gazette offices. Identifying himself as Ignacio Espoz Babul, the Director of (Santiago-based) LatinGreen – a patent holder, innovator and installer of “Green Walls” – the man passionately talked of a coming “Green Revolution” that he had envisioned for Phuket and the whole of Asia.

In the 80s, Babul watched with concern as the houses with gardens and trees as well as parks in his native Santiago de Chile disappeared to make way for larger buildings and urban sprawl. He had an idea to repurpose these lost spaces onto the roofs of buildings and even incorporate them into vertical walls.

As a commercial engineer Babul had the knowledge necessary to transform his vision into reality as director of LatinGreen and founder of the World Green Infrastructure Network (wgin.org). In addition to creating green infrastructure, he organizes lectures and events worldwide.

Following is the first part of that spontaneous, albeit stimulating interview:

**Phuket Gazette: In simple terms, what are green walls, roofs or buildings?**

Living wall systems are comprised of pre-vegetated panels, modules or planted blankets that are affixed to a structural wall or free-standing frame. These modules support a greater diversity and density of plant species, including a lush mixture of groundcovers, ferns and low shrubs, perennial flowers and edible plants. Living walls can perform well in full sun, shade and interior applications.

We're looking to build the systems in Phuket; the whole construction process would be realized by us, from the technical analysis, to the landscaping (art) and construction. We can even consult about using a patented eco air conditioner and purifier that can be used with solar or wind energy.

**What is your vision for Phuket/Thailand – what opportunities do you see here?**

Thailand is a beautiful country rich in resources and opportunities; the particular way of life here – one that divinely values HM the King, upholding a great respect for religion as well as friendly cordiality to strangers; and so, the world's tourists prefer this destination, with the number of visitors increasing exponentially every year.

Phuket especially has a dynamic economy, driven mostly from the tourism and real estate sectors,



Photos: Supplied

Living wall systems comprised of pre-vegetated panels, modules or planted blankets. Inset: Ignacio Babul.

which has triggered a surge in demand for new buildings, apartments, malls and hotels.

Now is the time – this is the moment where we can be in harmony with nature. Building green means eliminating the otherwise imposing gray, which will have an immediate impact on the environment and aesthetics of places.

My vision points towards the government, private sector and all the people of Thailand who have a special appreciation for nature: once you all have more information, options and offers, I'm sure the green infrastructure will become an integral part of the architecture.

We have the ability to build the projects – small, large and multiple units. The aim is to generate demand so that economies of scale apply to enable lower production costs.

In the first phase, we aim to make known the different elements

of green infrastructure, to stress the importance of having the city be in harmony with nature, it's people, their children and visitors. The central idea is to incorporate the dynamic real estate boom.

Initially, we've been in contact with the Phuket provincial government, establishing a healthy dialogue that includes improving aesthetics and functionality of the island's strategic points such as the airport, shopping plazas, advertising and road info points, schools and tourist areas.

I'm also looking to organize lectures at the local universities, to spread awareness among prospective entrepreneurs, investors and partners.

Green infrastructure is the perfect concept for tourism businesses, shops, banks or service companies, as well as for private applications.

**is needed in terms of US\$ per square meter?**

There are a lot of economic and environmental benefits, which can be translated into profit from investment. The investment will depend on the size of the project, plant varieties used and the technical elements that can be applied. In addition to construction of the roofs and walls themselves, clients might consider additional elements to add more automation and productivity, namely solar and wind power to supplement lighting, water pumping and even eco air conditioning.

The rate can range anywhere from US\$40 to \$1,000 per square meter, depending on whether it's just a simple grass garden, or with bonsais, waterfalls and hundreds of other options.

Stay tuned for the more of the interview with Ignacio, to be published in a fortnight.

**What kind of capital investment**

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PROPERTY RESALE

**Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket**

<p><b>1 Allamanda 1 Bedroom Studio THB 5 M</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 bed 1 bath condominium</li> <li>• Golf view and Garden access</li> <li>• Leasehold</li> <li>• Fully furnished</li> </ul>	<p><b>2 Allamanda 1 Bedroom Suite THB 5.7 M</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 bed 1 bath</li> <li>• Golf and Pool view</li> <li>• Leasehold</li> <li>• Fully furnished</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 Allamanda 2 Bedroom Suite THB 9.5 M</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 beds 2 baths</li> <li>• Golf and Pool view</li> <li>• Freehold</li> <li>• Fully furnished</li> </ul>	<p><b>4 Laguna Village Townhomes I THB 18.5 M</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 beds 3 baths Townhomes</li> <li>• Lagoon view</li> <li>• Leasehold</li> <li>• Private pool</li> </ul>
<p><b>5 Banyan Tree Residences THB 49 M</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two-bedroom Pool Villa</li> <li>• Fully furnished</li> <li>• Rental Program with Fixed rental return till Feb, 2016</li> <li>• Banyan Tree Residence Club Membership</li> </ul>	<p>For more information on these and other properties, please call: <b>+66 (0)76 362 333</b> email: <a href="mailto:resale@lagunaresale.com">resale@lagunaresale.com</a> <a href="http://www.lagunaresale.com">www.lagunaresale.com</a></p>

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PROPERTY

# The toll of tourism

AS WE embark on the year 2014, there seems to be no better time to reflect back on the monumental changes that have transformed Phuket over the past few decades, all the result of “Bangkok style” urbanization that continues to degrade what is left of the island’s natural beauty and diminish its appeal to foreign tourists.

In a recent *Gazette* online readers’ poll, only about six per cent of those who took part thought that the island’s beaches remained its premier selling point. This was the least popular among six possible responses.

The most popular response was that the island’s unique combination of beaches, natural beauty, good value for money and nightlife was responsible for keeping tourist arrival figures on the rise year-in and year-out. Good enough, at least if one is prepared to accept tourism arrival figures as the gold standard by which success should be measured.

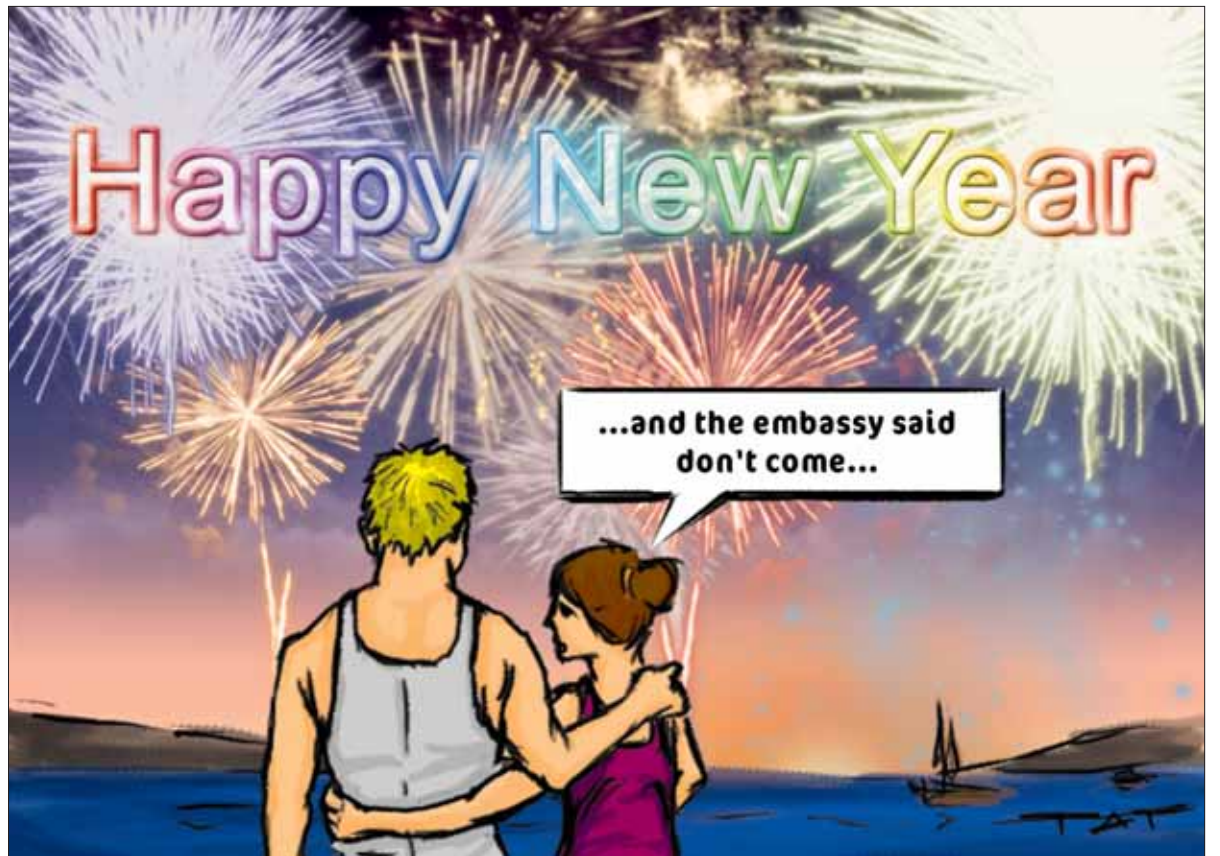
The sad fact is that it is far too late to turn back the clock and restore the island to what it once was: a tropical paradise with hillsides covered in virgin forest, beautiful coral reefs within easy swimming distance of most beaches, crystal clear waters and a friendly, laid-back local population for whom world-class hospitality came as second nature.

The problem, of course, has been the island’s so-called “development”, a term that comes across as increasingly oxymoronic as we watch Phuket’s natural heritage plundered and replaced with an unsightly urban landscape more like images from the dystopian sci-fi film *Blade Runner* than those which appear on so many tourism promotion pamphlets.

This development has brought us endless traffic tailbacks, slum communities built on cleared mangrove forests, huge advertising billboards, and the latest trend: colossal concrete traffic underpasses that may have no appreciable effect on the ever-growing traffic problem, except to transform the existing mess into a three-dimensional nightmare la Bangkok and line the pockets of corrupt politicians.

It is hard to conceive of a way to stem this heartbreaking tide under the existing “vassal state” dynamic, with the island’s “development” funded, authorized and approved by powerful people in the capital who have apparently spent too much time zoning out while sitting in traffic jams to conceive that there could be a better way forward.

One potential way out would be to establish the island as a “special administrative area” with its own elected governor, a concept that has long been discussed. But that would require honest politicians, which are as few on the ground here as they are in the capital.



## Abandoning elections isn't the way

*Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: When democracy requires protest, December 22*

The writer is of the opinion that the voters are not good enough to make their decisions on the candidate. I think this is a self-insulting view.

Another illusion is that the people who are non-elected technocrats are better than the local politicians who know the real needs of the people with whom they are living everyday. There is a big difference in theoretical knowledge and practical knowledge.

Writing good policy and implementing it on the ground are two different things.

Democracy is a system that is not perfect but it is a system which improves step-by-step each time there is an election. It takes time. If we derail the democracy each time and start from zero, we lose all the benefit of the process of progressive improvement.

Give me one country in the world that is run in the alternate way proposed.

Thank you. Continue writing and we can share our views.

*Chinda Bangkok*

### Car bomb wake up

*Re: Gazette online, Phuket car bomb linked to dead man in Deep South, December 24*

I was shocked to find that there was a car bomb in Phuket.

For years people have talked about how tourist cash has provided Phuket with a protective bubble from both political craziness in Bangkok and the ghastly violence in the Deep South.

I prayed on Christmas Day that the car bomb hadn't malfunctioned, that it had been built as a serious warning to someone and not with the intent of taking human life.

There is already enough petty and senseless crime in Phuket, let

### Letters to the Editor

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

us continue to hope that tourism cash buffers the province from true terror.

*Trevor Green Chalong*

### Respect for memory of tsunami victims

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of December it will be nine years since the tsunami hit Thailand and other countries. Around 250,000 people died; with more than 5,000 in Khao Lak, and over 200 in Patong.

I always saw the sign in Patong “Tsunami Memorial” but I could never find it until one day I discovered that it's the big statue of a dog near Loma Park on the beach.

What's the meaning behind this kind of statue? What a shame! Shouldn't Patong have a more worthy statue with the story on it of what happened that day? And with an inscription of what it stands for?

Once created, it should be well-maintained, out of respect for the victims. My brother died in Khao Lak on that day. There is a wall of remembrance there, but it could be maintained better too.

*Lungdee Phuket*

### Time to say goodbye to Tourist Police

The arrest of a Tourist Police Volunteer comes as no surprise. I served as a TPV for a while, and found the organisation chaotic, its purpose unclear, background checks non-existent, and training minimal.

Yes, there were good TPVs, but there were just too many uniform-

loving Walter-Mittys and dodgy characters, seeing TPV membership as some kind of ‘get-out-of-jail-free’ card. Hopefully, recent events will act as a catalyst for TPV disbandment.

The police should then set up a non-paramilitary and more pastoral street steward system. These work successfully in many British towns and cities, often involving local churches. The boots and batons of TPVs have never been needed or wanted here. The time for them to be removed from our streets is long overdue.

*Andrew Phuket*

### Get a grip on maniac taxi drivers

I am seeing more and more of the silver airport taxis driving like complete lunatics on the roads in Phuket.

Tonight the driver of taxi 266 nearly ran an old Thai guy on a motorbike off the road and then nearly had a head-on collision passing around a blind turn. This guy has no business transporting tourists.

We all know these guys think they are the gods of the airport, but this kind of recklessness on the roads costs lives and needs to be stopped.

*Dennis Kamala*

### Speed limits only the beginning of solution

*Re: Gazette Online, Merry Christmas Phuket! Governor to announce bypass road speed limit, December 21*

Speed limits help a lot, as we can see on most other roads around Phuket! What about some police to seriously enforce the law on the roads?

*Harald Gazette forum*

## Phuket Gazette

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# Making resolutions reality

The key is focusing on the future, not the past, says lifestyle coach Susanna Huza

## FIRST PERSON

ARE you thinking about making a fresh start in 2014? But are hesitating to make New Year resolutions because they seem bound to fail? This year do something different and get what you want.

What is it about the beginning of a new year that causes us to reflect on our lives and our accomplishments? I believe that each of us has an inborn drive to grow and create an environment that matches our innermost desires. We want to make life as fulfilling as we can.

Whatever our motivation, be it personal, financial, fitness-based or romantic, we annually draw a new line in the sand and claim a starting point for our next chapter. Unfortunately most of us end up setting ourselves up for a post resolution let-down! Why is that?

And how can we change this pattern?

There are three main obstacles that stop us from getting what we want.

The first we can call "Away-From". Often, our resolutions focus more on what we want to get away from – what we want to stop doing or feeling – than on what we want to become. The past is full of old physical habits, thinking patterns, experiences and

memories that are loaded with emotion that can actually hinder rather than further our ambitions and dreams.

The second is overload, also known as "Biting off more than you can chew". This happens when our goal is too distant from our current reality. All of us

know someone who has a cross-trainer or a treadmill that has been relegated to a bedroom as a clothes rack.

The third is procrastination. The simple truth is that we some-

times are too idle to take action. We are willing to close our eyes and dream of an alternate reality, but our efforts end there.

How to sidestep these obstacles? The key is focus, and realizing that you get what you focus on. Try these four steps to achieve what you want in the new year.

First, imagine the future. Thinking of your 2014 resolution, ask yourself: What will it be like when I reach my goal? Imagine a specific time in the future when you have what you desire, and describe it. Use present tense and positive words only! Really paint the picture in detail and bathe in the feeling of freedom that will come to you. Hear yourself tell the story of your success to a group of friends. Make a mental and emotional snapshot of that vision so you may visit it again and again.

Second, write out your resolution. Then write down the details of your resolution. Use present tense and positive words only! The more specific you are, the better.

Third, consider milestones. Work backwards from your snapshot, filling in measurable and

**Susanna Huza**, 41, is CEO of Ignite Inspiration Co Ltd, a Communications Consultancy and Training Company. She has a multinational background and earned undergraduate and advanced degrees in law from the University of Hull in the UK. She is also a Master Practitioner and Trainer of Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) and Hypnosis, and Master Trainer of TimeLine Therapy.



Here she offers suggestions on how to avoid resolution-pitfalls and make your New Year goals come true.

achievable milestones to your success. What has to happen, sequentially, for you to get what you want? Set time frames. Consider what resources you will need. What and whom do you need to bring into your life in order to help your goal along? Some people find it easier to make to-do lists and tick the items off as they go along.

Finally, keep in mind that success breeds success. Take small, continuous steps towards your target. Make your immediate

milestones small and easily achievable in order to build momentum and confidence so that you can reach your ultimate goal.

Remember the old adage: "If you don't change direction, you end up where you are going." Stay focused on what you want.

And please remember! No one is an island. Though Phuket offers a great variety of ways we can escape and hide from ourselves, it also offers many traditional and holistic methods for self-improvement.

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# YOUR Phuket

## AMAZING ESTATE JEWELRY AT SOUL OF ASIA



Mr Eric Smulders (center), owner of Soul of Asia Gallery with Pornphan "Aree" Thippithak (right), Sales Assistant and Jantira "Moddang" Kankoonthod (left), General Manager.

## "REGENT JOURNEY" AT EXCLUSIVE ILTM EVENT IN CANNES



Brice Borin, General Manager, Regent Phuket Cape Panwa (3rd from right) and Komson Sevatasai, Director of Sales and Marketing for Regent Phuket (far right), joined with an international Regent team in representing the luxury hospitality brand at the 2013 International Luxury Travel Market (ILTM) forum.



Auttapon Prichananon, Area Directing Manager – Tesco Lotus Extra store format

## OFFICIAL OPENING TESCO LOTUS EXTRA PHUKET



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(SA0109-10-13)



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Property Type : Single House  
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(SH0903-10-13)



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(RH0613-11-13)



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Location : Thalang  
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Useable area : 200 Sq.m.  
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(RH0591-07-13)



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Property Type : Single House  
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(RH0599-08-13)



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(SA0110-11-13)



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Selling price : Start from 2.3 MB\*



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Selling Price : Start from 1.1 MB\*



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## JOB of the week

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นิติศาสตร์  
และ  
นิติศาสตร์

**International Law Office**

**See page 16**

## BOAT of the week

SIMPSON  
MARINE



**See page 20**

## PROPERTY of the week



**A Luxury Private Villa For Sale  
48 Million Bath**

**See page 12**

## PROPERTY SERVICES of the week

Thailand's Leading Property Site  
 **DDproperty**  
.com



**See page 15**

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Luxury brand-new villa, fully furnished and ready to move in, 3 bedrooms 4 bathrooms with infinity 10m long swimming pool and truly beautiful sea view. Located in a small development, only 50m from the sea and 3 minutes from Ao Por Grand Marina. For sale: 19.9 million baht or long-term rent: 150,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha\_phuket@yahoo.com

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**A Luxury Villa REDUCED to 42 MB. from 48 MB.**

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**QUIET NAI HARN POOL VILLA**

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**HABITOWN, KOH KAEW**

115sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, includes built-in furniture, 2 floors. Resale down 150,000 baht. Tel: 089-772 7012. Email: gyb\_giff@yahoo.com

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**THIDA HOUSE SALE 27 MILLION**

Thai-style modern townhouse with land. Size: 10.50m x 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining room, kitchen and car park. Single house on land size: 15m by 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining area/kitchen, terrace and car park. Soi Mountain View Kathu Waterfall. Tel: 081-535 7585, 084-119 4262, 081-356 9754. Email: pee\_cho74@hotmail.com

**PROPERTY AND MOTOR INSURANCE****Lambert Brothers Insurance Brokers**

- Property Insurance
- Construction
- Public Liability
- Professional Indemnity, Director and Officers
- Group Health and Individual
- Personal Accident and Travel
- Motor Insurance

Contact: Paew, Piya or Tux  
Phuket Boat Lagoon  
[info@lambertbrothers.co.th](mailto:info@lambertbrothers.co.th)  
Tel: + 66 76 273 385

[www.lambertbrothers.co.th](http://www.lambertbrothers.co.th)

**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).

**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.

**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).

All classifieds  
in these pages are

**PAID!**

— your assurance that  
whatever's advertised here  
is seriously for sale.

**Gazette Classads - they work!**  
....because they're real.

**Live in Cherng Talay?**

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at  
**Chaba Supermarket**



Simply write out your ad,  
pay and leave it with  
**Khun Na: (076-325586)**  
or **(081-3977307)**

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

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

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.

**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**

## Properties For Rent

**BEAUTIFUL CONDO**

1 bedroom, 65sqm, nicely furnished, balcony with golf course view. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Sale: 1.9 million baht. Phuket Country Club. Contact Ole. Tel: 085-795 4741. Email: oleanda.man@gmail.com

**CHEAP RENT KOH KAEW**

1-bedroom house on Boat Lagoon canal. 3,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

**LUXURY POOL VILLA - RAWAI**

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

**COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN**

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

**PARADISE FOR RENT**

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool villa, very quiet, western standard, aircon, WiFi. Tel: 083-395 5330 (English), +41-07-9661 4061. Email: c.spleiss@robert-spleiss.ch. Please visit our website at www.naiharn-villa.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.

**APARTMENT & HOUSE AVAILABLE**

Studio, 1-bed, 2-bed apartment and houses for short & long-term rent. Kata-Karon, Patong, Kathu area. Tel: 086-940 5187 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-333077. Email: nirvanaphuket@hotmail.it. For further details, please see our website at www.phuketislandrealestate.com

**HOUSE AT SAI YUAN**

Fully furnished. 60,000 baht per month. 3-month deposit. Tel: 081-6930935. Email: phuketaccount@hotmail.com

**4-BEDROOM POOL VILLA, BANG TAO**

4 bedrooms, villa with pool and at Bang Tao. From 200,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-290 0110 (English). Email: alexandra@bizphuket.net

**POOL VILLA FOR RENT**

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms for vacation or long-term rental. Tel: 087-465 8883 (English & Thai), 089-724 6026 (English & Thai). Email: info@mindproperties.net

**3BR VILLA WITH POOL BANG TAO**

3-bedroom villa with pool for rent at Bang Tao. From 180,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-290 0110 (English). Email: alexandra@bizphuket.net

**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

**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.

**STYLISH 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

**CHALONG POOL VILLA**

2 bedrooms, fully furnished, shared pool, landscaped gardens, aircon, WiFi, cable TV, water supply. 12-month contract, 30,000 baht. Sorry, no pets or kids. Tel: 083-102 0876 (English & Thai). Email: info@saisabaavilla.com

**FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE**

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

**HOUSE IN KARON FOR RENT**

Fully furnished, 2-bedroom house with everything in the heart of Karon. Long-term rental, 25,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months. Walking distance to shops, beach & restaurants. 300m from Hilton Hotel. Call 080-690 5248 or send email to lil@ladolcevitare.com.au

**RAWAI BEACH**

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

**PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR RENT**

comes with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, big living area. No furnished, build-in kitchen and car park. Locate behind Kajonkiet School on Chao Fa West Road, just only 5 minutes to Central Festival. Available in January 2014. For short or long term rent. Call to see 087-270 9093.

**HOUSE FOR RENT**

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons. Fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Rent: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-690 0626. Email: bcarrent@hotmail.com

**RENT APARTMENT PATONG CONDO**

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

**LUXURY 4-BEDROOM VILLA BANG TAO**

4-bedroom luxury villa for rent at Bang Tao. From 280,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-290 0110 (English). Email: alexandra@bizphuket.net

**HOUSE FOR RENT**

Bang Tao area, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, from 20,000 baht. Please call after 5pm. Tel: 093-713 2278.

**NEW HOUSE 140SQM FOR RENT**

2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spacious downstairs, tiled floor, Soi Laem Hin, Sapam. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-689 3289.

Let us take your ad to the top of Google with a 20% discount!



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

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Live in Rawai? Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at The Network property office



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

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

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



# 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](mailto: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

## 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

## 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](mailto:rico@Princessyachtsthailand.com)

## THAI EMPLOYEE - OFFICE JOB

Want an interesting job? New internet firm needs an employee, 20-35 years old, very good English and PC. CV in English only. Tel: 076-322663, 090-0709633 (English & Thai). Email: [massimo.reve@gmail.com](mailto:massimo.reve@gmail.com)

## COPYWRITER

Siam Real Estate urgently require an experienced English Speaking copywriter to write property listings. Can work from home in own time. Training given. Average listings: 60 per month. Good commissions paid. Tel: 076-288908. Email: [richard@siamrealestate.com](mailto:richard@siamrealestate.com)

## INTERNATIONAL LAW OFFICE

สำนักงานกฎหมายระหว่างประเทศ

International Law Office, Patong Beach Co. Ltd.

## OPEN POSITION

### • Accountant

#### Qualifications:

- Thai Nationality
- Good accounting knowledge and skills
- Knowledge of Accounting Program Quick book 2008
- 5 years of work experience in accounting
- Fluency in English (written and spoken)
- Computer skills

Please send English resume with work experience, references, recent photograph and expected salary to the following email: [sam@ilo-phuket.com](mailto:sam@ilo-phuket.com)

International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd.

17/6 Chaofa Road, Taladnuea sub-district,  
Muang Phuket district, Phuket province  
Tel: 66-76-222191 to 5  
Fax: 66-76-222196

Location Phuket Town, Thailand

## YACHT STEWARDESS

Thai national, 2 females, good English, salary+tips. Tel: 087-3842743. Email: [info@yacht-charter-thailand.com](mailto:info@yacht-charter-thailand.com)

## 3 WAITRESSES FOR RESTAURANT

Three English-speaking waitresses wanted for restaurant. Thai nationals Only. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: [liam@phuketfit.com](mailto:liam@phuketfit.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@princessyachts-thailand.com](mailto:rico@princessyachts-thailand.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@cmmd-intl.com](http://jobs@cmmd-intl.com)

## SENIOR & JUNIOR COOK

To assist Head Cook in maintaining a successful and profitable F&B Department - Degree in F&B Management or related degree, trained in traditional Thai and Western foods. Thai national, fluent in English. Starting salary 14,000 to 17,000 baht per month plus service charge. Position available now. Tel: 086-6041 333 (English). Please send CV to [gm@ccshideaway.com](mailto:gm@ccshideaway.com)

# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

## WEB PROGRAMMER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

## DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

Is a Project Management Company with a long and successful history in Phuket. We are expanding our team and looking for candidates with a track record of success. The positions will be located in Phuket and Thai nationals are desired. The positions require good command of spoken and written English.

- M&E Engineer: Mechanical & Electrical Engineers handle inspection, testing, and design review on a new construction project. Coordinate with designers and contractors for the successful completion of projects.

- Contracts Manager: the successful candidate will have a proven track record of successful contracts work in a construction environment.

- Administrative Assistant: solid skill with MS Office and previous construction experience is a plus. Tel: 076-617763. Please call and send resume to [hr@dmg-thailand.com](mailto:hr@dmg-thailand.com)

## BAR STAFF KATA BEACH

Sexy ladies required. Tel: 086-057 7714.

## THAI COOK WANTED

Thai food+European snacks. To work cafe bar Karon Beach, must be able to speak reasonable English. Tel: 081-891 9461.

## OFFICE ASSISTANT

Thai, female, 25-40 years old, motivated, English & computer skills. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: [phkrealestate@aol.com](mailto:phkrealestate@aol.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](mailto:info.resort@manohra.net)

## 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

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



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

**RUSSIAN SALES LADY WANTED**

Needed for real estate. English spoken and writing. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

**DANISH STAFF WANTED**

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

**RESTAURANT SURIN**

Needs staff, one bar person, one waitress, second chef. Must speak English. Tel: 083-033 3562.

**ACCOUNTANT & ADMINISTRATION**

TLI is looking for honest and hardworking Thai, qualified accountant and 2 admin assistants, Thai national, fluent English. Tel: 083-102 2910. Email: belinda@tropical-landscaping.com

**EUROPEAN CHEF HIRE**

Best Western Premier Bangtao Beach Resort & Spa is looking for chef, sous chefs, bartenders, and service staff. We want both full time and part time. Good salary with work permit. Tel: 081-905 8353. Please call or send email to hrbangtao@oceanresortgroup.net

**PA / OFFICE MANAGER**

Required to start January/February 2014. Successful applicant will be Thai national, computer literate, responsible for setup and running of Yacht Sales office. They will have excellent spoken and written English, be able to work without direct supervision and able to handle basic accounting and data entry. Please send CV and salary expectation. Tel: 081-894 1530. Email: andrew@multihullsolutions.asia

## The PARADISE KOH YAO

### Boutique Beach Resort & Spa

**'Island hideaway near Phuket'**

the paradise koh yao, a contemporary 70 room boutique resort is located on koh yao noi island, a 60 minute boat trip from phuket

our eco-chic environment is complemented by our 'conscious living' ethos of barefoot luxury philosophy – NOW complemented by a yoga and wellbeing center

we are looking for superb leaders to join our dynamic team

**F&B/RESTAURANT MANAGER (1 position)**

in charge of two restaurants / two bars – continuously working on further enhancing the service experience for our guests via team training programs and improved service procedures

- 3 - 5 years experience in equivalent property/position
- fluent in English language
- leader personality, creative with new product innovations
- Thai national

**EXECUTIVE HOUSEKEEPER (1 position)**

able to run the HK department to International standards – catering to the high expectations of our International clientele

- at least 3-5 years experience of 5 or 4 star hotels in assistant or chief housekeeper position
- able to run the housekeeping department independently
- Thai national 30-40 years old

**RESERVATION SUPERVISOR (1 position)**

- 2-3 years experience in similar position

comprehensive remuneration/incentive package – we are looking for the best team leaders – please send your resume with picture to

**gm@theparadisekohyao.com**

**www.theparadisekohyao.com**

**www.facebook.com/Paradise.KohYao.Boutique.Beach.Resort**

**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@cmmd-intl.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

**British International School, Phuket**

The British International School, Phuket is a leading international day and boarding school (18 months-18 years) offering a quality education to the international community of the Asia-Pacific region. For August or as soon as possible, we require the following:

**Art Technician****Qualifications**

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

**A/R Accountant****Qualifications**

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting / Finance / Business Administration or related field
- Good command of English
- Computer literate
- At least 1 year experience in accounting
- Customer relation skills and service mind are essential

**Head of Refectory****Qualifications**

- Bachelor's Degree in food related degree and/or culinary training and/or related experiences to ensure quality dishes are served
- Two or more years in food industry or business with management skills and food safety
- Modify and create new menus as needed, Thai food & European food
- English competency
- Computer literate
- Leadership in food-related training
- Team player with service mind

**Chef****Qualifications**

- Bachelor's degree in food-related degree and/or culinary training and/or related experience to ensure quality dishes are served
- Two or more years in food industry or business with management skills and food safety
- Modify and create new menus as needed, Thai food & European food
- English competency
- Computer literate
- Leadership in food related training
- Team player with service mind

**HR Officer****Qualifications**

- Thai national Male/ Female
- Age not over 35 years old
- Bachelor's degree in Human Resources, Administrative, Business laws or related fields
- Should have good knowledge of day-to-day processes of HR department and should be proficient in using computers.
- Ability to read, speak and understand English
- Cooperative team member, maintain good staff relations and service-minded person

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



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

**Live in Town?**

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



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

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

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

**GUEST RELATIONS**

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

**SALES ASSISTANT (RETAIL)**

To assist customers in finding items, provide excellent customer service at all times and build good guest relations. Good spoken English and pleasant personality is a must. Base salary 20,000 baht + commissions. Please send your resume to nina@tigermuaythai.com

**KARON CLIFF**

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

**PROJECT COORDINATOR**

Design studio is looking for a creative and focused individual to join our expanding team. Responsible for keywording images, analyzing market trends, planning photography shoots, and assisting in general office administration. Successful candidate will have an excellent command of English. Contact Jaey. Email: photomorphimag@gmail.com

**DETOX STAFF**

Thai national: experienced detox consultant, OR we can train you in detox. Must speak and write English. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@phuketfit.com

**OFFICE ASSISTANT**

Thai national, female, 25-40 years old, self-motivated and attention to details, enthusiasm for learning new things, good communication skills in English and good computer literacy (Microsoft Office). Tel: 076-613680, 087-267 3747 (English). Fax: 076-613680. Send CV to helena@phuketabc.com

Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a **better candidate?**

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at **WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!**

## Bar &amp; Restaurant Equipment

BAR FURNITURE  
ETC. FOR SALE

Bar furniture etc for sale. Full set of furniture, fixtures, fittings & equipment for stylish bar - only 1 year old - or take over the large bar premises (include accommodation) with all equipment in place. No key money just "quick sale price" for the gear. Tel: 081-787 5938 (English & Thai). Email for list of equipment: nittayakm@gmail.com For further details, please see our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/WhiteSpacePhuket](http://www.facebook.com/WhiteSpacePhuket)

HIGH-QUALITY CAFE  
EQUIPMENT SALE

Used industry-standard restaurant equipment & furniture. Excellent condition. Only 2 years old. Many more items than listed here. View all in Phuket town. Contact for appointment.

☎ 081-5375970 : ✉ [pui@widediscovery.com](mailto:pui@widediscovery.com)

## Business Products &amp; Services

Phuket Memorial  
Professional Wedding Photographer

Email: [nid@phuketmemorial.com](mailto:nid@phuketmemorial.com) | Mobile Phone: +66 (0)8 1691 5617  
[www.phuketmemorial.com](http://www.phuketmemorial.com)

Family  
Beach Wedding  
Pre-weddings  
portraits and  
Events  
Phuket  
Phi Phi Krabi  
Lanta Thailand

## COWBOY SHOW

The art of the western cowboy rope tricks. For more information, please call 084-447 5257 or send email to [mikeroper2003@hotmail.com](mailto:mikeroper2003@hotmail.com)

## 40FT SEA CONTAINER

For sale: secondhand sea container 40ft. I can send a photo. Please contact Rob for more information. Tel: 084-744 4648 (English). Email: [vb331@hotmail.com](mailto:vb331@hotmail.com)

WORLDWIDE  
AIR TICKETS

Our service is for domestic and international flight tickets. Open daily from 8.30am to 9pm. Delivery service. Please call 081-537 2655, 085-571 4489.

## WHEATGRASS JUICE

Lumpoons Coffee House. At Chalong. Please call 081-476 5808.

## TATTOO REMOVAL

We remove your tattoo. For more information, please call 083-362 4144.

## Miscellaneous For Sale

## SOLD SECOND HAND



- Musical instrument. Jazz guitar. Price: 35,000 baht.
- Keyboard: Casio. Price: 25,000 baht.
- Vintage French-style bookcase. Price: 170,000 baht.
- Showcase. Price: 180,000 baht.
- Camera: Asabipeniox. Price: 20,000 baht.

Please contact 081-667 1637 (Thai), Khun JP 082-539 6433 (English)

## Business Opportunities

OPEN YOUR OWN  
PARTY STORE

High profit potential. Completely turnkey. Easy to run. Proven 20-year biz model. Full training provided. Tel: 082-989 8280. Email: [Funtas ticmillionaire@gmail.com](mailto:Funtas ticmillionaire@gmail.com)

PATONG SHOPHOUSE  
FOR RENT

2 shophouses, low rent. Can make business, also ideal for restaurant and massage. Second floor fully furnished as 2-bedroom apartment with 2 bathrooms. Includes furniture. Big kitchen and living area. For more information, please call 084-189 7696. Email: [janum0012@hotmail.com](mailto:janum0012@hotmail.com)

REAL ESTATE  
AGENCY FOR SALE

Long established real estate agency for sale. Prime office position in Laguna. Established 2006. Website and office included only 4 million baht. For more details, please call +44-078-8528 0100 (English). Email: [markhailey1@hotmail.com](mailto:markhailey1@hotmail.com)

## BUSINESS SALE

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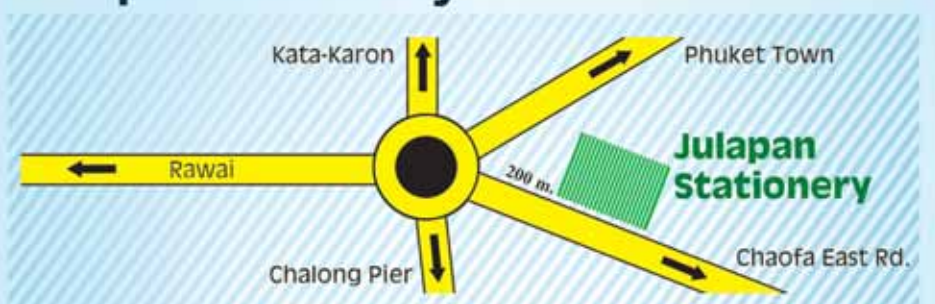
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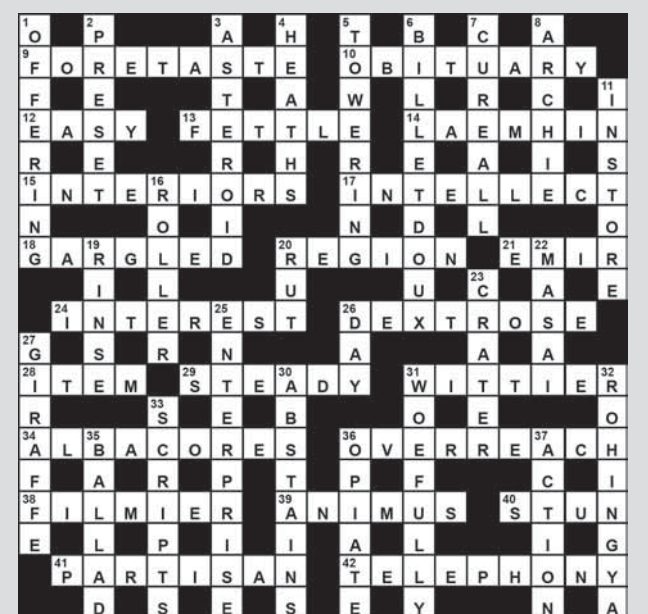
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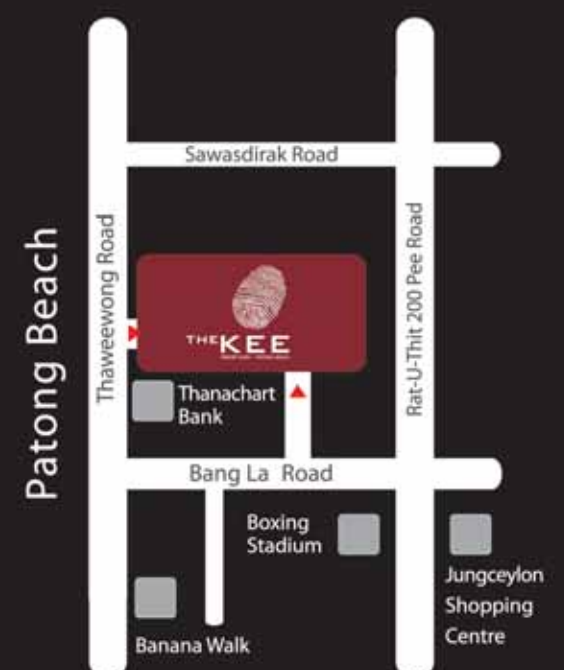
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# A glimpse into the future

By Maciek Klimowicz

"I NEVER think of the future – it comes soon enough," said Albert Einstein. Maybe it works for the geniuses but for the rest of us a look forward from time to time is inevitable, especially at the brink of the new year. Here are the *Gazette's* predictions for 2014 – because as Malcolm X said, "The future belongs to those who prepare for it today."

## Politics

With over 30 different elections coming up in 2014, democracy seems to be doing just fine. Europeans will choose a new European Parliament (France's former president Nicolas Sarkozy is hinting at a comeback) and Thais might get a chance to elect a new government too – if they agree they want to.

In 2014 might see at least two new completely independent countries – citizens of Scotland and Catalonia will vote in independence referendums in September and November respectively. Afghanistan will take a step

towards independence too with the United States and the United Kingdom officially withdrawing their troops from the country, marking the end of their 13-year involvement in the Afghan Civil War.

One more important political/economic event has already happened – on January 1 Latvia officially adopted the Euro currency becoming the eighteenth Euro-zone country to do so.

## Sport

It's the year of big, big games! Firstly, the 2014 Winter Olympics will be held in Sochi, Russia from February 7 to 23. Secondly, the 2014 FIFA World Cup will take place in Brazil from June 12 to July 13. Preparations for both were surrounded by a lot of controversy, we can only hope that they will both be a celebration of all the great things that sport represents. Except for the biggies there's the usual supply of annual sporting events to look forward to: Australian Open (January 13-26, 2014), Roland Garros (May 26-June 8), Wimbledon (June 23-July 6), Tour de France (July 5-27) and last but



Like it or not, it's coming so better prepare yourself. Photo: Daniel Voyager

certainly not least, Phuket will host the 4th annual Asian Beach Games (November 14-21).

Oh, and David and Victoria Beckham will celebrate their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of marriage. Which brings us to the next category...

## Arts, culture, entertainment

It seems that 2014 will prove (once again) that Hollywood is a barren land, stripped of any original ideas,

innovation and imagination. Having said that, if you're a fan of superheroes, sequels and remakes, this will be your year! Announced premieres include X-Men, Captain America, Amazing Spider-man, a sequel to 300, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Godzilla and RoboCop re-spawns as well as additional movies in the Expendables, Transformers and Resident Evil series. Luckily, there is something for a more refined audience too – Zoolander 2 is rumored to hit the screens later this year!

In music some major comebacks are rumored and announced with Billy Joel and Stevie Wonder leading the pack, followed by Garbage, Beck, Foo Fighters, No Doubt, RHCP, Tool and more. Unfortunately, the likes of Ashanti and Girls Generation also announced comebacks but we can always hope that new music will come and help us forget Miley Cyrus and "What does the fox say?" forever.

## Science and Technology

Chances are you'll spend a big chunk of 2014 looking up. An annular solar eclipse will be visible in South Africa, Antarctica, and on the east coast of Australia, on April 29 – followed by a total lunar eclipse visible on the same date throughout most of North

America, South America and Australia. This year will also provide opportunities to take a closer look at planets such as Jupiter, Mars and Saturn which will be at a close approach to Earth on January 5, April 8 and May 10 respectively.


Now so more down to earth scientific events of 2014 include the planned completion of Changsha building in Hunan, China which will become the tallest building in the world at 838 meters.

As far as consumer technology goes we can expect the usual: iPhone 6, Samsung Galaxy 5 and Nokia Lumia 929. The marketing guys will try to get us excited over curved, flexible displays and make us look ridiculous by wearing our computers on our noses and wrists. Human-kind will also continue to forget how to read anything longer than a tweet and will learn to absorb all information, knowledge and wisdom by means of GIFs and Vines. Soon the world will also realize the potential of affordable 3D printing and with a growing production of home made firearms a new slogan will gain popularity – guns don't kill people, printers do.

## This year in history

2014 will bring a bunch of exciting anniversaries. In the next 12 months we will celebrate or commemorate 65 years of NATO, 50 years since the Beatles toured the USA, 20 years of the Channel Tunnel, 100 years since the start of World War I, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Berlin wall coming down and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Southeast Asian tsunami.

This year Eric Clapton will turn 70; Angelina Jolie, 40, JK Rowling, 50 and Sean Connery, 85 (yes, you've read it right). If things had turned out differently, in 2014 Bob Marley would be 70, Elvis Presley 80 and Frank Sinatra 100. Happy birthday to them all and happy New Year to you! It's up to you to make it so!




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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

**Now until Jan 5, 12-10:30pm. Contemporary Art Exhibition by Richard Skene at Breeze**  
Contemporary Art Exhibition by Richard Skene, titled "The Road of Excess leads to the Palace of Wisdom". The exhibition will be held at Breeze at Cape Yamu in Phuket from December 21, 2013 to January 5, 2014. There will be an opening party from 6 to 9 pm on Saturday, December 21, 2013. Please visit [breezcapeyamu.com](http://breezcapeyamu.com) and [richardskene.com](http://richardskene.com) for more information.

### Jan 9 -12. 1st Phuket International Marine Expo at Royal Phuket Marina

A number of new businesses never seen before at PIMEX will exhibit this year, with charter agents and equipment and services suppliers having reserved prime indoor space. Confirmed are South East Asia Sales and Service, Marina Systems International, Toyobo Thailand, Stauff Thailand, Raymarine, Respo Trailers, QBE Marine Insurance and Seiwa from Italy, along with an Italian delegation of companies and the Italian Thai Chamber of Commerce. The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV continue as proud sponsors of this iconic Phuket event. Display space is still available, both on the water and in the air conditioned hall. For inquiries, please contact Exhibition Director Andy Dowden on 081 892-7670, or email [info@phuketboatshow.com](mailto:info@phuketboatshow.com). More details at [phuketboatshow.com](http://phuketboatshow.com).

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

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@phuketiwc.com](mailto:info@phuketiwc.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. Contact Carole Dux on 076-316711 or visit the website at: [phuketiwc.com](http://phuketiwc.com)

### Jan 17, 7 -11pm. Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort

All you can eat, authentic Indian curry buffet at 499 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold mango and strawberry lassi with our delicious mutton vindaloo, dal makhani, bombay aloo, mutter paneer, butter chicken and mouth-watering chicken tikka, samosas, freshly baked naans and more. Contact Jaspal Singh on 076-286464 or visit the website at: [navrangmahal.com](http://navrangmahal.com)

### Feb 14, 2014. Makha Bucha Day

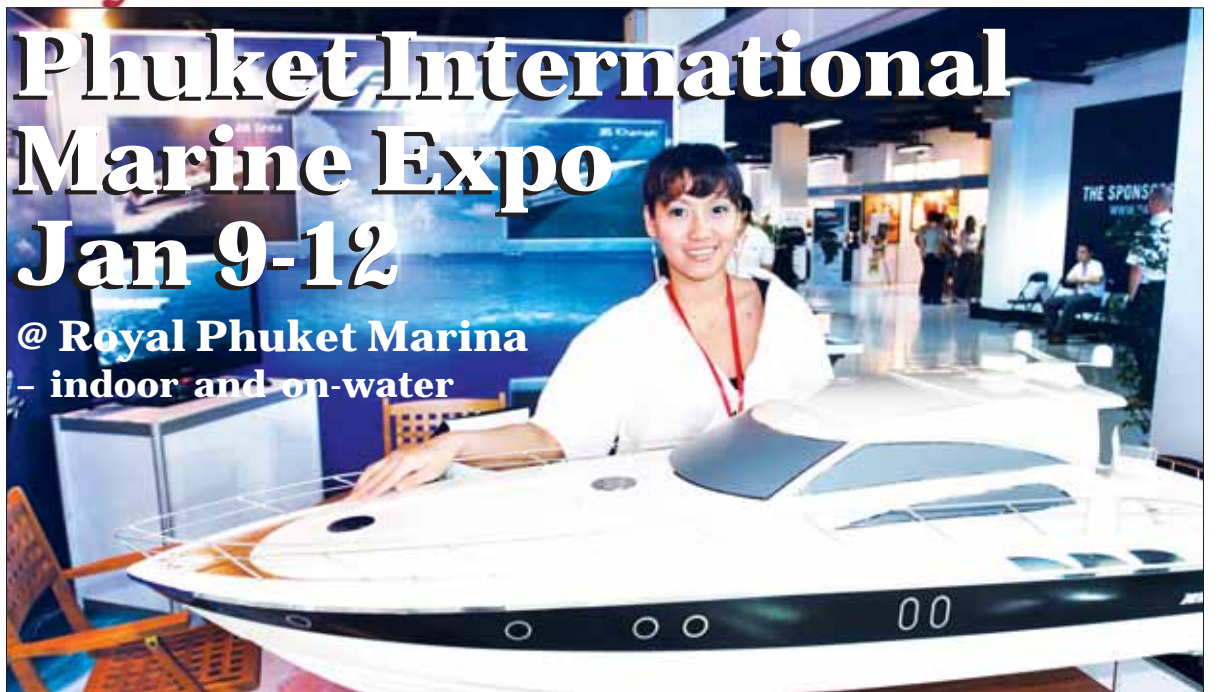
Makha Bucha Day, which falls on the full moon of the third lunar month, commemorates Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who had arrived unannounced from afar only nine months after the Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment.

### Feb 20, 11:30am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club February Lunch

February's lunch will be held at the beautiful regent Cape Panwa Hotel. All are welcome but prior booking is essential. Members: 500 baht; guests: 650 baht. For booking contact [info@phuketiwc.com](mailto:info@phuketiwc.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. Contact Carole Dux on 076-316711 or visit the website at: [phuketiwc.com](http://phuketiwc.com)

# Phuket International Marine Expo Jan 9-12

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### Apr 6, 2014. Chakri Memorial Day

Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

### Apr 7, 2014. Substitute Holiday for Chakri Day

A public holiday in Thailand.

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# Giving women what they want

By Leslie Porterfield

WHAT began as a language-learning exercise – watching Thai soaps with English subtitles online – has become, well, a problem. I stay up too late, watch during breakfast, and abandon unessential tasks until I finish the series, all 20-plus hours of it.

I became addicted despite the fact that from the first moment I know what will happen – the main characters will get together, and those other two who seem to hate each other will get together, and the bad guys will get their comeuppance and everyone will suffer along the way.

So what is it that keeps me and countless Thai women spellbound by these shows? It's watching the main characters solve an endless series of problems while slowly falling in love along the way.

There is the macro problem: She is an actress trying to regain her former popularity by hosting a cooking show, and she needs him to teach her how to cook. Or she is a spirit trapped in the body of his five-year-old niece. Or she is an independent woman who wants to have a baby and is angling to get him to donate his sperm.

And there is the long string of micro problems: Will he be able to love her even though he believes she's a prostitute? She's not a

prostitute of course, but the daughter of a super rich soy sauce manufacturer in disguise. Ah! He realizes that he truly loves her. But wait, someone is spreading the rumor that she slept with his best friend. He breaks up with her. Bummer! Is he going to take her back? He does. Thank goodness! But by then she's pissed off and won't accept his apology. Oh golly!

We enjoy seeing the good guys triumph and keep their love-competitors at bay. Again and again, they clear their names, win mothers-in-law over, get out of scrapes gracefully, and say the right sassy or noble thing at just the right time.



A Thai 'Taming of the Shrew'. In Sood Sanae Ha, Ken Wongpuapan, left, must bring Ann Thongprasom under control as he teaches her how to cook. Photo: Facebook

Then there's the eye candy factor. It doesn't hurt that everyone is attractive and that the women's makeup is always immaculate, their hairstyles ever-changing and their clothes great. It's accessories porn. Not to mention that there's always at least one super-rich person's house to

ogle, and a Mercedes or two.

But the very best thing that the soaps give us is a close up of two people falling in love in slow motion, a gradual dawning of feelings, their courtship. What could be more compelling to a woman, I do not know.

There are shy smiles, long looks, a first hand-holding, swabbing with a damp cloth when one falls sick. There are statements like "Thank you for worrying about me", which we understand really means "I know now that you love me."

The shows are as chaste as a Jane Austen novel. In fact, sometimes so chaste that the characters can't come together on their own. The girl needs to trip or fall, the man catches her, they gaze deep into each others' eyes, and voila, their love begins to flower.

After a brief period of happiness, the lovers face a mandatory separation as their feelings are tested.

During this painful time, they fall silent, gaze frequently into space, and relive scenes from the past as the theme music plays repeatedly. They cry, and beautiful tears fall down their cheeks.

They're always reunited of course, but the endings, while technically happy, are often duds. In a series called *Oum Rak (Chain of love)*, we watch the lovers suffer terribly during their time apart.



In 'Kon Rok Luang Jai' Ken Wongpuapan, left, and Janie Tienphosuwan are both trying to escape arranged marriages. Photo: Facebook

## Thai soap operas to watch

**Sood Sanae Ha (A Recipe for Love):** is a funny Thai Taming of the Shrew. She is a spoiled moviestar, he is her strict cooking teacher. YouTube.

**Dao Kiao Duen (Star Courts the Moon):** She is independent and just wants him for his sperm. He needs her to pose as his girlfriend to get his match-making mother off his back. On Viki.com

**Kon Rok Luang Jai (Heart-Luring Love Trick):** Both are escaping match-making mothers. He thinks he's hired a prostitute to pose as his girlfriend, but it's actually her, in disguise. On YouTube.

**Oum Rak (Chain of Love):** She hates him, then he accidentally sleeps with her when they're both drunk, and she gets pregnant. On YouTube.

Then they meet by chance the very day he's to go abroad to start a new life. "Can you not go?" she asks. "I never wanted to leave," he says. Little kiss, little hug, and – jop, the show's over. It's as though the producers know that we know the ending will be happy, and don't waste much energy on it.

Some inadvertent pleasures of the soaps for a Western viewer are the cultural oddities that pop up here and there, like everyone wearing slippers indoors, even the bad guys, even when they're shouting and fighting. And all the men, including the hotties, wearing grandpa-style pyjamas to bed.

Other elements can be jarring. Women are often weak and it's unseemly for them to show their desire. And one show, so popular that it has been remade many times, has a plot I never grew comfortable with. In *Sawang*

*Bieng, (Paradise Diversions)* the man rapes the woman, then spends the whole series trying to win her love, finally succeeding.

But things may be improving for female characters. In a recent soap, *Dao Kiao Duen (Star Courts the Moon)*, the woman is a rock climber and a black belt with major fighting skills. She's the one hunting for sperm to have a baby on her own.

And this is what her boyfriend says at the end when she asks forgiveness for her ulterior motives "I won't forget the past, but I'll look at it positively, because everything that happened made us know each other better, made us love each other. And the bad things I've done to you, I'd like you to forget. Remember just one thing: My life cannot go on without you."

Ah! Now *that's* an ending.

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# Preserving Thai cinema

By Wise Kwai

THE first Thai film selected for the Cannes film festival, three Oscar hopefuls and movies made by King Rama VII are among this year's additions to the Registry of Films as National Heritage by the Culture Ministry and the Thai Film Archive.

Established in 2011, the Registry of Films as National Heritage aims to select entries based on their historical and artistic value and influence on society, and make them a priority for preservation.

The earliest addition this year is from 1901, *Visit of the Prince of Siam*. The two-and-a-half-minute clip by British film company Mitchell and Kenyon shows the then-Crown Prince Vajiravudh on a trip across the Mersey during a visit with radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi. The Oxford-educated prince was crowned King Rama VI in 1910.

The Royal family were among the first filmmakers in Thailand, with Vajiravudh's brother, Prajadhipok – King Rama VII – a keen lensman. Two of his films were added to the registry.

One is 1929's *Magic Ring*, a home movie the monarch made on a trip to Koh Pha Ngan. The 25-minute short with silent-film intertitles is about a cruel stepfather who abandons his children on the island. One of them meets a nymph who gives him a magic ring that can grant wishes.

"All the actors are the royal family and King Rama VII shot the film himself," says Chalida Uabumrungjit, the Film Archive's deputy director.

The other entry from the King Rama VII



**Tears of the Black Tiger: A colorful western and an homage to an earlier era of Thai film.**

collection is 1930's *Mon Ram Phee at Pak Lad*, the monarch's recording of a traditional *Mon* dance. "It's a very rare ethnographic moving image," Chalida says.

From 1927 is *Chang: A Drama of the Wilderness*, the oldest surviving Hollywood production made in Thailand. It's directed by Merian C Cooper and Ernest B Schoedsack, who later made *King Kong*. The documentary-style adventure tale, complete with deaths of multiple species of wildlife, depicts a rural Isaan family beset by a marauding herd of elephants.

The newest entry is 2005's *The Tin Mine* (*Maha'lai Muengrae*), an expensively mounted historical drama directed by Jira Maligool and produced by GTH. Thailand's submission to the Academy Awards in 2006, it's adapted from the semi-autobiographical short stories by Ajin Panjapan, of a university dropout sent to work in the tin mines of

Southern Thailand in the 1950s.

Another Oscar submission is 2004's *The Overture* (*Hom Rong*), directed by Ittisontorn Vichailak. Loosely based on the life of palace musician Luang Pradit Phairoh, it follows a *ranad-ek* (xylophone) player from boyhood in the late 19th century to the 1940s.

And Thailand's first Academy Awards submission, 1983's *Story of Nam Poo*, makes this year's list. Directed by Euthana Mukdasanit, the factual drama is adapted from the book by award-winning writer Suwanni Sukhontha, which she wrote after her son died at age 18 of a heroin overdose. Singer Amphol Lumpoon stars as the son with theater doyenette Patravadi Mejudhon as the mother.

More social issues are depicted in 1973's *Khao Chue Karn* by MC Chatrichalerm Yukol, about the problems encountered by an idealistic young physician in the country-

side, and 1979's *Mountain People* (*Khon Phu Khao*) by Vichit Kounavudhi, depicting the lives of hilltribes in the North.

The lighter side of Thai teenagers is shown in a pair of classic comedies on this year's list – 1976's *Wai Ounlawon* by Piak Poster and 1988's *Boonchu Phoo Narak* by Bhandit Rittakol. Both spawned long-running series of teen comedies by Five Star Production. And childhood memories are recounted in the 1990 drama *Pook Pui* by Udom Udomroj.

And from the Thai New Wave period of the late 1990s and early 2000s is director Nonzee Nimibutr's feature debut, 1997's *Daeng Bireley's and Young Gangsters* (2499 *Antapan Krong Muang*), a stylish, fact-based drama about James Dean-obsessed teenage hoodlums in 1950s Bangkok.

Scripted by Wisit Sasanatieng, it was the start of a movement of films that revitalised the local film industry and brought widespread attention to Thai cinema on the world stage.

Wisit made his directorial debut with another entry on this year's list, 2000's *Tears of the Black Tiger* (*Fah Talai Jone*), which was the first Thai film to be selected for the Cannes Film Festival. It competed in the Un Certain Regard category.

A colourful western, with six-gun-toting bandits on horseback, *Tears of the Black Tiger* was an homage to an earlier era of Thai film – the action movies of the 1960 and '70s – like another entry on this year's list, 1966's *Operation Bangkok* (*Petch Tad Petch*), a Hong Kong co-production featuring superstar leading man Mitr Chaibancha and Hong Kong starlet Regina Piping.

– *The Nation*



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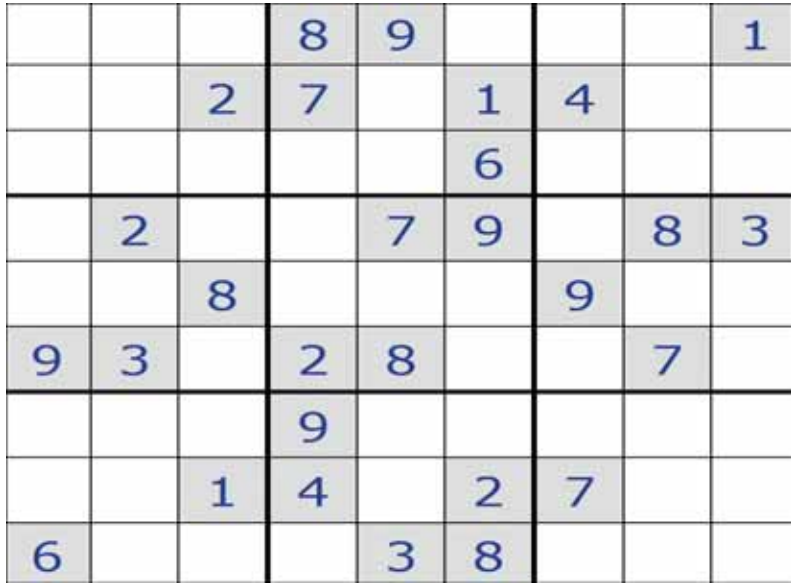


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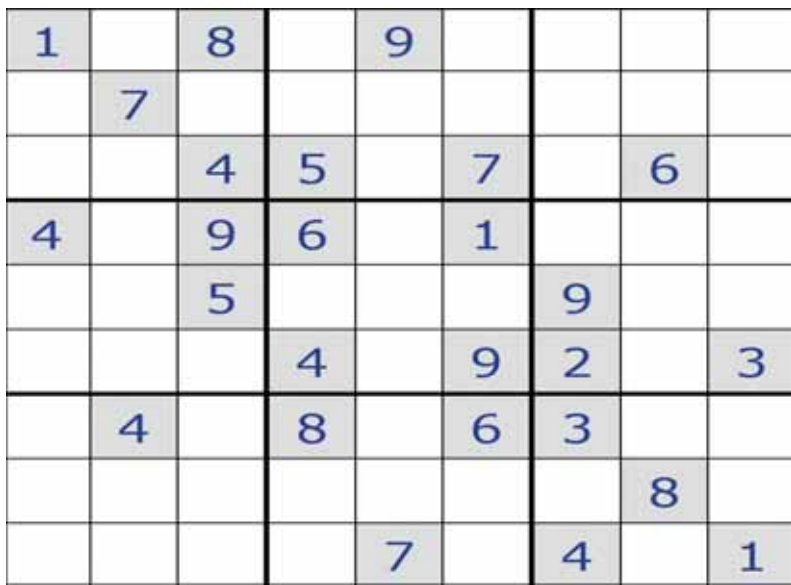
**START 2.XX MB**







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



#### Your fortnightly pith:

"Drawing on my fine command of language, I said nothing."  
— Winston Churchill

"In the end, everything is a gag."  
— Charlie Chaplin

Taken from Ian Hewitt's book 'QUOTES for PROSPERITY'

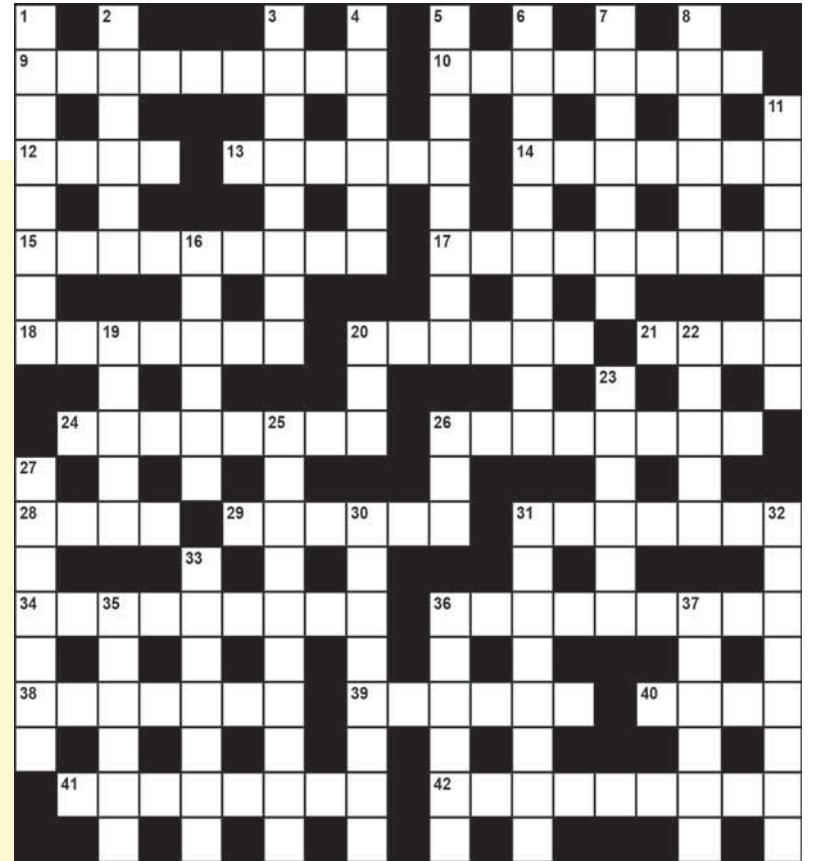
## COFFEE break

#### Across:

9. Sample for tea set out (9)
10. I bury to a wrong notification of passing on (8)
12. Simple echo wrong, say (4)
13. Feel badly about teetotal state of health (6)
14. The French possibly hem in a Phuket port (7)
15. Roister in destroyed centers (9)
17. Let in, let out about a hundred for reason (9)
18. Washed mouth to drag leg out! (7)
20. Possibly reign over nothing in the area (6)
21. Arab prince in the mire, perhaps (4)
24. Concern to bury set badly (8)
26. Sugar type set red ox off (8)
28. It turned me, the piece of news (4)
29. Stayed out sober (6)
31. More amusing to wire it out around time (7)
34. Cabal sore about the big fish (9)
36. Try too hard to get across a stretch of river (9)
38. Firm lie about the more flimsy (7)
39. Main arrangement states spirit (6)
40. Foolish, returns to render unconscious (4)
41. Role is an adherent (8)
42. Let wrong note sound bogus in transmission of messages (9)

#### Down:

1. New foreign fellow in contribution (8)



2. Rep set out and arranged beforehand (6)
3. Small planet interfered with radio set (8)
4. Hat she mislaid in the moors (6)
5. Lofty tie wrong perhaps (8)
6. Invoice tuxedo wrongly in endearing correspondence (6,4)
7. Rue call about panacea (4,3)
8. I reach out for the boy (6)
11. No tires damaged in the shop (2,5)
16. Big wave for the leveler (6)
19. Sluice resin out (5)
20. Right turn, time for boring procedure (3)
22. Indigenous African graduates first class (5)
23. Maybe react outright to bomb hole (6)
25. Business caused by

- present ire (10)
26. District Attorney unknown for twenty four hours (3)
27. One right gaffe about an animal (7)
30. Sailor marks refrains (8)
31. We circle in completely, but very badly (8)
32. Hi! No gray displaced immigrants from the Andaman! (8)
33. Writings of librettos (7)
35. Simple song for a dance nowadays (6)
36. Work I devoured as a drug (6)
37. Move the first part of the play forward (6)

**Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 20.**

#### CAPRICORN ( Dec 22-J an 20 )



This is a week to step out of your comfort zone where work and socializing are concerned. The stars suggest that conversations with strangers will give Capricorns food for thought and could cause you to change plans. Those with a birthday in the coming days should find more excitement on offer in the year ahead. In the realm of romance, opposites are forecast to attract until the middle of the month.

#### AQUARIUS ( J an 21-Feb 19 )



Personal relationships fall under the spotlight as January gets underway, with many Aquarians being forced to take sides between their romantic partner a particular friend. The stars suggest that it will be easier to reach compromises towards the middle of the month. Where work is concerned, you could be frustrated by a lack of answers this week. Thursday is the most auspicious day to approach people who have been keeping you waiting.

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



Your week should be brightened by positive news received on Monday or Tuesday. If this relates to the world of work, the stars indicate that many Pisceans will be offered

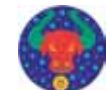
a challenge that can help them to prove their worth. Money matters go your way until the middle of the month and this is an auspicious time to consider new investments. Sparkling days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday.

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



An unsettled astral atmosphere can mean that agreements are not finalized until the middle of the month. The stars suggest that a water sign, in particular, is likely to backpedal when Arians were hoping to resolve a certain situation. In the realm of romance, those who are single are advised to keep an open mind when introduced to an earth sign this weekend. Money matters are luckiest midweek.

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



Those born under the sign of Taurus are predicted to be filled with creative energy until the middle of January and it will be important to direct this in the best way possible. There are signs that money-making enterprises should not be started too soon – February will be a more auspicious month to do this. Time is also on your side where a romance recently started with a water sign is concerned.

## YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

#### GEMINI ( May 22-J une 21 )



Work and business are forecast to be demanding until the middle of the month. You can be forgiven for suspecting that a fire sign colleague has an ulterior motive when offering help this week, but the stars suggest that this is not true. Geminis who have too much on their plates at the moment are advised to delegate where possible. On a personal level, an earth sign friend gives insight this weekend.

#### CANCER ( J une 22-J uly 23 )



Dreaming of what you want to happen is fine, but the stars advise Cancerians to keep their feet on the ground this week. There are hints that drifting too far away from reality may cause you to forget important responsibilities. The second half of January is a more auspicious time to consider future possibilities. In the realm of romance, conversations this weekend can have more meaning in retrospect.

#### LEO ( J uly 24-Aug 22 )



More demands can be made on you, but this is an auspicious time to make a positive impression where it counts. Those born under the sign of Leo who would like to make changes in their working lives are advised to take advantage of this cosmic support. Interviews and discussions are well starred until the middle of the month. In the realm of romance, confessions are encouraged this weekend.

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



Those Virgoans who are less than cheery after the holiday season are advised to focus energy on sprucing up their home environment. Discarding unwanted possessions, along with redecorating can put you in a more optimistic frame of mind. Although money may be tight at the moment, this situation will change towards the middle of the month when worthwhile gain is highlighted. Hot days for romance are Sunday and Monday.

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



Your patience can be tried by others this week, with last minute cancellations forecast to cause stress for some Librans. The stars advise being more open about how you

feel, whether this is in the world of work or on a personal level. This is an auspicious time to think about taking up a new hobby or sport; a fire sign friend is ready to point you in the right direction.

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



Someone's lack of confidence is predicted to put certain Scorpions in a tricky situation. If this relates to a work colleague, there are signs that you will need to be direct. Where friendships and romance are concerned, it would be wise to sugarcoat your words this weekend. An earth sign partner is likely to be oversensitive about something that you are finding hard to come to terms with.

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



The stars suggest that Sagittarians will be keen to keep to themselves this week. A busy time around the holiday season has probably left you depleted of energy and a quiet start to this year allows you to recharge batteries. Where romance is concerned, it's not so much about what you say, but more how you say it. A water sign, in particular, can take your words too much to heart this weekend.

# International Sport

## A tale of squandered potential

By Larry Fine

LENNY Cooke, a New York City basketball legend who was ranked the top high school player in America in 2000 ahead of LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony, accepted a US\$350,000 jackpot from a sports agent and had the time of his life. But life in the fast lane quickly disappeared as he went from a top basketball prospect tantalizingly close to NBA millions to a hardcourt outsider struggling to make a living.

His story is chronicled in *Lenny Cooke*, the debut feature documentary by brothers Josh and Benny Safdie (*The Black Balloon*) that opened in selected US theaters this month. The life lessons of the film, a cautionary tale of squandered talent, have resonated for many years with its executive producer Joakim Noah of the Chicago Bulls.

"Lenny's story was a story I got to see firsthand from the bench," Noah, an NBA All-Star, told Reuters after a recent Bulls game at Madison Square Garden in New York.

"I was a little bit younger than him. We had just moved to New York from Paris, France, and that (Amateur Athletic Union) team in New York and I learned a lot from him."

Noah, the son of grand slam tennis champion Yannick Noah, said although it is a sad story, he is proud of Cooke, a gifted player who motivated him to demand more from himself.

"It's easy to talk about your successes in front of people but to talk about your hardships, your failures and to talk about what you could've done better takes a real man," he said.

The film follows Cooke, 31, from his schoolboy heyday 13 years ago to his modest home in southern Virginia, where he is still coming to terms with his life.

Cooke took a wrong turn at age 19 when he could not compete for his high school team because of an age limitation. Although he was advised to finish his studies so he would be eligible to play in college, he instead took the payday to sign with a sports agent.

"I had \$350,000 in cold cash. It was a jackpot for me," the 6-foot-6 (1.98 m), one-time flashy guard said in an interview. "I did a lot of things I'd never done or probably will get to do. I travelled, I bought anything I wanted. I had a lot of women, vehicles, jewelry, everything."

The next year he declared himself eligible for the 2002 NBA Draft and waited to be picked but his name was never called.

"Maybe they didn't want to take a chance on a kid they thought was unstable or was a head case or immature," Cooke said.

"Maybe they saw me as out of control. I did everything that I wanted to do, when I wanted to do it."

Because he had taken the money from the agent, Cooke had lost his amateur status and could not play college ball. So he played in the NBA developmental D-League, overseas and in other lesser US professional leagues and on NBA summer-camp teams but never made it to the big time.

After a game on a rainy night, his teammate drove into a street lamp, seriously hurting his passenger, Cooke, who fell into a coma and nearly had his left leg amputated. He returned to the game, twice tore his Achilles heel



Lenny Cooke (left), who was ranked the No 1 high school basketball player in the US in 2000, poses with NBA basketball player Joakim Noah of the Chicago Bulls, who is also the executive producer of the movie *Lenny Cooke*, at the film's premiere in Chicago, Illinois. Photo: Reuters/Carolyn Tate Angel

and finally quit, overweight and out of shape.

The film combines early footage shot by producer Adam Shopkorn with later shots by the Safdies, who agreed to finish the long-shelved project started by their childhood friend. Cooke is captured in candid moments at high school All-Star camps that foreshadowed the attitude that sabotaged his future and in glimpses of his enormous talent in tournaments that also featured the young James, Anthony and

other future NBA players.

It is a film that Cooke and Noah believe should be shared.

"I didn't have a work ethic, I didn't want to work out. I just played off of my potential. I didn't go to the gym every day, four or five hours a day like those guys did," said Cooke.

Earlier this month, Cooke and Noah, who runs a foundation to help children in the Chicago area, hosted a screening of the film and held a question-and-answer session. Other screenings and

talks are planned.

The film will also be shown on the Showtime television network after its theatrical run.

"I know he watches it (NBA games), and he's like, 'Damn, I used to kill these dudes when I was younger' but I think that's what Lenny's story is about," Noah said.

"If your mindset isn't about progress, about getting better no matter how old you are, you're not going to make it."

— Reuters

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# The trouble with England

By Patrick Campbell

## Cricket

SOME time ago, I ventured the opinion that England would lose the Ashes in Australia. That it would be so emphatic is, however, a cause for astonishment. Victors by 3-0 in the previous series, England have now lost three matches on the trot in just twenty seven days – and to a side that had lost seven of its last nine tests. Why, oh why?

There have been some calamitous reversals of form. Matt Prior, a key cog in the machine, vice-captain and English "Player of the Year", has suffered a massive loss of confidence. Averaging a mere 18 with the bat, his failures at seven have triggered a number of late order batting collapses, and badly affected his wicket-keeping. Brad Haddin's success both with the gloves and the bat has been in stark contrast. When an "Oz" collapse threatened at 132 for 6 in the first Test, Haddin came to the rescue, with a match-turning score of 94. He repeated the dose with 53, and then scored another important and rapid fifty at the Waca. The story of the captains reveals a similar about-turn. Coming into the series, Cook's recent record, both as captain and accumulator was far superior to Clarke's: he currently averages 25 and tactically he has been out-thought by his rival.

As for the rest, Kevin Pietersen, England's most influential batsman, has "got out" five times to balls he would normally play with ease; Jonathan Trott, the rock of recent series at three, has returned to the UK with a stress-related illness, and neither Root nor Bell have made runs consistently enough. The centuries tell their own story: Australia has amassed seven, England one.

Most critical of all, Clarke's attack has been altogether more

potent. Mitchell Johnson, who ironically would have only played because of injuries to young tyros such as Pattinson and Starc, has been consistently hostile. The left-armed has 23 wickets at 15, an extraordinary statistic. And he has been ably supported by Ryan Harris and the naggingly accurate Peter Siddle. Add the miserly medium pace of Watson and the off spin of Lyons (who has so out-bowled Graeme Swann that he has announced his retirement) and you have a world-class attack perfectly suited to conditions "Down Under".

In contrast, England have been far too reliant on James Anderson. Normally so dependable, he has been way short of his best form – seven victims for 406 runs. And apart from Broad, the other quicks – Finn, Tremlett and Rankin – have been disappointing, though in fairness, only Tremlett has been given an opportunity.

Which makes one wonder about the selection of the team, both before and during the series. Admittedly Ben Stokes, an unforeseen choice, has been a solitary success. But surely reliable paceman Graham Onions deserved a call, as did Buttler, a pugnacious batsman and a fine wicketkeeper. Hindsight is a wonderful thing, but now the selectors must gamble by including Jonny Bairstow and their quickest bowler, Steven Finn.

Of course, you can never entirely exclude "Lady Luck". Clarke has won all three tosses and has rightly elected to bat first. A couple of umpiring decisions have not gone England's way. Fast true pitches have meant that attacking Australian batsmen such as Warner has enjoyed prolific days.

But it will take more than a change of fortune to turn things around.



Dylan Young leads a pack of cars in the number 5 car at the Bahrain Formula 1 Circuit. Photo: Supplied

## Dylan Young 7<sup>th</sup> in Bahrain

PHUKET-based Australian racing driver Dylan Young stormed home to record a best placed finish of 7<sup>th</sup> position out of 20 of the world's best junior drivers during races 6-9 of the 2013 MRF Challenge Formula 2000 Championship which once again took place at the Bahrain Formula 1 Circuit on December 20 and 21.

The MRF races were held directly after the three-day Formula 1 test that was being held in Bahrain as part of Pirelli's 2014 tyre developments where four Formula 1 teams were in action including champions Red Bull, Ferrari, Mercedes and Toro Rosso.

The first practice session of the weekend revealed Young's pace and put him in good shape to attack the front of the field after recording a time of only 0.011 seconds shy of the championship leader Arthur Pic who is the younger brother of Caterham Formula 1 driver Charles Pic.

Young managed his best-placed finish of 7<sup>th</sup> out of 20 drivers in race 2 of the weekend. At the end of the race he crossed the line just over 3 seconds from 3<sup>rd</sup> place for a podium and 6.7 seconds behind the winner in what was a tightly fought battle with numerous position changes.

"Once again I'm really pleased to have come away from the last race weekend of the year with an even stronger result," Young said. "P7 out of 20 drivers including being ahead of top GP3 drivers from Europe shows again just how much progress we're

making with every round. It's not first place but one of the guys up the front has tested with the Marussia Formula 1 team this year and it just takes so much preparation and seat time to get up there. But now that I'm finally getting some solid seat time, I'm able to show that every time we jump in the car we are getting closer and closer to the front. I've promised some of my backers continued progression and I'm delivering that so I'm absolutely stoked! If I can secure a major budget and acquire the necessary pre-season preparation, I'm confident we will be challenging big time in 2014!"

After the highlight of 7<sup>th</sup> place, Dylan was unlucky to cop damage in the other races of the weekend, especially in the final race of the round where the car was so badly damaged that analysis after the race alerted Young's race engineer to admit they should have retired his car on safety grounds. Young was hit on turn 3 of the opening lap which bent the suspension and severely damaged the front wing causing a massive loss of downforce. Nevertheless, in a spirited drive, the 24-year-old battled hard with his damaged car to still finish in 11<sup>th</sup> place.

Taking the positives away from his continued progress and to be in the top 7 of one of the most competitive junior categories in the world, Dylan's attention will now shift towards working tirelessly behind the scenes in a bid to take his career to Europe in one of Formula 1's major feeder categories for 2014. Young said that someone had taken him onboard and believed in his career journey and that he hopes a deal can be done to begin testing in Europe early next year.

"There is a very important

person who has been simply tremendous in their support to me this year and I couldn't have raced without them backing me. They know who they are and I'm hopeful that together we can take a huge step next year on the pathway to Formula 1 and we should know more where I stand in the coming month or two, but it will take a lot of work. I can't do the journey alone though and there are numerous benefits, both short term and long term with a key return on investment for people who wish to come onboard, but time is running out before 2014 really kicks into gear."

Dylan was also thankful for the support he received from local Phuket companies in 2013 and urged other companies to join. "It's been fantastic to have Wahoo Phuket, Kata Rocks and Indigo Pearl partner me this year and for all of us to be showcasing Phuket internationally. I'm hoping that there will be some other businesses who will take notice and follow the trend that these leading companies on the island have done by supporting me towards Formula 1 and I invite them to get in touch."

The MRF Challenge Formula 2000 Championship is considered to be the fastest one to make single seater championship across Asia and the Middle East. The Formula 3 equivalent car is designed by Italian firm Dallara who is the largest racing car manufacturer in the world. The MRF Formula 2000 car is powered by a 2.0 litre 210 BHP Renault Sport Engine that propels the drivers to racing speeds of up to 260km/h.

You can follow Dylan at facebook.com/dylanyoung racing or play a part in supporting his career at gofundme.com/dylanyoung racing

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# Power of the wind

By Jeremie Schatz

THE fifth annual Kiteboard Tour Asia (KTA) recently visited Phuket, making its first stop as part of a five-stop Asia tour. Four days (December 17-20) of races were held in Chalong Bay just off of Friendship beach under better-than-expected conditions. The KTA follows closely behind the Pro Kite Tour World Championships which came to a close in Argentina on December 8.

KTA has been no stranger to Thailand but this event marks their first in Phuket. "We have done four previous events up in Pranburi... but we wanted to try and give a different scene a look at what we can do," said KTA Founding Director Neil Godbold.

When it comes to finding new venues Godbold declares that "It's funny, when you come to a new place and they go 'oh, we don't even know about you'...you have to

come back and prove yourself again." With 33 entries out of a possible 120, he expects a larger turn-out next year.

Races were held in two categories: twin tip and formula raceboards. Godbold described the characteristics of each, "The twin tip board is the symmetrical board like a wakeboard or snowboard and it goes both ways easily." Twin tip boards demand stronger winds, only coming to life in 12 knots of wind.

The formula raceboards are bigger asymmetrical boards with more buoyancy, surface area and longer fins. "These big race boards... these are the ones that nearly got us into the Olympics for 2016 and almost certainly will for 2020," said Godbold. A mere 6 knots of wind will shoot raceboards across the water at high speed.

It's looking like a promising future for kiteboarding as inclusion in the Olympics will



The final day of the Christmas race Special at Chalong bay. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

infuse the sport with an air of legitimacy.

The agreeable conditions made it possible for the racers to maximize their time. "We managed four or five races the first day, yesterday we put away nine and nine or 10 today. So for three days with a wind window and a water window of about four or five hours, that's pretty solid," stated Godbold.

The physical demands are undeniable for the racers – on the final day there were hints of lethargy and the pull-up bar was seeing a lot of traffic with people constantly stretching tense muscles and taut ligaments.

Godbold announced that he intends to make Phuket a recurring stop on the KTA's annual rounds through Asia. "The core countries are

Vietnam, Philippines and Thailand... and there is a really good national Thai racing scene."

Concerning next year's event, Godbold is thinking of adding "... The freestyle [division] or look at something even bigger like a race style event so maybe we'll have some long distance racing. So we'll grow it in some way, we're just not sure quite which direction yet."

The air about the KTA events has changed since the early years adds Godbold, "Our first party [at this event] started at 5 pm and was finished at 9 pm. Five years ago everyone would have partied til six in the morning, now they are getting a little more serious."

"This year we have some really good local support from the Vijitt Resort and Tamarind Resort, who are our presenting sponsor, Kitezone hosting and the Nai Harn group for supporting it," said Godbold. Logically, he is positive about acquiring additional sponsorship for subsequent events in Phuket so the event can grow and flourish.

With a diverse group of nationalities being represented, the imminent growth of future events, potential Olympic sport status on the horizon and racers willing to forgo hedonistic temptation in the name of competition, the sport of kiteboarding is just getting its second wind.



Winner George Sasonow.

## Lawn Bowls Champion

KAMALA Lawn Bowls Club hosted the 2013 Kamala Open Bowls Championship on Saturday, December 21.

An international field with competitors from Australia, England, Denmark, Thailand, Sweden, Canada, Germany, Wales and Russia battled in a cup knockout format for the "Donald Moore" trophy.

After several tight games an exciting final match culminated with Russian George Sasonow getting crowned Kamala champion 2013 after beating Englishman Bernie Riley 9-7.

– *Phuket Gazette*  
Upcoming competitions include a Ryder cup style Antipodes versus the Rest of the World on January 11 and the Phuket Open Championship in February. For more info contact Kamala lawn bowls at [lawnbowlphuket.com](mailto:lawnbowlphuket.com) or call 089 592-6059

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