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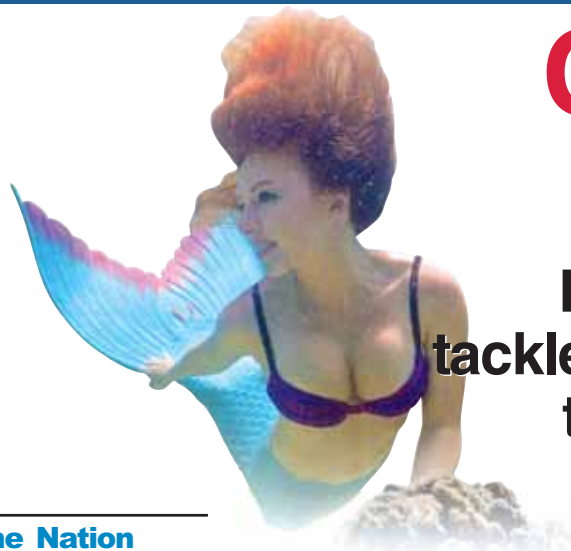
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# Phuket Gazette



## Chasing mer-tail

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■ 'ONE GANG MEMBER WANTED BY INTERPOL'

# Skimmmed

■ French nationals busted for collecting financial data from Phuket ATMs

By **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

POLICE this week arrested five Frenchmen, one who was wanted by Interpol, for skimming ATMs in Kamala and Chalong.

The men – Kevin Tahiang Theodore Okito, 29; Mel Duval Poaty, 29; Accel Jonathan Poaty Pambou, 26; Samir Maruof, 29; and Jessy Bianvenu Vincence, 33 – were presented at a press conference at Phuket Provincial Police Station on Tuesday morning.

The men are being held in Phuket without bail while police hunt down the sixth member of their gang, confirmed Phuket Provincial Police Commander Patchara Boonyasit.

"All five have criminal records in France. Additionally, Mr Okito is wanted by Interpol," Maj Gen Patchara said.

"The men were caught after Phuket police received a report from the Financial Crime Suppression Sector of Siam Commercial Bank on February 27, which said that a group of foreigners had on February 22 started using fake ATM cards to withdraw cash from multiple ATMs in Chalong and Kamala."

The bank sent police CCTV footage of the men, allowing officers to begin to track down



Kevin Tahiang Theodore Okito (left, center) and Mel Duval Poaty are being detained without bail.

the suspects and prepare evidence to make the arrests.

"We then began sending officers to the ATMs that had been skimmed by the men. On February 28, at 1am, we saw Mr Okito and Mr Poaty using the ATM in front of the Fresh Mart on Soi Hua Khuan in Kamala," Gen Patchara explained.

"Mr Okito was using the ATM, while Mr Poaty kept watch. Police moved in on the sus-

pects and were able to make the arrests."

After questioning the men, police learned that four others were involved and had been staying at two houses on the island: one on Soi Hua Khuan in Kamala and another on Soi Prathana in Chalong.

"We went immediately to the house in Kamala. Luckily, the other four suspects..."

Continued on Page 2

## Jet-ski tourist hits swimmer in 'no go' zone

A FRENCHMAN riding a jet-ski struck a German swimmer, rendering him unconscious last week.

Erich Heim was rescued from the waters of Paradise Beach by a lifeguard and taken to hospital.

The jet-ski driver's passport was confiscated as police investigate the circumstances of the accident.

Full Story Page 3

## Officers arrest kill team hired over land deal

A FAILED attempt to kill a man over a Phuket land deal gone sour resulted in a team of hitmen being arrested in synchronized raids in Phuket and Krabi last week.

The team had agreed to kill Songwit Vinyupradit for a total of 300,000 baht with 35,000 baht paid up front.

Full Story Page 5

## Beach vendors take complaints to PM Prayut

A GROUP of about 150 Phuket beach vendors took their complaints all the way to Bangkok, where they submitted a letter imploring Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha to revise the current beach management system.

The letter accused Governor Nisit Jansomwong of ignoring the requests of local beach vendors and going ahead with the beach bans.

Full Story Page 6

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## This Week



### Business

Panoramic photography expert moves business to Phuket. **Page 11**



### Property

A recap of legitimate property investment for foreigners. **Page 30**



### Food

Grab some friends and head to Karon for some hotpot fun. **Page 31**



### Boating

Island's luxury lifestyle makes it a heavy hitter in Asia. **Page 35**



### Well-being

Our Excuse Busters tell us about mistakes and coconuts. **Page 37**



### Sport

Local, famed runner trains for her first 100km race. **Page 38**

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Sunday



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Monday



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Tuesday



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Wednesday



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Thursday



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# Man stabbed to death outside massage shop

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE arrested two men on February 28 for fatally stabbing a 20-year-old man outside a Karon massage parlor last month.

Officers tracked down Virat Chomket, 32, and Thongchai Sanguanroj, 23, and arrested them at Rassada Pier. The men confessed to police that they were responsible for the murder of Supakarn Petsut on February 23.

"The killers were driving home from work when they spotted Mr Supakarn, who they had previously gotten into an argument with, in front of Siam Massage," explained Karon Police Deputy Superintendent Pachai Mattayan.

"They pulled their vehicle over and got into another fight with him. Mr Supakarn pulled out a knife and cut Mr Thongchai on the arm. Then, Mr Virat pulled out his knife and stabbed Mr Supakarn multiple times in the stomach and chest.

The men fled the scene, leaving Mr Supakarn bleeding on the ground in front of the massage parlor.

"Rescue workers were called to the scene, and rushed him to



Mr Virat (right, sitting) and Mr Thongchai were charged with murder.

Patong Hospital. However, he succumbed to his injuries," Lt Col Pachai said.

Both Mr Thongchai and Mr

Virat were charged with murder and are being held at Phuket Provincial Prison, Col Pachai confirmed to the *Gazette*.

## Frenchmen arrested for ATM skimming

From Page 1

...were there. However, one of them managed to escape," Gen Patchara said, adding that police were withholding the suspect's name while they continue to search for him.

"In the house, we found 13 counterfeit ATM cards, the men's passports, a laptop and three memory drives, which contained personal information from people who had been skimmed at the ATMs."

The five men were taken to



Police were tipped off by the bank and given CCTV footage.

the Phuket Provincial Court, where they are being detained without bail.

"The case has now been handed over to the court," Gen Patchara confirmed.

## Police work to identify bodies found in Phuket

POLICE are attempting to identify two bodies found dead in different areas of the island within a week of each other.

The first was a possible murder victim found under a bridge in northern Phuket on February 26.

Officers from the Tah Chat Chai Police arrived at the scene, under a bridge on the road leading to the now-closed Imperial Adamas Beach Resort in Nai Yang, at about 10am.

"We believe that the man, who was about 30 years old, was killed and then his body dumped under the bridge," said Lt Col Watcharin Chiratkarnvivat of Tah Chat Chai Police.

"There was a cut on the back of his head about one-inch wide



Police and rescue workers at the scene in Nai Yang.

and two-centimeters deep, and the body had bruising on the neck, forehead and left side of the head and face."

The body had a large ornate tattoo extending from the left upper chest to the left elbow, added Lt Col Watcharin.

"We did not find any form of identification at the scene," he said.

The body was transported to

Thalang Hospital.

The next body was found in front of Wat Tepnimitr School in Wichit on Monday.

"The man looked to be in his 40s and was about 170 centimeters tall," said Capt Nattaya Supannapong of the Wichit Police.

"We questioned local residents about the man and were told that no one knew him, but many villagers had seen him roaming the area, and sleeping there at night. They also said that he was usually drunk."

The body showed no signs of a struggle, added Capt Nattaya. It was sent to Vachira Phuket Hospital to determine cause of death.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong / Thawit Bilabdullar

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# Australian expat killed in early morning motorbike accident

AN AUSTRALIAN expat died in a motorbike crash in Phuket on February 26.

The body of Adam Tepper, 34, was found in Sai Yuan Junction on Wiset Road below a destroyed traffic sign. The motorbike Mr Tepper was riding was about 30 meters away.

Mr Tepper was the CEO of digital currency business Independent Reserve,

reported *The Guardian*.

Mr Tepper, a keen sailor, had relocated from Melbourne to Sydney after founding Independent Reserve in 2013, said colleague Adrian Przelozny in a statement.

"He will be sorely missed by his family, friends and the bitcoin community," said Przelozny. "He lived his life by the beat of his own drum."

Mr Tepper was not wearing a helmet and struck his head on the sign and died instantly, said Capt Thada Sodarak of the Chalong Police.

"I believe he was moving very fast at the time of the crash, as part of the sign pole was buried a meter underground, and it was pulled out by the impact," he said.

— *Voratus Intasee*



Adam Tepper. Photo: Angus McLaughlan

# Jet-skier knocks out swimmer

By Thawit Bilabdullar

A FRENCHMAN riding a jet-ski struck a German swimmer in Phuket on February 28, rendering him unconscious.

Chadd Attard, 20, hit Erich Heim, 55, about 200 meters from the shore of Paradise Beach, south of Patong Beach.

A lifeguard immediately responded and was able to bring Mr Heim to shore, said Lt Col Anukul Nuket of the Patong Police.

Mr Heim received first aid at the scene before he was taken to Bangkok Hospital Phuket for further treatment.

"It is actually illegal for the jet-skis to be driven from Patong Beach to Paradise Beach. They are not allowed to be in that area – especially because there are no buoy lines set up to divide jet-skiers from swimmers," said Col Anukul.

"The jet-ski rental operator, Suriya Chukaew, told the group of French tourists not to take the jet-skis outside of the Patong Beach area. Perhaps they misun-



Erich Heim (pictured) was hit by jet-skier Chadd Attard about 200 meters from the shore of Paradise Beach.

derstood. It's the ocean, not the road, so leaving the area probably happens sometimes."

Mr Attard was charged with reckless driving causing injury. Police are visiting Mr Heim in hospital today to establish whether or not he wants to press further

charges, said Col Anukul.

"Mr Attard will not be allowed to leave Thailand until the case is settled. We are holding his passport," Col Anukul confirmed to the Gazette on Monday.

"The jet-ski involved in the accident is licensed and legal, so the



owner is not involved in the investigation."

Last month, a Chinese tourist was killed in a jet-ski accident after he drove the machine into an anchored yacht off Phi Phi Don island.

Prior to the Chinese national's

death, opposition to jet-skis was mounting in Phuket. Several close calls involving jet-skiers nearly hitting swimmers on Surin Beach – a beach where jet-skis are banned completely – led Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut to threaten banning them on Bang Tao Beach, from where they were being ridden down to Surin Beach.

"I have ordered the Bang Tao Jet-Ski Club not to allow jet-skis to operate on Surin Beach, as it is a no-jet-ski zone. I have also reiterated to other jet-ski operators on the island what I've said with regard to breaking the rules," Mr Phuripat said in November.

"If jet-skis are seen on Surin Beach again, I will take the issue to Governor Nisit and ask him to revoke the licenses of all jet-ski operators in Phuket."

Despite several other jet-ski mishaps and infractions, no such bans have ever been issued by Mr Phuripat, despite a strong push from Governor Nisit and the hospitality industry of Phuket to rein in jet-ski hooligans.



Mr Grau died at the scene.

# French expat killed in crash in Kamala

A FRENCH expat was killed in a motorbike accident on Kamala Soi 8 on February 28.

Maximilien Grau, 35, crashed into a utility pole at high speed and was not wearing a helmet at the time, said Lt Col Navin Petchan of the Kamala Police.

"We believe that he lost control on the bend in the road and swerved into the pole. He sustained fatal head injuries in the crash," Col Navin said.

Mr Grau's body was taken to Patong Hospital.

"We are waiting for the results of a blood test to determine whether or not alcohol played a role in the accident," Col Navin said.

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*

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Nobody was injured in the crash.

## Brakeless bus on Patong Hill

A TOUR bus driver's cool head prevented a runaway bus on Patong Hill from becoming the latest serious accident in a seemingly endless string of crashes, some fatal, on this notorious road.

When police arrived at the scene, the tour bus had come to a stop after scrapping against a utility pole outside of Wat Suwankiriwong, at the base of Patong Hill.

"There were 20 Chinese tourists on the bus. Luckily, none of them were injured," said Maj Weerapong Rakito of the Patong Police.

The driver eventually revealed himself to police.

"He said that the bus suffered from brake failure, so he slowed the bus by scrapping it along the power pole," said Maj Weerapong.

The driver was charged 5,000 baht for driving an unsafe vehicle and causing damage to property.

— *Voratuss Intasee*

# Vard told to file property fraud, death threat, kidnapping complaint to Navy

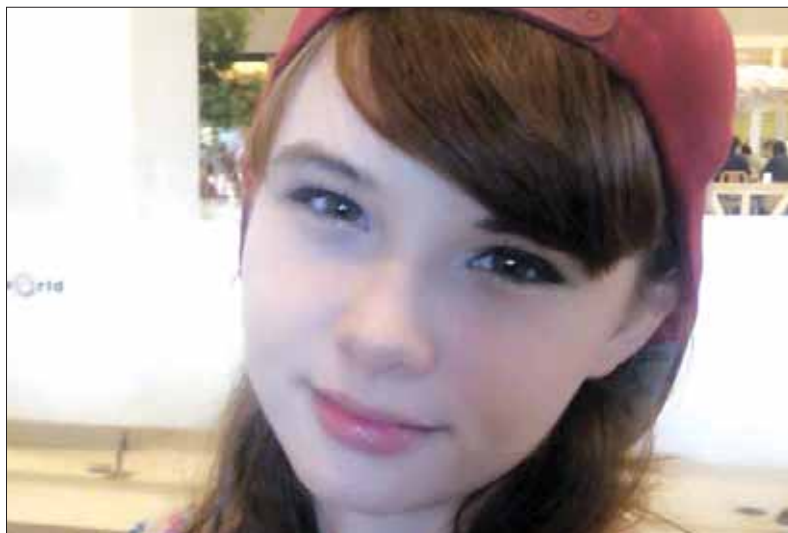
THE leading representative in Phuket for the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) has called on Colin Vard to file a formal complaint so that the Royal Thai Navy can launch an investigation into allegations of inaction by police into death threats, kidnapping and property fraud.

The call follows Mr Vard's 15-year-old daughter Jessie's posting a video on her "Justice for Jessie" Facebook page on February 3, in which she pleads for justice for her family, who have allegedly suffered from years of police corruption, death threats, property fraud and kidnapping.

The video has since gone viral. As of February 25, the video had attracted 98,286 views, 3,114 likes, 350 comments and 2,867 shares.

The "Jessie for Justice" page had drawn more than 350,000 visitors in the preceding 24 hours.

Jessie posted the video ahead of her father appearing in front of the press in Bangkok on February 12, asking for justice in a more



Jessie Vard's father was told to file his complaint again. Photo: Facebook

than 64-million-baht property fraud case dating back to 2009.

At the press conference, Mr Vard handed national police spokesman Prawut Thavonsiri documents supporting his case of the alleged fraud.

Lt Gen Prawut promised to investigate the more than five-year-old case as soon as pos-

sible, the Thai news portal *Manager Online* reported.

Regardless, Capt Borworn Promkaewngam of the Navy's Third Area Command in Phuket has called for Mr Vard to file a complaint through the Damrongtham Center (ombudsman's office) at Phuket Provincial Hall.

"I was not aware of the case,"

Capt Borworn, who heads the Internal Security Operations Command in Phuket, told the *Gazette*.

"However, I suggest that he file a complaint through the Damrongtham Center. They will pass it on to me and the governor. We will take it from there."

Maj Gen Krajang Suwannarat, the Region 8 Police deputy commander in charge of Phuket, told the *Gazette* that he also was unaware of the Vard case, and that he was powerless to take any action without a complaint or an order from his superiors to investigate the claims.

"I have yet to receive any orders regarding this, but if I do, of course we will investigate," he said.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Patchara Boonyasit, although aware of the case, also said his hands were tied.

"I am aware of Mr Vard filing his complaint to Gen Prawut, but at this stage I have not received any orders to investigate," he told the *Gazette*.

## Island Radio 91.5FM ready to return to air



Island's main English-language radio station returns. Photo: Alan Levine

THE island's best-known English-language radio station, Phuket Island Radio 91.5FM, is preparing to return to air following completion of re-licensing formalities required after the military coup saw the closure of thousands of stations throughout the country.

Although the station's new license was approved in September last year, its issuance did not occur until last week.

"This has been a very difficult and somewhat testing time for us since receiving the instructions, along with every other radio station in Thailand, to switch off after the military coup in May 2014," said Kanyarat Jones, managing director at 91.5FM. "However, we always knew we would come back to Phuket's airwaves – we just had to be patient while the licensing authority processed a huge backlog of new applications."

Despite being off air, Phuket FM Radio managed to maintain

its presence online at [phuketfmradio.com](http://phuketfmradio.com), which was established in March 2008.

"We have been online continuously to our local and global audience and have experienced a welcome growth in our online listeners. This month, listeners have tuned in from over 100 countries. This growth and the recent time off air has enabled my team to develop a number of additional improvements to our services, all of which will be announced over the coming weeks," Mrs Jones said.

It is still unclear when, exactly, tourists, expats and other members of the Phuket community will be able to tune in to 91.5FM on their radios. However, it won't be long, said Mrs Jones.

"Stay tuned, we have a few things to do, and rest assured, there's a lot more to come from 91.5FM," she added.

— *Phuket Gazette*



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**MENTOR**



# Hired kill squad arrested

By Woranut Pechdee

A FAILED attempt to kill a man over a Phuket land deal gone sour resulted in a team of hitmen being arrested in synchronized raids in Phuket and Krabi on February 24.

All five of the men accused for their roles in the attempted slaying of Songwit Vinyupradit were presented to the press by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Patchara Boonyasit on February 25.

"Mr Songwit, 49, was gunned down in a drive-by shooting in Thalang at about 7am on January 19 after dropping his daughter off at school," Gen Patchara explained.

"The man who hired them has a construction project and a part of it is on Mr Songwit's land near Phuket International Airport. The two failed to reach an agreement about the land, so the person hired Halim Rakmit, 52, to have Mr Songwit killed."

The price agreed on for Mr Songwit's life was 300,000 baht, with 35,000 baht paid as the down payment, Gen Patchara said.

Mr Halim, who confessed to



A team of men were hired to kill Songwit Vinyupradit last month after a land deal went sour.

assembling the kill squad, was arrested in Phuket. Hit squad leader Adisak Pleekarn, 48, is accused of planning the assassination and was also arrested in Phuket, while Kriengkrai Yimkaew, 49, the alleged gunman, was arrested in Krabi. Imran Lannui, 24, the

driver, and Voravut Pewdam, 25, the lookout, were both also arrested in Krabi.

After Mr Adisak learned that Mr Songwit had only been shot in the hip and the leg, and was alive, he informed Mr Halim, Gen Patchara explained.

"Mr Halim paid them only half of the money for the job and then ordered the team to go immediately into hiding," he said.

Police confirmed on Wednesday that 70-year-old Anuthep Tanwera, the suspected contractor of the kill squad, had turned

himself in at Thalang Police Station after receiving an arrest warrant from the court last Sunday.

"He turned himself in for the charge of hiring people to commit premeditated murder," confirmed Boonlert Onklang of Thalang Police on Wednesday.

"He has denied the charges."

Mr Anuthep was released from the station after he paid his 370,000-baht bail with a land title deed as a guarantee.

"We let him go because he willingly turned himself in, unlike the others," explained Col Boonlert.

The other five suspects arrested are being held at Thalang Police Station while awaiting trial.

Mr Halim was charged with conspiracy to murder, while Adisak, Kriengkrai, Imran and Voravut were all charged with attempted gang murder, gang possession of firearms and ammunition and gang carrying of firearms and ammunition in public.

Mr Kriengkrai was already wanted by police for gang murder in Krabi in 2012 and illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition, Gen Patchara noted.

## Meth-dealing mum arrested in Thalang

A METH dealer told Phuket police on February 27 that she was selling drugs in order to financially support her baby.

Natthanicha Wongsopha, 34, was arrested in possession of 170 ya bah (methamphetamine) pills when police raided her house in Thalang at about 4pm.

"She told us that she was selling the drugs so that she would have enough money to take care of her baby," said Maj Ritthichai Choomchuy of the Phuket Provincial Police. "On February 25, she bought 400 pills from another dealer. By the time we made the arrest, she had offloaded most of the drugs."

Ms Natthanicha confessed to selling the drugs and was charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell, confirmed



Ms Natthanicha was arrested in possession of 170 ya ba pills.

Maj Ritthichai.

"Based on the information we received from Ms Natthanicha, we expect to make several more arrests," said Maj Ritthichai.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

## Illegal Burmese alien netted in party town gambling raid

AN ILLEGAL alien was snared when police busted a local gambling event in Patong on February 27.

Police were tipped off by locals about a small group of people who were gathered to gamble at a rental room on Phra Metta Road.

The Thai nationals arrested in the bust were named as Nimit Thambanyo, 45; Thanaknut Narasakulpiphan, 35; and Sunan Paengthong, 37. The 26-year-old

illegal Myanmar national was only named as "Mr Van".

"There were four of them gambling when we arrived. They tried to run, but we caught them all," said Sutthichai Thianpo of the Patong Police.

Police seized gambling paraphernalia and 600 baht in cash.

All the men were charged for gambling. Mr Van was also charged for entering Thailand illegally.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

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## Slow loris tout caught in Patong

POLICE arrested a man on February 28 for illegal possession of a slow loris, which he was letting tourists hold for paid photo opportunities in Patong.

"We arrested 23-year-old Natthapol Kensing on Bangla Road at about 7pm. We confiscated the slow loris, as well as Mr Natthapol's equipment, including the camera," said Lt Col Sutthichai Thianpho of the Patong Police.

"Mr Natthapol will be charged for illegal possession of a protected species, inflicting harm on an animal and causing a public nuisance," said Col Sutthichai.

"These touts still keep coming back, but we will keep arresting them until they get the message. This kind of business is unacceptable," said Col Sutthichai.

"I would like to thank everyone who has passed on information to us about these perpetrators – please keep your eyes open."

The rescued slow loris was taken to a wildlife sanctuary in Phang Nga, confirmed Col Sutthichai. – **Kongleaphy Keam**

# Vendors march on BKK

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A GROUP of about 150 Phuket beach vendors took their complaints all the way to Bangkok on Tuesday, where they submitted a letter imploring Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha to revise the current beach management system.

The letter accused Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong of ignoring the requests of local beach vendors and going ahead with a ban on beach chair rentals and other businesses, on the grounds that the activities were encroaching on public land.

"These bans have strongly affected tourism businesses in Phuket, including hotels and beach vendors," said Sutha Pratheep Nathalang, who led the group to the Office of the Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office.

Mr Sutha also accused Governor Nisit of using the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO)'s cleanup campaign for the benefit of some businesses, but not others.



The group of 150 beach vendors gathered outside the Prime Minister's Office in Bangkok on Tuesday.

"We are asking that the prime minister deal with this by adjusting the beach management policies so that they are fair for everyone, pro-

mote tourism and bring income to local people," Mr Sutha said.

Suksawat Suwanwong, head of public relations at the office, ac-

cepted the letter on PM Prayut's behalf and said that he would send it to the relevant authorities for review.



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The men are attempting to break a Guinness World Record.

## Charity drive for world-record attempt reaches B1mn mark in funding

GRAHAM Haslam and Mark Cameron have already raised more than 1 million baht for a local charity without having driven their electric golf cart a single meter in a Guinness World Record attempt.

Dubbed "The Longest Drive" the duo plan to drive the golf cart from Pattaya to Phuket, about 1,400 kilometers, as they raise funds for the charity Phuket Has Been Good To Us. The latest financial push for their effort came from Asian Seniors Tour.

"I have known and supported Phuket Has Been Good To Us for many years. When I read about this world record attempt by Graham and Mark I had to be part of it. I just wish I was joining them!" said Chuan Campbell, organizer of the Asian Seniors Tour. "This is yet another great fund-raising idea

that these two have come up with, and I am pleased that we at Asian Seniors Tour are able to support them."

On a recent test drive from Nonthaburi to Lotus Valley golf course in Chachoengsao province, the golf cart's set of six 8-volt Trojan batteries provided for the world record attempt delivered 95km per day.

"We have had that golf cart for almost 18 months and I am very impressed seeing what it was capable of," said the owner of the vehicle, David Westrick of Golf Cart Thailand.

The Longest Drive will commence on March 8 as Mr Haslam and Mr Cameron depart from Hard Rock Cafe Pattaya, with eyes set on arriving at Hard Rock Cafe Phuket 24 days later.

– **Phuket Gazette**



# Tourists forced to hike

## Charter-flight passengers made to walk long distance to buses due to Phuket airport expansion

By Chutharat Plerin

AIRPORTS of Thailand (AoT) officers are scrambling to take care of passengers arriving on charter flights at Phuket International Airport, as the tourists' buses are now being forced to park at one of the unfinished parking buildings.

"Due to the airport expansion, buses have to park quite far away from the terminal," said Pakin Sirijun, deputy vice president of the AoT's Landside Airport Operations Department.

"[Tuesday] was the first day

that we had the buses parking in front of the new parking building, and it caused problems."

Mr Pakin said that AoT officers and Phuket International Airport staff were aware of the inconvenience and were working on finding a solution, as the airport expansion, which will have an indoor walkway, will not be complete for at least another two years.

"We have had vans shuttling some passengers to the buses, but that hasn't been enough. We will meet on Thursday to brainstorm a more convenient option for

'I would encourage all passengers who have been inconvenienced to file a complaint via our website so that we have more input on how to improve our services'



Arriving charter-flight passengers were forced to walk from their terminal to their waiting buses. Photo: AoT

group-tour passengers," Mr Pakin said on Tuesday.

"I encourage all passengers who have been inconvenienced to file a complaint via our website so that we have more input on how

to improve our services."

Though charter-flight passengers are being forced into a long walk carrying their baggage to and from the airport, cars are still able to drop off and pick up

people from in front of the terminal as usual, Mr Pakin confirmed to the *Gazette*.

"We are sorry about any inconvenience, and will have this sorted out as soon as possible," he said.

## Phi Phi's 'aquarium in the wild' told to close



The boat allowed tourists to wade among the fish.

THE "aquarium in the wild" boat anchored inside Phi Phi national park was ordered to close on February 25.

The large fish hold of Lok Tai Taley (World Under the Water) had been converted to allow fish to swim freely into it and for guests to wade among them.

"We ordered them to stop the 'fish pool' service, which the owner agreed to do," said Chaithat Boonphupantanti, chief of the Koh Phi Phi-Nopparathara National Park.

The officers also issued a 500-baht fine to the company for operating a business for personal

benefit inside the national park without permission. The company was fined 10,000 baht by the Krabi Marine Police earlier this month for operating the boat beyond its licensing as a ferrying vessel.

"If Nikom Ocha, the owner, wants to go back to using the boat as a ferry, he is more than welcome to do so; we can't ban him from the national park waters," Mr Chaithat said.

"However, we will be keeping a close eye on the boat. If they start up the 'fish pool' business again, we will take them to court."

— Kongleaphy Keam

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## AROUND THE nation

### Pongpat sees 16 years added onto prison sentence

FORMER Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) chief Lt Gen Pongpat Chayaphan will serve almost 32 years behind bars, after the Criminal Court found him guilty on February 26 in two more bribe-taking cases that landed him 15 more years in prison.

The 59-year-old had already been given 16 years and nine months behind bars for three previous crimes relating to a gambling den, Burmese rosewood plank possession and money laundering.

He and five other disgraced police officers were brought to Bangkok's Ratchadapisek Criminal Court on February 26 to hear the ruling on the two bribe-taking cases, reported *The Nation*.

In the first case, Pongpat, former CIB deputy commissioner Maj Gen Kowit Wongrungrroj, 59, and former marine police commander Maj Gen Boonsueb Praituen, 55, were found guilty of taking 147.4 million baht in bribes from oil smugglers in the South from February 2012 to July 2014.

Pongpat and Kowit had their initial 10-year sentences reduced by half due to their useful confessions, while Boonsueb was given a 15-year jail term that was also halved.

In the second case, Pongpat, Kowit, Col Wuthichart Luensukhon, 46, Sgt Surasak Chan-ngao, 50, and Sgt Chakrin Laothong, 48, were accused of conspiring to demand between 3mn and 5mn baht from several police officers in exchange for getting them promoted to key positions in the CIB.

Pongpat and Kowit were given 20-year sentences, while the three subordinates got 12 years each.

The sentences were halved due to their useful confessions and their previous merits as policemen.

# Buddhists in Nan protest construction of mosque

RESIDENTS in the northern province of Nan on Monday demanded that a public hearing be held on plans to construct a mosque in the predominantly Buddhist province, on the grounds that it would threaten their safety.

Muslim residents plan to build a mosque in Nan's Phu Peang Phiang district, some two kilometers from the well-known Buddhist temple of Phra That Chae Haeng, reported *The Nation*.

In January, many Buddhist residents voiced their disagreement, saying there were no Muslim people in their community and they were worried that people from elsewhere would use the mosque, which could lead to the kind of problems experienced in the deep South.

People from Buppharam village in Phu Paeng Phiang district earlier met with Imam Yarin from Lampang province to ask why it was necessary to build a mosque in their area. Village chief Charan San-gnern quoted the imam as saying that Muslim residents in Nan needed a mosque because it



The mosque would be built near Phra That Chae Haeng. Photo: LannaPhoto

was inconvenient for them to travel 130km to pray in Phrae province.

Nan has a population of about 478,000, and only about 60 of them are Muslim. Like many other northern provinces, it does not have any mosques.

However, on February 24, a group of Muslims met with Nan Deputy Governor Kajphon Erbsuksiri, saying that they needed

the mosque for religious services.

Meanwhile, on March 1, some 800 Buddhists led by Kraisak Kantha and monk Phra Maha Narongsak, gathered at Wat Phra That Chae Haeng to lodge a petition with provincial authorities, demanding that construction of the mosque be stopped.

Mr Kraisak said the Buddhist residents were not against the Muslim minority or Islam, but

objected to authorities allowing the construction of the mosque to go ahead without their consent.

"The mosque will affect the lives of people living in the area. If authorities do not stop the project, we will protest again," he said.

Meanwhile, Chairat Tharasantisuk, another deputy governor for Nan, said he would consult with the provincial governor, while Phu Peang's Phiang's district chief Chanathip Senyaem said he would consult with the Islamic Central Committee of Thailand.

Col Chatchawan Kulkusol, deputy director of Nan's Internal Security Operations Command, said the construction of any building, be it a mosque, a factory or anything else, was required to undergo a public hearing.

"In the case of this mosque, if locals disagree, it should not be constructed. If the Muslim people insist on going ahead with the construction, then it might have an impact on security, social unity and peace, and the consequence of conflict might be far beyond our expectation," he warned.

## Pollution levels in the North reach potentially harmful levels

AIR pollution in the North has reached potentially harmful levels in some areas, due to wildfires and uncontrolled burning by farmers, new data has revealed.

The Pollution Control Department said on Monday that nine air-quality monitoring stations in northern provinces found that the volume of particulate matter with a maximum diameter of 10 microns (PM10) had risen over the safe level of 120 micrograms per cubic meter of air.

The highest recorded figure so far is an alarming 254 micrograms in Lampang, while its has also risen above a safe level in Lamphun (214), Phrae (209), Chiang Mai (176) and Tak (130), reported *The Nation*.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in the North has also exceeded a safe level. On Monday, the AQI measure at most monitoring stations

was more than 100. Lampang's air pollution was the worst with an AQI level of 159.

Due to the hazardous air-pollution levels, the Ministry of Health has advised particularly vulnerable persons, such as children, the elderly and the sick, to avoid unnecessary outdoor activities.

If people are forced to go outside, they should wear masks or cover their faces with wet towels.

The ministry has distributed 140,000 face masks in the seven northern provinces.

Chiang Mai in particular has been covered by smog for several days due to wildfires.

The smog was so thick in parts of the province that the peaks of Doi Suthep and Doi Pui could not be seen from the city.

In Chiang Mai, the visibility has been reduced to only three kilometers.



Air pollution is a cause of concern in Northern Thailand. Photo: The Nation

## Yakuza gang member arrested in Pattaya

A 34-YEAR-OLD man alleged to be a member of Japan's second-largest gang was arrested at a Pattaya condominium on February 28.

The arrest of Shin-iji Nakata followed a request from the Japanese Embassy last week, reported *The Nation*.

The Yakuza gang allegedly duped people via phone calls into purchasing bonds from April to July last year, causing about 22 million baht in damages. Japanese authorities issued an arrest warrant in November for Mr Nakata, who then fled to Thailand.

So far, the Japanese authorities have arrested 20 members of the about 6,000-strong gang, which allegedly operates under the Sumiyoshi-kai crime clan.



Mr Nakata was arrested in Pattaya on February 28. Photo: The Nation

Mr Nakata was also charged with overstaying his visa, Patrol and Special Operation Division chief Panurat Lakboon said on

Monday.

Japanese authorities are due to collect him and take him back to face legal action in Japan.

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# Phuket defining boating culture

## FIRST PERSON

WITH an abundance of islands surrounded by crystal clear waters, Phuket has established itself as a favorite destination among holiday makers from all over the world. Its close proximity to Singapore – already a developing superyacht destination – makes Phuket well placed to become the world's next superyacht destination in Southeast Asia.

Phuket is popular among European, Australian and Asian tourists who flock in droves to enjoy the food, people and pace of life in Phuket, particularly enjoying the lush scenery from the water. We understand that there is no "one size fits all" holiday, and with the wide range of visitors to Phuket, this is particularly relevant for the boating industry. Some visitors prefer to stay in a hotel and charter a boat for daytime sailing, while others prefer a longer cruise around the islands. Then, there are locals who like to use their boat as an extension of their personal and business life – enjoying a home away from home with their friends and family.

Daytime sailing is still the most common boating activity among visitors, but as the tourism industry continues to grow, this is likely to change. Expansion of marinas in Southeast Asia will create a string of destinations that will allow for longer stays onboard yachts. And with Singapore only three days' sail from Phuket, they are likely to continue to develop into popular



**Erwin Bamps** is CEO of Gulf Craft, listed among the world's top 10 superyacht builders as per the 2014 Global Order Book, a report issued annually by the Boat International Group.

Before his appointment to CEO in June 2014, Mr Bamps had been the chief operating officer of the company since 2009, during which the company grew from a few

hundred employees to more than 2,000 worldwide.

Here, Mr Bamps reveals his vision of Phuket's role in the development of boating throughout Southeast Asia.

lar superyacht destinations. We expect that more visitors will come here for cruising holidays, enjoying the journey on the water as much as the destination, making this an exciting time for the region's boating industry.

Boating culture in Southeast Asia, particularly weekend and superyacht cruising, is still developing and we believe that Phuket is spearheading how the region thinks about yachting. Fifty years ago, yachting was positioned for high-flyers who regularly spent the summer in Cannes and Saint Tropez, but that isn't necessarily how people in Southeast Asia want to participate in it. Boating has something for everyone, whether you are an adventurous seafarer or simply enjoy the floating scenery. Yachting doesn't have to be the same thing for everyone.

Phuket is trying to define what boating means in the region and

Gulf Craft has the product range to allow them to do that.

Approximately 250 superyachts visit Southeast Asia each year, and we are optimistic that more local owners are going to enter the market as they begin to view it as floating real estate. As increasing infrastructure facilities are put in place – we expect to see a shift from functional boating to a luxurious cruising market – creating opportunities for superyacht and weekend boating to take off in the region.

Gulf Craft has a proven capacity to design and build premium quality vessels for all types of customers. With the largest range of vessels in the market, we build boats costing the same as a small car to superyachts big enough to carry a helicopter. Working closely with clients in Southeast Asia, we tailor our vessels to suit the market by making technical adaptations to suit the tropical climate and the different approach to yachting.

Phuket's still under-utilized islands and surrounding waters offer huge potential for tourism growth, and we look forward to supporting the region as it defines and develops its yachting culture.



Is Thailand killing its 'golden goose'? Photo: John Ireland

## The golden goose

### Island View

By John Matheson

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

THAILAND should decide if it wants tourism, or not. The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has spent billions of baht over the past 15 years to build the tourism industry into a major force, and it has been largely successful in spite of political turmoil, a tsunami, floods, corruption and fluctuations in currencies worldwide.

One estimate published in 2003 placed the tourism trade at US\$4.3 billion per year, about 3 per cent of the Thai economy. It surely is much higher now. But what Thailand is currently doing to this industry borders on insanity, ignorance – or both.

The tourist industry has blossomed, bringing a construction boom and much needed dollars to the Thai economy. All because "The Land of Smiles" made tourists feel welcomed.

A major attraction of Phuket for tourists has always been the beaches. Tourists are drawn to them because they are enjoyable, sunny and hot. They were, for many years, packed with free-spending visitors who spent money on accommodations, food, fishing, diving, partying, eco-tourism and more.

Right now, the tourist industry is suffering mainly because of the nation's political turmoil and because of global fluctuations in currency value. The attractions are still here to welcome visitors, but Thailand has now deliberately added a new detriment to tourism.

This year, tourists are greeted with so many restrictions on beach use that they will no longer come for the beaches. Many of them will instead go to places where they feel welcomed.

Lounge chairs once made the beach comfortable for thousands of tourists. Now, there are no lounge chairs. Most tourists don't like the noise, danger and commotion of jet skis. But, somehow, they're permitted.

Tourists liked beachside vendors, shops, bars and restaurants. They made the day much more relaxing and enjoyable. These are all outlawed now – along with smoking and eating on the beach.

Tourism was once the golden goose for Thailand. Why the new restrictions? There seems to be two possible reasons.

The first could be that the crowded beaches were suddenly deemed unsuitable. The second could be that officials wanted to eliminate the corruption that seems to be present in so many tourism businesses. Authorities had a difficult time policing vendors and businesses, so they decided to put them out of business, thus destroying the tourism industry.

Thailand should decide if it really wants to be one of the world's top tourism destinations. If not, the money spent through TAT campaigns should be spent elsewhere. If tourism is desired, then the anti-tourism rules should end and the authorities should eliminate the graft and corruption often involved with seaside businesses.

It's time to make a decision, Thailand – do you want tourists, or not?

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

### What rules are in place to control the construction of speed bumps?

THE road near Como Hotel at Cape Yamu used to have a few speed bumps, but in the last couple of weeks more and more have appeared, usually overnight.

There are now 13 speed bumps across the road, once you turn off the main road by the 7/11 convenience store.

Many are new, difficult to see, and not good for car and bike suspension.

I appreciate road safety, but can just anyone make these across the road? And shouldn't they be clearly visible?

Brent Cowey,  
Cape Yamu

**Rongroj Sermisri, director of the Civil Engineering Division of Pa Khlok Municipality, replies:**

The rules and standards for install-

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Submit your issue at  
[www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers](http://www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers)

ing speed bumps are specified in a handbook called *Standards for constructing speed bumps*, last updated in 2013, which is provided to each province's section of the Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning, which falls under the Ministry of Interior.

Private individuals or companies cannot install speed bumps on public roads. Each municipality takes responsibility for determining the location of the speed bumps and for installing them.

According to the handbook, speed bumps will be installed in any public area to reduce vehicles'



Bumps that slow your role and damage your car. Photo: Voratuss Intasee

speed and to increase safety on the road. However, they are not to be built on any curves, as drivers cannot see them clearly and this may result in an accident.

The roads in Cape Yamu have many speed bumps, as the municipality determined that they were needed for safety reasons. I

can confirm that the speed bumps are not damaging to vehicles, as they were built to meet standards.

Some of the speed bumps have yet to be painted with colors that make them easier to spot at night, but we will finish painting them as soon as possible. We will also repaint the old speed bumps.



# Fighting for a fairy-tale ending

REACTION on social media to pleas for justice from Jessie Vard through a series of recent Facebook videos that went viral, should serve as an interesting case in observing the extent to which social media can impact the Thai criminal justice system.

It goes without saying that there are two sides to every story and that what is known about the Vard case thus far currently comprises only previous allegations made by Jessie's father Colin.

The family's saga, as initially revealed by British investigative journalist Andrew Drummond in 2011, reads much like the plot of a medieval fairy tale set here, in new millennium Thailand.

It will be interesting to follow the twists and turns of the case and see if the family gets the fairy-tale ending they seek: the return of their assets, as well as punishment of those responsible for allegedly defrauding them.

Plot devices include a wicked stepmother, who allegedly forced Jessie and her half-brother – her own son by birth – down into a dark, centipede-infested well, holding them captive there for several days before their discovery and release.

While police were eventually able to track down and arrest Jessie's stepmother, who is now in prison, the uneducated former bar girl has been described by Mr Vard as "a pawn" in a larger mafia racket involving lawyers, police and state officials colluding to cheat or defraud wealthy foreign men married to Thai women.

Efforts thus far by Mr Vard to use the criminal justice system to win back his assets over the past five years backfired in the worst possible way, with officials openly warning him that his life, as well as those of his children, were at serious risk.

The family was forced to live on the run, changing locations frequently to stay a step ahead of would-be assassins, according to the allegations reported by Mr Drummond, who incidentally decided in January to leave Thailand after 25 years of investigative journalism, citing safety concerns for himself and his family.

Jessie's videos have rekindled interest in the family's plight, putting an endearing human face on the issue and resulting in the National Council for Peace and Order to call on Mr Vard to file a complaint through the Damrongtham Center so that an independent investigation could be launched.

The Vards seem to be in a position where they have little left to lose; drawing as much publicity to the case as possible may be the best strategy left to protect them, much like the approach used by former massage parlor tycoon turned graft buster Chuwit Kamolwisit just over a decade ago.

It will be interesting to see whether Jessie's videos can help sustain sufficient public interest in the case to help force such an investigation and, if so, what the ultimate results of the probe might be.



## Ridding Phuket beaches of cancer

Re: Gazette online, Opinion: Ban tourists, ban anything – just be clear, March 1

Only one year ago, the beaches were such ugly places, many tourists decided to stay by the pools of their hotels to avoid the constant harassment from the beach vendors.

Greed was rampant and there seemed to be nothing that could have been done about it.

Now, Phuket is going through cancer treatment.

It's needed to get rid of the bad cells and let the functioning parts get strong once again.

If this requires the beaches to be cleared for a year or two, then so be it.

At least I don't want to see the cancer to come back in the near future.

Pekka Oilinki  
Facebook

### Power to the people

Re: Gazette online, Phuket beach vendors implore PM Prayut's help, March 3

Mr Sutha is right and I wish him and his fellows good luck. Hopefully, this is the start of the end of this mess.

Locals need their incomes and tourists need their chairs and umbrellas – it's as simple as that!

John at Surin Beach  
Gazette forum

### Do they want tourism dollars or not?

Re: Gazette online, Phuket a top choice for inaugural Thailand yacht show, March 3

I find it silly that Phuket now wishes to benefit from the industry that it has done so little to support.

This pertains especially to the local marine office.

### Letters to the Editor

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

New legislation is enacted pretty much every year, adding to the plethora of hurdles which one has to jump over to be able to maintain and operate a yacht in Thai waters, while basic "rules of the road" are completely ignored.

Buster  
Gazette forum

### Maybe a poll would clear things up

Re: Gazette online, Charter-flight passengers forced to hike at Phuket airport, March 3

If the Phuket government were to launch a tourist satisfaction survey, they would be very surprised about the negative comments tourists will share.

While other destinations are improving, Phuket is worsening (traffic, price fixing, violence and verbal abuse, cheating, and now the airport issues...) and they want the tourist to feel welcome?

Jack Mairoo  
Gazette forum

### Hopefully the punishment fits the crime

Re: Gazette online, Phuket police arrest slow loris tout in Patong, March 2

It's about time they did something about this dreadful trade on Soi Bangla.

I hope the touts are serving jail time and not just getting fines for abusing these animals and the chance to make a quick buck.

Mary Sheridan  
Gazette forum

### The true criminals

Re: Gazette online, Five Frenchmen arrested for ATM skimming, March 3

People have been complaining about the Chinese lately, but these types of criminals are some of the most arrogant and obnoxious people on the island.

They blast around shirtless on their big bikes and pay no attention to laws or safety. They are the ones renting jet-skis, disturbing Surin Beach and hitting tourists.

Now it is easy to see why they throw money around and have no regard for Phuket: they're criminals.

Scumbag Thieves  
Gazette forum

### Put the pressure on

Re: Gazette online, Brakeless tour bus driver safely stops on Patong Hill, February 28

Police should inspect all the vehicles operated by this company and then take legal action against them if found un-roadworthy... perhaps a bit of media pressure might help this happen for a change.

Dean Noble  
Facebook

### We can't change this

Re: Gazette online, Superintendent investigates police corruption, extortion allegation, March 3

No one seems to understand. Corruption is not seen as a negative thing in Thailand. Thai culture does not perceive it as we do, as an ugly, greasy and indeed criminal activity. Here, it's simply accepted as part of day-to-day life, so it's not going to change.

There's no point in constantly whinging about it.

Keith Roland  
Gazette forum

## Phuket Gazette

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# Working a wider angle

By Maciek Klimowicz

ONE picture is worth a thousand words. Make it a panoramic picture or a virtual tour, and it becomes even more valuable, especially in the competitive world of property sales.

Geoff Whitley of Panoramas Thailand has proved this formula successful in Koh Samui – now he is expanding to Phuket.

Before the internet, the real estate business involved a lot more legwork: having to visit the property personally, trying to get a feeling for a place based on photographs and brochures.

But with the quick advance in technology, you don't even have to get up from your desk to take a walk around the house you're thinking of buying.

"You can say that it's the next best thing to actually being there," says Geoff, who has been in the panoramic pictures and virtual tours business in Thailand since 2011.

"I started my Thai company in 2006, concentrating on commercial and wedding photography on Koh Samui. However, the Samui market was soon flooded with many photographers operating with the large resorts, who offer full-package weddings. So, in 2011, I decided to concentrate my efforts on more technical photography and the spherical panorama

field was of great interest to me," he explains.

His 19 years of experience in visuals and photography from his home country of Canada set Geoff on the right track and helped him to learn and become proficient at creating professional virtual tours. He believes that it's his background in photography that sets his company apart in the Thai market.

"I pride myself on the quality and innovative features that I provide. I do all aspects of the work from planning and shooting to the final layout.

This way I am assured that quality control is kept to the highest standard," he says.

Another important factor in a world of ever-changing technologies is to stay up to date with what's happening, Geoff says.

"With the creation of

HTML5 replacing flash and video, a tour must satisfy the requirements of many mobile devices, phones, tablets and still have HD quality for PC and Mac users," explains Geoff.

With its customer base mostly made of luxury villas and resorts looking for a bit of "wow" factor in their communications, Panoramas Thailand grew steadily on the resort island of Koh Samui for almost 10 years. But while the business in Samui is doing great, Geoff is looking for a change of

**I'm not sure there is much difference in the markets other than the size, but one thing that did surprise me in Phuket, is how quickly things can be accomplished here. What would take a few days on Samui, I was able to do in a leisurely afternoon with an additional expanse of variety.**



Geoff Whitley of Panoramas Thailand is bringing his photography expertise to Phuket. Photo: Panoramas Thailand

lifestyle, something that Phuket will be able to provide.

"I've been on Samui for 10 years now and looking for a change of scenery and new challenges. I like Phuket as there is so much more lifestyle to offer," he explains.

With years of experience behind his belt, Geoff hopes his move to

the bigger island will be an easy one. Especially as – according to him – the market isn't that much different here.

"I'm not sure there is much difference in the markets other than the size, but one thing that did surprise me in Phuket, is how quickly things can be accomplished here. What would take a

few days on Samui, I was able to do in a leisurely afternoon with an additional expanse of variety," explains Geoff.

"Plus the electricity and internet always work on Phuket."

For more information visit [panoramas-thailand.com](http://panoramas-thailand.com) and [virtual-tours-photography.com](http://virtual-tours-photography.com).

## Phuket gets B3.5bn boost during Chinese New Year

THE Chinese New Year holidays brought a much-welcomed boost of 3.5 billion baht to the local economy this year, the chief of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office has announced.

The island attracted more tourists who also spent more than those who came last year, Anoma Wongyai, director of TAT Phuket, told the Gazette.

"Phuket had 115,000 tourists during the holidays this year, from February 18-20, compared with 90,000 last year," she said.

"Also, the average amount spent per person was 6,700 baht, up from 5,000 baht per person last year."

The difference was an impressive 900 million baht, Ms Anoma pointed out.

"The total income generated last year was 2.4bn baht," she said.

The good news runs contrary to a prediction by Krisada Tansakul, vice president of Phuket Tourist Association (PTA), just last week.

Mr Krisada forecast a fall in the income generated by the Chinese New Year holidays this year.

"We have seen a 5-10% year-on-year increase in Chinese tourists during the festival period," Mr Krisada told the Gazette.

"However, we are expecting to see the amount of revenue generated to be less than in 2014, due to Chinese tourists spending less per capita than Western tourists."

Ms Anoma conceded, however, that fewer tourists stayed at hotels in Phuket during the holidays, but the shortfall was compensated by the higher spending per capita.

"The tourists who did come spent more, and generated greater income for local businesses," she said.

– Voratuss Intasee



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# Never-ending pension reform

## Unraveling the mystery of the ongoing changes to UK pension rights

### Finance

By David Mayes

SINCE radical UK pension reforms were announced last year, the changes just keep on coming. For those retiring in Phuket with pension rights that they have accumulated over the course of their career, the situation can be very confusing.

Indeed, even for a professional in the industry, keeping pace and getting your head around what all the changes means is not easy. Some of the changes are good, in my opinion, while others are certain to lead to bigger problems for the UK in the long run.

The main change that was initially announced was the plan to introduce full flexibility to draw down pension rights, starting in April this year. The reasoning behind this change is to increase tax revenues, as the majority of retirees inside the UK, who fall under the GBP 10,500 limit with small pension pots, pay no tax. However, if they are allowed to cash in an entire 100K GBP pension within one year, their marginal tax rate soars to 40%.

Soon after the initial announcement was made, the government said that the flexibility would be extended to QROPS (qualifying recognized overseas pension schemes). This has caused quite a lot of confusion, because an overseas scheme has its own local legislation requirements to follow, and these were required to match the old UK system in order to be a qualifying scheme.

Thus in practice it was impossible for a QROPS to offer the flexibility the UK was offering. Malta has since been the first

jurisdiction to alter its local legislation with regards to QROPS to state that draw-down rules will simply follow whatever laws the UK (the source of the funds) enacts.

More recently, the UK changed its stance again on QROPS, stating that if QROPS schemes offer the same full flexibility status of the UK, they will lose their IHT-exempt status. This is a very unfair change, as many wealthier expats have transferred pensions they do not need to draw offshore based on this benefit.

Expats who transfer to QROPS usually do so for a number of reasons, but estate planning has always been a big draw. Most likely in the future certain jurisdictions will take advantage of the split and some will

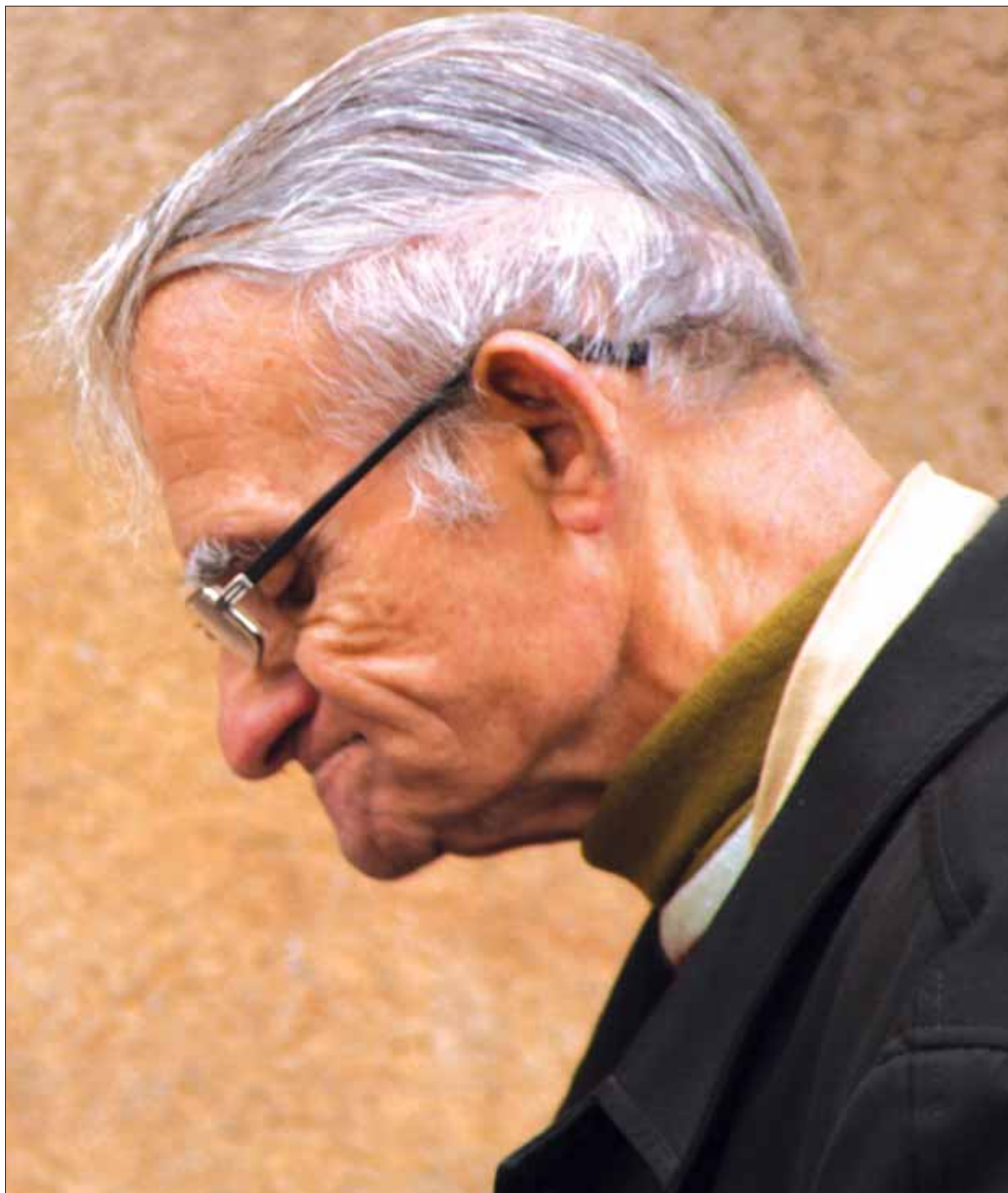
**The final change, which in my opinion is a very good thing, is that going forward any transfers out of a defined benefits scheme will need to have UK regulated advice given. The 'gray' jurisdictions of the world, such as many of those in Southeast Asia, leave international advice open to anybody with a pulse.**

specialize in "cashing in" pensions at a low tax rate while others will focus on the estate planning side of the market. For the moment it is a waiting game to see how the various offshore centers respond to these recent changes.

The final change, which I think is a very good thing, is that going forward any transfers out of a defined benefits scheme will need to have UK-regulated advice given. The "gray" jurisdictions of the world, such as many of those in Southeast Asia, leave international advice open to anybody with a pulse.

Even if an adviser is regulated in Singapore, Hong Kong, or by the US SEC, this provides absolutely zero protection or recourse to clients who have had advice given in a country such as Thailand.

At least now in regards to a defined benefits transfer, only those firms with a UK-regulated



The UK pension reforms, which have befuddled even the industry experts, have left many claimants confused about changes to their pension rights. Photo: Marlene Rybka

office can now transact the transfers. In the event something goes wrong relative to the advice to transfer, there is recourse within the UK regulations, due to where the advice has originated.

It is a start in the right direction.

It would be nice if the changes coming out of the UK slowed down – although with budget problems that don't seem likely to

be resolved anytime soon, I am not hopeful.

Financial planning is supposed to be long term, and when the goal posts are constantly changing this becomes extremely difficult. Many of my clients who have recently transferred their pensions offshore have done it simply to remove it from the risk of future legislative changes within the UK.

For all we know, the option to

transfer may not even be around for that much longer.

*David Mayes MBA resides in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expatriates around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com or 085-335-8573. Faramond UK is regulated by the FCA and provides advice on pensions and taxation.*



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38/54 Nanai Road,  
Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150

Siam  
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❖ Legal consultation      Contact: K. Joy  
❖ Company formations      Tel: 076 346 149  
❖ Notarial                      Fax: 076 346 150  
    certifications              Email:  
❖ Contracts                      siamint@loxinfo.co.th  
❖ Work permits  
❖ Bookkeeping  
❖ Visa service  
❖ Translations

## Facebook bid to cash in on popularity

FACEBOOK is focusing on promoting personalized marketing among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Thailand, as an increasing number of SMEs turn to the social media behemoth to help drive sales.

Arrow Guo, head of Facebook's SMB for Greater China and Southeast Asia, said this year the company was focused on delivering ad products and solutions that helped SMEs in Thailand with personalized marketing at scale.

"Facebook combines real identity... and the best targeting

available. It is making marketing personal. With 1.39 billion monthly active users globally on Facebook, its targeted advertising solutions and products help SMEs reach their audiences with precision and simple tools," said Guo.

SMEs are increasingly advertising on Facebook, he said, because it drives sales and campaign efforts.

"We've seen many Thai SMEs turning to Facebook to grow their business. [But] while many SMEs have a Facebook business page, there is room for growth," he said.

Recently, Facebook launched

the Thai version of the 'Facebook for Business' site, providing the latest news, tips and best practices to help businesses meet their goals.

There would be more online support to come, Guo said, adding that Facebook would continue to support SMEs with tools that can help them achieve their business objectives, whether it was by driving online sales through its recently launched "Call to Action" feature, boosting the mobile app download volume, or getting more people to engage with a company's Facebook pages. – *The Nation*



## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### March 7-21. Heroines' Memorial Festival

The event organized by the Phuket Provincial Culture Office is held to honor Lady Thepkrasattri and Lady Srisoonthorn, and to teach the younger generations about the heroism of their ancestors.

On March 7, there will be a group ordination of 21 Buddhist monks at Ketho Temple in Kathu.

On March 8-21, new monks will continue to learn Buddhist teaching.

On March 8 at 7am, meet at Thalang Historical Park. Bring your own bike for historical tour of Thalang.

Also on March 8, there will be a running events at Thalang Historical Park, starting at 6am. There will also be a cycling race starting at 11am.

On March 12, there will be a ceremony at Wat Moug Komaraphat to pay respects to ancestors.

On March 13, there will be a ceremony to honor Lady Thepkrasattri and Lady Srisoonthorn at the Heroines' Monument.

On March 13-15, vendors will sell local foods and One Tambon One Product (OTOP) goods at Thalang Historical Park starting at 5pm. There will be also traditional performances starting at 7pm. Additionally, at 8:30pm, there will be a light and sound show describing the history of Thalang.

### March 23-27. BISP IB Art

# Heroines' Memorial Festival



### Exhibition, 8am to 5pm.

British International School, Phuket (BISP) welcomes everyone in Phuket to its 2015 IB Art Exhibition, where the works of three of the school's most talented artists – Mimi, Jaratchai and Boram – will be on display.

The exhibition is open to the general public, with the Grand Opening at 2:45pm on March 23.

For more information, contact art teacher Kathy Coulson: [kcoulson@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:kcoulson@bisphuket.ac.th)

### April 6. Chakri Memorial Day

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

monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

### May 1. Labor Day

Public holiday for all commercial workers.

### May 5. Coronation Day

Coronation Day commemorates the accession to the throne of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.

### June 1. Visakha Bucha Day

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the sixth lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June.

The day commemorates three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of Buddha.



**Phuket today**  
Phuket Gazette

### BROADCASTING PHUKET TO THE WORLD

Phuket Today takes the Pearl of the Andaman to an international audience. PGTV's one-hour show features the personalities, lifestyle, sports and leisure activities that make Phuket famous.

Produced by PGTV, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community in Thailand.

### LOCAL COVERAGE



**Phuket Cable**  
Coverage: All of Phuket  
Channel: 1  
Monday-Friday: 10.30am, 6pm, 9pm  
Saturday-Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm



**Rawai Cable**  
Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon  
Channel: 1  
Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm



**KDTV**  
Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Cherng Talay  
Channel: 10  
Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm

### NATIONAL COVERAGE

#### MCOT World

**Tuesday:** 6.10am, 12pm, 7.10pm  
**Wednesday:** 6.10pm  
**Thursday:** 1.10am  
**Friday:** 1.10am  
**Saturday:** 1.10am  
**Sunday:** 6.10am

**Truevisions** Channel: 79  
**PSI** Channel: 223, 320  
**Dynasat** Channel: 106  
**Thaisat** Channel: 185  
**Infosat** Channel: 185  
**Sunbox** Channel: 81  
**GMMZ** Channel: 103

### INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE

Broadcast to China, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Turkey, UAE, and many other countries around Asia and beyond.

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**Wednesday:** 6.10pm  
**Thursday:** 1.10am  
**Friday:** 1.10am  
**Saturday:** 1.10am  
**Sunday:** 6.10am

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# YOUR Phuket

## Stay high in Phuket



Air Show organizer Pat James (black helmet) on final approach to Phuket Airpark at the show last weekend. There were 22 aircraft on display; 61 demonstration rides were given; and more than 700 people turned out to see the action. Photo: Martin Edwards

## The Sons of Bacchus (SOB) Dinner at Karon Beach Square



A REAL SOB: Hansruedi Frutiger, general manager of Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket (3<sup>rd</sup> L) welcomed the members of The Sons of Bacchus (SOB) to Karon Beach Square on February 26 for their monthly dinner.

## BB Phuket goes Gatsby

An unordinary resort deserves an unordinary launch event. BB Phuket, the island's latest dining and entertainment experience, launched with a 1920s Gatsby-themed party. Aerial bartenders, contortionists, an endless supply of delectable food and sound tracks provided by Angela McCluskey and Telepopmusik took Phuket's party scene to the next level.



From L: Katleen Hansen; Johan Hansen, CEO for BB; Koy Coates, VIP director and DJ extraordinaire for BB took the party scene up a notch.



From L: Kammalard U-rapeepatanapon, GM for BB Group; Isanan Vachiratamma, first vice president and manager for Krungthai Bank; and Kamol Kittinuntakul, senior credit analyst for Krungthai Bank, ready to party.



Mamhe Napakpapha (Thai celebrity) joins the party at BB.



Celebrities from Hong Kong and Singapore join the party at BB.

## The 'Big Clean' for Kata



APPROACH AS IMPORTANT AS BEACH: The Aspasia Phuket big cleaning day was led by Michael Inman, managing director (red & white shirt) on February 12<sup>th</sup>, at the public pathway to Kata Beach.

## What is in a Chinese name?



Kawei Tansukatanon, deputy mayor of Phuket Municipality (2<sup>nd</sup> L) takes part in a discussion about the Chinese surname 'Hokkien', which was widely used in Phuket more than 150 years ago. The talk was led by local historian Ajarn Pranee Sakulpipatana (3<sup>rd</sup> L).



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

# ISLAND TRADER

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

March 7 - 13, 2015 | [PhuketGazette.Net](http://PhuketGazette.Net)

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

## PROPERTY of the week

### WATERFRONT HOME



See page 17

## JOB of the week

### Phuket Gazette

MARKETING & EVENTS MANAGER

See page 20

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES of the week

### PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANY

See page 22

## BOAT & MARINE of the week

### BOAT INSURANCE



See page 25

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

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**Gazette Classifieds** – they work! Because they're **REAL**.







## Properties For Sale

**FANTASTIC CONDO**

Stunning one bedroom, 54sqm condo located on the 3rd floor of the sought-after Haven Lagoon development. Overlooking the lovely gardens, the condo features leather sofas, 2 LCD televisions, dining table, king-size bedroom, fitted kitchen including washing machine and fridge, a fantastic double rain shower and so much more. It's ready to move in and start enjoying the 2 pools, the gymnasium and the great location. Tel: 082-5422121. Email: sgiandubh69@gmail.com

**REDUCED PRICE PATONG**

Condo. Pool. Security. 46sqm. Freehold 2.4 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad14@yahoo.com

**OCEAN FRONT VILLA**

Brand new, fully furnished, 3-4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 10-meter infinity swimming pool, beautiful view. For quick sale only 19.5 mn. Tel: 081-343 0777.

**SEAVIEW STUDIO CONDO**

100% foreigner freehold. 50sqm. Sea view. Common pool. Car parking. Terrace. Kitchen. 12th floor. B3.7mn. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

**2BDR BEACH CONDO BY OWNER**

2bdr / 2bath ens. Open concept. Huge balcony with direct walk out to pool, beach, restaurant. In 5\* resort with access to their gym, spa. Ideal for family. Separate storage. Furniture incl. Fast owner sale, leaving Asia. Tel: (65) 096-532849. Email: laura@tilaholdings.com

**STUDIO FOR SALE**

In Phuket Town. 5 min to Central, Big C. 2nd floor, 33sqm. Kitchen, furnished. Price 680,000 baht. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: jassarabee@gmail.com

**CHALONG HOUSE SALE BY OWNER**

Chanote title. 412sqm. 2 bed, 2 bath, in- and outdoor kitchen, beautiful garden. 4.2 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 093-737 1242. Email: konradantonsson@gmail.com

**KATA HOUSE SALE**

4-bedrooms. Reduced price, must sell. Was 3.5 million baht and now 2.99 million baht. Tel: 082-4659 939.

**5 BEDROOM + POOL**

Nai Harn. 2 houses. 560sqm. Nice kitchen. Fully furnished. Quick sale 7.2 MTB. Email: gm@thenetworkproperty.com

**LAND & RESORT IN YOUR BUDGET**  
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**"The Andaburee Phuket"**  
 Seaview, mountain view, Mission Hills Golf Resort view.  
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 (include Steak furniture and home theater)  
**Contact: 083-389 7799, 082-894 6699**  
**Email: pee\_bang56@hotmail.com**

**3 BED FOR SALE / RENT**

Furnished house in Chalong. Sale 3.95 million baht, rent 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

**222,700 BAHT / RAI PHANG NGA**

26 rai in Phang Nga. Mountain view, small creek. Nor Sor 3 Gor. 084-992 8432. Mam.

**POOL VILLAS RAWAI**

New top design pool villas, 2 & 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, large 5x8 pool, nice green area, Rawai, close to MACRO. Start 9mn THB. Tel: 096-284 2463 (English & Thai), 084-898 8258 (English & Thai). Email: p.burnrungs15@gmail.com

**OCEAN VIEWS, KATA**

New 1-bed condo 44sqm. Great views. In-house management & rental program. A valuable investment. Ready to move in. 3.98 million baht ONO Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

**THE DECK CONDO FOR SALE**

2 units condo for sale at the center of Patong. The Deck Project Studio unit no.0103309 Floor 3 Building A. 31 Sqm. Price 3.5 million baht. And 1 Bedroom Unit no.010310 area 41.5 sqm. Price 4.5 million THB. Full furnished, ready to move in May 2015. Tel: 081-085 7550 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-344789. Email: ornholland@hotmail.com

**TOWNHOUSE SALE / RENT**

Townhouse for sale (2.8mn baht) or rent (12,000 baht/mo) in Supalai City Hill estate, Phuket Town. 3bedrooms, 2 Bath. Quiet, convenient location. Furnished, full kitchen, decor, garden, car park, 2 aircons Good for family. Avail. from 5/2015. Tel: 089-874 0061, 086-291 4115. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

**Condo for Rent**  
 Rawai Condominium 60sqm., 1 bed, 1 bathroom, Great kitchen, fully furnished, European style, first floor, swimming pool view, price for sale 3.9 million baht, price for rent 30,000 baht for long-term.  
 For more information  
 English: Denis 082-539 8433,  
 Thai: Aoi 081-667 1637.

**KAMALA**

Large 4-bed house, 3 bath, guest Water Close, 5 aircons, ADSL, close to sea. Tel: 085-250 4197.

**1-BED APT SALE / RENT**

Fully furnished apt in Chalong. Sale 1.95 million baht, rent 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

**ENTERTAINMENT PALACE**

Magnificent penthouse in Karon with panoramic sea view. Reduced by 10 million baht for quick sale, includes an additional two-bedroom apartment. Now 46 million baht. Freehold. Please call 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

**FREEHOLD CONDO FOR SALE**

Patong Tower building. One bedroom with 270-degree view of Patong Beach and town, 10th floor, 54.35sqm. 11 million baht ONO. Contact Songpan. Genuine buyers only. No brokers please. Tel: 081-737 8662.

**PANORAMA SEA VIEW LAND**

For sale 5.5 rai, Ao Makharn, Chanote title, 12 million baht / rai call 089-649 9939. Email: siri\_phuket@changrunner.com

**URGENT PATONG VILLA 4 BED**

Fire sale price - sudden departure - direct from owner - now 19.9 million baht, estimated 29 million baht - Luxury 4-bedroom villa, mountainside, panoramic seaview of Patong bay, 4 bathrooms, private pool, tennis, fully furnished modern style, 270sqm. Tel: 081-832 8154 (English).

**WATERFRONT HOME**

Stunning architectural design. 4-bedroom lakefront home in Loch Palm Golf Club, Phuket. Tel: 081-649 3557 (English), 091-165 9332 (Thai). Email: tum@phuketlifestyle.com www.phuketlifestyle.com/uncategorized/lakefront-luxury-home-in-loch-palm-golf-course/

**LAND FOR SALE KATA**

444 sqm. With sea view. Perfect for pool villa. Tel: 089-290 5594 (English), 086-593 3434 (Thai). Email: henryasia50@hotmail.com

**NICE SEAVIEW CONDO**

100% foreigner freehold. 100sqm. Sea view. Car parking. Common pool. 12th floor. 1 living room, 1 bath, 1 bedroom. Western kitchen. 2 terraces. Plus a separate second apartment with bath and nice kitchen. Good for family, friends or rental income. B7.6mn. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

**3-BED HOUSE - LARGE GARDEN**

Chuan Cheun Lagoon, close to British International School and the Boat Lagoon Marina. Chanote land title, 146sqm. (584 sqm), private cul-de-sac location in secure, clean village. Cool, bright, open plan with large Western kitchen and good water supply. Large car park, patios. 6.85 million baht, negotiable. For sale by owner. Contact for more photos and info. Tel: 086-040 6866 (English), 081-979 6707 (Thai). Email: adrian.j.simpson@gmail.com



# Property Classifieds

## Properties For Rent

**DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO**  
2 bedrooms, also 1 bedroom, kitchen, lounge. The Point near Central Festival, many facilities. Tel: 081-892 0038.

**BEACHFRONT LUXURY KATA APT**  
5 star, pools, gym, quiet area. 30,000 baht long term. Available now. Email: [asiasail@yahoo.com](mailto:asiasail@yahoo.com) [www.katasala.com](http://www.katasala.com)

### FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 400sqm, free WiFi and cable TV. 25,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-892 4311. <http://palaigreen.weebly.com>

**3 BED, 3 BATH HOUSE**  
Yearly rate: 250,000 baht. Monthly rate: 30,000 baht. Tel: 081-878 2199, 081-396 0880. Fax: 076-034709. Email: [reallifeproperty@gmail.com](mailto:reallifeproperty@gmail.com)

### TOWNHOUSE - SUPALAI CITY HILL



Townhouse for sale (2.8mn baht) or rent (12,000Bt/mo) in Supalai City Hill estate, Phuket Town. 3BR, 2Bath. Quiet, convenient location. Furnished, full kitchen, decor, garden, car park, 2 ACs. Good for family. Avail. from 5/2015. Tel: 089-874 0061, 086-291 4115. Email: [stephenfein@gmail.com](mailto:stephenfein@gmail.com)

**HOUSE BOAT LAGOON**  
For long-term rent. Fully furnished. Ms Fon. Tel: 084-629 3244. Email: [fon-daki@hotmail.com](mailto:fon-daki@hotmail.com)

### PATONG QUIET HOUSE



32-bedroom, 1-bathroom house, large pool and enclosed yard, great for pets or kids, furnished, very nice. Tel: 087-882 1963 (English), 088-464 3835 (Thai). Email: [benlee53@hotmail.com](mailto:benlee53@hotmail.com)

### SURIN BEACH CONDO

1-2 bedroom, pool, 300m to beach. Furnished. Call mobile 088-823 4128 (English). Email: [rapaljes@yahoo.com](mailto:rapaljes@yahoo.com)

### GOLF VIEW 7-BEDROOM 4 RENT

Large house with private swimming pool, fully furnished, close to all international schools and shopping mall. Tel: 081-271 3228 (English & Thai). Email: [info@procarpentering.com](mailto:info@procarpentering.com)

### LUXURY RENT KAMALA

Luxury villas and apartment for rent, modern style, big garden, jacuzzi, swimming pool, WiFi, 600 mt. from the beach with 2 or 3 bedrooms. Special price start from 3,000 baht per day. Email: [francescobonta@gmail.com](mailto:francescobonta@gmail.com). For more info call Francesco 085-790 7816. [www.villacheloni.com](http://www.villacheloni.com)

### PATONG TOWER CONDO

1 or 2 bedroom corner condo 76 sqm. 270 degree beach & mountain view, living room, kitchen, 2 balconies, Long term rent 42,000. or sale 9.5 mil baht. Tel: 081-080 8831. Email: [jstuder@loxinfo.co.th](mailto:jstuder@loxinfo.co.th)

### KATHU GOLF & LAKE VIEW VILLA

For rent. 2 bed, 2 bath on private hill overlooking Loch Palm golf course. Big pool. 4km to BIS and Headstart International School. Quiet. Furnished. Maid. WiFi. Security. Long-term 35,000 baht per month. Call Noi 087-269 8492.

### 2-BEDROOM HOUSE: THB 14,000/M

Fully furnished townhouse: fully furnished, 2 floors, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, quiet area. Available from Mar 1, 2015, 1 year contract, To visit. Tel: 090-493 4750 (English & Thai). Email: [lacour.g88@gmail.com](mailto:lacour.g88@gmail.com)

### APARTMENT FOR RENT



Serviced apartment: 66sqm, 2nd floor, 1 living room with pull-out sofa, 1 bedroom. Fully equipped European kitchen, WiFi internet access, cable LCD TV, DVD, stereo system. Maid cleaning, shuttle service to Nai Ham beach, fitness center, spa, poolside restaurant and bar, children's playground. Price: 3,200 baht per night. Contact: 081-550 7379.

### BOUTIQUE ROOM FOR RENT

Fully Furnished, Good & Safe Location. Tel: 089-668 3639 (English & Thai). Email: [www.BaanPhiTakTaweep.com](http://www.BaanPhiTakTaweep.com)

### LUXURY 1-BEDROOM APARTMENT

Fully furnished, serviced apartment, 65sqm, central Patong, short or long-term rent. Tel: 087-887 9070. Email: [ianscondo@yahoo.com](mailto:ianscondo@yahoo.com)

### RENT APARTMENT PATONG

Condo, pool, security, 46sqm fully furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: [thamad17@yahoo.com](mailto:thamad17@yahoo.com)

### FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 400sqm, free WiFi and cable TV. 25,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-892 4311. <http://palaigreen.weebly.com>

### 4 BEDROOM POOL VILLA FOR RENT

Villa is located secure area in Nai Harn. Villa is now available, rent weekly / monthly. Tel: 089-515 5288 (English), 092-729 6177 (English & Thai). Email: [timo.saarinen@thaimaanlo.ma.fi](mailto:timo.saarinen@thaimaanlo.ma.fi), [www.sirinthara.luxury.com](http://www.sirinthara.luxury.com)



### STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT

Royal Place condo, Phuket City, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus, 37 Sqm, 2 fl. Studio room, fully furnished.

Please contact 086-4769612 email: [annanoi1@hotmail.com](mailto:annanoi1@hotmail.com)

### CHEAP RENT HOUSE

Fully furnished 1-3 bedrooms, aircons, free WiFi, start from 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311. Website: [panwagreen.weebly.com](http://panwagreen.weebly.com)

### LOCKABLE SINGLE GARAGE

Bang Tao Surin, CCTV, safe long-term parking. 2,900 baht per month (1-year contract). Tel: 084-734 2711. Email: [seidl\\_michael@hotmail.com](mailto:seidl_michael@hotmail.com)

### TONSAI HOUSE FOR RENT

European standard. Fully-furnished. 3 bedrooms, private pool, 3 bathrooms, living room, dining room, European kitchen, two-car parking. Garden. WiFi and True vision. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: [nij017@hotmail.com](mailto:nij017@hotmail.com) [www.rentphuketpoolhouse.com](http://www.rentphuketpoolhouse.com)

### CHALONG PRIVATE POOL VILLA

3 Beds & Baths. 4 A/C. Furnished. Large pool. Tel: 089-729 1968 (English & Thai). Email: [jae.apc@gmail.com](mailto:jae.apc@gmail.com), [www.villaprana.com](http://www.villaprana.com)

### HOUSE FOR RENT



3-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, 4 aircons. Fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Rent 15,000 baht / month. Tel: 086-690 0626. Email: [bcurrent@hotmail.com](mailto:bcurrent@hotmail.com)

### BEACHFRONT 40-METER LAND



Approx 2 rai, Chalong Bay. Contact 081-826 9390.

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](mailto: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!**



## Household Items

Maid wanted for private villa at Surin Beach. Window cleaning and general duties. Training provided by villa housekeeper. Some basic English necessary. 10,000 baht a month. Contact Khun Maew. Tel: 087-891 1385. Email: sonyaklapko@yahoo.com

**See more classified ads at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)**



**VIDEOGRAPHER  
NEEDED**

Must be able to shoot video, edit, take photos. Please call Alex 085-212 8447.

**SALES COORDINATOR**

Siam Real Estate requires an experienced naturalised English speaker to administer and co-ordinate sales/rentals enquiries at our Rawai office. Must be a strong organiser, have a pre-emptive approach, be computer literate and have good people skills. Salary + WP provided. Possibly part time work acceptable. Tel: 076-288908. Email: info@siamrealestate.com

**PROJECT  
MANAGER**

Local experience. Save cost, time. Quality assured. Low fees. Tel: 089-647 5001.

**F & B EVENING  
MANAGER**

Salary 30,000 to 40,000 baht per month plus service charge + potential bonuses. Assist as evening manager in 42-room boutique hotel in Karon. Oversee dinner for Food and Beverage department. Experience marketing restaurants and with special events. Ability to seek out wedding planners and organize events. Bachelor's degree in Hotel/Tourism Management or related degree. Two years' experience in Food/Beverage & Event planning. One year's management experience supervising five or more staff. Tel: 086-604 1333. Email: gm@ccshideaway.com

**PATIENT ASSISTANT**

Lotus Medical seeks to hire a Thai national to assist foreign patients coming to Thailand for surgery. Fluent English is essential as well as a friendly personality and a high level of empathy, customer service and motivation. Good salary available. Please send your CV to jobs@lotusmedicalinternational.com

**SALES  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Career opportunity for a dedicated sales rep at a holiday ownership company, based in Phuket. Tremendous potential for huge earnings. Legal working status will be arranged. Please send your resume to: rbv@royalperspective.com

**REAL ESTATE  
MARKETING**

Phuket's fastest growing real-estate agency is now looking for new marketing staff to join our successful team at our new Patong Beach Road office. A high salary and commissions will be given to the right person. Thai nationals only. Please send your CV to jj@sunproperyphuket.com, or call us for an interview. Tel: 086-267 0177 (English), 086-271 6175. Email: terry@taro.hotel.com

**NEW RESTAURANT  
IN LAGUNA**

Now hiring: Chefs – all levels; Servers – all levels; Bar staff; Back of house staff; and a Personal Assistant. Basic English necessary, previous experience preferred. Must be under 35 years of age. For the right candidates, we offer an excellent salary, benefits, holidays and structured professional development. Please forward CVs and a current picture to Jamie @bam pot.co or call 092-130 3114.

**MAID WANTED  
FOR HOUSE**

Looking for full time maid for private house in Nai Harn. Tel: 081-970 7633 (English). Email: roberto.omini@gmail.com

**LOOKING FOR MAID**

Household in Layan Beach is looking for a maid. Should be dog friendly and speak English. Tel: 084-007 7553 (English). Email: liz22gap@yahoo.de

**SECRETARY**

Female, Thai nationality, good command of written and spoken English, good computer knowledge (Word and Excel programs), good attitude and positive person. Benefit: salary 12,000-15,000 baht per month + commission 10-20%, social fee, public holiday, vacation. Tel: 086-940 5187, 081-415 7774.

**HOTEL STAFF WANTED**

Front officer, cook, night receptionist, hotel manager needed. For new hotel with 200 rooms. Filipino and Thai staff only. Contact us by email only. Tel: 081-893 7720.

**CHINESE  
PROPERTY AGENT**

Phuket's leading Real Estate agency is now looking for a Chinese Real Estate Agent to join our successful team. You need to be able to write and speak Chinese fluently. Main job description is to introduce Phuket properties to our Chinese investors and buyers. High earnings are expected for the right candidate. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Please send your CV to info@propertyinphuket.com, www.propertyinphuket.com

**Phuket Gazette****MARKETING & EVENTS MANAGER**

**THE PHUKET GAZETTE**, the island's leading multi-media organization, is now recruiting a proven Manager to take over all aspects of its rapidly growing business in the marketing and promotion of high-quality, high-impact events. Responsibilities will focus on creation and delivery of service packages across the following platforms:

- The Phuket Gazette (the island's main newspaper)
- The Phuket Gazette Nationwide Edition
- The Phuket Gazette Airline Edition
- The Nation daily newspaper (50,000 readers)
- The Gazette Online (Google's No. 1 for Phuket)
- The Phuket Forum.Net (more readers / more perspectives)
- Facebook (Phuket's most active FB page)
- The Gazette Private List (35,000 subscribers - no spam)
- Island-wide English-language radio (24/7)
- Island-wide Thai-language Radio (24/7)
- PGTV / 'Phuket Today' (Phuket's only NATIONALLY broadcast TV Show)
- The Gazette YouTube Channel
- The Gazette Air Force (Aerial event promotion / banner towing)
- Phuket Tickets (Phuket's only free home delivery ticket service)

Working in coordination with the company's editors, reporters, artists, Broadcast Media Group and Sales & Marketing teams, the successful candidate will develop Sponsorship Proposals; monitor and coordinate the delivery of our services; and ensure a quality performance right through to post-event publicity.

To qualify for an interview, candidates must have/be:

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged 30 to 45
- ▶ Previous management experience in sales and marketing AND/OR administration of projects
- ▶ A university degree in any field
- ▶ A high degree of competence in English, written and spoken
- ▶ Respect for deadlines and details
- ▶ Sociable, upbeat, outgoing and happy to attend / participate in the island's leading events

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Anna (General Manager), by email to: Anna@phuketgazette.net

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Keaw, A. Muang Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240

**CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Call center customer service. Basic 15,000 baht per month. Fluent English speakers needed. Five-day working week. Great prospects, beautiful office in seafront villa environment. Tel: 083-1737 292 (English). Email: dennisbond44@yahoo.com

**DIGITAL CONTENT /  
MEDIA ASST.**

Knowledge in Graphic Design / VDO Editing (Adobe Suite preferred). Fluent in written and spoken English (native-Level Preferred Thai national). Ability to take pictures and VDO is an advantage. Email: aey@princessyacht.ssea.com

**DATABASE  
UPDATER**

Looking for a Thai national with basic English skills and computer knowledge. Own computer required. Full time job. Email if interested. Email: info @dive-the-world.com

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

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

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

**PATONG**

- NEW Andy's Real Estate Agency (Opp. Savoei Seafood)
- ▶ Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza)
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza)

Tel: 076-341644  
Tel: 076-344521-2  
Tel: 076-290468

**PHUKET CITY**

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

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

**CHERNG TALAY**

- ▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

**RAWAI**

- ▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-388144

**KARON**

- ▶ EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

## Live in Patong?

### Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Andy's Real Estate Agency (AREA)



Simply write out your ad,  
pay and leave it with  
**Khun Andy: (076-341644)**

**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!**

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



**SWIMMING COACH**

REQUIRED. Current SAT Babies & Toddlers Learn to Swim Qualification or equivalent. Minimum of 2 years' experience teaching babies & toddlers. Bachelor Degree. Enthusiastic, dynamic and energetic. Must be in good health – non smoker is a must. Punctual and reliable. Native English speaker. PACKAGE DETAILS: Salary (Negotiable for the right candidate). Accommodation allowance. Health Insurance. Work Permit. Minimum contract period: 2 years. Tel: 086-687 0224.

**CHINESE STAFF NEEDED**

A Chinese person with reasonable English skills for marketing department of a yacht charter company. Tel: 087-384 2743.

**GERMAN-SPEAKING STAFF**

Required. Tel: 093-579 6644 (Nuch). For more info please send your CV and recent photo to rainforestjob@gmail.com

**TEACHER WANTED**

Native English speaker, female, age 25+, for 4 children 6-8 years old. Mon-Fri, 9:00-14:00, Starting salary 40,000 Baht. Tel: 081- 343 0777. Email : montha\_Phuket @ yahoo.com

**OFFICE ASSISTANT**

Tropical Properties real estate is urgently looking for an Office Assistant. Must have good knowledge of spoken and written English. Basic accounting and good computer skills are essential. Must be able to organize, work independently and be in a position to start work almost immediately. Thai national only! Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc @ phuket-tropical-realestate.com

## Employee Termination Announcement

Please be informed that Mrs. Pennapa Seangrocha (Khun Ae) (นางพนัสนิศา แสงโรช) as a manager of Business Group Ordinary Partnership and Richhome & Décor Shop (Kathu), was terminated as an employee on February 4th, 2015.

Company shall not be responsible for any related activities that cause damage or misrepresentation, if the indicated person arrogated company name. Our company reserves the right to file a claim under the law to above indicated person.

**The actions of any group of people, the company will not be liable in any way. If you have any inquiries please contact Mr. Somchai Lertworrattanakul. Tel: 081-892 1775.**

**QUALIFIED BOAT CREW**

Wanted for a 6-month journey in Southeast Asia on a 19m motor yacht. Email: boatcrewwanted@gmail.com

**RUSSIAN REAL ESTATE 150K+**

We are a leading real estate company in Phuket that is expanding fast and looking for a talented individual to join our young, dynamic team. Must be a Russian-speaking agent who has a number of years experience in real estate, and preferably in Phuket. CVs to paul@livephuket.com, www.livephuket.com

**GERMAN-SPEAKING STAFF**

Required. Tel: 093-579 6644 (Nuch). For more info please send your CV and recent photo to rainforestjob@gmail.com

**SHOP MANAGER**

We have a position for a manager to run our busy massage shop to a high standard. You must be self-motivated, a good communicator with good Thai/English-language skills and good staff management skills. Good salary + bonus. Call for an interview. Tel: 084-247 2935 (English).

**CRUISE LINE CHEFS**

To double as a ship manager in Myanmar on the Pandaw River Cruises. Tel: 087-096 9625.

**SWEDISH STAFF**

Swedish-speaking 20-30 years old staff wanted. Send your CV & photo to nature job13@gmail.com

**HOTEL STAFF WANTED**

Front officer, cook, night receptionist, hotel manager needed. For new hotel with 200 rooms. Filipino and Thai staff only. Contact us by email only. Tel: 081-893 7720.

## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

**CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 2 POSITIONS****Qualified candidates will be:**

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged 22 years up
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

**and should have:**

- ▶ A Bachelor's Degree from a recognizable university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software, InDesign and PageMaker would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Kookai at [Kookai@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Kookai@PhuketGazette.Net)

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555, ext 207 Fax: 076-615240

**PHUKET HOME SERVICE**

New maintenance company looking for staff: maid, plumber, baby-sitter, ++. Contact: info@home-phuket-service.com

**QUALIFIED BOAT CREW**

Wanted for a 6-month journey in Southeast Asia on a 19m motor yacht. Email: boatcrewwanted@gmail.com

**SALES MANAGER NEEDED**

Sales staff needed for real estate business. Contact by email only. Email: cc@bay shoreprojects.com

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT**

Fluent in English and computer skills. International drinks industry. 15,000 baht per month. Mike 086-057 7714.

**RESTAURANT NEEDS URGENTLY**

Looking for female Assistant Manager with bubbly personality. Up to 20,000 baht per month. Bar Manager needed for up to 15k. Waitresses needed for up to 12k. All plus service charge and benefits. Call for details. Tel: 076-211775, 086-509 7510 (English).

**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!**

**Live in Patong?**

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at Taurus Travel



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

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

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

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



## Bulletins

Many items for sale. Call or send email to receive a list, photos and prices. Tel: 085-159 7400(English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

**Online:** [www.phuketgazette.net/tv](http://www.phuketgazette.net/tv) | [www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket](http://www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket)



## Building Products &amp; Services

## OUR SERVICE

Engineering structural design service- Steel structural design service-retaining wall structural design service-infrastructure design service-renovation engineering service. Tel: 076-283549, 081-255 7003 (English & Thai), 089-652 0768 Fax: 076-283549. Email: 2homeresort@gmail.com

## CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

Thai company, with western management, offering you a full range of construction services, from simple renovations to full builds, at affordable prices. Please feel free to contact us for more information. Tel: 085-576 6812 (English) Tel: 089-166 8090 (Thai). Email: ajb @thai worldproperty.com, For further details, please see our website at www.thaiworldconstruction.com

## GOLF MEMBERSHIP 480,000

Country club lifetime family membership. 480,000. Includes transfer fee. Tel: 087-469 3151 (English), Tel: 081-895 2165 (Thai). williamsanig@yahoo.co.uk

## FULL MEMBERSHIP AT PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

For sale 450,000 baht. Includes transfer. Tel: 061-227 0743.

## THAILAND ELITE CARD

Buy. Tel: 085-781 9167, 082-8040 049. Email: giorgionae@aol.com

## GOLF MEMBERSHIP FOR SALE

Life Membership at Blue Canyon Phuket for sale at 870,000 baht. Tel: 076-239508, 089-288 7717 (English), 086-281 0112. Email: asmailphuket@gmail.com

## GOLF MEMBERSHIP SALE

Life membership at Phuket Country Club Kathu. 550,000 baht, including transfer fee. Tel: 084-722 1520 (Ann, Kurt)

## Miscellaneous For Sale

## SHOP FOR SALE

Shop for sale in Patong. 150,000 baht. Tel: 088-823 0229. Email: axelthibaux@gmail.com

## Computer

## ENGLISH COMPUTERMEN

English computer man. All computers except Apple. Tel: 084-0639 223 (English). computerm anphuket@gmail.com

## SAMSUNG COMPUTER

2 years old, complete with printer. 18-inch screen. Price: 12,000 baht. ONO. Tel: 084-818 6045.

## Pool Tables

## STYLISH POOL TABLES

Style is a way to say who you are without having to speak. White 'Tokyo' model pool table. Tel: 085-797 0005, 085-797 0303. Fax: 076-264461.

## Personal Services Wanted

## THAI TRANSLATOR/COMPANION

International company director requires the assistance of a lady 27-32 years old with basic English as a Thai translator. Email: brian.miraclemould@gmail.com

## Club Memberships Available

## Mobile Phones

## IPHONE 4S CALL NOW

Call 091-161 0868 for quality secondhand iPhone 4s (16GB).

## Cameras &amp; Equipment

## EOS 7D (I) + EF-S 18-135 NW

Rawai. Canon EOS 7D (2010), very good condition, + EF-S 18-135 (new). 24,000 baht. Tel: 080-717 9071.

## Business Products &amp; Services



**DINO DAYCARE CENTER**

Accepting children 3 months old - 5 years old. 7am-7pm.

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

**CALL NOW:**  
081-868 7676 (English).  
080-525 3135 (Thai)

**DINODAYCARECENTER**

## ACTIVE BUILDERS

Experience in all work - we can fix it. Free quotes. Tel: 095-440 3255.

## SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

Professional and efficient. E-commerce, websites, desktop software. Tel: 085-073 9994.

## WORLDWIDE AIR TICKETS

Our service is for domestic and international flight tickets. Open daily. Tel: 081-537 2655.

## Education

## TAO SEX EDUCATION

Therapy counselling, gents ladies couples for premarital sex addiction impotent stress and much more Dr. Dave Phone 094-652 2029.

## LEARN ENGLISH

20% off all courses this month only. Promotion code - Happy Birthday. Includes free student pack. Courses include: Conversation, Business, Law and Medical English. Tel: 076-350110, 092-894 9089. www.luckydrag onlearning.com

## Lost &amp; Found

## HELP ME FIND MY DOG

Please help me find my dog Clio. She is a white pitbull terrier with brown spots on her rear and side and a bald shave mark on her head from a recent treatment. She went missing in Chalong on Thursday at around midday. This dog is the world to me and I offer a good reward for her return. Tel: 081-891 9656 (English), 081-537 7137 (Thai) Email: stephen@princess yachtsthailand.com

## Dive Gear

## CHEAP DIVE COMPRESSORS

Bauer Mariner 250, year 2006. For sale 140,000 baht. L&W 245 year 2002 + another L&W 245 as spare parts. Total 70,000 baht. Both in working condition. Located in Chalong. For more information, please call 081-370 3376 (English), 081-970 7480 (Thai).



**Phuket today**  
Phuket Gazette

**Hot deal!**  
**Classified Ads on TV**

Your Classified Ad will appear on the Phuket Today show, broadcast on 3 cable networks and running 24 hours a day via in-house TV in over 4,000 hotel rooms around the island.

**Cable TV coverage - broadcast 68 times a week throughout Phuket.**

**Catch the show at these times**

**Phuket Cable Co (PC) - Covers all Phuket Channel 1, with 19 shows a week**

Mon to Fri: 10.30am, 6.00pm, 9.00pm  
Sat & Sun: 10.30am, 9.00pm.

**Rawai Cable - Rawai and Chalong, Kata, Karon.**

**Channel 1, with 28 shows a week**

Mon to Sun: 10.00am, 1.00pm, 7.00pm, and 10.00pm

**KDTV (Kamala Cable TV) - Covers Patong, Kamala, Surin, Bangtao.**

**Channel 4, with 21 shows a week**

Mon to Sun: 7.00am, 11.30am, 11.00pm

**Now available in 4,222 premium hotel rooms around the island, all day every day.**

- Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket: 254 rooms
- Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort: 470 rooms
- Kata Beach Resort & Spa: 275 rooms
- Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort & Villas: 77 rooms
- Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket: 262 rooms
- Millennium Resort: 418 rooms
- Holiday Inn Resort & Spa: 405 rooms
- Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach: 364 rooms
- Karon Beach Resort & Spa: 80 rooms
- Andara Beach Resort & Spa: 62 rooms
- Amari Coral Beach: 197 rooms
- Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa: 664 rooms
- Destination Patong: 390 rooms
- Serenity Terraces Resort: 68 rooms
- Dewa Naiyang Phuket: 96 rooms
- Regent Phuket Cape Panwa: 210 rooms

**More Info?** Please call 076-273555. Email: Kookai@phuketgazette.net

On line: www.phuketgazette.net / tv | www.youtube.com / PGTVPhuket



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SINCE 1997

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**Feature Boat**

► Pershing 72  
1,200,000 Euro

► Riviera 61 Enclosed Flybridge  
\$1,500,000 AUD

► Riviera 370  
4,500,000 THB

► Riviera 48  
\$350,000 USD

► Azimut 43  
349,000 Euro

► Jeanneau 57  
590,000 Euro

► Fusion 40  
298,000 Euro

► Outremer 55  
320,000 Euro

► Luc Bouvet Custom 52  
200,000 Euro

Martin Holmes Mobile: 081 891 7057 Email: martin@leemarine.com  
Marcus Overman Mobile: 081 968 1437 Email: marcus@leemarine.com  
Jim Poulsen Mobile: 081 891 3237 Email: jim@leemarine.com  
Mark Heath Mobile: 081 787 9408 Email: mark@leemarine.com

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paew@lambertbrothers.co.th  
Tel: + 66 76 273 385

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

### WOODEN TEAK JUNK BOAT

45ft HK teak junk, excellent family day boat. Extensive refit, single engine Caterpillar, full galley and bathroom. USD 105,000. Email as above, or call Hong Kong 852-9238 9114. Email: blanny2000@yahoo.com

### KETTERING JE29 TRIMARAN (2007)

Carbon fiber, deck-stepped, rotating mast. Genoa & Genaker both on furlers. Yamaha 8 Hp Hi Trust Outboard. Reduced to only US\$64,950 OBO Contact Alan Giles at Boatshed phuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alan.giles@boatshedphuket.com

### STOCK CLEARANCE: YACHTSMAN

Hypalon Tenders HYS 280 79,000 Bt inc VAT (3 pcs) HYS 310 85,000 Bt inc VAT (2 pcs) HYS 350 96,000 Bt inc VAT (1 pc) Light-weight aluminium hull RIB's Good quality at very competitive prices. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

### 21M CLASSIC YACHT FOR SALE

Charming 21m motor-sail Gulet yacht, ideal for charter, 55 people. US\$150,000 ONO. Tel: 085-666 5504 (English). Email: info@jabudays.com [www.facebook.com/pages/Yacht-for-sale/42359174772674](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Yacht-for-sale/42359174772674)

### 10% DISCOUNT

On Hypalon Yachtsman Tenders Light weight Aluminium hull RIB's Good quality at very competitive prices. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

### SEA VEE 290 CUDDY CABIN (1997)

2x petrol 4-stroke 250hp Yamaha outboards with under 700 hrs, giving 40 knots. 1,499,950.00 bht. Air Berth available for 250,000 bht Contact Alan Giles at Boatshed phuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

### VESSEL "SANITY"



1989 Princess Riviera 36. Direct sale by owner 2 million baht only. Roger: 089-871 2940.

### CAPELLI RIB FOR SALE

Capelli RIB, 8m. 250hp Yamaha 4-stroke outboard motor with 361 hours. Garmin GPS with Blue chart for Southeast Asia. 860,000 baht. Tel: 076-348134, 084-626 4969 (English). Fax: 076-348134. Email: neef@wanadoo.fr

### BOTNIA TARGA 32 (2013)

As new and with nearly all the options. A quality Scandinavian-built, go anywhere, fast cruiser at a substantial savings on the new price. US\$340,000. Tel: 084 842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com Boatshedphuket.com

### POWER CATAMARAN

Austhai 6200. Cabcat. Full specs. Electric toilet, winch, etc. Galvanized trailer, boat cover. 2 Honda 90s with only 118 hours! Great boat. 900,000 baht. Tel: 081-894 0339 (English). Email: hilltribe@poppiessamui.com

### URGENT SALE

Fiberglass 35ft ocean sailboat. Price: 200,000 baht. Call to see now at Khao Khad beach. Tel: 061-230 5902 (English). Email: 3dnav@3dnav.eu

### SELLING YOUR BOAT?

With high season upon us now is the right time to get her listed, Boatshedphuket.com are always looking for new listings, big or small, power or sail, to meet the demand for competitively priced, quality boats. Contact Alan Giles at Boatshedphuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

### SWANSON 36 SLOOP (1976)

Well maintained and in excellent condition. 28hp 3-cylinder Yanmar new in 2008 and with only 600 hrs. US\$59,500 Contact Alan Giles at Boatshedphuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

### POWER CATAMARAN

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### THE SOLUTION TO THIS

### Cryptic Crossword



**Abbreviations: UPPER CASE** (if used as part of anagram, in brackets). **Normal spelling: lower case.**

**Anagrams: italic** (indicated in clue by words 'out', 'possibly', 'strangely', 'wild', or similar). **Letters left out: underlined.**

#### Across:

9. SAPANHIN: *shipanna* 10. CUE: *cure* 11. ODDITY: *toydid* 12. STREAM: *master* 13. READOUT: *dear-out* 14. TANK: *tank* 15. OFFPUTTING: *off-putting* 17. DISTRESS: *datesister-S* 18. ALLSUCH: *halls(U.C.)* 19. SHOT: *Sh!-to[rev]* 21. ACCEPT: *a-C.C.-pet* 24. YOURLOCALHOSTELRY: *youcryahotelrolls* 27. PATENT: *obvious* 29. EATS: *sate* 30. STEEPLY: *sleepy(T)* 33. RETAINED: *retrained* 35. CORRECTION: *Co.-R-R-notice* 36. BILL: *note* 37. GLITTER: *G-litter* 38. ATTEND: *natted* 40. CANNOT: *cantno* 41. EAR: *hear* 42. OILINESS: *isinsole*

#### Down:

1. TASTEFULLY: *taste-fully* 2. CARE: *race* 3. THEMATIC: *timechat* 4. ENTRAIN: *tireann* 5. RECONDITION: *re-condition* 6. CONTESTANT: *canttestno* 7. EDITOR: *direto* 8. STANDSUP: *proves correct* 10. CHANG: *C-hang* 16. PUSTULE: *pus-T.U.-L-E* 20. HELOT: *lothe* 22. COLLECT: *get together* 23. SCREWDRIVER: *screwdriver* 25. LATENIGHTS: *late-nights* 26. YELLOWNESS: *yesnowsell* 28. AMERICAN: *inamecar* 31. TREVALLY: *really(TV)* 32. BRERFOX: *boxer(R.F.)* 34. AILING: *A1-ling* 35. CATER: *react* 39. TONE: *harmonize*

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Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430 VHF/COMM/NAV/GPS/TERRAIN. Garmin G106A VOR/LOC/GS/GPS CDI. King KN64 DME. Garmin GTX 320/327 Transponder with Mode C via Ameri-King AK350-30 Height Encoder. Garmin GMA 340 Audio Panel. Bendix King KR-87 ADF. Sandel SN 3308 EHSI. Century II B Autopilot Dual Axis and S-Tec Altitude Hold. WX-500 Stormscope.

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# Beyond judgment of Thailand's Got Talent



HOSPITALITY TALENT: Alain Mekwattana (R), general manager of Beyond Resort Krabi, welcomes Thailand's Got Talent judge Ben Chalattit to Krabi.

# Who's on first? You mean 'What's on First'

'Laguna Market on First' made its second appearance on Sunday, following the successful launch of the first edition in February, which saw thousands of community members – a combination of local Thais, expats, tourists and hotel guests – coming together to enjoy the true taste of Phuket. There to service 'marketeers' were more than 200 local vendors from the villages at Laguna Grove in Cherng Talay.



LET THERE BE MUSIC: Mini-concerts by 'Koh Mr Saxman' and 'Pui The Voice'.

# Strictly White Party at 1st anniversary of Nikki Beach Phuket





## Words from the wise

"We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are."

— Max de Pree

"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see."

— Henry David Thoreau

## Medium

5	6		8		4		2	1
1			6		2			5
				1				
9	5						3	8
		6			2			
7	3						5	4
				7				
8			1		5			6
3	2		4		8		9	7

## Hard

4	8						6	2
	9		2	4	1		3	
6	1		3		2		4	7
2	5		6		7		8	3
	4		9	3	5		7	
1	6						5	8

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

COFFEE  
break

## Cryptic Crossword

## Across

9. Company could be in tune. Go on! (8)  
 10. Girl to take to court (3)  
 11. Share nothing in moving train (6)  
 12. Company chap is convincing (6)  
 13. The more modified proposition (7)  
 14. I would, in short, echo a concept (4)  
 15. Perhaps compel it on realization (10)  
 17. Barges move around a river, in dams (8)  
 18. I'll bear out being tolerant (7)  
 19. Most excellent bets placed (4)  
 21. Possibly I die, no antiseptic (6)  
 24. Low red cowards then arranged WWII (17)  
 27. Minute ant is an insect (6)  
 29. Turn-up concerning the virtuous (4)  
 30. Ian Gray moved to an island off Phuket (4,3)  
 33. Pack animal handler to meet rule changes (8)  
 35. Fattening meal put together, ask hard questions (5,5)  
 36. Lied about being lazy (4)  
 37. Rave about hue. Sent! (7)  
 38. Thai fish sauce is cooked napalm! (3,3)  
 40. Sending no soprano to finale (6)  
 41. Old Testament about turn revealed (3)  
 42. Pluck me a new rich sort of food (8)

## Down

1. Oh, girls too can become a clockmaker (10)  
 2. Eye problem second, yet possible (4)  
 3. Aha! Meant badly, an abomination (8)  
 4. Church of England train carefully for sure (7)  
 5. Our bit inert maybe in reprisal (11)  
 6. Fundamental moral I'd rip apart (10)  
 7. Old savage leader at tail perhaps (6)  
 8. Anticipated word of warning noticed (8)  
 10. Unbending after end (5)  
 16. Excuse before written work (7)  
 20. Turns up red, that is a sea bird (5)

22. Word 'age' confused a dignified old lady (7)  
 23. Portion Cora mixed for extended stomach (11)  
 25. Gets eager about small symbols of a Christian celebration (6,4)  
 26. True, perhaps likely to be particularly fond of (10)  
 28. Band aunt broke up more than enough (8)  
 31. Plus final Greek letter turned up in appendix (8)  
 32. Previous wife crept about in short part (7)  
 34. Get me up, note time I caught something that makes one sick (6)  
 35. Get up on large hill (5)  
 39. Came out for spice (4)

## PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



If you've been thinking about taking up a challenge or a job that's more demanding and better paid, then step up your efforts on Tuesday, when you'll likely feel optimistic and can tap into fortunate trends. Thursday's full moon could also add a special magic to your love life, enhancing the feel-good factor – and passion power too!

## ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



It can be an exciting week with the potential for a fortunate boost to your affairs.

Good news, or the arrival of an opportunity, could act as a catalyst enticing you to be proactive regarding a bold idea. If you've backtracked regarding another important decision, this week signals that soon you will be prompted to make a choice.

## TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Listen to your instincts. This week's influences suggest you could be in the right place when a positive opportunity shows up – perhaps leading to

more exciting options in the future. In addition, Thursday's full moon can heighten romance, with lively planetary impulses amping up both passion and pleasure for you.

## GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



A desire to enjoy more pleasurable activities emerges, and with a scintillating planetary line-up, there is the chance that this could bring greater contentment. Opportunities show up that can give you a new lease of life, and friends or new associates might be instrumental in your good fortune. Celebrating at home? Thursday's full moon sets the stage for an upbeat atmosphere.

## CANCER (June 22-July 23):



If you've been hoping for a breakthrough regarding a personal ambition, the week ahead may gift you with exactly that. Tuesday's Jupiter-Uranus link can be instrumental in bringing a golden opportunity your way. In addition, this could give you the chance to expand your social horizons and make new friends, one which should not be missed.

YOUR  
horoscope  
By Patrick Arundell

## LEO (July 24-Aug 23):



Inspired thinking? Or maybe it's an intuitive feeling that by choosing a certain path you'll benefit greatly. Even if taking the plunge seems a challenge, it can be worth the stretch. The urge to shop on Thursday could leave you out of pocket unless you limit your spending. The weekend might also offer a range of social delights.

## VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):



There may be a surprise in the form of extra cash or other opportunities to enhance your income, as a Jupiter-Uranus link sparkles brightly, boosting your chances of experiencing a stroke of good fortune. Mind you, do be aware, for Thursday's full moon could temporarily mess with your schedule. Later, passions can stir around one attraction.

## LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



A jovial start to the week can restore your spirits, enhance camaraderie and put a positive spin on your social life Libra. If you've been longing for romance to come your way, be ready for a potential surprise. You could also be motivated to make a few changes to your lifestyle that might help you feel more energized.

## SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



A dynamic mood can grip you, one which may entice you to move out of your comfort zone and use your personality and charm to create some pizzazz. If you're hoping to improve your job outlook or health regime, this could be a fine time to go for it. Other delightful influences also encourage an atmosphere in which a new pastime has the chance to flourish.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Infectious joy may be yours early in the week, with a super planetary influence sparking you to dream up ways

to get the most out of your leisure time. Romance and adventure can also show up on your radar and friends could be central to this, too. A decision you have been grappling with concerning a home or family matter might well transform things for the better.

## CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Positive insights could change your perspective on issues around the family or domestic finances. Just seeing things differently can open doors to solutions and dazzling opportunities. In addition, unexpected funds might well show up, while the weekend can see you pushing through obstacles and feeling pleased at your fortitude.

## AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



Tuesday brings sizzling vibes into the mix, making this a day to get ahead regarding a special goal. It can also be excellent for boosting your social life, with a chance that an encounter could prove particularly fated. However, try to relax during the second half of the week and pamper yourself, so don't try to cram too much into your schedule.



# Battle of the properties

I WAS a big fan of the ideas behind *Planet of the Apes* and the subsequent movies, even the remakes. "Don't touch the filthy humans!" had a good ring to it and penetrated straight through our general human – though often misplaced – feeling of superiority.

In Phuket, I have witnessed a battle between warring factions of owners within property projects, which could only be worthy of a scene from *Battle of the Planet of the Apes*, and some of the characters involved could even qualify for leading roles on the side of the less well-behaved gorillas, as opposed to the more intelligent and strategic orangutans – although even the orangutans are not able to resolve issues long term.

When it comes to managing property, the day-to-day life of a property management team is not an easy one. I have friends and acquaintances who oversee such companies, and their tasks are often thankless, peppered with insults and aggressiveness, unreasonable demands and expectations, and childish, or ape-like behavior.

I am writing about this because I passionately believe that the way residents behave, and the way management companies deal with the management of estates,



**Property Watch**  
**Desmond Hughes**

can change a place where people want to live into a place where people don't.

To ensure that an estate is well managed, a number of issues need to be dealt with in order for common property within the estate to be effectively utilized for the good of all residents.

Important issues include ensuring that there is some kind of resident leadership, committee or representative body; effective communication between residents, as well as between residents and the estate's management or owners; and careful management of issues to ensure compromise, flexibility and a forward-thinking approach.

Some of the best-run estates I have seen and personally enjoyed in Phuket are those with a hotel-managed element to them at the high-end hotel standards scale; or with an international property management company at the helm, supported by proper resources, such as an on-site manager; engineers; technicians and housekeeping. That is not to say that less expensively managed properties cannot follow the same principles.

If you are thinking about buying a property in Phuket, do some background research first to find out what kind of management the estate is under and what its



Some characters involved in Phuket property battles could qualify for leading roles as not-so-well-behaved gorillas, like those in 'Battle of the Planet of the Apes'. Photo: Ltshears

residents are like. For incumbents, it's important to be diplomatic. Don't expect management staff to fix a burst water pipe in two minutes, or become upset if a hapless new management recruit starts drilling in a corridor at 10pm. Rather than becoming angry with that person, go through the correct channels to try and prevent it from happening again. Most importantly, do all you can to avoid litigation. This all sounds like common sense, right? However, as

many in the management business will know, diplomacy is often in short supply when it comes to complaining residents.

Next time you think about writing a nasty email to your property management company after you have sunk five glasses of rose wine, think again. Go to bed, get up and admire your view; and think about the less fortunate. After that, maybe then you can pick up the phone and arrange a face-to-face meeting with your estate's management instead.

## Go shopping for property, urges president of PREA

THERE'S never been a better time to shop for Phuket property, so says Thanusak Phungdet, president of Phuket Real Estate Association (PREA). As proof, he points to the popularity of the recent PREA real-estate exhibition at Central Festival Phuket.

The PREA event saw 22 developers presenting their projects to curious crowds between February 19-25. Popular among Thais and foreigners alike, the exhibition showcased the property of more than 30 developers, and also hosted a number of high-profile speakers and guests, among them the Phuket governor, who took part in the official opening.

"We work to help our members – to help Phuket developers," explained Thanusak. "The aim of the show is to promote development projects and bring customers and developers together."

With a growing supply of complete, ready-to-move-in projects, shopping for property in 2015 couldn't get any better, said Thanusak.

"Developers are now focusing on selling. This is a good time to buy property at a good price, with some good promotions," he said.

"There are a lot of completed projects that offer great promotions. Developers have been busy building [projects] for the last two years and now it's time to deliver them. I anticipate it could take up to two years to sell all completed property available on the market."

Which customers real-estate developers will target, depends on the location and buyer sentiment, as Thai and foreign buyers



Thanusak (center left) at the PREA event last month.

have different interests and needs within the Phuket property market, said Thanusak.

"What kind of property sells best depends on the customer and the location. Thai customers keep the townhouse market ticking over, while foreigners buy condominium flats – also due to availability of freehold.

"When it comes to location, Thai people often opt for projects closer to Phuket Town, or try to stay close to their work place. For most foreigners the best location is near the beach, and that's also because there is so little of it. A project close to the beach and with a sea view has great advantage," said Thanusak, adding that locations like Patong, Kata and Karon were still the most exclusive and sought after on the market.

With a property industry that is inherently linked to the island's popularity as a resort destination, it's PREA's task to build foreign buyer confidence in the market's ability to deliver quality and service.

While property sales at this year's PREA event were slightly down on last year, the overall trend in sales remains up.

– Maciek Klimowicz

# MARE

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# Investing safely in Thailand

A recap of legitimate property investment deals for foreigners, as well as methods for avoiding any cumbersome transactions

By Woraphong Leksakulchai

AT A time of year when many property sales are taking place in hotspot investment destinations, such as Phuket, it seems now is an appropriate time to recap the types of legitimate investment for foreigners interested in property in Thailand, and to note that there are some very straightforward methods of avoiding complicated and cumbersome transactions.

Aside from land title due diligence in relation to the project you are planning to invest in, it is essential to scrutinize the method by which you purchase a property.

Many investors in recent years have shied away from what was a notoriously encouraged method of “acquiring” a real estate interest in Thailand: setting up a Thai company. In fact, the Land Code in Thailand prohibits foreigners from circumventing the laws protecting the land of Thailand by stating that direct or indirect acquisition of land is generally prohibited.

This means that if the only reason a foreigner sets up a company is to circumvent the Land Code, then there is a danger their transaction could, in very extreme circumstances, be scrutinized, and they may be required to dispose of their property and pay penalties. There is also the question in any Thai company, not just property related companies, as to whether all shareholders are genuine shareholders, and not “nominee” or “fake” shareholders, the practice of which is illegal.

This, of course, leaves the general option of purchasing a condominium interest, or leasing property for a long-registered term, the maximum registrable term of which is 30 years. Many foreigners do not wish to purchase condominium properties, especially in resort areas such as Phuket, Koh Samui, Pattaya or Koh Chang, where villa and lifestyle acquisitions are preferred.

So, if Thai companies are not a generally viable option, and condominiums aren't appropriate as an investment, surely leasing a property should be a safe option? Of course it is, provided you follow some simple rules, and understand the nature of the investment you are making; and further ensure that you are properly advised of any risk in relation to the acquisition.

A straightforward limited 30-year registered lease in Thailand is enforceable between the lessor and lessee. If individuals are involved, and for example, the lessee dies, the lease could be

scrutinized in relation to whether the lease interest may pass to a successor.

One of the elements of ensuring the lease properly addresses this issue is to include a successor clause in the lease. Another way is to ensure that only companies enter into the lease because companies don't die, although they can become insolvent.

It should be noted that some of the most expensive property in Thailand is only available for leasehold. In particular, properties developed on Crown Property Bureau land in Bangkok are developed and sold on a leasehold basis, not just to foreigners, but to Thais. This means that Thais rely upon the security of the lease, and sometimes do so in relation to high-price-point luxury properties. This is absolute evidence that leases can and are often relied upon in Thailand by foreigners and Thais alike.

As far as straight leases are concerned, they are very straightforward.

Some investors and some developers prefer to contemplate the existence of an investment beyond the 30-year period by way of a pre-agreed “renewal”. The contemplation of this is generally legal but the execution of it must also be legal.

The restriction on this approach is that any document referring to a term beyond 30 years must not contravene the law restricting the term of a registered lease – 30 years – and further, the parties must be aware that an agreement to agree to renew a lease will be a private agreement between the parties and subject to contract law, namely under the regulatory regime of Thailand's Civil and Commercial Code. Under this code, provided an agreement is not contrary to law, the parties are free to agree to the terms as they wish. When they do so, care must be taken to examine if what is being promised is enforceable now, and also in the future.

There are some further matters to be considered, such as what taxes may be payable in 30 years' time for a lease renewal, and what the actual minimum assessed value of the rental must be. These questions can be settled in a contractual agreement under which the parties assess the reliability of each other in terms of compliance.

Beyond a simple lease sale, there are also projects in Thailand where lessees are offered a stake in a company which has either a direct or indirect interest in the landowning company that owns the land at a real estate project. As



Look before you leap when deciding how to invest in your dream pool villa in Phuket.

in all such matters, this cannot simply be a rushed, cobbled-together structure. To minimize legal risks in this type of structure requires planning to address and ensure that in a non-exhaustive list:

(a) nominee shareholder structures are not used

(b) leases are actually registered, because any lease for longer than three years to be legal, i.e. not deemed void, must be registered

(c) the proper and real values are used for rentals referred to in leases on which taxes must be paid

(d) the purpose of the company and its business activities are properly and legitimately associated with the estate. This can often be the case where the lessor company outsources management to a professional estate management company to manage properties, which exist on leased land.

Unfortunately, there are instances in which investments have gone wrong. This can happen when a developer is financially to finish property but has sold property before it is finished off the plan.

If the contracts are badly prepared or the structure is not set up properly, then a court case can ensue and this can often expose weaknesses in documents. If a contract doesn't comply with law, it may be deemed void. That doesn't mean to say injured parties will not obtain compensation, provided they have sought proper remedies in their case, but preferably no court case is better than a successful one.

In such cases, some very important issues should be borne in mind before drawing conclusions from negative experiences of some investors, while ensuring that you take care when you are determining how to make your investment. It does not pay to draw rushed conclusions from cases, which appear to be negative for investors. Some key points are:

1. Thailand is not a “common law” country, which means that judges do not make law when they make their judgments. Even Supreme Court case decisions are guiding only. This means that cases are decided on their merits, in accordance with the laws of Thailand, and the facts of a case.

If you have bought a house in a common law jurisdiction, don't mix up advice you have heard there, with the actual laws in Thailand. When it comes to contract law, you need a good contract, such as a lease, because the law will not step in and make the contract better for you.

Conversely, if one person in a country of approximately 60 million people receives a bad result from a court case, it does not mean that any other person from that 60mn headcount will receive the same result, even on the same facts. Some say that makes the law unpredictable and unfair. However, it is actually logical in many ways that a case cannot be decided until a case is actually proven under law.

2. The facts of many cases are different. The way in which some investors invest in property in

Thailand can sometimes be in the same style as many people practice their holidays – “throwing caution to the wind”. If you hear of a case in which someone has suffered at the hands of an unscrupulous developer, make sure you investigate properly to establish how that situation arose, and what the facts were before making any conclusions.

3. Investment carries risks, but Thailand has a jurisdiction in which it is possible to safely lease and build upon land, notwithstanding the established prohibition on owning land directly, with some exceptions.

4. Avoid exotic, untested structures and anything that becomes too complicated. If you see a structure for investment that sounds odd, or feels unnecessarily complicated, or seems like a construct of an overactive imagination, then steer clear.

As you can see from all of the advertising in newspapers in Thailand, and completed property, there has been a serious amount of investment in the property market by developers, many of whom are public companies or serious, established companies.

Be cautious about your selection of property investment, don't rush, but also remember that although Thailand's development is an ongoing process, it is developed enough for safe investment if you choose the right strategy.

Woraphong Leksakulchai is a senior partner and attorney-at-law of Hughes Krupica [www.hugheskrupica.com](http://www.hugheskrupica.com)



# Sharing is caring

By Maciek Klimowicz

THERE are two ways to make your food taste better: eat it fresh and share it with friends. There are few dishes out there fresher and easier to share than an Asian hotpot.

To try the latest incarnation in Phuket, visit Karon Beach Square's Orient Asia restaurant.

The concept of Karon Beach Square is based on a simple goal: To attract people who like good food and good fun. The guests of the Square not only have the opportunity to enjoy delicious food at one of its restaurants, but can also sip cocktails at the bar, dance the night away to the beach town's hottest rhythms, or even have a cup of coffee and a croissant at the Square's Cafe Studio.

Introduced to the Square to celebrate the Chinese New Year, Orient Asia offers its own concept of the hotpot – one of the region's most popular and fun-filled traditions.

True, it's a culinary form you can enjoy in just about any supermarket or shopping mall in Thailand – thanks to popular chain restaurants – but do you really want to dine at a supermarket? Eating out is about treating yourself, doing something special – and

stopping over for a quick meal, while shopping for home appliances is the exact opposite of special.

Do you have friends visiting Phuket that you want to take out for a meal? Do you need to plan a dinner with a business partner? Do you have a family birthday to celebrate? Going out for a nice meal at a restaurant would be much

more suitable for these – and many other – types of occasions than dining at a mall.

More than location, Orient Asia's offering is also one of quality. The moment my selection of delectable meat, seafood, mushrooms and vegetables arrived at the table and landed next

to a pot of boiling Tom Yum and chicken broth, I knew my company and I would never be able to finish all the food. And certainly not for a lack of trying.

First goes the meat, taking the longest to boil and release its flavor into the soup. Seafood and mushrooms follow, giving the stew even more flavor and substance. The vegetables comes at the very end, together with noodles, ensuring that they don't over-boil and become soggy.

In some difficult-to-comprehend way, all of these elements play well together, turning into a flavorful blend that's difficult to

After a while, things tend to get a bit messy at the table; a hefty shrimp falls with a splash into the sauce bowl, a piece of beef fails to make it into the soup pot and lands in the vegetable basket and mediocre chopstick skills result in some interesting gravy patterns on my shirt... but it's fine.



Grab a few friends and settle around a hotpot at Orient Asia in Karon Square. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

describe, but very easy to gulp down.

All guests gathered at the table sharing the soup from the big, steaming pot in the middle.

Various sauces flow freely and so do soft drinks and sweet chrysanthemum tea that comes complimentary with the meal.

It's hot, it's flavorful and it's delicious and – most of all – it's

fun. After a while, things tend to get a bit messy at the table; a hefty shrimp falls with a splash into the sauce bowl, a piece of beef fails to make it into the soup pot and lands in the vegetable basket, and mediocre chopstick skills result in some interesting gravy patterns on my shirt... but it's fine.

By the time half of the soup in the pot is gone, everybody at the

table is in a festive mood, planning to follow up the dinner with a round of cocktails at the Karon Beach Square's Mint bar. This is what good food and good company does to people. And it certainly is good.

For more information about Orient Asia restaurant, please visit [karonbeachsquare.com](http://karonbeachsquare.com)



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# Flipping your fins

## Mermaid's year-long journey of creating a silicon tail

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

SHE might have been Melanie Long's role model growing up, but the one thing the Little Mermaid got wrong was that a woman can't get too far by flipping her fins.

Melanie, also known as Mermaid Melanie, recently completed an enormous one-year undertaking – designing and constructing her own silicone mermaid tail.

In the mer-world, tails are a big deal, and there are just as many designs as there are imaginations bringing them to life. However, they can be divided into two categories: fabric tails, which cost about 8,000 baht at the introduction level, and silicone tails, which start at about 80,000 baht.

"The silicone-tail market seems to be booming right now; people are on waiting lists for up to six months. Some people are even waiting up to a year for a silicone tail, because the demand is so high," explains Mermaid Melanie from the edge of the Chalong Country Home Pool in Phuket.

Given the costs and time necessary to design custom silicone tails, it's no surprise that artists are struggling to keep up with the jump in demand seen in the last five years.

Mermaid Melanie invested more than 50,000 baht in raw materials for her tail – and even after having learned a thing or two in the one-year process of creating it, Melanie estimates that it will still take her nearly three months to create another.

The difference between silicone tails and fabric ones makes the money and effort worth it, says Melanie. The texture, three-dimensional nature of the scales, the fit on a mermaid's waist and the way the end of the tail whips in the water inspire even the most rigid of imaginations. But, that doesn't mean the creation is an easy undertaking.

"You come back from work,



Mermaid Melanie is now showing off her new tail at weddings, parties and other events. Photo: David Sexton

and you're tired and you have this silicone-tail project staring you in the face, just begging you to work on it – you have to have some real motivation to get through it," Melanie says.

Support from the mer-community was most needed during the trial-and-error portions of the project.

"The whole process was really challenging. A lot of the time when you make mistakes you get disheartened," Melanie says.

"The biggest problem that I had was in the early stages. When I was making the molds for the tail, I got some products stuck in the mold and I had to spend about a

week and a half sanding all this foam scale sheet out of the product board. That was certainly a mistake I learned from, and my fingers did too."

In times of trouble, Mermaid Melanie turned to her fellow fantasy creatures in the mer-network.

"It's a fantastic resource for any would-be mermaids or people interested in mermaids," Melanie says.

"The support of the community there really helped, because everyday when I posted an update, people would reply with encouraging words. It was just really nice to get some feedback from a community of people who understand what you're trying to do and what you're

going through trying to do it."

In addition to motivation, the mer-network has nearly everything an up-and-coming mermaid – doing a reverse-Ariel maneuver – needs, from swim tests to tail-making advice.

"First, you have to make a sculpture of the fin, which we call a fluke, and would also have to make a scale sculpture, like a sheet of three-dimensional scales," explains Melanie.

But before you even get that far, you need to create a design. Melanie's inspiration came from a bikini from Phuket clothing designer Katarina Boner and the elegant, dazzling fins of the

Siamese fighting fish.

"I guess I wanted the fin to flow nice in the water. I wanted it to look like how I imagine a mermaid to look: feminine and beautiful. I really like the flow on my tail and the shapes that it has. It's very aesthetic; it's not just functional," says Melanie giving her tail a flip.

However, function is also important to Melanie, who is an avid freediver and runner-up in the We Freedive Suunto Series last year. In fact, the core to the fluke of her tail is a custom-made, fiberglass monofin from Special Fins.

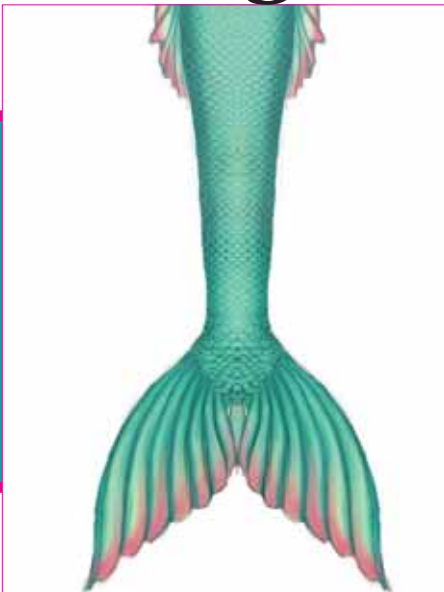
"I got some awesome feedback [from the mer-community]. Some people were even saying the tail was of a professional quality, but I know myself; I wouldn't be happy to sell it yet," Melanie says. "I'd like to iron out a few kinks and fix a few mistakes I made last time for the next tail, and see how that one goes. Maybe if I'm comfortable and happy after the next tail, I might consider selling them after that."

When Melanie moved out to Thailand in 2010, she thought that being a dive instructor was as close as she could get to being a mermaid. Then she met Mermaid Kat and took a mermaiding course, and that was the first step into her new life as a professional mermaid and, now, mermaid tail artist.

"So that was me, absolutely hooked. I just discovered this amazing world; there is this whole community out there, you know. There's actually thousands of mermaids, so that's just what spurred me on. The idea that being this mermaid performer is a possibility," she says, eyes shining in the same way they probably did when she was a child staring at the Little Mermaid murals on her bedroom walls.

"Sometimes I have to pinch myself, I can't believe it. I'm here and I get to do this sort of stuff."

## Design



## Mold



## Peel



## Paint





# Enjoying horrific greatness

## Books

By James Eckardt

FOR many years on Anzac Day, memorial services for the POWs killed on the Death Railway in Kanchanaburi would be presided over by Colonel Edward "Weary" Dunlop, a heroic surgeon and camp commander. Richard Flanagan's *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2014, 334pp) is a highly fictionalized account of his life. Winner of the 2014 Man Booker Prize, this is a hyper-realistic novel marred by failed rhetorical flourishes, but it still deserves to be called great.

The story is told in five sections, each highly individual in style. The first 43-page section jumps about wildly in time.

Dorrigo Evans is born in rustic poverty in Tasmania but rises as a scholarship boy to become a surgeon in Melbourne, engaged to the daughter of a wealthy family. Then comes the war. The story skips 50 years forward to the present day, Evans in bed with the wife of a surgical colleague, musing on his celebrity as a war hero, known in the camps as "The Big Fella".

"Dorrigo Evans hated virtue,

hated virtue being admired, hated people who pretended he had virtue or pretended to virtue themselves."

His self-sacrifice and defiance of the Japanese had all been play-acting to buck up camp morale.

He returns again and again to the prison camp in the jungle, the horror that is just horror, "incomprehensible, incommunicable, unintelligible, undividable, indescribable."

Weak from starvation, riddled with tropical diseases, battered by beatings and overwork, the Australian POWs morph from the fit and the sick, to the sick and the dying.

**/ This is a grimly pessimistic tale. A final seemingly miraculous meeting on the Sydney Harbour Bridge is allowed to melt away in the lonely deaths that shortly conclude the novel. But a reader will never forget the horror. The *Narrow Road to the Deep North* makes *The Bridge Over the River Kwai* look like a cartoon fairy tale. /**

In section two, Dorrigo Evans is in Adelaide, training for war, when he meets the great love of his life, Amy Mulvaney, the young wife of his Uncle Keith, who owns a beachside pub and hotel. Their obsession for each other is meticulously described but sometimes the rhetoric turns overwrought, as when they make love for the first time: "Whatever had held them apart before, was now gone. If the earth spun it faltered, if the wind blew it waited. Hands found flesh; flesh, flesh."

Their love sustains him throughout the early years of the war, until he receives news of her



**A final seemingly miraculous meeting on the Sydney Harbour Bridge is allowed to melt away in the lonely deaths that shortly conclude the novel. Photo: 4wallz**

death in a hotel gas explosion. He will never love anyone else for the rest of his life, not his wife, not his children, not his many lovers.

The heart of the novel is the long third section, which takes place in a single day in the prison camp, centered on Sergeant Darky Gardiner, a crafty scrounger and thief. This is an Australian version of *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*.

The day will begin with his habitual optimism over the possession of a duck egg and will end with his savage beating and death by drowning in the camp latrine. The story shifts to Dorrigo Evan's perspective as he makes

his rounds of the reeking huts, and the makeshift surgical hut where his amputation of the stump of a gangrenous thigh fails and results in yet another death. Perspective also shifts to a sadistic Korean guard, the Goanna, and the camp commander, Major Tenji Nakamura, who is addicted to the amphetamine shabu and pressured by insane demands upon his prisoners. He repeatedly slaps Dorrigo Evans for his defiance of orders.

The aftermath of the war occupies a fourth section. The Goanna is hanged, Major Nakamura escapes punishment and raises a family in Japan with

a devoted nurse. Dorrigo Evans becomes famous. But his camp comrades are forever damaged. And of the Railway? "...it was all for nothing and of it nothing remained. People kept on longing for meaning and hope, but the annals of the past are a muddy story of chaos only."

This is a grimly pessimistic tale. A final seemingly miraculous meeting on the Sydney Harbour Bridge is allowed to melt away in the lonely deaths that shortly conclude the novel. But a reader will never forget the horror. *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* makes *The Bridge Over the River Kwai* look like a cartoon fairy tale.

## Interactive typography designs create Siam Center playground

THE girls giggle as they mix and match meter-tall letters and ampersands of hard sponge to form their nicknames. Their snapshots of their creations are immediately shared online. The atrium zone at Bangkok's Siam Center is a playground. Passers-by can't seem to resist joining in to play with the multicoloured alphabet.

This is how Englishman Sean Freeman prefers presenting his typography designs – interactive for the crowd – rather than illustrating magazines and advertisements for the likes of Nike and Microsoft. He wins awards for that work, but getting ordinary folks to play with them is way more fun.

"We wanted to come up with artwork that ties in with this space as well as with the concept of fashion itself, so we made the letters out of fabrics," Freeman says.

"It's a bit like clothes fashion," he says. "Things can be a bit crazy



**Freeman stands on top of his new design. Photo: The Nation**

and sometime unexpected, but in the end all makes sense when co-existing – that's what makes it exciting and ever-changing."

The installation, "Absolute Siam Fashion Capital Installation Art", is no doubt a first for Thailand in the way it gets viewers involved. It continues through April 9.

The designs are photographed and then ink-jet-printed on fabric.

"The idea is to get people enjoying artwork in a participatory way so that it evolves through various combinations," he says.

"The 'real' aspect remains crucial," he says. "I love that you can feel it. I also enjoy controlling stuff that's sometimes a bit out of control and chaotic."

"Some might call this old-fashioned, but for me the beauty is in the details of an object, in its natural imperfections. That's what makes my treatments look very rich and tactile and sets them apart from computer-graphic design."

To Freeman, even the tiniest detail counts, and the possibilities are endless. "The interesting thing about creative lettering is that you're not necessarily strictly bound to fonts. Because we're dealing with physical objects, it's about customisation. You want specific artwork for a unique headline with the most meaning and impact. The biggest challenge is to be at the same time readable, beautiful and meaningful," he says.

– *The Nation*



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# Kedah's magical history

## Looking Back

By Anand Singh

THE *Hikayat Merong Mahawangsa* is an ancient book which chronicles the history of the Kedah state. Kedah is a Malaysian state bordering the south of Thailand. As recently as a century ago, the sultanate was in fact a tributary state of Siam. Sometimes referred to as *The Kedah Annals*, the *Hikayat Merong Mahawangsa* was translated by Lt Col James Low and published in *The Journal of the Indian Archipelago* in 1849. In the journal, Col Low remarked that Kedah was a tributary of the Siamese Kingdom. It was fertile in grain, there was plenty of cattle, and the hills were rich in tin ore and possibly gold. Sultan Ahmed Sajoodin Halim Shah had given Col Low a copy of *The Kedah Annals* before his death.

In the journal, Col Low told of the late sultan's fate. Heeding bad advice from his council, the sultan had been persuaded to betray Kedah's allegiance with Siam. This led to a brutal invasion of Kedah by Siamese forces in the year 1821. The sultan fled and sought asylum in Penang, which at that time was under British protection.

The story of Sultan Ahmed is an interesting prelude to Col Low's translation of the *Hikayat Merong Mahawangsa*. However, *The Kedah Annals* tell an even stranger, mystical story of Kedah's origins.

The work begins with praises to the prophet Suliman, or Solomon, "to whom the dominion of the whole world and every living thing in it was entrusted by God".

According to *The Kedah Annals*, there was a "king" of Rome who dispatched an ambassador named Merong Mahawangsa to China in order to negotiate a marriage between the king's son and the Chinese emperor's daughter. Merong Mahawangsa was said to have been



Garuda is a creature from Hindu mythology that is feared by all animals. Photo: Mark Fischer

a descendent from the demigods.

Mahawangsa was given a large fleet of ships by the king of Rome, in order to escort the Chinese princess back to his kingdom. But word reached the Garuda of this imminent alliance between the two kingdoms. The Garuda is a creature from Hindu mythology that is half bird, half man and possesses supernatural powers feared by all animals.

After the Ramayana wars, the Garuda was made to rule over the ruined island kingdom of Langka. According to *The Kedah Annals*, the Garuda was displeased by the alliance of the two kingdoms. He flew to see King Suliman in order to ask the wise king to interdict the marriage between the Roman prince and the Chinese princess.

But King Suliman, on hearing the Garuda's pleas, replied that once a prince and princess are betrothed, it is not an easy matter to break off the alliance.

The Garuda was furious at King Suliman's reply. He swore that he would stop the marriage alliance from ever happening. King Suliman was not able to convince the Garuda otherwise.

With its powerful wings, the Garuda lifted itself into the air and soared into the sky. It flew swiftly to the Chinese court, and into the inner garden sanctuary where the betrothed princess was picking flowers with her foster mother and a servant. The Garuda swooped in and, with its beak and talons, lifted all three of them into the sky and flew them to its

kingdom, Langka. There, he took care of the princess, protected her and supplied her with every delicacy she desired.

In the meantime, the king of Rome had set sail with Merong Mahawangsa. Their fleet was bound for China. It is mentioned in the chronicles that the king of Rome touched at all ports which were under the empire of Rome. The embassies at each port received them with great respect.

Eventually the fleet travelled across the sea to India, where they reached the mouth of the Changong River. At this point, the Garuda, bent on destroying the expedition, raised a violent storm of wind, rain, thunder and lightning. The crew members of the fleet, fighting to keep their indi-

vidual ships under control, could see the looming figure of the Garuda high above them.

The prince and ambassador Mahawangsa ordered his men to fire their guns and arrows at the direful bird, which could be seen approaching the fleet from the west. The arrows and ammunition had no effect – merely bouncing off the creature.

At this point, Mahawangsa strung his bow and let loose a magical arrow called Ayunan. When the Garuda saw what Mahawangsa was doing, it fled. The danger had passed for now, but Mahawangsa had lost three ships in his fleet.

The rest of the fleet cast anchor and waited to see if the Garuda would return, but they set sail the next day when it failed to return. After a few more days, the expedition reached Tavoy. Here, the Garuda again reappeared to try and destroy the fleet. It conjured a tempest of lightning and thunder. Again Mahawangsa used his magical arrow to chase the Garuda away, but not before the bird managed to destroy three more ships.

With no sign of the Garuda the next day, the remaining boats set sail again and eventually reached the city of Mrit. But at Mrit, the Garuda appeared again, attacking the fleet in a violent rage, destroying three more ships and killing every crewman on board.

Enraged at the loss of his men, Mahawangsa strung a third magical arrow and let it loose at the Garuda. This time the arrow took on the form of a magical bird called Jintayu and it gave chase to the Garuda.

But after a while the creature turned on Jintayu, breathed fire on the magical bird and destroyed it.

However, the Garuda was shaken by Mahawangsa's magical powers, and according to *The Kedah Annals*, for the next few days it left the shrunken fleet alone as it sailed away from Mrit.

To be continued.

## Kids behind the masks: Small school sets out to conserve traditions

A SMALL school in Ayutthaya's Phachi district is putting a major effort into conserving traditional wisdom, especially the making of *khon* masks and conducting *khon* performances – art forms that are rapidly disappearing from modern society.

Wat Nongkruboon School has 52 students from kindergarten to Pathom 6, and only three teachers.

Chuachan Soareok, who is acting director, says the school has included local wisdom in its curriculum.

*Khon* masks have been part of Ayutthaya society for a long time, and the school wants to conserve this local wisdom, she says.

The mask embraces spiritual and artistic values that derive from the belief of Thai society in Hindu gods and goddesses, as well as from the influence of the great "Ramayana" epic among Thai people.

Since the early days of *khon*, this form of dramatic art was reserved only for the king and members of the Royal family.

It was only in the 19<sup>th</sup> century that *khon* started to be more popular among commoners, especially when King Rama VI granted his full support to the development of arts in what was then the Kingdom of Siam.

The *khon* mask was developed and evolved in parallel with the performance itself.

The links between the performance and the mask are highlighted by the fact that the mask represents characters existing in the Thai "Ramayana", including god, goddess, demon, divine ape and other animals.

According to the traditional tales, the creation of the classical dance earns the blessing of the god Shiva, who orders a



Dancing Ayutthaya students. Photo: The Nation

hermit to be the master of the dance and to pass on this knowledge to all of humanity.

"We started the project around 2003 by bringing our students to learn the local wisdom with Uncle Sangvien Homklinkaew, 70, whose occupation was *khon* mask-

making and performance," says Chuachan, 60, who is due to retire in September. Uncle Sangvien died about five years ago. "We have taught seven or eight batches of students so far. Each batch contains about 10-15 youngsters," adds the director.

Students participating in the course are in Pathom 4 to 6, and they are able to produce about 30 masks per month, which

sell from 350 baht for a Hanuman mask and up to 1,300 baht for a Tossakan mask.

"The making of small models of *khon* mask products allows our students to create their own earnings while studying, so that they can ease the financial burdens of their families," Chuachan says.

"Students can spend their free time, particularly during weekends, in more useful ways [by doing this]. They can promote personal skills, which can serve as a foundation for their occupations in the future."

Patra Khanthupat, 12, a Pathom 6 student at Wat Nongkruboon School, started to make *khon* masks about three years ago.

"I've always been interested in art so I decided to join this school project. The making of *khon* masks is more than just an occupation for me, as it allows me to earn some money. Although it's not a lot, it does cover my spending on snacks," she says.

– The Nation



# Superyacht magnet

## Island's luxury lifestyle makes it a heavy hitter in Asia

By Jules Kay

PHUKET'S marine industry is tapping global growth in the lucrative superyacht segment thanks to the unique luxury lifestyle the island offers and a sharp rise in the number of such vessels coming to Asia.

Thailand's largest island is already well established on the regional and global sailing circuits; however, industry players say increased investment in specialist facilities could see Phuket become Asia's superyacht destination of choice.

Candy GPS Report, which only considers vessels costing more than US\$24 million, shows the number of superyachts tripled globally from 74 to 212 over the past five years. Phuket is already punching above its weight in attracting its share of super-luxury vessels sailing to Asia, now the no.3 global yachting destination after the Mediterranean and the Caribbean, says Gareth Twist, managing director of Yacht Solutions.

"In terms of marinas and yachting events, Phuket is at the forefront in Southeast Asia," he says. "We already have four excellent marinas and established annual yachting events. The yachting industry infrastructure in Phuket is improving every year. Marinas are expanding and more events and yacht shows are being added to the calendar."

Gordon Fernandes, general manager of Asia Pacific Superyachts and co-organiser of the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous, says Phuket has also benefited from the "phenomenal growth" in

superyachts – defined as yachts which are more than 24m long – coming to Asia, largely due to growth in luxury resorts and related infrastructure. Key source markets are Singapore, Hong Kong and China, followed by the US, Europe and Australia, as well as yachts stopping off in Phuket as part of a global voyage.

"Owners can party at a beach club, go diving in the Similan islands, or find total peace and seclusion cruising to Myanmar's Mergui archipelago, just up the coast," he says. "The huge variety means more owners are choosing to base their boats on Phuket for the cruising season. The success of events like the annual Asia Superyacht Rendezvous reflect that growth."

The annual King's Cup Regatta, Superyacht Rendezvous, PIMEX

and the Phuket Yacht Show, which will hold its inaugural event later this year, help position Phuket as a "buzz-word

destination" within the UNHW segment, says Zara Tremlett of Yacht Haven Phuket, which will soon open a new 260m-attenuator dock and six 50m-berths, enabling the facility to service up to 16 superyachts at a time.

"The fact that the Phuket Yacht Show is a new event indicates the strength of the industry," she says, adding: "However, this is still an emerging market, albeit one with steady growth. While all marine developments offer various levels of maintenance facilities, the one piece of the puzzle missing is a dedicated yard for the larger 'white boats' or superyachts."

The need for such facilities is paramount if Phuket is to attract

**In terms of marinas and yachting events, Phuket is at the forefront in Southeast Asia.**



The 'SY Silolona' hosted the opening party for the 2014 Asia Superyacht Rendezvous. Photo: Asia Superyacht Rendezvous

more owners and charterers of superyachts. Annual running costs, which include maintenance, provisions, crewing and berthing fees, are broadly estimated at 10-15 per cent of the hull cost before customization. As many owners only spend between two to six weeks aboard their boat each year, a growing number are chartering their vessel to cover costs, though very few purchase superyachts purely for investment purposes.

Twist says the number of superyachts travelling to Thailand for major refits and repairs, which are typically required every two to three years, is on the rise. Phuket is missing out on that business as currently the only boatyards big enough to handle the vessels are in Bangkok. However, he is confident that addressing this gap would be a boon for the industry.

"What is desperately required in Phuket is a world-class refit and yacht repair facility," he says. "Once

a world class facility has been established in the region, the number of visiting yachts to Phuket will increase exponentially."

Jules Kay is a marketing consultant, editor and content curator with 15 years experience working in the Southeast Asian luxury property, lifestyle and tourism sectors. His latest project is an exclusive mixed-use residential resort development along the shoreline at Kamala Beach ([www.montazure.com](http://www.montazure.com)).

## Phuket top of list for Thailand yacht show

PHUKET has been named as a top choice for the launch of a 'Thailand Yacht Show', to be organized jointly by the Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MOTS).

The location for the show, planned for the end of this year, has been narrowed down to Phuket and Pattaya, explained Deputy Minister of Transport Akom Termpittayapisit to the National News Bureau of Thailand (NNT).

It will offer exposure for yacht manufacturers similar to what car manufacturers are given during the Motor Expo, Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha explained.

Yacht manufacturers can showcase their new, luxurious models

at the event, and this will help to promote yacht tourism in Thailand, he added.

"I think Phuket is ready for this. Located on the Andaman coast, we have suitable marinas for this kind of event," Ratchadaporn Pattana, deputy director of the MOTS Phuket office, told the Phuket Gazette this week.

"If Phuket is chosen as the location for the yacht show, this will be very beneficial to the province, as it positions itself to be a key port of call for yachts throughout the region.

"Additionally, we will attract more quality tourists, who will have higher per-capita spending in Phuket." – **Kongleaphy Keam**




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# How to handle dry spells



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

WHILE we are used to the onset of the dry season in Phuket every November, this year has been a bit different, as the monsoon was more prolonged and the drought, once it did arrive, has been more extreme.

Not a drop of rain since New Year's Day in my bit of the island means that we are having to reach for our hoses more often. If we don't have a well or a reliable mains supply, it's necessary to call more often on the services of the water tanker.

When workers dug my well seven years ago, they encountered a layer of granite so thick not even dynamite could crack the natural barrier. So at this time of year when the main water supply is under pressure from the rash of condominiums, I too am dependent on the water man.

So what about priorities in the xeric garden? It's a common sense answer, actually. Your container plants will need more attention since they will dry out more rapidly, so prioritize them. The same goes for any plants that are used to moist conditions and whose roots are used to lots of water. I am thinking the usual culprits: canna lilies, *heliconias*, most varieties of ginger, *leea rubra* (commonly known as the red tree), *sambucus* or sweet elder, and even *jasminum rex*.

Of course, small plants are always more at risk since they have

less developed root systems. Most perennials or sizeable shrubs will fare better than annuals. Newly transplanted ones are the most vulnerable of all.

In fact, at this time of the year, I would counsel gardeners to put potted plants in open beds only when absolutely necessary. A daily inspection will reveal the struggles: telltale drooping foliage, leaf loss, and in some cases, yellowing or browning of the leaves.

All these authorial strictures will be out of date once we have a couple of heavy downpours, but at the moment this outcome looks unlikely.

Most plants that thrive in tropical conditions are built to endure dry spells. They often possess

leathery leaves, which allow little evaporation through their stomata (think figs, limes and *plumerias*) and many varieties are not averse to dropping any foliage that is surplus to requirements.

The magnolia tree (*microcarpa champaca*) in my garden is a case in point: it is now shedding masses of large leaves and will continue to do so until it gets a real drenching or two.

Other shrubs and trees behave differently: they will stop producing sappy-green growth, which takes its toll on underground water supplies, and instead produce gorgeous displays of bloom. By producing flowers, the plant is saying that foliar growth needs to be superseded by reproduction, since blooms rapidly give way to seeds.

Thus we have magnificent displays of *ixoras*, *allamandas*



Asoka trees are revered in Buddhist mythology, and bear dense clusters of tiny orange florets. Photo: Arashiyama

and bougainvilleas at present and down the road a coral vine (*antigonon leptus*) is in full flower, impervious to the fact that the soil at its roots is bone dry.

Other shrubs that are reveling in the conditions include varieties of *verbena*, *lantana*, *acalyphas* and, in my garden, an Indian rubber vine. Desert shrubs such as *adeniums*, crowns of thorns and cactus-like *perevias* are also dressed in their Sunday best.

This reminds me: My local

temple boasts a fine display of *Saraca indica* or *asoka*. The trees – which are revered in Buddhist mythology, are currently bearing dense, upturned clusters of flowers, tiny orange florets, which massed together produce lilac-sized blooms. These flowers appear, as is the case with so many other shrubs and trees, after pronounced dry weather. Hence this year's fine display.

The asoka is definitely a small tree to consider for your garden, especially if you have a shady

spot, since these trees grow beneath taller trees in their native habitat. It has a neat shape and attractive pinnate leaves, and it will please your Thai visitors.

However, don't try and plant one now. It needs lots of moisture while it is getting established. In the words of the song, "save it for a rainy day".

Catch Patrick online at [PhuketGazette.net](http://PhuketGazette.net) Sunday morning next week, when he reveals more of his gardening expertise.



Limes are built to endure dry spells in weather. Photo: Prosthetic Head

## Tip of the week

### Soil loss

LAST years' heavy rains meant severe leaching and compacting of the top soil in our gardens.

Now five weeks of hot arid conditions have seen further shrinkage of precious soil from flower beds and containers. Ideally, a truck load of new top soil liberally applied as a top dressing is the answer, but as we all know, this commodity is hard to come by.

You can try asking at nurseries, which may have a bagged supply, or check local building sites (of which there seem to be an ever-increasing number), but the short term solution may well reside in buying bags of compost. It blows away easily, so it is better either mixed with the existing top soil or combined with other loam before application. It will also improve the texture of sandy or light soils.

Some root-bound potted plants may also need to be re-housed in larger containers.



Some potted plants may need to be re-housed in larger containers. Photo: JJ Harrison



# Avoid fitness pitfalls



## Excuse Buster

By Krix Luther

FOR those who are trying to get back into the fitness game, or who are just stepping up to the plate for the first time, it is essential that good habits are formed right away.

Too many people start a fitness regime and fail to see it through.

There are many reasons that people fall off the wagon, but I'll tell you six all-too-common mistakes that can quickly end a new workout routine and keep you from the ultimate killer body.

### NEGLECTING TO LEARN FORM

Like I've said before, lifting heavy weights is extremely beneficial.

However, it can also increase the risk of injury if not done properly. Learning the correct form is not only vital for lifting efficiently, but also to help prevent things from going wrong. Start off with lighter

weights until you have the form nailed, then increase the load.

Also, look at yourself in the mirror while you exercise, not just to see how shapely your backside is getting, but to check your form.

### PROGRAM BOUNCING

Yes, trying a different program each week might keep your workouts more interesting, but persistence is key. Stick with the same program until the end, and then move on to something else.

### LACK OF PATIENCE

You're not going to reverse all the years of abuse you have inflicted on your body in just two weeks.

If having a killer body was easy, wouldn't everyone have one?

Start thinking of a permanent life style change, not just a two-week hit-and-run goal to get in shape for a friend's wedding or a high school reunion. Think about you and your health this time next year, not this time next month.



Don't hesitate, stop making excuses and don't be intimidated – get to the gym. Photo: NACDublin

### NOT TRACKING PROGRESS

I am pretty meticulous when it comes to tracking my clients' progress – it's a great motivator.

It's hugely beneficial to keep track of how much you have done week by week, and there is the added bonus of looking back after a month of hard work and realizing how far you have come and how much you've been able to accomplish.

### GETTING STUCK

Do not only concentrate on problem areas. Doing squats will not burn fat from around your bum, and ab exercises will not remove stomach fat.

Make sure that within one week, you have exercised your entire body equally. If you don't, you could end up with serious postural problems, muscle imbalances, and more.

### PROCRASTINATING

Don't hesitate, stop making excuses and don't be intimidated.

If you're really unsure about what to do, give me a call – let's start making things happen.

*Krix Luther is a fully qualified personal trainer with nearly a decade of experience specializing in strength and conditioning. For more information, visit [vitruvianmethod.com](http://vitruvianmethod.com)*

## Not so fast: Do not turn your back on coconut oil

THIS week, I read an article in the *Bangkok Post* that caught my attention. It was called "Coconut oil, the hype is not healthy: It is apparently the latest wonder food, but medical evidence does not back up the wild claims".

Although I agree with the featured dietician's tips for overall health, I think she misses the mark when it comes to coconut oil.

The article claims "like many other products with convincing yet too-good-to-be-true properties, coconut oil can be considered just another health trend."

Tell that to the many Asian and Pacific populations which have used coconuts as a staple for thousands of years, and see what they say. In ancient India, coconut is referred to as *kalpa vriksha*, which means "for the tree that supplies all that is needed to live".

Let's talk science. The article says, "there have so far been no medical studies or human trials to back up the hype." The health hype referred to here includes the "supposed ability to lower cholesterol and blood sugar levels, as well as help people lose weight."

On the contrary, it is not hard to find medical studies supporting these and many other benefits of consuming coconut oil.

First, in an article published in the *Clin Biochem Journal* in 2004, it is said that research "demonstrated the potential beneficial effect of virgin coconut oil in lowering lipid levels in serum and tissues, and LDL oxidation by physiological oxidants." This means that coconut oil has been

shown to have a positive effect on cholesterol levels.

How about weight loss?

A study out of Brazil titled "Effects of dietary coconut oil on the biochemical and anthropometric profiles of women presenting abdominal obesity" found that "it appears that dietetic supplementation with coconut oil does not cause dyslipidemia [which is an abnormal amount of cholesterol/fat] and seems to promote a reduction in abdominal obesity."

What about heart disease?

Widespread studies of coconut-consuming populations show that dietary coconut oil does not lead to high-serum cholesterol or to high coronary heart disease, mortality or morbidity, according to "Coconut oil consumption and coronary heart disease", which was published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

I continued with my research, and found articles that revealed coconut oil's anti-inflammatory properties, ability to treat drug-resistant epilepsy if consumed often and ability to fight infections.

I hope this prompts readers of any article to ask questions and do some research before forming an opinion. I am an advocate for the coconut and all the benefits of the fruits and its oils, and have founded this opinion in research.

– Craig Burton

*Craig Burton is a nutritional expert with more than 15 years of experience at the forefront of the health and well-being field. For more information, visit [vitruvianmethod.com](http://vitruvianmethod.com)*



## PHUKET PROVINCE

# HEROINES' MEMORIAL FESTIVAL 2015

### MARCH 7-15, THALANG HISTORICAL PARK

Enjoy a light and sound show describing the history of Thalang on March 13 – 15, starting at 8.30pm each night

**March 7**  
A group ordination of Buddhist monks will take place at Ketho Temple in Kathu, starting at 7.30am.

**March 8-11**  
Each day, there will be a historical tour in Thalang starting at 9am that includes:  
 1. Thalang National Museum  
 2. Wat Phra Nang Sang  
 3. Wat Phra Thong  
 4. Baan Thao Thep  
 5. Wat Muang Komaraphat  
 6. Thalang Victory Memorial, and other places

**March 8**  
At Thalang historical park will be a mini-marathon starting at 6am, and bicycle races starting at 11am.

**March 12**  
A worship gathering to pay respect to the ancestors of Thalang will be held at Wat Muang Komaraphat, starting at 9am.

**March 13**  
There will be a ceremony to honor Thao Thepkasattri and Thao Srisoonthorn and praise the bravery of the two sisters at Heroines' Monument at 9.09am.

**March 13-15**  
Each night at Thalang historical park, vendors will sell local foods and One Tambon One Product (OTOP) goods from 5pm, traditional performances will be on stage from 7pm until midnight, and a light and sound show describing the history of Thalang beginning at 8:30pm.



# Run Kiranee, run

## Local runner prepares for her next challenge: a 100km race

By Maciek Klimowicz

WHAT were your plans for last weekend? Did you see a girl running the 61km road distance from Rawai to Sarasin Bridge, rest assured her upcoming plans are fixed as well – she's preparing for her next long distance run.

Meet Kiranee Narabal, possibly Phuket's most passionate long-distance runner, whose love for her chosen sport has taken her for a 100km run around the island and... to New York.

Kiranee, owner of a nursery and kindergarten, CEO of an organization development consultancy and a well-known face in Phuket, is what they call "an active type". When she's not at work or doing extracurricular freelancing, she runs.

"I was always physically active and running was always a part of my training routine," she says, adding that it was two years ago when she started running more seriously, with simple fun runs of 5km or 6km. Having advanced to 10km and 15km runs, she eventually finished her first half-marathon during the Laguna Phuket International Marathon in 2013.

"The first full marathon I completed in Thailand was the Bangkok Marathon in 2013. Currently, my personal best is 4 hours 15 minutes, from a marathon in Rachaburi," she says.

But the 42,195 meters in a marathon is not enough for Kiranee, who soon will travel to Koh Chang for a 66km trail run, followed by another big trail run in Khao Yai.

"My next goal is completing a 100km race. I already covered this distance during my training in Phuket – it took me 18 hours with a short break," she says, paying no attention to my dropped jaw.



Kiranee Narabal recently took on the famed New York Marathon, before returning to Thailand for trail racing.

It's her love for long-distance running that took Kiranee outside of Phuket, where the running community is focused mainly on distances that are too short for her.

"I compete more outside of Phuket than in it. That is because people in Phuket mostly run short distances of 5-10km, and this is not challenging for me anymore," she explained.

"In Phuket, there is only one marathon and maybe two half-marathons a year, that's not

enough for me."

Judging from her last year's achievement, neither is running in Thailand. Kiranee is one of two people from Thailand who competed in the famed New York Marathon last year. The other person is her fiancée, Kerati Charoenwattanachai.

"I applied for the New York Marathon because it is the biggest of the World Marathon Majors, with over 50,000 people joining every year and more than one mil-

lion spectators along the route," Kiranee explains.

The application process is not a walk in the park, but keep in mind that we are dealing with a long-distance runner here. Kiranee tried entering twice with the open draw, but was unlucky. And as nobody in Thailand sends runners to the New York classic, she and her partner started looking abroad.

A few months later, they found an agency in Italy who took them in, and now she can add the New

York Marathon to the long list of races she has completed.

"The race was beyond my expectations. We ran through five New York districts and were cheered by spectators at every stage," Kiranee recalls.

"People come with different signs to cheer the runners on; some dress up, there are snacks along the route, and people run for different causes: their loved ones, for charities and so on.

"It's more than a race, it's a celebration of the city. The atmosphere is incredible."

One special moment during the New York Marathon left its mark on Kiranee: "Before we went to New York, we heard that it's the loudest race in the world, that you can always hear the supporters.

"I remember running across a bridge on which spectators aren't allowed, and in the middle of the bridge I could hear spectators from both behind me and in front – it was amazing.

"To attend a race like this is truly inspiring."

No wonder that this year Kiranee is planning to go back to New York, but not alone.

"This year we want to take more people with us," she said. "My goal is to promote this and bring more people in. Since we went to New York, we seem to have inspired many people to join us next time, and we already have five people from Thailand applying to take part in the New York Marathon in 2015."

Asked the one simple question that underscores all of her running achievements – why do it? Why deal with all the pain and discomfort of long distance running, and more than 20 big races a year? – Kiranee answers with a smile and simplicity: "I do it to complete the distance – that's it, that's the goal."

## Patong's bowling puts them on top against ICC

ISLAND Cricket Club (ICC) hosted Patong Cricket Club (PCC) at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) in Thalang last Sunday, kicking off the first game of March. ICC won the toss and sent Patong into bat, in playing conditions that were unexpectedly warm and dry.

Patong openers Imtiyaz Mustaq and Waseem Bhatt (50) compiled 95 runs in the first 16 overs until Mustaq was dismissed by Divan Mydeen, leg before wicket (LBW) for 36 runs. The second wicket fell 10 runs later when Bhatt was dismissed spooning an easy catch to Borker at mid wicket.

Justin Swart and Patrick Morton formed another solid partnership until Swart departed, bowled by the ICC captain Anand Chand. Yudi Ventrapatt chimed in, dismissing Stuart Hamilton (12) and the Patong

Captain Raju Seemant (6). Paddy Morton was looking good until he was run out by Pares Borker for 22.

Neil Quail (30) and Anthony Van Blerk (34) made an 80-run stand to finish the Patong 1st Innings undefeated after 40 overs, amassing 246 with a loss of 6 wickets. Sundries scored the second highest total of 46, of which 35 were wides, with many reaching the boundary rope, giving Patong 5 runs on each occasion.

ICC started strongly with D (Vicky) Mehra and J Mohammad opening. Mehra (4) went out in the sixth over with the wicket falling at 39. The following over Mohammad was dismissed for 33 leaving the ICC Captain Anand Chand at the crease to steady the run chase.

Seemant collected the next three ICC



Paddy Morton (Patong) is beaten by Yedu Ventrapatt's throw. Photo: Michael Way

wickets of Chand (14), Shah Ullah (9) and Ravi Naik (38). With Naik having made a valuable 45 run partnership with D Vaiganker, ICC were suddenly only 6 wickets down for 166 after only 25 overs.

Surinder Kumah (11) was retired from the game after being hit in the face by a spinning ball that came off the bowling of Seemant. He was taken to hospital with a

serious nose injury.

The rest of the ICC batsmen fell cheaply with the 1st innings closing at 9/166. Patong were therefore awarded the 1st Innings points.

Patong enforced the follow on, sending ICC back to the crease, with the goal of claiming 6 wickets in 11 overs for an outright win. ICC 2nd Innings ended at 2/40.

– Owen Pringle





Ferrari Formula One racing driver Kimi Raikkonen of Finland drives his car during pre-season testing at the Jerez racetrack in southern Spain. Photo: Reuters

# Ferrari F1 boss goes to crowd

By Alan Baldwin

FERRARI boss Maurizio Arrivabene has taken a provocative stance, before the Formula One season has even started, in response to rumors about a clampdown on access passes for teams.

Arrivabene, a marketing man who was appointed in November, sat with Ferrari's Mexican reserve driver Esteban Gutierrez and sporting director Massimo Rivola among spectators during testing in Barcelona.

"I heard that in Australia there will be more restrictions in terms of passes and I think this is not acceptable," he told report-

ers on Sunday, the final day of testing before the racing starts in Melbourne on March 15.

"So I said to the guys, 'Okay, if we are going to have a situation where the paddock is going to be empty, it's better if we start training to go to the people and we sit in the grandstands'."

"I have to say it was a good experience because the people were very well-educated, we were with our headphones following the test. They were respectful, asking for pictures. It was a good experience and I hope to have others like this."

The paddock, where teams have their lavish hospitality units and race engineers

pore over data while journalists rub shoulders with mechanics and VIPs, is the sport's closely-guarded inner sanctum.

Access to the fenced-off enclosure is by electronic pass, issued by commercial supremo Bernie Ecclestone's Formula One Management.

"It was a kind of provocation, but I love to do this kind of provocation," said Arrivabene. "I said we need to take Formula One close to the people. We were sitting in the middle of the people. And I don't like to see now and in the future the paddock empty, it's not the right way."

Arrivabene, whose team have one of the biggest budgets in the sport, said he had

wanted to make a statement.

"Nothing is decided yet, but we have certain communication that the number of passes is going to be reduced. Normally when you have certain rumors in Formula One, they become reality. So I sit in the stands before it is becoming reality," he declared.

"Exclusivity doesn't mean having an empty paddock. This is my clear statement.

"I don't play golf, but I watch it on television sometimes and it's one of the most exclusive sports. But when they play, you have thousands of people following the players. And this is not working against exclusivity of the sport."

— Reuters

## Tiger still meowing ahead of Masters

AS THE clock counts down for the April 9-12 Masters, fans, players and medical experts continue to speculate on whether a shockingly out-of-sorts Tiger Woods will be able to compete at the year's opening major.

Woods missed the Masters last year for the first time in his career after being advised by doctors to have back surgery and his participation in the 2015 edition is in serious doubt given his struggle for form and fitness this season.

The former world number one, whose ranking has stunningly slipped to 70th, has competed only twice on the 2014-15 PGA Tour and said that he would not return to the circuit until he felt his game was "tournament-ready".

Time, however, is not on his side should the 39-year-old be contemplating a comeback ahead of the Masters at Augusta National where he is a four-times champion.

Not only is his game in complete disarray, with some pundits



Tiger Woods is now ranked 70th in the world. Photo: Reuters

believing that he is suffering from the chipping "yips", but his troublesome back is still posing problems.

A winner of 14 major titles, Woods struggled dismally in his first two tournaments this year.

He posted the highest score of his professional career, while looking more like a struggling amateur than the greatest player of his generation, as he carded a mind-boggling 11-over-par 82 to miss the cut at the Phoenix Open last month.

— Reuters

## Live bait gets five Australian greyhound trainers banned

AUSTRALIAN officials have handed life bans to five greyhound trainers who used live animals as bait to train their dogs.

Officials in several Australian states launched probes into their local greyhound racing industries last month after a television expose showed leading trainers were secretly using possums, pigs and rabbits as live bait.

Footage on *Four Corners*, an investigative show on state broadcaster ABC, showed trainers tethering animals to mechanical lures to propel them around tracks in three Australian states, while dogs gave chase.

Clips showed dogs being allowed to attack and kill the animals on the lures and a possum snapped in half after being sent around the track at high speed dozens of times.

Five trainers in Queensland have been banned for life after a board meeting considered written and verbal appeals from them, the governing body Queensland Racing said in a statement.



Live-baiting has been banned in Australia for decades. Photo: Reuters

"As a board we determined the actions of these individuals proved they should not be considered fit and proper persons to continue to be involved in the greyhound industry," board chairman Kevin Dixon said in a statement.

"The conduct we saw from these people in the evidence provided to us is not only against the rules of greyhound racing, it is

deplorable by its very nature.

One trainer's case had been referred back to stewards, while another's had been adjourned to consider new evidence.

Live-baiting has been banned in Australia for decades, but some trainers still believe it will give their dogs an advantage when they race at the track chasing the artificial hare or rabbit. — Reuters



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\* Channels and schedules: See page 13, this issue of the Gazette.

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