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House of horror

Norwegian man confesses after decomposing body parts found in his basement

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE Norwegian man arrested on Tuesday after the decaying remains of a human body were found in his Phuket home has confessed to "accidentally killing" Rungnapa Suktong, his girlfriend of seven years.

Stein Havard Dokset, a 50-year-old retired car dealer from Oslo, Norway, on Wednesday confessed to officers at Chalong Police Station.

"I did it, but it was an accident," he said.

"We had an argument. She pushed me and then I pushed her, and she fell down the stairs. I checked her pulse and she was not breathing... I didn't know what to do. I was scared so I hid her body," he told police.

Mr Dokset was arrested at his house off Soi Koktanode in Kata on Tuesday night when officers from Crime Suppression Division,



Rungnapa Suktong

Sub Division 5, in Bangkok arrived in force along with Chalong Police and Phuket Provincial Police.

About 20 officers were involved in the raid, the *Phuket Gazette* was told.

The raid was coordinated after a tip-off from a Bangkok law firm who were working on a missing persons report filed by Mrs

Rungnapa's family in Surat Thani two years ago.

She was last seen a month before her family reported her as missing, said Pol Col Atip Tannin, superintendent of Crime Suppression Division Subdivision 5, who led the raid on the home.

Inside the downstairs bathroom, which was locked, police found a plastic trash bin belonging to Karon Municipality.

Inside the bin police found pieces of flesh and a hip bone they believed were human. The flesh was so decayed that police could not learn any more details about their gruesome discovery.

The officers immediately dispatched the remains to Surat Thani for autopsy on Tuesday night.

The results returned on Wednesday confirmed their fears: the flesh and bone were human.

The coroner in Surat Thani also reported that the decay of the re-



CONFESSED: 'I did it, but it was accident,' said Norwegian expat Stein Dokset.

main had been accelerated by some form of acid.

The coroner is now conducting DNA tests to confirm whether or not the remains are those of

Mrs Rungnapa, police said.

Police also found in the bathroom a woman's purse and one 9mm pistol with 58 bullets.

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Pregnant mum, Aussie model among six killed in motorbike crashes

By A Khamlo and W Withawat

A family of three died when their motor-cycle was hit by a pick-up truck at about 9:30pm on Tuesday. The accident occurred near the entrance to the Baan Wana housing estate on Srisoonthorn Road, about three kilometers west of the Heroines' Monument.

At the scene, Thalang Police found a crumpled motorbike and three bodies on the wet pavement.

Dead at the scene from multiple trauma injuries were 25-year-old Uttaradit native

Suphat Punted and a boy aged about nine or 10, presumed to be his son.

Kusoldharm Foundation workers performed CPR on the only survivor, a woman in her 20s presumed to be the wife of the late Mr Suphat. She was alive when she reached Thalang Hospital, but died shortly thereafter. A preliminary examination of the body by medical staff found the woman was six or seven months pregnant.

Nearby the motorbike was a Nissan pick-up on its side.

Police found the driver, a man in his 40s, among the crowd gathered at the

scene. Sensing the potential for danger among the growing crowd of locals who braved the rain to view the accident scene, they took the man into custody for his own protection as well as initial charging.

The driver did not flee the scene.

Thalang Police initially suspect that the driver of the motorbike, presumed to have been Mr Suphat, may have been at fault for pulling out of a side soi too quickly for the truck to brake in time.

No crash helmets were found at the scene, rescue workers said.

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Mother, father, son and unborn child were killed in the motorbike accident.

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Rohingya deported

IMMIGRATION officials have confirmed that the Rohingya who landed on Nai Harn Beach on the morning of February 26 were returned to Burma.

Phuket Immigration Office Superintendent Panuwat Ruamrak said that all 90 taken into custody, including four boys aged 13, were Burmese and were detained at Chalong Police Station before being transferred to Ranong.

Ranong Immigration officer told the *Phuket Gazette*, "They arrived at Ranong Immigration Office the day after landing and have already been deported to Burma."

Chalong Police rounded up 90 of the starving Rohingya boat people who came ashore, but believed up to 12 more escaped in-land.

The Rohingya, all males, were on their way to Malaysia when they ran out of food and their wooden boat began to fall apart at sea, forcing them to come ashore at Nai Harn Beach before dawn. Their arrival was quickly reported to patrol police, who rounded up the men in separate groups of about 30, each in different parts of Nai Harn in Rawai.

Penniless, disoriented and unable to speak Thai, most of the men could do little but wait for their inevitable capture by police. Those captured were sent to



Rohingya refugees at Chalong Police Station. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Chalong Police Station, where they gulped down drinking water and devoured fried chicken, bananas and sticky rice provided by the officers.

Communication with the men was a problem. One of their number, the only one who could speak Burmese, told police through an interpreter that they had set off 12 days ago in hope of reaching Malaysia.

The man said there were 102 people in the open boat, meaning

that 12 remain unaccounted for.

The group ran out of food and water three days ago, the man said. Thirst, hunger and problems with the wooden vessel forced them ashore short of their goal. The landing was sadly reminiscent of a similar beaching a year ago, when 70 Rohingya were rounded up and eventually deported.

Their boat, about fifteen meters long and five meters across, appeared to have broken in half as it hit the beach.

Phuket Provincial Court launches night hearings

FACED with thousands of unresolved cases, Phuket Provincial Court launched a "night court" service on February 21 in an effort to reduce the backlog.

Phuket Court Acting Chief Justice Audthakarn Foojaroen and fellow justices have announced the night court hours, Monday to Friday from 4:30pm to 8:30pm.

The night court will hear two civil and petty criminal cases per day, and as many as 20 consumer complaint cases.

Four mediators will be on duty to try and settle disputes before they reach the courtroom floor, Justice Audthakarn said.

The Court will also begin hearing 10 cases daily on Saturdays and Sundays, starting this weekend.

These will include criminal cases, as well as civil cases involving property and inheritance disputes. The Court will hear the first five cases in a morning session starting at 9am, then adjourn until the afternoon session that begins at 1:30pm.

The unprecedented move stems from the fact that although Phuket already has the highest per capita litigation rate of any province in the south of Thailand, the increase in the number of new cases continues to grow.

Aussie model and five others killed in motorbike accidents

Continued from page 1

On Saturday Lana O'Connell, a model from Australia's Gold Coast, was killed when the motorbike she was driving struck a motorbike with sidecar on Patak Road in Chalong at about 3:30am.

The impact caused the bike to veer across the centerline and collided with a motorbike coming in the opposite direction. Three others suffered minor injuries, including Ms O'Connell's partner Kenneth Trivett. Ms O'Connell was not wearing a crash helmet, rescue workers said.

A day earlier, Suphakit

Phachonroongrote, 17, was returning from his school when he lost control of his motorbike and hit the back of a pickup truck parked by the side of Srisoonthorn Road. The youth, not wearing a helmet, died instantly from the impact, rescue workers said.

Late on Sunday night, 40-year-old Phichit Masmalai was killed instantly when his motorbike slammed into a utility pole on Thepkrasattri Road in Koh Kaew, opposite the Isuzu showroom.

Rescue workers said there was no evidence that another vehicle was involved. Mr Phichit, an employee of the Sunwing Resort in



Lana O'Connell and Ken Trivett

Kamala, was wearing a low-cost safety helmet that cracked during the crash. He died of head trauma, rescue workers said.



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Two Swedish Gripen fighter jets like these conducted flyovers over Phuket this week. Photo: Nation file

Fighter jets over Phuket

THE Royal Thai Air Force conducted high-speed flyovers of Phuket Town on Tuesday and Wednesday this week in order to test its radar installation atop the large hill Khao Mai Thao Sip Song, the island's highest point, in Chalong.

Following reports by concerned residents in Phuket Town, the *Gazette* contacted the Phuket Air Traffic Control center run by Aerothai at Phuket International Airport.

A staff member there told the *Gazette* that the aircraft taking part in the exercises were pairs of Gripen fighters based in Surat Thani province.

The flyovers were conducted early Tuesday afternoon and again between 9:30 and 10am on Wednesday, he said.

– Stephen Fein

Pregnant teenage Australian beaten, robbed by ladyboys

By Atchaa Khamlo

A PREGNANT Australian teenager was beaten and robbed by four ladyboys in Patong in the early hours of February 22.

The victim, 19-year-old "Bonnie May", asked that only her nickname be used out of fear or reprisal by the gang of ladyboys. They attacked her for no reason after she asked them for directions, she said.

"At about 1am I was walking alone back to my hotel from Soi Bangla and tried to make a shortcut through a small alley.

"I saw four ladyboys and I asked them the way to the main road. They were yelling something I did not understand, so I asked them again the way to the main road.

"Then they started to attack me, punching my arm, hitting my face, pulling my hair and kicking my back. I cried out that I was pregnant, but they did not listen. They kept attacking me. They were also touching my vagina and kicking my belly. They took my bag, which had an iPhone and camera inside, and pulled my gold ring off my finger," she said.

She had no cash on her at the



The attack occurred in a dark street near Soi Bangla. Photo: Gazette file

time of the attack, Bonnie said.

"Three of them attacked me while the fourth was a lookout, telling people to keep away. There were a few people around, but nobody came to help," she added.

"They tried to cover my mouth to keep me quiet. Every time I made a noise they would slap my face, so I stopped moving, pretending I had given up. Then they kicked me a few times before running away," she said.

After the attack she rushed to the hotel where she was staying with her 24-year-old boyfriend. Bonnie said she could not remember the name of the street where the attack took place, but a source familiar with the case told the *Gazette* that it was near a popular nightclub on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road near the intersection at the east end of Soi Bangla.

Asked why she was walking alone at the time, she said she

went to meet someone on Soi Bangla while her boyfriend stayed at the hotel with a friend. "Our hotel is not far from Soi Bangla," she said.

The couple arrived at Patong Hospital at about 3:30pm the next day. An ambulance then transported Bonnie to Bangkok Hospital Phuket in Phuket Town.

Bonnie's greatest fear was that kicks to her stomach could have injured her unborn baby.

"They kicked my belly, and my belly did not move all day after that," she said.

Once the medical checkup was complete, Bonnie said her next stop would be Patong Police Station to file a complaint against her assailants.

"I can identify all four of them, especially the tall, skinny leader, who had long hair and a protruding jaw," she said.

Bonnie said she didn't think she would ever return to Phuket.

After a 40-minute evaluation by a hospital physician, Bonnie emerged from the examination with her boyfriend. "The fetus is fine and we are going to have a baby girl," she said, smiling.

Norwegian expat confesses to killing ex-girlfriend

From page 1

A check of the registered owner of the gun confirmed that it belonged to Mrs Rungnapa.

Police officers then scoured the house for more clues, including a pump room. Believing that more remains might have been hidden in the septic tank, police ordered for the tank to be emptied.

A search of the tank's contents, however, revealed nothing other than the obvious.

Parichat Sriraksa, a 30-year-old cousin of Mrs Rungnapa, told the

Gazette that Mrs Rungnapa worked as a maid in Patong.

"She was Mr Dokset's girlfriend for seven years. They lived together in his house for six years," she said.

Mrs Rungnapa left Mr Dokset and started a relationship with a new boyfriend, a police officer in Patong. The policeman – who police at the time of going to press had yet to name – and Mrs Rungnapa married and had one son, but Mrs Rungnapa sent her son to stay with her family in Surat Thani, Miss Parichat explained.

Mrs Rungnapa, who on marriage stopped using her maiden name Ratsombat and assumed her policeman husband's family name Suktong, was reported missing one month after she left Mr Dokset, which was more than two years ago, said Miss Parichat.

"Rungnapa had two other sons, 12 and 14 years old. Both those sons are from her marriage from before she met Mr Dokset or the policeman," she said.

Those sons and more than 10 relatives from Surat Thani were at the house on Wednesday.

"We reported to the Patong Police before about Rungnapa missing," Miss Parichat said.

"We always suspected that she was murdered. We saw blood stains in her car when the bank came to repossess it after no payments were made since she went missing," she added.

"Patong police promised to take care of the case, but they didn't really take any action. So we decided to ask for help from the media and everyone we could possibly get. Finally we got Crime Suppression Division to help find my cousin," Miss Parichat said.



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Honorary Consuls go through the motions

By Stephen Michael Fein

JET-ski scams, noise pollution in Patong and real estate rip-offs topped the issues raised by honorary consuls during their quarterly meeting with Phuket government officers on Monday.

The meeting was chaired by Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa, the first-ever person to chair the meeting in English.

The consuls' meeting was the first to be attended by a member of the United States diplomatic mission in Thailand, US Consulate-General Elizabeth Pratt.

Australian Consul Larry Cunningham raised the recurring problem of jet-ski scams with new Phuket Provincial Police Commander Chonasi Wattanavrangkul, who was also attending his first consuls' meeting.

Mr Cunningham asked the new commander if he was aware of jet-ski scams that include operators demanding compensation for pre-existing damage below the



US Consulate-General Elizabeth Pratt (left) and Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa, both attending their first honorary consul meeting.

water-line that is not visible to the eye when the jet-skis are rented out offshore.

When the renters return the jet-skis to shore they are shown scratches and, in some cases, surrounded by as many as 20 "thugs" who intimidate them into agreeing to pay, Mr Cunningham said.

Maj Gen Chonasi said he was well aware of the situation after discussing it with the Phuket Governor. It was his understanding

that most of the problems came from operators who did not take out insurance, he said.

Speaking through an interpreter, Maj Gen Chonasi said police "only have the power to enforce the law and look after tourists", but that they were often called upon to negotiate compensation agreements between renters and operators.

It was the responsibility of the local Marine Department Office to ensure that all jet-skis carried insurance, he said.

Both Mr Cunningham and British Honorary Consul Martin Carpenter raised the issue of uninsured jet-skis operating at both Surin and Laem Singh beaches, where current zoning regulations prohibit their use.

Phuripat Theerakulpisut, Chief of Phuket's Marine Office 5, told the consuls that the jet-ski insurance scheme had "solved the problem already", but that some ministerial regulations still needed to be amended so that the scheme could be better enforced.

Elephant

By Atchaa Khamlo and Warisa Temram

TWO baby elephants seized in Phuket on Monday will be sent to an elephant reserve in the Northern Thailand province of Lampang.

The transfer of the two male baby elephants – Popeye and Joey – follows officials from Bangkok arriving in Phuket earlier this month to investigate the origins of three baby elephants in Phuket.

On Monday, Popeye was seized at the ATV Sea View On Tour elephant camp on the hill to Phuket's famed Big Buddha image and Joey was taken into custody at the elephant camp operated by Laguna Excursions Ltd in Cherng Talay.

The two infant males were taken to Khao Phra Taew wildlife reserve in Thalang, where they will be kept until they are transferred to the TECC in Lampang.

Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) Chief Damrong Phidej and assistant national police chief Chalermkiat Sirworakan arrived at the ATV Sea View On Tour on Monday evening to oversee the taking of Popeye into custody.

Both Popeye and Joey were both "rented" from the Pang Chang Sai Yok Elephant Park in Kanchanaburi, said Chief Damrong.

Popeye's mother was seized by DNP officials in a raid on the Sai Yok camp earlier this month and transferred to Lampang province along with 19 other elephants at the camp. Officials said that the camp did not have any documents to prove ownership of the animals.

"Subsequent investigation revealed that Popeye was rented out for one year, starting last August," said Mr Damrong, showing the actual rental contract to the Gazette reporter.

"Joey was also a rented out by the Sai Yok camp for one year. He

is the son of Pang Nong Paeng, who was also seized from the Sai Yok camp.

"The camp could not provide the identification cards for the mothers of Popeye or Joey, which indicates that the mothers were wild elephants. That would also classify the two baby elephants as wild," he added.

Meanwhile, investigations into the legality of the baby elephant at the Phuthai Souvenir Market in Chalong, one of the baby elephants investigated in the February 11 raids, have yet to conclude.

"They have the correct documents for the baby's mother, but we are still waiting for DNA tests to confirm whether or not the mother and the baby elephant are related," said Metee Meechai, director DNP's Wildlife Preservation Division for Region 5, based in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

Investigators will return to the four camps under investigation – Laguna Excursions Ltd in Cherng Talay, ATV Sea View On Tour in Chalong, Siam Safari in Chalong and At Hill Adventure Tour in Chalong – on March 16.

"The four camps have 37 elephants in total. They have until March 16 to prepare the correct documents," said Chief Damrong.

"All four places we investigated were very cooperative. I have no problem with them renting elephants to show at their camps. But if there is no evidence to prove that the elephants are not legally registered, we have no choice but to seize them," he added.

However, Mr Metee warned, "If the camp owners do not have the right documents for the elephants, they will be punished and the elephants will also be handed over to the TECC."

Legal prosecution will left to the local authorities to pursue, explained DNP officer Tassanes Petkong.

Present at Monday's raids were officers from Chalong Police and



Amnard Soikiew, director of the Forestry Department's Protection and Suppression Division in Bangkok, threatened legal action over land titles.

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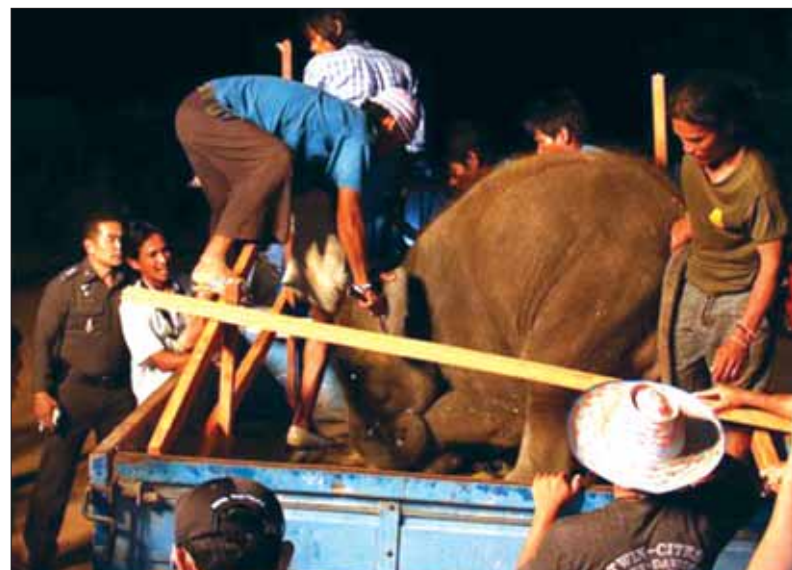
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'babies for rent' seized



Popeye, one of the main attractions at the ATV Sea View On Tour elephant camp, was deemed as an elephant taken from wild as his mother was not registered. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo



The distressing scene as Popeye is taken into custody. Photo: Warisa Temram

the Phuket Tourist Police. Col Watcharin Phusin, the superintendent of the regional Natural Resources and Environment Crime Suppression Division, told the *Gazette* that anyone found guilty in the investigation will get up to four years in jail, a 40,000 baht fine, or both, in accordance with Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act.

Pressuring the Phuket elephant

camp with further scrutiny were Phuket Forestry Department officers, who on Monday seized logs cut from protected trees on the hillside above the ATV Elephant Camp.

"We also found a backhoe at the site, but we did not find any workers on the hill, so we will work with Chalong Police to find the suspects," said Amnard Soikiew,

the director of the Forestry Department's Protection and Suppression Division in Bangkok.

His department is also investigating the land titles for the sites occupied by the ATV camp, Siam Safari and At Hill Adventure Tours.

"According to our investigation, the owner of the ATV camp has only a *SorPorKor* document [for

the land in question], which was issued after the camp was established," Mr Amnard said.

SorPorKor documents, which are issued by the Forestry Department, allow the holder to use the land for agricultural purposes only.

"Meanwhile, the owners of Siam Safari and At Hill Adventure Tours do not have the right docu-

ments to prove they own the land. Their case will be sent to the court. If they claim the land belongs to them, they can prove it to the court," Mr Amnard said.

"If they are found to have no rights to the land, they will have to vacate the property," he said.

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Beer Garden gutted by fire



The remains of Kamala Beer Garden after the fire.

THE owners of a beer garden that went up in flames in Phuket on February 26 are denying rumors that the blaze was set by a disgruntled former employee.

It took six fire engines about an hour to extinguish the fire that gutted the Kamala Beer Garden on the main road through Kamala.

Owners Chollada Nakballang, 31, and her Canadian boyfriend Greg Layton, 51, were asleep in a room upstairs in an adjacent house when they smelled smoke and tried to scramble to safety.

They found themselves trapped inside as a metal roll-up security door downstairs became stuck.

Ms Chollada was able to escape over a wall and Mr Layton escaped when a neighbor managed to tear away part of the metal door, creating an escape hole.

Phet Somnongwa, a 50-year-old masseuse at the nearby, said it took about 30 minutes for the first firefighters to arrive.

Mr Layton reviewed closed-circuit television images that clearly showed sparks from a nearby utility pole starting the fire.

The couple bought the beer garden about a month ago and did not have any insurance to cover the cost of the damages, which they estimated at about four to five million baht, they said.

Needed: emergency break for chicken and sticky rice

A TAXI driver from Khao Lak, the coastal tourist town in Phang Nga to the north of Phuket, this morning found his chicken and sticky rice too tasty to remember to put his handbrake on.

The result: his Honda Civic took a plunge into the reservoir behind Phuket Rajabhat University.

"I often come to Phuket to visit my brother, who lives here," said Saner Gidjagarn, originally from Ao Luek, Krabi.

"We bought fried chicken and sticky rice to eat in the car. I switched off the engine and left the windows open, but I didn't pull on the handbrake," he explained.

By the time the brothers noticed the car

was moving, it was rolling too quickly to stop it from plunging into the reservoir.

"We both decided to jump out before it went into the water," he added.

The car came to rest about 20 meters from the bank – upside down.

Rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation, notified of the incident at about 10am, arrived soon after to retrieve the car – much to the delight of the crowd that had gathered to watch the rescue operation unfold.

After about 20 minutes, by using a tow cable and brute manpower to turn the vehicle right way up, rescue workers managed to retrieve the vehicle.

– Warisa Temram



A crowd gathered to watch as the car was recovered from the water. Photo: Warisa Temram

Wheelchairs to tricycles

Rotary donations help mobilize disabled from Phuket to Phang Nga

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE lives of nine disabled people from Phuket and Phang Nga took a turn for the better on February 23 when they were given high-tech wheelchair "pullers" donated by local and international chapters of Rotary International.

The handover ceremony, at Queen Sirikit Park, was presided over by Sanguan Kunaporn, head of the Rotary Club of Tongkah and a nominee for the governorship of Rotary District 3300.

Dr Sanguan, a world-renowned surgeon, said the handover was part of a larger 1.2-million-baht project to provide a total of 40 similar units to people unable to walk.

The pullers, designed by Thammasat University engineering professor Dr Banyong Rungruengduayboon, effectively turn the users' original wheelchairs into tricycles that can reach speeds of up to 20 kilometers per hour and run for up to



14-year-old Nitcharee Pen-eakchanasak was one the recipients of a "puller". Inset: wheelchair and puller. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

three hours on a single charge.

When not needed, the 30,000-baht devices can be easily detached and folded up for transport by car.

Also funding the project were the Rotary Foundation (USD 19,600) and Rotary District 6060 (USD 8,000) in Eastern Missouri, USA.

Dr Sanguan said candidates to

receive the devices are those who do not have the ability to walk, but retain upper body strength.

"There are about 250 disabled people who are needlessly immobilized in Phuket," he said.

"The devices will greatly increase their ability to travel outside," Dr Sanguan added.

Praying lizard crashes life-renewal ceremony

A NINE-INCH gecko is the talk of the town in a village in the Northern province of Phayao this week – not for its size, which isn't exactly unusual, but for its piety.

On Monday, one of the village families invited a monk to their home to hold a Buddhist ceremony of renewal.

The ceremony was interrupted halfway through – when villagers noticed the gecko hanging from a beam on the ceiling of the house's porch.

Its front claws were pressed together in front of its chest – the traditional pose Thais adopt at religious ceremonies.

Khampan Suyata, 74, the owner of the house, said the whole family had gathered in the house at 7am for a life-renewal ritual in honor of himself and his 61-year-old wife Sri Suyata.

While carrying out the ceremony, they heard a clamor coming from



downstairs and ran down to find the unusual lizard.

The monk declared that the bizarre show of piety from the creature showed that the household was lucky.

Villagers who had come to join the ceremony said that just as the monk was sprinkling holy water on the heads of those taking part, they noticed that the gecko was stretching its neck out too.

With its back legs, the nine-inch lizard gripped a beam on the ceiling of the porch. It was holding its front legs in front of its chest in a prayer-like pose.

– OkayNation.net

Ex-security guard pushed over the edge by ghosts

A FORMER security guard fell 10 floors to his death from his home after claiming he was being haunted and possessed by ghosts.

Khathayut Sukhlum, 36, was fired from his job in Bangkok about three months prior to his death.

His broken body was discovered around 10am on February 17.

Witnesses said Mr Khathayut lost his job after his behavior became increasingly strange. He used to shake uncontrollably and say he was possessed.

Three days before his death he stood in front of the block shaking and telling passersby he had been possessed by a child's spirit.

Officers from Hua Mark Police Station have yet to establish the reason for Mr Khathayut's death.

Among the theories put forward is that he was being pursued by ghosts and leapt from the balcony to escape them.

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Charter rewrite geenlighted

PARLIAMENT last week voted to establish a Constitution Drafting Assembly (CDA) to amend the current charter, a move many analysts believe could reignite the political conflict that has divided Thailand over the last half decade.

The ruling Pheu Thai Party is moving to rewrite the 2007 Constitution, which was approved in a referendum, but drafted during the rule of the military junta that ousted Thaksin Shinawatra in a coup in 2006.

Pheu Thai says the current charter is "undemocratic", while the opposition Democrat Party claims the party only wants to rewrite the Constitution to benefit Mr Thaksin, who lives abroad to escape a two-year prison sentence for corruption.

Mr Thaksin claims the 2008 conviction was politically motivated. The ruling party is expected to push for clauses that would absolve all participants in the recent political conflict of any convictions - a change critics claim is intended to allow Mr Thaksin to



return to Thailand a free man.

Following two days of debate, the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament on February 24 jointly voted in favor of three bills that would allow the establishment of a CDA to rewrite the constitution.

"I hope the charter rewrite will heed the people's voice and meet their aspirations, leading to social acceptance and peace," said Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

The CDA will be comprised of 77 popularly elected provincial drafters and 22 elected by Parliament. The opposition claims the Pheu Thai Party, which controls Parliament, will fill the body with its own members.

Among the clauses of the Constitution that Pheu Thai will likely want to remove are those that spe-

cifically absolve the 2006 coup-makers of any wrongdoing.

Also likely to be targeted is a clause that allows the judiciary to dissolve any political party whose executives are found to have broken electoral laws.

The clause was used by Constitutional Court judges to dissolve both the Thai Rak Thai and People Power parties.

The Pheu Thai party has voiced criticism of the referendum on the 2007 charter, carried out while much of the country was under martial law. The ruling junta used government money to fund a vast propaganda campaign to promote the draft, while passing a law making it a criminal act to criticize it.

Many analysts believe the fresh redraft process could reignite violent political conflicts which Thailand has suffered since long before Thaksin's ouster.

"The military is increasingly alarmed over moves by the government to reduce its role, trim its influence and seed the senior command structure with Thaksin



Mr Thaksin holds a video conference with his supports in October of 2009. Photo: The Nation

loyalists," risk consultancy PSA Asia wrote in a client note, as reported by Bloomberg.

"The civilian government in turn remains chronically fearful of

a coup that could occur suddenly and perhaps violently to remove it from power. The chances for miscalculation remain alarmingly high," the report noted.



Police officer in Bangkok examining the "SEJEAL" stickers thought to be connected to the Bangkok bombing. Photo: The Nation

Third suspect in Bangkok bombing faces questioning

THAI police are questioning a third Iranian man in connection with bomb blasts in Bangkok earlier this month that blew the legs off one suspected plotter and injured several Thais.

Madani Seyed Mehrded, one of three suspects arrested last week, remains in Immigration Police custody for overstaying his visa.

A couple, identified as Rahimi Radiraj and Mahbub Tasbehi, were released after questioning revealed they had no links to the blasts.

In addition, Saeib Morabi, who lost his legs, is still in hospital, while Mohammad Hazai, 42, is also in police custody.

Masoud Seda Ghatzadeh is now held by police in Malaysia, pending likely extradition to Thailand. Suspected bomb-maker Javad Nikkahfard is on the run and Rohanni Laila, suspected as being responsible for logistics, has reportedly returned to Iran.

Last Sunday evening, police raided the Nasa Vegas condominium in Bangkok's Hua Mark area, result-

ing in the three most recent arrests.

Thai media reported that call logs showed Mr Mehred, 33, had been in regular contact with the two suspects already in custody.

Police continue to investigate a series of mysterious stickers bearing the word "SEJEAL" that were found stuck on structures along a 1.5km route in Central Bangkok.

The media has speculated that the stickers, which were also found at the suspects' house in Ekkamai, were to be used to mark a route or identify points to attack.

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Charlem claims ill, not drunk

CONTROVERSIAL Deputy Prime Minister Charlem Yoobamrung is once again in the limelight, this time over allegations he was drunk during a parliamentary debate.

Mr Charlem responded to the accusations from the opposition Democrat Party by claiming he was suffering from an "inner-ear problem" that made him sway as if intoxicated.

He also threatened to sue four newspapers that also made the claims, which surrounded his performance at the debate over constitutional amendments on the evening of February 24.

Mr Charlem admitted he had been to a wedding reception beforehand, but claimed he had only had a couple of drinks.

The MP said he would be more than glad to answer to

parliamentary ethics panel.

During the debate, Mr Charlem interrupted a 10-minute speech by opposition leader Abhisit Vejjajiva to claim he had breached Code 43 of the parliamentary regulations by talking about an issue irrelevant to the debate.

"If I were drunk, would I have known the specific code?" he asked.

Democrat MP Rangsim Rodrassamee, however, claimed he was indeed intoxicated.

Mr Charlem filed defamation complaints with police against *Thai Rath*, *Thai Post*, *Naew Na* and *Siam Rath* newspapers to defend his reputation.

Mr Charlem said he would withdraw the complaint against *Thai Rath* if it clarified that the accusations came from Mrs Rangsim and not the paper.



Mr Charlem suffered an ear affliction during the debate. Photo: The Nation

Pheu Thai MP Pajit Sriworakhan, chairman of the committee on House affairs, said the committee would consider Mr Rangsim's proposal of introducing alcohol check equipment at the Parliament.

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Seeing the elephant in the room

THE United Nations estimates that the human population of planet Earth quietly surpassed the seven billion mark last October. As a result, humankind is putting ever more pressure on the environment that sustains us. In the process, we are also driving many other animal species into extinction, some before they are even recognized by science.

Few places on the planet could serve as a better showcase for the demise of native wildlife than Thailand, and Phuket is a particularly good example.

Recent events involving the country's national symbol, the elephant, have once again cast the international spotlight on Thailand, reinforcing its well-deserved reputation as an international laughing stock when it comes to wildlife preservation.

The raid earlier this month of a sanctuary for abused wildlife run by the Wildlife Friends of Thailand (WFFT) in Phetchaburi is a good case in point.

The raid followed a letter to the media by WFFT founder Edwin Wiek in which he challenged authorities to do their jobs by checking DNA records of baby elephants at tourist-oriented elephant camps to ensure they were properly registered as domestic.

His actions have already resulted in two unregistered baby elephants in Phuket slated for reunion with mothers, but his exposure of the issue also resulted in an unexpected backlash. His center was raided two weeks later by some 70 park rangers, including some in balaclavas, who removed many animals, including primates.

Although it may be a coincidence, the National Research Council of Thailand shortly thereafter announced its plan to establish the country's first "National Primate Research Center", a breeding facility in Saraburi costing 1.8bn baht. The research will have little to do with conservation. The stated objective is to provide subjects for medical testing of products based on Thai traditional medicines that researchers would eventually like to sell to a wider market.

The very idea of "wild elephant smuggling" would be comical if it weren't for the overwhelmingly sad reality that the multi-layered corruption of politicians, government officials and "influential figures" is allowing it to happen at a rate of up to 250 baby elephants a year, according to Mr Wiek's estimates.

It is hard to imagine a more difficult object to "smuggle" through a police or immigration checkpoint than a living, breathing pachyderm. Even a newborn like Pang Saifon, born in Rawai on Tuesday, hit the ground weighing 75 kilograms.

As it is inconceivable that elephants could somehow be smuggled onto the island through the Tah Chat Chai Police checkpoint, the only conclusion is that the relevant local officials know exactly what is going on with the elephants working on Phuket, but have done little to prevent enforce the regulations.



Working for migrant workers

Re: Gazette online, *Illegal Phuket migrant workers get five-month reprieve, February 23*

Thank you for your always comprehensive coverage of migrant workers issues.

I wonder, however, why the headline refers to "illegal" workers when in fact the migrant workers in question are registered workers and therefore have done nothing illegal.

Indeed, as a migrant rights advocate group, we do hope that the use of the term illegal migrants can be avoided in all circumstances. They may have crossed the borders without any documents, but they themselves are not illegal. The use of this term feeds into the perception that migrants are dangerous and can be treated differently.

As the many employers, tourists and consumers in Phuket will know, migrant workers are an essential part of the economy and should also be able to be part of the social and cultural fabric of Phuket and treated with respect and dignity.

Jackie Pollock, MAP Foundation
Chiang Mai

Confirming justice

Re: Gazette online, Five dead, 16 injured in Phang Nga crash, February 20

It would be informative to know the eventual sentences that follow charges for culpable driving. I don't recall seeing any sentencing report, for instance, for the truck running a red light at the Tesco Lotus intersection and killing a young girl maybe six months ago. A summary of the incident, numbers killed, whether the driver ran away and eventual sentence would either confirm suspicions or maybe surprise us. Maybe.

Benvenuto
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

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

Haggle hater

Re: Gazette online, *Phuket tourist cheats spark foreign diplomat intervention, February 23*

I love photography. I wanted to buy a newer and bigger camera bag when I was in Central Festival. I was at a shop called Big Camera I wanted to buy a LowPro camera bag. In Big Camera the bag was priced at 3,200 baht.

Just outside the shop at one of the phone stalls, not 10 meters away, they had the exact same bag with no price. I asked the assistant how much for the bag, 5,300 baht she said – who do you think got my business? Welcome to Phuket.

Clickblade
Gazette forum

Losing that Alpine freshness

My friends and I (a group of seven) are big Phuket fans. We've been coming here every two years to play golf. Aside from golf, we like to cruise around the whole island on motorbikes. But this time we're going home with only one impression: garbage, garbage, garbage! From Kamala through Patong, Karon, Kata and Rawai back to Patak Road. There's plastic everywhere. We don't remember Phuket being like.

I'm sure there are enough Phuket fans like us who are concerned, so thank you for posting this issue and not dumping it into the garbage!

Heinz Schmidt
Switzerland

Seeing red

Re: Gazette online, *Red light confusion ends in Phuket pickup sideswipe, February 24*

"The Phuket Gazette reminds drivers to always check the rear-view mirror when preparing to brake quickly for a red light." Are you kidding me? How about reminding drivers that a red light means you are supposed to stop. And maybe to always check in front of you so you do not run into vehicles obeying the law.

Buzz from Vegas
Gazette forum

Bad apples

Re: Gazette online, *Pregnant Aussie teenager beaten, robbed in Phuket ladyboy attack, February 23*

As a Thai, I am really sorry to hear about this. I hope she knows that Thai people are not generally like that. You just met the wrong people in the wrong place. Even though we are locals we wouldn't walk around at night in an alley like that. I hope she has a speedy recovery and isn't too frightened to come back to Phuket. It is a beautiful place.

ss
Gazette forum

Take-away for 90 please

Re: Gazette online, *Phuket Police round up Rohingya refugees in Nai Harn, February 26*

I'm impressed and very happy to hear that the Chalong Police treated the Rohingya to plenty of good food and water. I can't imagine what these people have faced, and a little humanity can go a long way – well down Men in Brown.

Tiny Swift
Patong

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Giving back to an island community

FIRST PERSON

I GOT a job at the Phuket City Municipality water treatment plant when I moved down here. It didn't take long for my job to become a routine and I knew I needed something new to make my life worth living.

I figured out how to kill my boredom when I took a training course on firefighting provided by the Civil Defense Volunteer unit. After that one course, I signed up for more courses and finally I decided to be part of the unit.

I wish everyone could take part in charity work, but I know everyone is different. For those who can afford to make generous donation, they could just do that. As long as you are giving something back to society that's good enough.

I can't afford to make big monetary donations, but I can, and I want to, devote all my time to my volunteer work.

By nature I like to help others. Even before I got my training I helped a lot of people who were in road accidents. But before the class I wasn't properly trained, so I didn't know how to really help them – all I could do to help was call an ambulance or the police and help direct traffic.



Arnon Chuenchom, 44, is originally from Nakhon Si Thammarat. He moved to Phuket in 1993 with his wife. He came to here to work and earn a better living for himself and his family, but he is now dedicating all of his free time to helping people on the island as a Civil Defense Volunteer.

There is no income, no employee benefits and no compensation for what we do as Civil Defense Volunteers, but we have the opportunity to help people and make a difference in their lives. Being altruistic like this is important. Just knowing that the people we helped are safe makes me happy.

My main job at the water treatment plant is a shift job, which means sometime I start work in the morning, sometimes in the afternoon and sometimes in the evenings, but no matter when I finish work, I always make time to carry out my responsibilities as a volunteer.

The Phuket City Municipality Civil Defense Volunteers are going to launch a 'rapid rescue' team. I am one of the people with enough training to qualify for the team. Once the budget for the unit is approved, I will volunteer to convert my own truck into a res-

cue truck.

My family doesn't understand why I do the volunteer work. They are always asking me why I do it if there is no money. I have explained to them that money doesn't always pay for happiness.

Helping people who are in need brings much more happiness than money.

We may not have as much authority as the other government units, but we are still public servants and do good work for the public. I am proud of my work because I am able to help people and because I get to be part of something bigger than myself.

I have two sons, one is 13 years old and the other is nine years old. I am teaching them about the importance of being a volunteer. Anyone can be a Civil Defense Volunteer, so when my sons are 18 years old I will have them apply to join the team. I want them to do charity work so they can know how great a feeling it is to help someone and expect nothing in return.

Helmets: a documentary

A FEW weeks ago over breakfast, I was discussing with a friend the reoccurring argument over which group of motorbike riders wears helmets the least, Thais or foreigners?

Talk to a policeman and he'll tell you its the tourists. Speak with the expats and many will cite the young Thais as the worst offenders. Whichever side one takes it's obvious to most that the statistics are fundamentally flawed due to the method of testing. Figures would appear to be compiled by police manning occasional check points along major roads. The savvy non-helmet wearing community often have enough warning of the impending check to don their anti-fine protection or perform a nonchalant u-turn thus avoiding the rat-trap.

In the interest of science, we decided to conduct an experiment while having breakfast. Armed with the latest G3 smart technogadget my co-conspirator captured five minutes of traffic passing us along Sai Yuan Road near Da Vinci.

In that time 61 motorbikes passed, 62 if you count the blond pushing hers. Of those vehicles 47 were single drivers; 9 carrying one passenger; 2 carrying two passengers and 3 with sidecars.

Of the 61 drivers only 30 had opted for wearing a helmet (less than 50 per cent). Passengers performed better with eight of the 13 (8/13) wearing helmets.

So far as gender and ethnicity fair, the break-down for motorbike drivers not wearing helmets was as follows: Thai males (7/14), foreign males (13/32) a total of 20/46. Females in this category were Thai (10/12), foreigners (1/3) a total of 11/15.

Looking at the statistics another way 17/25 Thais failed to don hel-

Island View

By Richard Marks

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



Not included in the figures and it's a long way to the petrol station.

mets as opposed to 14/36 foreigners. Feel free to draw your own conclusions.

Helmet laws are one of the few sets of international laws that are aimed to protect an individual from him or herself. One might say that it impinges on personal freedom, others that it actually protects family and friends of motorbike riders, as well as saving on medical resources.

I can live with groups of teenage (and sometimes younger) kids whizzing by and swerving erratically across the road. That's a parent and police issue. However, I do draw the line at children and babies being carried on motorbikes without any form of protection. No matter who is to blame for the lack of protection, be it the father or the mother of the child, the driver must take full responsibility for the death or injury of their child in the event of an accident.

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

Cars parked outside Central Festival

Why are people allowed to park illegally along the road outside Central Festival Phuket? Cars parked on the inside lane make exiting Central Festival, onto the bypass road, extremely dangerous.

Grenville Wilson
Pa Khlok

Capt Prawat Tantiputhapan of the Phuket City Traffic Police replies:

We have issued orders for this to stop, but it still happens sometimes. Where they are park along the road is illegal, so if you, or anyone, sees a parked car there, please inform us by calling 076-220919 between 6:30am and 10pm. Not only is parking there dangerous, but it can also cause traffic congestion issues.

If we find cars parked there we will issue tickets and the offenders will have to pay a 300-baht fine.

Paying to get onto Phuket's beaches



Yesterday, my friends and I took a longtail boat from Kamala to Freedom Beach for 3,500 baht (very expensive for two adults and two children). When we got to the beach a Thai person told us it cost 120 baht per person to enter the beach! Do they have any legal right to charge people to use the beach? We live here, and have been to this beach many times, but never has anyone tried to charge us.

Marcus
Patong

Chatri Limpatanawong, Patong Municipality, Office of the Mu-

nicipal, Internal Activities Department head, replies:

By law, any beach that meets the ocean water is considered a public beach. No one has the right to charge for use of public land.

Even though Freedom Beach is a public beach, the area's geographic features are unique in that it can be difficult to access. The easiest way to access the beach is by longtail boat, though it can also be reached by road. The tricky part of using the road is that the only entrance is not on public land, so it is possible that you would have to pay the land owner

a fee to cross.

If you travel by longtail boat, however, there should not be any entrance fee. You might have to pay a fee for a beach chair or to use the bathroom, but not an entrance fee for the beach.

I have not been notified of the problem of people collecting fees at a public beach, but it is unacceptable. No one has the legal right to collect money as an entrance fee. I would recommend anyone who encounters this problem to come to our office to file a complaint.

This issue needs to be ad-

dressed as soon as possible since it affects the image of tourism, especially in Patong. Please come to our office and fill out the form, so we can coordinate an investigation for the problem.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Boaters' weekend market to launch

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET Boat Lagoon will launch a new weekend market catering to boat owners on the weekend starting Saturday, March 10.

The Weekend Boat Market is the brainchild of Boon Yongsakul, a member of the Phuket Boat Lagoon management team and a descendant of Phuket Boat Lagoon founder Kanit Yongsakul.

The main concept of the market is a new shopping and trade market focusing on boats and marine equipment, Mr Boon explained.

It will also hold garage sales and feature a garden food park.

Promoted as a highlight is an outdoor stage for presenting live entertainment.

Located on more than six rai (9600 square meters) of green lawn at the entrance to the Boat

Lagoon, the market will be split into four zones: boats, marine equipment, garage sale and the garden food park.

The market will be open every Saturday and Sunday from 3 to 10pm.

"We expect to have about 70 booths and right now we have about 50 operators interested in joining the project," Mr Boon explained.

"We got the original idea from the market in Brisbane, Australia,

but we will adjust the market to fit in with local culture. The potential consumers will be expats and foreigners.

"The market will have various products including secondhand items. Besides, things will be cheaper than the market price because this market will be a center for boat products. People can discuss the price and exchanging equipment," said Mr Boon.

"We expect the market to generate about one million baht in trade, while the budget to set up the project is about five million baht," he added.

The Phuket Gazette is a sponsor of the Boat Lagoon Weekend Market. For further information, contact BMS Event Organizer, T: 088-7680471 or 089-4745253, F: 076-620516 or E: chompoo@bmsevent.com

Luxury auto dealer projects 25% growth

HIGHLIGHTING the European high-end car market's upward trend in Phuket, a major luxury car dealer has set its sales target to be 25% higher than last year.

Sureeporn Udampolvanich, CEO of TSL Auto Corporation Co Ltd, revealed that the company was able to sell 800 cars in 2011 with a 15% increase in total revenue when compared to 2010.

"These sales were despite two major natural disasters in 2011 – the tsunami in Japan and flooding in Thailand," she said.

"Although the sales numbers did not increase, the revenue was raised because we had adjusted our strategies to match situations.

"The ratio of our European and Japanese models last year was 70:30

while the ratio in 2010 was 40:60.

"This is what resulted in the increase in our total revenue."

To meet the 2012 sales goal, the company will need to sell 1000 cars this year.

In 2012, TSL will keep expanding its customer base in the provinces with roadshow displays at shopping centers and community malls.

Marking good reception by consumers the company has invested 30 million baht on its showroom and service center in the province.

Phuket not only has good potential for [improved] infrastructure, but its consumers also have high purchasing power, said Miss Sureeporn.

To support sales, TSL will be

launching attractive marketing campaigns and sale promotions throughout the year, including parking lot reservation and discounts at retail shops, restaurants, beauty salons and hospitals.

Damrong Nilrangsee, TSL's sales director, said that as the tastes of consumers in Phuket are different from those in Bangkok, the models to be distributed should be able to serve their needs. Fundamentally, the ratio of European and Japanese cars for the province is 70:30.

"Based on our consumer behavior surveys, and [the opinions of] our local staffs who understand the tastes of local people well, we aim to sell 10 to 15 cars every month in Phuket," she said.



EXTENDED GROWTH: Japanese grey-car market cars like the Honda CSR above are being offered less than European luxury cars in recent years.

TSL's Phuket showroom, the dealer's fourth nationwide, is located on a 3-rai plot of land (approximately 4800 square meters).

With a built up area of about 2,000 sqm, its facilities comprise a showroom, service center and auto paint center.

Its showroom features a variety of luxury cars including the Bentley New Continental GT 2011, Porsche Panamera and

Carrera 911, while the service center has a capacity to handle 20 cars per day.

"TSL will keep focusing on building brand awareness among both existing and new customers, as well as offering exclusive services and privileges as to acknowledge the customers' trust in the company," Miss Sureeporn said.

– Phuket Gazette

Indian babes boost Krabi

THE white-sand beaches and stunning limestone karsts of Krabi Province had some competition in the beauty stakes last week.

As part of the latest tourism promotion campaign targeting the up-and-coming Indian tourist segment, 23 contestants from the Miss Indian Princess 2012 pageant last Tuesday touched down in Phuket's neighbor Krabi last Tuesday.

The beauty queens received a warm welcome after debarking their Thai Airways flight TG241 at Krabi Airport.

The stunning guests seemed impressed when they were greeted in the arrivals lounge by a costumed dance performance to the beat of tom-tom drums.

Also saying hello to the Indian lovelies were Wiyada Sirangkun, the director of the Krabi Tourism Authority of Thailand Office, Krabi Tourism Association President Ittirit Kinglek and other dignitaries in the tourism trade.

Mrs Wiyada said the contestants would spend three days in Krabi. On Tuesday they rested and rehearsed at the luxury Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort.

Then, they traveled by boat to Koh Phi Phi to take part in ac-



BOMBAY ALLOO: The 23 contestants were welcomed at Krabi Airport.

tivities and a photo shoot on the beautiful Ao Tonsai Beach.

On the final day of their stay, they rehearsed until 6pm before finally parading themselves in the national dress of India and Thailand in front of the Black Crab statue in Krabi Town for a public showing.

Mrs Wiyada said the visit would help promote Krabi as a tourism destination.

The selection of Krabi showed that the province reached international safety standards and boasted a stunning natural environment that could attract foreign travelers.

After the visit, pictures of Krabi's attractions – and those

of the contestants – will be put in display in Mumbai, helping to promote the area as a destination for Indian tourists, she said.

– Warisa Temram



Indian tourist numbers may be bulging in Krabi this year.

Laguna
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<p>3 Laguna Vista THB 23.5 M</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 beds 3 baths • maid's quarters • private pool • Laguna Resident's Privilege Card 	<p>4 Laguna Village Townhomes III THB 26 M</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 beds 4 baths • lagoon view • private pool • Laguna Resident's Privilege Card
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All properties are fully furnished and included Golf Membership

Multi-billion baht deal signed

By Steven Layne

RUEA Yacht, the luxury yacht building division of Phuket-Bangkok based Yacht Solutions, has joined forces with Northrop and Johnson – one of the world’s largest independent yacht brokerage firms.

Highlighting the increased demand, supply and overall growth in Thailand’s superyacht industry, the new partnership will generate billions for the local economy.

Director of Northrop and Johnson said: “Over the last three years the interest in superyacht construction in Asia has been overwhelming.

“We are now delighted to be able to confidently offer a very high quality design and construction team that brings something new to the market.

“Everyone expects there to be a price advantage in Asia, which there certainly is, but the driving force behind this project is to blend European technology, architecture and design with renowned Thai craftsmanship for an overall innovative project.”

Ruea Yachts has launched two designs: a 60-meter tri-deck motor yacht and a 75-meter long-range displacement yacht.

The Ruea 75, with its helicopter deck and under-deck heli-garage, is equipped with two MTU 16V 4000 M60 engines and capable of a range of up to 6,500 kilometers.

It carries a price tag of more than 17 billion baht – 420 million Euros.

Both the 60 and 75 will be constructed in Thailand and be Lloyds Certified (MCA Large Yacht Code LY2).

Turner went on to say: “These designs reflect the demand in the market for much larger, long range yachts which provide a more manageable cost.

“The designs will inspire those interested in a new-build yacht to add their own ideas



Simon Turner of Northrop and Johnson (left), and Gareth Twist of Ruea Yachts signed a deal.

and creative flair to the process, to deliver a yacht entirely to their own aspiration, while being backed by a highly professional international team.

“We have been gently marketing these yachts for the last year and have been surprised at the positive response

with enquiries coming from all over the world.

“This led us to believe that the best approach was a full partnership to give global exposure to the brand and designs, and the first genuine move into the superyacht market in Thailand.”

Ruea Yachts is teamed up with naval architects, BMT Nigel Gee, and designers, Design Unlimited to offer a high quality proposition based on an extensive track record.

Managing Director of Ruea Yachts, Gareth

Twist said: “We are very excited about our partnership with Northrop and Johnson.

“Through Yacht Solutions we have successfully completed many full-scale refits and conversions since 2001, and we have gained trust and a track record from our client projects.

“This new global marketing approach will help put Ruea Yachts, and Thailand as a superyacht building location, firmly on the map.”

He added that Ruea Yachts is open to discussing new yacht construction of any size and are happy to undertake full design work from scratch, based on a client brief.

Northrop and Johnson have a full team of professional brokers throughout Asia, including a team on the ground in Thailand.

This ensures that the whole construction process is closely monitored and managed by Northrop and Johnson in addition to owners, representatives and captains being present at the yard.

For more information, see *W: reuayachts.com* or *northropandjohnson.com*

Alien laborer deadline gets extension

MORE than 20,000 unregistered migrant workers in Phuket now have until mid-June to register with the government, thanks to a Cabinet resolution earlier this month extending the deadline by five months.

The extension gives employers time to obtain two-year work permits for unregistered alien workers from Burma, Laos and Cambodia, said Phuket Provincial Employment Office Chief Noppadol Ployudee.

Workers whose permits were set to expire on January 20 or February 28 now have until June 14 to extend them, but their employer needs to request the new permits and submit documents by April 12 to begin their employees

national verification process.

Any workers who fail to complete the verification process by June 14 will not be allowed to work after that date, he said.

As an added incentive, alien workers who apply for permits and complete the verification process before June 15 will be eligible for 500 baht visas to reenter the country, Mr Noppadol said.

After the deadline, the visa fee will return to the normal rate of 2,000 baht, he said.

Mr Noppadol explained the new deadline to employers at a meeting attended by about 60 people at the Phuket Merlin Hotel on Tuesday.

Topics covered at the meeting included other issues affecting



Alien workers built much of Phuket.

employers hiring low-wage foreign workers, such as the social security services registered workers would be eligible to receive.

Attendees were told that there are 10,700 employers in Phuket that employ a total of 62,183 alien workers. These break down as follows: 38,287 holders of permits

who have completed the verification process; 859 holders of permits under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Thailand and their home countries; 2,479 holders of existing permits who have yet to complete the verification process; 20,588 new applicants who must complete the verification process by June 14.

Mr Noppadol said the Thai government is holding discussions with Laos and Cambodia to allow their nationals to work in Thailand under an MoU agreement, doing away with the need for national verification.

However, the date when formal talks on the issue would take place have yet to be announced, he said.

Mr Noppadol said there are now 72 companies in the country registered with the Ministry of Labor to act as agents to help the employers complete the complicated process of legalizing alien workers.

In addition, the Burmese government has set up verification centers in five more provinces: Chiang Mai, Samut Sakhon, Samut Prakan, Surat Thani and Bangkok.

In addition to the original three located in Ranong, Tak and Chiang Rai, this brings the national network to eight, he said.

Nationwide, more than a million workers from the three countries must complete verification by the June 14 deadline.

– *Atchaa Khamlo*

Mascot mass sale

PHUKET Vocational College will be aiming to raise as much as 10 million baht from the sale of mascots for the 28th Thailand Youth Games.

The Phuket Games will be held from May 26 to June 5, and its official mascot is a Hai Leng Ong Sea Dragon

Sunthon Ponrong, Director of Phuket Vocational College revealed that the college has set a sales target for mascots at 30,000 units.

“Phuket Vocational College has been assigned to market the mascot, and so we are asking for the assistance of businesses, hotels, restaurants and retail vendors in Phuket, Phanga and Krabi provinces,” he said.

Stuffed mascots are priced at 250 and 350 baht per unit.

“This collaboration between teachers and students will help to establish public relations for the event,” he added.

Students and teachers will direct production, marketing and sales of the mascots, he said.



Hai Leng Ong Sea Dragon Mascot.

Part of the proceeds will be used for the management of public relations, and the rest will go to a fund that will contribute to making the management of the competition more efficient, he added.

Any retailers or suppliers interested in dealing the mascots should get in contact with the college’s Public Relations department.

– *Phuket Gazette*



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Shutter island



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

THIS week I'm going to change topic a bit. At the Computer Clinics we used to talk about all sorts of technology, including TVs, tablet computers, cameras and phones – much to the chagrin of several Windows die-hards.

The simple fact is that all of the technology is converging, with more-powerful and more-mobile computer chips making all sorts of magic possible. This year will see a stunning array of new devices, including Windows 8 running on tablets – real tablets, thin ones, without fans, the kind that work with finger gestures and sell for less than US\$500, (maybe less).

How fast is the technology changing? Let me give you an example. Yesterday I had a chance to take a day trip to Khao Karos, a little-known, but spectacular mangrove forest with soaring karsts, caves, wildlife, and prehistoric paintings. It's near Krabi, about an hour from the north end of Phuket – if you can find it. We took a long-tail boat – and three cameras: my trusty Canon IXUS 870 IS Point & Shoot, a Flip MinoHD video camera, and my wife's new camera, which I'll discuss later.

Three years ago, the Canon IXUS 870 IS was one of the top rated Point & Shoots according to trustedreviews.com, November 2008, "the new Digital IXUS 870 IS, a slim and stylish 10.0-megapixel, 4x zoom ultra-compact with optical image stabilization and a 28mm wide-angle lens... a superbly well made and very attractive

luxury ultra-compact with excellent performance, a useful zoom range, an outstandingly good LCD monitor and superb image quality... The only downsides are its slightly awkward handling, an underpowered flash and the relatively high price." I bought it in Hong Kong for about US\$300.

About 18 months ago, with a new baby on the way, I decided to get a video camera. I settled on the Cisco Flip MinoHD with 8 GB of memory. PC Mag.com had this to say in September, 2010: "Very good video quality. Thin, light design. Easy to operate. Simple software for managing videos. HDMI output for watching videos on an HDTV." I bought it in the States for USD230 and had it shipped out here.

All three of the phones take videos. The Flip doesn't take stills, but you can easily "grab" a high definition frame from any of the videos.

I've been taking photos with all three cameras, but never really had an opportunity to compare them. This time was different.

The trip to Khao Karos proved an excellent testing ground for the cameras. Shooting videos from a long-tail boat tests the living day-lights out of image stabilization. Taking stills in various lighting conditions (see the shot on this page) showed me color balance, and fill flash (not on the Flip) helped compensate for high contrast situations. Out on the water, we moved in and out of caves, often crossing from very dark regions to bright sunlight in a matter of seconds.

In the end, looking at the results, there's absolutely no question that my wife has the best camera of the bunch. The autofocus and image stabilization on the 8MP camera work a treat. It takes full HD

(1080p) videos, and the detail is simply breathtaking. Changing the focus point only takes a touch. When you take a shot, the screen's back and ready for action in a fraction of a second. For both stills and videos, my wife's camera came out on top, time and time again. Of course, it costs a bit more than the other cameras,

By now you may have guessed that my wife's camera comes with a few other features that you don't normally associate with a camera. Like, oh, I don't know, a telephone and 3G internet, email, Facebook, free long distance phone calls and SMSs, a music player, a video player, and full access to the Apple AppStore. Her camera is an iPhone 4S, and I'd put the camera quality up against just about any moderately-priced camera on the market.

I'm not the only one. *Geek.com* has a convincing side-by-side comparison between an iPhone 4S and a 21 MP Canon EOS 5D Mark II (US\$3,200 or so depending on lens; is.gd/ziFuUP). *Ars Technica* has a lengthy comparison between an iPhone 4S, a Samsung Galaxy SII, a Canon 20D and an Olympus XZ-1.

Don't get me wrong. The iPhone 4S isn't in the same league as a full-bore Canon EOS 5D, or a Hasselblad but it's a very capable camera – ignoring the phone for the moment – that's easy to carry around and a treat to use.

The price? If you get it in Thailand with either TrueMove or AIS service, the iPhone 4S currently lists at 16,900 baht (roughly USD550). Last week, TrueMove announced that it was cutting prices "up to 50%" for people who want to buy new iPhones,



ILIKE: An indoor snap taken with my wife's camera, er, iPhone 4S. Note the color balance, spot-on automatic focus and very fine detail.

if they are currently True Visions (satellite TV, formerly known as UBC) or True Online (ADSL, DOCSIS) customers. You have to pay for seven months of service up front, and commit to paying for TrueMove service for 18 months (at 899 baht per month), but the price of the iPhone 4S has dropped to 13,500 baht, or US\$445.

If I sound like an irrepressible Apple ad copywriter, I apologize. That wasn't my intent with this article. What I'm trying to do is convince you that times are changing, rapidly, and it's in your own best interest to stay on top of the changes. The camera business has changed irreversibly.

Do increasingly capable cameras on iPhones and Android phones – not to mention tablets – mean that the Point & Shoot camera market is dead? Not necessarily. But the major camera manufacturers have cut back on the number of new models. Last

November, the number of Point & Shoot cameras sold declined by 18 per cent, year-to-year.

Keep an eye on where the technology's headed. The baht you save may be your own.

Seth Bareiss holds computer sessions on every-other Wednesday afternoon, from 1:00 to 3:00. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, drop by one of Seth's free afternoon sessions, or come to one of our free Sunday morning roundtables at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Details in the Events Calendar. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Shoot him mail at Woody@KhunWoody.com, follow him on Twitter @PhuketLiveWire, or "like" his page at facebook.com/SandwichShoppe.

PCs4Kids needs your help

PCS4KIDS is a voluntary organization which re-builds functioning computers from donated components. The computers are then given to under-privileged kids in Phuket. In this way, they can get a chance to learn skills which will support a future career, whether it's in IT, business or academia.

Since the launch of our charity group last year, we have re-built 26 PCs. Now we need more used computer parts; monitors, graphics cards, keyboards: anything in fact. If you are able to help with old components, please drop them off at Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes, located in the Fisherman Way Business Centre, Chalong, or in Aroonsom Plaza, Patong.

The charity is supported by the Rotary Club of Patong Beach who initially donated 30,000 baht to get things started. Their kind endorsement by the Rotary District Foundation (which encompasses all Rotary Clubs in Thailand) means that we now have official charity status. On the back of this,

we have approached Microsoft for help in supplying Windows licenses for the re-built computers. We hope that this initiative will come to fruition.

The headmaster of The Rachaprachanukroh 36 School in Kamala, Khun Sawat Bunjongpas has approved our concept. The school is the first to allow their students to become recipients of the re-furnished computers. Our first recipient is 15 year old (Oh) Aniwat Plomtong who was pleasantly pleased to be able to receive the first computer from PCs4Kids.

PCs4Kids' long term goal is to help Thai children get a chance to develop a rewarding career. At the same time, by gathering like-minded students and adults to learn together, we create a sense of community.

This high-tech world we take for granted, gives us an awesome ability to unlock a wealth of knowledge, but we all needed help to find the key.



PCs4Kids is to take the hands of our students and lead them to a life of opportunity.

If there are other schools which are interested in obtaining computers for their students, please contact us at 087 418 3127. If you can help by volunteering your services for training, or by making a cash donation, please contact James Ross at email: rossjames@hotmail.com or 087 418 3127. Donations can also be paid directly into the charity's account at Bangkok Bank 563-3-01480-7 or Paypal to treasurer@rotarypatong.org.

– Phuket Gazette

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Indonesia: Asia's new rising star



BANK ON IT: There are definitely more pluses than negatives when looking at the Indonesian market, but you would need to be able to stomach the risks involved. Photo: F Mira

Island Investor

By Anthony Lyman

FOR many of us expats, our Asian paradise has sheltered many of us from the financial woes being experienced back home by family and friends.

Asian markets, though not totally immune to European debt levels and the impending push for White House power, have been fairly resilient over the last few years and have provided steady economic growth and a view that Asia is still the place to be if you are looking to expand a business or if you wish to put your feet up and relax upon retirement.

For the savvy investor a few well placed investments within the Asian markets, even in troubled times would have still meant significant upsides and portfolio growth. Can this last forever? Obviously nothing lasts forever, but while we can reap the rewards of a strong Asian market place and



Indonesia's population is younger than its neighbors. Photo: John Y Can

try and forget about the economic troubles of less fortunate geographical regions, as they say, "let's make hay while the sun shines".

We can look at places like Latin America and especially Brazil, and even though there has been an economic slow down, high interest rates and good investment opportunities mean that this is still an attractive proposition for investors.

Not to be out done, we don't have to look too far over our shores to see we have our own emerging economic powerhouse in our midst. Casting a glance at our Indonesian counterparts, we get a glimpse at what is very fast becoming an investment draw.

We only have to take a look at what is happening in the economy. While the rest of Asia is slowing down, Indonesia's economy has posted its fastest growth for 15 years. In 2011 GDP grew by 6.49%, the best year since before the Asian crisis. That compares favourably

to slowing rates in big regional neighbors such as China and India.

Indonesia's success is very much a home grown story, domestic consumption and investment has enabled it to grow faster than neighbors such as Singapore, whose economies are more dependent on global trade flows and therefore more vulnerable to slowing export demand. If we look at the stats, more than 60% of Indonesia's £442bn economy is generated by domestic consumption and exports are worth around 25%. Only a fifth of these exports go directly to Europe or America making Indonesia less susceptible to the European crisis than many other Asian countries.

If we look at Indonesia's population size, 240 million and predicted to reach 315 million by 2013. The population is younger than many of its neighbors and it is calculated that its working population won't peak until 2040; China's is predicted to peak this decade.

Indonesia's young population is also largely debt free providing future scope for spending.

Indonesia is also rich in commodities. It is the world's largest exporter of thermal coal and palm oil, it has tin, copper and gold and is also self sufficient in oil & gas. There is also a conscientious that it will grow by 6% next year. This presents fantastic investment opportunities, however you have to be careful. Like most exotic markets, its stock exchange suffers when investors lose their appetites for risk based investments, the rise of the Indonesian Rupiah is not certain too.

There are definitely more pluses than negatives when looking at the Indonesian market, but you would need to be able to stomach the risks involved with this.

For more information please contact Alyman@montpeliergroup.com. Anthony Lyman is a Senior Financial Consultant for the Montpelier Group



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Surin stunt show simply sensational

By Fraser Morton

HUNDREDS of tourists and locals craned their gaze skyward last Saturday for a breathtaking airplane stunt show.

Phuket-daredevil-pilot Les Vorosmarthy executed precision aerobatic maneuvers at some moments just a few dozen meters above the choppy Surin Beach surf.

The free-of-charge White Sand Surin Air Show lasted for little more than half an hour – but it was an action-packed performance.

In his blood-red Extra 300, Vorosmarthy pulled off stunts which had onlookers drawing breath and scratching their heads in astonishment.

Pulling off a series of spins, slips, barrel rolls, snap rolls, wing-overs, loops, waterfalls, upside-down flybys and many more, Vorosmarthy had his beach audience giving a standing ovation by the last flyby.

Veteran-Finnish-stunt-skydiver Jari Kuosma, known as “Birdman”, was also at the Surin show.

Kuosma, who has 5,022 jumps under his parachute and is the world’s leading wingsuit skydiver, had planned to pull off his greatest stunt yet at the Surin show.

Kuosma had planned to jump



STUNT MASTER: Les Vorosmarthy. Photos: Fraser Morton and Phuket Gazette

from an airplane at 13,500 feet two miles offshore and then land on Surin Beach and embrace his fiancée before getting married later that night.

“This was supposed to be my 5,023 jump, but unfortunately I could not get the permission needed to make the jump this time.”

Although disappointed he could not make his Surin stunt, Kuosma said he intends to organize future jumps in Phuket.

The Phuket Gazette and PGTV sponsored this event.



BIRDMAN: Jari Kuosma



YOOHOOO, OVER HERE: Swimmers show their appreciation of the pilot.



PRICELESS: The Bangers on Bikes 2012 celebrate their herculean feat of endurance with the children of the ACF in Kathu. Photo: D Noble

Bangers on bikes charity ride touches Phuket hearts

AFTER five days in the saddle having endured wilting heat and wearying roads, the Bangkok Bangers Bike Riders arrived to a rapturous reception from the staff and children of the Asia Center Foundation (ACF) in Kathu.

Clearly it was an emotional experience for everyone. Several of the cyclists have participated in all three journeys, and knowing the ACF children certainly makes their experience incredibly personal.

Trevor Day is one of the team that has completed all three rides and told the *Gazette* how the journey and arrival had affected him. “During the last day I kept thinking of the pain I was going through and swore to myself that this was the last time I would do the ride. But on seeing the kids and the reception we got when we arrived at ACF, I knew immediately that I will be involved next year,” said Trevor.

Over 600,000 baht has been raised so far by this annual endurance event, the third since its maiden run in 2009. In total the three journeys have now accumulated almost 1.5 million baht that sits untouched in preparation to purchase land for development into their own school.

ACF director Roelien Muller spoke to the *Gazette* after thanking the riders to further express her gratitude on behalf of the charity.

“It is not everyday that people tackle such a challenging way to raise funds for charity work. It takes a special person and loads of dedication and believing in what you do to complete each bike run. We greatly admire, and of course welcome their efforts to support our work with disadvantaged children,” said Roelien.

“We’d also like to thank all our sponsors without whose help this event would not happen,” she added.

For more information on how to donate to the charities, visit arkintl.org or asiacenterfoundation.org.

– Dean Noble

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Diving without water

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

DIVERS take water for granted, be it mucky water, cold water, beautiful Phuket water or even pool water. We presume there will be water when we dive. So my last dive, a “dry” dive at 18 meters in a sub-aquatic safety services (SSS) recompression chamber, was a novelty.

Recompression chambers, also known as hyperbaric chambers, have been used to treat a variety of ailments since the 1600s. By the 1930s the US Navy was successfully using hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBO) to treat deep-sea divers for decompression illnesses (DCI).

DCI, or “the bends”, is a key ingredient to most dive horror stories. There is the mental image of a diver panicking and bolting for the surface. As they rise, the pressure from the water above slackens and nitrogen bubbles in their blood and tissue begins to rapidly expand. On the surface the diver, in extreme pain, has skin that crackles to the touch and the fatty tissue around their hips and stomach starts to “marble”.

In reality very few DCI cases

are anything like this. Often symptoms of DCI are so minor that they are ignored for days and easily treated in a recompression chamber. Why in some cases certain individuals suffer from DCI and others don't, despite both of them having followed the dive plan and having “good dives”, is unclear to scientists.

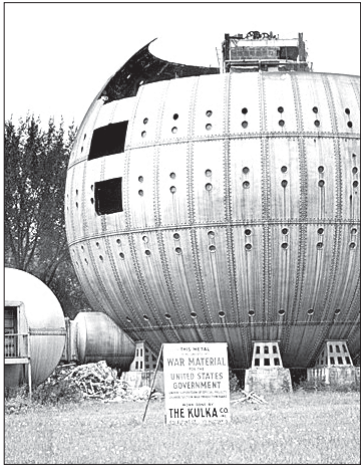
Luckily, DCI is rare enough that in a sport with millions of participants, not every dive professional has had experience dealing with it. So as part of the See Bees professional training program their students visit Patrick Schindler, SSS Hyperbaric Chamber Operations Manager, on site for a lecture on DCI symptoms and to experience a short dive in the chamber.

After being momentarily befuddled by our all-cotton fisherman pants (synthetic fabrics, which could possibly create a spark from static electric charge, are a fire risk under pressure), me and three “dive buddies” pile into the chamber with a SSS Recompression Chamber Network Assistant.

Once into the main room of the chamber the door behind us was securely shut. It's cramped quarters for five guys, but once situated on the two beds the assistant flicks a switch and gives the go-



Camera and other electronics are not allowed inside the recompression chamber, though there are cameras on the outside monitoring patients. Photo: Sea Bees



The six storey “Steel Ball Hospital” built in 1928 was the largest hyperbaric chamber ever constructed and was used to treat non-dive patients for a variety of illness, until it was scrapped for metal during WWII. Photo: Cleveland State University



The control panel outside of the chamber has many redundancies to ensure the safety of patients. Photo: Sea Bees

ahead to start the dive.

Immediately there is an uncomfortable pressure on our ears. The depth gauge's needle hovers at six feet. We're constantly having to equalize, despite our slow descent.

Coupled with the pressure in our ears is the heat. The little chamber feels like a sauna. It isn't a stifling heat, but it's uncomfortable. The heat isn't from our bodies, but from the active air molecules being packed more densely as we descend.

We pause our descent and the air in the chamber is flushed, cooling the room and thankfully sweeping a little body odor out with it.

With the chamber air feeling fresher, we make our final descent to 18 meters.

Bottom time: a sheet is dragged across the inside of the chamber door as a screen and the projector outside starts playing the World War Two submarine film, U-571, to enhance the ambiance.

Snacks, cookies, are passed through the medical lock, which is also used to pass paperwork to the patients.

About 15 minutes into the movie, it's time to start our ascent. It's a much shorter dive than the four-hour dives that most patients receive as part of their treatment.

Back on the surface and slightly disappointed that I didn't get to breath 100 per cent oxygen like a patient, I tried to figure out if this were the sort of dive I could log in my book or not.

If you have general questions about scuba diving or freediving in the Greater Phuket region, you can contact me at anytime at Isaac@PhuketGazette.net



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Breaking the school barrier

SEVEN intrepid stand-up paddlers will take to their boards on March 13 to navigate the 90 miles around Phuket over five days. The circumnavigation of Phuket is to raise funds to build a school for impoverished children in the Rassada Port area, on the east side of Phuket Town.

The port area is well known as one of the poorest areas on the island. Most of the jobs at the port are taken by Burmese migrants, as no one else will do them or live in the unsanitary conditions there.

Sister Lakana from charity organization The Good Shepherd Sisters has for years worked tirelessly to help the migrants who live in these poor conditions. She noticed some children were left at the Burmese camp during the day, while their parents were at work. Without supervision, they sometimes got hurt, or worse still, fell prey to physical or sexual abuse.

"Many of the Burmese migrants living in the area are in Phuket legally, but as their children are not able to read or write Thai, they are not able to join the Thai school system," Sister Lakana explained.

To keep the children safe, Sister Lakana started a daycare center while their parents worked. A local Thai landlady donated a small area measuring 10 x 5 meters, a concrete block was put on the floor and makeshift walls of fishing net created around it.

The center opened in August 2010 and 20 children were quickly registered there.

Word soon spread. "By January 2011, there were 115 children – ranging from two to 14 years old – registered at the center. Some had never been to school before," said Sister Lakana.

However, the "school" remains seriously underresourced. "Eight



HARD LESSONS: The children enjoy their classes, despite having to sit on a concrete floor. Photo: Quintin Clover

grade levels share the small space of two rooms. There are no tables or chairs. The children sit on the floor and are provided with the minimum of pencil and paper.

"The students, however, love the simple place and they cram into the limited area with big smiles on their faces, eager to use this opportunity to learn and improve their lives," Sister Lakana said.

All school expenses including teachers salaries have come from fund-raising events and private donations. Monthly expenses total about 80,000 baht a month.

"This also includes a Thai nurse who visits the school, as well as local Burmese camps, tending to the sick, who are not allowed to

be treated in the local hospitals," said Sister Lakana.

The drive now is to raise funds to build a community center with classrooms for the kids. The local Thai community has seen the work that Sister Lakana and her volunteers do at the school. They have recently come together to donate a small piece of land.

Quintin Clover, who came up with the idea of literally paddling around Phuket for charity, was quickly joined by Tal Derhy, Nathan Chilcott, Tim Campbell, Andrew "Easy" Eadie, Luke Remmers and Arend Moelich.

"We will start at Skyla's Beach House on Kamala Beach and turn left [south] in the very early hours

of Tuesday morning. We will be aiming to appear over the horizon five days later for the Welcome Home Party and fundraiser for the school," said Quintin.

"The hardest day will be Day Three, when our muscles will be aching, but we have allowed extra time just in case bad weather forces us to stop early for a day," he explained.

The crew have been in training for months. "I am on the water for about five hours every Saturday, covering about 30 kilometers. On weekdays, because of work, I do 45 minutes of hard paddling four mornings a week," said Quintin.

Although the crew will have a

support boat provided by Jim at Phuket-based Stand Up Paddle Thai, the trickiest part will be going under the bridges at the north end of the island.

"We will be going through the channel during a rising tide nearing a full moon, which should help push us through," explained Quintin.

Confident his crew will complete the challenge and accomplished their objective, Quintin hopes the event will become an annual one.

"I have been speaking with the potential developers of the school and there is now an option whereby we can get a school and community center built for 5.2 million baht, as opposed to the initial 9mn baht," Quintin said.

However, he added, "The price would fall further if someone stepped in to sponsor things like the plumbing and so on."

The money raised will also go towards providing transport for the kids so they can get safely to and from the school, he added.

"At the fundraiser at Skyla's Beach House on March 18 we will have raffles and fun activities for the kids, and also a treasure chest in which people can donate all sorts of household items as well as toys for the kids," Quintin said.

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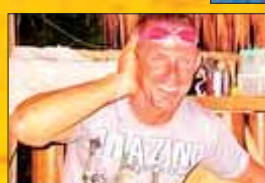
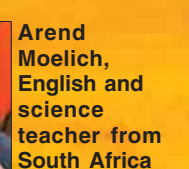
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Moelich,
English and
science
teacher from
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Making a dog's dinner of it



Dog Whisperer

By Russell D Russell

A WHILE back I wrote an article on the benefits of a raw diet for your dogs and while the debate still rages among veterinarians, food manufacturers and the dogs themselves – I thought I'd leave that to one side and focus on some of the dog foods now available here in Phuket.

The variety of commercial dog foods available in Phuket is growing steadily, and many people are asking the question: which is better for my dog? So let's have a run through some of the brands and see if I can answer that for you.

Earthborn

This is one of the top dog food brands available globally at the moment and is available in Phuket in a few varieties. The food is grain free which is perfect for dogs with allergies and also has a higher calorie count. What this means is that you can feed your dog less, and he's still getting what he needs as the food contains virtually no fillers and is easily digestible. The kibble itself is meat based, using a notable amount of fish, poultry and bison meals as its main sources of protein. It also contains chelated

'The kibble itself is meat-based, using a notable amount of fish, poultry and bison meals as its main sources of protein.'

minerals which, are essential minerals that have been chemically attached to the protein, making the food easier to absorb. Chelated minerals are usually found in the higher quality dog foods.

The grain free versions available here are Primitive Natural (PN) and Coastal Catch (CC) - the former having more meat content as opposed to the fish content of the latter. One key difference is the protein count of these foods, which for PN is a

whopping 38% and 32% for CC. This is fine for a high energy dog that gets lots (and I mean lots) of exercise but if Fido isn't getting out a lot each and every

day, you are going to have a very wired dog on your hands if you're feeding him this stuff!

The other two versions available are the Adult Vantage (AV) and Ocean Fusion (OF), both of which have a protein count of around 22%, which is adequate for the average dog. These two products are not grain-free, but are also made from high quality ingredients including chicken or fish meal.

Pinnacle

Another top range dry food available here in Phuket although not the full range and not the grain free versions. Looking down the list of ingredients, one could be



TREAT ME KIND: Clear eyes and a great looking coat means a dog's food is likely to be helping them. Photo: Ed Schipul

overly picky as it often contains canola oil which is often regarded as an unhealthy fat, but that aside, it all looks good and like Earthborn, there are no "red flag" items in the list of ingredients.

Interestingly the Duck and Potato version mentions duck meal and actual duck as its first two ingredients - however the actual duck product is largely water and most of the moisture is lost in the cooking process.

Across the holistic Pinnacle range available here, they all contain approximately 26% protein and 14% fat which is about average. The group is primarily a plant-based dry dog food which uses a moderate amount of poultry or fish meals as its main sources of protein.

Avoderm

One of the key components, and also talking points, about Avoderm, is its use of avocado, which has been noted by a vocal majority to be of harm, perhaps even fatal, to dogs. Indeed the RSPCA, ASPCA, ADPT and other organizations have all expressed concern - however, the key detail is this:

The leaves, bark, and stems from the avocado tree - essentially everything but the avocado fruit itself, can apparently be harmful to dogs. However, none

of these parts are used in the dog food, only the fruit which is used for oil and meal content. There is also no indication by anyone that avocado oil or meal is in anyway harmful - quite the opposite, they are amazingly good for you and loaded with fibre and nutrients.

Again, being picky, we could highlight the inclusion of tomato pomace to their ingredient list which is essentially a by-product of processed tomatoes, but other than that, it all seems okay. Across the range, Avoderm has a slightly higher protein concentration than Pinnacle at 29% with fat levels around 11% - all again fine for your average dog.



Overall

All three dog foods listed here are quality foods and I'd have no problem recommending any of them to anyone - it's essentially about preference. But a point to remember between

grain free and other food versions is this. Dogs can assimilate grains, including corn, barley and oats, but grains provide mostly carbohydrate and only have limited protein profiles. Any extra carbohydrate intake, above the needs of the dog, will prompt internal enzyme factors to store the extra carbs as fat.

Conversely, give the same dog the extra protein, and it is excreted through the kidneys and not stored as fat. So do the math - which is better, food with grain or without? Often people go for the cheapest dog food, or the one "they" think sounds the best - like rabbit stew. However, how many dogs in Phuket have ever seen a rabbit, let alone hunted one down and eaten it?

It's your call, obviously, you can do your own research, but ultimately your dog will tell you. If they seem sharp and alert with clear eyes and a great looking coat, their food is likely to be helping them. If they appear downcast, lethargic and not at their peak - try changing their food.

For more information on dogs in general, or to inquire about training classes contact the Thailand Canine Academy on 089 588 4050, email canineworld@me.com or check the website www.tk9a.com



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Keeping an 'i' on the prize

In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

THE requirements for getting hired as a foreign teacher in Thailand are incredibly low. Degrees and TEFL certificates are bandied about but not truly required in many schools.

With Thailand's low standards come low salaries, lower expectations and the profession's ugly stereotype: the backpacker teacher. Typically transient, the backpacker uses their classroom as a means to a paycheck before picking up and disappearing into the wind.

But before we start painting Phuket's pedagogical picture with a broader brush, it should be said that there are

dedicated foreigners looking to become better teachers and one qualification from the University of Nottingham is becoming a popular option: the PGCEi.

Similar to a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), the "i" stands for "international". According to Nottingham's prospectus, the course is, "a part-time, distance learning programme of professional enrichment for educators working in countries other than the UK."

That last bit is important because unlike a PGCE, the PGCEi cannot be used to gain Britain's qualified teacher status (QTS).

The PGCEi is a relatively new course, as Dr. Paul Thompson, Director of Nottingham's Masters Studies explained, "The total number of graduates since the course was launched in February 2008 is something like 600. We are recruiting around 230 students a year."

The course is open to any-

one with a bachelor's degree who has access to a classroom, a computer and the internet. Those without degrees are also considered but applicants are required to produce an extended personal statement which details their suitability for postgraduate study.

Priced at GBP 2,900 (138,400 baht), the course begins with a three-day induction session at one of Nottingham's half-dozen venues worldwide. Phuket's participants typically attend in Bangkok or Kuala Lumpur.

PGCEi Tutor, Dr. Lucy Cooker told the *Gazette*, "As far as I'm aware, the Bangkok cohort was the largest last October – we had 66 people enroll."

The course is divided into four modules. Each is worth 15 credits and

assessed through a 3,000-word essay. Qualifying credits can be applied towards earning a postgraduate diploma (120 credits), a master's degree (180 credits) and even a doctorate in Education.

"No one has failed. We only accept people if we think they are able to succeed. It wouldn't be fair to take their money if we felt otherwise," said Cooker.

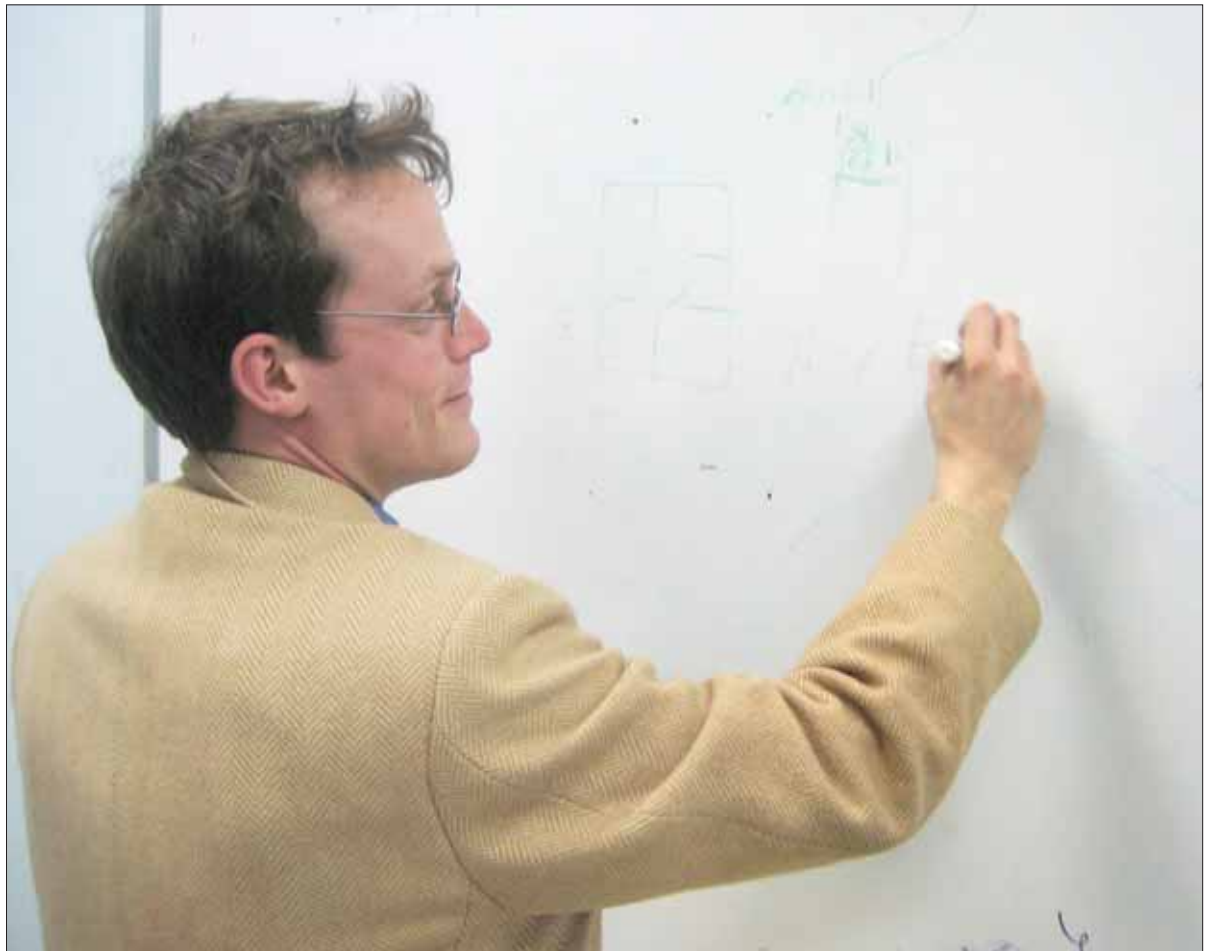
Having recently earned her PGCEi, Darasamuth teacher Jules Devitto reported, "The course was quite flexible in that I could take it in a direction that I was interested in when writing my assignments.

It was very theory based so it didn't help me in practical ways such as lesson planning or preparing materials. But it did help me to consider a variety of ways in which my students learn and also consider techniques for behavior management and assessing students' work."

Summarizing why the PGCEi is becoming so popular, Devitto



TEACHING LEARNING: Phuket candidates may need to take the course in Bangkok.



DOTTING THE I: Unlike a PGCE, the PGCEi cannot be used to gain Britain's qualified teacher status (QTS).

stated, "Moving back to the UK for a year wasn't really a financial option for me. The PGCEi seemed like the perfect opportunity to get my PGCE whilst still working and teaching in Thailand. I am now going on to work at an international school in Shanghai in August; I wouldn't have been qualified to do this without the PGCEi."

The PGCEi is not only for the British. American, Ryan Meinhart is teaching at Konjonkiet and is currently studying his second module.

"My school offered to subsidize my course but I would have had to commit to them for two years so I declined. Once I finish, my school will increase my monthly salary by 6,000 baht," stated Meinhart.

In addition to the financial benefits, it's quite possible that the PGCEi and its subsequent Diploma in Education will exempt teachers who lack Education degrees from having to take the Teachers' Counsel of Thailand's Professional Knowledge tests. However, at

the time of publication no TCT official was able to confirm the accuracy of this.

Affordable, convenient and widely recognized, Nottingham's PGCEi seems a great option for career development.

Deserved or not, Phuket's poor reputation amongst its teachers might just improve upon the backs of these professionally minded educators, rather than continually suffering from the antics of their backpacking "colleagues".

Learning the blues

AFTER wowing the audience at the Phuket International Blues Rock Festival blues legend Chris Thomas King took time out of his busy schedule to visit British International School to give stu-

dents a crash course in the blues. The 'Up Close and Personal' event, sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, gave students an opportunity to pose questions and for a few lucky young musicians to

actually perform with the great man himself.

Photos from the festival can be found in this week's *Your Phuket*.

– Marc Mulloy



MOJO WORKING: Chris Thomas King on stage with some of the students after the event. Photo: Marc Mulloy

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Captain Watana Thinphanga

CAPTAIN Watana Thinphanga is something of a smooth operator. He speaks softly, his demeanor calm and collected with no jarring notes about him. In short, he exudes the air of confidence of someone fully in control of his and, as we will discover, other people's destiny.

It is hardly surprising to learn that, until 2009, Captain Watana was working as commanding pilot for Thai Airways International. At that top seat, he was in charge of 200-million dollar aircrafts and the lives of over 300 passengers.

"Commercial flying is not as fun and exciting as many would believe. The responsibility is so great and the whole operation is extremely stressful. Plus there are rules - you always have to make sure that passengers are comfortable, you know, the "smooth-as-silk" stuff. From the cockpit, you have to know when to duck, dive or go around bad patches of weather so that the people in the back don't vomit. Please don't laugh. That's exactly what they say at pre-flight briefing - 'don't make people puke'."

"Working like that is nerve racking, but in my experience passengers get sick anyway, not from motion, but because they are nervous about flying. And alcohol doesn't help," advises Captain Watana with a smile.

Still, the ex-pilot admits that he

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

thrived under pressure, saying: "It's an exhilarating experience having about 300 control buttons in front of you, all of which you have to know by heart. At 10 or 20 thousand feet in the air, there's no room for mistakes. It's multi-tasking at the highest level. And yes, it's an adrenalin-pumping situation and you can get high from it."

The most advanced aircraft Captain Watana has ever flown was the Boeing 777, the first to incorporate the 'fly by wire' technology (referring to the fiber optic line that runs through the length of the body and the wingspan of the aircraft). For Captain Watana, this was simply the most 'responsive flying machine around'.

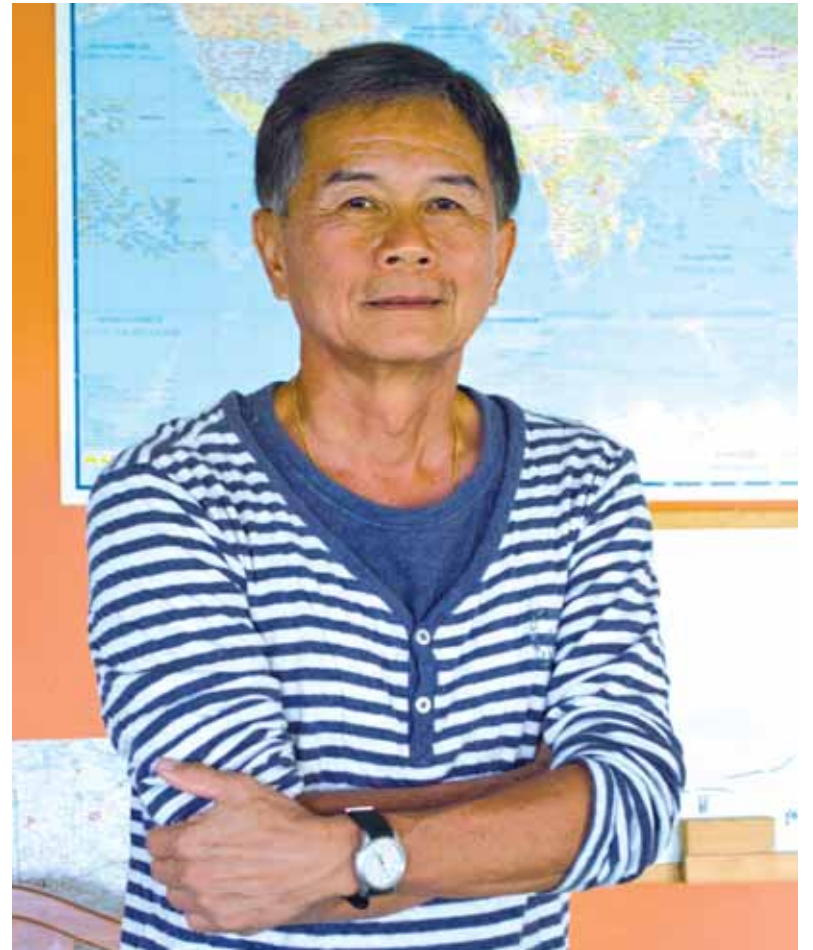
Captain Watana spent the first 10 years of his childhood in Phuket before his family moved to Bangkok. There, he graduated with a degree in engineering and joined Thai Airways International in 1975 as a training pilot. It was not long before he became the first pilot flying what was considered the top aircraft of that time - the Airbus. Captain Watana is married to Regina Nilkamhaengis and is the

proud father of two daughters, both of whom graduated from Oxford University. One is now working with the Royal project for environment protection, whose remit includes the province of Phuket.

Having retired in 2009, Captain Watana is happy to be back in Phuket acting as president of the Phuket Flying Club in Pa Khlok. There, he teaches light aircraft flying to 50 or so club members, and is keen to promote what he terms General Aviation (GA) as a worthwhile sport and recreation. GA, he says, has a small role to play in the area of environmental protection.

"Our members are asked to report any environmental anomalies they see from the air such as mangrove encroachment and the destruction of water sources for example. We even engage in rescue operations as well, unofficially that is. Only the other day, someone called us to help looking for a friend who he thought was lost at sea. Luckily, it turned out to be a false alarm."

For now, Captain Watana enjoys flying again, without any stress this time. "Flying should be about freedom and GA can give you that. It's fun and accessible. I'd like to see more young people engaging in this sport. My passion used to be flying, but now it is all about opening doors to flying for pleasure."



About Thai Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Thai Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an *international* community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an interest in interacting with different cultures. They are people who in our experience help make the lives of expats far more enjoyable here than might be the case without them.

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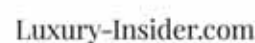
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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

March 5. Cowboy nights

Now it is time for a great Cowboy night from 6pm to 1am at Two Chefs Kata beach. We are setting up a great buffet with loads of inspiration from all the old Clint Eastwood movies we have seen. There will be pork tenderloin, ribs, chili, fajitas, nachos, tacos smoked salmon, Mexican spring rolls and much, much more. Of course, our talented house band will be there to entertain you all night long. All this for only 595 baht – yes, that's right, only 595 baht (295 baht for kids). Reservation at 076-284155, kata@twochefs.com or visit twochefs.com.

March 7. Makha Bucha Day – Public Holiday

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

March 7 to 9. Absolut Mango House Festival 2012

The ABSOLUT Mango House Festival 2012 will feature seven house DJs playing each day for 12 hours from 3pm to 3am starting from March 7 to 9 at Mango House Bar and Restaurant in Lanta Old Town, Koh Lanta, Krabi of Thailand. DJ Neil Pierce, a name synonymous with the Soulful House scene in London, is making his first ap-

March 11. Phuket Invitational Car Rally



The Phuket Invitational Car Rally is a family car treasure hunt with a difference. We will find places in Phuket that you never knew existed, and navigate through some of the most beautiful parts of this paradise island, all the time with safety and careful driving being foremost in mind! The Phuket Invitational Car Rally is supported by GOMS (the Grumpy Old Mens Society), the British Business Association Phuket, the International Business Association Phuket, the Australian Chamber of Commerce Thailand (Phuket), the Lions Club of Patong Beach and other voluntary organisations in Phuket, including the Tourist Police Volunteers. This is a fun event for all the family. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV*. From 10am to 5:30pm starting point at Chalong Pier Beer Garden. Contact John Devenport at 087-2658845, johndevenport@hotmail.com or visit phuketinvitational.com.

pearance at 'Southeast Asia's coolest little house music festival'. Also returning this year are London Ministry of Sound regulars 2 Good Souls, DJ Colin Edwards, DJ Tommy T, DJ Taz and DJ Q from the Phuket House Mafia, and Thailand's DJ Nutrip. The Absolut Mango House Festival is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact Duane Lennie at 086-9486836, duane@kolanta.net or visit mangohousesessions.com.

March 8. 18th Laguna Phuket Sea Turtle Release Ceremony

Laguna Phuket's 18th Annual Sea

Turtle Release Ceremony will take place at the Angsana Laguna Phuket beachfront from 5 to 6:30pm. Tickets are 2,000 baht per each including two welcome drinks. Tickets can be purchased at all Laguna Phuket hotel with reservations starting from March 1 onwards. Advanced purchase recommended as there is limited availability. All proceeds will be donated to the Phuket Marine Biological Center and the Third Naval Area Command, Royal Thai Navy, for ongoing turtle conservation programs. Contact Laguna CSR at 076-362300 ext. 1311, csrinfo@lagunaphuket.com or visit lagunaphuket.com/CSR/index.php.

March 9, 16, 23 and 30. Navrang Mahal Curry Fridays

We present Curry Fridays at Navrang Mahal India Restaurant from 7 to 11pm in Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet on Friday only 449 baht nett! Draught Beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Reservations at 076-286464 ext. 4, sm@karonseasand.com or visit karonseasand.com.

March 9. M. Chapoutier Winer Dinner at Mare Restaurant

You are cordially invited to an exclusive wine dinner headlined, for the first time in Phuket, by the leading fine quality wines of M. Chapoutier winery, and presented by *Stephane Barlerin*, export director of M. Chapoutier. The dinner will be held from 7 to 10pm at the Mare restaurant of Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket. The traditional French five-course menu is created by *Sandro Aguilera*, Executive Chef at the Centara Grand. A native of Barcelona and widely traveled, Sandro has cooked in many well known restaurants around the world. Price : THB2,900++ per person. Seats are limited. Contact Cherry at 076-201234,

asstprcpbr @chr.co.th or visit centarahotel sresorts.com/cpbr/news.asp.

March 10 and 24. Saturday Brunch

Saturday brunch from noon to 3pm at Two Chefs Kata Center! Every Saturday we are setting up our brunch buffet, filled to the limits with home made delights. In our smoke house, we smoke all of our fish and meats by ourselves, and in the bakery we bake all our bread. With very well trained chefs and a Swedish head chef, we can promise you that you won't leave hungry or thirsty. All this for only 395 baht, and if you add an extra 300 baht you can choose to drink what you want from our free flow alternatives. Reservation at 076-330065, katacenter@twochefs.com or visit twochefs.com.

March 10. QSI International School of Phuket FUN RUN

The 10th Annual QSI International School of Phuket FUN RUN is set up as fun for the whole family. Please come out and enjoy our races (distance from one to 13km), our games, booths, food and drink and lively entertainment at the picturesque Bang Wad Dam from 9am to 5pm. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV*. Contact at 076-524243, patrick-buckley@qsi.org or visit phuket.qsischool.org.

March 12 to 18. Coconut Carnival

It's more than just coconut. Enjoy a week of this festive buffet dinner from 6:30 to 10pm at DiVine Restaurant, Thanyapura, offering a wide selection of innovative coconut dishes. THB 1,200 per person. Price is subject to a 10% of service charge and 7 of VAT. Reservation at 076-336000, dining@thanyapura.com or visit thanyapura.com.

Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic

Is Windows driving you NUTS? Looking for a good internet connection? Need to know how and where to get your PC repaired, or your confounding questions answered? Drop by the new Afternoon Computer Clinics, hosted by Woody Leonhard and Seth Bareiss. Bring your computer. Bring your questions. Bring your sense of humor and let's see if we can solve your PC problems. Second and fourth Wednesday of every month. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

March 7. Sandwich Shoppe Patong
March 14 and 28. Sandwich Shoppe Chalong
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Contact at 076-282403,
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KING OF THE BLUES: Blues legend Chris Thomas King (above and right) showed Phuket why he has sold over 11 million albums worldwide.



PAT ON THE BACK: Local band The Rockin' Angels proved that Phuket has the blues too. Photos: Christian Mouchet



Phuket International Blues Rock Festival



CLASS ACT: Veteran Swedish bluesman Clas Yngström.



TO BE SURE: Irish songstress Gráinne Duffy brought the crowd to its feet with her stirring rendition of "I'd Rather Be Blind".



THRILLER: Phuket expat Richard Wright was another crowd pleaser with his version of "The Thrill is Gone".



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SPIN: Famous model and DJ Nipit Hanke at the TSL showroom opening.



MOTORHEADS: TSL Auto Corporation Co Ltd held its TSL car showroom opening ceremony presided by Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha on February 24. From left: Visavin Pitikulsatit; Apirak Homlaor; Surasit Udompolvanich; Nalinee Augkaradacha, the governor's wife; Governor Tri Augkaradacha; Sureeporn Udompolvanich; Vasin Udompolvanich; Pilaiwan Udompolvanich and Somkuan Klakbhan.



LUCK OF THE IRISH: After his festival performance (see opposite page) Chris Thomas King took time to unwind with his fans at the Craic Irish Bar in Cherng Talay.



ALL ABOARD: Fiona Bower's birthday bash kindly hosted by the crew of Newcastle Explorer in Yacht Haven Marina.



ONLY THE BEST: The Sri Panwa held a launch party for the world's highest ranked champagne Armand de Brignac. From left: Brice Borin, GM at The Regent Phuket Cape Panwa; Clare Bromilow, Business Development Executive at Sri Panwa; Brett Berish, CEO of Armand de Brignac; Jittrayut Osathanond, Group Marketing Manager, Sumana Vorachun; Nitichai Nenraksa and Nitichai Nenraksa, Regent F&B Director.

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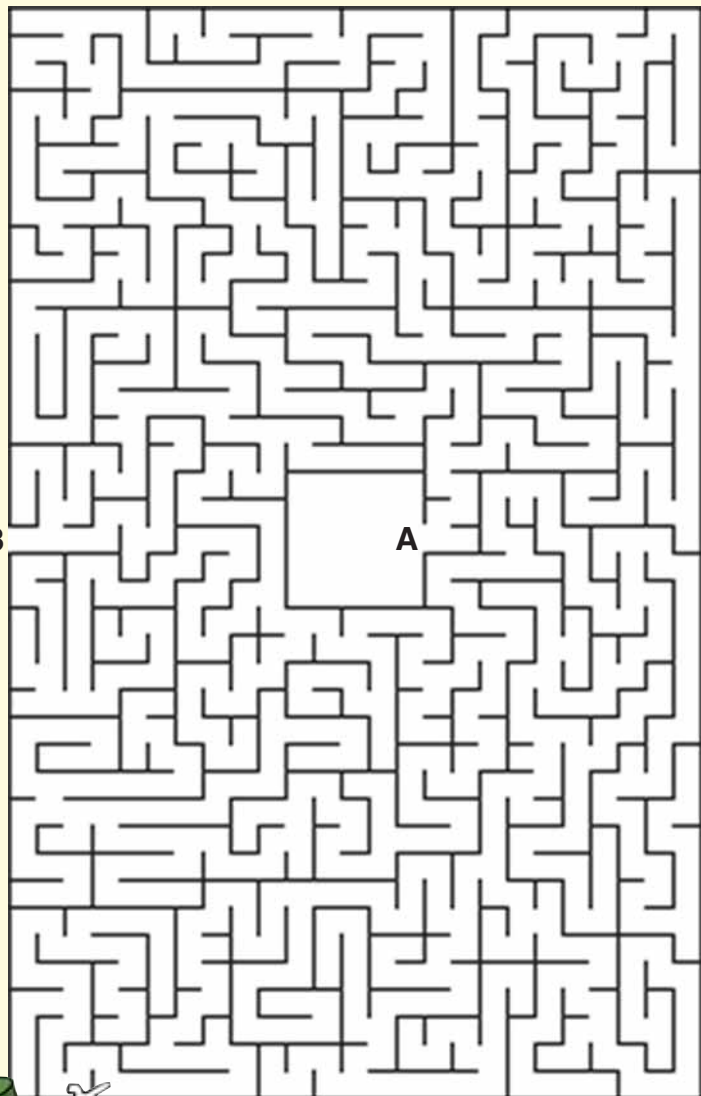
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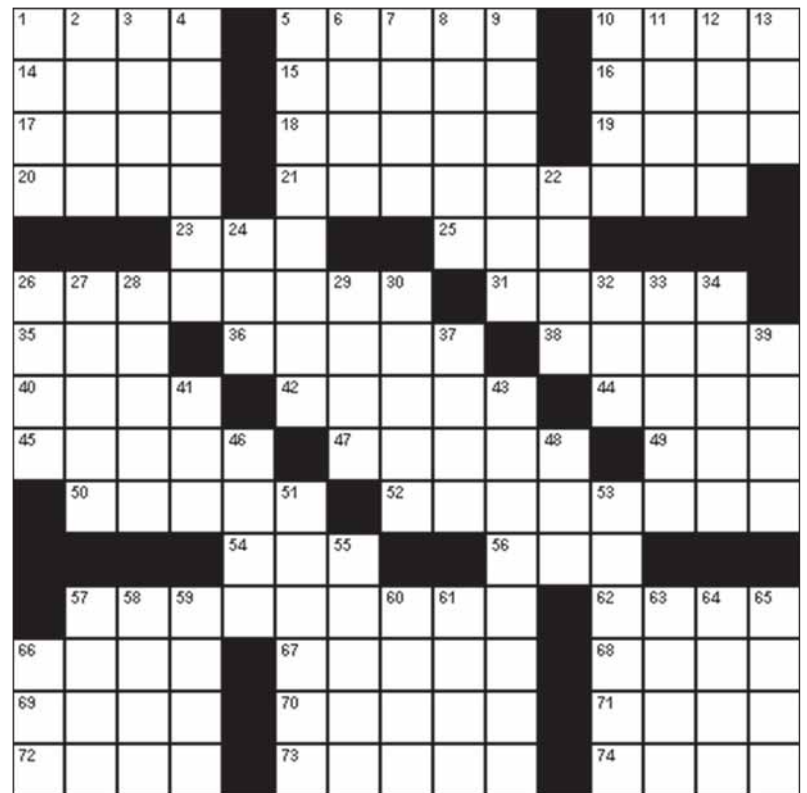
A Gazette staff member completed this maze in 20 seconds. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.



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- Across**
- Just ____!
 - Swiss city on the Rhine
 - Competent
 - Roman censor
 - Light on one's feet
 - Digits of the foot
 - Strong taste
 - Confusion
 - Mrs. Chaplin
 - OPEC member
 - Short-sleeved shirt
 - Turkish honorific
 - Fair-hiring abbr.
 - Containing mercury
 - Continue a subscription
 - Actress Balin
 - Cruising vessel
 - Resides
 - Half of zwei
 - Eye drops
 - Skin
 - Mother-of-pearl
 - Pipe cleaner
 - Code-breaking org.
 - Reproach
 - Disease of muscle tissue
 - Part of TNT
 - Foul
 - Tigerstripe precursor
 - "Betsy's Wedding" star
 - Journey
 - Break off
 - Quick look
 - "All The Way To ____", song by REM
 - Spud
 - Connections
 - Ages and ages
 - Stony gray
 - Ditto

- Down**
- Broadway beginning
 - River to the Moselle
 - Gas burner or Sicilian volcano
 - Good brandy
 - Card game
 - Turkish bigwig
 - Former name of Thailand
 - Get hitched quick




- Landlord
- Yours, in Tours
- Lout
- Fast time
- Conductor—Pekka Salonen
- Back part of the foot
- Fellow
- Appearance
- Early computer
- Cattle spot
- Chilled
- Card game
- Amulet
- Pinch
- Happening
- From Cardiff

- Salver
- Hang around
- Hindu honorific
- Snobbish conduct
- 1999 Ron Howard film
- Locka, Florida
- Builds
- Goes with the flow
- Model
- Black-and-white treat
- Waterfall
- Wall St. debuts
- Pro ____
- I'd hate to break up ____
- Sci-fi princess
- Consider
- Basilica area
- It's past due


Provided by BestCrosswords.com
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Crossword answers on page 41


PISCES (February 20-March 20):

 Pisceans who have been pushing for change should see some results during the first week of March. Where work matters are concerned, the stars support your attempts to get ahead, with emphasis on another water sign providing answers on Monday or Tuesday. Those with a birthday in the coming days can expect happier experiences with romance in the year ahead. Your lucky color this weekend is cerise.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

 Arians' love of luxury could cause problems. The stars indicate that overspending at the start of the year is about to catch up with you; those with a partner will have some explaining to do about this situation. This month can bring unforeseen financial demands and tighter budgeting is recommended. Romance for those who are single is on a smooth path – an earth sign's interest brightens.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):


 In the world of work, Taureans should see that another earth sign is willing to keep their word this week. Your doubts over their reliability can be laid to rest and fu-

ture collaboration with this person is promising. On the social scene, your match-making skills can help two friends to connect romantically. Auspicious days for money matters are Wednesday and Thursday. Your lucky color is sunflower yellow this weekend.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):


 Where business is concerned, some frustrations lie ahead for Geminis this week. An earth sign work colleague is forecast to stall at the last minute, leaving little hope of getting a new project off the ground this month. Dazzling days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday. Money matters go your way early in the week and another air sign is forecast to finally pay back a debt by the middle of this month.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):


 Cancerians are predicted to have a more positive outlook on life during March. Those who have found it difficult to stand on their own two feet since the start of the year should see ways of gaining more independence. Someone from your past is poised to reappear, which will please those who are single. Finances are affected by hazy astral conditions; new commitments should be delayed until the middle of the month.



LEO (July 24-August 22):

 The stars indicate that March will be a month of mixed fortunes. Your sharp mental energy should allow you to make sensible decisions, but being influenced by others could lead Leos in the wrong direction. A turbulent romance with an air sign benefits from a cooling off period. Those who are single are predicted to find that they have more in common with a water sign than they thought.


VIRGO (August 23-September 23):

 Virgoans' need to have things shipshape could be compromised by certain people. In the world of work, a fire sign's habit of cutting corners needs addressing; where personal relationships are concerned, too many doubts in a new relationship could encourage you to move on. The stars suggest on half of March is an auspicious time for long-term planning. An idea put forward by another earth sign gets you thinking.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

 Librans should take care not to create a storm in a teacup. The stars suggest that an irritable mood at the start of March could encourage you to overreact. Contact with other air signs can be particularly sensitive until the middle of the month. In the realm of romance, too much focus on the future may be preventing you from enjoying the present. Wear the color charcoal gray to encourage a more laid-back mood.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):


 Those born under the sign of Scorpio are advised to set a steady pace for the month of March. There are signs that your inclination to rush ahead without considering consequences properly could cause you to trip up. Another water sign has noticed your reputation in the world of work and is ready to make an offer you may not be able to refuse. Wear the color copper to encourage more balanced energy.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):


 A heated exchange with another fire sign leaves Sagittarians lost for words. The astral atmosphere remains uneasy until the middle of March and you

are advised to aim for calm communication. In the realm of romance, the stars indicate that love could be blind where infatuation with an air sign is concerned. A relationship with another fire sign is more likely to bring happiness. Your lucky color is cream this week.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):

 The astral atmosphere shines positively on those born under the sign of Capricorn during the month of March. It will be easier to find common ground with others, both at work and on a personal level. Finances are forecast to be less stressful, with emphasis on surprise gain from overseas interests. With your social skills sharpened, romance is highlighted to be within reach for those who are single.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):

 A strong suspicion that the grass is greener elsewhere may prompt Aquarians to make sudden travel plans. Whether this is for a vacation or relocation, your chances of finding what you want are well-starred. Where money matters are concerned, a slight downturn is forecast during the first half of March. Discrepancies could go unnoticed on Tuesday or Wednesday. Romance is lukewarm, earth sign brings satisfaction.

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Creating a Scene on Rawai's coast

THE Scene recently launched its new show house in Rawai with a concept based on functionality and modern design that compliment the attractive surroundings.

The development is constructed and managed by The Fortress Real Estate group, who specialize in creating resorts and contemporary villas around Phuket island.

The group, which has its own team of construction engineers and after sale service, focuses on the quality of each unit rather than the quantities and only five units are available.

Natural sunlight, transparency and ocean breezes help reduce energy consumption during the hot season and is a design priority.

Each of The Scene's units are approximately 470 Square meters in size with large functional areas consisting of a Master Suite (5.5 x 6m) with all bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, a living room, a kitchen, a dining room, Jacuzzi with cocktail bar and sun bathing area on the roof with spectacular ocean view.

For more information visit *W: thescene-phuket.com*

- *Phuket Gazette*



UP ON THE ROOF: The new property features only five units.



The spacious interior of the villas is the result of careful design with maximum exposure to the surroundings.



COOL DESIGN: Natural breezes help reduce the energy consumption .

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The hotel owners' great debate: Is it better to buy or to build?



ROOM SERVICE: Deciding to purchase an existing hotel includes concerns such as taking over existing staff members and possibly existing financial debts. Photo: Cacamo



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

DECISIONS, decisions. Our lives often revolve around them like a lotus in a whirlpool. In through the

'out' door and out through the 'in'. Or just 'smash and grab' like some random jewelry heist.

But wait, we have a topic, and rolling into 2012 it has never been more relevant. Hotels coming into the market place in Phuket have historically been a

rare and endangered breed.

Perhaps like some hooded rainforest owl who has found its way onto the menu in a host of Chinese restaurants. Frankly speaking, I don't like the odds on the owl.

Shakespeare was said to utter the catchphrase "To be or not to be?" Prospective hotel buyers stuck in the waiting game are faced with the question to "buy or build?"

It's a long line, boredom often sets in. Angst. Anyone who has tried to line up at Phuket airport immigration lately in tandem with a string of charter flights to Snowland can attest to the edgy panic.

Sweaty palms, racing heartbeat, is it a heart attack? And who is Ivan?

The current lineup of hospitality assets range from Mövenpick Resort in Karon, the former Courtyard by Marriott located city center Patong, and the Evason Rawai.

All allowing purchasers to get in the market fast. Cash in on the tourism boom and become a striker versus a beach warmer in the hotel Olympics.

Agents such as Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels, CBRE Thailand and

others are issuing press releases on glowing prospects faster than the trees can be cut down in Myanmar to make the paper.

Hotel buying can be compared to high stakes poker. Different strategies for the mixed bag of players. Owner/operators, private equity and conglomerates are just a few of the split personalities.

In the trade we categorize by what is called an investment horizon, though in local lingo in the entertainment district you could classify these into short time or long time holds.

For financial institutions or funds existing assets represent sound cash flow, low development risk and in today's topsy turvey world, stabilized returns. More venturesome groups look at upside exercises renovation, branding, and repositioning. Ultimately a mid-term holding period is taken with the ultimate end game of selling at a premium.

Of course, you have other groups looking to build portfolios, grow management groups or else the lucrative set of individuals who just want to own a hotel as part of a larger collection of trophies.

The truth is, buying over existing hotels can be a minefield. There are two basic deal structures, either purchasing a company along with its liabilities or else just the raw asset.

In the case of the former, this includes taking over existing staff, possible debt or legal impediments and all manner of items that are often overlooked.

Straight asset deals are easier, but fall into the minority of transactions given tax implications on

a gain versus a simple share purchase.

Overseas buyers face an even greater hurdle if the project is not BOI (Thailand's Board of Investment) approved for 100 per cent foreign ownership. Options include joint ventures, leasehold or a property fund.

Rope in the unknown costs of capital improvements once you start looking in ceilings and evaluating physical plant machinery and all of a sudden that upgrade is well over budget.

Given the current market conditions with the availability of debt to developers, one has to say any hotel asset needs to be critically studied to see if it may just be better to start all over again. Build new and don't inherit the sins of the father.

Again, stress, distress and vulture capital continues to circle over the playing field, and look for opportunity. But it never stops amazing me, with the availability of land, why some prospective hotel owners don't simply do the math and start fresh.

Yes, there are exceptions and big picture thinking for larger investors but as a whole the debate on buy vs build needs careful consideration and planning. There is no fast track to success in either regime so do your homework.

Either or neither very may well be the best course of action.

As for that owl, it's probably best it stay hidden in the tree tops.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through W: c9hotelworks.com



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Lai Thai receives its EIA approval

THE Lai Thai Luxury Apartments has announced that the project has been granted approval from the Thai Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, following a lengthy Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Thailand recently implemented tough new EIA regulations, that went into effect on July 1, 2011:

- Any project with a surface area of more than 4000 square meters or comprising more than 80 units must now comply with rules designed to limit its environmental and social impact. Assessment criteria include building height, green area, waste management and safety regulations.

- The regulations specify that buildings must be no more than four stories in height, and must have at least 40 per cent of green space.

- A minimum number of parking spaces is required, and traffic flow must provide access for emergency vehicles

- Proper security must also be provided and, in the case of The Lai Thai, 30 CCTV cameras are installed throughout the project.

- Water drainage and erosion studies must be completed and waste treatment is strictly regulated and approval of water and electrical needs is required from the provincial authorities.

- The project must also be wheelchair accessible and fire safety standards must be met.

The EIA process requires several inspec-

tions and can take up to one year for approval. Now that clearance has been given, work on the infrastructure has begun, with the main piling work due to start in April.

The project has a completion date scheduled for the third quarter of 2013.

Sales are strong, with buyers from both within Thailand and across the globe, and are expected to rise following the EIA approval, as investors can take advantage of pre-construction prices with this additional layer of security.

For more information, and to follow construction, visit W:laithai-resort.com



The Lai Thai is situated in beautiful Krabi.



ABOVE AND BEYOND: Mr Glenn McCool (4th from left), Regional Purchasing Manager, TUI Travel PLC Specialist Holidays Group; Mr Robert Frei (3rd from left), GM, Beyond Resort Khao Lak; Andrew Swatdipakdi (3rd from right), GM, Kata Beach Resort and Spa, with the executive management team of Kata Group Resorts Thailand.

UK's leading travel agent inspects Kata Group

KATA Group Resorts Thailand recently welcomed Mr Glenn McCool, Regional Purchasing Manager of TUI Travel PLC Specialist Holidays Group to come on an inspection visit of the group's latest resorts.

TUI Travel is the foremost travel agency in the UK and is an internationally successful travel retailer and London Stock Exchange-listed company.

Mr McCool completed his inspection tour of Kata Group Resorts with

Thailand's two newest and upscale resort options under the new Beyond brand; Beyond Resort Khao Lak and Beyond Resort Krabi.

After a successful inspection, Mr McCool enjoyed some relaxed hospitality at the Kata Beach Resort and Spa, the original and first property to be launched under the Kata banner over 32 years ago.

For more information, please visit www.katagroup.com.

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Construction commences Q2 2010 nd Completion during Q2 2012

Vistas of paradise



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

IT IS always a great pleasure to be invited to a Phuket home, and to be asked for advice about aspects of the garden. This week's visit proved predictably pleasurable and the upshot, hardly surprising - was a decision to write about the experience.

The original intention had been to advise about pot plants but, as often happens on these occasions, it turned into a discussion about many aspects of an ongoing horticultural projects.

This is no run-of-the-mill

property. Perched on a precipitous hillside, and with panoramic views over Chalong Bay, the newly built, four storey terraced property literally follows the contours of the ravine. Flanked by walls on each side, the structure forms three

sides of a rectangle with a central, shaded area open to the sky.

All three balconies face the ultramarine waters of the island dotted bay, the lowest terrace home to a swimming pool, and the two upper patios paved with pleasant terracotta tiles.

Here, said my guide, is where we start. He pointed to huge, sculptural clay pots which matched the floor and which flanked the white front walls. I always think it's a



White flowering ixoras.

good idea to have more than one kind of inhabitant in large containers; here tall *wrightia religiosas* at the center of each pot were flanked by white flowering *ixoras*. Both are evergreen

shrubs and both were in flower, with the pendulous blooms of the *wrightia* delivering their sweet fragrance. But more pots were required to form a colorful screen across the front of the two balconies. And obviously shrubs able to

take the noon-day glare would be needed.

Suggestions included Crown of Thorns (*euphorbias*), available in cerise, white and salmon pink and in large and small flowering cultivars, and Desert Rose (*adeniums*), which can now be found in beautiful shades of brilliant red as well as deep pink. These are reliable, year round bloomers, require little attention and do well in pots. The only snag is that they are slow-growing, so you might want to either put several in one pot, or add plants such as *ixoras*, or variegated foliage plants such as Crotons (*codiaeum*) which come in a huge range of color combinations. The Umbrella Tree (*Schefflera*) is one tough cookie, and looks great in a pot, as does Orange Jasmine (*murraya paniculata*) with its strongly scented white flowers.

On the lower terrace were a number of potted golden cane palms. A few were going brownish-yellow before their time, the victims of over-zealous watering. Better dried out or transplanted to the main garden.

The actual garden is on a steep slope with forty or fifty steps from



RARITY: *Etlingera elatior* also known as the torch ginger. Photo: Pacheco

top to bottom, and high walls to mark the boundaries on each side. So the original garden designer sensibly chose trees and shrubs that could cope with limited sun and moisture, and with Phuket soil that is thin and lacking nutrients. Some plantings have been real success stories: there are numerous fish-tail and wine palms, to provide a verdant screen down both sides of the property, with huge hanging, beaded inflorescences like chain mail.

Lower down are several elegant foxtail palms, and the attractive green foliage of Lady Palms (*rhapsis*). Other large trees enjoying the sea-air are calabashes: their open habit allows shrubs - heliconias, for example - to flourish beneath. These include several exotic cultivars such as *collinsiana*. Zingibers are represented not only by a bed of Costus near the access road, but by the striking torch ginger (*etlingera*

elatior) with its massive waxy red bracts. An exciting sight in Phuket.

The central area is surrounded by high walls on three sides. Devoid of much sunlight, with little top soil and sloping precipitously, it presents a real challenge. At the moist base, a row of dark green foliage plants are doing well, but the whole area would benefit from terracing of low stone or natural brick walls to retain both moisture and the soil amendments - top soil, compost and fertilizer - which need to be added.

Then you can begin to think about installing shade loving plants: ferns such as *asplenium*, *aglaonemas*, *philodendron*, and *anthuriums*.

Then you have the property that has everything.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email me anytime at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com



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Tip of the week

Growing annuals



Celosias are also known as woolflowers. Photo: Mike Sutton

ANNUALS germinate, grow, set seed and die, all within the course of a year, thereby providing a splash of rapid and vivid color. They are normally grown from seed. You can collect your own seeds when you dead-head flowers (which encourages more flowering), but ensure that the seeds are dry and fully mature. Annuals you might consider in Phuket include cockscomb (*celosias*), cosmos daisies, sunflowers (*helianthus*), and African marigolds (*tagetes*). Some can be bought as packeted

seeds, and should be sown either in prepared open ground, or better still in containers where their progress can be monitored. You can also buy annuals in small pots which you should water thoroughly. Keep the soil moist, but not soggy: annuals have shallow root systems, but because they grow quickly, they need moisture and nutrients. Personal favorites include zinnias, magenta globe amaranths (*gomphrena globosa*) and the low-growing and multi-hued rose moss (*portulaca*).

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YOUR EVENT												
Pre-event story 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Pre-event story 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Post-event	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓		
Advertising, full color	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓				
Events Flyer – every week!	✓											
'What's On' page x 1	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓				
Website Events Calendar, every week until event closed out!					✓	✓	✓					
PGTV – Daily spot – 30 sec					✓ ⁽¹⁾	✓ ⁽¹⁾					✓ ^{(2) (3)}	
PGTV – Post event – 1 min of News footage					✓ ⁽¹⁾	✓ ⁽¹⁾					✓ ^{(2) (3)}	
Radio promotion – Spots / Mentions / Interview					✓							✓
Tickets Sales Promotions	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓			✓

* THAI; Emirates; United; China Airlines; Air France; Delta; Lufthansa; Singapore Airlines; Cathay Pacific; Dragonair and Vietnam Airlines.

** The Gazette Online enjoys the highest Google traffic and 'page importance' rankings of any website in or about Phuket.

⁽¹⁾ Continuous, all day

⁽²⁾ in a half hour show running 3 times / day

⁽³⁾ Continuous on CCTV systems in 4,000 four and five star hotel rooms

Phuket Gazette

Contact K. Jane, Events Manager.
Kanjana@PhuketGazette.net

Property Classifieds

Properties For Sale

LARGE SEAVIEW PROPERTY



for sale. Location at Layan. Tel: 081-787 4383.

POOL VILLA CHALONG FOR SALE



1 min from Wine Connection. 3 bedrooms, sale direct by owner. Price: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 080-075 6709. Email: happytophuket@gmail.com Website: www.villa-phuket-aunyananee.com

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

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

CHALONG 2-BEDROOM HOUSE

New detached house for sale. 2 bedrooms, en suites. Large walled garden. Price: 2.2 million baht. Contact Jai. Tel: 089-817 4864.

NICE CONDO BYPASS
Opposite Big C, 55sqm, 1 bedroom, fully furnished. Price: 3.8 million baht. Tel: 081-614 5372. Email: surasaksakul@hotmail.com

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

SUPERB CONTEMPORARY VILLA



5 bedrooms. Between Boat Lagoon & BIS. 120sqm swimming pool, fully furnished. 26 million baht. Tel: 082-276 4314, 082-276 4318. Email: caronitk@hotmail.fr See our website www.phuketfinder.com

100% OWNER FINANCE



Rawai condo. To foreigner, 6 rooms, 27 or 54sqm. 600,000 baht up. 200m to Rawai Pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

PATONG SEAVIEW TOWNHOUSE

4-storey townhouse, approx 270sqm, opposite The Unity in northern Patong. Top quality, easy walking distance to beach. Chanote, freehold. 6.3MB negotiable. Tel: 081-960940 (English). For further details, please see our website at <http://khunwoody.com/patong-townhouse-for-sale.htm>

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

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

LAND FOR SALE

Near the main road to Baan Don-Cherng Talay. 68sq wah. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@yahoo.co.th

NAI HARN LUXURY CONDO



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 111sqm. From 4.5 million baht. Must see. For further details, please see our website at www.amphiseabreeze.com Tel: 084-993 7308.

PROPERTY AND MOTOR INSURANCE

Lambert Brothers Insurance Brokers

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

Contact: Gail & Paew
Phuket Boat Lagoon
info@lambertbrothers.co.th
Tel: + 66 76 273 385
www.lambertbrothers.co.th

LAND PLOT FOR SALE



Starting 6 million baht per rai. Location at Layan. Tel: 081-787 4383.

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

At Ao Makhham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Tel: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

KAMALA 2 BRAND NEW VILLAS

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Western kitchen, 130sqm. Nice garden with large pool in quiet area. Price: 5.5 million or minimum 3 month for rent. Tel: 081-496 9070 (Eng/Swedish) or 081-719 1175 (Thai). Email: diod@telia.com

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

SOISANSABAI 2-BED CONDO

Outstanding location, G/F, Foreign Freehold, 80sqm. 4.25 million baht. Tel: 086-075 6715. Email: chalky@netvigator.com For further details, please see our website at <http://bjparkcondo.weebly.com/>

KATA 3-LEVEL HOUSE

4 bedrooms or more, 2 bathrooms. Must sell fast, must sell cheap. Price: 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-303 2202.

VILLAS IN RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished. Sale/rent. Price: 4 million baht. Pool villas: 5 million baht. 80% finance, 2% interest, 10% deposit, 90% finance. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

LAND PLUS HOUSE PLAN

Land 2.5 rai, 4,000sqm. House size 1,600sqm with building permit. 9.8 million baht. Chanote, water, electric. Ao Makhham Seaview. Tel: 087-385 4180.

LANDAT CHERNG TALAY

390sq wah, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118, 086-709 2933.

HOUSE IN PATONG



Newly built 40sqwah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 stories, 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-469 1813.

CHALONG OFFICE/STORE

on 1/2 rai plot on lakeside near Wat Chalongs. 144sqm office + 144sqm staff accommodation + 220sqm covered store. 15 million baht. Tel: 087-883 2542 (English), 081-090 7687 (Thai). Fax: 076-521687. Email: simonj@cscoms.com

BEST HOUSE LOCATION

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, hardwood floors, best of interiors, beautiful view and environment and very close to international school. Golf membership also available. Tel: 081-939 0176 (English & Thai). Email: bostobkk@yahoo.com

BEST LUXURY VILLA



In Nai Harn. Great location close to beach. 3 stunning bedrooms. All with indoor/outdoor bathrooms. This villa has the lot: pool, jacuzzi, ducted aircon, high ceilings. Best quality furniture and fittings, European kitchen, laundry, electric gate. The list is endless. 16.5 million baht. Can't find better. Tel: 082-281 3422. Email: cjinassr_import@yahoo.com.au

AO POR APARTMENT

2 beds, 2 baths, large balcony with beautiful sea views. Few mins to Ao Por pier and marina. Close to Mission Hills Golf Club. Fully furnished. 5.4 million baht ono. Contact Dave. Tel: 076-317705, 790-196 0382 (English), 779-921 2558 (English). Email: davehogg1@ntlworld.com

HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



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

4 BEDROOM LAGUNA PHUKET

5 minutes from Laguna in quiet tropical location, a quality pool villa on 1,000sqm land. 220sqm indoor living space, 50sqm pool terrace, 30sqm salt water pool, 6 bathrooms, 65sqm open style kitchen-living-dining area. Western kitchen etc. 9.9 million baht. Tel: 089-875 9609 (English), 087-418 5924 (Thai). Email: claudebaltes@gmail.com

HOUSE IN KATA

5 mins to beach, large modern 3-storey house, furnished, 3 beds, 2 full baths, aircon, spacious living room, garage with laundry and overhead storage, security door/windows, large covered patios. Company transfer available. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 081-131 5751. Email: seadog5000@yahoo.com

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



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

All classifieds in these pages are

PAID!

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

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....because they're real.

Live in Cherng Talay?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
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Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** in the **Gazette Online!**

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Property Classifieds

Properties For Rent

PATONG TOWER CONDO A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower Beach Condo with stunning 280-degree panoramic views of the ocean, mountains and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap around balcony. Completely renovated, Internet and washing machine. Available from March 3, 2012. Tel: (86) 1381634 4147. Email: PatongTowerRental@yahoo.com. For further details, please see our website at www.PatongTowerRental.com

KAMALA BEACH

New houses, apartment for rent. 2-4 bedrooms, furnished, cable, WiFi, cleaning lady. All included 15,000-30,000 baht per month. Very quiet and safe. Tel: 083-645 3546.

NEW APARTMENT FOR RENT

In beautiful Nai Harn. Tel: 084-850 6759. Email: beachroadapartments@gmail.com

1/2 BEDROOM BUNGALOW

Rawai, quiet, includes WiFi, TV, aircon, fully furnished. From 9,000 baht. Tel: 086-279 0837.

POOL VILLAS RAWAI

3 and 4 bedroom villas, short and long term. Tel: 087-893 8747.

VILLA LONG TERM RENT



4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, maid's room with bathroom, 2 kitchen, fully furnished, swimming pool, WiFi, garden. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

LAW & REAL ESTATE

Villa and land for lease or sale in Phuket and Krabi. Contact Mr Rodriguez on 081-893 3212. Email: rodriguez.l@scplawassistance.com Villa 77/15 Moo. 6, T. Chalong, A. Muang, Phuket 83130

KAMALA HILLS APARTMENT

Highest room with lovely mountain view. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with study room including cleaning services 8 times per month. 24hr security guard. Covered parking for one car. Rent 36,000 Baht/month. Tel: 086-478 0339 (K.Sirinart).

CHALONG BEACH DUPLEX

Furnished, 3 bedrooms, quiet, secure, cable TV, internet. Long-term rent: 11,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-415 2900.

2-BEDROOM MAI KHAO VILLA

10 mins from airport, European standard, safe and charming garden. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: fievet@gmail.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA

Designed for comfort, has everything. Near Laguna. Lease 22,000 baht/month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

VASSANA RESIDENCE

3 exclusive-luxury apartments in Rawai. Each apartment comprises 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large European kitchen and living room, LCD TV, WiFi. Large balconies back and front with sweeping views over Rawai and Andaman Sea. Ground floor: swimming pool and a rooftop whirlpool, where you can relax and take in the sea and mountain views. Each apartment also has its own private whirlpool. Tel: 087-882 9604 (English). Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.premierpropertiesphuket.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA FOR RENT

A new 3-bedroom pool villa available for rent, long or short term, fully or partly furnished. 5 minutes from Layan Beach, just outside Laguna. Tel: 081-891 1826 (English), 081-891 2926 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238940. Email: kevinq@loxinfo.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.baanboosakorn.com

HOUSE IN PATONG



Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 stories, 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-469 1813.

2-BEDROOM TWIN HOUSE



In Phuket Town. 20,000 baht/month.

Surface: 45sq wah (180sqm).

- 2 storeys: ground floor with living room, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, garden and parking lot.

- Top floor with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 balconies and living room

- Peaceful area in a nice neighborhood (and uncommonly large roads)

- Only minutes away from Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Central Festival

- 24-hour security

- Clubhouse with swimming pool

Call 081-868 7676 or 089-868 2268 for more information or house inspection.

B.L. APARTMENT

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

HOUSE FOR RENT IN KATHU

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen, small garden, cable TV, internet. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-739 3220.

BANG TAO VILLAS FOR RENT

Pool villas, 1, 2, 4 bedrooms, fully furnished, sat TV, ADSL. Tel: 085-674 6786.



4 Bedrooms Villa for Rent / Sale
Fully Finished, Wi-Fi, Cable TV, Maid, Pool Cleaner, and Gardener are included.
www.PropertySeekByKMD.com
(081) 895-7310

THAI VILLA AND POOL

Nai Harn, long term, mid-March. 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

PATONG 1 & 2 BEDROOM APTS

Nice 50 & 100sqm units. Free WiFi, maid, pool, close to town. From 22,000 baht /month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

BALINESE POOL VILLAS

Luxury boutique villas available for short or long-term rent. Swimming pool, two or three bedrooms. Rates from US\$89 per night. Tel: 076-384691, 087-264 9695. Email: enrico@easyhomephuket.com For further details, please see our website at: <http://villasuksan.com/gallery.htm>

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

2 storey house 3 bed, 3 bath near Panwa Bay. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at <http://panwagreen.weebly.com>

KATA SEAVIEW WESTERN APART



1 bedroom, great sea view, penthouse, 100sqm, with huge terrace. 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, ground floor 115sqm with 60sqm covered terrace. Sat TV, Internet, fully furnished, fitted kitchen, parking. Tel: 084-840 1262. Email: north8east98@yahoo.com

LONGTERM RENT

1-2 bedroom, furnished houses, beautiful garden, Chalong area 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

VILLA - PHUKET TOWN

Dowroong Villa, Chaofa East Road . 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room . Western style kitchen, fully air conditioned, furnished, internet . Sala, parking, club house with pool and tennis, garden for children, security guard. 15,000 baht per month. 1 year minimum rental. 2 months deposit required. Tel: 086-271 0557 (English & Thai). Email: gerard.pelissier@knslease.com

2 BED PENTHOUSE NEAR BEACH

200m from south end of Bangtao Beach, full furnished, roof sala, free WiFi, pools, gym, cleaning services. Available for long - short term. Tel: 076-282308, 089-655 7480 (English & Thai). Email: suppmas@live.com

KATHU NEAR POCHPALM

Apartment 58sqm, ADSL, cable, pool. 12,000 baht/ month. Tel: 081-891 6632 (English & Thai).

SEA VIEW MODERN STYLE VILLA

6 bedrooms, panoramic terrace, 17m sea-view swimming pool, Finnish sauna, sophisticated security system and much more. Available for rent for long term only at 160,000 baht/month inclusive of in-house maid service. Located just above Phunaka Golf Course in Chalong Hill. Tel: 081-892 7847 (English). Email: patrick@oceanic-global.com For further details, please see our website at www.oceanic-global.com/villa-neptune.php

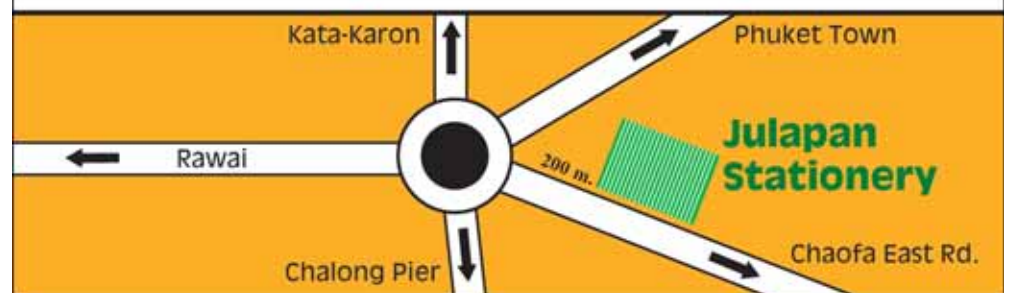
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- Female, Thai
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- Translation Skills
- Computer literate with good knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook and Internet
- Self-Motivated, willing to work under deadlines

Working Hours: Monday – Friday 09.00 – 18.00

If you are interested in this position, please submit your CV with covering letter in English to: chidchanok@limcharoen.com
Contact Khun Bong: +66 (0) 89 228 0011

www.limcharoen.com

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VS Asia Co., Ltd. over 35 years experience in professional printing & information technology and post-production for clients in Europe, Asia and worldwide.

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Job Description:

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- Teamwork and cooperating with related departments

Qualifications:

- Male/female, Thai national only
- Fluent German language in reading + writing
- Good knowledge of computers (Windows or Macintosh)
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work as a shift with team or independently

Salary & Welfare:

- Salary, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.
- Incentive bonus: depends on quality, skills and experiences.

Interested applicants apply at:
VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)
42 Moo3, Palai2,Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130
Tel. (00)66-76-380600 Fax. (00)66-76-380605
Email: info@vsdma.com

Phuket Gazette

As the result of a major expansion in its **Classified Advertising** business due to the launch of the newspaper's Nationwide Edition, the *Phuket Gazette* seeks to add a **Receptionist** to its existing team of five.

Qualified candidates will be:

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged at least 24
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

and should have:

- ▶ A Bachelors Degree from a recognizable university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software

Knowledge of InDesign, Pagemaker or Quark Express would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Pornniwa, Assistant Manager-Classifieds, at Jeab@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555, ext 207 Fax: 076-615240

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Interact with clients, negotiate insurance placements and claims, and liaise with all types of insurance companies. Work is varied and interesting and always rewarding.

We demand honesty, self-motivation and professionalism together with a strong client servicing approach.

Good command of written and spoken English

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ATSUMI HEALING JOBS

Atsumi Healing is looking for full time Thai nationals for administration, reception, cleaning, laundry, kitchen staff. Salary negotiable depending on experience. Tel: 084-051 7455, 081-272 0571. Email resume to info@atsumihealing.com

LIVE IN MAID

Elderly couple require a Thai house maid. Must live in. Tel: 085-790 2241.

ECO-RESORT DESK SUPERVISOR

Front Desk Supervisor at Khao Sok (16 bungalows). Seeking female Thai national, fluent English, computer skills, team attitude who enjoys a remote natural location. Starting salary from 13,000 baht, depending on experience. Tel: 081-417 0546. Email: ourjunglehouse1985@gmail.com

ASSISTANT - BEAUTY TOURS

Looking for a Phuket-based assistant to consult, assist and help manage a new Beauty Tourism company. Thai/English speaker with good communication & marketing experience. Tel: +61-4-1611 3424, +61-4-161 1342. Email: amy@esteembeautyretreats.com For further details, please see our website: <http://esteembeautyretreats.com>

SALES EXECUTIVE REQUIRED

- Self-motivated, flexible approach to work
- Good communicator (Good level of English)
- Property sales experience an advantage
- Reliable and honest

Please send us your CV with recent picture and expected salary: Cattaleeya.lmsamang@ap.jll.com

ACCOUNTANT WANTED

Need accountant that can Multitask. Must have good understanding of P&L and Balance sheet reconciliation - ERP Software Data Entry (Data Express) and Report Running. BS in Accounting from accredited Thai, UV required. Must be able to read, write and speak English fluently. Contact: jintana@phuketfishboat.com
Tel: 089-500 6676.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Female over 32 years, good English communication: speaking, reading, writing. Knowledge of employment law and company policy. Leadership, service minded, work under pressure and move on site. Tel: 076-527633, 087-881 0003. Email: hr@phuketvillasandhomes.com

WEB DESIGNER ASSISTANT

20,000+ per month. Must know Photoshop, Illustrator, CSS (3years experience), Dreamweaver and have good command of English (Thai national only). Tel: 076-324184, 082-255 7507. Please send CV to om@imarketingonly.com

HR MANAGER

Cherng Talay property management company. Degree in HR, 2 years experience, English essential. Tel: 076-270750, 081-719 3795. Email: personnel@pipsphuket.com

ASSISTANT/ SECRETARY

Available for foreigners only. Office and field assistant, background and knowledge with construction administration is an advantage. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

KOHLER

Kohler Thailand, which manufactures and distributes Kohler, Karat, and Englefield branded products. We are seeking for dynamic, strong leaders, and team players who are looking for a place that they can explore all of their competencies and grow up for being number one together in the following positions.

Project Sales Executive (Southern Region)

Responsible to sell Kohler, Karat, and Englefield products to major specifiers, interior contractors, designers, builders, developers, and the lodging industry in Southern Region which are Phuket, Samui, Phang Nga, and Krabi.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Economics, or any related filed.
- At least 5 years experience in project sales with strong connection with major specifiers, interior contractors, designers, builders, developers would be advantage.

If you are interested, please e-mail your resumé to
E-mail: portipa.hanpalangjitsuk@kohler.com

Kohler (Thailand) Public Company Limited
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Tel: 0-2204-6000 Mobile: 084-5550338 www.kohlerthai.com

MANAGEMENT STAFF WANTED

Young and adventurous management staff based at Surat Thani. All nationals and also couples welcome to apply. Send CV in English & photo to rainforestjob@gmail.com

SWIMMING POOL SERVICE STAFF

Experienced, and on the job training provided for non-experienced swimming pool service men and women required for Cherng Talay, Kamala, Kathu & Chalong areas. Best salaries available. Tel: 076-620193. Email: john@mobilepooldoctor.com

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We require a full time – 6 days per week, 9am to 5pm – office staff to work on researching properties and office organization. Requires computer skills, good organization, English writing and English speaking, and preferably knowledge of property rentals, but the latter is not a must. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

BOOTH STAFF (THAI ONLY)

Work 6 days a week, good salary. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

PANWA BEACH RESORT PHUKET

We are urgently looking for a Human Resources Manager, Restaurant Captain, Waiters, Front Desk Attendant, Sports Attendant. Good salary and benefit. Tel: 076-393300. Fax: 076-200334. Email: claudesauter@gmail.com
Website: www.marcopolo-hotels.com

NANNIES WANTED

Professional holiday nanny service company is looking for experienced freelance nannies. Email: info@globalbizconnect.co.uk

SALES MANAGER

Property Sales Consultant. Thai national, 3-5 years experience. Good Thai and English, proactive and organized. Computer literate, have own car and laptop. The Charm residence. Tel: 076-344499. Email: info@thecharmphuket.com

MAID/ BABYSITTER

Need Thai lady take care my son. 1 year 9 month. And clean house. Koh Kaew area. Stay in. Tel: 080-690 6487.

COMPANY IN KAMALA

Looking for driver/ delivery man. 12,000 baht per month, motor-bike + insurance. Apply to 076-322663.

PHOTO STAFF NEEDED

Speak English, take photos, sell photos. Send CV, phone and email for interview. Tel: +65-65-9631 1371. Email: Larry@singnet.com.sg

WEB DEVELOPER PHP/MVC

PHP Developer with strong MVC framework (Yii, CI, Symfony, ZEND) and JQuery. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: Shayne.Micchia+ADS@gmail.com

HANDYMAN/ GARDENER/DRIVER

English speaking, experienced, handyman, gardener and private driver with own small truck. Full time position to start immediately in the Boat Lagoon area. Excellent salary for someone who's enthusiastic and hardworking. Tel: 084-877 3566 (English). Email: sherin.peace@gmail.com

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Secure, Clean & Cost Effective Self Storage

MY STORAGE – Thailand's No.1 Self Storage facility located at Jungceylon Shopping Center, Patong, Phuket – is seeking a well organised and enthusiastic Facility Administrator / PA.

Facility Administrator / PA

- Bachelor's degree or related field
- Thai national 25 years old or older, fluent in English (written and spoken)
- Minimum of 3-5 years experience in the related field
- Computer literate with good knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Excellent administrative and communication skills required
- Bookkeeping and office management skills required
- Self-motivated, proactive, flexible and well organized
- Service-minded and must have attention to detail
- Experience in property management an advantage.

Submit your CV with recent photo and a covering letter in English to hr@mystorageasia.com or call 076 29 29 09 for further information.

Want to know more about MY STORAGE? Visit mystorageasia.com



The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

- ▶ Thai national (able to read, write, speak fluent Thai)
- ▶ Ability to communicate clearly in English
- ▶ Clear thinking in order to identify what makes a good news story
- ▶ Initiative and enthusiasm to track down the story
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(1) Assistant Accountant (Ref No. P01/11)
Prepare monthly account, AP, GL and bank reconciliations, liaise with Revenue Department on tax matters, review accounting documents and make appropriate accounting entries.
• Degree holder in accounting with 3 years' accounting/auditing experience
• Construction accounting experience will be a definite advantage
• Excellent command of spoken and written Thai with good spoken and written English
• Well versed with Microsoft office applications

(2) Accountant (Ref No. P02/11)
Prepare monthly account, financial statements and reports, handle tax matters, check and verify accounting entries and other ad-hoc accounting duties.
• Degree holder in accounting with 5 years' accounting/auditing experience
• Construction accounting experience will be a definite advantage
• Excellent command of spoken and written Thai with good spoken and written English
• Well versed with Microsoft office applications and accounting software

(3) Document Control Officer (Ref No. P03/11)
Responsible for documentation administration and records management of the project, manage and supervise the organization of a significant project document control system and software.
• Tertiary qualified with solid experience related to administration and records
• Good computer literacy, some programming experience is an advantage
• Detail-minded and with fluency in both written and spoken Thai and English

(4) Legal and Company Secretarial Officer (Ref No. P04/11)
Assist Legal Department and Company Secretarial Department on enforcement of corporate compliance issues, assist in simple translation work and ensuring proper and timely delivery and sign off on important documents from headquarters.
• Degree holder in Law with at least 3 years' relevant experience
• Experience in handling company secretarial documents and legal documents
• Experience in handling translation between English and Thai
• Excellent command of spoken and written Thai with good spoken and written English

(5) Planning Officer (Ref No. P05/11)
Assist in preparation of planning submissions and building permits' documentation, prepare strategic programmes like design, procurement and construction schedules, review site progress reports, monitor and review development schedule trends and reporting delays, and recommend corrective action.
• Degree holder in Civil Engineering with at least 5 years' relevant experience
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• Experience in handling translation between English and Thai
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We offer attractive remuneration package and fringe benefits to the right candidate. If you have the ambition to create an exciting and rewarding career, please send us a cover letter highlighting your expertise and strength together with your detailed resume and expected salary immediately via email to recruitment@pcpd.com.

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Wooden frame "L" sofa with mustard color upholstery. 16k. Modern glass chandelier 5k. Huge silver candelabra 5k. All in excellent condition. Standard Lamp 1,500. All reduced for quick sale. Email for photos at beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

HIX HEAT PRESS DUAL PADS

I am selling my Heat Press Made in USA, very little used (about 60 t-shirts), like new. I bought it in Bangkok. Paid 125,000 baht, selling 60,000 baht. Tel: 076-283004, 086-742 3437. Email: joelvdv@hotmail.com

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2,400 KILOMETERS MOTORBIKE

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HONDA STEED 600CC

Custom rear 200/60. Great sound, good condition. Must see. Price: 160,000 baht. Tel: 080-320 0426.

HONDA STEED 600CC

With green book. Price: 135,000 baht. Individual customer 1995. Tel: 089-697 0928.

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Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 081 968 1437
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Yacht Haven Marina Office
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Pattaya Office
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Tel: 038 235 061 Fax: 038 235 062
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56ft, twin engine, Simrad electronics. 20Kw generator, compressor 3 aircon cabins. Company TAT license, work permit available if required. Price: 5.5 million baht. Tel: 087-277 6056. Email: igo phuket@hotmail.com

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4 double cabins, 2 toilet/showers, in composite. Must sell! Price: 680,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-461 8089.

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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:

COFFEE break

1	A	S	E	C	5	B	A	S	E	L	10	A	B	L	E	13		
14	C	A	T	O	15	A	G	I	L	E	16	T	O	E	S			
17	T	A	N	G	18	C	H	A	O	S	19	O	O	N	A			
20	I	R	A	N	21	C	A	M	P	S	22	H	I	R	T			
				23	A	G	A			25	E	O	E					
26	M	E	R	C	28	U	R	I	C	31	R	E	N	E	W			
35	I	N	A		36	Y	A	C	H	37		38	L	I	V	E	39	
40	E	I	N	S	41		42	T	E	A	R	S	44	P	E	L	T	
45	N	A	C	R	46		47	D	R	A	N	O	48		49	N	S	A
				50	C	H	I	D	E	52	M	Y	O	P	A	T	H	Y
				54	T	R	I			56	B	A	D					
57	O	L	I	V	E	D	R	A	B	62	A	L	D	A	65			
66	T	R	I	P	67	C	E	A	S	E	68	P	E	E	P			
69	R	E	N	O	70	T	A	T	E	R	71	T	I	E	S			
72	E	O	N	S	73	S	L	A	T	Y	74	S	A	M	E			

Aircraft For Sale

TECNAM P-92

-Price: 1.5 million baht
 -Registration: U-B08
 -Year of Manufacture: 2002
 -Equipment: Full standard equipment
 -Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs.
 Aircraft is based at Klong 15. Please contact Thom for more information. Tel: 081-840 8418.

1999 ROBIN 2160i

I would like to sell my Robin aircraft or trade it for a 4-seat Cessna or Piper (based in Hua Hin). The Robin: TTAF 300hrs. SMOH 60hrs. This is a well-equipped, two-seat aerobatic aircraft. Has the Christen inverted oil system. Excellent inside and outside. King KMA24 audio panel, KX155 nav/com, K1203 vor, KY197A comm, KN64A dme, KR87 adf, KT76A transponder, CSPA400 i-com, FP5 fuel computer, CHT, OAT, Pitot heat. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Thom Email: thos_w@hotmail.com

HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

If you have an aircraft for sale or an interest in aviation and wish to learn how to fly or buy an aircraft or arrange a private flight, etc, please contact Pat. Email: pat@aeropromgr.com Website: www.aeroprogr.com/newsletter

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Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

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1995 SOCATA T20 TRIDAD



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 Email: pat@aeropromgr.com

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Specs:

Horsepower: 260	Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Top Speed: 166 kts	Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Cruise Speed: 157 kts	Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts	Range: 700 nm
Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm	Fuel Av Gas 100LL
Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430 VHF/COMM/NAV/GPS/TERRAIN. Garmin GI-106A 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 IIB Autopilot Dual Axis and S-Tec Altitude Hold. WX-500 Stormscope.

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Wales claim triple crown title

By Dean Noble

DESPITE predictions of a walkover by Wales when they met England last weekend in the RBS Six Nations, the game and result were anything but.

Wales started the brighter of the two, and could have gone over within two minutes of the kick off. However, David Strettle's saving tap tackle was just enough to fell George North who had been given space from quick ball from a Welsh line-out.

England's defense weathered the early onslaught, and even had some good fortune as Leigh Halfpenny sliced a straight forward penalty kick.

England fought back and put the first points on the board through Owen Farrell, one of seven English players in their maiden outing at Twickenham.

The game was played at a blistering pace with bruising tackles, try saving blocks and accurate kicking to the half time whistle with England holding a slight advantage, 9-6.

The action continued in the same vein on the resumption until Wales' Rhys Priestland attempted clearance was charged down, and was subsequently yellow carded for a deliberate off-side when England

looked certain to gain the first try of the encounter after recycling the ball quickly. Farrell fired the penalty over to extend the English lead.

Unlike Welsh teams of the past, they dealt with the one-man disadvantage professionally stifling their opponent's attacks and even closed the gap when Halfpenny kicked another three points. Priestland returned to the fray, his team unpenalized.

Halfpenny brought Wales level with his fourth penalty score, and with four minutes left on the clock Scott Williams ripped the ball from England's Courtney Lawes, punted forward and gathered a fortunate bounce to touch down between the posts. Halfpenny converted easily to take the lead 19-12.

England charged down the field from the restart and after two line-outs on the Welsh try line, Strettle went over in the corner. The referee referred to the fourth official. Inconclusive came the response, and with the ball declared 'dead' despite a penalty outstanding, the referee blew time and Wales had their 20th Triple Crown.

In the other matches Ireland ran out comfortable winners 42-10 over Italy, while Scotland's brave efforts came to nought losing 17-23 to France at Murrayfield.



GREAT SCOTT: Scott Williams has time to point to the Welsh fans as he scores the match winning try at Twickenham to give Wales the Triple Crown. AFP PHOTO / GLYN KIRK

What's in a week?

LIVERPOOL FC collected their first piece of silverware since their FA Cup victory six years ago.

Kenny Dalglish, who became only the seventh manager to win all three major domestic titles, heaped praise on Cardiff City, with the Premiership side needing penalties to take the first trophy of the year.

Despite the manner of the win, (3-2 from a penalty shootout after Steven Gerrard's cousin, Anthony missed for Cardiff), Dalglish believes it is start of a new era for the Reds.

Arsenal came from behind to humble North London rivals Tottenham 5-2 in their Premiership fixture at the Emirates, and eased the pressure that has been mounting on their manager, Arsene Wenger.

An early strike from Spurs' Louis Saha and a calmly taken penalty by Emmanuel Adebayor beyond the reach of Szczesny with only 34 minutes gone and they could have been forgiven if they thought the



Kenny Dalglish hopes the title will be a revival of Reds fortunes. Photo: AFP

result was in the bag.

Wenger admitted himself at 0-2 down, he feared his team would lose composure due to a lack of morale and spirit, however the Gunners responded by firing in five of their own in a dazzling 27 minutes of action.

Barcary Sagna left unmarked

headed home from close range, and Robin van Persie, who had already hit the post, leveled the scores with a stunning finish.

Tomas Rosicky put Arsenal ahead in the 50th minute and Theo Walcott bagged a brace to complete the reversal in fortunes, and quietened his own detractors.

Arsenal also reported profits of £49.5mn this week and now have cash reserves of £115.2mn. The question is will they part with any for new players, or even, daring to suggest, a new manager to be serious challengers for the title next season?

Andre Villas-Boas' week did not improve his situation, even with a 3-0 victory over lowly Bolton.

The Blues were completely outplayed in the Champions League by Napoli on Tuesday, losing 3-1 to underline the gulf in quality. In similar circumstances last year, Carlo Ancelotti was sacked.

- *Phuket Gazette*

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE			
TEAM	P	GD	PTS
1 Man City	26	48	63
2 Man Utd	26	37	31
3 Tottenham	26	21	53
4 Arsenal	26	16	46
5 Chelsea	26	16	46
6 Newcastle	26	0	43
7 Liverpool	25	6	39
8 Norwich	26	-5	35
9 Sunderland	26	4	33
10 Everton	25	-1	33
11 Fulham	26	-4	33
12 Stoke	26	-12	33
13 West Brom	26	-2	32
14 Swansea	26	-6	30
15 Aston Villa	26	-5	29
16 Wolves	26	-21	22
17 QPR	26	-18	21
18 Blackburn	26	-22	21
19 Bolton	26	-25	20
20 Wigan	26	-27	20

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES	
SATURDAY, 3 MARCH 2012	
Liverpool VS Arsenal	19:45
SATURDAY, 3 MARCH 2012 22:00	
Blackburn VS Aston Villa	
Man City VS Bolton	
QPR VS Everton	
Stoke VS Norwich	
West Brom VS Chelsea	
Wigan VS Swansea	
SUNDAY, 4 MARCH 2012 19:00	
Newcastle VS Sunderland	
Fulham VS Wolves	21:05
SUNDAY, 4 MARCH 2012	
Tottenham VS Man Utd	23:10
THE FA CUP FIXTURES R4R	
TUESDAY, 6 MARCH 2012	
Birmingham VS Chelsea	02:45
WEDNESDAY, 7 MARCH 2012 02:30	
Tottenham VS Stevenage	

SPORTS briefs...

CRICKET: Kevin Pietersen guided England to a five run victory in the third and final game of the Twenty20 series with Pakistan, scoring an unbeaten 62 off 52 deliveries. Captain Stuart Broad's accuracy with the ball supported Pietersen's controlled innings, who conceded only four runs from a miss-field in his final over, and also took Umar Akma's wicket, caught at mid-off. The win secured the series 2-1 and gave England a psychological boost for their defense of the World Twenty20 title to be held in Sri Lanka, during September this year.

F1: The new season will be under starter's orders in two weeks with Red Bull favorite to retain both driver and constructor titles, if recent testing is any guide. Sebastian Vettel and Mark Webber have both posted consistently impressive times throughout testing. Ominously for McLaren, if under full race conditions the times would equate to Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button both being lapped. Ferrari, Mercedes and Force India are very much in the mix, though also lagging behind Red Bull by three tenths of a second per lap.

BOXING: Former heavyweight World champion David Haye has admitted hitting Derek Chisora whilst holding a glass bottle in the brawl that followed Chisora's defeat to Vitali Klitschko in Munich. German authorities are investigating the events and charges could be brought against both boxers carrying sentences of up to 10 years. Chisora is to appear before the BBC by March 14 due to his actions, and has already been suspended indefinitely by the WBC. Hayes confirmed he is retired and will not return to the ring.

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Believe to achieve

Professional golfer Lindsay Renolds speaks exclusively to the *Gazette* about his chosen career and how Phuket continues to feature in his plans.



Lindsay lines up a putt.

beginner to being not bad and Jeff suggested to my parents that they should buy a set of clubs," he said.

Parents are crucial to the success of any young athlete and it's clear from the way Lindsay speaks of his that their influence played an important part in making a career decision.

"My parents never pushed or forced me into anything – that's why I improved so much – everything I did regarding golf, I wanted to do. There's a big difference between pushing and supporting. They supported the one thing that can't be taught to people – a drive to succeed, and that's what is inside me," he said in a determined tone.

Bizarrely, our interview was interrupted at this point when Lindsay and Jeff were reunited having not seen each other for six years. It was wonderful to see the two old friends meet again while the pride in Jeff's words and voice was obvious.

"I've always said Lindsay would be a great player.

It was just a matter of time. I kept telling his Dad that this is one of the kids that has it. I've never seen anyone with the physical talent that he has. He's tour quality right now, but it takes a couple of years to get comfortable. He's got such confidence in his game and it's so exciting to see that young kid grow up to become what he is today," said Jeff.

Earning a scholarship to Coastal California University gave Lindsay the opportunity to play college golf tournaments which he suggests is the best route for any aspiring golfer. The tournaments took him all around the world, while his college room mate was none other than current PGA star Dustin Johnson.

After a few years at amateur level Lindsay decided to turn pro in 2009. It was a big decision to make considering the pressure to succeed and secure a tour place is made even more difficult with the depth of players that exists on the professional circuit. Now on the Asian Tour, he sees his professional prospects growing.

"Obviously this is a huge opportunity for me to play a lot of tournaments this year. I had a lot of trouble finding events last year, but this year I will be playing on four different tours. The Asian Tour being the strongest and best one, but also on Asian Development Tour, PGA Thailand, All Thai-

land Tour, and MENA Tour based in the Middle East," he said.

Golf is a dynamic sport, always changing and exploiting technologies and it's very much an individual's game. At the same time, many see golf as the perfect socializing or networking activity. But what aspects keep Lindsay's interest keen?

"I like the fact that golf is an individual sport. Everything you do, all the mistakes you make, it's entirely up to you. If you work hard you will get the results you want. If you don't work hard, don't expect to do well," he advises.

"Yes, golf has changed so much, even in the few years that I've been playing. It's a combination of mechanics, science and feel, but it's definitely more of a science now. Machines and computers suggest a player has to alter a body position by four degrees. It's difficult to change by that margin – what does four degrees feel like?" he asks with a smile.

Lindsay has recently revamped his swing with coach Andrew Rice in an effort to improve his game which is clearly not bad, but if he's going to challenge the top players he admits certain adjustments have to be made.

"I changed my swing a lot a few months ago and I remember thinking I felt like a beginner again. Everything felt completely different, but I stuck with it, worked hard and it has paid off," he said.

From professionals down to the lowly weekend hacker, everyone has good days and bad days on the course. Lindsay of course is no different, but it's interesting to learn of his unique game psychology.

"If you believe and trust – it will work. On days when I'm not playing well, I go back to what the club face is doing, back to the basics of trying to feel the club face throughout my swing. At the end of the day if the ball is going left the club face is turning left and vice versa. That's how basic I keep it. You'd be surprised by how many golfers think that because they hit it left it's because of their backswing. When you're playing a round of golf the last thing you want to do is think too much about you're back swing," said Lindsay.

"I still play bad shots, but I keep it positive by thinking about that perfect shot I played earlier. Once I have a swing thought, I don't back out. It shows a lack of self-confidence to change. If I have a bad tournament I get out there and work harder to improve," he added.

How to steel the mind dealt with, what are Lindsay's immediate career goals?

"For the Asian Tour, simply to have a victory. It's a high goal for someone who has just made it on tour, and who is playing in his first full season as a pro, but it is possible. I believe it can be done, and that's one of the keys to reaching your goals – to believe and keep working hard – you will achieve" he said.

"On the Asian tour, the top 60 on the money



REUNION: Lindsay and Jeff Craig bumped into each other for the first time in six years during the *Gazette* interview. Photos: Neil Quail

list at the end of the year get to stay on the tour the following year. If you win however, not only are you exempt for two years years, but it also allows you to play in all the big events, which are co-sanctioned with the European Tour. That in itself just opens up more doors to have a chance to get your European Tour Card," Lindsay explained.

"Ultimately the PGA is every golfer's dream. But I love Asia. I'm keen to base myself here in Phuket or Dubai and play on the European Tour and Asian tour. I just like the lifestyle and the weather here," he added.

Lindsay was at Laguna to practice and not wanting to take up any more of his time, two final questions were put forward. As a professional and seeing the wealth of golfing talent that Asia has to offer, what advice would he give young players with hopes of following in his path?

"Playing in as many tournaments as possible is very important. It's a lot different than playing with friends. Also, they should focus more on what the ball is doing rather than what their swing is doing. Work on aspects such as fade, draw and trajectory," he said.

Like any golfer, Lindsay has his favorite courses both here and abroad so where does this professional player go to enjoy a round?

"On Phuket, Blue Canyon is one of the toughest courses I have ever played in the world, but I also enjoy Laguna and Red Mountain – two great courses. My favorite course, though, is Loch Lomond in Scotland, just because of its location, by a lake and its perfect condition," he enthused.

Lindsay is off to Kuala Lumpur for the Asian Development Tour on March 8. We join Phuket in wishing him all the best and the *Gazette* will update readers on his results over the coming months.



For more information on Lindsay and Asian golf visit LindsayRenolds.com or AsianTour.com.

By Neil Quail

IT wasn't difficult to identify professional golfer Lindsay Renolds on entering Laguna Golf Club recently. Standing near the entrance was a young man surrounded by staff members, who at first glance seemed to be getting advice from the Phuket pro, but in fact were catching up on how he performed at his latest tournament played in India.

Obviously popular and friendly with a big welcoming smile, the curls of reddish hair that were noticeable from beneath his Callaway cap all lent a distinct Celtic impression to our first meeting. And sure enough, after a couple of questions, the fact that his father Michael is of Irish-New Zealand descent came to light.

Michael now lives in Canada and Lindsay represents the country as a professional player. However, his formative school years were spent at Dulwich School, now British International School (BIS), and he still lists his residence as here on Phuket.

In 1998, Lindsay watched Tiger Woods play and win the Johnnie Walker Classic at Phuket's Blue Canyon Country Club. The experience changed his life.

"I was 12 years old at the time," he recalls. "Up to then I had wanted to be a pilot, but after watching Tiger play and speaking to both him and his father at the event, it was like a switch. I knew what I wanted to do, and that was to play golf," said Lindsay.

Activities would keep Lindsay in school until 5pm when he would make the journey out to Laguna and there Jeff Craig, former club pro, would give the youngster advice and coaching.

"In a matter of months I went from a

Sport

FC Phuket crush Tuk Tuks

By Steven Layne

A NEW-look FC Phuket played their first pre-season, friendly match last Saturday with Tuk Tuk FC, an outfit of Le Meridian hotel, resulting in a 7-0 goal fest for the home boys.

The free-admission match played at Surakul Stadium was a confidence-booster for the Southern Sea Kirin if anything.

It was a chance for fans to see their new team in action for the first time since January 14, when they suffered a 3-0 loss to Chainat FC, and finished the season in ninth place.

Saturday's one sided contest served as a teaser for what Phuket's new Serbian head coach, Milos Josic has been putting together, and what we might expect from the coming season, which opens later this month.

Sporting new white, yellow and green gear, the starting line up included Kittithat Kraithong, Nenebi Tre Sylvestre, Suphat Anthong, Supanon Prangchan, Wuttipong Sitthithankit, Watcharapong Jun-ngam, Thavin Butsombat, two Koreans, Kim Won Sup and Byeon Seong Won and Brazillian import from the

Burma league, Marcio Santos.

The scoring opened just after the 10-minute mark when Phuket's Byeon Seong applied his speedy advantage in a drive penetrating Le Meridian's defensive back line.

A contested ball made its way to Watcharapong who took a shot at goal, which was deflected back to Thawin, who sent it to the back of the net.

The next goal came about 10 minutes later by Nenebi who drilled in a perfectly weighted cross pass from Byeon Seong Won.

Less than 10 minutes later, it looked like Nenebi would score again, but his strike was denied this by an offside flag.

Both Koreans on the pitch showed off their swiftness and marvelous ball control skills to open scoring opportunities for Phuket's Thai strikers.



PEP TALK: New FC Phuket head coach, Milos Josic, (in red) gives instructions to players during a break on Saturday. Photo: Sea Cee

After several shots at goal, FC Phuket would manage to beat Le Meridian's goalkeeper again in the final minute of the half.

Byeon Seong Won crossed from a corner kick which found the head of Watcharapong, who sent the ball to the net at the near post.

Norwegian Stig Edvardsen was also fielded for Phuket in the second half, though only managed to earn a yellow card for aggressive play five minutes in.

Phuket veteran, Boramut Krongborisut scored a hat trick within a short seven minute period.

Subs Natthapol Thubsai and Japanese import Atsushi Yonezawa also came off the bench.

Backed with J-league experience, Atushi led a drive along with Suwit Na-jamroen (previously played for Chaiyaphum) resulting in the game's seventh and final goal.

FC Phuket's next pre season match was against Phangnga FC on Friday (March 2) at Phang Nga provincial sports field, which was taking place as this issue was going to press.

Meanwhile, former Phuket head coach, Sompong "Rock Rhino" Wattana, who now coaches Songkhla FC, has seized Phuket's former star goalkeeper Jonathan Matijas.

The signing comes as a



Songkla FC's Sompong Wattana and Jonathan Matijas have joined again.

disappointment to fans hoping Phuket would resign the Frenchman.

Now Matijas can continue to expand his fan base in the South as he vies for promotion to the Thai Premiere league with his new side.

In addition to Songkhla FC and FC Phuket, Krabi FC and Pattalung FC are two more southern team who will be vying for promotion in 2012 from Division 1 to the big leagues.

FC Phuket are set to open the season on March 18 against JW Rangsit.

For the latest schedule changes, updates and news about FC Phuket and Southern Thai football, keep checking the Phuket Gazette.

Morning Star shines bright

THE first game of Phuket Soccer Six League's (PSSL) round three at Headstart International's Football Island saw The Lounge face Morning Star.

Following two quick goals by Karl Ward, it seemed Morning Star would make light work of their opposition, but The Lounge emerged from their slumber and fought back to bring themselves to within a goal at 4-3. A disallowed score almost put The Lounge level and with that stroke of fortune, Morning Star rose to the opportunity by putting the result beyond doubt adding further goals by Choo Chai and Ward again. The Lounge v Morning Star 3 - 6.

An improving Eden FC played the young Phuket Serenity Villas (PSV) team in the evening's second fixture. After losing their two first games, Eden came out surprisingly strong and a controversial goal in the first few minutes of the game gave them the lead. But it didn't take long before PSV equalized with a goal from Songthum Saesue.

From there the game remained balanced until PSV's Sonthaya Choochangjaw scored an own goal from a corner to give Eden the lead once again. A penitent player, Sonthaya got his team back on level terms just before team mate Sascha Wondruschka headed PSV into the half time break with a 3-2 lead. PSV kept their forward momentum in the second-half to leave Eden praying for an answer, but goals from Pakorn Boonkhwan, Songthum and Wondruschka ensured Eden were left to walk the wilderness of defeat once more. Eden FC v Phuket Serenity Villas 3 - 6.



FRIENDS AND RIVALS: Karl Ward (left, blue) of Morning Star and Kyrre Amundsen (right, red) of The Lounge get ready for battle in the PSSL.

Shakers FC and Aladdin were third on the fixture sheet and it was Axel Jehangir who opened the scoring for Shakers before grabbing a second soon after to give his side a 2-0 lead. Geoff Carter added a third when the Aladdin goalkeeper gifted the ball to him. Ross Robinson grabbed a fourth goal, before Stig Edvardsen pulled one back for Aladdin near the end of the first half.

The second half saw lots of pressure on the Shaker team, but neither team could hold possession for long. Aladdin's Boy stole their second goal, and with another strike were back in the hunt at 3-4. However, Carter capitalized on a mistake by Aladdin's defense to make it 5-3, and two more Shakers' goals ended the contest. Aladdin v Shakers FC: 3 - 7.

League favorites Ristorante Rugantino took on Babynoname in the fourth match of the night and gave the crowd a thrilling to-and-fro battle to savor. A total of 18 goals were netted with both teams taking the lead or going behind regularly. Not until the score reached 8-8 did Rugantino surge ahead with two strikes to win 10-8. Ristorante Rugantino v Babynoname: 10 - 8

In the final game of the evening, Nanai Boys got to show their skills with an impressive 2-5 win against the Pita Bar Phuketeers. Pita Bar Phuketeers v Nanai Boys: 2 - 5.

For more information visit PhuketFootball.com

- Neil Quail

Phuket Super Six League				
Pos	Team	P	GD	Pts
1	Shakers FC	3	18	9
2	Ristorante Rugantino	3	13	9
3	Phuket Serenity Villas	3	7	6
4	Pita Bar Phuketeers	3	8	4
5	Morning Star	2	3	4
6	The Lounge	3	-2	3
7	Nanai Boys	2	-4	3
8	Aladdin	1	-4	0
9	Babynoname	3	-19	0
10	Eden FC	3	-20	0

Current standings for the PSSL played at Headstart International School.

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Lizards chase the Tiger's tail

UNLUCKY for some, the 13th match of the Island Furniture League saw a battle between league newcomers, Thanyapura Tigers and former champions, Liquid Lounge Lizards (LLL), at the ACG last Sunday.

Both sides were in desperate need of a win to advance up the table and boost their title hopes. In a closely fought match, Tigers eventually managed to wrestle victory from the Lizards, largely due to timely captain's innings from Barrie Buck.

Overcast early morning conditions encouraged Tigers to put LLL into bat after winning the toss. A methodical start was fractured in the fifth over when opener Ian Lenton (10) was clean bowled by Barrie Buck. Fellow opener, Neil Thacker (9) fell in the next over with the score on 37. Big-hitting Dave Kellerway (11) then joined Neill Culpan (62) and they pushed the score along until Kellerway was bowled by Paul Lattimore. Alf Hodges (0) venture into the middle was short-lived, bowled on the second delivery he faced.

With four wickets down for 63 runs in the 12th over, LLL looked at risk of collapsing. However, captain Nifty Catts (18) played a guarded innings to support Culpan in a 91 run partnership before Culpan was caught by keeper Martin Hill in the 30th over with the score on 154. Catts was then dismissed shortly after the drinks break. David Ogden (10 not out) showed some resistance in the lower order, but was offered little support from the remaining batsmen which included a golden duck for Steve Hill and two run outs.

Tigers were eventually all out for 181 runs in the final over. Pick of the bowlers for Tigers were Sid Prabhu (3 for 51), Paul Lattimore (2 for 24) and Ryan Dunn (2 for 29).

With conditions noticeably warmer in the afternoon session, Tigers innings got off to a shaky start with their top three batsmen not showing any respect to the accurate bowling from LLL's opening pace



BUCK FEST: Barrie Buck who scored 74 n.o.



Man of the Match Neill Culpan. Photos: Neil Quail

attack of Culpan and Catts, which included Culpan breaking a stump when he clean bowled Joseph Nagy (8).

At three wickets down for 29, Ryan Dunn (12) strode out to the middle looking to stabilize the innings. But Culpan achieved the vital breakthrough, bowling Dunn early in his innings. Dane Halpin (2) was then bowled by Hodges and at five wickets down for 55 runs, LLL looked as though they had a real chance of victory with only the tail-end to clean up. Burger Marx (22) and Buck (74 not out) steadied the innings with a critical 45 run partnership before Marx was trapped lbw in the 18th over with the score on 100. Hill (11) then joined his captain and played another key support role, putting on a further 43 runs, while LLL made one last effort to bowl out Tigers bringing back

their strike bowlers of Culpan and Catts.

However, Buck and Lattimore (5 not out) remained a thorn in their side, and they took TNT to victory reaching their target of 182 runs with seven wickets down in the 35th over.

Pick of bowlers for LLL were Culpan (4 for 27) and Nifty Catts (1 for 35). Man of the match was Neil Culpan with Barrie Buck second and Paul Lattimore third.

This Sunday, Laguna take on The Village in what could be the most crucial match of the season. A victory for Laguna could see them advance to top of the table, while a win for The Village will most likely book them a berth in the final.

The Phuket Gazette is the local media sponsor for the ACG.

Chevrolet throttle TSLC's title hopes

THE Adult Futsal League (AFL) played on Thursday evening saw Portrait FC edge a little closer to the Premiership title while Thanyapura lost an opportunity to put more daylight between their pursuers.

In second spot before the game, Thanachart Bank faced Portrait FC in a crunch tie that would influence any possibility of catching the league leaders. In a similar start to their first encounter this season, both teams erred on the side of caution by keeping their defense deep and counter-attacking on gaining possession. Scoring chances were scarce, but a slightly better conversion rate from Portrait FC earned them a 3-2 victory and a nine-point advantage. Thanachart Bank's loss sees them now in fourth position. Portrait FC v Thanachart Bank: 3-2.

Thalang Tigers in fourth place before kick off, were up against Honda a team clearly not firing on all cylinders this year, a fact reflected by their motionless state at the foot of the table. Despite their poor record, the Honda boys put in a good battling performance.

However, with eight minutes left to play and Thalang ahead by a score of 4-2, the match was interrupted when a power outage caused the floodlights to fail. The disruption was felt more by the Honda players, who were certainly playing better football than their opponents. After a 15-minute delay, the game resumed, but the break seemed to benefit Thalang as they claimed a 5-3 victory that also moves them into second, in place of Thanachart with both

teams on six points. However, Thanachart does have a game in hand while fourth place Jitjongrut FC has two games in hand. Thalang Tigers v Honda: 5-3.

In the First Division, a depleted Island Boys team put up a good fight against a powerful Ultraman team, but poor finishing let them down and led to a 4-1 defeat. A vital three points for Ultraman would have greater importance if Chevrolet could steal a draw or a win in the last match of the evening against leaders Thanyapura (TSLC). Ultraman v Island Boys: 4-1.

Undeclared before the game started, TSLC'S players knew that Ultraman were now breathing harder down their necks and needed a win to hold their five-point advantage. But Chevrolet were out of the

gates faster and within five minutes had scored twice for a 2-0 lead going into the break. As expected, TSLC came out strong in the second half and an early goal narrowed the margin. Chevrolet responded immediately to return their two-goal advantage, but a double-strike by Thanyapura seemed to have sealed a draw. With only a minute remaining, however, Chevrolet were gifted the win and all three points by a Thanyapura own goal. Chevrolet v Thanyapura: 4-3.

For more information contact Martin@Thanyapura.co.th.

- Neil Quail



Chevrolet against TSLC.



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AFL ADULT FUTSAL LEAGUE		THANACHART BANK	
PREMIER DIVISION TABLE			
TEAM	GP	DIFFERENCE	POINTS
1 PORTRAIT FC	5	16	15
2 THALANG TIGERS	5	0	6
3 THANACHART BANK	4	0	6
4 JITJONGRUT FC	3	1	6
5 HONDA	5	-17	0
FIRST DIVISION TABLE			
TEAM	GP	DIFFERENCE	POINTS
1 THANYAPURA SLC	5	16	12
2 ULTRAMAN	5	5	10
3 CHEVROLET	5	2	6
4 SGS	4	-2	6
5 ISLAND BOYS	5	-19	1

Lomas impress at Bangkok 10s

By Neil Quail

THE Phuket Lomas recently participated in the two-day Bangkok Youth Rugby 10s tournament at Pattana International School with great performances from both the U12 and U16 teams in their respective divisions.

On the first day of competition the Lomas U16s faced cup favourites CIMB Cobra from Malaysia. It was a tense battle in which the Lomas matched their opposition in nearly all parts of the game, but failed to convert scoring opportunities into points. A single try and conversion was the eventual difference between the teams with CIMB defeating the Lomas on a 7-0 scoreline.

Another tough match awaited the Lomas in their second outing, this time against British International School from Shanghai. The Lomas dominated possession and territory, but again their efforts failed to translate on the scoreboard. A breakaway try from the Chinese side forced the Lomas to abandon caution which unfortunately led to intercept score and another defeat by 12-0.

The U16s final match against Nak Suu Tigers from Bangkok was a different affair. This time game plans and skills all gelled for a convincing 19-0 victory. Three games and one victory only reflected the standard of competition the Lomas were up against, but their performance and efforts were well received.

In the U12 Division, the Lomas took on the Bangkok Japanese in game one and completely overwhelmed their opposition with a display of controlled rugby that afforded them a 25-0 victory. Confidence was running high as the Lomas went up against AGOAL Rugby

Academy from Sri Lanka and it showed with the Phuket boys recording a 20-0 victory.

Two wins from two, but the Lomas toughest challenge was yet to come, and that in the form of Bangkok Lions. The Lomas took an early lead with two unconverted tries that drove the Lions into a response. At 10-5 the game hung in the balance, but the Lomas held on for a deserved win.

Saturday's final game saw the Lomas up against 2011 champions, Sandy Bay from Hong Kong. The Lomas again struck early with two tries using their bigger forward line to great effect. Not until the last two minutes of the match did Sandy Bay breach the solid Lomas defense to inspire hope of a result, but the Phuket lads were not going to let this victory slip and sealed an historic 10-5 victory with a determined performance.

Sunday's schedule kicked off with the Lomas U16s first into the fray against old friends and adversaries the Bangkok Lions. The match developed into a classic encounter between the two rival Thai teams with enterprising play from the Lomas sparking two converted tries and a half time 14-0 lead. But the Lions roared into life for the second half and a converted try put the Bangkok team within reach of a win. A penalty was later squandered, but the Lions recovered and in the dying minutes of the game went over in the corner. However, the subsequent conversion was missed and the Lomas had secured their second win of the tournament 14-12.

Last of the Lomas U16 pool games was against AGOAL. Past games against these two physical sides have been feisty affairs and this was no exception with furious tackling and rucking giving the referee a torrid



NOT SO BLUE NOW: Phuket Lomas U16 and U12 teams show off their Bangkok 10s' awards.

time, but no scores to record in an entertaining 0-0 draw. The result meant that both teams had to contest the Plate final and again the tension was palpable. Neither side would yield until the Lomas broke through to score for a 5-0 half time lead. A altercation between the Sri Lankan team's representatives and the event's organizers and officials delayed the restart. From there the Lomas seemed to be penalized at every opportunity, eventually leading to AGOAL scoring a try in the corner with the last play which was brilliantly converted for a 7-5 victory. A devastated Lomas U16 team received a deserved Plate runners up medal for their hard work over the tournament.

The Lomas U12s played Nak Suu Tigers in the last of their pool games and battered their way to a 15-0 win to ensure a place in the cup semi finals where they again played Nak Suu Tigers, but ran out

20-0 winners on that occasion for a place in the cup final against Sandy Bay who they defeated the previous day.

Tremendous traveling support for Sandy Bay ensured a boisterous final, but the Lomas dampened their fervour with an early try. The Phuket stars held that 5-0 advantage until after the break when Sandy Bay applied wilting pressure to draw level. The Hong Kong lads had the momentum and in the last minute scored in the corner to win 10-5.

A cracking all-round display from the U12s was rewarded with a deserved runners up placing in the cup.

The Bangkok 10s Senior tournament was won by the New Zealand Legends who defeated COBRA from Malaysia in the final.

For more information visit pitchero.com/clubs/phuketlomasrugby.

The boys from Brazil

FOR the second week in succession Phuket's Fair Play League (FPL) used two different locations for their weekend fixtures with Youth Football Home hosting U14 matches and Quality Schools International (QSI) the venue for U11 matches.

Four of the six teams competing in the U14 Division have a real chance of taking the title which makes winning remaining matches crucial to any hopes of success.

Third placed Argentina played second placed France, with both teams needing points to keep the pressure on Germany Green. In a match full of great attacking play, France claimed three points in the final two minutes with a 6-5 win.

In the second match Germany White, still looking for their first points of the season played a well organized and tough Thailand team. It was the Thailand team who started the stronger, taking an early lead before Germany White grabbed an equalizer just before the half-time break. Thailand regained the lead in the second half and should have held that advantage, but a rash challenge by the Thailand goalkeeper was punished with a penalty and duly converted by his opposite number, the Germany White

goalkeeper, that gave his side a 2-2 draw and their first points of the season.

The final match at Youth Football Home saw leaders Germany Green play Brazil, the division's inform team. In a tight first half, both teams kept possession well by using the full width of the pitch, but Brazil struck first followed by Germany Green equalizer. Brazil went ahead again just before the break and after the restart, continued to apply pressure. Germany Green struggled to deal with the Samba King's long balls and suffered a 9-4 defeat.

For the first time, U11 matches took place on the new artificial pitch at QSI. The opening game saw Germany White play attractive, attacking football to claim a 7-1 victory over France and their third win of the season.

League leaders Brazil faced an improving Argentina in what turned out to be an enthralling encounter in the day's penultimate game. Brazil took the lead early in the first half but were unable to build on it. Argentina scored a deserved equalizer with only three minutes remaining affording both teams a justly deserved draw. The final match was an opportunity for Germany Green to close the gap on

Brazil should they beat Thailand. In a one-sided affair, Germany Green defended well and scored well worked goals to win the match 5-0 and reduce Brazil's advantage to that of just one point.

For more information contact Martin Hill E: Football@Thanyapura.co.th.
- Neil Quail



GERMANY WHITE: Volunteer coach Mark Biddell with his team.

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