

**FAMILY SEEK ANSWERS IN LUXEMBOURG WOMAN'S DEATH > PAGE 3**

## HOUSE RULES



Photo: PR Phuket

### DSI SEIZE B2BN PHUKET LUXURY VILLAS IN GAMBLING NETWORK RAID

**Eakkapop Thongtub**  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Department of Special Investigation (DSI) Director General Pol Maj Suriya Singhakamol led a team of officers to Phuket last week to seize two luxury villas together worth an estimated B2 billion from the operators of an online gambling network that had a daily turnover of some B72 billion.

The luxury villas – in Moo 1 Rawai, on the road from Nai Harn

Beach to Ao Sane and Laem Krathing – had prime sea views over Nai Harn Bay. One of the villas was called ‘Thousand Hills Phuket’. One of the properties covered approximately 1 rai 2 ngan, and the second covered an area of 2 rai 1 ngan.

Officers conducting the raid, on Nov 22, found only housekeepers and ground staff at the villas, but slapped notices on the front of the homes and seized the properties.

Maj Suriya explained that the villas were owned by a syndicate that

operated the UFA online gambling network, specifically a man he named only as “Mr Phakphum”, who worked as a revenue manager for the UFA gambling network.

DSI officers arrested Phakphum, who also goes by the name ‘Didi’, at Suvarnabhumi airport on Nov 4.

Phakphum initially denied his role in the illegal gambling network, but eventually surrendered after being presented with evidence of financial trails and electronic evidence, Maj Suriya said.

Phakphum was charged with organising online gambling and offences under the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

“Only 29 years old, Phakphum lived a simple life, without a luxury car or much property, but he travelled abroad regularly,” Maj Suriya said.

“Evidence connected him to more than 80 mule accounts that he managed, with 50 mule accounts belonging to migrant workers at small factories who opened and sold accounts for gambling websites.

“Another 30 accounts were found...

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**NEWS** PAGE 3

**Russian MMA fighters cleared of charges, freed**



**LIFE** PAGE 8

**Restoration of reefs at Racha underway**



**SPORT** PAGE 14

**Aussie Rules Masters returns to Phuket's ACG**





## Lighthouse

International School, Rawai

Exclusive Canadian Curriculum

**Global Excellence is coming to Rawai**



**Giving Students a competitive edge**

Call 080-871-4842 for more information

[www.lighthousephuket.com](http://www.lighthousephuket.com)



execeditor@classactmedia.co.th

# News



**Hotels free from Legionnaires to be promoted > p6**



Photo: PR Phuket

## DSI warns people of setting up mule accounts

Continued from page 1

...in the names of Thai people. Each account had more than a billion in turnover," he added.

The mule accounts together funnelled 3% of the income from all 83 gambling sites that Phakphum managed, Maj Suriya explained.

The DSI was continuing their hunt for the founder of the UFA network, who he named only as "Mr Phuchit".

Officers were still pursuing Mr Phuchit's sister, "Ms Phonpansa", along with 13 associates in total wanted for their role in operating the illegal gambling network.

"They were in the habit of buying real estate. These two properties are the starting point for us, but we are still giving people who own various assets in name only the opportunity to present themselves and provide information to the investigating officers," Maj Suriya said.

"Otherwise you yourself will be guilty of money laundering," Maj Suriya warned.

## Bangla security roped into tourist safety exercise

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The safety exercise to be held in Patong today (Dec 1), widely promoted by government officials, will include a demonstration of lifeguards rescuing a tourist in trouble in the water and law enforcement officers responding to a drunken tourist on Bangla Rd.

The key event will be an air-sea rescue demonstration simulating a tourist boat stricken by large waves and strong winds, Udomphon Kan, head of the Phuket Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office (DDPM-Phuket) confirmed in a radio interview last Saturday (Nov 25).

As already made clear, the aim of the "emergency response plan", as officials have called it, is to build confidence among tourists so that they feel confident in coming to Phuket on holiday.

To that end, on Nov 24 Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan led a delegation to discuss with Patong Municipality officials, including Patong Deputy Mayor Lalita Maneesri, the measures taken to safeguard tourists safety at the beach and in the water.

However, Mr Udomphon's confirmation last weekend that a rehearsal of police responding to a drunken tourist on Bangla Rd followed a visit and inspection of



Khattiya Sawatdiphon, Chairperson of the House of Representatives special commission on 4am closing, is shown the CCTV coverage all along Bangla Rd. Photo: PR Phuket

the party street by members of a House of Representatives special commission last Saturday night.

Of note, it also follows a shooting incident in which a Bangla Rd tout was attacked by eight men just over a week earlier.

The special commission, led by Chairperson Khattiya Sawatdiphon, was in Phuket to investigate Phuket's "readiness" to allow nightlife venues to remain open until 4am. The current prospective deadline for introducing the new policy is Dec 15.

Ms Khattiya and the special commission met with senior Phuket officials at Phuket Provincial Hall last Friday (Nov 24), which according to an official report of the meeting made no mention of the shootings and gang attack on Nov 19.

Instead, Ms Khattiya focused on five issues, including ways to introduce a law to prevent business operators from being forced to pay officials for what she called "benefits".

"The first issue is requesting a permit. There is a question from society: Why are there so many entertainment venues? There are many establishments that are not registered according to the law. So, what are the problems with the law?"

"The second issue is the time for opening and closing. Is 1am too early or not? Customers only came in around 9-10pm. Sometimes they only sit for a little while before having to go somewhere else. If the closing time is extended, it may create more business, and more jobs and income," Ms Khattiya said.

"The third issue is the age of people working in service establishments must be 18 years or older. It must be determined whether the age can be reduced or not? We can talk on this," she said.

"Because of these three issues, if a business operator or someone that does not follow the law may use a 'channel for benefits that they can get from officials'," Ms Khattiya added.

"As this is the objective of the special commission, we are thinking about how to adjust the law in order to facilitate business operators so that it is not necessary to pay illegitimate benefits to government officials in order to properly conduct business," she said.

"We will find a middle ground between officials and business operators to be able to proceed together so that no one has to pay anyone [for 'benefits'], and anyone can be punished. But right now it appears that those with licences are punished more," she noted.

"People trading without licences and how to make these things so it prevents the benefit of officials is the focus of this committee. We must come to a conclusion together," Ms Khattiya said.

Phuket was the first tourist location that the special commission had visited, Ms Khattiya noted.

## Visas for parents of children at international schools

PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS ARE hoping to have a visa especially for parents of children enrolled at international schools, but with criminal background checks in order to prevent parents with criminal records from being approved to stay in the country.

The announcement came at a meeting last Friday (Nov 24) chaired by Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan.

The aim of the move is to prevent people with criminal records from staying in Phuket by enrolling their children in international schools, Vice Governor Amnuay explained.

The meeting on Friday was held to brainstorm ideas to counter the problem, said an official report of the meeting. Joining the meeting were representatives from government agencies as well as from the private sector.

The key objective of the meeting

was to "to propose to the government to approve visas to accompany children [with Phuket] as a pilot province of the country, [to] join in developing education and driving the economy sustainably."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs currently does not list a specific visa for foreign parents of foreign children enrolled in schools in Thailand.

However, the Immigration Bureau for many years has allowed foreign parents of foreign children enrolled at schools in Thailand to stay on one-year permits to stay, dependent on the child remaining enrolled in the school.

Under ministerial regulations issued August 2014, in order to apply for a one-year permit to stay, a foreign parent of foreign child attending a school in Thailand must provide the following:

- A completed application form



Photo: PR Phuket

- A copy of the applicant's passport.

- A copy of the passport of the alien who received permission to stay to study

- Copies of documents showing the relationship, such as evidence of marriage, copy of birth certificate, evidence of child registration, copy of house registration, evidence of adoption registration or other evidence from government agencies or related agencies

- Only in cases according to criteria (5), a letter certifying a deposit in a bank in Thailand and a copy bank account (NOTE: "criteria (5)" not clarified, and bank account amount not clarified)

"A majority of the participants at the meeting expressed their opinions and resolved to agree to grant such visas [as opposed to permits to stay]. In particular, parents who are both father and mother should be allowed," an official report of the meeting noted.

"In addition to creating educational stability for foreign students, it is also an economic boost for Phuket Province," the report added.

"The advantages of allowing parents having a visa to accompany their children will reduce the problem of bullying among students... In addition, parents can do self-development activities such as learning additional

Thai language or have the time to bring children to access the services of institutions that enhance learning skills in education or other arts and culture in the Phuket area," the report continued.

"However, the approval of such visa permission must give priority to the process of checking the history of parents applying for visas to accompany their children. That is, they must be parents who do not have a criminal record," the report explained.

Phuket has 14 international schools with a total of 3,056 students from pre-kindergarten to Mathayom 6 (Grade 12), the report noted.

No explanation was given as to what problems were being encountered by parents of foreign children enrolled at schools in Phuket applying to stay through the Immigration Bureau. *The Phuket News*



# Grieving family left in the dark

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The family of a 19-year-old woman from Luxembourg are still asking questions about the deadly accident that killed her in Phuket last month.

Schintgen Cey-lan, 19, was riding pillion on a motorbike driven by 21-year-old American man Nickolas Joseph Ayoub when they were struck from behind by a car travelling at speed on Wiset Rd, Rawai, in the early hours of Nov 5.

Both Ms Schintgen and Mr Ayoub were killed in the collision.

The driver of the car, Russian national Irina Pustovalova, 41, had sustained injuries in the accident and had been taken to hospital before police arrived. The car had ended up plunging into a roadside ditch and hitting a power pole.

According to CCTV footage from Rawai Municipality, the accident occurred just before 1am.

The CCTV footage also showed that the couple on the motorbike were travelling at reasonable speed in the left lane when they were struck by the car. The right lane was clear of any traffic.

So far police and local authorities have not released any information about the accident, despite national Tourist Police Commissioner Maj Gen Saksira Phueakam arriving in



CCTV captured the moment when the car struck the motorbike from behind at speed. Image: Rawai Municipality

Phuket the next day to personally declare a ramped up campaign to improve tourists' safety.

Since then Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat has told Royal Thai Police (RTP) spokesman Pol Lt Gen Achayon Kraithong, Tourist Police Region 3 Commander Maj Gen Krit Warit and Paitoon Chutimakornkul, Advisor to the Prime Minister, that Phuket is taking serious steps to improve tourists' safety.

Governor Sophon has since also led a major event declaring Phuket officials' intent on reducing the number of people killed on Phuket's roads. While the event was held to

remember Phuket's road-accident victims as part of provincial efforts to commemorate 'World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims', officials have remained silent on the collision that killed Ms Schintgen and Mr Ayoub.

The family of Ms Schintgen reached out to European news agency RTL to share their experience following the tragedy.

Ms Schintgen was visiting her grandmother in Phuket with her parents when she was killed in the accident, reports RTL.

Her aunt, Zara-ly Pizzuto, contacted RTL by phone to explain the circumstances leading to the fatal

incident, the news agency reported.

"My niece was riding a scooter with her boyfriend on the night of 4 November. She was sitting on the back of the scooter when the accident happened. Both of them died at the scene," the aunt said.

Ms Schintgen's mother received a phone call at the hotel where they were staying that night to inform her of her daughter's death, as well as that of the 21-year-old Mr Ayoub.

Ms Pizzuto said a complaint had been filed following the accident, but few details have emerged.

The driver of the car suffered minor injuries but has otherwise returned to a normal life, although the woman has allegedly had her passport taken by authorities, the aunt told RTL.

"It's been over a fortnight and we still haven't received any news," she told RTL. Ms Pizzuto said her mother had engaged the services of a Thai lawyer to liaise with the authorities at the scene, but the case had not moved forward.

The family sent a letter to the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Nov 23, pushing for further support. Ms Pizzuto said they were already in contact with the Luxembourg consulate in Thailand, but required further assistance from the ministry.

"We are aware that such cases take a long time, but we are con-

cerned the investigation will not be carried out properly," Ms Pizzuto said. "We therefore hope to achieve justice and receive support from the Luxembourg government."

Ms Schintgen's parents held a Buddhist funeral ceremony at Wat Chalong on Nov 8, and cremated their daughter's body the next day, the RTL report confirmed.

The Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed it usually provides support to families in such cases, and planned to make contact with the local authorities in Phuket, RTL noted.

A spokesperson wrote: "We can facilitate certain administrative procedures, seek to obtain information from local authorities, or accompany families to a certain extent on the ground to solve the issues."

In countries where Luxembourg lacks diplomatic representation, there is the option to use the Belgian embassy, thanks to an international cooperation agreement dating back to 1965, RTL explained.

The spokesperson told RTL that the Bangkok embassy, the honorary consulate in Phuket and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had been in regular contact with the young woman's family, as well as with Thai authorities.

However, they were not permitted to reveal further details on Ms Schintgen's case due to privacy laws.

## Askhabov brothers cleared of extortion, torture charges

MMA FIGHTER KHUSEIN Askhabov and his twin brother Khasan have been cleared of charges of conspiracy to torture and extortion and released, a post on a Russian-language social network has announced.

"Officially! All charges against the Askhabov brothers have been dropped and they are already free," MMA sports channel 'Red Fury MMA' said in a post on the VKontakte social network last Saturday (Nov 25).

"The injured person named the athletes, but during the investigation it turned out that they were not involved in this incident. Now the police are going to open a case against the victim for false testimony," the post continued.

"Khusein will fight his next fight in the UFC in February or March, negotiations have already begun," the post concluded.

The Askhabov brothers were arrested in connection with three Kazakh nationals forcing their way into an Italian man's villa at a resort in Cherng Talay and holding him bound and gagged while



Screenshot: REDFURYMMA / VKontakte

who was deputy national police chief at the time. Pol Gen Torsak is now Commissioner of the Royal Thai Police.

The report was also addressed to all the senior ranking officers down the chain of command to Region 8 Police, Phuket Provincial Police and even the Phuket Governor and Thalang District Chief.

However, neither Cherng Talay Police nor Phuket Provincial Police have ever commented on the case. Despite the ongoing publicity campaign by the national government to promote tourists' safety, no provincial officials also have not ever commented on the case.

The Askhabov brothers were taken into custody under arrest warrants No. 479/2566 and No 480/2566, issued by Phuket Provincial Court on Sept 4.

The report confirmed the arrests were made with the intent of prosecuting the brothers with "the act of robbery done with cruelty to the extent that others receive it and endangering the body or mind through torture".

The Phuket News

**FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON**  
Phuket Patong Beach Resort

**CHAO LEH kitchen**

**10% OFF**  
for bookings made before December 23, 2023

*Experience the Enchantment of Christmas*

'Tis the Season for a bountiful Christmas buffet feast. Indulge in our BBQ Seafood Buffet adorned with a medley of festive delights - from succulent roasted turkey and mouthwatering prime ribs to an array of fresh seafood on ice.

**BBQ SEAFOOD BUFFET**  
DECEMBER 24 - 25, 2023 | 6 - 10 PM\*

- Live music
- Kids corner
- Magical moment with Santa
- Carol singing on \*Christmas Eve

**THB 2,699<sup>net</sup> per person / day**  
(Food only)

**BEVERAGE PACKAGE**  
3 hours free flow local beverages  
**THB 1,299<sup>net</sup> per person / day**

\* Terms & conditions apply.  
• Kids under 6 years old eat free. Kids between 6-12 years old half price.

fb.phuket@fourpoints.com   www.fourpointspuketpatong.com   076-645999   fourpointspuket



The Phuket News

## CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

PURIYA BEAVAN  
EditorCHRIS HUSTED  
Executive Editor  
084 307 7408  
execeditor@classactmedia.co.thBEN TIREBUCK  
News / Sport Editor  
061 806 8132  
editor3@classactmedia.co.thCHUTHARAT 'UM' PLERIN  
Thai Editor  
088 766 1615  
thai@classactmedia.co.thJASON BEAVAN  
General Manager  
086 479 7471  
gm@classactmedia.co.thSIRIPORN (NOK) SEANGMAS  
Sales Support  
086 479 7470  
sales@classactmedia.co.thNIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA  
THANAPONG 'OAK' KHAO-AMPHAI PHAN  
Graphic designersThe Phuket News  
@thephuketnews

## ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

The Phuket News

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Where to eat in PHUKET

Новости Phuket

ข่าวภูเก็ต

Phuket NEWS TV

LIVE 89.5

Phuket TICKETMASTER

076 612 550 ext. 605

Fax: 076 612 553

Info@classactmedia.co.th

thephuketnews.com

99/7 Moo 1 (Billion Plaza),  
T. Kathu, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120

## PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

FRI DECEMBER 1



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SAT DECEMBER 2



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN DECEMBER 3



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON DECEMBER 4



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE DECEMBER 5



High: +32°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED DECEMBER 6



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU DECEMBER 7



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

## Samran fights on for market

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Support for former Mayor of Chalong Samran Jindapol remains strong following his refusal to close the popular Suk Samran Market off Chao Fa East Rd despite Chalong Municipality pressing formal charges against him for operating a public market without permission.

Mr Samran presented himself at Chalong Police Station last week to formally hear the charges against him. He has been charged with operating a market without a permit and ignoring an official order.

Affectionately referred to by local residents as 'Nayok Samran' ('prime minister Samran'), Mr Samran held a press conference at the Suk Samran Market on Nov 23 to call on Chalong Municipality to explain the charges.

"In the past, we followed the law every step of the way, but the market still has not been granted official permission to open," he said.

The market, which has



Photo: PR Phuket

been operating without interference from officials for about a decade, was opened by Mr Samran on his own land at a cost of B400,000 so that local residents could make a living selling fresh produce.

Over the years, Suk Samran Market has proved very popular with local residents and the vendors alike.

Vendors turned out in strong support of Mr Samran when he presented himself at Chalong Police Station last Friday (Nov 17). He received the same strong support as

he was gifted large garlands and roses.

Mr Samran explained that when he originally opened the market, he had complied with all legal requirements and the market was given permission to operate.

However, later when it came to renewing the market licence, the municipality gave notice of modifications to be made in order for the licence to be renewed.

All the required modifications were made, but the municipality has still refused

to renew the permit allowing the market to operate, he explained.

"We have followed all the legal requirements, both in the matter of requesting permission to open the market and with the revised conditions to improve the market to comply with the law," Mr Samran said.

"The municipality issued a notice of improvements to be made when we applied for the licence to be renewed, but after we made the corrections, the licence was still not renewed," he added.

"I would like to ask the relevant agencies as to why they have not continued the licence despite the issues that have been enquired about. If it is a matter to do with the land, the land office has clearly responded to enquiries about that," Mr Samran said.

"If there is anything that is stuck, we are ready to proceed," he added.

Mr Samran assured that the market will continue operating for the foreseeable future.

"As for closing the market, if you hear that, it's not correct," he said.

"I am ready to follow the requirements because I don't want a case against me. As for the vendors, they have to talk together about how to get through this," Mr Samran said.

Of note, so far officials from Chalong Municipality, under the leadership of Chalong Mayor Thanaporn Ongsantiphap, have yet to make any move to close the market by force.

The market, for now, continues to open every day without interference.

## Teen surrenders for murder

AN 18-YEAR-OLD SUSPECT has surrendered to Thalang Police in Phuket to face charges for his role in the murder of 16-year-old vocational college student Pongpeera in Bangkok on Nov 20.

Pongpeera, a student at Dusit Technical College, was shot dead near his place of study on Ranong 2 Rd in Dusit district of the capital on the morning of Nov 20.

The teenager was riding pillion on a motorcycle when he was approached by several attackers on two bikes and shot in his chest.

According to the *Bangkok Post*, Pongpeera died on the spot, while the attackers fled along Rama V Rd. Police found a pen gun at the scene.

Two suspects were arrested on Nov 21. Dusit Police Station Chief Col Traipop Paetrat identified them as Akarapol Sirimekanon, 22, and Thanakorn, 18. When questioned by police, Akarapol confessed he was the shooter.

Akarapol explained that Pongpeera and Thanakorn had an argument during which the former attacked the latter. The shooting was Thanakorn group's revenge.

The third suspect, identified



An 18-year-old murder suspect presented himself to Thalang Police officers after a warrant in his name had been issued. Photo: Thalang Police

as Wachirawit (aka 'Om'), fled to his father's house in Pa Khlok on Phuket's eastern coast. Wachirawit presented himself to Thalang Police Station after an arrest warrant was issued on Nov 23.

Wachirawit was charged with conspiring in a murder, illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition, illegal carrying of a firearm and ammunition in a village or city, and illegally shooting a firearm in a public place.

In its Nov 20 and Nov 22 reports, the *Bangkok Post* said that four suspects were involved in the shooting. As per the most recent report by Khao Phuket, *The Phuket News*' sister paper in Thai language, there were three attackers. *Eakkapop Thongtub*

## Patong Police offer tourists rides home

TOURISTS IN PATONG, UNABLE to drive due to intoxication, can contact local police officers for assistance in getting back to their accommodation. Patong Police can arrange a taxi or even give tourists a ride in a police vehicle – all to prevent drunk driving.

Patong Police Station announced the new measure to prevent drunk driving in a series of posts on its official Facebook page. The Facebook posts included either photos or videos of Patong Police officers helping foreign tourists get a taxi or giving them a ride in a police vehicle.

Under the campaign, tourists who cannot drive to their places of accommodation can park their vehicles at Bangla Police Box on Thaweewong Rd, or if tourists would like to use a taxi, a tuk-tuk or motorcycle taxi, Patong Police officers were ready to assist.

Alternatively, Patong Police officers can take party-goers to their hotels in a police vehicle.

Patong Police officers were happy to help tourists, take care of their safety and prevent undesired incidents in the area of Bangla Rd, the Facebook posts announced.

Drunk driving and general safety issues have always been among the



Patong Police has posted three reports about officers assisting tourists in getting to their places of accommodation. Photo: Patong Police

primary concerns regarding the extension of entertainment venues' legal opening hours until 4am.

Having agreed to support the extension in dedicated entertainment zones, the Ministry of Public Health stated in mid-November that it would suggest nightspots wanting to open longer hours conduct an alcohol breathalyzer test on their customers before they leave and find them transport services if needed.

The private sector, particularly the entertainment business, vowed to take additional measures to provide safety and security to avoid all sorts of incidents leading to injuries, damage to property, and image losses.

The Phuket News

thephuketnews



# Concerns rise as Zika spreads

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) has issued a Zika virus warning amid concerns of rising infections in Rawai.

The PPHO warning, issued on Nov 22, came as a long-term expat contacted *The Phuket News* to raise concerns of a spike in infections in the Saiyuan area.

After learning of the concerns, Rawai Municipality responded by testing all the occupants in one house.

"They fogged the house and surrounding areas, including a nearby kindergarten," the expat said.

The kindergarten remained a concern for transmission as the family with a child who also attended there confirmed they also had at least one case.

"This morning they came and urine and PCR'd everyone in the household. That's eight people. Free apparently, and they brought some sprays and stuff last week, including repellent and spray to kill mosquitoes," the expat said.

"They tried to be as helpful as possible," he added.

The PPHO warning ex-



A local council worker 'fogs' a house in Rawai. Photo: Rawai Municipality / file

plained that the Zika virus is carried by Aedes mosquitoes, which are better known for carrying dengue fever and chikungunya.

"The main cause of infection is from mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus. Other routes may be possible, such as spreading through the blood transmission, such as from an infected mother to her fetus,"

the warning said.

The incubation period for Zika usually takes an average of four to seven days after a mosquito bite. The shortest is three days and the longest is 12 days, the warning explained.

Common symptoms include fever, a rash and conjunctivitis, muscle pain, joint pain, fatigue and headache.



tion from mosquito bites as the best defence against infection.

Use insecticide or ointment to prevent mosquito bites. Sleep under a mosquito net and close the window, close the door or use mosquito screens to prevent mosquitoes from entering the house. Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants to cover up, the PPHO advised.

Clearing any standing water from around the house also helps to deprive mosquitoes of breeding areas, the PPHO noted.

People who develop a fever, rash, red eyes, joint pain or any other symptoms related to Zika are urged to see a doctor immediately, especially pregnant women.

"Within seven days of the onset of fever there will be a large amount of virus in the bloodstream. If you are bitten by a mosquito during this time, you can greatly spread the infection to others," the PPHO warned.

Pregnant women were urged to visit prenatal care professionals at a public health facility. "If you have any unusual symptoms, please notify your doctor immediately," the warning said.

"Usually these symptoms are only mild, not severe, and last for about two to seven days, except in pregnant women, whose babies might be born with a small brain (microcephaly) or have complications during pregnancy," the warning said.

"Currently, there is no specific vaccine to prevent Zika fever. Treatment com-

prises rest, drinking lots of fluids and treating symptoms, such as using paracetamol to reduce fever or relieve pain.

"Do not take aspirin or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), as some of these drugs are dangerous for this disease. It may cause internal organs to bleed more easily," the warning continued.

The PPHO urged preven-

## Sweden appoints new honorary consul

SWEDISH AMBASSADOR to Thailand Anna Hammargren was in Phuket last week to formally introduce the new Swedish Honorary Consul for Phuket, Somboon Chirayus.

Amb Hammargren and her delegation from the Swedish embassy in Bangkok were on a two-day trip to Phuket, concluding on Nov 21.

Before an event held at the Phuket Marriott Merlin Beach to formally introduce Mr Somboon, Amb Hammargren met with Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan and other leading provincial officials to discuss issues involving Swedish nationals in Phuket.

Joining the meeting, held at Phuket Provincial Hall, were representatives from the Temporary Passport Office, Phuket Province (as the office in Phuket representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) as well as from Phuket Immigration, the Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), the Phuket Chamber of Commerce and the President of the Phuket Tourist Association.

Vice Governor Amnu-



Photo: PR Phuket

ay pointed out that 110,00 Swedish nationals have visited Thailand from January through September this year, with many of those coming to Phuket.

"And we hope more will be coming in the last quarter of this year," he said.

V/Gov Amnuay also congratulated Mr Somboon for his appointment as Swedish Honorary Consul for Phuket.

"It is an important position that can help to promote trade, investment, and tourism between Sweden and Phuket, in addition to helping Swedes in the area," he noted.

V/Gov Amnuay highlighted the regular meetings held between the Phuket Governor and leading provincial officials with the diplomatic corps on the island.

"Phuket Province [the

provincial government] has close cooperation with foreign honorary consulates in Phuket. Every two months, the Governor of Phuket chairs a meeting between the consular groups with various agencies of the province," he explained.

"The meeting provides various useful information, and serves as a channel for close discussion and to respond to various issues in a timely manner," he added.

"Thailand, especially Phuket, is popular among Swedes wishing to come and live long-term," V/Gov Amnuay continued, pointing out that 411 Swedish nationals are currently living in Phuket on long-term visas.

"Agencies in Phuket, both public and private, are ready to care for Swedes in Phuket," V/Gov Amnuay said.

*The Swedish Honorary Consulate in Phuket is located at 25/50 Mae Luan Rd, Tambon Talad Nuea, Mueang Phuket District, Phuket 83000. Open 9am to midday, Monday-Friday. Tel: 076-530560. Fax: 076-510939*

*The Phuket News*



SALA  
PHUKET  
MAI KHAO BEACH

## SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

AT THE SALA BEACH BAR

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR WEEKEND WITH SOME BRILLIANT LIVE MUSIC! THE LIVEWIRES PLAY AN ECLECTIC SELECTION OF CLASSIC POP AND ROCK HITS TO THE INFECTIOUS BEATS OF FUNK, SOUL AND REGGAE.

GUEST CAN ENJOY A WEEKLY SELECTION OF SPECIAL SATURDAY LIVE DRINKING AND DINING PROMOTIONS.

SATURDAY NIGHTS IN MAI KHAO ARE BEST SPENT AT THE ALL NEW SALA BEACH BAR.

THE LIVEWIRES BAND  
FROM 6.30PM TO 8.30PM

076 33 8888

events@salaphuket.com

www.salaphuket.com



# Disease-free hotels heralded

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Department of Medical Sciences under the Ministry of Public Health has launched a new certification programme that confirms which hotels have been declared free from Legionnaires disease and Norovirus and whose operational standards help to prevent the spread of the diseases.

The new programme has been launched under the “Safety Phuket Island Sandbox” initiative launched by the central government to help boost confidence among tourists travelling to Thailand, and Phuket, on holiday.

Dr Yongyot Thammawut, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health and currently Acting Director-General of the Department of Medical Sciences, chaired a seminar at the Deevana Plaza Phuket, – Patong hotel on Nov 22 where 15 hotels in Phuket were awarded the certification.

The seminar also focussed on how hotel operators can prevent Norovirus and Legionella from contaminating water that their guests are exposed to.

Dr Banlang Upaphong, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Medical Sciences, was also present to give a report on the vital health issue, while Rewat Areerob,



Photos: PR Phuket

President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO), explained how the PPAO is supporting the government’s ‘Safety Phuket Island Sandbox’ initiative.

Dr Yongyot emphasised how important the Department of Medical Sciences health-monitoring teams were now inspecting the drinking water of hotels in tourist attractions in every region of Thailand, checking for water contamination by Norovirus, the cause of acute gastrointestinal disease, and Legionella, which causes acute respiratory infections.

Phuket is the first province where the contamination checks are being carried out, Dr Yongyot said.

Phuket already had a Norovirus scare in June, when an average of 100 people a day were seeking

medical assistance from hospitals due to infections.

Dr Yongyot highlighted the importance of Phuket hotels being known as safe from such afflictions. “If we go back to before the COVID-19 outbreak, Phuket province had tourism income as high as B440 billion – the second highest after Bangkok – and in 2022 it was found that 4.83 million tourists returned, generating over B166.77bn in tourism revenue,” he said.

So far 15 hotels in Phuket had been checked and approved for certification, Dr Yongyot added. However, a total of only 30 hotels have applied for certification.

Wirintra Paphakityotphat, head of the Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT) Region 11 branch, in July noted, “In Phuket, there are 4,600



hotels in operation, 900 of which are legally licensed and 3,700 are unlicensed.”

Dr Yongyot appealed to all hotel operators to apply for certification so they can promote the fact that their hotels have been inspected, approved and certified for being free from Norovirus and Legionella.

“The World Health Organization recommends that hot and cold water systems be clean and maintain hot water temperatures at 60°C and cold water below 20°C, or you can collect water samples and send them for analysis at the Department of Medical Sciences laboratory or Medical Science Center at least two times a year to build confidence for tourists.

“Doing so also raises the standards of hotel establishments. This

will be beneficial to the tourism industry, the national economy, hotel operators in Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga,” he added.

*The 15 hotels that have received certification are: Banyan Tree Phuket Hotel, Beyond Patong Hotel, Phuket Orchid Resort and Spa Hotel, Beyond Resort Karon Hotel, Pamookkoo Resort Hotel, The Royal Paradise Hotel & Spa Hotel, Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket Hotel, Sawaddi Patong Resort & Spa Hotel by Tolani Renaissance Phuket Resort and Spa, Katathani Phuket Beach Resort, Rawai Palm Beach Resort, The Nai Harn Phuket, The Front Village Hotel, The Village Resort & Spa and Holiday Inn Resort Phuket.*

*The Phuket News*

**BrightView Surgery**

**Life without glasses, after you're 50?**

**Yes, it is possible!**

**“Total solution to say goodbye to eye glasses – Forever”**

- Your key solution to a world without glasses.
- Quick and easy procedure, fast recovery.
- State-of-the-art technology to bring back your youthful or Maximize your vision.
- Lifetime solution for cataract, free yourself worrying cataract degeneration.

To know more about BrightView Surgery, please contact us at

www.brightviewcenter.com +66 7625 4425 BPK.Intermarketing@bgh.co.th

**BANGKOK HOSPITAL PHUKET** 1719 www.phukethospital.com MEMBER OF 3DMS

## BDO event explains new tax on foreign-sourced income

### SPONSORED

BDO IN THAILAND’S Tax Partner Melea Cruz gave a presentation at NH Hotel Boat Lagoon on Oct 27 on the recent guidelines issued by the Thai Revenue Department affecting Taxation on Foreign Sourced Income (Thai Revenue Code, para 2, S41) and how this impacts tax residents’ personal income tax liability.

More than 60 people attended the event at BNH Boat Lagoon Hotel, where Ms Cruz highlighted the following:

- On Sept 15, the Thai Revenue Department issued a Departmental Instruction No. Por. 161/2566 to overturn the previous practice or interpretation of the taxation of foreign sourced income remitted by tax residents to Thailand.

- The “old” interpretation of Section 41, para 2, was that foreign sourced income was taxable in Thailand only if brought to Thailand within the same calendar year.

- The new guideline changes this interpretation such that ALL foreign sourced income of tax residents is now taxable if



Melea Cruz. Photo: BDO Phuket

remitted into Thailand, regardless of the year of remittance.

- The new interpretation will apply to foreign sourced income remitted to Thailand on or after 1 January 2024. The rules apply to ALL tax residents of Thailand, Thai or foreigners alike.

- A Thai Tax resident is anyone staying in Thailand for a period of 180 days or more (183 days under the relevant Double Tax Agreement) in any taxable year.

The question-and-answer session after the presentation was very lively. Many attendees asked what kind of income would be taxed if transferred to Thailand. To this Ms Cruz advised that all types of income under Section 40 of the Thai Revenue Code are covered by Section 41. This includes employment income, service

income, pensions, rental income, dividend, capital gain, interest, professional income, royalties and other intangible income, and all other types of income.

Some exceptions include holders of the three categories of Long-Term Visas (wealthy global citizen, wealthy pensioners, work from Thailand professionals) and gift tax within the limitation prescribed by law. For retirees, the relevant double tax agreement (DTA) must be evaluated. In cases of double taxation, a tax credit is available under the relevant double tax agreement.

Ms Cruz also noted that there are still a number of issues requiring clarification. For example, will a foreign source income earned by a tax resident 11 years ago be taxed in Thailand if remitted next year? She believes the answer is no because of the 10-year prescription period to collect taxes.

Ms Cruz summed up by advising that “the application of the new interpretation may potentially be quite complex, and each situation will need to be considered on its merits.



# Marriage equality boost as law set for amendment

## BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The government has confirmed that it will fast-track in parliament a law to recognise same-sex marriage in Thailand.

The amendment facilitates marriages between same-sex couples, ensuring they enjoy the same legal protections and privileges as heterosexual couples.

Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said on Nov 22 the Cabinet had approved draft legislation for marriage equality and it would be tabled in parliament later this month.

The progressive step, proposed by the Justice Ministry, aims to replace gender-specific terms in the civil code with gender-neutral ones.

References to a man, woman, husband, wife and husband-and-wife are to be deleted, and new terminology will replace those old sex-based distinctions. The new terms for all provisions will be “person”, “person offering an engagement”, “person ac-



A same-sex couple pose in wedding dresses during the Pride March in Bangkok on June 5, 2022. Photo: AFP

cepting an engagement”, and “spouses”.

The change is a significant shift from the existing Life Partnership Act, which only recognises the right of same-sex couples to cohabit but does not extend full marital rights.

The Cabinet has also instructed the Council of State to revise other laws to ensure equitable treatment of same-sex couples, especially concerning inheritance rights.

Parliament last year debated four bills for civil unions for same-sex couples and marriage equality but they failed

to be passed before the election and subsequently lapsed.

While Thailand also has a law on equality between the sexes, it currently does not extend to validate same-sex marriage.

The current plan is to focus on a law concerning same-sex marriages rather than a law on civil unions or partnerships. The bill seeks to amend not only section 1448 of the Civil Code but another 60-plus sections of the code as well.

However, even if those provisions of the code are amended, about 50 provisions

in other laws will also need to be amended.

The latter includes various references to man, woman, husband and wife in the tax and pension laws, criminal laws and even some laws concerning national security.

Given that internationally, the age of marriage is set at a minimum of 18 rather than 17, there are questions as to whether the new law should also raise the minimum age of marriage to 18.

Clarification would also be required for foreigners who wish to get married in Thailand on the basis of a same-sex relationship.

A possible approach could be similar to how France amended its Civil Code (on which the Thai code is based) which permits foreigners providing some links with France, such as property ownership, to register their same-sex marriage.

The Council of State is currently reviewing the bill, after which it will be presented to the House for further deliberation later this month.

Additional reporting by NNT



Passengers at Suvarnabhumi airport on Sept 28. Photo: Bangkok Post

## AoT confirm raise in passenger service tax

## BANGKOK

AIRPORTS OF THAILAND (AoT) have confirmed an increased passenger service charge of B30 at six international airports to cover the operating costs of Common Use Passenger Processing Systems (Cupps).

AoT director Kirati Kitmanawat said last Friday (Nov 24) that the AoT has adopted the systems at the six airports it manages: Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Mae Fah Luang, Phuket and Hat Yai, resulting in a higher operating cost.

The AoT will raise the charge from B700 to B730 per person for international departures and from B100 to B130 for domestic departures, starting Apr 1 next year.

Cupps provides Common Use Terminal Equipment that upgrades the check-in system

and Common Use Self Service which enables passengers to self-check in at the airports or do so in advance up to 12 hours before departure.

Mr Kirati also said that Cupps provides a self-service baggage drop which eases congestion at check-in counters. The rise has been approved by the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT), which says Cupps is listed as an aeronautical charge, he said. Also, Cupps is calculated under the service charge, according to the Air Navigation Act's Section 56 (1), which allows aviation authorities to collect the charge for airport improvement and passenger facilities.

Mr Kirati said the new charge rate was approved by the transport minister, adding that revenue from the charge will be used to acquire new facilities as well as fund airport maintenance and safety measures. Bangkok Post

## Anutin issues order to halt gun licences

## BANGKOK

INTERIOR MINISTER ANUTIN Charnvirakul has signed an order instructing firearms registrars to stop issuing licences to carry guns for one year in an attempt to curb gun violence.

The order, known as Por 12, is in accordance with the Firearms, Ammunition, Explosive, Fireworks and Imitation Firearms Act, Traisuree Taisaranakul, secretary to the interior minister, said on Nov 22.

It has been forwarded to Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin for approval, she said, adding it will take effect the day after it is announced in the Royal Gazette.

Ms Traisuree said the order, a gun-control measure, does not apply to state officials such as police who are permitted to carry firearms while on duty.

Permanent secretary for the interior, Suthipong Chulcharoen, said on Nov 16 he had instructed provincial governors to tell firearms registrars to stop issuing Por 12 licences in their provinces.

Firearms registrars in the provinces can include provincial governors, district chiefs and deputy district chiefs, while the firearms registrar in Bangkok is the director-general of the Provincial Administration Department.

Mr Suthipong said firearms registrars were also told to stop issuing new licences for the import and sale of imitation firearms to existing licencees while those possessing blank guns, BB guns, or imitation firearms



More than 2,000 pistols were seized by police during a firearm crackdown on Oct 9-11, 2023. Photo: Bangkok Post

that can be modified into real weapons were told to register them at local registrars.

The measures follow a series of deadly shootings in Bangkok that triggered calls for a review of the granting of firearms licences to the general public and for stricter gun control measures.

The first shooting occurred on Oct 3 at Siam Paragon shopping mall when a 14-year-old boy went on a rampage, killing three people and wounding five others.

A teacher at the Sacred Heart Convent School in Bangkok's Klong Toey area was killed by a stray bullet when rival student gangs clashed on Nov 11.

Shortly after, a 15-year-old Mathayom 5 student was struck by a stray bullet in Suan Luang district when gangs of youths fought. Bangkok Post

Albatross Café

★ ★

CHRISTMAS MENU

24TH DECEMBER

Mixed Tapas

½ Phuket Lobster Salad

Lime Sorbet

Seabass Fish in Tamarind Sauce  
Served with Jasmine Rice

OR

Pan Fried Spiced Duck Breast  
Served Mashed Potato and Cranberry & Orange Sauce

Mango Sticky Rice

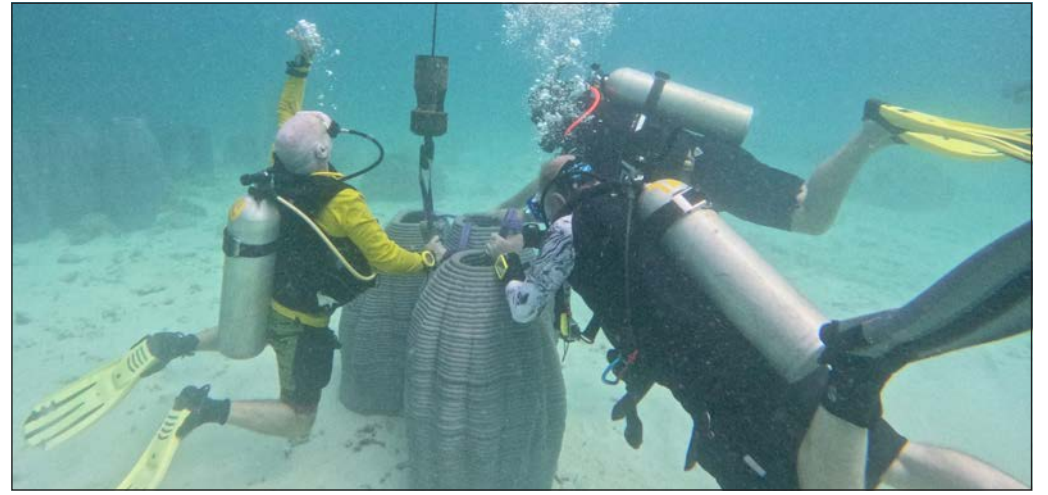
Coffee / Tea

3,300 THB Nett price per person  
Including ½ Bottle

\*\*\*RESERVATION REQUIRED\*\*\*  
for more information  
please call: +66 98018 8122

Join us for a romantic  
candlelit dinner by the water  
at Albatross Cafe, Canal Village





# Restoring Koh Racha's reefs

The Phuket News  
editor1@classactmedia.co.th

A project overseen by the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) is underway to install 88 sets of 3D-printed 'coral larvae islands' at Siam Bay, at Racha Yai Island south of Phuket, in the hope of restoring the degraded coral reef there.

Leading the inaugural installation, held on Nov 21, was Weeraphan Thongmak, Director of the DMCR's Marine Resources Restoration Division. Also present was Adam Brennan, Group Director of Sustainable Development at Thai Union Group Public Company Limited, which is funding the project.

Sukthawat Pattawarakorn, Director of Natural Resources and Social

Mission at SCG (Siam Cement Group), which created the 3D-printed forms to be installed at the reef site, was present to represent the 'CPAC Green Solution' initiative.

Construction Products and Materials Company Limited, or 'CPAC', operates under SCG Cement, which was founded by a royal decree of King Rama VI (Vajiravudh) in 1913. The company's major shareholder is His Majesty King Vajiralongkorn, who owns 30% of Siam Cement's shares.

Present to actually install the 3D-printed forms were volunteers from Phuket's dive community.

Paitoon Panchaiyaphum, Director of the DMCR's Conservation and Resource Management Department, explained that the reef area covers about 50 rai.

"From surveying the general conditions in many areas, most of the corals

were found to be in deteriorated condition. Some areas were damaged and lost permanently. Only the sand remains," he said.

"This has happened because of many reasons, including tourism and diving activities, boats dropping anchor on the corals and natural bleaching of corals, which in itself creates difficulty for the corals to recover by themselves," he added.

"Tourism activities in the area are increasing, causing disruption to the recovery of the corals. In particular, this area was previously home to staghorn corals and other fragile corals interspersed throughout the reef," Mr Paitoon said.

"It was found that when these corals die, limestone remains are left and over time decay and break down into small fragments. Normally, these coral remains serve as a base for naturally occurring coral larvae to colonise and continue to grow, but it takes many years," he explained.

"When the larvae do not settle or coat the coral remains, waves wash them up on shore or off the reef into deeper waters. This leaves the area with coral fragments that turn into sand, which is not suitable for coral larvae to land on because it must be a hard surface area," he added.

Tourism activities were a key concern, Mr Paitoon noted. "The Racha Yai Island area, especially the bays such as Siam Bay [Ao Siam], are used as a diving teaching spot.

"Scuba diving teachers dive with many tourists every day. Areas that were previously covered with coral reefs or sand containing coral larvae are constantly disturbed, meaning larvae are unable to attach and grow," he said.

"Therefore, it is necessary to adjust the sea floor with these 'shelters' that are suitable for the larvae to attach to," he added.

Previous similar projects have been successful, but reef restoration at Koh Racha poses its own challenges, Mr Paitoon said.

"In the past, the DMCR has carried out other reef restoration projects, including planting corals and placing bases in various forms, such as domes, squares, or placing bricks in the area. The results have been satisfactory.

"However, because the Racha Island area is a tourist attraction, this causes the materials placed to be unattractive compared with the coral reef. Therefore, we have thought about finding a way to find materials that are harmonious, beautiful, or similar to natural coral reefs to place.

"This is the origin of the develop-

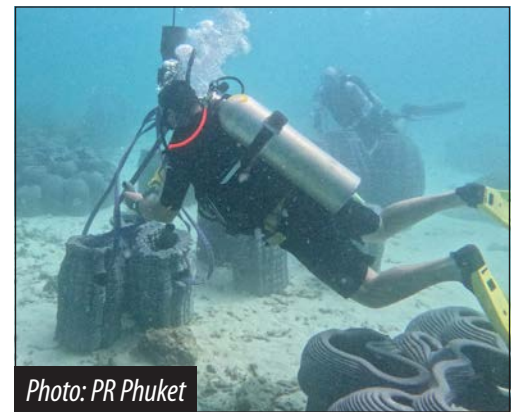


Photo: PR Phuket

ment of the base material for coral larvae to attach to, with the Marine Resources Conservation Division working in collaboration with SCG CPAC Green Solution and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Chulalongkorn University.

"The result was concrete material created using 3D printing technology, which used designs to model the shapes of various types of natural coral with the idea of being in harmony with nature," he explained.

"It is strong, durable and friendly to the marine environment. It is complex and can be used as a home for aquatic animals. And most importantly, it doesn't weigh much. It can be easily installed and transported.

"Divers can move it underwater, which saves money. and the project included the participation of divers to help install the concrete modules, which is in accordance with the DMCR's guidelines to emphasise the participation of all sectors," he said.

Thai Union Group Public Company Limited has provided the budget for the project within Phuket, Mr Paitoon added.

"The company will provide continuous support operations for a period of three years, from this year onwards. After this placement, it is expected that it will take one year for the corals to begin colonising the modules," he said.

"After this placement, there will be continued activities by the DMCR, with volunteer divers in the area collecting broken coral fragments that are still alive and attaching them to the base. It's called coral planting. This will allow the corals to settle on these bases and will cover the material faster," he explained.

"There will be periodic follow-ups," he added.

"In addition, the DMCR will encourage dive shop operators in the area with divers who have undergone training from the DMCR to hold activities to bring tourists to grow coral. in the area. This will continue to be under the supervision of the relevant officials," Mr Paitoon concluded.

**eat in PHUKET**

Where to eat in PHUKET

Detailed profiles of restaurants, menus, and more.

**The January/February 2024**  
hard copy issue goes to print very soon

Distributed in resorts/hotels lobbies, in a high number of restaurants and coffee shops, plus inserted in one issue of *The Phuket News* each month, it is a great way to Talk to Phuket about your F & B outlet

**Want to be in it?**

CONTACT JASON TODAY – gm@classactmedia.co.th



# New 'Trolls' on the block

David Griffiths

Was 'Trolls Band Together' ever supposed to be a feature film? Or was it just a reason for Grammy-nominated boy band NSYNC to reform (albeit temporarily)? Whatever the case, we end up with one of the most colourful films that you will see this year.

Directed by Walt Dohrn (*Trolls World Tour*), *Trolls Band Together* begins with a flashback in which the audience learns that Branch (voiced by Justin Timberlake – *The Social Network*) was once in a boy band called BroZone along with his brothers John Dory (Eric Andre – *Sing 2*), Spruce (Daveed Diggs – *The Little Mermaid*), Clay (Kid Cudi – *Need For Speed*) and Floyd (Troye Sivan – *Boy Erased*).

Their rise to fame came crashing down when they failed to achieve the 'Perfect Family Harmony' and they had a spectacular fail in front of their adoring fans. The group all go their own ways and Branch has never spoken about his BroZone days since.

Flash forward to today and Branch and Poppy (Anna Kendrick – *Pitch Perfect*) find their friend's wedding interrupted when John Dory suddenly returns not only spilling Branch's BroZone news to everybody, but also telling them that wannabe pop stars Velvet (Amy Schumer – *Trainwreck*) and Veneer (Andrew Rannells – *The Prom*) have kidnapped Floyd and are sucking his talent from him to fuel their own – something that will lead to him dying if they are not stopped soon.

Once John Dory and Branch see that Floyd is being kept in a diamond bottle they realise the only thing that can break him out is BroZone getting back together and performing their 'Perfect Family Harmony'. But in order for that to happen they have to try and find all the remaining brothers, work out their



Image: IMDb

differences and then try to hunt down where Velvet and Veneer are now holding Floyd.

As a film, *Trolls Band Together* is a strange watch. At times it becomes very low on story and huge on graphics and music. So bright and colourful are the animation throughout the film that it feels like a 1970s psychedelic, acid trip that moves from video clip to video clip. That said, this is still a movie that is a hell of a lot of fun from start to finish.

This is also a film that may leave newcomers to the franchise a little lost. There are characters in this film from the first film that didn't appear in the second film, which seemed to confuse some of the audience at the premiere. There are also characters that you would expect to see from the second film that don't appear at all this time around.

Still there are more than enough familiar characters to keep the story and laughs going. For long-time fans of the series it is nice to be able to learn more about the lives of Poppy and Branch while regular characters like Tiny Diamond (Kenan Thompson – *Snakes on a Plane*) keep the laughs going from start to finish.

Screenwriter Elizabeth Tippet (*Trolls World Tour*)

takes the audience on a real journey, and despite the floaty nature of the film it does at times get into some deep territory. The rift between Branch and his brothers explores the topic of broken families while the film also looks at the results of a child being forced into stardom at an early age... and the impact of that happening to Branch is obvious in the past two films.

The film also explores the modern world's obsession with being an online star and film shows, sometimes graphically, just how far Velvet and Veneer are willing to go in order to become stars. The fact that they are willing to end poor Floyd's life in order to be celebrities really makes the audience stop and think about the TikTok generation of today.

Perhaps the best part of *Trolls Band Together*, though, is how the film jokes about the boy band phenomenon. From jokes around NSYNC's rivals over the years – Backstreet Boys etc – through to the actual NSYNC reforming in order to record a track for the film's soundtrack this is a film that takes its theme and runs with it brilliantly well. Keep in mind that Justin Timberlake himself was among the original NSYNC lineup.

Older audiences will love being able to sing along to the songs on the soundtrack (and be thankful there is now a new playlist for their kids to listen to) while kids will find themselves drawn into the latest adventures of Poppy and Branch. This is a film that the whole family can enjoy and sing along to.

*Trolls Band Together* is yet to be rated and will be released in Phuket on Dec 5.

3/5 Stars

David Griffiths has been working as a film and music reviewer for over 20 years. That time has seen him work in radio, television and in print. He is also an accredited reviewer for Rotten Tomatoes. You can follow him at [www.facebook.com/subcultureentertainmentaus](https://www.facebook.com/subcultureentertainmentaus)



THAI  
RESIDENTIAL

Phuket's No.1 Trusted Real Estate Advisor

## Are You Trying To Sell Your Phuket Property?

List Your House, Villa or Luxury Condo with  
**Thai Residential**  
and Increase Your Chances  
of a **Successful** Sale.



PHUKET@THAIRESIDENTIAL.COM | +66 94 8411 918 | WWW.THAIRESIDENTIAL.COM  
THAIRESIDENTIAL CO., LTD. 82/37 SAM PAO COURTYARD, MOO4, PATAK ROAD, T.RAWAI, PHUKET, 83130



## POP QUIZ

1. Transylvania became part of which country in 1918?
2. Which legendary Greek character eloped with Helen of Sparta to spark the Trojan War?
3. At the Equator, how fast does the Earth spin on its axis?
4. What was the full name of Dr Henry Jekyll's alternative personality?
5. Scotsman Alan MacMasters is famed for which 1893 invention?

Answers below, centre

## SUDOKU

Easy

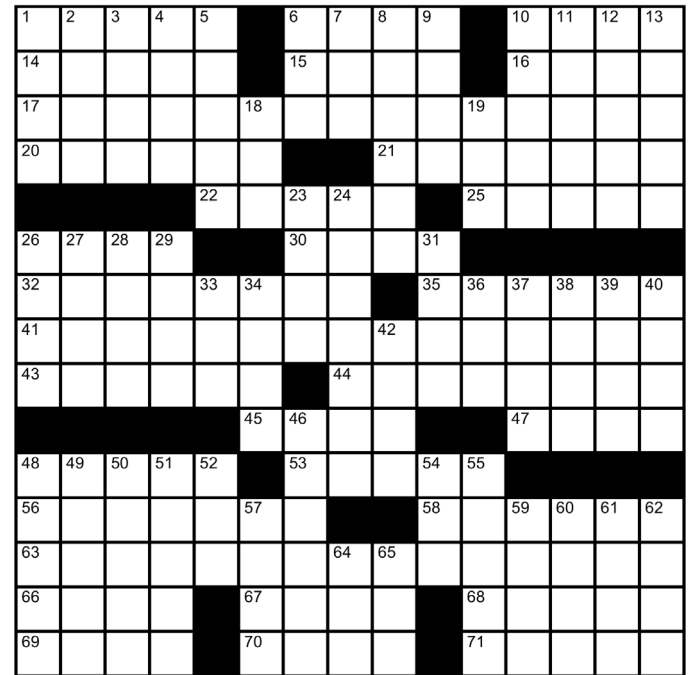
	2			4		1	
9			6		1		3
7	3					4	2
	9		5		8		2
1							8
	8		2		6		3
3	5					6	1
2			8		4		7
	7			6			5

## Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- |                                   |                            |                             |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Across                            | 66. Auction off            | 29. Bit attachment          |
| 1. Strong woody fibers            | 67. Detective, at times    | 31. Fed. agency             |
| 6. Basilica part                  | 68. Like the flu           | 33. Bio bit                 |
| 10. Inclines                      | 69. Do in                  | 34. Delhi wrap              |
| 14. Open, as a toothpaste tube    | 70. Go downhill            | 36. "Say what?"             |
| 15. Candle part                   | 71. Resembling wings       | 37. Sea eagles              |
| 16. Son of 11-Down                |                            | 38. Away from port          |
| 17. Dangerous one                 | Down                       | 39. Clothe                  |
| 20. Dweller on the Red Sea        | 1. In use                  | 40. Latin 101 verb          |
| 21. Dragonflies                   | 2. Frank or Francis        | 42. Regrets                 |
| 22. "Rock the Boat" music         | 3. Shell game              | 46. ___ hygienist           |
| 25. Italic language               | 4. Appropriate             | 48. Bottomless pit          |
| 26. God with a hammer             | 5. Drop                    | 49. Angler's basket         |
| 30. Medicinal balsam              | 6. Barley bristle          | 50. Eucalyptus eater        |
| 32. Liberator                     | 7. Depression              | 51. Premature               |
| 35. Gather stalks                 | 8. Teach                   | 52. Old Tokyo               |
| 41. Women's accessories           | 9. Squeezed (out)          | 54. Destroy                 |
| 43. Power tool                    | 10. Graceful fliers        | 55. Caterpillar, for one    |
| 44. Abundance                     | 11. Father of 16-Across    | 57. New newts               |
| 45. Like some hands               | 12. Ziti, e.g.             | 59. Colorado resort         |
| 47. Fill to excess                | 13. Early role for Madonna | 60. Site of the Taj Mahal   |
| 48. Tropical soapberry tree, var. | 18. "Rocky ___"            | 61. Rime                    |
| 53. Stand                         | 19. Gunk                   | 62. Just                    |
| 56. Expand                        | 23. Galley notation        | 64. Get going               |
| 58. Native American               | 24. Civic competitor       | 65. Antiquity, in antiquity |
| 63. 1985 Rourke film              | 26. Mouth, slangily        |                             |
|                                   | 27. Hot spot               |                             |
|                                   | 28. Earthen pot            |                             |

## Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

- 1) Romania; 2) Paris; 3) 1,000mph (1,600kph); 4) Edward Hyde; 5) The first electric toaster



Visit: [www.ilovecrosswords.com](http://www.ilovecrosswords.com)

## Solutions to last week's puzzles:

S L A W V O T E T E U P H U S H E M I R I N U R E I L I A N A P S N O R I A A L F R E D H I T C H C O C K F L E A R A H F A C A D E B L A T A A H I M A G E S L I T A M M O F E D E R I C O F E L L I N I E N D S L U B E A E G I S S T Y A I D S E N R O O T E R A G N A T J O H N S C H L E S I N G E R A M A T I V E T I E A S E G I V E N P A I L S I A N S T E R E E R N E S T U D	8 3 1 6 2 9 7 5 4 6 7 4 3 8 5 2 9 1 5 2 9 7 1 4 6 3 8 2 1 7 9 3 8 4 6 5 3 6 8 5 4 7 1 2 9 9 4 5 2 6 1 8 7 3 1 9 6 4 5 2 3 8 7 4 5 2 8 7 3 9 1 6 7 8 3 1 9 6 5 4 2
---	---

## GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

day on Venus is longer than 1 year on Venus.

24

hours was how long a ban on using the word 'mate' within the Australian parliament building lasted in 2005 before being reversed.

1,250

to 1 is the probability that a plane you're traveling in will get hit by lightning.

3,000

calories and more than 150 grammes of fat are consumed by the average American during a Thanksgiving meal.

1 trillion

dollars is how much Norway has as a pension fund for its 5 million citizens. Roughly \$200,000 for each person.

Source: Uberfacts

## ISLAND VIEW



Uptown traffic. Photo by Tina Olitakič

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket? Email it to [execeditor@classactmedia.co.th](mailto:execeditor@classactmedia.co.th)

## This week in history

Dec 1, 1960

Paul McCartney and Pete Best are arrested (and later deported) from Hamburg, Germany, after accusations of attempted arson.

Dec 2, 1930

First Great Depression: US President Herbert Hoover proposes a US\$150 million (equivalent to \$2.763 billion today) public works program to help generate jobs and stimulate the economy.

Dec 3, 1976

Bob Marley is shot in an assassination attempt in Kingston, Jamaica. He takes to the stage just two days later for the 'Smile Jamaica' free concert.

Dec 4, 1872

The American ship 'Mary Celeste' is found with no crew on board by the Canadian brig 'Dei Gratia'. The ship had been abandoned for nine days but was only slightly damaged.



Photo: Eddie Mallin

Dec 5, 1952

Great Smog: A cold fog descends upon London, combining with air pollution and killing at least 12,000 people in the

weeks and months that follow.

Dec 6, 1240

Mongol invasion of Rus': Kiev under Daniel of Galicia and Voivode Dmytro falls to the Mongols under Batu Khan.

Dec 7, 1703

The Great Storm of 1703, the greatest windstorm ever recorded in the southern part of Great Britain, makes landfall. Winds gust up to 120mph, and 9,000 people die. Source: Wikipedia



# Trades & Services

 The Phuket News  
 @thephuketnews

## CORPORATE SERVICES



**VERTIGO**  
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS  
VERTIGOVideOProductions.COM

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Waterproofing & Crack Repair**

20 year WARRANTY

under yearly checkup plan...  
**TCM Asia Co., Ltd - quality services since 2003**  
 office@tcm-asia.com 086-9439834

Drone Survey  
 Pipe Inspection

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**ASIA GREEN TECH**  
GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430  
 www.asiagtech.com  
 Cherrng Talay & Rawai Phuket, Thailand  
 bruno@asiagtech.com

**BIOCLIMATIC PERCOLA**

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**ASIA GREEN TECH**  
GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430  
 www.asiagtech.com  
 Cherrng Talay & Rawai Phuket, Thailand  
 bruno@asiagtech.com

**HIGH ELECTRICITY BILL ???**  
 WE WILL TELL YOU WHY  
 AND HOW TO REDUCE IT.  
 FIRST CONSULTANCY  
 FREE OF CHARGE

SAVE ENERGY BY  
 SMART MONITORING  
 YOUR CONSUMPTION.  
 FREE CONSULTANCY.  
 COMMERCIAL AND  
 RESIDENCIAL

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**WOOD FLOOR PHUKET - 20 YEARS**

Solid wood floors and engineering.  
 Decks supplied and installed - Teak & NZ Pine.

 /solidwoodfloorphuketthailand  
 Matt 081 271 2684 or Jessika 062 372 6624

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Tile-it**  
SMART TILES  
Tile Leveling System

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

Baan Wana - Cherrng Talay  
 Tel : 076 620168

www.tile-asia.com | letstalk@tile-asia.com

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Plumber**  
German Water Team Ltd.Part  
We repair what your husband fixed

MASTERCRAFTSMAN  
 WE REPAIR AND BUILD NEW:

- ALL KINDS OF HOT AND COLD WATER SYSTEMS
- HOT WATER SOLAR SYSTEMS AND SOLAR PUMPS
- POOL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE
- REPAIR ALL KINDS OF WATER SYSTEMS AND POOL PUMPS
- A VARIETY OF WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS TO FIT YOUR NEEDS

SHOWROOM NEXT TO WAT CHALONG  
 OPEN FROM 8AM TO 5PM

094 594 8868 (THAI)  
 089 645 4848 (GER / ENG)

www.germanwaterteam.com  
 Email: germanwaterteam@yahoo.de

22/12 Moo 6 Chaofa R.d.west Chalong A.Muang Phuket 83130

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**ASIA GREEN TECH**  
GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

+6683 394 7430  
 www.asiagtech.com  
 Cherrng Talay & Rawai Phuket, Thailand  
 bruno@asiagtech.com

- ✓ 100% Chlorine Free
- ✓ Water Parameters Check
- ✓ Salt Chlorinator Installation
- ✓ Electric System Check
- ✓ Pump Room Installation
- ✓ Filtration Check

## MARINE SERVICES

**Marine Engineering Specialists**

**C & C MARINE**

**C & C Marine (Thailand) Co., Ltd.**  
 16/2 Moo 4, Soi Nanai, Thepkasattri Rd., Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200  
 Tel: +66 (0)76 273247 Fax: +66 (0)76 273248 Mob: +66 (0)81 078 4507  
 Email: holmes@candc-marine.com www.candc-marine.com

**WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?**

The **Phuket News**  
 Your Island - Your Paper

Новости **Пхукета**  
 Твой остров - твоя газета

ข่าว **ภูเก็ต**

**WINDOW ON PHUKET**

The **map of PHUKET**  
 English 中文 Русский

Where to **eat** in PHUKET

**LIVE 89.5** **NEWS TV**

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th



**FRI 1 DEC**

www.facebook.com/groups/growboatingphuket Grow Boating is kindly supported by our media partner The Phuket News, Live 89.5 radio and Phuket News TV. See www.thephuketnews.com

**SUN 3 DEC**

**STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT**  
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai  
Oli: 081 891 4381  
www.shakersphuket.com  
shakersphuket@gmail.com  
FB: shakersphuket

**Sunday Roast**  
12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Beef, Pork & Capon chicken – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – Gravy, Mushroom sauce, Horse raddish, Mint Sauce. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 350 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

**MON 4 DEC**

**STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT**  
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai  
Oli: 081 891 4381  
www.shakersphuket.com  
shakersphuket@gmail.com  
FB: shakersphuket

**Monday BBQ Night**  
6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages,

Fish, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet and veggies, Choice of potatoes, cold and hot sauces, Bread, Buns & garlic bread. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 395 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

**WED 6 DEC**

**STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT**  
98/18 Vises Road, Rawai  
Oli: 081 891 4381  
www.shakersphuket.com  
shakersphuket@gmail.com  
FB: shakersphuket

**Wednesday BBQ Night**  
6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Fish, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet and veggies, Choice of potatoes, cold and hot sauces, Bread, Buns & garlic bread. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 395 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

**FRI 8 DEC**

**Christmas MARKET**  
DATE  
08 DECEMBER 2023  
(FRIDAY)  
6.00 PM - 10.00 PM  
BOARDWALK AT LAGOON QUAY

**Christmas Market at Phuket Boat Lagoon**

Join us on the boardwalk at Lagoon Quay of Phuket Boat Lagoon from 6pm on Friday December 8 for an evening of Christmas fun. For more information call 093 781 1188 or email customer@phuketboatlagoon.com

**SAT 9 DEC**



**La Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Phuket Christmas Lunch**

We are back again at The Boathouse Phuket for our Chaîne Phuket Christmas lunch. Chef Jonathan Bruell has created a fantastic menu for our lunch this year. Looking forward to seeing you all there for a great day over looking the white sand of Kata Beach. Bookings via PhuketTicketMaster.com

**SUN 10 DEC**

**X-MAS MARKET**  
10 DEC 2023 FROM 5 PM - 7 PM  
AT FIREFLY POOL AND RESTAURANT

**X-MAS MARKET by The Pavilions Phuket**

Join us for an evening filled with mouthwatering Christmas treats, lights, laughter and much more. Christmas is around the corner - join The Pavilions Christmas market by the Firefly Pool Celebrate this festive season with German Glühwein, German BBQ Sausage stations, DIY Gingerbread house workshops and artisans showcasing handmade and unique products and gifts to brighten your holiday. A percentage of our sales proceeds will go to the local charity, called the Good Shepherd. Save the date: 10 Dec 2023 from 5.00 pm - 8:00 pm (FREE ENTRY!) Location: Firefly Pool and Restaurant

**SAT 16 DEC**



**Rotary Club of Patong Beach Christmas Party 2023**

Please reserve the date and register for the annual Rotary Club of Patong Beach Christmas Party happening at the Holiday Inn Resort Phuket. Registration and Prepayment is mandatory. Prices until December 01: Rotary Club Members and their immediate family members: 2,000 THB per Adult. Non-Rotary Members: 2,500 THB per Adult. For Children aged 6 to 12 years old: 750 THB. The price includes a sumptuous buffet and free flow of well-chosen drinks per person. For bookings and more info email address: president@rotarypatong.org or LINE ID kamala110



**Grow Boating Evening**

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar at the Phuket Boat Lagoon from 5pm on Friday the 1st of December. We are delighted to announce that our drinks sponsor for the evening will be Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co., Ltd. an independent marketing consultancy based in Bangkok, Thailand specializing in commercial sponsorship. For more details see https://www.paulpoole.co.th/ There will be a delicious finger food buffet sponsored by the Boardwalk Bistro for all attendees and if you are still hungry then there will be burgers for just 100 baht. As always, all your favourite beverages will be available from the bar. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming, please invite them along. To join our mailing list please send an email to grow-boatingphuket@gmail.com Find us on Facebook at

**CLASSIFIEDS**

**PROPERTY FOR RENT**

**NEW SHOP FOR RENT. KATA.**  
BRAND NEW SHOP TO RENT KATA VILLAGE. LARGE SLIDING DOORS, SEPARATE SHOWER AND TOILET. IDEAL FOR MASSAGE, BEAUTY, HAIR, COFFEE, WIFI. 20,000 THB per month, Prada Bergdahl, bpvillasphuket@gmail.com

**BOATS, YACHTS FOR SALE**

**FISHING BOAT**  
This is a 2015 20ft X 6ft fishing skiff (6m. X 1.75M). Has bimini, anchor with 150 m. of 1/2" rope, navigation lights, fishing lights, house lights, dual batteries, auto bilge pump, solar panel, steering console, fire extinguisher, 4 life jackets, fenders, engine washing cup, everything you need. Powered by a 40HP 2015 Yamaha Enduro, low hours, with 10 micron fuel filter/water separator, 2 spare 8L tanks, 30 liter main tank. Comes with a 10ft tender, and boat trailer with spare tyre. Price 180,000 Baht. Contact Magdi Myrtoglou on 66 98 874 9522.

**The family-friendly yacht**  
Luxury SeaLine Yacht (51 ft). Fully renovated in 2022. Family-friendly. Features movable swimming platform, spacious flybridge. 3 bedrooms. Engines and generator overhauled. +66986709078 (Phone and WhatsApp)

**PROPERTY FOR SALE**

**Cha Am Beach Condo for Sale**  
72 SqM Unfurnished One bdrm bath kitchen. 1 Air cond 25 mtrs to beach 4th floor Cattareya Condo Swimming Pool Fitness Parking 24 hr security CCTV. Panadda Sathaisong, 089 635 7311, mypinellasmall@gmail.com

**RPM by owner**  
Unique luxury condo 2 bed, 2 bath, 155sqm. Foreign FREE HOLD. Architect remodel in tropical white. Jacuzzi. All round beautiful views. Completely furnished to a high standard. Only toothbrush needed. Very motivated owner living in Phuket. Onsite restaurant, gym, Tennis court, swimming pools and new Russian consulate. Available to agents. Contact Brian (Owner) - bggvirgo@gmail.com

**JOBS**

**Part Time Fitness Coach**  
Female fitness coach required End of October for busy business man staying in Surin Beach Must arrange diet, food, workout and masseuse during his stay. Please email experience and availability by October 21st. Phil Solomons: sirroundsound27@gmail.com, +44 7788 725846w

**CARS, TRUCKS FOR SALE**



**Volvo V60-2.0 Recharge T8**  
Volvo V60-2.0 Recharge T8 4WD Wagon. 2021. 48,xxx km. Turbo charged Supercharged 407 hp. Plug-in Hybridd - Gas - Full Electric. Black Onyx Metallic. Contact LINE ID: pma97139 Mr. Philip, Rawai

**PROPERTY FOR RENT**

**Land for sale near Mission Heights**  
Nice plot of land, just over one Rai in small, very quiet private estate, no monthly fees. 10 min to international school, 15 min to airport. Ideal to build 4 rental units. Reduced to 4.2MB. Contact owner direct - 063 743 8595.





## BLESSINGS OF THE WATERS

Hundreds of thousands of people turned out for Loy Krathong on Monday night (Nov 27), observing an ancient tradition and adding a modern twist.

Many of the people taking part in the festival under the full moon opted to float their krathong on bodies of water bordered by natural barriers to prevent them from floating into the sea, where they could cause harm to ocean marine life.

At Patong Beach, local officials went one step further by setting up a 'swimming pool' on the beach where people could float their krathong without causing any harm to the environment.

As with all Loy Krathong events across the island, the festivities at Patong – although organised by the Patong Municipality Education Office – included 'Nong Noppamas' beauty contests, with mainly children as the stars of the show. The festivities also included Thai dance, music, light and sound performances for local residents and tourists to enjoy alike.

In Phuket Town, the main centre of the official festivities was at Suan Luang (Rama IX Park), led by Phuket Town Mayor Saroj Angkhanapilas and joined by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat and his wife Ms Busadee, among a host of other high-ranking provincial officials.

At Suan Luang, people floated their krathong into the ponds, while at the louder, more fun festivities at Saphan Hin, people turned to the reservoir beside the main centre stage to float their krathong, while the concerts and live performances continued on stage.

Governor Sophon praised the commitment for maintaining the Loy Krathong festival, a tradition he said dated back 3,000 years.

He also praised how so many people were taking steps to limit their impact on the environment while observing the festival, which is held each year to honour Phra Mae Kongkha, the Goddess of the Waters.



Photos: Phuket City Municipality / Patong Municipality





## AFL Masters returns to action in Phuket

### AFL

FANS OF AUSTRALIAN Rules Football (AFL) will be delighted to hear that the rough and tumble sport they love is returning to Phuket this weekend.

After close to a year without any domestic competition, the AFL Masters will take place tomorrow (Dec 2) at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG).

This year three teams will be fighting it out on the oval with the Singapore Sharks travelling north to join the Thailand Sabretooth Tigers and Phuket Power in battling for the 2023 Pacific Cross Health Insurance Over 35's AFL Andaman Cup.

Teams will be made up of a maximum of 12 players per side, with each player over the age of 35.

All games will commence at 10:30 am and be played in a round-robin format of two 12-minute halves.

Spectators are welcome to come along and enjoy



Photo: Supplied

the fun. Entry is free and a selection of food and beverages will be available at the ground throughout the day.

AFL has made a resurgence in Asia over the last couple of years with the recent AFL Asian Championships in Chonburi featuring 15 men's teams and eight women's teams, including players from Phuket. In a competition of very high standard, Thailand narrowly missed out on defending their division 2 title.

If you are interested in playing for the Phuket Power feel free to send the team a message on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PhuketPowerAFL](https://www.facebook.com/PhuketPowerAFL)

*The Phuket News*

## Verstappen signs off in style

### FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato

michael@boxofneutrals.com

Max Verstappen won his 19<sup>th</sup> race of the year at the season-closing Abu Dhabi Grand Prix last Sunday (Nov 26) ahead of a bizarre podium battle that saw Charles Leclerc wave Sergio Pérez into second place before earning back the position after penalties.

Verstappen launched cleanly from pole position and was challenged for the lead repeatedly on the first lap by an equally fast-starting Leclerc from second place.

But Verstappen rebuffed his advances before the slipstream-enhancing DRS was activated on the third lap and he slowly began to break away.

With Leclerc quickly turning his attention rearwards and to a battle with Mercedes for second in the constructors championship, the title-winning Dutchman was unencumbered in stretching his lead.

Two clean pit stops were all it took to comfortably seal the deal on his 19<sup>th</sup> season victory and claim Red Bull Racing's 21<sup>st</sup> win of the year – both new records by number and percentage.

Leclerc was on track for second all race, having seen off strategic parries from George Russell at the two pit stop windows, but the points difference between the last two podium places wouldn't have been enough for Ferrari to overhaul the four-point gap to Mercedes for second



Max Verstappen celebrates with the trophy on the podium after winning the Abu Dhabi F1 Grand Prix last Sunday (Nov 26). Photo: AFP

on the constructors table.

Sergio Pérez was the wildcard in the pack, recovering from ninth and with the pace for the podium after a long middle stint gave him the chance to race aggressively in the final 16 laps of the race.

Pérez slotting into third would have cleaved open a large enough points difference to see the Italian team reverse the title positions.

But the Mexican carried the complication of needing to serve a five-second penalty for barging past Lando Norris shortly after his last pit stop.

Clearly much faster but arriving at the turn 6-7 chicane out of control, he made heavy side-on contact with the McLaren and set it spearing off track.

The stewards took a dim view of the move and resolved to penalise him after the race.

Pérez therefore had to both pass Russell and beat him by more than five seconds to secure the place, and, with four laps to go, Pérez was into second place.

Leclerc then bizarrely slowed down to let Pérez catch him up and offer him a slipstream and DRS advantage to accelerate his efforts to build the gap. On the final lap of the race Leclerc waved the Mexican past, hoping the clear air could make the difference.

But the plan ran out of laps to execute. Pérez took the flag only 3.875 seconds ahead of Russell and was demoted to fourth, as Mercedes was able to hold onto second in the standings.

WE PROUDLY SERVE  
STARBUCKS® COFFEE



We look forward to welcoming you  
at Sunset Café from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm  
(Entrance via Lagoon Ticketing)

**SUNSET CAFÉ**  
BLUE TREE PHUKET

BLUE TREE PHUKET  
OPEN DAILY

**bluetree.fun**  
+66 (0) 76 602 435  
info@bluetree.fun



## Transgender women banned from playing women's cricket

### CRICKET

TRANSGENDER WOMEN WHO HAVE been through male puberty have been barred from participating in international women's cricket under new regulations announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Nov 21.

The ICC board, meeting in the Indian city of Ahmedabad, said the new policy, which takes effect immediately, is aimed at "protection of the integrity of the women's game, safety, fairness and inclusion".

"Any male to female participants who have been through any form of male puberty will not be eligible to participate in the international women's game regardless of any surgery or gender reassignment treatment they may have undertaken," the announcement said.

The regulations, which follow a nine-month consultation process, will be reviewed within two years, it added.

The review relates solely to gender eligibility for international women's cricket. The policy at domestic level is a matter for each individual member board.

ICC chief executive Geoff Allardice said: "The changes to the gender eligibility regulations resulted from an extensive consultation process and is founded in science and aligned with the core principles developed during the review.



The new regulations were announced by the ICC on Nov 21. Photo: AFP

"Inclusivity is incredibly important to us as a sport, but our priority was to protect the integrity of the international women's game and the safety of players."

On Sept 4 this year, Danielle McGahey became the first transgender cricketer to take part in an official international match when she made her Twenty20 International debut for Canada against Brazil.

Transgender participation has become a hot-button issue in recent years as different sports try to balance inclusivity with ensuring fair competition.

International governing bodies in cycling and athletics have also previously banned transgender competitors.

World Athletics president Sebastian Coe announced on Mar 23 that transgender women would no longer be allowed to compete in female track and field events regardless of their levels of testosterone, citing fairness over inclusion. AFP



# Late win sends Gunners top

## FOOTBALL

AFP

Arsenal took advantage of a share of the points between Manchester City and Liverpool last Saturday (Nov 25) to move top of the Premier League after a weekend that left the top four separated by just four points.

The Gunners needed a late winner from Kai Havertz to beat Brentford 1-0 after Liverpool ended City's 23-game winning streak at the Etihad with a 1-1 draw, while Aston Villa won 2-1 at Tottenham to move into the top four.

City's bid for an unprecedented fourth consecutive English top-flight title appeared a formality when Pep Guardiola's men won their opening six games.

However, City have won just three of their last seven in the Premier League to leave the title race wide open.

The champions were left to rue not pressing home their advantage after Erling Haaland's 50<sup>th</sup> Premier League goal in a record 48 appearances opened the scoring.

Trent Alexander-Arnold's fine strike 10 minutes from time earned Liverpool a draw and kept Jurgen Klopp's men just one point behind their title rivals.

Elsewhere, on a day when Tottenham paid tribute to Terry Venables after their former manager's death aged 80, Spurs' current generation were unable to deliver a victory to mark the poignant occasion in north London.

Tottenham produced the kind of swashbuckling attacking play that Ve-



Kai Havertz celebrates his late winner for Arsenal at Brentford. Photo: AFP

nables would have admired, but his old team lacked a cutting edge and crumbled too easily at the back as Villa scored through Pau Torres and Ollie Watkins to secure the points and leapfrog Ange Postecoglou's men into fourth.

Despite enduring a season of almost constant turmoil on and off the field, Manchester United find themselves just six points off the top of the table.

Erik ten Hag's men have now won five of their last six league games to rise to sixth.

Manchester United won 3-0 win at a febrile Goodison Park on Sunday, as Everton fans voiced their anger at a 10-point deduction handed down by the Premier League, the first time United have won a league game this season by more than a single goal.

Alejandro Garnacho's incredible

overhead kick after just three minutes will go down as one of the all-time great Premier League goals, with further goals from Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial securing the points.

At St James' Park, injury-hit Newcastle crushed Chelsea 4-1 while fourth bottom Luton secured their first home league win this season as Crystal Palace were beaten 2-1 at Kenilworth Road.

West Ham staged a late fightback to steal a 2-1 win that added to rock bottom Burnley's relegation fears, while Bournemouth beat Sheffield United 3-1 and Brighton won 3-2 at Nottingham Forest.

In Monday's game Fulham overcame Wolves 3-2, with Brazilian forward Willian adding to his earlier goal by scoring an injury-time winner from the penalty spot.



Thailand's U23 players face a tough test. Photo: Bangkok Post

## Thais face Saudi Arabia, Iraq in Olympic qualifiers

### FOOTBALL

THAILAND HAVE BEEN drawn to meet defending champion Saudi Arabia in the AFC U23 Asian Cup 2024, which also serves as the continent's qualifying round for next year's Olympics.

The other two teams in what is a challenging Group C following the draw in Doha on Nov 23 are former winners Iraq and Tajikistan.

Holders Saudi Arabia lead the cast, with former champions South Korea (2020), Uzbekistan (2018), Japan (2016) and Iraq (2013) also looking to become the first team to lift the coveted trophy for a second time.

Group A will see Qatar, Australia, Jordan and Indonesia vying to advance to the quarter-finals.

Japan are the top seeds in Group B, with South Korea, the United Arab Emirates and China standing in their way.

Uzbekistan leads the Group D teams, with Vietnam, Kuwait and Malaysia their challengers for continental showpiece to be played between Apr 15 - May 3 next year.

The top three finishers will qualify for the Paris Olympics, while the fourth-placed team will participate in a play-off against an opponents from the Confederation of African Football (CAF) for a chance to compete at the 2024 Games.

Bangkok Post

## War Elephants axe Polking

### FOOTBALL

THAI NATIONAL MEN'S football team manager Nualphan Lamsam confirmed on Nov 22 that Mano Polking has left his position as national team coach and will be replaced by former Buriram United coach Masatada Ishii.

The decision to end German-Brazilian tactician Polking's two-year reign through "mutual consent" came despite Thailand's 3-1 victory over Singapore in a 2026 World Cup qualifier 24 hours previous.

Nualphan, affectionately known as "Madam Pang", said in a social media post that both Polking and the Football Association of Thailand (FAT) had been informed of the development.

She also confirmed that Ishii, 56, will become the second Japanese coach of the War Elephants with immediate effect. His compatriot Akira Nishino was in charge of the Thai team between 2019-2021.

Thailand are currently second behind leaders South Korea in Group C in



Nualphan (left) and Polking. Photo: Bangkok Post

the second round of Asian qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup, to be co-hosted by Canada, Mexico and the United States.

After two games, South Korea have six points, Thailand and China three each, and Singapore zero.

The Thais began their campaign with a 2-1 home loss to China which led to a large number of fans calling for Polking's ouster.

"No one can ignore the results of our two World Cup qualifying games so far," said Nualphan.

"Everyone, including myself and the players, had high expectations but what has happened is difficult to stomach, especially the 2-1 loss to China in our first game. I think it's time for

a change.

"After a discussion with Mano, we have agreed to part by mutual consent. I thank him for his dedication and hard work - at least he helped us win the Asean title twice."

Ishii's first match as coach of Thailand will be against his own country on Jan 1 when the War Elephants take on Japan in a friendly at Tokyo's National Stadium.

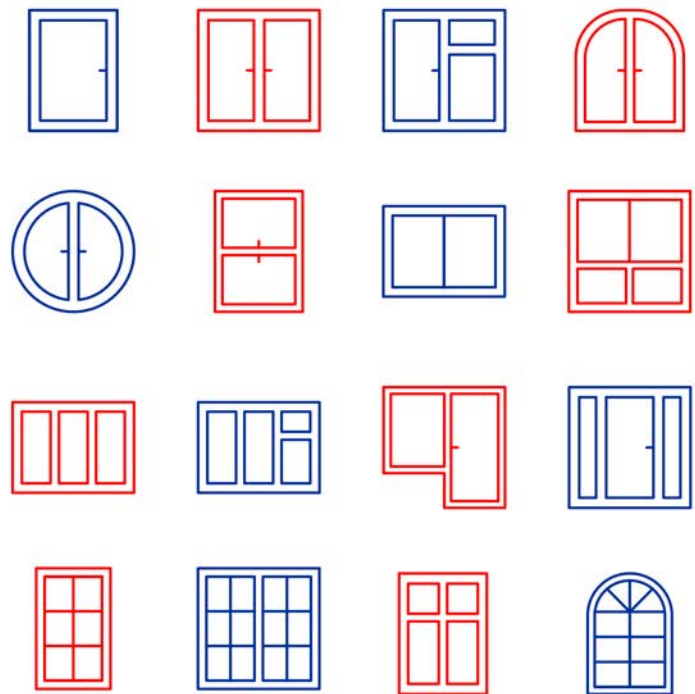
Ishii guided Kashima Antlers to the J-League and Emperor's Cup titles in the 2016 season, then had stints at Thai clubs Samut Prakan City and Buriram United.

The Japanese steered Buriram to three titles last season.

Bangkok Post



## Safe, Secure, Soundproof Windows and Doors



087 061 7631 @nathan Upvc brown pvcphuket.com



# Sport

editor3@classactmedia.co.th



**Polking gets his marching orders > p15**

## FAMILY AFFAIR

### Married couple in final showdown as Kamala bowls returns

The four finalists: (from left) Aon, Sammy, Noi and Judy. Photo: Robert Knight



#### BOWLS

Robert Knight

Fans of lawn bowls were in high spirits last week as competition officially returned to Kamala Lawn Bowls Club.

Monday, Nov 20, marked the start of the 'major' local competition season as the 'Club Championship' took place with a bumper field of 24 competitors from a variety of countries taking to the green in an effort to claim the prestigious Donald Moore memorial trophy.

An added incentive was a new club champion was guaranteed, with previous consecutive hat-trick winner Rob

Blackwood having moved on to pastures new and last year's experimental and somewhat controversial 'scroungers and seeding' format being ditched in favour of the traditional cup knockout.

With the random draw being made on the day all were keen to avoid the preliminary round, necessary to reduce the field to 16, with eight players receiving byes.

To win the competition a minimum of four victories would be required via eight sets of games scheduled on the green, so an arduous battle was ahead for the players, with any bowler failing at the first hurdle moving into the 'unlucky losers' Plate competition.

#### EXPERIENCE COUNTS

The only major talking points after the preliminary round and last 16 was that of the eight fortunate to receive a bye, only one, Doug Reid, made it through to the last 16 and only one of the six ladies survived – reigning Phuket Open champion Sunnee 'Aon' Srisaka.

Of the quarter-finals only one, surprisingly, was a tight affair, with Frank Born's 15-0 trouncing of the luckless Ian Mintern the pick of the games.

Joining Frank in the semi-finals were Carl 'The Mesh' Mesham, Ken 'Sammy' Sampert and the only previous major winner, Aon.

Tight games were antici-

pated at this stage and that is exactly what transpired between Carl and Sammy, with the latter overturning a 3-5 deficit on the final end to force a sudden death decider, which he ultimately won.

The other semi-final between Frank and Aon was ultimately decided by the latter's experience as she prevailed by a score of 8-5 to reach her 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive final, where she would face her husband Sammy – the first time a married couple had faced off in a final game!

#### BIZARRE COINCIDENCE

Many expected defending champion Aon to use her experience of handling finals

pressure to her advantage against her better half, who was contesting his first tournament final.

However, it was not to be as Sammy bowled superbly well in the first 5 ends to surge into a 7-0 lead, with Aon's renowned ability to produce magic on the green at the final stage, for once, deserting her.

Sammy continued to rattle up the points and bucked the trend of previously close finals to storm to victory with two ends to spare by the wide margin of 13-4.

By a bizarre coincidence, one half of the Plate semi-final was also contested by a husband and wife combo as Nid 'Noi' Collins faced off and ultimately triumphed against

her husband Glenn to progress and face Judy Maunder in the final where she won 13-2.

Congratulations ultimately went to Sammy on securing his first major trophy although huge credit goes to everyone involved for some exceptional bowls played, all with the highest respect to fair play and sporting conduct.

*Kamala Lawn Bowls club is open six days a week and all equipment is provided. Members days are Monday and Friday and beginners day Wednesday from 2:45pm onwards. For more information please contact: Tel 099-130-7255 or 097-173-0221; email: galations1402@gmail.com or Gordonjenkins1963@gmail.com.*

## KanEang at Pier celebrates 50 years with charity fun run

#### RUNNING

MANY PHUKET RESIDENTS and visitors alike will no doubt be familiar with the KanEang @Pier restaurant in Chalong, a hugely popular long-time fixture in the island's culinary scene and local community.

Located right next to Chalong Pier, the restaurant has been serving up delicious seafood and local delicacies to diners for the past five decades and has established such a reputation that it is regarded as one of the 'must do' activities for visitors to the island.

To celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, the restaurant is organising a charity fun run on Sunday (Dec 3) where funds raised from participants will be donated to Chalong Hospital.

There are four separate race categories on the day: a 3-kilometre family and friends run; a 3km mini walk; a 5km fun run; and a 10km mini marathon. The event is limited to 1,200 competitors across the four categories.

All races will start from Kan Eang's restaurant before weaving through the local area, providing an opportunity for participants to take in the picturesque views and natural beauty. The races will all



also end back at the restaurant for post-race festivities and celebrations.

There will be a total of 200 prizes on offer worth close to B1.3

million for the top 50 finishers across the four race categories on the day, including private sail boat trips and a range of activities at local tourist spots such as Banana Beach and Hanuman World.

Registration fees range from B550 per person for the 3km mini walk, B650 per person for the 5km fun run, B950 for the 10km mini marathon and B1,250 for three people, B1,550 for four and B1,750 for five in the family and friends run.

All registrants receive an official race shirt plus the bonus of a gift pack with B1,099 upon confirming their participation, which includes gift vouchers for use at the resta-

urant and a skywalk at popular local tourist destination Hanuman World.

"The event is a celebration of the restaurant reaching its 50-year milestone and all the happy customers it has served during that period," organisers told *The Phuket News*.

"However, it is not just about the run as the event is also being arranged for a good cause, with all proceeds raised being donated to the local hospital in Chalong. It promises to be a fantastic and memorable occasion."

For more information please visit: <https://soft.events/run/kaneng-at-pier-50th>. *The Phuket News*