

**PATONG WORKERS LEFT HIGH AND DRY > PAGE 2**

# PRESSURE MOUNTS

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew meets the crowd outside Provincial Hall. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

## PHUKET PEOPLE PETITION FOR DEBT RELIEF, VOW TO TAKE PLEA TO PARLIAMENT

**Eakkapop Thongtub**  
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Pressure is mounting on the government to invoke a moratorium on loan repayments for businesses crippled by the COVID-19 economic fallout. The clear concern voiced by many industry experts is that forcing the businesses to be held legally liable to make bank loan repayments will force many businesses into bankruptcy, leaving the island's economy with little to no industry to support tourism once international tourists

are allowed to enter the country.

About 100 people gathered at Phuket Provincial Hall last Thursday (Aug 6) to file a petition calling for debt relief for businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The group, calling themselves the "COVID-19 affected people club", carried placards urging the Prime Minister and other leading officials to help.

The petition submitted featured about 4,600 signatures, said Thipsukhon Thongtan, president of the club.

The petition requested the

government take action in three specific areas to help support businesses suffering during the current economic crisis

The first action requested was to provide more support through soft loans.

"We want relevant officers to change the criteria for soft loans, as at this stage a lot of affected people cannot fulfill the criteria. Additionally, we want low-interest loans free from repayments for at least one year," Ms Thipsukhon explained.

The second request was for a moratorium on all outstanding

bank loans and a guarantee that that property will not be seized for failing to make repayments.

"We want relevant officers to order financial institutions, and finance companies that are and are not under the control of the Bank of Thailand, to extend the period for repaying loans for one year and to exempt [COVID-affected business] from property seizures," Ms Thipsukhon added.

"Therefore, business owners will still have their accommodations and equipment to run their business in order to make income and pay taxes," she said.

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Rising crime 'without fear of law' spurs blitz



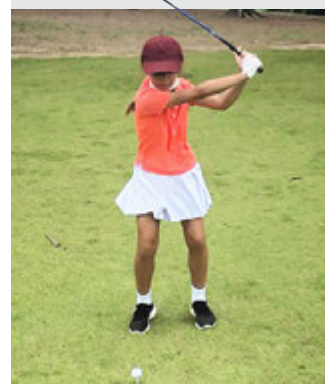
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Getting away from it all, on the island



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## News



**Mother leaps into well to save son > p5**

# Patong workers left in the cold

## Workers file complaint over unpaid salary, no social security

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An estimated 100 Myanmar and Thai workers arrived at Phuket Provincial Hall on Aug 4 to report their employer for not paying them for three months, and to get some response as to whether they still had jobs.

The group filed their case with the Damrongdharma Center (Ombudsman's office) and the Labor Protection Social Security Office.

Myanmar national Min Thu Khu, 27, explained that the workers' predicament began back in May, when many of the workers filed for the income support they are entitled to under Section 33 of the Social Security Act.

Section 33 entitles employees to receive compensation during a period of work cessation at a rate of 62% of their daily wages contributions to the Social Security Office. This entitlement is limited to a maximum of 90 days, which has now long expired.

However, some of the workers did not receive any those government payments, Mr Min Thu Khu said.



The workers did not even know if they were still employed. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

"Until now, we still have not received any help," he added.

The workers' employer, Tiger Group, which in normal times operates key nightlife entertainment venues in Patong,

had repeatedly delayed talks with the workers, Mr Min Thu Khu said.

"We had another appointment to talk with them today [Aug 4], but they postponed it again until Aug 13," he said.

"We want our employer to pay us employees our outstanding salaries. The employer has never come to ask us about this at all," he said.

A legal representative from the

Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW) Phuket office soon arrived to speak with the group.

"For this case, we need to talk with a legal counsel and relevant officials first," he said.

"The payments from the Social Security Office are still available, but as some of these workers have still not received their payments, we will have officials check what has happened with their claims, check the facts and speed up the process," he added.

"Right now, even though we do not have any new infections of COVID-19, the economic situation is still deteriorating, especially the tourism industry, which is suffering badly.

"Business operators must find ways to reduce costs, but if an employer finds it necessary to terminate employment, then they must pay compensation as required by law," the labour official said.

"The current situation is still a concern for the coming months. Some places will remain shut down, others will close permanently. If the situation does not improve, business operators may have to lay off more employees," he added.

## Islanders ramp up plea for relief over loan repayments

*Continued from page 1*

The third request was for top-level support in creating a good image of Phuket and building confidence of tourism on the island.

"We want the Phuket Government to promote a good image of Phuket, especially in terms of safety, in order to attract more tourists," Ms

Thipsukhon explained.

The petition was addressed to Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, the Deputy Prime Ministers, and other relevant Ministers.

Another petition of about 5,000 signatures will be submitted later, addressed to the Senate Standing Committee on Economics, Monetary, and

Finance, Ms Thipsukhon said.

"We also plan to go to Parliament next week," she added.

Phuket Governor Narong Woociew met the group and received the petition, and invited the group inside Provincial Hall to continue talks.

"We [the Phuket Govern-

ment] will solve the problems that we can under our authority, but for the bigger issues such as tax and soft loans, we will inform the higher levels [of government]," Governor Narong said.

"On behalf of the Phuket Government, I have to thank the club for informing us about the problems, and we will solve them together as best we can," he added.

The call for a moratorium on loan repayments is now being voiced in other industries other than tourism, with Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) chairman Supant Mongkolsuthree on Monday (Aug 10) urging the government to extend the debt moratorium for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from six months to two years or until 2022.

SMEs are likely to continue being affected by the crisis next year, he said, reported the *Bangkok Post*.

The two-year debt moratorium measure could be



Protesters hold up a banner directly appealing to the Prime Minister for help. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

divided into two phases, said Mr Supant.

The first phase, spanning six months, would be for an interest payment suspension and the remaining period would be for interest-only payment.

The move would help SMEs adjust to the crisis as profits disappear this year, Mr Supant said.

Mr Supant also pointed out that the government may need to borrow an additional B1 trillion to address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The borrowing would be used to stimulate the grassroots economy, which is still reeling from the crisis, he said.

Pisit Serewiwattana, President of the Export-Import Bank of Thailand, also reported that the "EXIM" bank is considering extending the debt repayment period for customers affected by the pandemic.

The measure to extend debt repayment by six months will end in September and October and could be extended by another year, Mr Pisit said.

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# Police launch campaign to combat rising crime

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Police in Phuket last week launched a new campaign in the hope of stemming rising crime rates brought on by the current economic crisis.

The campaign was announced by Region 8 Police Deputy Commander Maj Gen Teeraphol Thipjaroen at a mass assembly of law-enforcement officers at Phuket City Police Station last Thursday afternoon (Aug 6).

Present at the assembly to receive their mandate for the campaign were 319 law-enforcement personnel from Region 8 Police, Phuket Provincial Police, Marine Police, Tourist Police, Phuket Immigration, Highway Police and personnel from the Royal Thai Army 41st Military Circle, which has soldiers based in Phuket, and the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command, based at Cape Panwa.

Also joining the assembly were administration officials and volunteers.

The campaign will continue through to at least Aug 12, Maj Gen Teeraphol said. However, traditionally, such ongoing campaigns are extended as long as necessary.

“During the current situation, the incidence of crime is more likely, threatening both people’s safety and property. There has been an increase in



The current economic crisis has raised concerns over rising crime, Region 8 Police Deputy Commander Maj Gen Teeraphol Thipjaroen said. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

the use of firearms to commit crimes, without any fear of the law. This affects the sense of stability and safety in the lives and property of the people,” he said.

The campaign is to focus on target groups, including cases involving firearms; weapons of war; drugs; assault against property, banks, gold shops and

convenience stores; outstanding arrest warrants; sex crimes and any other crimes against life and body, Maj Gen Teeraphol said.

“Army personnel have been assigned to serve [the campaign] in unison [with police] throughout the country,” he added.



Firefighters arrive at the scene. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub.

## Karon resort escapes serious fire damage

FIREFIGHTERS SUCCESSFULLY contained a fire that broke out early last Saturday morning (Aug 8) at the Phulin Resort in Karon.

The alarm was raised at approximately 8:55am, when smoke was seen coming from a window on the first floor of the resort, located at Soi Patak 18, off Patak Rd.

Firefighters rushed to the scene and managed to successfully contain the blaze before it spread and caused any further damage.

It appeared the blaze started in a room being used to house bed equipment although it was not stated how

exactly the fire broke out.

There were no reports of any injured people. The hotel is currently closed due to the impact of the COVID-19 coronavirus, leaving no tourists present at the resort.

“The fire was successfully brought under control by firefighters at around 11am,” Lt Col Patiwat Yodkwan of the Karon Police told *The Phuket News*.

“We do not yet know how the fire started. I am waiting for further investigation at the scene by the forensic police in order to get a clearer understanding,” he added.

Eakkapop Thongtub

## More stranded Russians fly home

THE SPECIAL FLIGHTS to fly home Russian nationals left stranded in Phuket due to the COVID-19 pandemic continued at Phuket International Airport on Aug 4.

A total of 265 Russians and “6 foreign citizens” boarded Aeroflot Flight SU275 bound for Moscow at 11:04am, reported the Phuket Consulate-General of the Russian Federation.

As is now tradition, the passengers were seen off at the departure terminal by airport staff, immigration



Russian tourists check-in for the flight home. Photo: Phuket Consulate-General

police and health officials, holding cards spelling out the message “See you again” in Russian language.

In marking the departure of more Russian nationals flying home on July 16, the

Phuket Consulate-General of the Russian Federation noted that since the beginning of April, more than 1,500 people had flown out of Phuket on specially organised flights to various regions of Russia.

The total number of specially arranged repatriation flights carried out from Thailand, according to the Russian Embassy in Bangkok, at that time was given as 42.

In total, more than 9,000 Russian nationals have been flown home during the COVID-19 crisis, the embassy noted. *The Phuket News*

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# TAT puts Phuket in limelight

## Bangkok road show sells B1.3mn in tour packages

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The four-day Phuket travel promotion "roadshow" held in Bangkok over the King's Birthday long weekend landed more than B1.3 million in tour packages sold, reports the Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

Montri Manator, Deputy Director of the TAT Phuket office, delivered the news at a meeting at Provincial Hall on Aug 4, held to announce further steps Phuket officials are taking to help revive the island's tourism industry.

The "Phuket Dedthangkoh" ("Phuket Awesome Island") roadshow, held at the Siam Paragon Shopping center on July 30 - Aug 2, saw tour packages totalling B1,307,278 sold, Mr Montri said.

At the meeting, presided over by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew, Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) Chief Banyat Kantha revealed that his office had organised with local transport operators major discounts on vehicle-hire rates to help local businesses provide tourist services.

Under the agreement, the cost of hiring tour vehicles – for 10 hours, including fuel and paying the driver – was reduced as follows: Large tour buses, reduced from B6,500 to B4,500; Medium-sized buses reduced from B6,000 to B4,000; Small buses



The roadshow in Bangkok secured B1.3 million in travel packages sold. Photo: TAT Phuket

from B5,500 to B3,000; and Vans now available at B2,200.

Taxis will charge according to fare meters, Mr Banyat said, while Patong motorbike taxi rates had been reduced by 50%, to about B20-50 per ride, he added.

Meanwhile, Phuket Provincial Employment Office Chief Santi Nantasuan explained that his office will be holding its "Phuket Job Fair 2020" at the Baan and Beyond Phuket

mall on the bypass road (opposite Central Festival Phuket) from 9am to 3pm on Aug 20.

"At the fair, recruiters from more than 30 companies will open booths and 796 vacancies will be open to applicants," Mr Santi said.

"Officers from the Ministry of Labour will give suggestions about how people can claim unemployment compensation. They will even have vacancies on offer for positions abroad,

and can offer advice on how to register for them, among other services," he said.

There will also be training and consulting sessions for those who are unemployed, Mr Santi added.

He urged any people seeking more information about job hunting in Phuket to contact the Phuket Employment Office by calling 076-219660 or contact them through the Phuket office's official facebook page: <https://web.facebook.com/doe.phuket/>

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## Health conference slated for Sept

AN ANNUAL MEDICAL conference that is expected to attract some 10,000 attendees scheduled to be held in Phuket next month, and is hoped to bring another welcome boost to Phuket's ailing island economy.

The news comes after Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew welcomed members of the Public Health Association of Thailand (PHAT) at Phuket Provincial Hall on Aug 5.

The delegation, led by PHAT President Praphat Thammawongsa, was in Phuket as a part of a location survey for their yearly academic meeting, reported the Phuket office of the Public relations Department.

Dr Praphat explained that the conference will be held at Phuket Rajabhat University in Rassada on Sept 20-22.



The PHAT delegation at Phuket Provincial Hall. Photo: PR Phuket

The conference is expected to be joined by around 10,000 people working in the medical industry, including hospital executives, public health academics, lecturers, among others, he said.

The conference will focus on the issues concerning medical personnel's capabilities to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19, Dr Praphat added.

"We also expect Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health Anutin

Charnvirakul to join the opening ceremony," he said.

"While in Phuket to attend the conference, attendees will have the opportunity to travel in Phuket," he added.

Governor Narong welcomed the move to hold the conference in Phuket.

"We must thank PHAT for choosing Phuket as the location of the conference. This is a chance to build confidence among Thai people that Phuket is safe to travel to," he said.

"Phuket people must prepare to be good hosts and welcome and take care of the medical personnel coming to attend the conference," Governor Narong said.

"They may be tired from fighting the virus, so we want them to take a rest and relax on this beautiful island," he added. The Phuket News



# Mother jumps into 30m well to save son

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Thai social media last week was abuzz with posts praising a mother jumping into a well in Wichit that is reportedly 30 metres deep to rescue her 3-year-old son.

Rescue workers from Wichit Municipality were called to the scene, behind a house in Soi Phaisan, Wichit, at 12:30pm on Aug 4 after being told that a young boy had fallen into a well.

When rescue workers arrived, they found a neighbour providing first aid to the toddler, named 'Seo', with his soaking wet mother, named only as 'Ms Da', 43, standing by.

Both the boy and the mother were physically well, with no broken bones, but still in shock, one rescue worker said.

The boy was given oxygen to help calm his breathing, and both he and his mother were taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town, the rescue worker added.

Ms Da explained that she was doing the laundry in the home when she realised that she had not heard any noise from her son inside the house. She then realised that she had left the back door open, she said.

She called out to Seo, but heard no response, and started searching for him. Failing to find him inside the



Ms Da and her 3-year-old son Seo after their ordeal. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

house, she searched outside and saw both his shoes beside the well.

Ms Da said she shouted out to her neighbours for help, then apparently "jumped" into the well, which according to a spray-painted message on a nearby wall is 30 metres deep, though one rescue worker seriously doubted that the well was actually that deep.

With the well only one-metre wide, it was not reported whether or not Ms Da landed her son at the bottom of

the well, but she did say that he was unconscious when she reached him.

Ms Da said that she then held Seo over her shoulder, presumably to drain any water from his lungs, and he soon regained consciousness.

The neighbour then lowered a rope to lift Ms Da and Seo out of the well, she added.

The neighbour praised Ms Da for her "resolute heart" and jumping into the well to help her son, and gave her B1,000 to help Ms Da care for her son.

## Missing Brit found safe

British national Peter Murray, 60, reported as missing by his family in the UK, is safe and on the island, but being detained at Phuket Prison while driving charges against him are being heard in court.

Concerns for Peter's welfare were raised last week when his niece Shannon reached out to *The Phuket News* for help in locating her uncle. Peter's sister Sonia explained that Peter had booked tickets to fly to Bulgaria to meet family there, but failed to arrive on Aug 2. All attempts to contact Peter since then had failed.

Peter had been living in Phuket Town for about four years, Sonia noted.

Lt Wirote Pornpraput of the Phuket City Police confirmed to *The Phuket News* on Monday (Aug 10) that Peter is facing charges of drunk driving and reckless driving after he was involved in an accident on July 28.

He was held at Phuket City Police Station on July 28-29, then arraigned and taken to Phuket Provincial Prison to await trial, Lt Wirote said.

"Peter was driving a motorbike that collided with another motorbike. The person riding the other motorbike was injured, but the injury was not



Peter Murray is safe. Photo: Courtesy of Shannon Murray

serious. I checked his alcohol level, which registered as 300mg [0.3 BAC]," he added.

Lt Wirote told *The Phuket News*, "Peter's case was reported to the [British] embassy on the same day of the accident, July 28."

Asked why there was such a long delay in processing a simple drunk driving and reckless driving charge, Lt Wirote said he had to wait for a criminal background check to come from Bangkok.

Sporting a prison haircut, Peter told *The Phuket News* on Monday that he was in good health.

"I am still sore from the accident," he said, pointing to the right side of his body.

Peter confirmed that a British embassy representative had already visited him earlier this afternoon, along with a family member.

"I hope to post bail by the end of this week," Peter said.

*The Phuket News*

## Man killed by coconut tree

A 37-YEAR-OLD MAN has died of severe head injuries after a coconut tree he was hired to help cut down fell on him.

The incident occurred just in a roadside gully near Banana Beach, along the coastal road from Surin to Nai Thon just before 3:30pm on Aug 5, explained Lt Phatsawat Wongwassana of the Chong Talay Police.

Police together with rescue workers arrived to find the body of Eakkapong Lonsiew, 37, from Sakon Nakhon, beside the felled trunk of the tree.



Rescue workers recover Mr Eakkapong's body. Photo: Sakoo OrBorTor rescue

He had suffered fatal head trauma and was dead when rescue workers arrived.

Mr Eakkapong and a friend had been hired to cut down coconut trees in the grove, which was some 15 metres below the level of the road, Lt Phatsawat explained.

The friend told police that while Eakkapong was pulling down the tree, Eakkapong was slowly walking backwards and slipped into a small ditch, which prevented him from getting out of the way of the falling tree, the friend said.

Mr Eakkapong's wife and family had accepted the death as accidental, Lt Phatsawat said, but added that Mr Eakkapong's body had been taken to Thalang Hospital for further examination while police continued their investigation into the death.

*The Phuket News*

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# Getting away, with a stay



## THE CULINARY DETECTIVE

Chris Watson  
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**T**his current global crisis sprung upon us by the COVID-19 virus has had an enormous effect on life as we know it, and particularly on the hospitality industry. Countries are still in varying degrees of lockdown, several are going back into lockdown to avoid a 'second wave', flights to many destinations, including Thailand, are still suspended and hotels are as a result, suffering single figure occupancies.

Whilst across Thailand, restrictions have been eased, due to our heavy reliance on tourism, we are experiencing a higher level of pain than many others. Travel, and more specifically, vacation travel has been the most significant short-term casualty.

However, hoteliers worldwide are in fact a resilient and creative bunch. With the absence of international arrivals, several hotels in Bangkok and Phuket are promoting 'staycation' offers to attract the local resident population. The

beauty of a staycation is that it allows trips to local attractions that otherwise as a resident you may well be aware of, but have never explored.

My friends have been posting on social media their stays in Bangkok city hotels including therapeutic visits to spas, leisurely swims, even short visits to the gym, capped off with a gourmet experience in a restaurant with the benefit of no need to drive or launch a taxi hunt to reach home. Without the need for lengthy air travel and with competitive pricing, available only to domestic residents, this seems to have huge benefits for both parties. It also may well manage to relieve the stress of the current financial outlook whilst enabling couples with or without offspring to relax, rejuvenate and focus on family time.

Of course, social distancing can still be practiced and most if not all hotel restaurants are maintaining a minimum one vacant table's distance between diners. Whilst, frankly speaking, with hotels running at such low levels of business, less crowding is a direct if unwelcome consequence.

So, I recently set off for my two-night staycation at Banyan Tree Phuket. This resort has undoubtedly changed a



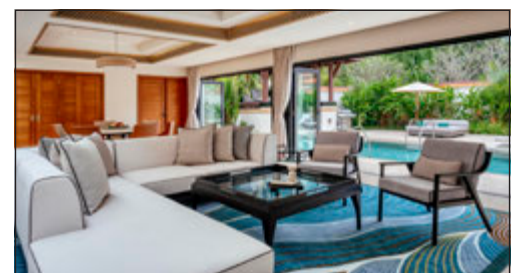
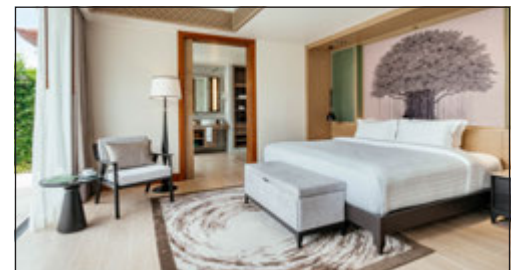
Banyan Tree Phuket Serenity Pool Villa.

lot, evolving from when it first opened over 25 years ago to what it is today: 120 villas have grown into 220 with world-class golf courses, a signature spa and a variety of dining opportunities. We have been allocated a one-bedroom Serenity pool villa of which there are 25, and eight three-bedroom units launched late last year.

Our villa is truly idyllic, a spacious lounge with day bed and for once a table with convenient height and chairs for me to stay connected on email – I know, but a fact of life. A large-screen TV neatly swivels so I may follow the news and latest sport, mostly indoors. Doing its best to dominate the room, is an absolutely huge bed, which for me looked like a 'super super-king', if this size even exists, and a smart and chic bathroom with double wash basins, shower and wardrobe area.

I head outside to enjoy a brief swim and spy a jacuzzi which occupies me till time for dinner. Following a refreshing shower, we make our way to Saffron, Banyan Tree's signature Thai restaurant. We were not disappointed. Returning to the villa, our living area and bathroom have been refreshed and the bed turned down. As we sink into the luxe bedding, I reflect that my wife and I have unusually not really talked about work; in this relaxing environment, our conversation has been more about planning our next staycation destination.

Morning arrives and we head for breakfast and experience a vast array of items, far too many to list here, accompanied by fresh juices and roasted coffee. My wife chooses a visit to the spa, a true Banyan Tree sanctuary for a complimentary massage, which is incidentally included in the staycation price. When she returns, she is somewhat surprised to find me swimming in our private pool; a little light exercise is not such a bad thing.



The rest of our stay positively flies by; whilst watching a movie with an in-room meal which impressed. Whilst we did not venture off campus as it were, as we depart, Filipa, Banyan Tree's marketing guru, did in fact tell me of several lesser known local attractions, including the Phuket's Victory Field, a shrine to famed Phuket Heroines and the Phuket Museum. Perhaps next time.

As we drive the short journey home, I must say I am pleasantly surprised by how much I enjoyed this short and effortless break from the day-to-day routine. A staycation may well be a successful recipe for both parties and am reminded that a great man once said, 'Out of adversity comes opportunity'.

Banyan Tree Phuket is offering local resident packages for bookings and stays from now until Dec 20 (minimum two-night stay).

*Chris is a former Michelin Guide Inspector who following an international career in hospitality spanning 30 years in both the Middle East and Asia, has now settled in Thailand and contributes a monthly restaurant column.*



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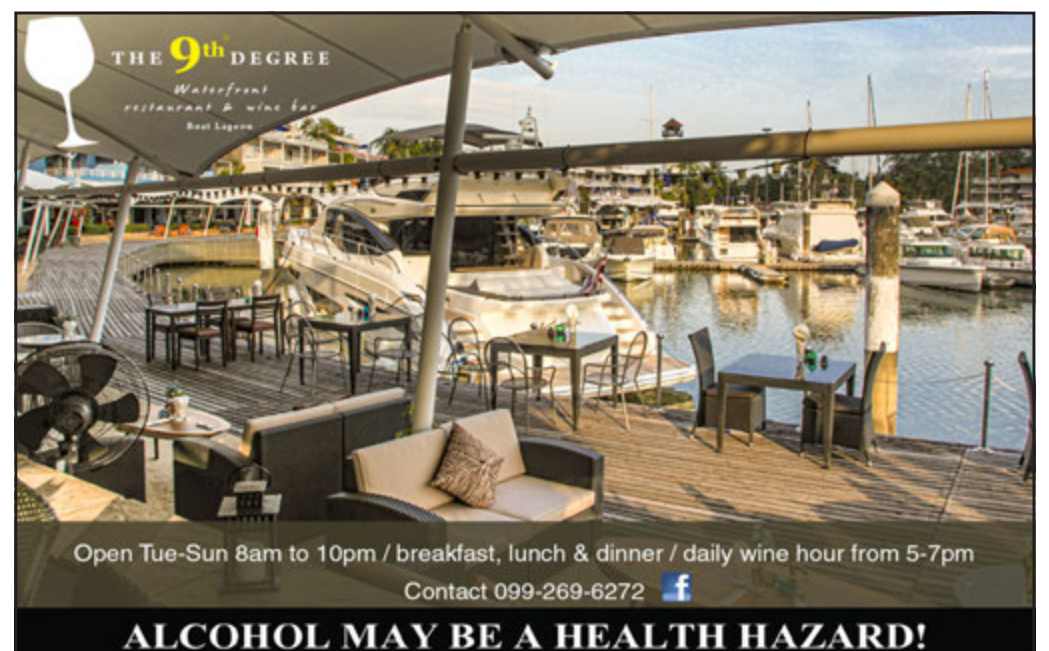
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# Your very own piece of paradise



## GREEN THOUGHTS

Patrick Campbell

It is a truism that your garden is an expression, an extension of self. In a very literal sense, this is blindingly obvious: you are the person responsible for its design, its maintenance, and for the plants you decide to put in it. When I was an undergraduate, the Professor of Biology, an acknowledged authority on things botanical, spoke on a weekly BBC program called “Gardener’s Question Time”. But in fact his own garden was a neglected wilderness of weeds. Once, when the “Beeb” wanted to interview him in his own space, he did a deal with his neighbour, the Philosophy Professor, who happened to have a splendid garden. So, in all ignorance, they conducted the outside broadcast in the wrong place. No doubt they said very flattering things about his flowers and shrubs.

But your garden reflects your personality in more subtle ways. For instance, my father adored roses and cultivated maybe 150 different varieties of hybrid tea rose. And he loved the smooth texture of a good fescue lawn. In fact, our lawn occupied about half the total area of the plot.

On the other hand, the kitchen garden was relegated out of sight to the backyard, hidden behind a trellis of



Flowering shrubs - Allamanda.

rambler roses. It was, moreover, looked after by the odd-job man, who always complained he didn’t have enough space to grow what was needed. Dad loved eating fresh vegetables, but he found them short on aesthetic appeal. What does that say about him? That he loved beautiful things but was devoid of any practical sense. For him opera, books and flowers were prime pleasures; assuredly not anything as banal as sports. That was for “flannelled fools and muddled oafs”. Local fox hunting, and “unting” and according to 19th century John Surtees “all that’s worth living for”, brought forth a dismissive Oscar Wilde quote: “the unspeakable in full pursuit of the uneatable”. Horse racing, the “Sport of Kings”, left him as cold as a cucumber in its winter frame. As for mending things: when his brother asked where the toolbox was, mother



Flowering shrubs - Bougainvillea.

replied he might as well search for the crown jewels.

So what I wonder does my garden say about “yours truly”? Well, for a start there are no roses, and the thick-bladed Malaysia grass bears no resemblance to an English lawn. Why? Horses for courses. Both roses and fescue grasses dislike the heat and humidity of Phuket. Nor would my efforts find favour with Thai horticulturalists who love order: neatly pruned hedges of ixora, some elegant topiary or tonsai, graduated flower beds. Other gardeners enthuse over colour-coded borders where there are banks of orange marigolds, or where a careful mix of vibrant blooms complement each other. One advantage of using annuals or bedding plants is that once the flowering season is over, the plants can be removed and replaced with new varieties. A moveable feast.

Personally I prefer woody shrubs; the staple of my own patch: they offer durability as well as vivid hues and interesting foliage. As a general rule, and apart from pruning, they need less attention, and will usually survive for a number of years in both xeric environments and monsoon conditions. Many – jasmine, jessamine, buddleia, gardenia, milkweed, plumeria, ylang ylang, tuberose, tabernaemontana and oleander – are also fragrant, especially at dawn and dusk. A huge bonus.

If you possess only a concrete patio or balcony, you can still achieve a living tapestry of colour and verdancy by the adroit use of containers. More work since pots dry out quickly, but nonetheless rewarding for those of us living in condos and apartments.

There is nothing wrong with any of these ideas. What they all reflect is the desire to bring the personal element more into play, to control what would otherwise be, in the tropics, a rioting mass of springing vegetation. And it was a controlling idea behind the palatial formal gardens of 18th century Northern Europe, of Versailles and Blenheim.

*“The Tropic Gardener”, an indispensable guide to plants and their cultivation in Thailand. Available from the author at drpaccampbell@gmail.com, from Seng Ho bookshop in Phuket Town or Delish in Rawai.*



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# POP QUIZ

1. Albert DeSalvo was credited as which notorious criminal?
2. What, located in the centre of Beijing, was the imperial palace from 1420 to 1912?
3. What is the capital of Bermuda?
4. In which year did Australia start issuing passports for Australian citizens?
5. Legendary cowboy actor John Wayne was born in which US State?

Answers below, centre

## SUDOKU

Easy

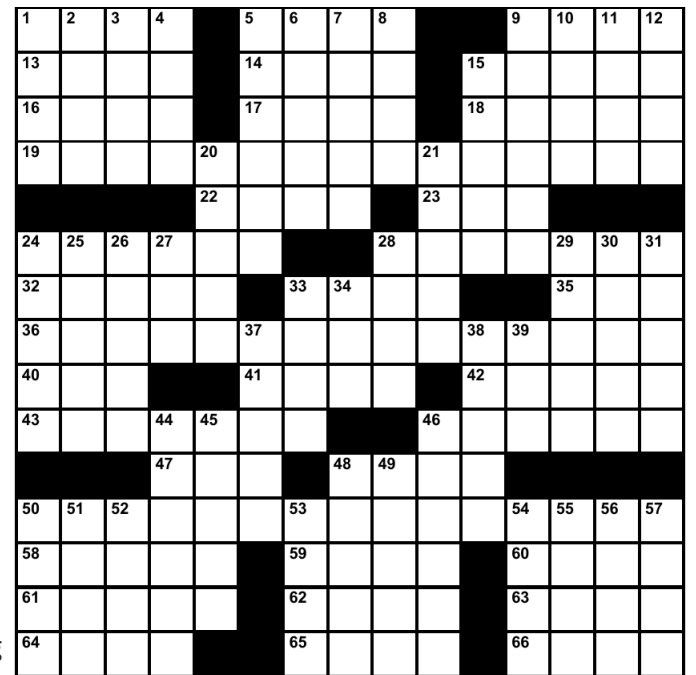
1	7		8					2
					6			9
6	9				2		7	1
4	2	1			9			
			1		9	2	8	
5	1		9			6	3	
8		2						
3				8		5	7	

## Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across**
1. Brewski
  5. Orange juice factor
  9. Bow
  13. Certain surgeon's "patient"
  14. Celebes beast
  15. Anoint
  16. Romantic setting
  17. Dock
  18. Carpentry grooves
  19. Come down hard
  22. Cleaning cabinet supplies
  23. Absorbed, as a cost
  24. Yugoslavia, now
  28. Plant fuel
  32. 86 is a high one
  33. Aspersions
  35. Not just "a"
  36. Pot of gold site?
  40. Golf term
  41. Quite a stretch (var.)
  42. Seize forcibly (old word)
  43. Indiana town
  46. Finn's friend
  47. 1969 Peace Prize grp.
  48. The Amish, e.g.
- Down**
1. Ado
  2. "Major" animal
  3. Kosher
  4. Caught in the act
  5. Yellow fruit
  6. Bind
  7. Fertile soil
  8. Legal prefix
  9. Wreath for the head
  10. Completely fix
  11. Blockage
  12. Pianist, Dame Myra
  15. Build on
  20. Precipice
  21. Lagos currency
  24. Hex
  25. "It's a Wonderful Life"
- role**
26. Isuzu model
  27. "You stink!"
  28. Make, as a CD
  29. Cornered
  30. Treat rudely, in a way
  31. Ratty place
  33. Abandon
  34. "Seinfeld" uncle
  37. Claw
  38. About to explode
  39. "What's \_\_\_?"
  44. Pooh's pal
  45. Hodgepodes
  46. Drag
  48. Condensing one
  49. Chopin piece
  50. Hit
  51. "Terrible" czar
  52. Canceled
  53. Doctrines
  54. Dry biscuit
  55. Soon, to a bard
  56. Doing nothing
  57. Central point

## Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1. The Boston strangler; 2. The Forbidden City; 3. Hamilton; 4) 1949 (before then Australia issued passports to "British subjects"; 5) Iowa



## Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

## GOT YOUR NUMBER

0.05

seconds is all it takes for a person to recognise a sound.

20

percent of teens experience depression before they reach adulthood.

30

percent of people get their news from Facebook.

4,575

years is how long it would take for a snail to circle the Earth.

33,000

Americans die and a further 81,000 Americans are injured by gun violence every year.

Source: Uberfacts

## ISLAND VIEW



Klong Mudong at dusk. Photo: Klaus Zimmermann

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

## This week in history

**Aug 14, 1975**

The Rocky Horror Picture Show, the longest-running release in film history, opens in London.

**Aug 15, 2015**

North Korea moves its clock back half an hour to introduce Pyongyang Time, 8½ hours ahead of UTC.

**Aug 16, 1962**

Pete Best is discharged from the

Beatles, to be replaced two days later by Ringo Starr.

**Aug 17, 1998**

US President Bill Clinton admits in taped testimony that he had an "improper physical relationship" with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

**Aug 18, 1783**

A huge fireball meteor is seen across Great Britain as it passes over the east coast.



Charles Darwin. Photo: Smithsonian Foundation

**Aug 19, 1692**

Salem witch trials: In Salem, Province of Massachusetts Bay, five people, one woman and four

men, including a clergyman, are executed after being convicted of witchcraft.

**Aug 20, 1858**

Charles Darwin first publishes his theory of evolution through natural selection in The Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London, alongside Alfred Russel Wallace's same theory.

Source: Wikipedia



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FRI

14 AUG



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SAT

15 AUG



### All you can eat BBQ night

6pm – 11pm: Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Prawns and Squid, Salad buffet, Choice of potatoes and sauces, bread, buns and garlic bread. Reservation recommended. B395 P/P. shakersphuket@gmail.com 081 891 4381.

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SUN

16 AUG



### Lawn Sale

\*From 10:30am till 5:30pm Taste Yamu restaurant will be hosting a lawn sale in support of two local charities. We are offering free tables for people to set up any items to sell except food and drink. All welcome, more info and bookings call 087 886 6401.



### All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet

Beef, Pork and Lamb – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, fried mushrooms, grilled tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – roasted potatoes, mashed potatoes–gravy, mushroom sauce, mint sauce. Reservations recommended. B350 P/P. shakersphuket@gmail.com 081 891 4381.

MON

17 AUG



### All you can eat BBQ Ribs night

6pm – 11pm: All you can eat BBQ Ribs served with salad buffet, potato salad & choice

of sauces. Reservation recommended. 295 baht P/P. shakersphuket@gmail.com, 081 891 4381.

THU

20 AUG

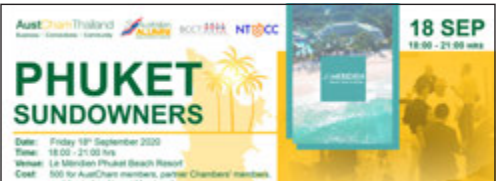


### PIWC - August Lunch

August Lunch will be at Lady CoCo on Thursday the 20th. Phang Nga Rd, Phuket Town, right next door to the OnOn Hotel. Members: 700 Baht. Non-Members/Guests: 850 Baht. If possible, please have the correct money on hand. Registration: 11.30am A minivan will be arranged for those North of the island. However, we will still be observing the social distancing rules, and as such masks will be required to be worn in the vans. Minivan will be departing from the rear entrance of Tawai Restaurant 10.30am. Look forward to seeing you there and until then, stay safe. RSVP at shelpmitchell@gmail.com

FRI

18 SEP



### Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners hosted by AustCham

AustCham Thailand is delighted to invite

members and guests from AustCham and partner chambers to join our Phuket Sundowners to be held on Friday 18th September, 2020, at the Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort. 500 Baht for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members. 900 Baht for non-members. For registration code for Australian Alumni members, please contact AustCham team at 02 109 9616 or email to office@austchamthailand.com

THU

22 OCT



### Phuket Hospitality Challenge 2020

The Plantations International Phuket Hospitality Challenge 2020. On Thursday 22nd, October 2020 at Laguna Golf Phuket. Early Bird Pricing 16,000 baht (Team of four players). Entry Includes: Green fee, Caddie fee and shared Buggy. Tournament shirt and On-course refreshments. Prize Giving Dinner at Cassia. Sign up before 31st August 2020. Mark Cameron, mark@asean-events.com, 061 486 6736.

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# Red Bull outpace Silver Arrows

## Verstappen halts Mercedes dominance at Anniversary GP

### FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato

Max Verstappen broke Mercedes' hearts with a perfectly judged strategy at a sizzling Silverstone last Sunday (Aug 9) to snatch his first win of the season.

Verstappen qualified fourth on the grid behind an all-Mercedes front row, but poleman Valtteri Bottas and Lewis Hamilton's races came undone when their Mercedes cars struggled to keep their tyres alive in the heat.

All three got good starts – Verstappen scythed past Racing Point's Nico Hulkenberg to take third on the first lap – but Mercedes immediately fell into a rhythm of tyre management to make sure the medium-compound rubber both drivers started on would make it to the first pit stop window.

Verstappen had no such troubles, starting on the hard after an astute qualifying gamble. He was free to close in on the two leaders unimpeded while both Bottas and Hamilton complained of severe blistering.

By lap 14 – barely one-quarter distance – both Mercedes cars had



Red Bull's Max Verstappen drives past his mechanics on the pit wall after passing the chequered flag and winning the F1 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grand Prix at Silverstone. Photo: AFP

switched onto the hard, but while they had a momentary boost in grip, before long the more durable rubber too started to expire on their rims.

#### 'Incredible result'

Verstappen, having inherited the lead, was suddenly able to build an advantage over the stricken black cars, and Red Bull Racing smelt opportunity.

Waiting until lap 26 to make his

first stop, he raced with Bottas for the lead as he exited pit lane and dispatched the Finn. He matched the times of the Mercedes cars behind, and when he and Bottas stopped on lap 32 and rejoined the race in the same order, Verstappen was able to gallop away and secure victory.

"I didn't see it coming!" Verstappen said. "An incredible result to win here.

"Everything worked out well – we had the right strategy,

everything was running smooth."

The victory took Verstappen up to second in the drivers championship, 30 points behind title leader Hamilton.

Hamilton had been left in first place after Verstappen's final stop, but his tyres were badly damaged.

After considering and dismissing an unlikely defence of the lead without another set of tyres, he dived into pit lane for fresh rubber on lap 40.

But catching Verstappen was never going to happen, with 12 seconds to make up in as many laps. Instead Hamilton's final stop allowed him to fight with teammate Bottas for second.

The Finn was at a nine-lap tyre disadvantage and could offer little defence, the Briton cutting past him with two laps to spare to consolidate second place.

Bottas was left to trail home a disconsolate third, and is now third in the title standings and 34 points behind his teammate.

"Very frustrating," he said. "Obviously starting from pole and finishing third is not ideal."

Charles Leclerc finished a fantastic fourth for Ferrari as one of only two point-scoring drivers to make a single stop.

Thai driver Alex Albon finished fifth, up from ninth on the grid, after an aggressive race.

Racing Point teammates Lance Stroll and Nico Hulkenberg finished sixth and seventh.

Esteban Ocon finished eighth for Renault with a one-stop strategy than helped him to a slender 0.7-second advantage over McLaren's Lando Norris in ninth, while Daniil Kvyat took home the final points for 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Swinging for a good cause at Pepper's Bar Golf Day

### GOLF

LAST SUNDAY (AUG 9) saw Pepper's Sports Bar organise their popular bi-annual Golf Day at Laguna Golf Phuket course in Cherng Thalay.

This particular event served very much as a charity fund-raiser where proceeds will be distributed to local families and communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, a campaign the business has been supporting for many months now.

A total of 60 golfers took part in sunny conditions with refreshments being served throughout the course. Prizes were on offer and a fantastic day was had by all.

The organisers would like to thank all who took part and supported the cause and all who donated prizes. A special mention goes to Nicholas Constantinou from Lady Pie who kindly donated B10,000 and Martin Platt who donated eight free lessons at his golf academy via auction which was won by a B12,000 bid from local golf fan Shaun Going.

An additional B20,000 was raised via various means

on the day and all proceeds generated will be donated to assisting local communities with provision of food and essential supplies.

Ben Tirebuck



Photo: Pepper's Sports Bar

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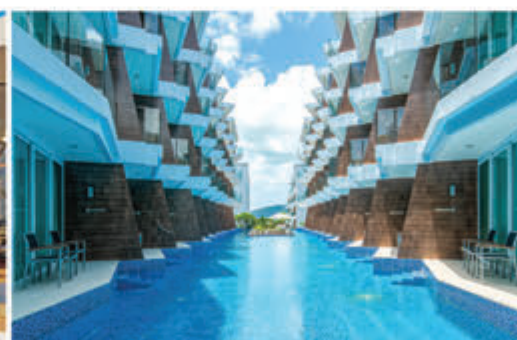


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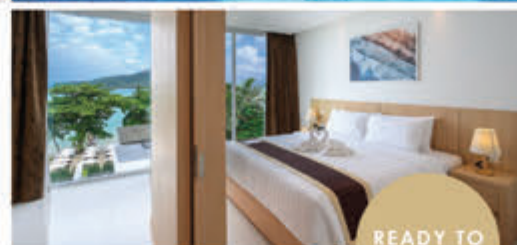
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