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THE RETURN



Long queues of vehicles wait to be cleared onto the island last Saturday (Oct 16). Photo: Radio Thailand Phuket

VACCINATED DOMESTIC ARRIVALS NOW ALLOWED WITHOUT COVID TESTS

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Long queues returned to Phuket Check Point on the only road leading onto the island last Saturday (Oct 16), as the requirements for domestic travellers to enter Phuket were eased to allow all people who have been vaccinated for COVID-19 without having to prove they have tested negative for the virus in the previous seven days.

Officers at the checkpoint estimate that the number of vehicles coming onto the island will soon average 10,000 a day, up from the average 1,000 vehicles per day under the

previous control measures, said one report by Phuket officials.

Under the new measures, the checkpoint is now open again 24 hours a day.

The relaxed measures for people coming into Phuket were announced by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw on Monday last week (Oct 11), and the official order was posted online later that night.

The new easing of the COVID test requirement applies to visitors arriving at any port of entry to the island: by road via the Phuket Check Point at Tha Chatchai; by plane via Phuket airport; or by boat via any of the piers and ports on the island.

Phuket officials last week launched an intensive public-awareness campaign to inform people about the new relaxed measures that came into effect, which caused some confusion (see page 2).

The new measures specifically regard domestic travellers – that is, people already in Thailand – wanting to come onto the island. The requirements apply to all people entering Phuket, including island residents who leave Phuket and want to return.

PATIENCE

The reopening last Saturday saw a backlash online over police at the checkpoint being ordered to ramp

up the enforcement of traffic violations on motorists coming onto the island following a Thai news report highlighting an official order for Tha Chatchai Police to ramp up safety and security measures at the checkpoint.

Phuket Provincial Police defended the move, which included heightened checks on vehicles and people passing through the checkpoint, as needed to ensure the safety of those coming to Phuket.

Police also warned that any people driving dangerously through Phuket Check Point would first be warned. If the errant driving behaviour did not cease, the driver would be fined. “[Police] have given importance...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NEWS PAGE 3

Peopel queue for food as island reopens



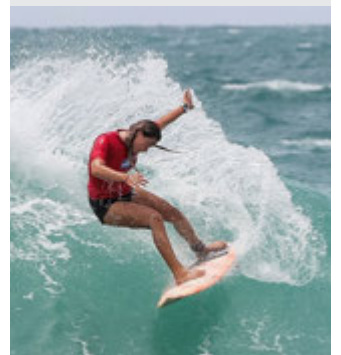
LIFE PAGE 8

Bottled water and where it finally ends up



SPORT PAGE 16

Local champ shines in Thai surfing titles



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News

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Phuket officials last Wednesday (Oct 13) posted a notice explaining the definition of the word 'or' in response to questions about the new domestic entry requirements to the province that came into effect on Saturday (Oct 16).

Along with the notice, posted on the "Phuket COVID-19 & Phuket Sandbox (Official Phuket information Center)", operated by the Phuket office of the Ministry of Interior, was the message:

"Some people don't understand what the word 'or' means, so the admin finds a clear answer according to the Royal Institute's dictionary."

The notice itself literally read: The statement "Choose one or the other"

For example, take money or gold
The Royal Institute's Dictionary,
B.E. 2554
admin
[ends]

The post followed Phuket officials launching an intensive public-awareness campaign to inform people about the new relaxed measures that came into effect just three days earlier.

The new measures specifically regard domestic travellers – that is, people already in Thailand – wanting to come onto the island.

The requirements apply to all people entering Phuket, including island residents who leave Phuket and want to return.

The main relaxation of the provincial entry requirements is that fully vaccinated people will no longer need to present evidence

that they have tested negative for COVID-19 within seven days before arriving.

However, much confusion had been expressed in the public response to the announcement of the new measures, despite Phuket officials issuing a slew of public notices in a variety of different formats to explain the new relaxed measures, including a video explaining the Oct 16 entry requirements and a notice explaining the entry requirements

in English.

Phuket officials last Wednesday re-posted one notice explaining the Oct 16 rules. The notice broke down the requirements into segments to help people understand the new measures, as follows:

SECTION 1 - PEOPLE WHO ARE VACCINATED

(The following list of people will be deemed 'fully vaccinated')
People must be vaccinated against

COVID-19 with:
Sinovac - 2 doses
Sinopharm - 2 doses
AstraZeneca - 2 doses
Pfizer - 2 doses
Moderna - 2 doses
Sputnik V - 2 doses

OR

Completed a 2-dose "crossed formula" vaccination as prescribed by the Ministry of Public Health (example: 1 Sinovac + 1 AstraZeneca jab)

Dive Supply Co., Ltd.

OR

Have received 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least 14 days before arriving

OR

People under 18 years of age who have received 1 dose of Pfizer vaccine at least 14 days before arriving

OR

A person who has recovered from symptoms of COVID-19 not more than 90 days previously

PEOPLE NOT VACCINATED

Must have been tested for COVID-19 by RT-PCR or ATK (Antigen Test Kit) with a confirmed negative test result issued by a hospital or laboratory within the past 7 days. (People may no longer bring their own ATK test kits to the Phuket Check Point to be tested there, but a professional rapid test service is available at the checkpoint that people may use)

SECTION 2 - EXEMPT FROM REQUIREMENTS

Exempt from the requirement to be vaccinated or present negative COVID test results are children under 6 years old traveling with

parents or caregivers, and people traveling in a medical emergency vehicle, emergency patients, lifeguards and rescue workers.

SECTION 3 - STUDENTS NEEDING TO REGULARLY ENTER AND LEAVE PHUKET

Children 12-18 years old:
Must have received 1 dose of Pfizer vaccine at least 14 days before arriving

OR

in the case of students in Phuket waiting to be vaccinated [in the mass vaccination campaign for children] from 12 years of age to under 18 years of age, and it is necessary [for them] to travel into - out of Phuket

- Must show their identification card to the competent official when traveling into - out of Phuket; and

- Must have a certificate issued by a medical facility or government hospital showing they have tested negative for COVID-19 by antigen test; the certificate is valid for no more than one month.

FOR ALL PEOPLE ENTERING PHUKET

All people entering Phuket must register their travel details in advance through the gophuket.com online registration system and must download and install the Mor Prom app.

** SPECIAL NOTE: Not mentioned in the notice, but included in the provincial order issued announcing the new entry requirements, is that children 7-12 years old must be tested for COVID-19 by means of RT-PCR or ATK (Antigen Test Kit) which can be used to confirm results for no more than 7 days at a time.*

Image: Phuket Info Center

Relaxed domestic entry rules hoped to end COVID crisis suffering

Continued from page 1

...to this matter and assigned Col Aganit Danpitaksat, Deputy Commander of the Phuket Provincial Police, to investigate such cases," said the police notice.

"Slow down a bit, many lives are saved. generosity with traffic discipline," the statement added, signed off as, "With concern from the spokesperson team of Phuket Province".

"In the past, there have been frequent accidents in the area of Tha Chatchai Police Station. This is partly due to speeding and not observing traffic discipline," Tha Chatchai Police said in response to comments online.

"In addition, there was

news about the smuggling of illegal items into the Phuket area through the Phuket Check Point, therefore we have had to be strict on traffic discipline and crime prevention for the safety of the people of Phuket and tourists who come to visit or come to do business in Phuket, so they are safe," the statement noted.

CONSENSUS

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew has assured that the decision to reopen the island to vaccinated arrivals without needing to undergo COVID tests was reached by consensus among many segments of the Phuket community.

Speaking to the press on Oct 13, Governor Narong also



Patong Beach on Oct 14. Photo: PR Phuket

assured that the decision made by the Phuket Provincial Communicable Disease Committee also came with the proviso that the COVID situation is continually monitored.

The public assurance came amid a flurry of concerns posted online about reopening the island allowing yet another outbreak of COVID-19 infections.

"This is to relax measures with continuous assessment of the situation according to the process of driving problem solving in all aspects of public health, the economy, tourism and social sectors, by consulting and receiving opinions from all concerned parties, along with the steady progress of the Phuket Sandbox project," Governor Narong said.

"The situation of the epidemic of COVID-19 in the area is moving in a better direction. The number of people infected [new cases] has dropped as expected, and speeding up of the third-dose vaccination has already seen more than 200,000 people receive [booster] injections, and the vaccination of children aged 12-18 is underway," he said.

"Also some 'CI' centres ['Community Isolation' centres, also called 'COVID Care Centres'] have gradually closed, and the Aunjai Clinic remains open to support the coordination and systematic care of those infected with COVID-19," he added.

"From now on the province [provincial government]

will continue to take care of Group 608 patients, which is a risk group that easily can be infected with COVID-19 and suffer more serious symptoms than the general public, by managing the number of hospital beds to accommodate as many Group 608 patients as possible," Governor Narong concluded.

'Group 608' has become Phuket officials' preferred term for higher at risk patients, comprising people over 60 years old along with those suffering from any of the seven recognised medical conditions that place patients at higher risk of developing serious signs of infection, plus women more than 12 weeks pregnant.

Food security efforts drive on amid reopening

The Phuket News
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As the Phuket Check Point reopened last Saturday (Oct 16) to allow vaccinated people onto the island without COVID tests, food security efforts across the island continued.

For the first time in months the checkpoint saw long tailbacks as people drove onto the island. Officers at the checkpoint have yet to reveal how many people have come onto the island since the easing the provincial entry restrictions, but have already estimated that the number will spiral up to about 10,000 a day, after seeing just 1,000 a day under the previous restrictions.

In explaining the move to open the island to receiving vaccinated domestic arrivals without COVID tests, Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew said that the decision was made "as a consensus".

"This is to relax measures with continuous assessment of the situation according to the process of driving problem solving in all aspects of public health, the economy, tourism and social sectors, by consulting and receiving opinions from all concerned parties, along with the steady progress of the Phuket Sandbox project," he said.

The move to reopen Phuket to domestic travellers aims to help alleviate the deep financial suffering across the



Photo: PPAO

island due to lack of incomes. Even before the months-long "island isolation" was brought into effect, the average monthly per capita in Phuket had long been reported as just B1,930 a month.

To mark World Food Day for the year 2021, provincial officials with support from private organisations on Saturday distributed 7,000 meals provided by global food rescue foundation Scholars of Sustenance to people at nine locations throughout the province.

Present to assist and oversee the food distribution were Anupap Rodkwan Yodrabham, Phuket Provincial Chief Administration office (*Palad*).

Joining him were Phuket City Mayor Saroj Angkanapilas as well as officers from the Phuket Provincial Administra-

tion OrganiSation (PPAO, or *OrBor-Jor*), including PPAO President Rewat Areerob, and from the Phuket office of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

In addition to the meals distributed, fruits and snacks were also handed out. (See photo special on page 13.)

The Scholars of Sustenance have been active in Phuket for months, sourcing donations of food from hotels, retailers and other donors to provide food to people across the island without any income.

Meanwhile, the PPAO over last week-end continued its efforts to deliver food to people in need, with its food security outreach programme handing out food to people in financial distress in Wichit and Rassada.



Photo: PPAO

Candidates register for OrBorTor election

A TOTAL OF 17 CANDIDATES have registered their intent to vie for the seats as chiefs of the five Tambon Administration Organisations (*OrBorTor*) in Phuket in the upcoming elections to be held on Nov 28.

Registration for candidates opened on Monday last week (Oct 11) and drew to a close at 5pm last Friday (Oct 15). A total of 104 candidates registered to contest the elections as councillors.

Phuket is home to five sub-districts that are administered by *OrBorTor*: Koh Kaew, Kamala, Cherng Talay, Mai Khao and Sakhu.

Of note, Cherng Talay is the one area on the island that has an *OrBorTor* and a municipality. Cherng Talay *OrBorTor*, which has been headed by MaAnn Samran

since the military coup of 2014, oversees the beach areas, while Cherng Talay Municipality, led by Mayor Suniran Rachatapruek, oversees the inland areas of Cherng Talay.

Mr MaAnn has not registered to run for re-election, but was present on the opening day of registration in Cherng Talay to congratulate other candidates running for election and to wish them the best of luck.

With elections currently tentatively set for Nov 28, under election law a ban on the sale of alcohol will be in effect in the five *OrBorTor* areas from 6pm the night before the election day through to 6pm the night of the election.

The penalty for breach of the alcohol ban is a fine up to B10,000 or up to six months in prison, or both.

The Phuket News

Blackpink's Lisa asked to headline Phuket countdown

THE TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND (TAT) aims to invite world-renowned artist Thai-born K-pop singer Lalisa 'Lisa' Manoban of Blackpink fame to perform at Phuket's New Year countdown celebration event this year to help promote tourism.

Italian opera singer Andrea Bocelli will also be asked to perform the official New Year countdown in Bangkok, TAT Governor Yuthasak Supasorn has revealed.

The plan is to mark the country's grand reopening with the famous artists performing in Thailand, Mr Yuthasak said.

He said the move to invite Lisa, which may cost as much as B200 million, is hoped to promote Phuket as a world-class destination.

Mr Yuthasak pointed out that an appearance by world-renowned artists could draw tourists from around the world to Phuket, especially Blackpink fans and admirers, so-called 'Blinks'.

The confirmation followed the worldwide success of Lisa's solo debut *LaLisa*, which attracted millions of views hours after its debut on YouTube. It later officially took the Guinness World Record title for the most viewed YouTube music video by a solo artist in 24 hours with 73.6 million views. It logged almost 270mn views on Oct 14, 34 days after the launch, reported the *Bangkok Post*.

Tourism and Sports Minister Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn told the *Inside Thailand* news programme on Oct 14 that a Thai agency was acting as the coordinator for the appearances of the two artists.

He did not give the breakdown of the



Thai-born Lalisa 'Lisa' Manoban's music video 'Lalisa' now holds the Guinness World Record for the most viewed YouTube music video by a solo artist in 24 hours.

budget but said the amount for Bocelli was slightly higher.

If the deal is successful, Mr Phiphat said Lisa would be asked to join the countdown in Phuket. The event will be held on Sarasin Bridge connecting the resort island with Phang Nga province so people in both places can easily join, he added.

Bocelli will perform in Bangkok but the venue had not yet been finalised, he said.

"We may ask City Hall if it's possible to hold the event at Sanam Laung with the Grand Palace as the background. We think it will look magnificent," Mr Phiphat said.

The budget for organising the two events will be around B400-500mn and the private sector can join as sponsors, he added.

The Phuket News



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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

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Low: +26°

Wind 7 m/s

SAT OCT 23

High: +32°
Low: +26°

Wind 4 m/s

SUN OCT 24

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Low: +26°

Wind 4 m/s

MON OCT 25

High: +31°
Low: +26°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE OCT 26

High: +32°
Low: +26°

Wind 4 m/s

WED OCT 27

High: +33°
Low: +26°

Wind 4 m/s

THU OCT 28

High: +33°
Low: +26°

Wind 4 m/s

Tar balls return to blight beaches

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Brown water returned to Patong Beach last week while tar balls were found washed up onto Mai Khao Beach, on Phuket's northwestern coast, local residents reported.

The water at Patong Beach was reported to *The Phuket News* on Oct 14. The water had started changing colour about a week earlier, one local resident noted. "Been around a week and getting worse," he said.

Photos and a video of the brown water churning onto the sand were provided, taken from the beach in front of the police box at the end of Bangla Rd.

Local officials had arrived to take test samples of the water, but have yet to announce any findings or report the water-quality phenomenon.

Meanwhile, local environmental group Sustainable Mai Khao Foundation on Oct 13 reported finding tar balls washed up onto Nai Yang Beach, where volunteers from the local group joined officers from Sirinath National Park staff in a beach cleanup held in honour of



The tar balls were found at Nai Yang during a beach cleanup to honour HM King Bhumibol. Photo: Supplied

King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Rama 9.

Michelle of the Sustainable Mai Khao Foundation explained that the gooey tar balls needed to be picked up with gloves, and advised anyone walking on the beach to keep an eye out for them to avoid stepping on one. Removing any tar balls from the beach of course would be ideal.

Tar balls were last cleaned up from Nai Yang Beach in June, with no clear confirmation of where that ocean spillage came from, despite some local residents blaming the *X-Press Pearl* oil tanker inferno and sinking off Sri Lanka weeks earlier.

Dr Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong from the Phuket Marine Biological

Centre (PMBC) in June explained that marine debris washing ashore was usual every year during the southwest monsoon.

"Phuket is likely to have some tar balls coming ashore," he said.

"Some people link this phenomenon to Sri Lanka. However, we have checked the model for the tides and found that any oil spill [from the *X-Press Pearl*] should not affect the west coast of Thailand," he said at the time.

"The oil in the sea will certainly affect the natural resources, as before this we found a whale coming ashore with oil covering its body," Sirinath National Park Chief Pramote Kaewnam also noted.

The sperm whale, measuring 4.5 metres long with scratches along its tail and body, was rescued from Bang Tao Beach on June 17.

Dr Kongkiat on June 21 confirmed that the whale fully recovered and had been released.

Sustainable Mai Khao is continuing to hold beach cleanups in the Nai Yang - Mai Khao area. For more information call Michelle at 081-8936001 or email her at sustainablemaikhao@gmail.com, or contact Sustainable Mai Khao through their Facebook page.

Three foreign drivers fall for Kalim corner in two weeks

POLICE IN PATONG HAVE had water-filled barriers installed on a curve in Kalim in the hope of preventing more drivers from plunging over the road's edge down to the beach below. Three foreign tourists have already fallen victim to the sharp curve this month, police said.

The curve, along the Kalim beachfront, is located just before reaching the Ban Kalim Municipal School, north of Patong, Patong Police noted in their announcement on Oct 14.

The final straw came just one day earlier (Oct 13), when yet another foreign driver plunged over the edge of the road, the announcement added.

"Three times [already this month] and all three times there were foreign tourists [sic] injured and property damage," it said.

Patong Police Chief Col Suchin Nilabadee and Deputy Chief Lt Col Ekarat Plaidueng ordered Patong Traffic Police Chief Maj Wuttivat Liang Boonjinda to investigate the cause of the accidents, the announcement continued.

"In order to and find preven-



Photo: Patong Police

tive measures to prevent people and tourists using vehicles to drive through such routes resulting in accidents causing property damage or death," it said.

The announcement gave no description of the extent of the injuries suffered in the three accidents.

Last Thursday morning (Oct 14), workers from Patong Municipality and the Phuket Highways Office together installed plastic organ barriers filled with water along the roadside as a temporary solution to the problem, said the announcement.

The Phuket Highways Office will set up cement blocks along the outer edge of the curve as a permanent measure, the announcement concluded. *The Phuket News*



Photo: PR Phuket

Veg Fest draws to a quiet close

THIS YEAR'S PHUKET VEGETARIAN Festival officially came to an end last Friday night (Oct 15) as shrines across the island brought the curtain down on what has been a generally muted occasion.

At around 4pm, over 30 shrines performed the Go Teng pole ceremony where the lowering of the pole signifies the end of the festival.

There was a significant gathering of people at the Jui Tui Shrine on Ranong Rd in Phuket Town to watch the official closing. Many took home bamboo branches and other items used in the nine-day festival as auspicious safekeeps.

Those present respected requests by the shrine to adhere to health and safety precautionary measures mandated by the provincial government by wearing facemasks and following disease prevention orders.

This year's Vegetarian Festival has been very underwhelming compared to years gone by, predominantly due to

the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. Devastating nationwide flooding earlier this month also had a detrimental impact as prices of vegetables were hiked as a result.

People did take to the streets last Thursday (Oct 14) to celebrate the final evening of the festival by setting off firecrackers but even this was lacklustre compared with previous years.

The last main ritual of the festival was held at Saphan Hin later that night, starting at 10pm. Devotees from every shrine that took part in the festival gathered to perform blessing ceremonies to call the Jade Emperor and the Nine Emperor Gods to return to the heavens.

The final night of festivities included the traditional bonfires of blessings written on blessed parchments set alight and dispatched to the heavens to the loud sounds of firecrackers set off late into the night. The bonfire ritual concluded at midnight.

It has been announced that next year's Phuket Vegetarian Festival will take place between Sept 26 - Oct 4. *The Phuket News*

Officials to spend B30mn fixing 'Pla Wan corner'

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Local officials have requested B30 million to upgrade and increase safety measures on a stretch of road in Wichit notorious for the number of vehicle accidents in recent years.

The Ban Ao Nam Bo curve on Sakdidet Rd has seen numerous car accidents that prompted local residents to complain. Many of the accidents have resulted in cars overturning as they fail to navigate the curve properly.

The most high profile case was that of Vorasit 'Pla Wan' Issara, the owner of the upscale Sri Panwa resort at Cape Panwa on Phuket's east coast, who was injured when the car he was driving struck a power pole at the exact same spot in March of this year.

Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong was joined by Phuket Highways Office Chief Samak Luadwonghat on a site visit on Oct 15.

Mr Pichet stated that the area is frequently dense with traffic as it is a route often



The Ban Ao Nam Bo curve on Sakdidet Rd in Wichit. Photo: PR Phuket

used for many attractions and five-star hotels in the Cape Panwa area. There are also many heavy transport vehicles heading to Phuket Deep Sea Port that pass through from the likes of Surat Thani, Phang Nga and Krabi, he added.

Mr Pichet conceded that frequent accidents occur at the site mainly due to cars travelling at high speeds and navigating the sharp curve in a reckless manner.

He confirmed that the government has a project in place that will see improvements to the 1.5km stretch. The road will be upgraded from the traffic light intersection to the Ao Nam Bo curve, especially around the outside curve which will be elevated to force cars to have to make more turns and thus minimise speed. Reflective arrow signs that are clearly visible before the curve will also be implemented to alert

drivers and hopefully result in safer driving.

Mr Samak said that Phuket Highways Office has already requested a B30mn figure from the 2022 budget to allocate towards the project. He did not state if this had been approved or when it would be expected to be approved. However, presuming it is approved, he said that once completed, convenience and safety will be enhanced for all motorists and tourists.



Photo: PR Phuket

Phuket ceremonies honour King Bhumibol

LEADING ISLAND OFFICIALS led by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew observed a small but solemn ceremony on the morning of Oct 13 to honour and remember King Bhumibol The Great, who passed away five years ago.

King Bhumibol, also referred to as Rama IX, passed away on Oct 13, 2016, at Siriraj Hospital. He was 89. The day is now marked as the national public holiday, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great Memorial Day.

At the ceremony at Phuket Provincial Hall, Governor Narong led top-ranking officers in laying wreaths in front of an image of King Bhumibol, and recited a speech recounting the late King's

great achievements throughout his 70-year reign.

Specifically honoured was King Bhumibol's grace, wisdom and compassion for the Thai people, and for his legacy of the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy as a guideline for the people to live by.

"His light shone all over the land. like a pure soul of the people who are all appreciative of His Majesty's infinite grace," Governor Narong said.

The small gathering observed 89 seconds of silence to pay homage to His Majesty's grace.

Phuket officials noted that the ceremony today was observed strictly under the measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19.

The Phuket News

Team effort cleans rubbish from tourist-popular islands

STAFF AND STUDENTS from UWC Thailand International School (UWCT) and 5 Star Marine collaborated with Phuket Government Departments on Oct 14 to help clean up the heavily rubbish stricken Khai Islands.

The collaboration was part of the tourism restart plan and program which was in dire need before these beautiful small islands could be enjoyed again. They were joined by the Sustainable Mai Khao Foundation, which was a natural fit as this organisation is focused around connecting and empowering the community to preserve our natural environment; more support came from the Royal Phuket Marina who combined their forces in this joint effort.

The Khai Islands have been closed to tourists and locals since July 1 of this year under the COVID-19 rules and restrictions. There has also been a huge amount of sea rubbish brought about as a result of the annual monsoon season which, coupled

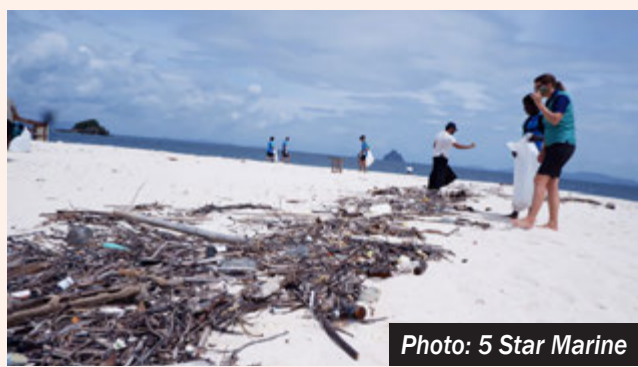


Photo: 5 Star Marine

with the fact that nobody has been allowed onto the islands to clean them up, meant the need for this initiative was crystal clear.

UWCT, Sustainable Mai Khao Foundation, Royal Phuket Marina and 5 Star Marine were working together with the Koh Yao Yai Village Chief, and closely alongside the Phuket Marine Department Director to ensure the greatest results were achieved in this mammoth effort. Transferring volunteers for the clean up on Khai Nok was made possible utilising a fleet of four speedboats which are owned and operated by 5 Star Marine.

"This initiative is a natural extension of the close working relationship that has formed between ourselves and UWCT," said Shaun Stenning, CEO and Founder of 5 Star Marine.

"We are grateful to all the staff and students who have dedicated their time to help with community efforts on campus, even throughout the restrictions. Furthermore, we greatly appreciate the support of the Government Departments, Sustainable Mai Khao and the Royal Phuket Marine – without whom this clean up would not have been possible."

The Phuket News

Scoot resumes flights to Phuket

SCOOT, THE LOW-COST subsidiary of Singapore Airlines (SIA), has resumed three-times-weekly services between Phuket and Singapore. The route, which had been suspended since late March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is operated with Scoot's Airbus A320-family aircraft.

Before COVID-19, Phuket was the second-most popular international tourist destination in Thailand, hosting approximately 10 million foreign tourists each year. Low-cost carriers carried over 40% of

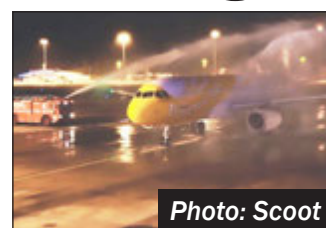


Photo: Scoot

international passengers to and from the island, noted Scoot in announcing the resumed flights, which began on Oct 8.

"Scoot's flight resumption between Phuket and Singapore will draw even more visitors to the Sandbox as Thai authorities gear up towards

gradually reopening more provinces," it read.

Calvin Chan, Scoot's Chief Commercial Officer, said, "Thailand is one of Scoot's key growth markets, and we are encouraged by the positive steps being taken to gradually reopen borders safely. Phuket has always been one of the top holiday destinations for travellers around the world, and we are excited to resume services to the island."

The flights operate on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. The Phuket News

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Domestic airlines allowed to book 100% capacity

THE CIVIL AVIATION Authority of Thailand (CAAT) has eased its requirements on airlines operating under COVID-19 protocols. Airlines are now allowed to operate flights until 11pm and are now allowed to book flights to 100% capacity.

The easing of the regulations were signed into effect by CAAT Director-General Suttipong Kongpool last Friday, and came into effect last Saturday (Oct 16).

The new regulations are to remain in effect until further notice.

"It is imperative that the guidelines for airport operators and air operators on originally established domestic flight routes be aligned with the latest version of the requirements," Mr Suttipong said in the announcement.

Under the new flight requirements airlines may now operate flights from 3am through 11pm, and may



Passengers arrive at Phuket airport. Image: TAC Phuket

allocate passengers to the full capacity of the aircraft used to provide the flight.

"The air operator shall consider the proper seating arrangement in the cabin in accordance with the measures prescribed by the Ministry of Public Health, which will contribute to the prevention and control of the disease," Mr Suttipong said.

However, all other remaining requirements brought into effect by the Ministry of Public Health to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are to be adhered to, he added.

The Phuket News

Phuket SMEs urge support to reopen to serve tourists

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Representatives from small- to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Phuket have called on the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion board (OSMEP) to provide support by providing access to low-interest loans without the onerous requirements currently required by government agencies and to set up a fund so they can reopen to serve tourists.

The call came at a meeting at the Royal Phuket City Hotel in Phuket Town last Friday (Oct 15), chaired by Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong.

Present to hear the plea in person was Mongkol Leelatham, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion board (OSMEP).

Mr Mongkol, a former senior banker, has previously served as the President Small and Medium Enterprise Development Bank of Thailand (SME Bank) and as President



Phuket SME operators called for better support from the government at a meeting held at the Royal Phuket City Hotel in Phuket Town last Friday (Oct 15). Photo: PR Phuket

of Export-Import Bank of Thailand (EXIM).

OSMEP Director Weerapong Malai described the meeting as important in order to hear the opinions of entrepreneurs in the Phuket area, including the problems they are facing, obstacles to successfully reopening and recommendations from the local SMEs in order for the OSMEP to do what it can to address the problems.

Mr Weerapong noted the importance of Phuket through the Phuket Sandbox scheme as the pilot province in the

country's tourism revitalization plan to allow foreign tourists to travel to Phuket to travel without quarantine.

He also touted the many projects launched by the OSMEP available to Phuket SME operators to promote and develop entrepreneurs in Phuket. Regardless, despite all the business support schemes announced by government agencies, the Phuket SME representatives called on the OSMEP to launch a fund so they can rebuild their businesses in order to functionally reopen and serve tourists.

Key business and industry leaders in Phuket over the past year have repeatedly warned the national government of the long-term damage to Phuket's tourism industry infrastructure, and called on the national government to do more to help businesses struggling to stay alive so that when the country finally does reopen to tourists there will be businesses open to serve them.

Of note, the Phuket Sandbox scheme began more than four months ago, on July 1. Yet last Friday, SME operators in Phuket, led by Wirintra Paphakityosapat, President of the Association of Phuket Tour Operators and SME entrepreneurs in Phuket, were calling on the OSMEP for help in order to reopen.

The Phuket SME operators called for low-interest loans and reducing the process for requesting a loan, which has proved to be a major barrier for many small businesses in Phuket in acquiring much-needed funds for reopening.

The Phuket SME operators also called for a fund to be set up to assist tour operators to use as a source of capital.

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The Phuket News Your Island - Your Paper

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Seminar held to encourage investment into Phuket

AN OPEN PANEL DISCUSSION WAS held last week aimed at attracting investment into Phuket entitled "Why Phuket is an attractive city to invest and live in".

Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong presided over the session on Oct 14 which was organised by Ms Pathumwadee Thongkam, Director of TPB Co Ltd. The meeting took place at the Allang Conference Room of the InterContinental Phuket Resort around 2pm.

Vice Governor Piyapong was joined by six leading experts who shared their opinions and advice on why Phuket is such an attractive destination for local and overseas investors.

The six were: Sastha Jiwawisitnon, Executive Director of Yiteng Hospitality Group; Panupong Kritjanarat, Chief Executive Officer of Boat Pattana; Dr Narongrit Hawrangsee, Director and Managing Director of Bangkok Hospital Phuket; Suwinai Wipolchai, the administrator of British International School, Phuket; Boonchot Kittisitho, Chairman of the Phuket Banking Club and Thanet Tantipiriyakit, Chairman of the Phuket Tourism Council.

The meeting focused on investment guidelines for Phuket and was aimed at an audience of entrepreneurs, experienced investors and new investors from a variety of fields including tourism, education, finance and banking, hospitality, real estate and healthcare/hospitals.



Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong opened the seminar. Photo: PR Phuket

Those that attended the event stood the chance to win a prize of one free night's stay for two people at the InterContinental Phuket which consisted of a classic room with a pool view, inclusive of breakfast worth B5,000. It was not disclosed who won the voucher for the prize.

At the end of the session Ms Pathumwadee explained that TPB will arrange further seminars to continuously enhance knowledge for entrepreneurs via Facebook and m.me/thaipropertyboard.com

Those seeking further information were urged to contact the following: Email: event@tpb.co.th or call for more information at +66 (0)62 253 5986 and ask for Khun Noon.

The Phuket News

PM sets Nov 1 as reopening date

Fully vaccinated tourists from 10 low-risk countries targeted

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said last Monday (Oct 11) that he will push for the opening up of the country to fully vaccinated foreign tourists from at least 10 countries on Nov 1, as the government earlier planned.

Gen Prayut said in a nationally televised broadcast that the targeted tourists would be allowed to enter Thailand by air with no quarantine requirements.

He named the United Kingdom, Singapore, Germany, China and the United States among the first group of countries to benefit from the move.

"I have instructed the CCSA and the Ministry of Public Health to urgently consider within this week to allow, as of Nov 1, international visitors to enter Thailand without any requirement for quarantine if they are fully vaccinated and arrive by air from low-risk countries," he said.

He pledged to open the gates for more countries by Dec 1 and targeted others by Jan 1.

Tourists from countries not on the low-risk list would be allowed but they would be required to



Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha appears on a nationally televised programme to push for the reopening of the country for low-risk countries on Nov 1. Image: PRD

quarantine, he added.

The announcement came after other countries including Singapore and Australia eased travel restrictions for their citizens to travel overseas.

Prayut hoped the decision to open up the country next month would draw foreign tourists to Thailand over the next three months, including the forthcoming year-end holidays and would help revitalise the sector and related businesses that involved millions of people in the country.

He added that the government will allow restaurants and other

places to sell alcohol by Dec 1 to promote tourism and the entertainment sector as people plan to celebrate the new year.

"By Dec 1, we will also consider allowing the consumption of alcoholic beverages in restaurants as well as the operation of entertainment venues under appropriate health precautions to support the revitalisation of the tourism and leisure sectors, especially the new year period," he said.

The announcement indicated that the reopening would cover all

parts of the country and came after the country saw the number of fatalities drop below 100 in previous days. The Public Health Ministry reported on Tuesday (Oct 19) there were 9,122 new COVID-19 cases and 71 more fatalities recorded during the previous 24 hours.

Although the situation was improving in most parts of Thailand, a surge of new infections continued in Narathiwat, Pattani, Songkhla and Yala. The southern border provinces were in the spotlight of health authorities who were mulling additional measures to clamp down on the spike in the areas.

THAILAND PASS SET TO REPLACE COE

Tourism was the main sector driving the economy before the pandemic flooded the industry last year. The sector accounted for about 20% of gross domestic product if both local tourists and foreign arrivals were counted. Revenue from foreign tourists alone was about 15% of GDP, as the country welcomed almost 40 million travellers from abroad, especially Chinese.

The Bank of Thailand estimated only 200,000 foreign arrivals this year with the number jumping to 6 million next year.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Digital Government Development Agency confirmed last Thursday (Oct 14) they are developing a new system to replace the certificate of entry (CoE) for Thais and foreigners who wish to enter the country through an airport.

Tanee Sangrat, spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Ministry, said a new web-based application called the Thailand Pass system, where people can gather information and upload documents, is being developed for the kingdom's Nov 1 reopening.

Mr Tanee said the Thailand Pass will replace the CoE system and facilitate the filing of an immigration form known as the TM6 and a health declaration form known as T8.

However, the CoEs are still required for certain groups of people, including those who wish to enter the country via land or sea, he said.

As for vaccination certification, certificates will be approved online by the Department of Communicable Disease Control under the Public Health Ministry, he said.

According to Mr Tanee, his ministry has approved more than 400,000 CoEs for Thai and foreign nationals so far.

'No need to halt' Sinovac boosters: Anutin

BANGKOK

THERE CURRENTLY IS NO REASON for not giving a booster dose to someone already fully inoculated with the Sinovac vaccine, Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said on Monday (Oct 18).

His comments came as the head of the Department of Disease Control (DDC) confirmed that Thailand will stop using the Sinovac vaccine once the current stock runs out, expected to be within this month.

Anutin was reacting to a complaint that the booster dose isn't necessary because many people have yet to even receive the first dose.

Anutin said he was unhappy with a DDC report that some of its advisers suggested that the booster dose is not necessary now for two-dose inactivated Sinovac vaccine recipient because the limited number of vaccines should be given to non-vaccine recipients first.

"If there are any questions, please tell them that this is the minister's order. I have seen no reason for not giving them the booster vaccine," Anutin said.

"All Thai people must get a vaccine if they want to get it. We have enough vaccines for all in need.

"Moreover, I don't want to see this group [those who received two doses of Sinovac] losing the chance to protect themselves from the outbreak," he added.

Around 10 million people have received two doses of the Sinovac vaccine since



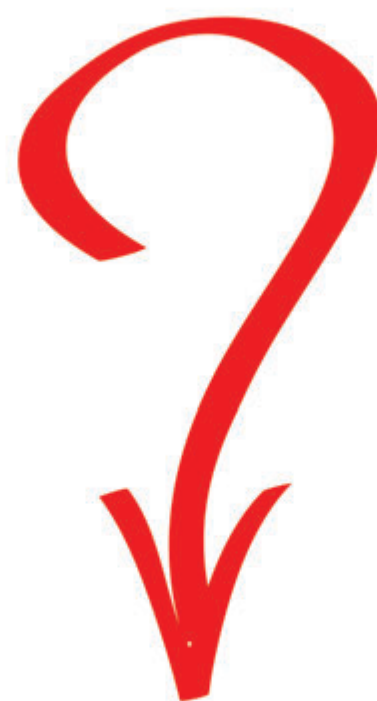
Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul. Photo: Bangkok Post

early this year. The Sinovac vaccine is an inactivated vaccine known to have less capacity to fight against the dominant Delta variant, so it's now advised that a booster dose is required, largely from AstraZeneca, to increase immunity.

Thailand is expected to get 152.9mn vaccine doses this year, of which 62.9mn doses are from AstraZeneca and 31.5mn doses are from Pfizer.

Based on the DDC's information, it is believed that 85% of the population will have had the first dose of a vaccine by the year's end. Some 70% will be considered fully inoculated.

Dr Opas Karnkwinpong, the department's chief, said next month the ministry is switching to an AstraZeneca and Pfizer mixed-use vaccine strategy which many international studies have confirmed is a safe measure. Bangkok Post



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A new beach cleanup group has launched in Kamala. Photo: Brad Barichiev



Plastic remains one of the worst blights on Phuket's beaches. Photo: Sustainable Maikhao

Solving Phuket's plastic problem

7 reasons to stop drinking bottled water



SUSTAINABLY YOURS

Palmer Owyong

With the global pandemic and the lack of tourists, you would think that our beaches would be pristine and clean, but you'd be wrong. Despite our lack of visitors, the beaches are still inundated with plastic water bottles, bags and cigarettes, which means some of it is coming from us.

According to the non-profit EcoWatch, cigarette butts are the number one form of litter, followed by food wrappers, plastic drink bottles, and bottle caps, and grocery bags.

A recent study led by the Institute for Global Health in Barcelona concluded that bottled water uses 3,500 times more resources and causes 1,400 more times damage to the ecosystem when compared to drinking tap water. If that doesn't convince you to stop drinking bottled water, here are seven more reasons.

1. Pollution – The world uses over 100 million plastic drink bottles every day, of which we recycle only 1 out of 5. The rest end up in landfills, on our beaches and in our waterways.

2. It's expensive – Bottled water is 240 to 10,000 times higher than what you pay for tap water. You are paying for the branding, processing and transportation of the water. According to one estimate, you can save about B12,500 per year by drinking filtered tap water.

3. Your health – Most people drink bottled water because they think it's healthier, but it's not. A study from the World Health Organization found that 93% of the most popular water bottle brands had microplastics in them. Because there haven't been long-term studies on the effects on human health, we're not sure what they are doing to us. But some preliminary studies suggest they may be linked to both cancer and infertility in humans and animals.

An investigation by the non-profit Environmental Working Group (EWG) revealed that many major water brands



Bottled water is expensive, killing the planet and possibly harming us through microplastics in the water. Photo: Pixabay

carried toxic chemicals, including fertiliser residue and disinfecting products, above state safety limits. Many of the brands tested were also nothing more than tap water, despite costing up to 1,900 times more.

4. Taste – In multiple taste tests, drinkers could not discern between bottled and tap water.

5. Corporate profiteering – Clean drinking water is a basic human right. However, the public has been complicit in allowing corporations like Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Nestle to exploit us by continuing to purchase their products. The bottled water industry remains one of the fastest-growing on the planet and made \$200 billion in 2020 and is expected to grow at 11.1% per year through 2028. Boycotting bottled water means that you recognise that public access to clean, safe drinking water is a right.

6. It's depleting clean water – It takes three bottles of water to make a single bottle of water when you account for the drilling for the petroleum to make the bottle and the processing and transportation of the water. As the population grows and droughts and other climate-related events hit us, clean water will become more and more scarce.

7. Climate change – We use 100 million plastic bottles every day around the world. This requires lots of oil to produce them, and all of that water is heavy and needs to be transported across the country. From the most commonly cited study, the

CO2 footprint for 1.5 litres is about 200 grammes per bottle. The average water bottle drinking household will consume about 800 bottles per year, which translates to 160kg CO2 or the equivalent of driving 368 miles (592 km) with a car.

What You Can Do

The easiest thing to do is to buy a Brita water filter for your tap. These cost under B3,000. You also buy a water filter jug or water filter bottle both cost less than B2,000 and can save you thousands over a year. You can purchase these online at Lazada.

Some people don't like the taste of plain water or the flatness of still water. The answer is to buy a soda machine that allows you to make carbonated water at home. If you don't enjoy plain water, you can buy flavoured syrup like Teisseire from Villa Market and add it to either sparkling or flat water. This will not only reduce your carbon footprint, but will also reduce the number of plastic bottles that you use.

Beach clean-ups are one of the best ways to keep plastic waste from entering the ocean, killing wildlife, and entering the food chain. A newly formed Facebook Group called Phuket Beach Cleanup started by Brad Barichiev, a recent transplant from South Africa, makes it easy to help keep your local beach clean.

You should also boycott the major bottled water producers and their subsidiaries. These include Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Nestle.



Using a tap filter can save you thousands of baht a year. Photo: Brita

Potential Solutions

Several major cities around the world, including Los Angeles, Paris, London and Amsterdam, have installed drinking fountains and water bottle refilling stations around their cities to provide free, clean drinking water to their citizens. You can find them by using the Mymizu app that lists 200,000 water refill stations around the world.

In 2019, Patong took the Plastic Smart City pledge to eliminate its plastic waste by 2030. Installing and maintaining clean water refill stations along the beach would help to achieve this goal.

Other Solutions

One simple solution for keeping cigarette butts off the beach that we've been using in Kamala is to tie a used metal oatmeal can (plastic bottles will burn) to a nearby tree or bench. Smokers often congregate in the same areas and when presented with the option of using an ashtray, they usually will. This has kept thousands of cigarette butts off the beach and from entering the oceans.

If Phuket wants to continue being a world-class destination, it needs a clean ocean with clean beaches, which means it needs to step up its game by solving its plastic waste problem.

Palmer Owyong is an environmental activist working with the Kamala Green Club and the Global Sustainability Hub.

The legacy of the British Legion

Andy Tong Dee

One hundred years ago last May, a small group of ex-servicemen laid a wreath at the newly-dedicated national Cenotaph war memorial in London. The men represented four armed forces organisations set up to care for veterans who had suffered as a result of service in the First World War. This occasion marked these organisations' amalgamation to form the British Legion, the UK's largest armed services charity. Within months of its formation, the Legion launched its first Poppy Appeal to raise money to support war veterans and their dependents. The Legion has been working tirelessly ever since to support our armed forces veterans emotionally, socially and financially in Britain. But not only in Britain...

Readers may not be aware about Royal British Legion Thailand, whose headquarters is in Chonburi, but which has members scattered throughout Thailand, including me. For I too was a British soldier serving for 20 years until I retired to live here 10 years ago.

Yes, I served in conflicts, but 90% of my time on active service was spent trying to prevent one lot of people from attacking another lot, such as the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. I was also involved with the UN humanitarian relief operation



Andy in Rwanda, winning hearts and minds.

to Rwanda after its 1995 genocide. I was there primarily in a welfare role dealing with soldiers' psychological issues, but I also found myself liaising directly with the local Rwandan community as I speak some French. Strangely, I then found yet another role winning hearts and minds by entertaining the kids in refugee camps with my ukulele!

Today, with any remaining Second World War and Korean War veterans now in their 90s, the Legion's focus has shifted to supporting those who served during later conflicts such as Northern Ireland, the Gulf wars and the

Afghanistan Campaign. This includes everything from helping homeless veterans to get off living on the streets to supporting those who have suffered mental or physical injuries from recent conflicts. Because of privacy issues, readers will naturally be unaware of any welfare work quietly done with veterans within Thailand; it is not something that can be publicised easily.

More visibly, Phuket saw its first poppies distributed to places around the island in 2009 when B100,000 was raised to support veterans here in Phuket. It was a terrific start, although fundraising has inevitably declined

since then because of COVID-19. However, the Legion in Thailand still managed to raise B745,000 last year, an incredible achievement in the circumstances.

But the Legion is not just about raising money and the direct support of veterans – it is also about organising Remembrance Day commemorations every 11th of November, remembering those service men and women of all nations who died in conflict. While these always take place in war cemeteries in Kanchanaburi and at the British Club in Bangkok, it may be possible to hold a local remembrance service in Phuket if there is enough support.

Talking of which, membership of the British Legion is open to anyone of any nationality, civilian or veteran, living in Thailand who wishes to support its invaluable work. It is easy to join via its website, just select the "Overseas" and then "Thailand" options.

To end, I hope you will join me in supporting those veterans who bravely served their nations in trying to create a freer and more peaceful world. Oh, and you don't need to play ukulele!

If you want to find out more about the Royal British Legion in Thailand visit www.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/chonburi-thailand

Andy Tong Dee can be contacted at andytongdee@gmail.com

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POP QUIZ

- Do goldfish have stomachs?
- Do wild cacti (cactus plants) grow in the Sahara?
- Which *Grease* song starts, 'Summer lovin' had me a blast'?
- At 70 metres long, 50cm tall and dated to the 11th century, the Bayeux Tapestry features which astronomical phenomenon?
- Which Spanish monarchs sponsored the first voyage of Christopher Columbus?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Hard

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

"Sports" by Myles Mellor

Across

- Trains, with in
- Amorous skunk
- Tibet's capital
- Door sign
- "Doctor Zhivago" heroine
- Hank, of baseball fame
- They attract, according to Paul Abdul
- Bagel choice
- Soccer position
- Beach volleyball equipment
- Make, as money
- Agcy. watching over ecology
- Almost negligible
- Classified
- "What?" syllables
- Got ready, with "up"
- Beluga eggs, e.g.
- Baseball headgear
- Tennis category
- NHL surface
- Behavioral quirk
- In jeopardy
- Be indisposed
- Photograph
- Community spirit
- Yellowfin tuna
- "Do ___ others..."

51. NFL equipment

54. NFL position

60. Chow line?

62. Time when fewer people are visiting

63. Eagerness

64. "Thanks ___!"

65. Musical with the song "The Night They Invented Champagne"

66. Middays

67. English marshes

68. Brewer's equipment

21. Look for again

25. Academic types

26. Divisions

27. Tire attachment in the snow

28. Pet protection org.

29. Attire

30. Some addresses

31. Biblical husband of Bathsheba

32. Prefix with logical

33. Cobbler's stock

35. Middle Ages style

36. Mark's successor

39. Salt portion

45. Transfer

46. Raison d' ___

47. Island in West Indies

49. Not achieved

50. Retreats

51. Arrange

52. Designed for flight

53. Woodworking groove

55. Count played by Jim Carrey in "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events"

56. Character

57. Largest of seven

58. Gear teeth

59. Jersey, e.g.

61. 24 in a day

Down

1. An earth sci.

2. Big show

3. Pacific palm

4. Hot

5. Small pincer

6. Corroded

7. Cram for a test

8. Convenience

9. Indo-Chinese language

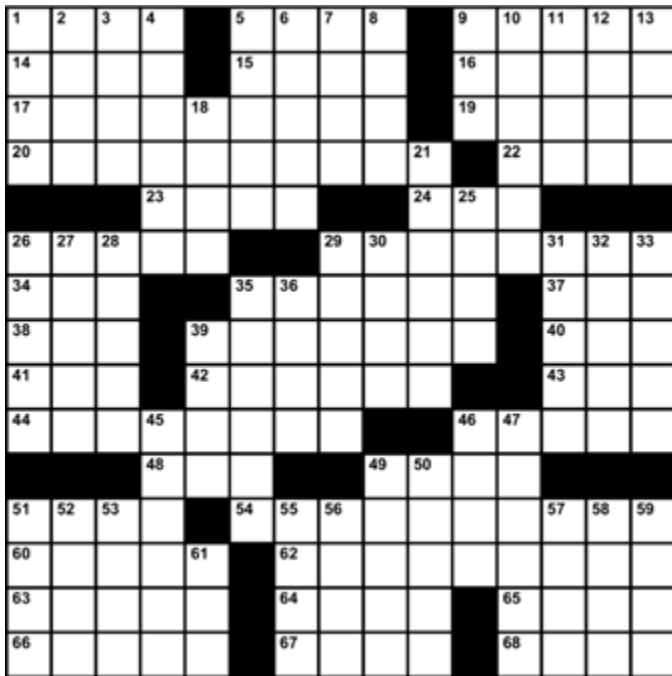
10. Biblical character in Samuel

11. "Strength, Courage and Wisdom", singer, India

12. Chimney black stuff

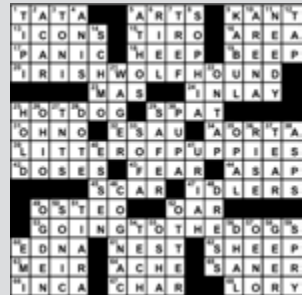
13. Landers and others

18. Three-handed card game



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

- in 3,748,067 are the odds of you being attacked and killed by a shark.
- minutes is all it took for Sting to write 'Every Breath You Take' after he woke up with the line "Every breath you take, I'll be watching you" in his head.
- times heavier is the Earth than the Moon.
- Hertz is how high human screams spike — the higher the pitch, the more terrifying the scream is perceived by other people.
- sextillion (one thousand trillion, or 10²¹) supercomputers would be required to store all the DNA in the world.

Source: *Uberfacts*

ISLAND VIEW

Evening sky delight at Karon Beach. *Photo by Cathy Bacorro*

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket? Email it to exceditor@classactmedia.co.th

This week in history

Oct 22, 1962
US President John F. Kennedy announces that American reconnaissance planes have discovered Soviet nuclear weapons in Cuba, and orders a naval 'quarantine' of the Communist nation.

Oct 23, 1991
Signing of the Paris Peace Accords which ended the Cambodian-Vietnamese War. Commemorated as a public holiday in Cambodia.

Oct 24, 1946
A camera on board the V-2 No. 13 rocket takes the first photograph of the Earth from outer space, at an altitude of 105km.

Oct 25, 1147
After a siege of four months, crusader knights led by Afonso Henriques, who later becomes the first King of Portugal, reconquer Lisbon.

Oct 26, 1881
The Gunfight at the O.K. Cor-

ral, a 30-second shootout at 3pm between outlaws and four lawmen, including Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, takes place in Tombstone, Arizona.

Oct 27, 1936
American socialite Wallis Simpson, later known as the Duchess of Windsor, obtains her divorce, which allows her to marry King Edward VIII, thus forcing his abdication from the British throne.

Oct 28, 1420
Beijing is officially designated the capital of the Ming dynasty in the same year that the Forbidden City, the seat of government, is completed.

Source: *Wikipedia*

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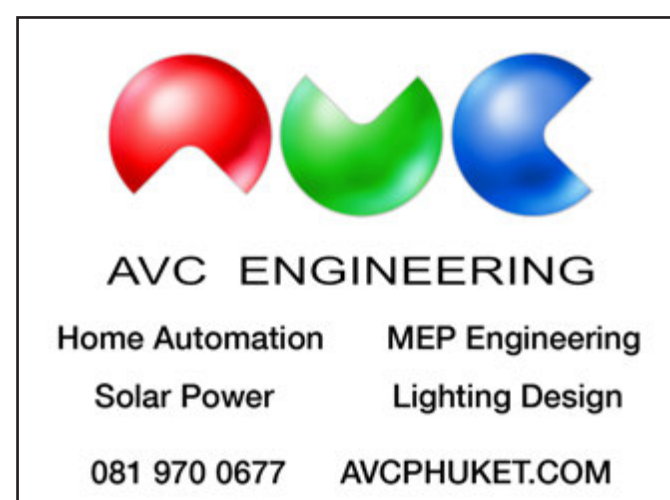
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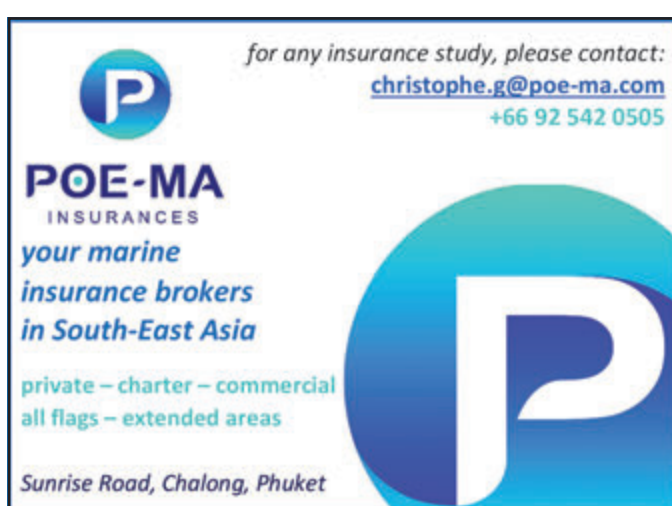


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FRI

5 NOV



The Grow Boating Networking Evening for November 2021

The Grow Boating Networking Evening for November 2021 will be held at the new Boardwalk Bistro and Bar, formerly Tempt, next door to the Lagoon Saloon, at the Phuket Boat Lagoon on Friday the 5th of November from 5pm. There will be a light buffet sponsored by the Hardstand Restaurant and as always all of your selected beverages will be available. We are delighted to announce that Derani Yachts will be the drinks sponsor for the evening. See www.derani-yachts.com Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome. There is no entry fee, just drop your business card or register at the bar. We hope to see you there 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 growboatingphuket@gmail.com Find us on Facebook at 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



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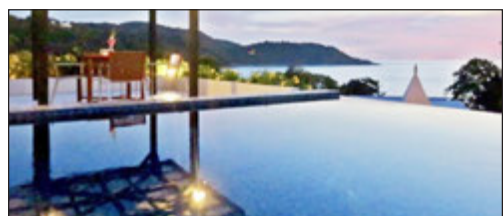
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CONGRATULATIONS TO JACK AND THE TEAM AT SCHOLARS OF SUSTENANCE THAILAND

SOS Thailand delivered an amazing 10,000 meals all over Phuket last Saturday (Oct 16). This was for World Food Day 2021. It was a HUGE success! So many businesses and individuals involved. To everyone involved, thank you. It was an incredible day of success #OnePhuket



Panthers spring into action

Side return to the ACG after months of COVID-induced layoff

CRICKET

Michael Flowers

After many months without a match and a sign of Phuket returning to some normality, the Goan Panthers returned to the ACG last Sunday (Oct 17).

Boosted by the inclusion of the usual Thalang Cow pairing of Joe Ninan and Ashan Fonseka, Panthers captain Mayur Deuskar and his Goan Panthers side won the toss and quickly elected to bat first in the mixed friendly against the Phuket Cricket Group's (PCG) Phuket XI.

Manoj Kumar Yadav was the first to go when he was caught behind by PCG keeper and captain Michael Flowers which brought Fonseka to join Ninan at the crease.

The opening bowlers continued to bowl well although Fonseka upped the run rate taking advantage of the fielding restrictions hitting three 6s and one 4 in the space of three overs. However, he was soon caught by Flowers off the bowling of Raju for 23 (11).



Ali Kahn's innings of 65 not out coupled with his fielding prowess saw him named Man of the Match. Photo: Michael Flowers

Panthers debutant Avinash Pednekar 0 (4) joined Ninan briefly before Raju struck again with the former adjudged LBW by umpire Neil Quail to set a score of 37/3.

The Panthers had slumped to 37/3 at the five over change of ends mark as Bahnu Pratap joined Ninan.

Bahnu Pratap joined Ninan and the two consolidated the innings, guiding the Panthers to 66/3 after 10 overs before Imtiyaz Mushtaq struck in the 11th over when Pratap 18 (17) punched one straight to Ali Kahn at mid-off with the score at 71/4. Khan then bowled Surinder Kumar for 2 (5).

At 76/5 after 12 overs, another debutant Wiqar Aziz joined opening batsman Ninan who must have felt like he was starting to run out of partners.

Aziz was involved in a mix up with Ninan as good work from Mushtaq and keeper Flowers had Aziz 5 (22) runout in the 19th over

with the score at 102/6.

Panthers Captain Mayur finally came to the wicket at number eight and he and Ninan began to give the innings some impetus.

The pair batted together into the final over and had lifted the score to 157 when a rather charmed yet tired Ninan 53 (67) was finally dismissed in the final over, caught by Mushtaq from the bowling of Delano Buchner to set a mediocre total of 159 from their allotted 25 overs.

DELIGHTFUL FORM

James Chataway and Sami Pir opened the chase although the latter was caught by Fonseka off the bowling of Pratap for no score.

An in-form Sameer Kahn joined Chataway in the middle with the former finding some delightful form early in his innings before a terrific catch by Pratap saw him dismissed – a catch as good as any witnessed at the ACG in recent years.

The devastating Ali Kahn joined Sameer Kahn in the middle with the two progressing the score to 60/2 by the 10

over mark before the extreme pace of Fonseka saw the latter caught behind by Ninan in the 11th over.

Mushtaq then joined Kahn at the wicket, with a required rate at 7 per over. Mushtaq played the anchor role rotating strike to Kahn who played with excellent shot selection punishing the balls in his arc occasionally as the pair slowly lowered the required rate to a canter.

The pair ended up combining for a 6th wicket partnership of 98 runs when Mushtaq 31 not out (34) slammed Fonseka down the ground for 6 (his only boundary of the innings) to end the match with PCG winning by 7 wickets with 19 balls remaining.

Ali Kahn's innings of 65 not out (41) combined with his early catch and run out left no doubt as to who was the deserving man of the match.

This weekend the Penguins and Cows will finally battle out the decider of their 5-match series. The 25 over match will start at midday on Sunday (Oct 24) at the ACG.

Vietnam to host delayed SEA Games next year

SEA GAMES

VIETNAM HAS CONFIRMED it will host the delayed 31st SEA Games in May next year, Thai officials said on Monday (Oct 18).

The nation's representative told other member countries of its decision during a virtual meeting, according to Chaipak Siriwat, COO of the Bangkok-based SEA Games Federation (SEAGF).

The Vietnamese official said the event, featuring 11 SEAGF member nations, will take place in mid-May with the exact date being determined at a later stage.

Participants at the meeting agreed to the decision and told the Vietnamese to officially inform the federation by the end of this month, Chaipak said.

Thailand's representatives at Monday's meeting included National Olympic Committee of Thailand (NOCT) officials Charouk Arirachakaran, Thana Chaiprasit and Charoen Wattanasin.

Earlier, SEAGF members had warned Vietnam that it needed to unveil its plans for the event by the end of this month or the



Vietnam last hosted the SEA Games in 2003. Photo: AFP

Games would be cancelled as Cambodia is slated to host the 2023 tournament.

The 31st SEA Games were originally scheduled to be held in Hanoi in November and December this year but were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Official figures released on Monday revealed that Vietnam has experienced over 864,000 cases of COVID infection and 21,194 deaths since the pandemic began.

Vietnam previously hosted the multisport competition in 2003 in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. The last edition was held in the Philippines in 2019.

Bangkok Post

Pistons at dawn ahead of US Grand Prix

FORMULA ONE

WITH SIX POINTS SEPARATING the title protagonists with just six races to go, Red Bull Racing is fighting for every inch in its quest to keep Max Verstappen ahead of Lewis Hamilton.

The scale of Mercedes's domination at the Turkish Grand Prix on Oct 10 surprised everyone, but for Red Bull Racing it was a particularly rude shock.

Though the difference between the two teams has waxed and waned through the season, ahead of the final run of races the two cars had arrived at a more or less equal place, promising a thrilling conclusion to the battle between reigning champion Hamilton and challenger Verstappen.

Even the spread of races should offer both teams opportunities to excel. Red Bull is still counting on the high altitude of Sao Paulo and Mexico City to favour the RB16B, while the long straights at the brand-new Saudi Arabian street track should benefit the Mercedes W12.

Red Bull clearly isn't satisfied to write off its bad weekend in Istanbul as a mere coincidence of factors, and boss Christian Horner instead turned the spotlight back on Mercedes.

"Their straight-line speed has taken a significant step recently," he said. "We could match them with



Max Verstappen and Red Bull Racing struggled at the Turkish GP. Photo: AFP

smaller wings previously; now we can't get near."

Any straight-line speed advantage will serve Mercedes well in this weekend's United States Grand Prix, which offers a similar challenge to Turkey but with a bias towards engine performance.

Mercedes has rebuffed the speculation, pointing instead to the fact Hamilton was running a brand-new motor in Turkey and to general aerodynamic efficiencies boosting straight-line performance.

But the finger-pointing is neither surprising nor unprecedented. In the first half of the season, when Red Bull Racing stole a march through the trio of races in France and Austria to open a points gap, Mercedes made similar noises about apparent power gains from the Honda engine, which the Japanese brand similarly brushed off.

And it was almost certainly

Mercedes enquiries that prompted the FIA to tighten rules around pit stop automation in the middle of the year. Red Bull Racing's processes were the fastest in the pit lane, but under the stricter rules the team has been slowed and forced into several race-defining errors.

It's all indicative of the titanic nature of the struggle between the two most successful teams of the last decade. It isn't enough to squeeze every millisecond of performance from one's own machinery; slowing down a rival's car is equally important. Appealing to the governing body to uncover another team's secrets or have new technology outlawed has always been a crucial element of a sport that is as much technical as human.

And with just six rounds to go, the tighter the screws are wound, the more protesting we're likely to hear. Michael Lamonato

Rampant Reds fire 5-star warning to title rivals

FOOTBALL

Steven Griffiths

Sadio Mane fired an ominous warning to Liverpool's rivals as he insisted the Reds can still improve after an emphatic 5-0 thrashing of Watford last Saturday (Oct 16) which kept their Premier League title challenge on track.

Mane, Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino were unstoppable when Liverpool marched to their first Premier League title in 30 years during the 2019-20 season.

But in last term's tame surrender of the crown, both Mane and Firmino were well below their best.

Getting all three firing in unison was an essential task for Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp this year and the demolition of Watford suggests he has achieved that goal.

It was a memorable day for the Liverpool trinity.

Senegal forward Mane became only the third African to score 100 Premier League goals with a clinical finish



Liverpool's Sadio Mane scored his 100th Premier League goal in the 5-0 rout of Watford. Photo: AFP

from Salah's pass.

Salah produced another sublime strike, dancing through Watford defence to surpass even the brilliant goal he scored against Manchester City before the international break.

The Egypt star has scored in eight successive matches in all competitions for the first time in his career.

"I think it's a better goal than City. But it's no surprise for us because we know his quality, one of the best players

in the world. He showed it," Mane said of Salah.

Then there was Brazilian forward Firmino, making the most of his first league start in five games with his first Liverpool hat-trick since 2018.

Firmino has lost his place to Diogo Jota several times since last season and his treble was a well-timed reminder to Klopp that he can still be a key figure.

"Bobby as well, he showed it, one of the best for sure in the world," Mane said.

"It was not an easy time for him with injuries but he is back and I'm happy for him.

"Hopefully he will be here for us and score more goals for us until the end of the season."

It was Liverpool's biggest win since beating Crystal Palace 7-0 last December, which was the last time Firmino, Salah and Mane all scored in a top-flight game.

In the midst of a crucial stretch of fixtures, including two Champions League ties against Atletico and a visit to bitter rivals Manchester United, Liverpool's fearsome display came at an opportune moment.

They have scored three goals or more in their six away games in all competitions this season and Mane believes there will be even better to come as long as they don't lose focus.

"We know our qualities and how hard we could make it," he said.

"We worked very hard and we showed it today. It was just incredible and hopefully we're going to keep like this."

AFP

Ole feeling the heat as Man United stutter again

FOOTBALL

MANCHESTER UNITED'S long unbeaten record on the road in the Premier League is gone as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men were well beaten at Leicester last Saturday (Oct 16) to fall five points off the pace in the title race.

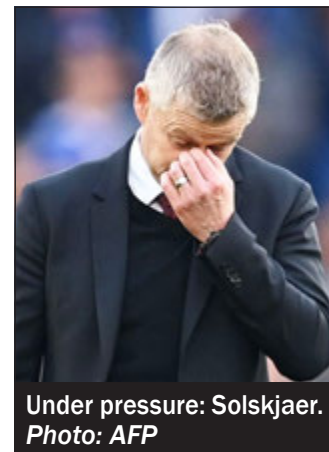
Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester City all won with the top three still separated by two points.

But the expected challenge from United is not materialising as they have taken just one point from a possible nine after a 4-2 defeat at the King Power.

Solskjaer's men had not lost an away league game since January 2020, but their shoddy defending at Leicester was in keeping with a string of unconvincing performances before the international break.

The Norwegian's future is back under the spotlight and Solskjaer hinted that he knows he has to sacrifice some of his big names going forward to rebalance his side.

"We need to look at the whole set-up and balance of the team and maybe something has to give," said Solskjaer.



Under pressure: Solskjaer. Photo: AFP

"We might have to change. Do we need more legs in there?"

All of Cristiano Ronaldo, Jadon Sancho, Mason Greenwood, Paul Pogba and Bruno Fernandes started, while Marcus Rashford scored on his return from injury off the bench.

"I wouldn't want to be a defender in that team," said former United captain Gary Neville.

Solskjaer needs a quick solution if his side are to remain in the title race by Christmas.

Liverpool visit Old Trafford on Sunday (Oct 24) with Tottenham, City, Chelsea and Arsenal also to come in United's next six league games. AFP

Thailand to stage top Badminton events

BADMINTON

THAILAND WILL HOST THE THOMAS & Uber Cup finals next year, it was confirmed on Sunday (Oct 17).

After their successful campaign as the host nation in 2018, Thailand has once again been chosen to host the world men's and women's team championships.

The tournaments, which will once again run concurrently, will take place between May 8-15.

In this year's Uber Cup championship, Thailand's women's team won a bronze medal after losing to China in the semi-finals in Aarhus, Denmark last Saturday (Oct 16).

It was the second time Thailand won the bronze in the world women's team championship with their first coming in 2012.

They were runners-up to Japan in 2018 – their best ever Uber Cup result.

In the final, China managed to win 3-1 after they came from behind to defeat defending champions Japan 3-1 at Ceres Arena on Saturday.

Japan got off to a strong start after Akane Yamaguchi overcame Olympic gold medallist Chen Yufei 21-18, 21-10 in the opening singles match.

Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan pulled level for China after a two-hour marathon against Yuki Fukushima and Mayu Matsumoto in which the Chinese duo prevailed 29-27, 15-21, 21-18.

He Bingjiao gave China a 2-1 lead with



Thai Uber Cup players pose with their bronze medals. Photo: Bangkok Post

a 21-9, 21-18 victory over Sayaka Takahashi before Haung Dongping and Li Wenmei sealed the title with a thrilling 24-22, 23-21 doubles win over Misaki Matsutomo and Nami Matsuyama.

Thailand's Thomas Cup team were also knocked out by China, this time in the quarter-finals last Friday.

China's Shi Yuqi defeated Kantaphon Wangcharoen 21-14, 21-17 in the opening singles match.

Chinese pair He Jiting and Zhou Haodong beat Supak Jomkoh and Kittinupong Kedren 21-10, 21-18.

Li Shifeng finished off the Thais with a 21-13, 17-21, 21-7 win over Kunlavut Vitidsarn.

However, China were unable to defend the title they won in Bangkok in the previous tournament in 2018 as they lost to Indonesia in the final on Sunday evening.

This year's Thomas & Uber Cup finals were postponed from last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Bangkok Post

Phuket News

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Sport

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Magic Mo inspiring Reds charge > p15

SURF'S UP!

Photo: Thailand Surfing Federation Facebook

SURFING

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Despite initially having to contend with rather inclement weather, the Thailand Surfing Championship 2021 was successfully hosted at Nai Harn Beach in Rawai on Oct 6-10, attracting over 170 surfers from all over Thailand.

The competition was organised by the Thailand Surfing Federation and the Surfing Association of Thailand. The first two days of competition experienced heavy rainfall and strong winds which made things extremely challenging for the participants, although conditions did improve into the weekend and for final day of competition on the Sunday (Oct 10).

It was the first official competition since the outbreak of COVID-19 last year and was carried out with strict adherence to the stipulated health and safety measures to mini-

mise any threat of the disease being spread. Spectators at the event itself were limited although a live feed via Facebook allowed eager fans to follow all the action from the comfort of their homes.

LOCAL FAVOURITE

Competition highlights included local favourite Annissa Flynn winning the women's short and long board categories.

Annissa is a Thai national team athlete who won a silver medal in the women's short board competition at the 2019 SEA Games and who is a two-time flow board world champion.

In the Sunday final, Annissa defeated another local surfer, Sukanya Thepwongsa, by 8.05 to 4.00 in the short board competition and then overcame Mink Chonnikarn 8.75 to 6.75 in the long board challenge.

In an interview with the organisers after her victories, Annissa thanked both the fans that were permitted to attend in person for coming out and cheering her and her

fellow surfers on and also those that tuned in to follow the action online.

She added that the strong waves brought about by the recent stormy weather conditions made things challenging but she tried as best she could to perform to her highest level.

In the male competition, Jamie Smith won the men's short board contest after defeating SEA Games bronze medalist Henry Chapman with a score of 12.70 to 10.80.

Teerayut Phetsura overcame the challenge of Pattana Kenkhuntod to win the men's long board category.

In the under 14s youth category, Natthakron Sae-Yew won the male competition and Pennapa Khotchadet triumphed in the female category.

"This past year has been very challenging following the outbreak of COVID-19 and many races had to be cancelled," commented Chanin Aiyarak, President of the Surfing Association of Thailand.

"Athletes have been unable to compete nationally, let alone in overseas competition so it was

crucial that once the restrictions on sports activities were relaxed that we managed to organise this event," he added.

"We strictly followed the provincial health and safety measures and provided a live broadcast to limit spectators at the venue. This was very warmly received by surfing fans as we witnessed a large audience tuning in," Chanin said.

THAILAND SURFING CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS MALE SHORT BOARD

1st place: Jamie Smith
2nd place: Sitipong Henry Chapman
3rd place: Songkrod Jomboon and Wasan Sarisai

FEMALE SHORT BOARD

1st place: Annissa Flynn
2nd place: Sukanya Tapwongsa
3rd place: Jasmine Nolan and Piyamas Nakayasith

MALE LONG BOARD

1st place: Teerayut Phetsura
2nd place: Pattana Kenkhuntod

3rd place: Bukohri Koto and Werawat Kuru

FEMALE LONG BOARD

1st place: Annissa Flynn
2nd place: Chonnikan Phaitucksri
3rd place: Athiya Junprasert and Thanaporn Trairat

UNDER 14s MALE

1st place: Natthakron Sae-Yew
2nd place: Patchara Tiangnoi
3rd place: Natthaphon Yamsila

UNDER 14s FEMALE

1st place: Pennapa Khotchadet
2nd place: Jirapat Chulasukontha
3rd place: Mathiya Ashley Holmberg

The Thailand Surfing Federation extended their thanks to the Sports Authority of Thailand, National Sports Development Fund, the Sports Authority of Thailand Phuket Provincial Office, Rawai Municipality, Phuket Sports Association and Rip Curl Thailand for their support which allowed the competition to proceed.

Vagabonds Youth Rugby Academy returns

RUGBY

AFTER SUCH A PROLONGED period of relative inactivity due to various lockdowns and restrictions, specifically relating to sports, it is welcome news that the Phuket Vagabonds are now once again running their Academy camps every weekend.

The Phuket Vagabonds Youth Rugby Academy is one of the island's best destination activities for youngsters aged between 5-15 years

old and is hosted every Saturday morning at the Vagabonds home ground, the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) in Thalang.

Starting at 10am, the hour-long session delivers fun, varied and educational coaching routines to ensure the fundamentals of the sport are learned and practiced under the tutelage of an expert and experienced team of coaches, predominantly from the Vagabonds' senior squad.

Initially launched in November 2020 but constantly beset by

COVID-related interruptions, the clinic is now a regular occurrence and welcomes all genders and experience levels in a safe environment. Coaching and development focuses on safely educating the young players in tackling, accurate and timely passing, agility and manoeuvrability, and a game of touch rugby, which is always thoroughly enjoyed by the youngsters.

What better way to get your children active again while learning the fundamentals of a great team sport under expert and safe guid-



Vagabond Academy kids going through passing drills at the ACG. Photo: Neil Quail

ance? Better still, full Vagabond Academy kits for 2021/2022 are now available – further details can be found at the ground or via the Vagabonds Academy Facebook page.

To register or to find out more about the program, please contact Santiago Lopez via the Academy's Facebook page.

The Phuket News