



**Hello** and welcome to this, the seventh edition to our burgeoning, fact-filled, droll and humorous account of what's been happening at your fave holiday destination on gorgeous Phuket Island. This magazine has been noted for its dry humour but nothing could have been drier than the mouths of the hotel lads clocking the arrival of Miss Thailand contestants on July 20. As usual we feature much-welcomed guest comments and observations, not just of the hotel but on the island in general along with marriages, staff profiles and Thai cultural observations.

This is your magazine. To ensure that it remains so, please send us in photos, comments and snippets to pass along the news that Cape Panwa is truly a remarkable destination. After all, it's you who make it so. Isn't it?

**Sam Wilkinson** - Your editor

## Motorcycle Madness 15 years later...

Back in the old days when suntans were considered groovy amongst the expat-set on Phuket; and when motorbikes were expressions of freedom – “look Dude, no helmet” – it was considered sort-of acceptable to ride around the island without protecting your head. Nowadays, with the island's undeniable heavy traffic problems, maybe due to the Taxi Mafia selfishly denying the island a public transportation system worthy of the name, it's become more and more sensible to wear a head protection. In fact it's been the law in Phuket



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- Cape + Kantary Magazine







< conti'd from p. 1 > since 15 years ago! But thanks to the Thai laissez-faire attitude of regarding red traffic lights as mere suggestions to stop; taxes to be laughed at and considering policemen as mere walking, talking fine recipients rather than law-enforcers, the helmet law has been adhered to only in Phuket Town and certain parts of Patong at certain times of day.

No longer! As of July 1, non-wearers of motorcycle helmets AND their non-wearing pillion passengers have been stopped in Phuket and hauled along to Police headquarters where they were not leveled the expected fine, but rather made to watch a gruesome video depicting what happens when the unprotected human cranium meets a road surface at accelerated speeds. And it's not pretty. Apparently, hardened Rambo and Tarantino fans quailed and paled before the graphic images and worst of all there was no candy-covered popcorn and Coke to buy during the movie shows! Considering that the sessions held 200 people at a time and that they have continued on, quite a few people should be prepared from now on to suffer the ignominy of mussing their hair by wearing a protective helmet.



The Phuket Police, in an uncharacteristic show of magnanimity, have given a month's notice before they start leveling 1,000-baht fines to non-wearers of helmets.

Always go protected.



## Why Does Coral Turn White?



Many guests visiting Panwa Hotel and Kantary Bay since May 2010 may have noticed that coral reefs exposed at low tides are completely white. Similarly, reefs in deeper water are also in the same state. Scientists would describe such an appearance as Coral Bleaching – in other words a paling, or in this case a whitening process of the corals which are normally predominately brown in colour.

The brown colouration is due to the presence of millions of minute single plant cells in the coral (which is an animal) tissues. Unfortunately, when seawater temperatures rise above normal – as they did in late April-May this year –



the plant cells are lost and the coral eventually appears white as the skeleton below the tissues becomes visible.

The relationship between the coral animal and the plant cells is vital for the survival of the coral. It is termed as 'symbiosis', whereby the plant cells gain protection from predators by living in the coral tissues, while the coral benefits from food which is produced by plant cells. What we see now on reefs in the waters around Thailand are many corals which no longer have their plant symbionts, or beneficial parasites. Thankfully, the corals which are white are still alive and are

A cute little Clown Fish



The Chiang Mai Police force, recently responding to a frenzied call describing a gathering of hundreds of armed red-shirt demonstrators on the banks of the Ping River on June 12, were relieved when the group turned out to be South Korean soccer fans cheering on their team.



Police motored swiftly to the alleged crime spot and their suspicions were confirmed that something indeed was amiss but on closer inspection they discovered that the red shirts were carrying the logo of South Korea, not the usual de rigueur anti-government attire, favoured by the many who had recently, over a period of time, made

## Chiang Mai's Alternative Red Shirts

Locals phoned the police headquarters that a group of around 300 people, many sporting red, had gathered in a restaurant by the Ping River. The group was chanting loudly and many were shaking red batons, they reported in nervous voices.

Siam Square and its environs such a tourist Hot Spot... er, not. It turned out that the group of over-enthusiastic Koreans had rented the restaurant to cheer their team along to eventual victory... at least for that evening.



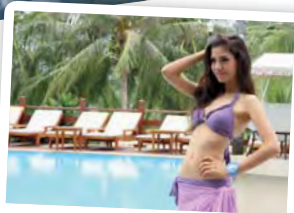
Southern Korean football team

Pragmatically speaking, it's maybe best to stay away from wearing all-red or yellow shirts when staying in Bangkok (except English or Brazilian football strips... but there again why should you wear those colours, given the World Cup results?) Shame on you.





In front of Panwa House Restaurant



At the Swimming Pool



At the Hotel's Swimming Pool



## Beauty (s) and the Beach

What caught the eye of the local press from July 20 onward for three days was not the amount of people busted for not wearing motorcycle helmets/ not wearing motorcycle helmets and texting friends while riding/ not wearing motorcycle helmets while riding and texting friends while drunk with the whole family on the back and a dog in the grocery basket: No! It was the 30 Miss Thailand contestants who arrived at Cape Panwa for a three-day stay, during which they enchanted the entire island via the media as they learned batik painting, 'discovered' Phuket Old Town, went on a cruise on Panwa Princess and – not least of all – got to meet the editor of this online magazine. They were a feisty bunch, some having flown in from Europe where they study. But beauty queens have a short working career so subsequently start young. So it was no surprise when K. Pavanee was taken aback when one ravishing contestant exclaimed, obviously thrilled, "You look just like my mum!!!"

Check out the gorgeous photos of this gaggle of beauties at our Facebook. We wish each and every one of you good luck in the competition, girls. It was a pleasure to have you.



At the Hotel's Private Beach



At the Jetty



Our Staffs cheer the MTW's contest





## Smile, darn you, smile!

Have you ever wondered how Thailand got its moniker 'The Land of Smiles'? Well, in Thai culture a strong emphasis is placed on the concept of 'sanook' or the basic idea that 'life should be fun'. You'll notice that even at work, Thai people will strive to make it as much fun as possible and this, of course, results in a lot of smiling and laughing. Displaying

positive emotions in everyday social interactions is important in Thai culture – and this is why Thailand rightfully earned its nickname. Of course, the converse applies and, when asked why a friend suddenly walked out of a well-paid job, the answer "It just wasn't fun" or "Mai sanook" is perfectly acceptable in certain levels of Thai society.



Land of Smiles

## Fruit of the month: **Lychees**



Not a native to southern Thailand, pink and juicy lychees are opened simply by peeling back the skin with your thumbnails. The taste, in itself a mélange of subtle sweetness counteracted with an even subtler tart hint, is reminiscent of a non-alcoholic rosé glass of wine and why no one has thought to make a vintage label out of this delicate-tasting delight is anyone's guess. After all, rosehip wine is available in the Netherlands, albeit in a rather sickly-sweet form. Canned lychee and lychee juice is available pretty much worldwide but nothing, absolutely nothing, can come close to the palate-meets-tongue Lychee Experience. Lychees have a centre seed so don't scrunch in: Peel first. Available from April to May.



## Weddings at Cape Panwa



Chris and Tiffs



Tracey and Alistair



Congratulations to  
our Newly Weds



Nicola & James and friends



Cheryl and Alan



< conti'd from  
able to feed on minute particles  
in sea water. However, they  
must recover their plant cells in  
the forthcoming months if they  
are to survive. Already, many  
less-sturdy corals (particularly

the delicate branching species) have died  
since seawater temperatures reached their maximum  
in early-mid May this year. Seawater temperatures are  
now dropping but we do not know at this stage what  
the final toll of this seawater warming will be for reefs  
in the region. Extensive bleaching events have been  
seen before in the Andaman Sea - in 1991, 1995 and  
1998. However, former bleaching events have never  
been as severe as that observed in this year of 2010.  
and on the east and west coasts of



Happy Birthday at Cape Panwa

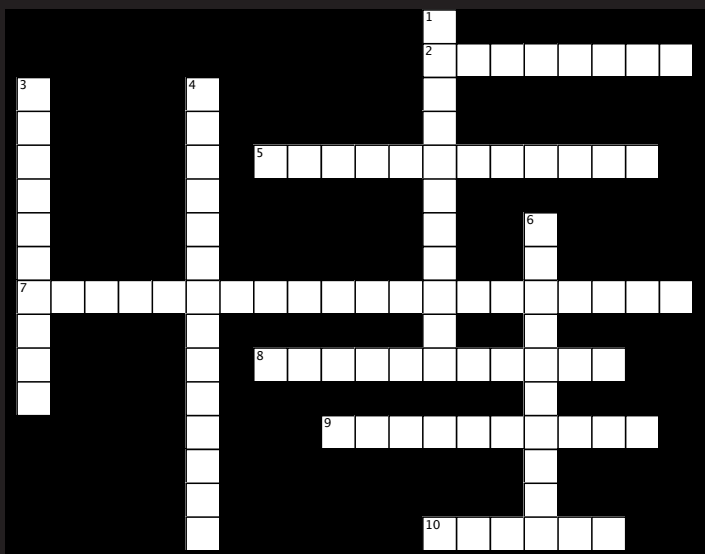
Cheryl Orlicki from Australia celebrated her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday with  
us at Panwa House with her family and friends after a day out  
at Banana beach with them as well – Cheryl declined a go on  
the banana boats we understand. Her son Gavin who married  
Monique here with us were also able to celebrate her special  
day with them. G'day, mate.

## Happy Birthday



## CROSSWORD & QUIZ

### Thailand - little bits of knowledge



#### Across

2. What festival marks the Thai New Year?
5. What festival marks the birth, Enlightenment and death of the Buddha?
7. What celebration marks the start of the rice-planting seasons?
8. What festival marks the end of the rains?
9. What festival in Northern Thailand takes place to ensure plentiful rain?
10. What day celebrates the Lord Buddha's appearance after a season in heaven?

#### Down

1. What festival commemorates the anniversary of Lord Buddha's first ceremony?
3. What festival takes place in Phuket where some celebrants pierce themselves?
4. What festival in Chiangmai celebrates natural beauty?
6. What Buddhist festival marks the mass ordination ceremony for boys?

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| 7 |   |   | 1 |   |   | 3 | 8 |

THE WINNER OF  
**C & Q**  
Last Issue

Crossword puzzle winner: **Robby Chesnutis**  
receives a prize from Khun Somjai, the General  
Manager of the Kantary Bay for his correct answers  
to our newsletter online puzzle.

**Win & Prizes:** Please post or email your answers to us and we will announce the winners in our next Otter's Tales. Prizes include T-Shirts, baseball caps and more and can be collected on your next visit or email Tim to have it posted out to you.





## A small world

How often do we meet people in even the most remote places in the world and find we have something particular in common - like a mutual friend perhaps, or maybe someone you live not far away from, or a person that you met once before on the other side of the world. When it happens far from home it can seem quite spooky!

Well, it happens at Cape Panwa too! Over the many years I've visited there have been a few instances:

A couple of years ago, at one of the restaurants "up the hill", I saw someone I recognised, but just couldn't place them. I just assumed he was the same as me - a Cape Panwa returnee and that I'd seen him around the pool or at the beach on a previous trip. But no, chatting over a Singha the next evening we reminded each other of our mutual interest and we remembered that was what had caused us to meet before - at a remote spot on Lake Windermere, England the previous year. In fact we had chatted then about Thailand, but neither of us had mentioned we both stay at Cape Panwa.

Then there was a couple who I met in the Lighthouse Bar. They live only 30 miles from me in the UK. We'd never met before but their house was in the village where I worked and they knew most of my work colleagues! We kept a sort of loose contact via email and text for a while. Imagine my surprise when, on a later trip, there they were again, in the Lighthouse Bar! Yet another strange coincidence and an excuse (if one were needed) to go out to dinner.

Last year we stayed at Kantary Bay for a change. The first night's dinner was disturbed by a couple crowding our space and blocking our view of the glorious sunset. How rude, we thought. But then we realised it was my wife's sister and partner surprising us! They knew we'd be there, so it wasn't one of those weird coincidences this time - just that Sue had heard us go on about Cape Panwa so much, they thought they'd better go and find out for themselves.

And then there's all the times we've been to Cape Panwa with friends and family and all the "regulars" that we occasionally bump into. Even when we stayed just 3 weeks after the 2004 tsunami and only 5 rooms were occupied, there was someone there we'd met before!

Our next visit was very recent - June 2010 - and we met up with the son of someone we know!!



**Khun Jim with our staff**

## MEET A MEMBER OF STAFF



### Asaree

Asaree is normally found in Top of the Reef where he is the Head Waiter or the Laem Chan park jogging around it BUT one day every 2 months he can be found at the hospital donating blood - thank you from a lot of people Asaree.



## Staff CORNER



**Staff reading Otter's Tales**

Staff members take a gander through Otter's Tales - to see if they're in it!

# Staff News

Behind every fun publication there are several very important - yet unsung - people. Two of these invaluable people are Khun Dao and Khun Korn - the past and incoming coordinators of Cape Panwa's newsletters. Dao has done a sterling job by steering our dispatches to you in such a manner that they've been informative, witty and (most importantly) up-to-date briefs on Phuket and indeed on the country. Now, replacing her, we'd like to introduce Korn - a smart, informed and multilingual Bangkok girl - who will be the liaison between Bangkok and Phuket when it comes to getting this newsletter to you.



**Dao and Korn**





## uestions



with Suwimon

Every month we have an informal chat with staff members, so as you can get to know them better. This month it's 'Aeh', an Imelda Marcos in the making if we ever spotted one. Suwimon works in the front office and helps you get a taxi.

### Q What do you like doing on your day off?

Shopping and sleeping – always shopping first on the list, though!

### Q Where do you like to go shopping?

No problem – I like to visit Robinsons because of their large selection of shoes and shirts there. They've also got a lot of brand-label clothes as well. I like to buy fruit from there – it is always fresh and I pick my mangosteens from them.

### Q Are there any fruits that you do not like?

Durian and Pineapple – too sickly! (said while screwing up her face)

### Q Where do you like to eat in Phuket Town and what's your favourite Thai dish?

Lemongrass is my choice of restaurant in Phuket Town and my favourite Thai dish is nam prik goong seab (spicy prawns).

### Q Are you married?

Very happily, thank you very much for asking – we have been married for 12 years and we have one little boy called 'View' – which means 'lovely'. But, like most little boys he isn't always so lovely...

### Q If you were asked to recommend to the guests one place to go in Phuket, where would you choose?

Wat Chalong – I like to visit and I always feel special when I go there But I don't like it when they light the firecrackers in there – too much noise for me.

### Q Where would you like to go in Phuket that you haven't visited yet?

Expo (a shopping Mall in Phuket Town) is a place that I would like to visit

### Q Why would you choose Expo?

SHOES!

### Q How many pairs of shoes do you own?

More than 20 pairs...

# cape + kantary


LIFESTYLE AND TRAVEL IN SOUTH EAST ASIA




We have just launched the first issue of our brand new brand magazine, cape+kantary. Focused on the best in lifestyle and travel throughout Southeast Asia, the magazine is filled with original and interesting articles, entertaining stories, fashion tips, photo essays and more. Keep an eye out for it next time you stay with us and feel free to take a copy or two home with you.


## Cape Panwa ON SOCIAL MEDIA


Get to know the very latest happenings at Cape Panwa, check these out:


 Blogger >> Happenings at

Cape Panwa

 facebook >> Share photos, ask questions, share experiences and find old friends..

 twitter >> Be the first one to know about our offers.

 photobucket >> Check out Photos taken by You & Tim around Cape Panwa.

 YouTube >> Watch Videos of Cape Panwa

## Up & COMING

- >> **What's on in Phuket** - Red turtles invade
- >> **Hotel Happenings** - Some new rooms
- >> **Thai Traditions** - the Royal family
- >> **Thai Fruits** - Dragonfruit (Tim's fav)
- >> **Thai Superstitions** - Singing and making dinner



You can contribute too! Please send us your holiday photos and we'll post them in **Otter's Tales**. Please post to [am@capepanwa.com](mailto:am@capepanwa.com)