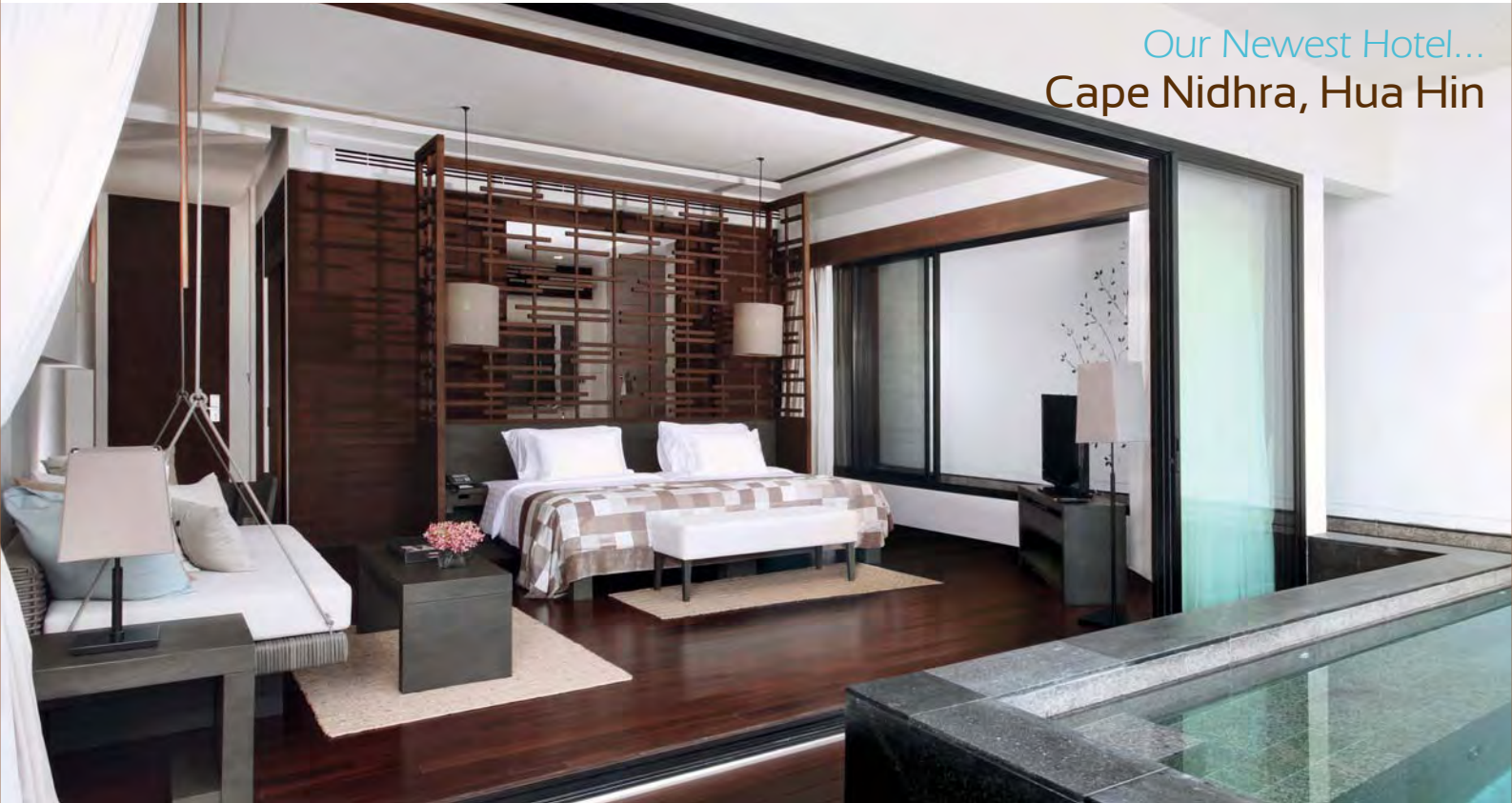




Our Newest Hotel...  
Cape Nidhra, Hua Hin



**Welcome** to this, the 9th edition of Cape Panwa Hotel's online newsletter. This month we take our usual cock-eyed gander through Thai and hotel news doused with a generous dollop of humour. Marriages and seminal events are covered, along with our regular articles such as 'Fruit of the Month' which has, by the way, absolutely nothing to do whatsoever with the sexual orientation of certain members of staff...

It's all happening here and we love you to be part of it; whether as guests or friends – this forum is yours to share your Cape Panwa experience.

**Sam Wilkinson** - Your editor

## Yachting Stuff

\*Entering its 14th year, the annual Phuket-Phang-Nga-Krabi Regatta (formerly the Phang Nga Bay Regatta) is a popular event, attracting many sailors from around the world. The 2011 event will take place from February 9-13 and is ably organized by the Ao Chalong Yacht Club. This year's event has drawn around 50 yachts. In contrast with the hard-contested King's Cup, this regatta is chosen for its easy-going and boozy attitude.

If you're interested, call \*089 875 0064 \*



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### Huge Thai Cover Up

\*Japanese media has announced through an online survey that Thai university uniforms, with their short-sleeved white blouses and their micro-short black skirts, are the 'the world's sexiest student uniform'.

In an incandescent riposte to these scurrilous suggestions, Deputy Education Minister Chaiyos Jiramethakorn is cited as saying that universities and business colleges should 'come down hard' on revealing outfits. He added that the ministry was lined up for a 'deep investigation' into the disgusting trend towards flesh-rather-than-brain exposure.

It's hard to put your finger on what is behind this current climax in sentiments: But the fact is that quite a few pragmatic-minded people have called for female students to discard their uniforms totally.

As it is, this projected cover up is set to deeply divide the twin public organs of government and religious hierarchy – both recognised as being as flawless and morally pure as indeed they desire their university students to be – simply by covering up. Isn't that a clever blanket tactic?

### Strange but true



### Doing porridge Thai-style



Wipha Chanachuen was caught shoplifting and told police that she was "bored with life and tired of working for a living". She added that, at the grand old age of 53, she had wanted to go to an old people's home but going to jail would suit her just as well.

Khun Wipha, who has since been charged with theft, was caught in possession of a 69-baht bottle of skin lotion, a 30-baht packet of coffee and a 17-baht packet of Coffee Mate.

Living alone in a 700-baht-per-month room and working as a cleaner, she earned a monthly salary of 4,500 baht and with no husband or immediate living family she declared to the police that she was "bored and tired of the people around her".

"At least now I can get some rest," she was reported to have muttered as she was escorted out of the shop. It's not clear how many years 'rest' she will get for the theft of 116 baht worth of goods



### Tuktuk



Regular visitors to these shores will not be unfamiliar with a four-wheeled, red-painted Phuket phenomenon called a tuk-tuk. The prices these guys charge are some of the highest in the world and seeing as there are so many of them they compete fiercely, park where and when they want, drive like there's no tomorrow (and there sometimes isn't for other road users because of them) and are generally agreed to be a right pain in the ass.

Phuketians have been lobbying the governor to do something about them and he has, but not in the way we all expected. A list of fares has been drawn up actually sanctioning the high prices and in certain cases raising them! Now the minimum fare in Patong is 200 baht. By way of contrast, you can cruise around Pattaya on a 'baht bus' for the princely sum of 20 baht!

Why anyone in their right mind would pay more to ride in a seat-beltless, noisy, flimsy tuk-tuk and not choose an air-conditioned, insured taxi is anyone's guess.



## Christmas and New Year

What can we add to what's already been said about our celebrations of Christmas and New Year?

Christmas was a lot of fun and we hope that all our guests had a great time – we certainly did. Khun Oo and Khun Om joined Tim onstage to play silly games with the children and they got soaked through due to the aquatic frolics!

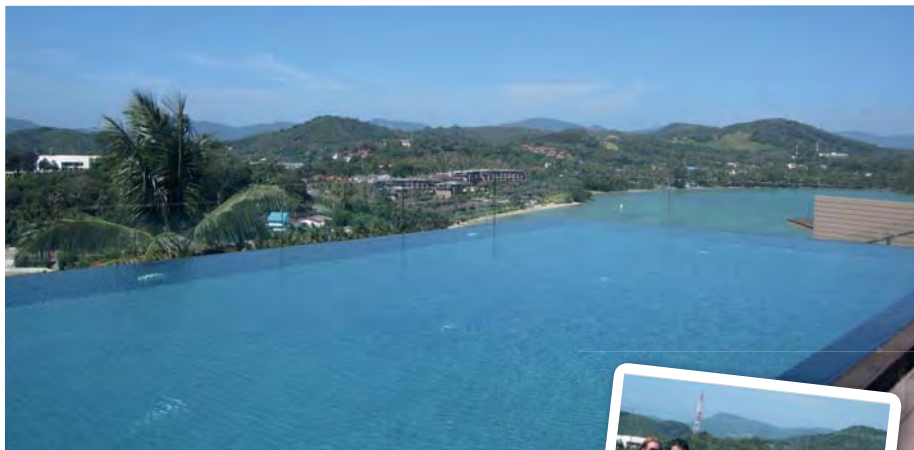
Father Christmas arrived – NOT on a speedboat, NOT on an elephant but under an umbrella along with a group of singing ladies – who could ask for more?

New Year's Eve was a different affair altogether with popcorn, candy floss and lashings of beer, and then the entertainment began.

The staff show was interesting; largely because that it was hard to identify staff members, underneath all their make-up.

This was then followed by an acrobatic troupe from Bangkok – who were, ... well you'd have to have been there to have believed what they did with mid-air stunts and defiance of gravity, just SUPERB!

Then fireworks exploded in the starry sky and guests danced the night away.



## What a Christmas present!

For Christmas, Cape Panwa Hotel received a new wing of Junior Suites with a swimming pool on the roof!



Each room in the new wing has a separate shower and bath, a flat-screen television and the most glorious reinforced glass wall. The views are tremendous so make sure you choose to stay in this new wing.

To make access to the new wing easier Cape Panwa Hotel has acquired a golf buggy to take you to the lobby and back – have fun, but remember; please no teeing off on the grounds!

## PANWA PRINCESS Lucky winners

### Some Lucky winners

#### John and Freda Lawley

were the winners of the Lucky Draw competition at the New Year Party of 2009 and they came back to us in 2010 to enjoy this day out with their family and friends.



The lucky winners at the New year Party of 2010 were Scott and Sam – but Scott and Sam were unable to go and gave their prize to guests who shared their dinner table at the New Yea Party - Peter and Kate.

Peter and Kate had a special trip to celebrate Kate's birthday and found an island that they had all to themselves – Khai Nui island.



### The Importance of Moles

Many Thais believe that their good (or bad) fortune, innate wisdom, mannerisms, habits, luck, profession, marriage, family, love life, are all under the influence of their birth date, and are evidenced by their palm lines, fingerprints, facial features, moles, and birthmarks. For this reason, fortunetellers use some of these physical characteristics to predict the futures of those that seek their counsel. Various characteristics are classified into different anatomical categories but moles play an important role:

For example a man with a mole or birthmark between his eyebrows is a careful man, who also has a strong sense of honesty and justice. A woman with a mole or birthmark on her eyebrow likes social interaction and likes to dress well. On the other hand a man with a mole on the bridge of his nose is a very peaceful person, who enjoys his studies and likes to have fun. He's very fond of literature and poetry. He's the sort of guy who likes to write in to newspapers or magazines. Whereas a woman with the same facial feature enjoys social contacts and loves to have fun. But watch out: she is very ambitious and strives for a position of power which leads to hi-so contacts.

Fruit of the month: **Jackfruit**

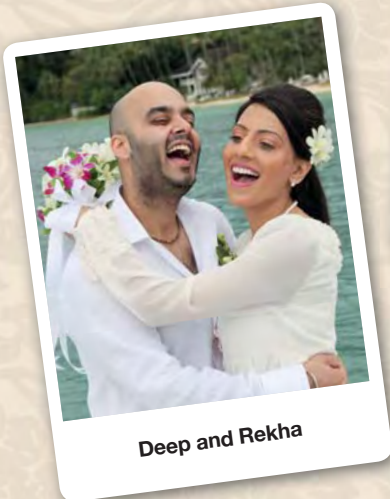


### Jackfruit (khanun)

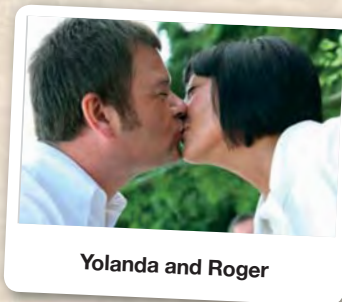
Somewhat like a durian but even bigger, it takes an expert to open it with a sharp knife so it's best to leave it to others. People don't usually buy a whole fruit and the vendor will open it and take the yellowish and rubbery flesh out and bag it for sale. Its large seeds are edible only after being boiled, and are nutritious too. Season: Almost all year round.



## Weddings at Cape Panwa



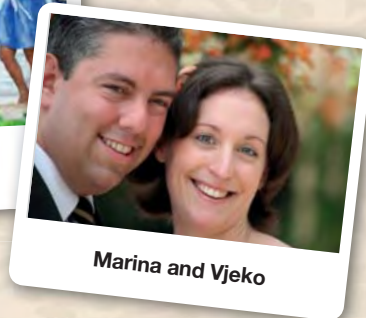
**Deep and Rekha**



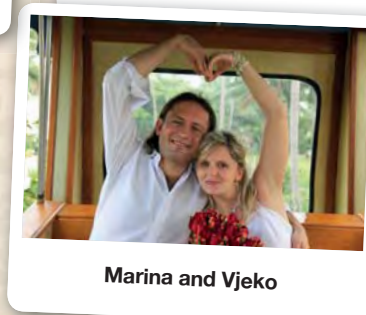
**Yolanda and Roger**



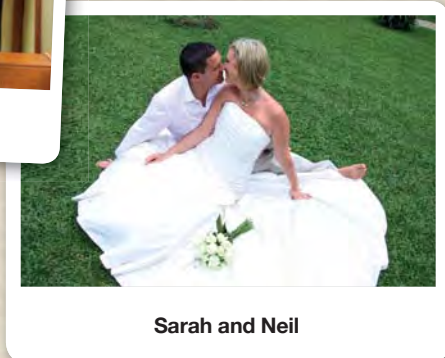
**Shelly and Huw**



**Marina and Vjeko**



**Marina and Vjeko**



**Sarah and Neil**

Congratulations to our Newly Weds

### Weddings at Cape Panwa

We have certainly been busy since the last issue of Otters Tales - Krittaya is designing different sets, Ratchanee is sourcing more flowers, and Chef Phudon is making different cakes.

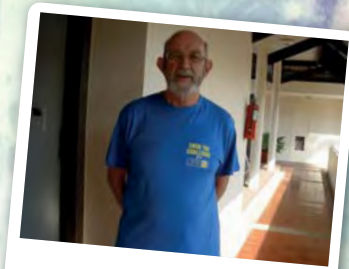
Congratulations then, to:

Marina and Vjeko / Ying and Mazen / Kathy and Richard / Deep and Rekha / Sarah and Neil / Yolanda and Roger / Shelly and Huw

**Julia Barham**



Guests **Julia Barham** and her husband Alan Barham recently stayed at Cape Panwa. Julia had just flown in from Spain where she represented England against Spain and Portugal at the Ladies Golf Cup which was sponsored by HELLO! magazine. It is with great delight that we announce that Julia won the competition and it will be featured in the January edition. Her husband, Alan, now has a big challenge. He will be playing for Wales next May in South Africa in the World Amateur Championships and is also hoping for a win.



**Wilson Baird**

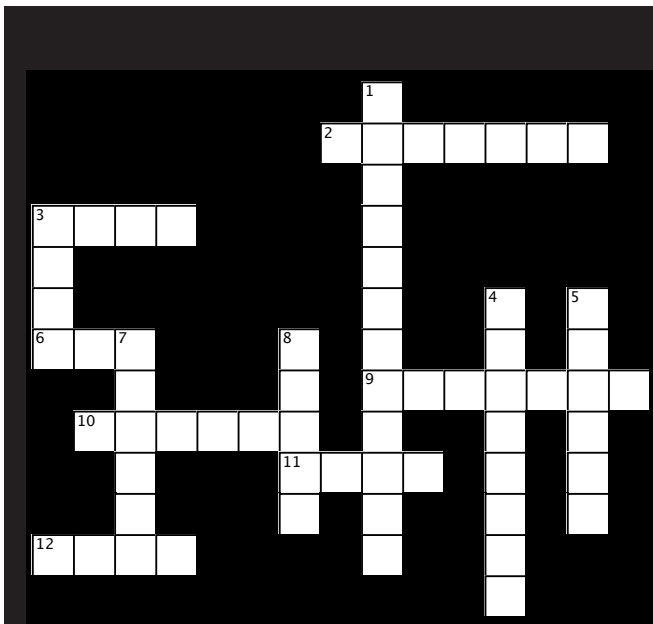
**Swimming for a cure**

**Wilson and Jennifer Baird** have visited us seven times and when Wilson is at home in Scotland he's a Swimathon enthusiast. In 2010 he swam 250km for the Marie Curie Cancer Trust – he comes to Cape Panwa to train...



**CROSSWORD & QUIZ**

**Chinese New Year**



**Across**

2. How many days does the Chinese New Year last?
3. Not a Christmas tree for Chinese New Year – what sort of tree?
6. The colour of envelopes to put money in?
9. The name of the human travel around Chinese New Year?
10. The symbolic zodiac animal for 2011 is?
11. Odd or even numbers for the amount of money in a red packet?
12. What is always linked to Yin?

**Down**

1. What noisy element ends the party?
3. A fruit never given as a gift
4. The most abundant form of orange for the Chinese New Year
5. A Chinese New Year dumpling
7. The most prominent mythological Chinese creature
8. One element of Chinese Astrology

**Inside a wat complex**

- Phutthawat** – Main part of the temple
- Bodhi Tree** – Tree under which the Lord Buddah sat to gain enlightenment
- Chedi** – Structure containing a relic of the Lord Buddah
- Ho rakangs** – Bell tower to summon monks to prayer
- Chao fa** – Decorative edges of temple roofs
- Wihan** – Assembly hall
- Mondop** – Square-based structure with a spire
- Bai semas** – Sacred boundary stones around the property
- Bot** – Ordination hall for the monks
- Ho trai** – Where the holy scriptures are stored

G S E P Q V S O E W Y M F D T I N E T X D Z Z O M  
 T T H A L W J I T Q D A V I D J A N J I R A O J P  
 H L Q E E H H C Q D U T Q G Q W K T E C T L E U U  
 K F G O L S F T Z W T H I F A B V I J A R R O D F  
 T P V H S L J S W W J F B L B E D V S W X H L I J  
 I T K Y F Z Y L X H W M O Y G N P Y J E U L L T L  
 E K I P I V Z H I J B W Q D S A M J O N C P Y H F  
 G E G D G H Z Z U P M A R I N O V J E K O S R M B  
 G X V W M H V R F U W S R Y I N G M A Z E N C L A Z  
 H F V X D J S Y H O D A Y E S Q H L V F G K W R Y  
 X S C M O G M X X B R A I A F D V J R M Q P L K Y  
 J G G Z A G M R E K A H D E E P B R Y A U K I Z N  
 A X K V L Q Y E Z U E V G B C K T E N U M B F F A  
 C E Q B Z V R C J A U Q K Z S Y Q J O J O A L E X  
 L N R G T W D C N P M C Y E T O M N A O M I U R I  
 R J W H B U W X N P Q O P K U D V V E N O Y L T D  
 C Y Q A J K B J G X B X W B S R Y S I F A X F Z R

**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.



Jenson, Duncan and Jessica at Café Andaman

**Jenson,  
Duncan and  
Jessica**



Jenson, Duncan and Jessica all have Cape Panwa Privilege cards and have visited us a number of times. As the children tuck into ice-creams that they won by participating in some silly games at New Year, Tim tried to have a discussion with them and was swiftly reminded exactly why he doesn't teach anymore...

NOTE: Tim apologises in advance for any confusion in the children's names and takes responsibility for any errors and will buy them all another ice cream when they come back again

**Good afternoon kids – what would you all like to be when you grow up?**

**Jenson:** Work for my dad.

**Duncan:** A Fashion designer, I have my own logol

**Jessica:** A barrister, I don't want to be a lawyer as they only try small cases – I want to be a millionaire!

**So how did you get to meet each other?**

**Jenson:** Because when we get here we know everybody already.

**Jessica:** Dunno...

**Duncan:** Because it's a good place where everybody gets on with each other

**What do you think of Patong?**

**Duncan and Jenson:** Cool clothes

**Jessica:** Those ugly ladies are uuggghh...

Tim – quickly moving on...

**And where do you like to eat at Cape Panwa Hotel?**

**Duncan and Jenson:** Steak Night!!!!!!

**Jessica:** Naahhh – chicken satay and plain rice is what I like

**Which hotel for you – Cape Panwa or Kantary Bay?**

**Jenson:** I like Kantary Bay because it costs less

and that means that there is more money for me to spend.

**Duncan:** I like it up here (Cape Panwa) with the pool and the Jacuzzi on my balcony

**Jessica:** Dunno...

**How was New Year?**

**Jessica:** I want two ice-creams because both my mum and dad took part in your silly games...

**Duncan:** The cheering for the winner of the games was fun and then the Happy Birthday was fun.

**Jenson:** The Pom Pom girls were great (I think there were a few boys in there as well but then again this is Thailand). Oh and throwing the balls at the ladies was great fun

**Duncan:** And the candy floss

**Jessica:** And the poppadoms and the popcorn

**Duncan:** Throwing the darts at the balloons

**ALL:** Then the fireworks were really LOUD!

**How about in Phuket?**

**Jenson:** Go Karting – absolutely the best

**Duncan:** Yeah but who kept winning?

**Jessica:** Naaahhhh... I like the Off Road

**Duncan:** That was cool

**Jessica:** And funny

**So what should visitors do when they come to Phuket?**

**Duncan:** Come here, elephant trekking – whatever...

**Jenson:** Off Road...

**Jessica:** Yeah!

**So where should they stay?**

**All:** HERE!

**I owe you all another ice cream.**

**All:** A magnum next time.



GM Marc with our Staff

**Lost money**

A recent guest at Cape Panwa absentmindedly checked out having left a considerable sum of money in his room. Not to worry though; Khun Aeungporn Reungsri from our housekeeping staff found the money and promptly handed it in to management who tracked the owner down and returned it. Needless to say they were very happy to get it back! Pictured is our new GM, Marc Landgraf presenting a reward to Khun Aeungporn Reungsri for her honesty.



Little Angel Nadia

**Where are they now?**

Preeda was a bubbly and effervescent young lady who occupied Tim's chair before him.

She is now happily married to a gentleman who she met on a cruise ship – Mario – and they have a young child called Nadia.

Preeda and Nadia visited us in Phuket and went out for a seafood dinner in Chalong. Aroy!

**Up &  
COMING**

- » Songkran
- » Phuket Punchline Comedy
- » 18th Annual Laguna Phuket Turtle Release Fair 2011
- » Should you rent a car?



# u e s t i o n s



## Chaowarit

After welcoming Khun Chaovarit to Cape Panwa a year ago we are pleased to tell you that he is still with us and is still a highly entertaining colleague to have in the Front Office.

- Q Last time we spoke you talked about going fishing?  
Pardon – what?
- A At this point Chaovarit looks a little bemused and then grins and explodes into laughter.  
Ohhh – fishing.... No! Much too busy for fishing!
- Q Referring to your last interview; which temple do you like to visit and when did you last visit?
- A Ohh – a long time ago – my birthday on the 15th of November and I took food for the monks.
- Q So this temple visiting is not the usual way you spend your time?
- A No – just the once a year
- Q Where exactly do you go?
- A Ahh – the cinema – I can forget everything when I go there and then I can get something to eat – or meet a friend and take them as well...
- Q And is there anyone special in your life at the moment?
- A The guests are special for me – every single one of them.
- Q And any young ladies?
- A Always
- Q Where should a young man take a young lady out in Phuket to make a good impression?
- A Oh well – me, I take them to Yaowarat Road and Phang Nga Road in Phuket Town– there are lots of cafés and bars where young ladies like to gather.
- Q So this is the area that I should visit?
- A I am not sure that your wife would say okay.  
(Tim is clearly flustered) “No, no I meant that for the reader, NOT me!”  
It’s a great place to meet young ladies – all the time, I’m out there tonight.
- Q So what does your future hold?
- A I will continue to have fun and enjoy myself fishing and going to the temple.



Chaovarit continues to bring a smile to a lot of guests’ faces with his wit. The rumour mill has it that he is learning Russian to help some of the Russian ladies fully enjoy their stay with us.

# cape+ kantary

LIFESTYLE AND TRAVEL IN SOUTH EAST ASIA



Make sure you pick up the second 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



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**