

Looks like we have to make the effort to get into Phuket City for some decent music - again.

Next door at the Coyote Bar they have taken up the music theme with the band X Rock playing at the front. The three-piece band headed by X (strangely enough) with 'Wood' and 'Nume' pump out some classic rock tunes to the now diminishing crowds in Soi Sea Dragon. They also play earlier in the night at Anton's in Sawatdeeruk Rd. Anton's is in the process of changing the atmosphere there. The huge restaurant/ bar/ guesthouse always looked empty even when there were more people in it than anywhere else. Anton plans to cover in the outdoor eating area so when the rain starts to drizzle in coming months, the place can still carry on.

The area next to the Tiger Entertainment Centre in Bangla Road is undergoing renovation even as I write this. The prime real estate where the boxing ring stands is being turned into

shop houses and accommodation. Many months ago, the area at the back had a bunch of flight simulators and other amusement machines under wraps, waiting for approval to start. It was something different for Patong and would have been a welcome addition to the entertainment scene. But after 11 million baht in waiting around time the operator decided that it would take too long to get his money back and decided to pack up and move to a climate more conducive to business and opted for Singapore instead. Recently in Patong, he said all his losses from here were covered within the first four months of operation there and now he is looking at the Chinese market. When asked whether he

would look at coming back to Phuket he smiled and said "only on holiday".

The staff at the new Pickles on the beach suggested I drop in and try their Potjiekos the other day. What is Potjiekos I hear you say! Potjiekos, (poy-kee-kawse) directly translated is "pot food" or food prepared in a pot. Potjiekos is a method of cooking originally developed by early European settlers in the Cape of Africa. It was used for stewing tough cuts of game, beef and mutton, and became very popular, as it was



Dragon Disco has an extensive pool room and putting up a 5,000 baht first prize for the ladies knockout competition every Thursday helps to get plenty of contenders.

particularly convenient for people on the move. Pioneers, hunters and roaming stock farmers riders carried the Potjie, a traditional three-legged cast-iron pot that could stand or hang anywhere. This combined with a small campfire and a few simple ingredients: Pieces of meat, a few potatoes, and onions, were all that was required to cook a delicious and hearty meal.

The preparing of a potjie meal is very much an individual thing with every cook experimenting to come up with the "perfect" potjie. Pickles believe they have the perfect recipe and on the night I tried it couldn't disagree. The pot had been simmering over open coals for about six hours and was done in eight layers to ensure each ingredient was just right at the eating stage.

With a wine and pepper marinade it certainly was a hearty meal. With side dishes included it sells for around 200 baht and the Pickles crew say they will do one twice a week if it proves popular.

In Ale of Charity. Not that anyone needs an excuse to go and have the occasional ale here, but someone has come up with the idea of a pub-crawl in aid of needy children.

The idea is to have teams of up between 4 and 10 people to do a staggered start at the up to 40 bars participating and have two drinks at each until the team cannot continue any more. Points are awarded depending on numbers and places visited. The winning team gets hold of a trophy they can display in their bar and the following month all teams start from where they left off. There is an entry fee of 500 baht per bar and 100 baht for each team member with all proceeds going to a worthy charity. For more information you can contact Bill at Two Black Sheep on 076 344 799 or 09 594 4081, or Brian of Danny Bar on 01 088 0353. If you think you know of a worthy charity, give them a call also as we believe they want to dedicate each month to a different one.

Pedro of Pedro's Fish and Chips in Patong as most of you will know had an accident on the last day of Songkran and ended up fighting for his life in Phuket International Hospital. He is not out of the woods yet and is still in critical condition.

His brother Jimmy has flown out from Scotland to take over the reins of the shop while Pedro is laid up. Jimmy told me he was overwhelmed with the support shown by Pedro's friends around town. Unfortunately Pedro's insurance had expired and a day in hospital can set you back a tidy amount.

His friends have been taking up a collection to help him out, even to the point of his wife buying a water buffalo and setting it free. While you may think this is a little bizarre, the day she set it free was the day Pedro's condition started to improve. A multitude of turtles, eels and other wildlife have also been purchased and released, so you can't knock it if it is working.

Jimmy would like to thank everyone who has given their time and support for his brother, especially Darren and Keith from Heroes, the guys at Lek Murphy's, Canadian Dave, and Peter Davison from the Phuket International Hospital for keeping everyone informed of Pedro's condition. If you want to help out, go and try some of Pedro's delicious fish and chips.

Lost or Stolen Phones

Lost your phone but still need your number?

(A) Make a police report about the stolen or lost phone.

(B) We faxed Bangkok with the details of the numbers and put a temporary hold on the SIM cards.

Take the police report to the office of whoever your carrier is (in our case AIS (Phuket City office only - 23-27 Chana Charoen Rd), but DTAC can do it to and we assume Orange also).

(C) Tell them what happened and they will replace the SIM card with a new one.

It will, however, set you back 300 Baht, but if you have a bunch of business cards made up or advertising using the number, it is a small price to pay.