

Around The Traps

By TT Hunt



There was a big turnout for Boonsong's (*fourth from right*) birthday party at Friends Bar in Patong recently. Mauve seemed to be the colour of the day.

It is shaping up to be a good high season if the number of people observed around Kata and Karon is any example. These two beaches generally look like a ghost town during low season but at the moment you have to do your best not to run down anyone as people are wandering aimlessly in the tropical heat.

As far as Patong goes a noticeable increase in numbers has been seen. Flights are becoming harder to get on and off the island and rooms are filling up. A lot of new businesses have sprung up over the last couple of months and even the perennial construction site that is Jungceylon looks like it is nearing completion.

The **Home Bar** has reopened after being closed for a few months. The closure was not for any refurbishment but because Peter there thought that there wouldn't be enough people around to keep the place open.

He found out that it wasn't the case and won't be planning to make the same decision come next low season. He has changed the pricing regime there after the perception was gained by some sectors that it was overpriced. It has to be one of the most stunning looking establishments on the island and beers are only 99 baht with cocktails

coming in at 150 baht. If you have guests you want to impress then take a wander into the Home Bar in Soi Viking, you won't be disappointed.

When the recent change of government occurred, the Burmese immigration post at Ranong decided to close for a few days to wait the outcome.

One local was getting concerned about this as he was due for a visa run. Before he set off on the 300 km run to Ranong he decided to call the Thai immigration centre there and find out if the border was open.

'Yes, we are open', he was told and he duly set off for his visa renewal. When he arrived in Ranong, the Thai Immigration asked him, when he fronted for a stamp out of the country, why he was doing it as the border was still closed.

Surprised, he stated that he had rung them to check prior to making the journey. They then repeated what they had told him on the phone, yes *they* were open. He apparently hadn't gone the next step and asked if the Burmese side was open.

He was last seen at the Malaysian border, some ten hours away very late that night still trying to get a stamp out of the country.

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Another Legend leaving our shores? 'Dunny' (*centre*), whose antics have supplied many stories for this magazine, is heading back to Australia. Here he is with friends at his birthday party at the DD Swiss Resort.