

Speaking of heading to Ranong if you happen to be up for a visa run, the Burmese side now asking for US\$10 instead of US\$5.00 for a stamp. The fees have risen if you like to go via the Andaman Resort to 850 Baht from 500 Baht previously.

Riding a motorbike around Phuket is a precarious occupation at best. One lad had the misfortune recently to be involved in not one but two accidents on the same day. The first was the worst as he went over the handlebars and ended up using his face as a road sweeper.

After the second visit to the hospital he looked like a mummy out of some ancient Egypt movie.

The next day he was riding along only to be clipped by one of these monster pickups that everyone seems to insist on buying, but are far too large for the roads of Phuket. If being clipped on the right side wasn't bad enough, the way it happened forced his left arm off the handlebar, back around behind him, and though the passenger side window slightly injuring the young lady passenger. Her farang boyfriend/husband was irate and jumped out of the vehicle to confront the person who he thought had just lashed out at his missus.

On seeing the irate Westerner, our mummified born-again victim, now bleeding from new parts he had missed in the initial bandaging, just thought 'Ok, that's it, c'mon bring it on'.

When the Westerner focused his eyes and saw a bandaged, bleeding farang with his fists up, he thought better of it, got back quickly into the vehicle and took off.

Wetazabone - Some of the regulars down Rawai way are

discovering that Phuket is surrounded by some of the best fishing grounds in the world and are taking every opportunity to get out there and hook a large one.

One of the locals decided to go out with a group of them one day to see how he would do.

A couple of the regular fishermen noticed after a short period that their new companion had looped the fishing line around his hand. They advised him that it was not a good idea as he would lose his hand if something big came along and grabbed the line.

His reply was that he was Australian and knew how to fish. What being an Aussie has to do with knowing how to fish is beyond us, but that was the inference.

It was less than a minute after the warning when something very big came along and took his line and him for a bit of a swim.

Witnesses described the flying Aussie as a sight to see as he didn't even touch the sides of the boat as he was unceremoniously dumped into the sea still wearing his now Wetazabone jacket.

After another one of those bike accidents a young lad was in the hospital talking with the doctor.

The doctor was aware that this patient with the banged up leg had been in the country for awhile and had learnt a little bit of Thai. The doctor asked "Do you want 'mai kum?'"

The lad was shocked and recoiled and said that he certainly did not.

On realising that the patient's level of Thai didn't quite cover medical sayings, the doctor repeated the statement in English, "Do you want some crutches?".

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