



Get Thee To A Goongery

A slight departure this month from our usual restaurant or accommodation guide. At this place you actually have a chance to catch your own food before you eat.

The word for prawn or shrimp in the Thai language is "Goong". The oo sound is said as in "look". That's just in case you were trying to figure out what a "Goongery" is. That's the beauty about Thaienglish; you can make up words as you go along.

We went along to see what all the fuss was about when some people told us there was always a crowd of people congregating in and around this business on Chaofa Rd south of Phuket Town and about 5 kilometres north of Chalong Circle. As it works out, they are all there to fish for prawns. With a large covered pool in the centre of the premises, the park, pool, pond, or whatever you like to call it, is an ideal way to spend an afternoon.

When I was a youngster, my parents would take my sister and I down to a place called

Mandurah, south of Perth in Western Australia, where we would sit under a bridge crossing the local estuary, and wait for the prawns to come floating past. With a small hand-held net we would scoop them up and pop them into a bucket to cook later. When we got a bit older we would trawl along the banks of the estuary with a larger net that needed two people to drag along. We used to always get a feed, but as the years moved on there were less and less as more and more people took up the practise. It was also restricted to the two months a year that the prawns made their run down the river.

No so with this place, they run year round, even if they don't have far to go. The beauty too, is that you don't have to get wet. There is music playing in the background and whatever you catch can be put on the BBQ if you don't want to take them home. If you don't catch as many as you may want to, we noticed among the regulars that there was a bit of an art to reeling them in on a

regular basis, you can always purchase a few extra to make up a decent feed. The fully equipped kitchen can also knock up anything else you may desire. Because of the park's popularity the whole prawn stock gets turned over every couple of days. Every half and hour a new batch is added to the pool so if some of the earlier ones become a little tardy, the hungry new ones will keep anglers happy. Drinks are at reasonable prices and if you get a little bored with fishing, there is a huge TV set up for you.

To fish it will cost you 100 baht per hour and that includes the rod, bait and somewhere to sit. 'Thip' runs the show there and informs me that if you bring in the coupon on page 9, one hundred baht will be taken off your bill.

They're fairly easy to find on Chaofa (East) Rd near Phuket Villa 3, but if you have trouble just call them on 01 597 5568 or 01 536 7239 and they will help you out. Happy Fishing!!

