

# Phuket Has Been Good To Us

September 2012

## Newsletter

It has been a busy time at the Foundation and we just keep getting busier. Since achieving a 'Dream Status', at the Kamala school, the children have been busy preparing for an inspection by a representative from the King's Foundation. Much work has gone into improving the grounds of the school and everyone is looking forward to the visit.

English classes continue to see language progress being made every day. The teachers are always looking for new ways for the children to learn, including dressing up and games! More and more reading groups are happening, thanks to willing helpers. Visit our Facebook page to see regular updates of what is happening in the classroom.

Coconut Club has been very busy, with many children attending after school. Children have been entering The Phuket News's colouring in competition, and regularly winning! Prizes have included parasailing and day trips to fun centers.

Fundraising for the organization is also ramping up. People across the world, and in Phuket, are holding fundraising events for us to boost our income. Pub quizzes and bingo nights are just some of the ways people are helping us and it is very exciting! July saw the start of monthly pub quizzes at the Kamala Aussie Pub, which are a fun way to boost our fundraising efforts. It is wonderful to see locals supporting our charity. Later on, read about how you can help out too.



### Farewell from the Director of Education

In the 3 ½ years that I have been the Director of Education for Phuket Has Been Good To Us, the number of students the Foundation teaches has increased from 600 to more than 850. In Kamala this now includes students of all year groups; 7 - 18 years of age.



Receiving gifts on Teachers Day

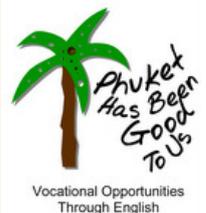
I am proud that during my time, both Kamala and Kalim schools have had their English programmes commended when they have undergone inspections. This year Rachaprachanukroh 36 School, Kamala gained national recognition with 'Dream School' status. The teaching of English was highly commended as the second best academic subject in the school.

I will miss classroom experiences, such as a student who, after a long struggle, grasps the point of English grammar. The look on their face makes the literal sweat, toil and tears so worthwhile. I will also miss the teachers for their dedication and loyalty; they are true professionals.

Phuket Has Been Good To Us is an independent, not-for-profit, Thai registered charity that exists solely to provide educational opportunities for children.

We work to improve the economic opportunities and life chances of young people, by funding and implementing high quality, practical English language education in government schools.

We strive to help Thai youth become capable and confident English speakers in order to expand their opportunities for future employment.



# Bliss Beach Ball raises more than 860,000 Baht!

What a fabulous night it was! In the beautiful setting of [Bliss Beach Club](#) on Bang Tao Beach we hosted our annual ball. With the help of the Foundation's great sponsors and supporters we were able to put together a fantastic evening. There was something to please all the senses; enjoying delicious food, sipping cocktails, watching the amazing show of Mid-Air Circus Acts, dancing the night away, and listening to great music from DJ Jay Leshark. Over 200 guests came to support the Foundation.

A huge thank you to everyone who came together to make it such a great party.



## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

**Pepe** for the fabulous setting of **Bliss Beach Club** **BB&B** and the **Andaman Wine Club** for the freely flowing drinks.

**Asahi** for the Beer.

Amazing mermaids thanks to **A&A Model Management**.

Sensational décor by **Sarah Pettigrew** and her team **Sue McGoldrick, Rosie Smith, Kylie Chan** and **Anne O'Connell**.

Delicious food prepared by chef **Alex Oddy**, his staff and suppliers **Choice Foods, Farang Food, Jagota, Pluto Gelato** and **Pure Organic**.

Seamless table service from **Bliss Beach Club's** staff helped by **BIS students** and staff from **The Villas Phuket**.

Absolutely incredible entertainment from **Mid-Air Circus Acts**.

Great dance music from **DJ Jay Leshark**.

Table and chairs courtesy of **Oriental Events and Leisure**.

Table cloths thanks to **Thanyapura**.

Photography from **Jessi Cotterill**.

Marketing materials thanks to **Cre8 Media**.

Superior marketing courtesy of **The Phuket News and Live 89.5**.

**Many more supporters of the event on page 8!**

# Coconut Club

Coconut Club supports the Foundation's language programme by offering additional opportunities for the children to practice their conversational English. In Kamala, Coconut Club is open to all the residential students and in Kalim, Coconut Club is offered to all Prathom (Primary) year 5 and 6 students.

*The Coconut Club can only be effective because of the assistance of our helpers and generous donations of materials that we receive. If you have a free afternoon and are interested in spending some time with some needy local children, please contact:*

**Angela McNoe**, Foundation Fellow, Land: +66 (0) 76 278 146, Mobile: +66 (0) 841 998284, [angela@phukethasbeengoodtous.org](mailto:angela@phukethasbeengoodtous.org)

## Kamala Coconut Club Weekdays 3.30 — 4.30

### Monday

Teacher in charge: Shah  
Activities include: Cooking with Kylie, Art, Sports

### Tuesday

Teacher in charge: Gina  
Activities include: Make Up lessons with Mai, Art, Reading

### Wednesday

Teacher in charge: Mac  
Activities include: Uno with Kylie, Bingo with Phyllis, Art

### Thursday

Teacher in charge: Angela  
Activities include: Make Up lessons with Mai, Outdoor Sports, Art

### Saturday 8am - 10 am (during PIA term)

Swimming at PIA

### Saturday 1:30 – 3pm

Swimming at a local hotels  
\* Kamala Dreams  
\* The Palms  
\* Royal Embassy Resort and Spa

### Bi-monthly Saturdays

**1.30p - 3.30pm**  
Birthday parties at Bliss Beach Club



## Kalim Coconut Club Tuesday 3.30 — 4.30

Teacher in charge: Agie

**Week 1** – Indoor games

**Week 2** – Arts and Crafts

**Week 3** – Cooking

**Week 4** – Sports and Games

then back to week 1...



# New Coconut Club Coordinator



I've talked for years about volunteering / working with underprivileged children, but I decided that if I was going to volunteer for any length of time, the venue would have to suit my lifestyle.

I wanted beaches and great, cheap, vegetarian friendly food. I saw an ad for Phuket Has Been Good To Us on the internet and the position of Foundation Fellow ticked all my boxes: part teaching, part administration, part events and a worthy cause.

Since arriving, I have been on a pretty hefty

learning curve. Thai culture. Thai language. School culture. Classroom etiquette. Motorbike riding. I have been amazed by the generosity of volunteers and some local businesses who give their time to the children we work with.

In the classroom, I teach the older children. Happily, I can report, kids are kids. Every class has a bunch of great students, some sleepers and one naughty boy loitering in the hallway. And as for the noise - Kamala kids are LOUD! We have had some fun with language barriers and there is an interesting lack of capital letters and full stops.

Whenever I have visited Thailand before, I have stayed in resorts and tourists spots, where the level of spoken English is good. I was surprised to discover that this isn't the case out in the community.

The students work hard and smile often. I hope that they realise how many doors are open to them if they can communicate in English and I hope I can teach them well enough to show them a glimpse of a better future.

## Can you help?!

We are looking for prizes for upcoming events and would love to some donations! We are in particular looking for flights, so if you know anyone who might be able to donate us flights to somewhere, please let us know! All other donations welcome.



We are always looking for willing and able helpers to come to Coconut Club. If you can spare an hour a week, please come down and see us. The children love meeting new people, and it is great practice for them to listen to the accents of different nationalities.

Email [angela@phukethasbeengoodtous.org](mailto:angela@phukethasbeengoodtous.org) and come down and have some fun!



# Visitors to school



## Dynamic Duo

Over the summer we had two amazing helpers from Australia visit us. Andrew and Phil came separately and met while attending the Bliss Beach Ball. From then on they were an inseparable conquering team whose hard work transformed Coconut Club. There was not an aspect of the room that wasn't improved by their hard work. They even found a way of creating a classroom in the space for Steph!

Andrew brought along his family, as well as donations from Uniting Care Wesley County SA. With these donations the Foundation was able to purchase books, pens and pencils. Phil brought his handyman skills and "can do" attitude. Combined they have been an example of what willing people can do to help out. Thank you so much guys, helpers like you sustain the foundation.

## A Family Affair

Katie and Liz asked their friends at Family Records and Intercountry Services, DHS, Victoria, Australia to help Phuket Has Been Good To Us. Their friends responded by donating AUS\$200 and lots of great donations for Coconut Club! Katie and her husband, Don, also sponsor Kow, the student in the photo.

Liz's daughter Amy, her partner Eddy and their family then brought over these donations and presented them to the children at Coconut Club who loved them. Thank you to everyone who helped out!



## Reijo, Angela, Filippa, Wilma, Peter & Alexander

These lovely visitors from Sweden hosted a pancake and clown evening for all 130 residential students at Kamala School, as well as buying each child a gift to receive at Christmas. In addition to all these lovely gifts, they also provided a financial donation which will ensure the Foundation can continue to create unique opportunities for the children.

Thank you and come back soon!

# What the children have been up to

## Bolsee leads the way



"Bolsee, simply put, is a leader. He has a lot of confidence and in the past he hasn't channelled that into English class. This year, he has taken the challenge of learning English and embraced it.

He regularly finishes assignments first and tackles the next with enthusiasm. He also has no problem being called in front of the class to help explain an assignment.

Bolsee's progress may also be contributed to his regular attendance at Coconut club. He loves cooking with Kylie."

- Teacher Mac

## Swimming Lessons

Three years ago a swimming program was introduced at Kamala school when local children claimed that their idea of a perfect holiday was to go swimming at the beach, yet many of them didn't know how to swim. That's when Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation began offering swimming lessons to the students in the after school program, in addition to the English lessons the organisation was already providing.

"Children all over the world love to go to the beach and run straight into the water – but the ocean in Phuket can be extremely dangerous," said Tina Hall, Director of Operations at the Foundation. "Our aim is to ensure that all residential students at Kamala school can swim; so that a trip to the beach is a safe, happy experience."

Every Saturday morning the coach at Phuket International Academy gives the students from Kamala School swimming lessons. The students often get extra practice at the beach too. During low season when the sea is too dangerous for swimming, the students can still enjoy swimming as: The Palms Resort; Kamala Dreams; and the Royal Embassy Hotel & Spa kindly invite them to use their pools.



# Fundraising Ideas

## Investing in Phuket's future



As a charity, Phuket Has Been Good To Us receives no government funding and we rely on the generosity of the community to continue our work. Regular monthly giving is an important part of our fundraising efforts.

By donating monthly, you can help us to make a real difference

to the lives of over 860 children we work with. Regular and ongoing support also gives us the confidence to know that we can continue to pay our teachers' salaries into the future.

One of the people who allows us to have this confidence is Desmond Hughes, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Limcharoen Hughes & Glanville, based in Phuket. Desmond has been supporting the foundation with a personal monthly gift for the last 3 years. He understands the importance of a steady cash flow to maintain the longevity of the Foundation.

"One off gifts to the Foundation are good for immediate projects, but I want to ensure that the charity has a lasting impact on these children, beyond what they simply need right now.

Being a local businessman, giving back to my community on a personal basis is important, and I see my support as a way of investing in the future of Phuket. I was reluctant to declare or have my contribution made public as I don't believe in advertising personal charitable contributions, but I understand from the Foundation that this may help encourage others to provide a monthly contribution and the amount can remain undisclosed, or the matter can be kept private should the donor prefer."

Your set monthly donation can be automatically debited from your credit card or bank account each month. Whatever amount you can donate makes a difference, and you can cancel at any time. Easy!

Like Desmond, you too can make a difference to the lives of these children.

It's easy to show your support – simply email us at [info@phukethasbeengoodtous.org](mailto:info@phukethasbeengoodtous.org) or call +66 (0)-76-278-146.

***Every donation you make has a huge impact on the lives of so many children.***

## Fundraising Bingo Night

As we receive no government funding, we rely on people in the community to help us to fund our work. People like Clare Allison, who is living in Shanghai, China and wanted to make a difference.

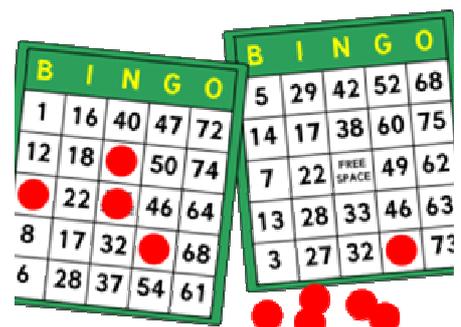
*"I really wanted to do something to help out this great organisation so I decided to organise a bingo night at a local pub to do some fundraising. It was really easy to pull together, and have already been pleasantly surprised at how generous people can be!"*

Events like this are vital to our funding and it's so easy, anyone can do it! You can fundraise on your own or in a group. Why not get your friends, family and workmates involved – the more you raise, the bigger difference you can make.

If you would like to make a difference like Clare, why not host your own event. There is no limit to what you can do – trivia night, morning tea, free dress day at work, wine and cheese night – let your imagination run wild! There are even more ideas on our website so visit us to find out more.

***Let us know what you would like to do - so we can get you registered and help you out!***

***[www.phukethasbeengoodtous.org](http://www.phukethasbeengoodtous.org)***



# Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation

*Thank you to all our supporters, without you  
none of this would be possible!*

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