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The New MIS

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The launch of the new MIS reflects an ongoing commitment to enriching the student experience. Through expanded opportunities, enriched learning experiences and continued investment in the learning environment, students are encouraged to learn, explore and grow in more meaningful ways throughout their educational journey.



Dr. Connie Kim
Executive Head of School

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Every Opportunity.**



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CONTENTS

COVER STORY

MIS NOW PART OF XCL EDUCATION

DISCOVERING

- 06 THE ULTIMATE FERRAGOSTO CELEBRATION
- 10 ITALASIA AT AUGUST RESTAURANT
- 18 MARCO'S WINE DINNER
- 32 TREAT YOURSELF TO A MADE TO ORDER COAT
- 35 WHEN DID YOU LAST GET YOUR EYES TESTED?
- 36 WHEN A PRENUP. MAKES SENSE
- 38 THE LEGEND OF DONG PHYA YEN

SPORTING AND LEISURE

- 20 THE PATTAYA TRAIL
- 22 THE PATTAYA MARATHON
- 24 TEAM THAILAND MAKES HISTORY
- 26 SPORTS UPDATE
- 40 WHAT'S ON THE SMALL SCREEN
- 41 WHAT'S ON THE BIG SCREEN
- 42 TECH LIVING
- 44 CONFESSIONS OF A POP TART
- 45 ROTARY RADIO

PROPERTY AND TRAVEL

- 47 DISCOVER PATTAYA AND BEYOND
- 48 HEADING "UP NORTH"!
- 52 JASON IN TAIWAN
- 56 THE NEW NORM
- 58 MEET JO AND NEE



This Month in Discover Pattaya

Hi Everyone

With International Schools now well into the new school year we are happy to have MIS grace our front cover this month. Having been with Discover Pattaya for several years it is great to see MIS become a proud member of XCL Education. During a recent tour of the school we were impressed to see the many improvements and developments planned as part of this exciting new chapter for the School.

Whilst many in Pattaya are bemoaning what has been a challenging low season this year, our fine dining section shows many establishments bucking the trend with some fantastic wine dinners. Popular with the local community and long term residents, we report on those held at August and Marco's restaurants, as well as the Ferragosto celebrations at La Familiare, Pattaya Marriott Resort and Spa. Of course when there are so many delicious wine dinners to enjoy it's also a good time to think about getting some exercise to burn those extra calories! So in this month's edition we report on the Pattaya Trail and the forthcoming Pattaya Marathon for you runners out there, happening on the 26th and 27th of September.

There's more sporting news from Gavin Perfect who has travelled to China with Thailand's Wakeboarding team, and who also talks to us about "The New Norm" and how developers are adapting to the rulings of Foreign ownership of land in Thailand. Then for those looking abroad, in this month's Discover Pattaya and Beyond we go "Up North!" to delight in the lush natural beauty of the UK's least populated county: Northumberland. Then travelling on with Jason and his family to Taiwan.

We hope you enjoy reading this month's issue and all of us at Discover Pattaya wish you a great month ahead. Please contact us if you want to be part of our next edition at:



Pattayatradet.com Pattaya Trader YouTube or via our 3 Facebook pages: Pattaya Trader - Discover Pattaya Group, Pattaya Trader Expat Ladies Group and Pattaya Trader - Discover Pattaya Page

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The Ultimate Ferragosto Celebration at La Familiare

If you have ever wondered how Italians celebrate the peak of summer, look no further than Ferragosto, a deeply cherished national holiday rooted back in ancient Roman times when Emperor Augustus established the Feriae Augusti in 18 BC. Originally conceived as a well-deserved period of rest and agricultural celebration after weeks of hard labor, it has evolved over the centuries into a joyful cornerstone of Italian culture where families and friends drop everything to gather together, escape the sweltering heat, and indulge in feasts filled with laughter, wine, and exceptional food.

Experiencing that exact spirit of vibrant community and culinary passion didn't require booking a flight to Rome, because the Italian Summer Ferragosto Feast at La Familiare inside the Marriott Pattaya brought it straight to Thailand in the most spectacular fashion..Walking into the venue, I was immediately struck by the lively, authentic atmosphere, finding myself happily surrounded by groups of Italians who were savouring every single moment and relishing the authentic flavours of home.

The event ran from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM and was priced at a very reasonable 1,499++ THB per person for the food, with an optional addition of 1,088++ THB per person for a free-flow beverage package that covered signature Ferragosto spritzes, house wine, local beer, and soft drinks. What added an extra layer of charm was the gorgeous decor featuring sunflowers and lemons splashed across tables and pinned cheerfully to the shirts of the staff. For anyone wondering about the fun symbolism behind this choice, sunflowers represent the radiant vitality, joy, and golden warmth of the summer sun, while lemons are the quintessential zesty, icons of the Mediterranean coast



Naturally, no true Italian celebration is complete without stellar drinks. This was curated with the brilliant assistance of Italiasia, which has been operating since 1962. It included a dedicated spritz menu that offered three refreshing choices: Aperol Spritz, combining Aperol, prosecco, and sparkling water, Limoncello Spritz made with zesty limoncello, prosecco, and sparkling water, and a wonderfully herbaceous Hugo Spritz featuring St. Germain, prosecco, sparkling water, and fresh mint.



I kicked things off with an Aperol Spritz to set the mood, but because my main culinary cravings leaned heavily toward the red meat side of things, soon transitioned to the wine list. I was poured a generous glass of the Ricasoli Chianti Classico Annata. This full-bodied Tuscan Sangiovese supplied by Italasia went magnificently with my main meat choices.

The buffet spread itself was an overwhelming display of Italian culinary artistry, featuring an almost endless parade of classics and regional specialties. There was crispy Chicken Milanese, succulent Tuscan-style porchetta, rich lamb ragu tossed with fresh tagliatelle, paccheri amatriciana, and a marvelous variety of pizzas where I simply could not resist grabbing a couple of slices, specifically choosing a pesto-topped slice and a rich speck ham slice because, as is always the case with grand buffets, you inevitably carve out your own personal favourites. For seafood lovers there were smoky shrimp skewers, marinated seabass, grilled river prawns, a refreshing seafood salad and plenty of delicious smoked salmon. Alongside this Caesar salad, mortadella pillows, tomato focaccia, pugliese, fried pita bread, a decadent mozzarella bowl, crispy olive ascolane, vegetable pizza rolls, rustic sourdough and wonderful pomodori ripieni,

However, the real magic of the afternoon came from the interactive culinary experiences delivered by Chef Paulo and his talented pastry sous chef Dy. I was lucky enough to be sought out by Chef Paulo to try his saffron rice with osso buco, I watched him stir the golden saffron rice from right inside a massive, hollowed-out wheel of parmesan cheese before loading the tender osso buco on top, creating a dish that tasted every bit as divine as it looked. Then just when I thought the culinary showmanship had peaked, a small team of chefs emerged from the kitchen for a grand finale around a dedicated station, skillfully whisking and creating a magnificent fresh tiramisu. The absolute highlight for the children—and let us be honest, the adults too!

We rounded out this monumental feast by sampling other delights from the dessert selection, which featured mixed berry panna cotta, white chocolate cherry mousse, limoncello cake, ricotta cheesecake, and classic profiteroles. Sitting there soaking in the laughter, the incredible aromas, and the genuine camaraderie, it was easy to see why there are already whispers of turning this magnificent Italian Summer Ferragosto Feast into a regular tradition at the Marriott Pattaya, and if the turnout and energy of this event are anything to go by, it is an absolute triumph that food lovers will flock to every single time.



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Italasia do it again! With another great Wine dinner this time at August Restaurant.



by Gloria Jones

Discover Pattaya was delighted to attend a very special Leonardo da Vinci wine dinner, presented in collaboration with Italasia and the beautiful August Restaurant. Six expertly prepared courses paired with six delicious wines made an appealing proposition especially in this lovely location overlooking Lake Mabprachan.

We began with a beautifully delicate amuse-bouche consisting of an infused custard topped with sweet blue crab leg meat and subtle hints of curry paste. Accompanied by the extremely refreshing Mionetto Prestige Prosecco Brut DOC, we were off to a good start! Next came the quail roulade, served with lentils, crisp guanciale, smooth celeriac purée and a glossy Calvados brandy sauce.

A dish packed with contrasting flavours, it was paired with the 2024 Frescobaldi Albizzia Chardonnay Toscana. Fresh and lively, with a clean mineral finish this worked particularly well with the richness of the guanciale and the sweetness of the Calvados sauce.



Then we were intrigued by the arrival of a venison tartare, served with spicy beetroot horseradish and roasted bone marrow. Alongside this was a pouring of the 2021 Leonardo Da Vinci I Capolavori Chianti Riserva which really showed how great Italian chiantis work so well with game dishes.

Next the pasta course was a dramatic black ink ravioli filled with slow-cooked lamb ragu and covered in a luxurious chanterelle cream sauce. Melt in the mouth delicious! The 2020 Leonardo Da Vinci Monnalisa Toscana Rosso IGT was served alongside it. Full-bodied with tastes of dark berried fruit and oaky tones it was wonderfully smooth. At this point, we were beginning to appreciate just how special and considered the dishes and wine pairings were for this event. The attentive staff then gave us all a refreshing sorbetto infused with Champagne, — exactly what was needed after a rich creamy pasta. Palates completely refreshed, it was time for a magnificent Westholme Striploin No. 8-9 Wagyu, served with Portobello mushrooms and a glossy red wine reduction.

Beautifully cooked this was every bit as indulgent as you would hope from a Wagyu of this quality. It provided the real star pairing of the night with a glass of the 2017 Leonardo Da Vinci I Capolavori 'San Giovanni Battista' Brunello di Montalcino DOCG. The wine of the evening, with layers of ripe plum, leather and dried tobacco, leaving a long, savoury finish. It was one of those combinations where you take a bite of the beef, have a sip of the wine and immediately understand why the pairing works.

After all that richness, dessert could have been a challenge, but the chocolate and pistachio mousse provided a suitably indulgent finale. Smooth and creamy, with the deep flavour of chocolate balanced by the nuttiness of pistachio, it was a dessert that felt luxurious without being overwhelming. It was served with the most intriguing pairing of the evening, a red! The 2023 Leonardo Da Vinci 1502 UVE Portate a Cesena Sangiovese Appassimento. We were told that this is a best seller in Thailand due to its sweetness and in fairness this perfectly complemented the dessert and was a fitting end to a meal that had taken us through a wide range of flavours and textures.



Looking back on this wine dinner, what impressed us most wasn't simply the quality of the individual dishes or wines, but the way they worked together. The relaxed setting of August Restaurant added to the experience with an elegance that was never overly formal, making it easy to sit back, enjoy the food, talk and learn about the wines. At 2,990 Baht per person for six courses and six accompanying Italian wines, we felt the evening offered excellent value, especially considering the quality of the ingredients, the presentation, the wine selection and the overall experience.

For anyone in Pattaya who enjoys food, wine and the occasional excuse to dress up, August Restaurant is certainly worth putting on your list. Or if you simply can't wait until the next wine dinner to try some of these fabulous wines yourself you can visit Mauro Sciacaluga from Italasia who has a showroom at North Pattaya and can be contacted by email: mauro@italasiagroup.com.

Write to him and he will be able to let you know when the next wine dinner is happening in the Pattaya area, or help you arrange your own if you have a restaurant and are keen to organise a wonderful event like this one for your own guests.

August restaurant is at Lake Mabprachan
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A NIGHT OF ITALIAN FLAVOURS AND EXCEPTIONAL WINES AT MARCO'S

There is something really special about a well-crafted wine dinner, which is what makes these events so popular. Our recent visit to Marco's for a special five-course Italian showcase was a perfect example. At just 2,290 baht per person, all-inclusive, it offered an incredible opportunity to experience thoughtfully curated dishes paired with exceptional wines.

Marco's true passion for wine shines through at these events. His well-stocked wine cellar features carefully sourced selections from a wide range of suppliers rather than relying on just one. This dedication allows him to uncover unusual and interesting bottles that you simply don't find everywhere else. For this particular wine dinner, some fantastic selections were supplied by Blackbird Siam Ltd and presented to diners by Thananut Singhathep, known to everyone as Khun Nut.



For my secondo I went with braised beef short rib served alongside a luxurious truffle mash. The beef was incredibly tender, with rich, deep comfort-food flavours that were elevated even further by the aromatic truffle mash. Alongside it came a glass of Campo Piano Valpolicella Superiore, a gorgeous red whose bright acidity and complex fruit notes cut through the richness of the beef while marrying beautifully with the earthy truffle elements. For me this was the highlight of the evening.

Then for dessert I had to go with traditional Sicilian cannoli which provided a sweet and satisfying finale, with its crisp shell and creamy filling. Paired with Fiore di Loto Moscato d'Asti, a lightly fizzy and pleasantly sweet wine it was a fragrant touch to round off a phenomenal meal. Evenings like this remind us just how much fun the local dining scene can be when great food and wine come together. Marco's thoughtfully planned menu, carefully selected wines, showed his evident passion for both. Aply assisted by Khun Nut and the restaurant's attentive staff this was a truly memorable evening.

Try the great selection of available wines at Marco's.

He started us on our culinary journey with a glass of Borgo Imperiale Prosecco Brut to accompany a delightful aperitivo trio. A crispy potato croquette stuffed with mozzarella and Iberico ham, some classic Parma ham paired with fresh melon, and a vibrant Caprese featuring bocconcini and cherry tomatoes. The lively bubbles and dry finish cut effortlessly through the rich, cheesy comfort of the potato croquette while highlighting the sweet, juicy freshness of the melon and tomato. One fellow diner was so enamoured with how crisp and refreshing the Prosecco was that she asked whether it would be available in stock. Marco happily assured her that it certainly would be.

Moving on to the antipasto course there was a choice from which I chose the shrimp carpaccio. Wonderfully delicate and fresh, it was paired with Le Storie Pinot Grigio, a clean and crisp white wine that echoed the subtle sweetness of the seafood without ever overpowering it. Then for the primo course, my dish of paccheri with slow-cooked duck ragù delivered rich, deep flavours, with the tender duck sauce coating every piece of pasta. It was matched with a pour of Diego Conterno Langhe Nebbiolo. The wine's red-fruit notes providing a beautiful counterpoint to the hearty, savoury depth of the ragù.



September Pizza



**Pesto sauce, mozzarella, mushroom,
cherry tomato, basil & Burrata**

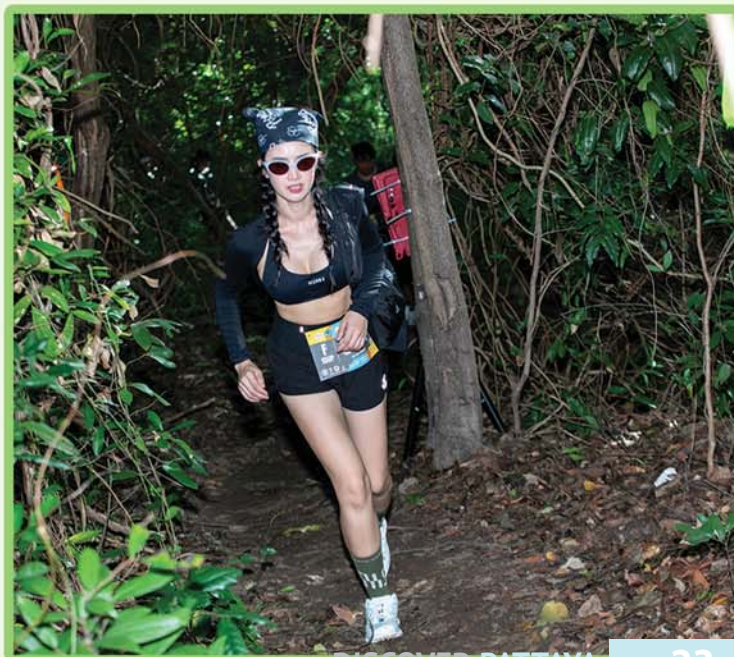
Runners Limber Up Ready For This Month's Marathon with The Pattaya Trail



Photos by **PI-YA-WAT-CHA-RA**

Last month runners took to the streets early in the morning to participate in this year's Pattaya Trail. Suitable for both beginners and more experienced runners there was a choice of either 5km or 10km races winding through scenic hills, forests, and coastal viewpoints along Khao Pratumnak and Laem Bali Hai. It also afforded a great warm up exercise for those going on to compete in this month's Pattaya Marathon







2026 Amazing Thailand Pattaya Marathon Sept. 26-27 By Tim Lee

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PATTAYA—As a seaside resort known for cooling off, the City of Pattaya will see thousands of citizens and visitors take to the streets and endure the heat on Sept. 26-27. Rather than enjoy the refreshing waters of the Pattaya Bay, they will be sweating and grunting their way over a 42-kilometer plus course during the 2026 Amazing Thailand Pattaya Marathon.

Since its inauguration 33 years ago, the two-day event has seen its largest crowds ever in recent years, with thousands of runners entered from across Thailand and around the globe. Over 20,000 people have participated in the two-day event over recent years in some form as runners, spectators, or organizers.



Amazing Thailand Pattaya Marathon is an annual international marathon race that is usually held on the 4th Sunday of September in Pattaya. As a World Athletics International Standard Road Race, it has grown significantly since its inaugural race in 1993—and the last year's event attracted a total of 20,250 entrants for all categories.

There are five categories of competition: the full marathon, the half marathon, the 10-km. run, the 4.5-km. wheelchair race, and the 4.5-km. Family Run Race. But the runners won't be taking on the heat just for the fun of it. There is over 0.76 million Thai baht in prize money, including 50,000B for the grand prize winners.

This year the event will take place on North Pattaya Road and Beachfront Road. The organizer is Thailand Tri-League, one of the most successful road running event promoters in the nation.

The Pattaya marathon is the most popular mass participation event in the city each year. The course distances 42.19 km., 21.1 km., 10 km., and 4.5 km. The runners will need to deal with many challenging conditions such as rising street temperatures on flat and rolling roads, the sun-baked Sukhumvit highway, and sea winds along the Jomtien and Pattaya beach front roads. The event also consists of various family, social, sporting, and entertainment activities for people of all ages.

Last year's Amazing Thailand Pattaya Marathon featured national and international runners. Tariku Abdi from Ethiopia won the men's full marathon with a time of 2:25:03. Ethiopian runners dominated the field, placing in the top three of the full marathon event. For the women's full marathon, Haruna Takano from Japan won with a time of 2:49:45.

The top three finishers in last year's full marathon (men and women) were as follows—Men's Podium (Full Marathon 42.195 km): First Place: Tariku Abdi (ETH) – 2:25:03, Second Place: Alemu Miko (ETH) – 2:33:13, Third Place: Kindu Tiruneh (ETH) – 2:35:00. Women's Podium (Full Marathon 42.195 km): First place: Haruna Takano (JPN) – 2:49:45, Second Place: Ling Wu (CHN) – 2:51:46, Third Place: Yesheemebet Taso (ETH) – 2:55:47.

The Tourism and Sports Office of Pattaya manages the event with a goal of maintaining the city's marathon competition on an international level. The event also serves as a boost for tourism and athletic opportunity, enhancing Pattaya's reputation as a "Sports City." Also, the department wants to encourage young people and the general public to engage in physical activities and promote a healthy lifestyle.

The heat will be on but the effort will be well worth it for all participating in the 2026 Amazing Thailand Pattaya Marathon!

Thanks to PI-YA-WAT-CHA-RA for his great photos taken at last year's marathon





Pattaya Brothers Help Thailand Make History



Team Thailand Makes History with First-Ever World Championship Team Podium.

Two young Pattaya-based brothers, George and Harry Perfect, have achieved outstanding success at the 2026 IWWF World Cable Wakeboard & Wakeskate Championships, both winning silver medals while helping Team Thailand secure a historic first-ever overall team podium finish.

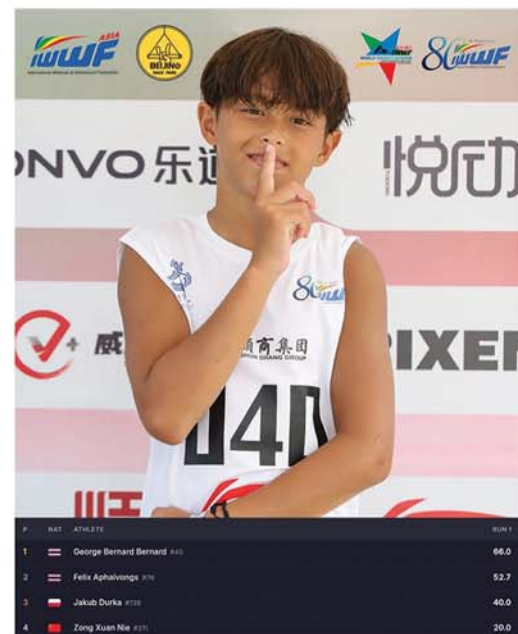
The International Waterski & Wakeboard Federation (IWWF) event was held from 8–15 August 2026 at Shunyi Olympic Cable Park in Beijing, China, bringing together many of the world's leading wakeboard and wakeskate riders to compete for individual and team World Championship honours.



Local Pattaya competitor George Perfect, aged just 11, produced a superb performance to claim silver in the Under-14 Men's Wakeboard category. Despite competing in an age group that includes riders up to three years older, George showed remarkable skill and composure to finish second in the world.

His older brother Harry Perfect, 15, added a second silver medal for Thailand in the Under-18 Men's Wakeskate category. Harry also faced competitors up to three years his senior, making the brothers' double podium achievement particularly impressive.





Thailand's success in Beijing was further strengthened by an excellent performance from Paktanun Kraisuwansarn in the Ladies Over-30 Wakeboard category. Competing against an international field, Paktanun delivered a strong performance throughout the championship to secure the bronze medal and third place in the world, adding another individual World Championship medal to Thailand's impressive campaign. The strength of the Thai squad extended well beyond the medal winners. Thailand entered 16 riders across the various categories, with an impressive 10 progressing to their respective finals and therefore finishing among the top six riders in the world in their divisions.

Those performances combined to produce a landmark result for Thai wake sports, with Thailand finishing third overall and taking bronze in the World Team event. It was the first time in Thailand's history that the national team has achieved an overall podium position at these World Championships.

For the Pattaya and Nongprue community, the success has an added local significance. George and Harry have demonstrated that young riders developing their skills here in Pattaya can compete — and win medals — at the very highest international level.

Two World Championship silver medals for Pattaya, an individual bronze for Paktanun Kraisuwansarn and a historic team bronze for Thailand make Beijing 2026 a championship to remember.



Sports Update

For September by Steve Wade

The Premier League and all the European football seasons are well underway this month and the experts seem to think that the advantage lies with Arsenal in the UK, where all three of their main rivals, Manchester City, Liverpool and Chelsea enter the season with new managers at the helm. The demolition of Manchester City by Arsenal in the Community Shield couldn't have helped the confidence of the Manchester side and their manager in particular will find the pressure bearing down on him pretty quickly, having to follow in the footsteps of Pep Guardiola. Just a couple of fixtures to look out for in September, Chelsea go to the Emirates to take on Arsenal on the 6th and Manchester United, who have appointed Michael Carrick as their full time manager and approach the new season full of hope, host their City rivals on the 13th.

It's a busy September for F1 fans with three races being held, including the iconic Italian Grand Prix, which starts us off between the 4th and 6th of the month. The circus then moves on to Spain, where the action takes place from the 11th to the 13th and the final stop is in Azerbaijan from the 24th to the 26th. The season seems to be increasingly dominated by both Ferrari and Mercedes, with the latter holding the edge in the driver standings through the exploits of the extraordinary Kimi Antonelli, who has just turned 20! Lewis Hamilton is in second, driving for Ferrari and the next two places are both held by the two leading teams. The constructors championship is much the same, with Mercedes leading Ferrari who are in turn well clear of the rest.

Another massive sporting event taking place in September is the AFL Grand Final in Australia, which will kickoff on Saturday the 26th. The Aussies really go to town here and put on a show that takes over the whole country for the weekend of the game. It's being played at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in front of well over 100,000 people and the confirmed match up is between the Geelong Cats and the Brisbane Lions. Kickoff is at the perfect time for fans here of 11.30 am Thailand time, 2.30 pm AEST. Kylie Minogue will be doing the pre-game entertainment for the first time, the day before is a public holiday in Victoria and there's a parade through central Melbourne to celebrate the game. This really is some spectacle and you don't need to know the rules of Australian football to enjoy it, but it'll help if you have some idea!

That's it for September. Get yourself out for a couple of beers, some great action and support our local businesses.



From Forgotten Pond to Living Classroom



At the start of the year, our pond was overgrown with morning glory, fallen bamboo and rubbish. Our students saw something more: a living classroom for science, creativity and reflection.

Since then, 51 students have helped shape the restoration, removing invasive plants and rubbish, testing water quality, introducing natural filters, and even proposing a solar-powered aerator.

Harvested bamboo has been reused for bird-box prototypes, planters and learning projects, while the area now also hosts our Stingless Bee Project, helping students explore pollination, biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

Next, students hope to develop a bird hide, accessible pathway and peaceful outdoor learning spaces - creating something future Green Valley students can continue to shape.

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300 THB per session



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on first visit



MONDAY: MUSIC & MOVEMENT

Ms. Lucy will join us with a range of instruments and songs for a fun and musical session.

The children will develop their communication, social and physical skills through songs, movement and percussion.



WEDNESDAY: FOREST SCHOOL

Join our Level Three Forest Schools Leader Ms. Sarah for an outdoor session in our Forest School to build a connection with nature through running and jumping.

Then join our Little Lions team inside for snacks and songs.



FRIDAY: SCHOOL EXPLORERS

A special programme for our 1-2 year old Little Lions as they take their first exciting steps towards school.

Fun, play-based activities designed to build confidence, independence and social skills, whilst helping children become familiar with Regents routines, spaces and learning experiences.

Refreshments for adults and children provided each session.

All children from birth to 2 years of age are welcome.

Children must be accompanied by a maximum of 1 parent or carer.
(100THB per additional parent or carer.)

Places limited to 15 children per session. Pre-booking is required to secure a place.

Please contact our Little Lions coordinator Ms. Gena for more information and to book your place:
monrada.srasamran@regents-pattaya.co.th





Gen Z reshapes travel loyalty with new expectations

Gen Z travellers in Asia are increasingly integrating travel into their lives, prioritising experiences and sustainability, according to Agoda's 2026 Travel Outlook.

The survey indicates that 73% of Gen Z plan to embark on one to six trips annually, driven by cultural exploration (32%), outdoor activities (30%), and culinary discoveries (28%). This shift presents opportunities for banks, airlines, and loyalty platforms to embed travel more seamlessly into their ecosystems.

Damien Pfirsch, Chief Commercial Officer at Agoda, highlighted the evolving nature of travel loyalty, stating, "Gen Z is changing what travel loyalty needs to feel like. They plan around experiences and expect a straightforward path from discovery to booking." The findings suggest that loyalty programmes should offer integrated travel experiences, allowing members to earn and redeem rewards effortlessly.

Sustainability is also a significant factor, with 38% of Gen Z seeking certified accommodations and 23% opting for off-peak travel to minimise environmental impact. This trend encourages airlines to offer exclusive fares during quieter periods and banks to promote sustainable travel options within their rewards programmes.

Agoda's research underscores the importance of aligning loyalty propositions with Gen Z's values, enhancing engagement and fostering long-term customer relationships. By incorporating Agoda's global inventory into their platforms, partners can offer a seamless travel experience, boosting loyalty engagement and revenue. Rocket Travel by Agoda continues to support such initiatives, exemplified by partnerships with Southwest Airlines and China Airlines

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If you're Travelling to a Cold Climate - Why Not Treat Yourself to a Made to Order Coat.

A great coat is more than just an item of clothing. It's an investment in style, comfort, and something you can wear for years. Obviously not that easy to come by in Thailand where the weather never warrants having to wear a heavy coat, so if you're looking for a coat choosing one that is made-to-measure coat seems like the best plan. When first visiting my favourite Pattaya Tailors Ama Fashion I was amused to see how proudly they displayed their Harris Tweed Sign. It caused me to ask them if there was ever much interest in such a heavy fabric in the equatorial climate? Yes, it turns out, that for tweed, heavy wools, cashmere blends even vicuna (if your budget runs to this) they have customers.

For many years now many Scandinavian and Russian customers of Ama Fashion have found great benefit in getting beautifully crafted garments to take back with them to their home nations for the coldest of winter weather. In fact, my last Christmas trip to the UK went to show me just how ill prepared I was for freezing, hail, snow, fog or anything else the British weather could throw at me. So if you are planning a trip later in the year to a colder climate why don't you follow my lead and invest in a really great made to measure coat.

The most obvious advantage of having something custom made is fit. Everyone's body is different, and standard sizing can only accommodate a limited range of shapes. Also, if you go to a tailor, you can determine the particular fit details you prefer, for example the length. Long coats are particularly on trend this year and as a woman of over average height it was good to be able to get a really long coat that sat naturally on my shoulders and moved comfortably with me. The armholes were also made as I asked, nice and deep as well. This is crucial if you wish to wear a jumper under the coat and want to give enough room so the sleeves don't "ruck up".



I was very happy with the result, a reasonably sharp silhouette but loose enough not to compromise on comfort. Also sleeve length is something I struggle with when buying off the peg. My arms are not very long and having overly long sleeves I find annoying. However, with Ama Fashion I was able to dictate the exact sleeve length I prefer meaning that I didn't leave looking as if I had borrowed someone else's coat!

Quality is another defining benefit. A well-made coat uses carefully selected fabrics, superior construction techniques and attention to detail throughout. The high-quality black wool I chose was really heavy providing real warmth, durability and excellent drape. When combined with the skilled workmanship that the team at Ama Fashion always provide what I now have is a coat that I am sure will keep out the very worst weather elements and retain its shape and appearance season after season. So while a made-to-measure coat may require a greater initial investment than an off-the-peg alternative, exceptional quality and construction can make it a far more rewarding purchase. Rather than replacing cheaper coats every few years, you can own a garment that becomes a dependable part of your wardrobe and, with proper care, can be enjoyed for many years.

I prefer having key pieces in my wardrobe rather than lots of fast fashion mass-produced clothing. The combination of tailored fit, premium material and expert craftsmanship has created a coat that feels exceptional every time I put it on. Strangely enough I am now eager to experience some really bitter weather just to prove that my Ama Fashion Coat will keep me as warm and dry as I have no doubt it will.





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When did you last get your eyes tested?

Regular eye examinations by a qualified optician are an essential part of maintaining good health but if you're like me you leave it too long between getting this done get along to Asian Optical and get a free test now. Its advisable to get this done at least once a year not just when you might notice a problem with your vision, such as blurred sight or difficulty reading. At Asian Optical this is a quick and painless procedure given on state of the art machinery by qualified opticians free of charge.

For children, good vision is essential for learning, reading, and participating in classroom activities. Undetected vision problems can affect academic performance, confidence, and social development. Regular eye examinations help ensure that any issues are identified and treated promptly As we get older eyesight can gradually deteriorate over time even before you notice any significant differences. The optician can identify conditions such as short-sightedness, long-sightedness, and astigmatism, ensuring that the correct prescription for glasses or contact lenses is provided. Wearing the right prescription not only improves vision but also reduces eye strain, headaches, and fatigue, making everyday activities such as reading, driving, and using digital devices more comfortable and safer.

Regular eye tests are far more than a way to update a glasses prescription. They play a crucial role in protecting eyesight, and preserving vision. Even if you don't usually wear glasses to correct short sightedness, you may find that you have started to need them for reading. Again getting the correct lens strength for this is important and also if like me you wear contact lens check your prescription for these to see if it is still correct. Also don't forget to take your lenses out for at least 3 hours before the test in order to get an accurate reading and make routine check-ups an important yearly event for all your family.



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Prenuptial Agreements: When They Make Sense

"A prenuptial agreement isn't about planning for a marriage to fail. It's about starting a marriage with clarity."

When a couple is planning to get married, the conversation often revolves around the wedding, the home they will share and their future plans.

Money, property and what happens if the marriage ends aren't always easy topics to talk about. Some couples even feel that asking for a prenuptial agreement means they don't trust each other.

From our perspective as legal consultants, we see it differently. A well-prepared prenuptial agreement is not necessarily a sign of doubt. It can be a practical way for two people to understand their financial rights and responsibilities before they begin their life together.

Love and Legal Planning Can Go Together

Marriage brings emotional and financial commitments. When one or both spouses already own property, operate a business, have investments, or have financial obligations, those circumstances don't disappear simply because they get married. In Thailand, marriage can also have legal consequences concerning property and financial rights between spouses. A prenuptial agreement provides couples the opportunity to have these discussions openly and to set some things in place before they get married. The point is these are good conversations to have before problems arise.

When Does a Prenuptial Agreement Make Sense?

There is no single type of couple who needs a prenup. It might be especially worth considering when one or both partners.

- Owned property or assets of significant value before marriage
- Own a business or shares in a business
- Personal investments or other material financial interests
- Children from previous relationship
- Are in significant debt or have financial commitments
- Originate in various countries or legal systems
- Expect to acquire substantial assets in the marriage

For international couples the matter can be even more important as different countries may have different rules regarding marriage, property, inheritance and divorce.

It's About Clarity, Not Doubt

One of the most common responses we hear is: "But we trust each other".

That's totally understandable. But a prenuptial agreement does not have to be a document of mistrust. Talking about finances openly before marriage can help couples avoid assumptions and misunderstandings later on, in fact. It's like having a meaningful conversation in writing. Both parties know what has been agreed and do not rely on memory or expectation of what they thought would happen.

Timing Matters

A prenuptial agreement is not something you sign at the last minute, right before the wedding. There should be sufficient time for both parties to understand the agreement, to consider its terms and to seek appropriate independent advice where necessary. This is especially so if the couple has assets or connections in different countries. A prenup isn't simply about having a document. How it is prepared and executed can matter just as much as what it says.

What We Tell Our Clients

We don't tell every couple that they must have a prenuptial agreement. Instead, they are encouraged to think carefully about their situation. If there are significant assets, businesses, children from previous relationships, international connections or other financial considerations, it may be worthwhile to have the conversation before marriage.

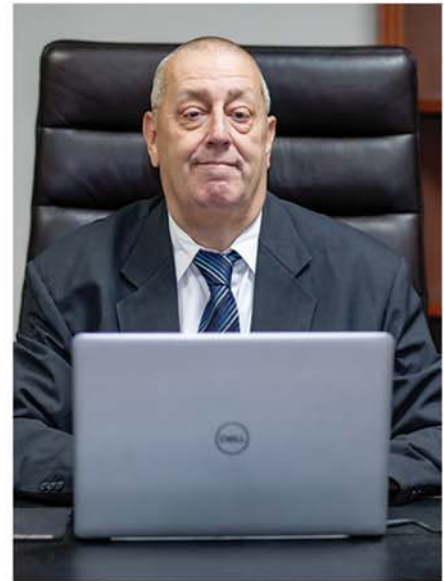
Sometimes the best part of preparing a prenup is not the document itself. It is the clarity that comes from talking about important financial matters before making a commitment for life.

Our Consultant's Perspective

Marriage is a personal commitment, but it also creates legal and financial consequences.

Planning for those consequences doesn't make a marriage less romantic. It simply means both people understand where they stand. A prenuptial agreement cannot predict the future—and it certainly shouldn't be viewed as expecting a marriage to fail. Rather, it can provide a framework for financial clarity from the beginning.

Because preparing for the unexpected isn't a lack of trust. Sometimes, it's simply good planning.



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The Legend of Dong Phya Yen

By Songpone Siriwanlert

Pak Chong District of Nakorn Ratchasima Province (Korat) is located in the areas connected to Khao Yai mountain range located in 4 provinces namely Nakorn Ratchasima, Saraburi, Nakorn Nayok and Prachinburi that accommodate wildlife conservation center, Khao Yai National Park, surrounded by luxurious hotels and resorts. In the former time, this place used to be massive rain forests that were dangerous from jungle fever (malaria) and wild animals.

Pak Chong District used to locate in the Dong Phya Yen mountain pass(former name, Dong Phya Fai) between Saraburi and Nakorn Ratchasima Provinces. A hundred years ago, there was no way to pass Saraburi to Nakorn Ratchasima other than this way. People who traveled through Dong Phya Fai no matter how skilled they were, had to go in large groups and had to take turns guarding the entire night, watching out for wild animals and adding firewood so that it would not burn out if they accidentally fell asleep.

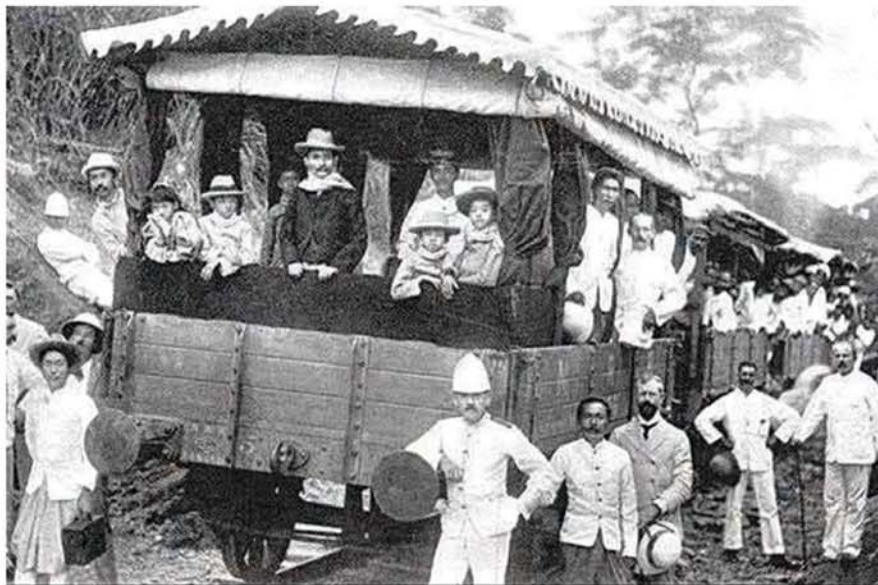


After railroad construction completion, the name of this area had been changed from Dong Phya Fai to Dong Phya Yen which had auspicious meaning. In 1959 Field Marshall Sarit Thanarat, the prime minister at that time came for exploration of Dong Phya Yen Forest and mountain range. Later on, he gave order to the ministry of agriculture and the ministry of interior the policy the establish the first national park in Khao Yai.

It became successful in 1962 with an area of 14million rai or 22square kilometers. This is the beginning of Pak Chong District of Nakorn Ratchasima where there are many dairy farms and rest points before travelling to Khao Yai where National Park and Wildlife Conservation Center are located and surrounded by many famous hotels and resorts as well as a golf course.

Now Khao Yai has become the world heritage by UNESCO.

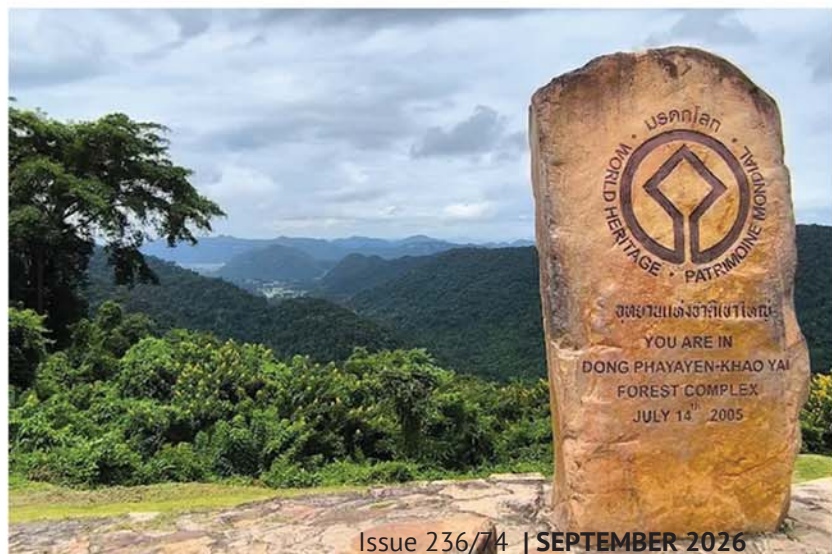
Credit story and pictures : Page The Historical Facts v2, Khao Yai National Park



The ghosts and demons of Dong Phya Fai people talked about was one-legged ghost jumping around. If it touches any person, it will kill that one. It will sneak in while travelers are asleep.

In the reign of King Rama V, the railway was constructed from Bangkok to Nakorn Ratchasima that had to pass Dong Phya Fai mountain range. The Chinese workers under the supervision of Danish Engineer faced big obstacle and died of malaria. After that, the King traveled to the construction camps by himself to boost the people's morale.

The King performed a ceremony to ask the forests and mountains' spirits for building the railroad for the progress of country. At the same time, the construction teams had changed from Chinese to Northeastern workers who were stronger and familiar with the terrain.



ตำนานดงพญาเย็น

โดย ทรงพล ศิริวรรณเลิศ

ก่อนจะมาเป็นฟาร์มโคนมที่อำเภอปากช่อง จังหวัดนครราชสีมา และยาวไปถึงเขาใหญ่ ซึ่งอยู่ในพื้นที่ 4 จังหวัด ได้แก่ นครราชสีมา สระบุรี นครนายก ปราจีนบุรี มีเขตรักษาพันธุ์สัตว์ป่า อุทยานแห่งชาติ รวมทั้งรีสอร์ทหรูอีกมากมาย อาณาบริเวณแห่งนี้ เคยเป็น ป่าดงดิบที่เต็มไปด้วยอันตรายจากไข้ป่า (มาลาเรีย) และสัตว์ร้ายต่างๆ อำเภอปากช่อง เคยเป็นจุดที่อยู่ตรงช่องเขาในเทือกเขา



ดงพญาเย็น (ชื่อเดิม ดงพญาไฟ) ซึ่งอยู่ระหว่าง จังหวัดสระบุรี และ นครราชสีมา ในสมัย 100 กว่าปีก่อนนั้น ไม่มีเส้นทางอื่นใดที่จะไปนครราชสีมาได้



การเดินทางผ่านจุดนี้จำเป็นต้องพักแรมไม่น้อยกว่า 2 คืน จึงเสี่ยงต่อภัยรอบตัว ทั้งไข้ป่าและสัตว์ร้ายที่ชุกชุม ในรัชสมัยพระบาทสมเด็จพระจุลจอมเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว รัชกาลที่ 5 ได้มีการก่อสร้างทางรถไฟจากกรุงเทพฯ ไปยังนครราชสีมา โดยต้องผ่านช่องเขาดงพญาเย็น ได้พบกับอุปสรรคนานัปการ คนงานจีนและวิศวกรผู้ควบคุมงานชาวเดนมาร์ก เสียชีวิตจากไข้ป่า เมื่อพระบาทสมเด็จพระจุลจอมเกล้าเจ้าอยู่หัว เสด็จด้วยพระองค์เองเพื่อเป็นขวัญและกำลังใจ โดยทรงบวงสรวงเจ้าป่าเจ้าเขาเพื่อขอเปิดทางเพื่อความเจริญให้แก่บ้านเมือง อีกทั้งจ้างแรงงานชาวอีสานซึ่งแข็งแรงและบึกบึนกว่า โดยเฉพาะรู้จักภูมิประเทศเป็นอย่างดี การก่อสร้างทางรถไฟจึงสำเร็จลุล่วง และได้เปลี่ยนชื่อจากดงพญาไฟเป็นดงพญาเย็น เพื่อความเป็นสิริมงคล ต่อมาในปี พ.ศ.2502 จอมพลสฤษดิ์ ธนะรัชต์ นายกรัฐมนตรีในตอนนั้น ได้สำรวจพื้นที่ป่าเสื่อมโทรมในบริเวณดงพญาเย็นต่อกับเขาใหญ่ และได้ให้กระทรวงเกษตรฯ และกระทรวงมหาดไทยเข้าสำรวจเพื่อจัดตั้งอุทยานแห่งชาติ ซึ่งเป็นอุทยานแห่งชาติแรกของประเทศไทย ในปี พ.ศ.2505 มีพื้นที่ประมาณ 14 ล้านไร่ หรือ 22 ตารางกิโลเมตร และนี่คือต้นกำเนิดของอำเภอปากช่อง จังหวัดนครราชสีมา แหล่งฟาร์มโคนมพันธุ์ดี และเป็นจุดแวะพัก ก่อนเดินทางไปเขาใหญ่ ซึ่งเป็นที่ตั้งของอุทยานแห่งชาติ และ เขตรักษาพันธุ์สัตว์ป่า ซึ่งมีโรงแรมและรีสอร์ทหรูมากมายโดยรอบ

เครดิตเรื่องและภาพ: Page The Historical Facts v2
อุทยานแห่งชาติเขาใหญ่ คุณกฤติพงษ์ ตันตราธนาวัฒน์

What's on The Small Screen



The Gentlemen (Season 2)

Theo James, Ray Winstone, Kaya Scodelario

No longer content with running hidden cannabis farms strictly on English country estates, Eddie and Susie push to turn their joint enterprise into an international powerhouse, taking their business across borders to the Italian lakes.



Crew Girl

Miku Martineau, Jessica Paré, Samuel Braun

When a high-profile family scandal upends her life, 16-year-old Teagan Tao is forced to move across the country to the East Coast with her mother.



The Doll

Sandra Drzymalska, Tomasz Schuchardt, Magdalena

Set in late 19th-century Warsaw under Russian rule, follows a self-made merchant and pragmatic former idealist who has amassed a fortune in commerce.



Slow Horses (Season 6)

Gary Oldman, Jack Lowden, Kristin Scott

A deadly game of retaliation and political revenge erupts within the upper echelons of Regent's Park, First Desk Diana Taverner drags the Slough House into the crosshairs.



Neagley

Maria Sten, Greyston Holt, Adeline Rudolph

When Neagley learns that a beloved friend from her past has died in a suspicious "accident," she refuses to buy the official police explanation.

What's on The Big Screen



Hope

Michael Fassbender, Alicia Vikander, Taylor Russell

Set in the isolated coastal village of Hope Harbor near the Korean Demilitarized Zone, Hope begins when gruesome and mysterious attacks strike the town, starting with mutilated livestock. Initial suspicions point to a rogue wild beast lurking in the hills. The villagers soon discover they aren't dealing with a wild animal, but a violent, aggressive extraterrestrial presence.



Fall 2: Deadpoint

Virginia Gardner, Grace Caroline Currey, Harriet Slater

Still grieving the tragic death of her daredevil sister, Jax Hunter agrees to a tribute climb proposed by Shiloh's adventurous friend, Luce.



Mayday

Ryan Reynolds, Kenneth Branagh, John Francis Daley

Set during the height of the Cold War, hotshot U.S. Navy pilot Lieutenant Troy "Assassin" Kelly is stranded behind enemy lines in Soviet territory



By Any Means

Mark Wahlberg, Josh Lucas, Chase Vergari

Set in 1960s Mississippi and based on actual events, Wayne Strider, a young Black FBI agent is sent south to investigate a wave of brutal murders targeting civil rights leaders.



The Runner

Gal Gadot, Damian Lewis, Kevin Macdonald

A high-powered London attorney Maia Marten is targeted during her daily morning jog by a mysterious caller who reveals her young son has been kidnapped.

EDTECH

Plaud Note AI



The PLAUD Note AI is a game-changer for students who want to stay fully engaged during fast-paced lectures without missing a single detail. At just credit-card thin, this ultra-portable device snaps neatly to the back of a smartphone or sits discreetly on a desk, starting recordings with a single tap. Instead of frantically scribbling notes, students can focus on absorbing the material while the built-in AI automatically transcribes the audio into structured summaries and visual mind maps across over 100 languages. When exam prep rolls around, the smart search feature allows students to query their recorded classes like a digital tutor, instantly pulling up specific formulas, key terms, or teacher highlights without scrubbing through hours of audio.

Mobile Pixels Duex Max



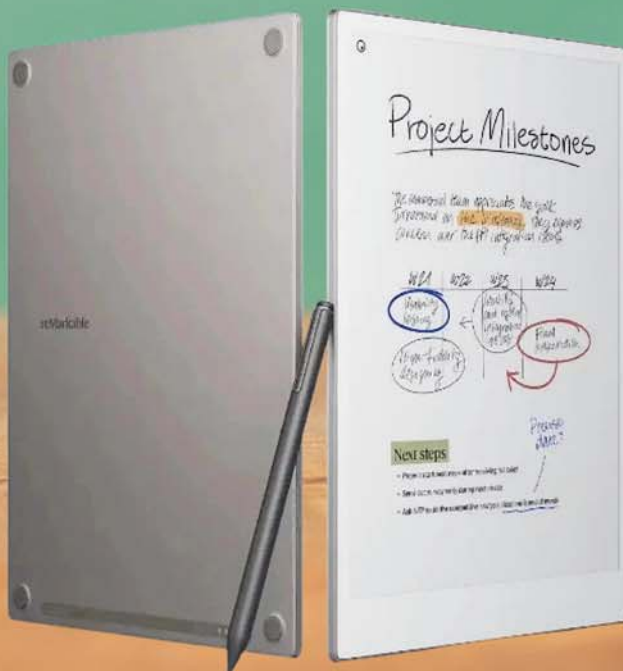
The Mobile Pixels Duex Max adds a 14.1-inch Full HD second screen directly to any laptop, giving students desktop-level productivity wherever they study. Attaching magnetically to the laptop lid, the lightweight display slides out to double screen real estate, allowing students to draft essays or code on one screen while keeping research, textbooks, or video lectures open on the other. It connects via a single USB-C cable for power and display signal to eliminate cable clutter in crowded libraries or cafes. Complete with an eye-care mode to reduce blue light during late-night study marathons and a 180-degree presentation mode for sharing work during group projects, it delivers a full multi-monitor workflow in a portable, backpack-friendly package.

Apple iPad Air

The Apple iPad Air strikes the ideal balance between high-performance power and lightweight portability, making it a versatile centerpiece for modern student life. Powered by Apple's M-series chip, it handles demanding tasks like video editing, 3D design, and fluid multitasking across multiple study apps without slowing down. When paired with the Apple Pencil, the crisp Liquid Retina display transforms into a digital canvas for taking handwritten notes, sketching complex diagrams, and annotating textbooks with precision. Its ultra-thin design easily slides into any backpack, while all-day battery life ensures students can transition effortlessly from morning lectures to late-night group study sessions without needing a charger.



reMarkable Paper Pro



The reMarkable Paper Pro brings the familiar comfort of traditional pen and paper directly into the digital age, making it an ideal companion for students looking to declutter their backpacks. Featuring a full-size 11.8-inch color e-paper display, it allows students to read, highlight, and annotate heavy digital textbooks or class PDFs in realistic color without the eye strain or reflection of traditional tablet screens. Its microtextured display creates authentic paper-like friction when writing with the stylus, letting students sketch science diagrams, solve equations, and organize handwritten class notes into neat, searchable folders. With a built-in adjustable reading light for late-night study sessions, weeks of battery life, and a completely distraction-free operating system free from social media and pop-up notifications, it bridges the gap between classic physical note-taking and smart digital organization.

NEW ALBUM – SHADES

by Barry Upton

Earlier this year, I foolishly thought I would be finishing my new album months ago around April or May. So what happened? Well, I got so involved with A.I. as my new songwriting partner that the songs kept coming and I couldn't turn the tap off. Utilising the latest technology, creative juices were overflowing and I suddenly fell in love with my new tunes to the point where I kept telling myself 'it would be a sin to leave this one off'. I'm pretty certain that by the time you read this, the album will be released and distributed to the recognized download operatives around the world. Plus, I'm now making videos for the songs that don't already have one so that YouTube can be serviced. Here are some highlights from the album:-

Shades (so cool)

The album opener, and title track, is a chugging pop/rock song about how everyone looks cool wearing shades especially after the sun disappears.

She Wears Versace

I wrote this song whilst watching the French Open tennis final with the TV cameras picking up hi-so ladies in the crowd showing off their designer dresses. I thought 'she looks classy - bet she wears Versace'. Suddenly a very commercial song was born and will probably be the first single from the album.

My Favourite Waitress

As I witnessed a friend getting obsessed about a certain waitress here in Pattaya, I imagined a scenario where a guy goes to the same café everyday to be served coffee by his favourite waitress, desperately looking for the right words to ask her out for a date.

And The Oscar Goes To ...

I wrote this song a couple of years ago just to see if I could get the title followed by my name in any radio charts somewhere. Sure enough it was a radio hit in the U.K. and my wish came true. The song is actually about a guy telling his partner what a great actress she is as she disguises their failing relationship at a party.

She Made Me Do It.

This was a a number one song (for 2 weeks) last year in a U.K. radio chart. The legendary U2 rock producer, with 6 Grammys to his name and good friend Steve Lillywhite, encouraged me to write this song and, indeed, helped me finish the track.

Sea Of Tranquility

One evening, I was peacefully looking up at a clear full moon and thought maybe I'm looking at the Sea Of Tranquility whilst, at the same time, being in a tranquil state myself. So a beautiful Enya influenced song was born with an updated Barry Upton style slant.

Breaking A New Religion

This is my take on the way religion seeps into souls usually based on location and parental influence. My view is that maybe we should all find our own alternative religion, one that starts with us as individuals.

Monkeys In Disguise

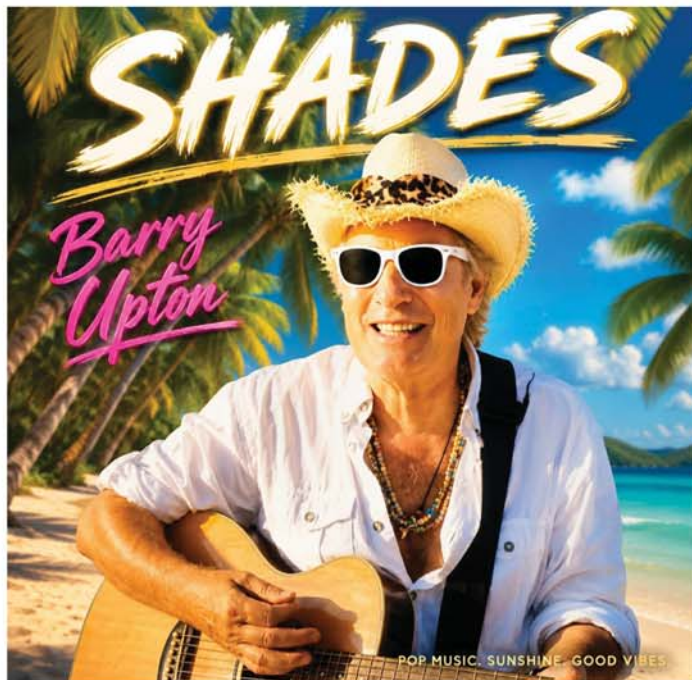
I had great fun putting this blues inspired song together which is about how we as humans have cleverly evolved to now have smartphones, computers and A.I. in our lives. However, beneath the surface we still have early primal instincts and are actually still monkeys in disguise.

Thank You Jupiter

It suddenly struck me that we don't appreciate what is probably the most important planet in the solar system for us mere earthlings. Jupiter sucks up asteroids and comets preventing them from hitting our planet and saving us from disaster. So I thought I'd write a pop/reggae style song to express my thanks to our friend 'Joops'.

Happy Fish, Naked Sun, 40 Shades of Luv, Crazy Driver, Serendipity, The Girl, Eggs Is Eggs, Rock 'n' Soul Party Girls plus a bonus track - A Dreamers Kiss (full 20' suite) complete the tracklisting.

Reviews so far are thankfully very positive. I'd love to hear readers reactions so please Email me: barryupton876511@gmail.com
Thanks in advance and don't forget to stay cool....by wearing SHADES.





88.25FM – PATTAYA PEOPLE RADIO

88.25 FM Pattaya People Radio is now 'on air' around the Pattaya region.

The English speaking station is also available online worldwide at pattayapeople.com/radio- together with rotarypattaya.com/rotaryradio

The stations and playlists are supervised by radio production manager Barry Upton.

Pattaya people Radio 88.25, is a mainly retro pop station with sunshine happy music, mainly fun, commercial, singalong, upbeat, pop/rock/oldies together with more modern commercially oriented selections to help you through your days here in paradise Thailand. Many genres are catered for including rock, soul, party and disco style from the 50s right through to modern artists.

Rotary Radio (currently only available online at rotarypattaya.com/rotaryradio) features a much more 'easy listening'/'soft rock' vibe with artists such as Steely Dan, America, Fleetwood Mac, The Eagles, Chicago, James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, The Carpenters, Bread, Carole King, Cat Stevens, Enya, Jazz, Soul and Country classics with additional love song ballads from the Beatles and The Beach Boys.

The idea is that by having a one stop centre where people can learn about Rotary and it's many fund raising events, the city and individual Rotary clubs can benefit from 24 hour, 7 days a week radio exposure. The station logo ident is – Rotary Radio ... Cool Music For Cool People.

At the top of each hour on both stations is a worldwide news summary from FSN. This is indeed, entertainment and information for our local community and beyond.

PATTAYA PEOPLE RADIO – 88.25FM & online
at PattayaPeople.com/radio
ROTARY RADIO - online at
RotaryPattaya.com/RotaryRadio



DISCOVER PATTAYA



Why not reach out to tourists, expats and residents alike through DISCOVER PATTAYA, the city's premier printed and social media outlet.

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DISCOVER
PATTAYA
& Beyond

It's Nice Up North

Hadrian's Wall and the Remarkable Return of the Sycamore Gap Tree



This month Discover Pattaya & Beyond travels “Up North” to the North East of England. When people visit the UK they often head North to the scenic beauty of The Lake District or even further for the dramatic splendour of the Scottish highlands. However, if you travel to the North East of England bordered by the North Sea to the East and Scotland to the North you will find yourself in some pretty idyllic English countryside. This area is actually the least populated part of England so the expansive greenery just keeps coming and coming and Northumberland especially has been designated the most tranquil British county. With its Roman forts and most famously long stretches of Hadrian’s Wall it is really something to see.

If you like a hike and plenty of undulating uphill and down dale, you should really take some time to walk along Hadrian’s wall. Built by the Romans under the orders of Emperor Hadrian around AD 122 its main purpose was to mark the northern boundary of the Roman Empire in Britain, and protect the province from raids by northern tribes. Made of stone and turf the Romans constructed forts, milecastles, and watchtowers along its length so that their soldiers could guard the frontier. It is amazing to me how so much of Hadrian's Wall still survives even though some of it was pillaged for use in local buildings after the Romans left. Today it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and something I was keen to see.

Standing proudly alongside Hadrian’s Wall for more than a century the Sycamore Gap tree created a scenic viewpoint from its perfect position between two hills.



Somehow, the combination of the lonely tree and the ancient wall made something quite unforgettable. Sycamore Gap became a celebrated scenic viewpoint. Photographers loved it because it looked incredible in every season. In winter, it was stark and dramatic and in summer, calm and inviting.

The tree was even featured in the 1991 movie “Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves” starring Kevin Costner, after which, visitors started calling it the “Robin Hood Tree.” Tourism to the area increased, and you could find the image of the Sycamore Gap on postcards, travel blogs, and social media feeds everywhere. People who had never visited the UK recognized the silhouette of the tree without even knowing its official name.

Fast forward to one night in September 2023 when two stupid men illegally cut down the tree, even being brazen enough to film their act. People reacted emotionally to this senseless vandalism. It wasn't just about losing a tree that was over 100 years old, it was about losing a shared piece of culture and history. Then last year the two perpetrators were sentenced by a judge at Newcastle Crown Court. They were convicted on two counts of criminal damage: illegally felling the tree and damaging Hadrian's Wall (where the tree fell on it). Both men were sentenced to 4 years and 3 months in prison and conservation groups and local organizations began work to preserve its legacy. Parts of the tree were saved for educational purposes and even though the remaining trunk no longer filled the space, restoration efforts began under the name “The People's Tree”.



This year I went to see the site during a walk along part of Hadrian's wall. It is now protected by a surrounding fence where the Northumberland National Park, Historic England and Hadrian's Wall Partnership have proudly announced. “the stump is still alive and has sprouted new shoots”.

So maybe it will take another 100 years to regain its former glory but in the meantime this remarkable tree will continue to inspire people. Showing us all that even after senseless acts of violence the steady patience of Nature will find a way to recover.

words and photos by Gloria Jones

DISCOVER PATTAYA

Beyond Hadrian's Wall: A Journey into Roman Britain



by Gloria Jones

While continuing to explore the beautiful countryside of Northumberland I found another place just south of Hadrian's Wall which is well worth a visit. Vindolanda is one of the most important archaeological sites in Britain. Nearly 2,000 years ago it was built to serve as a military fort for soldiers and their families who had been sent there to maintain Roman authority in the region. The fort was rebuilt several times as military needs in the area changed. These successive structures have preserved a remarkable archaeological record of what life was like on the northern frontier of the Roman Empire around AD 85.



When I went there, a small group of us were given a free tour by a really knowledgeable volunteer. He kept everyone entertained with very interesting yet at the same time quite humorous accounts of Vindolanda and how the site has become famous world wide for its wealth of artifacts. The excavations have uncovered thousands of everyday objects, including leather shoes, clothing, tools, pottery, weapons, coins, jewelry, and children's toys. These artifacts reveal that life at Vindolanda was not solely focused on military duties. Soldiers lived alongside their families and interacted with merchants and craftsmen in a thriving community where trade, education, religion, and domestic life were all important aspects of daily existence.

Due to Vindolanda's geographical location, and waterlogged conditions, organic materials such as wood, leather, and textiles were prevented from decaying by remaining in an oxygen free, clay soil beneath the site. As a result, archaeologists have recovered items that rarely survive at other Roman sites. For example, one of Vindolanda's most significant discoveries is a collection of wooden writing tablets preserved by the site's waterlogged soil that contain letters, military reports and even shopping lists written in ink. They represent some of the oldest surviving handwritten documents in Britain and offer historians valuable insights into the daily lives of people who lived nearly two thousand years ago..



Excavations at Vindolanda continue to this day, with archaeologists uncovering new finds every year. Volunteers from around the world participate in these excavations, making the site an important centre for archaeological research and education. The discoveries here have transformed scholars' understanding of Roman Britain by providing direct evidence of clothing styles, personal possessions, writing materials, and food supplies. Many of these finds are displayed in the Vindolanda Museum, where thousands of visitors annually come to view the writing tablets, reconstructed buildings, and a wide range of artifacts recovered from the excavations. making it an invaluable source of knowledge for historians, archaeologists, and anyone interested in the ancient world.

VINDOLANDA CHARITABLE TRUST

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HEXHAM, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE47 7JN

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Kaohsiung, Taiwan

By Jason Rupp w/ Carla Marie Rupp

There is a misconception Taiwan isn't a budget-friendly destination. People think of Taiwan having prices like South Korea or Japan, but when traveling there, you will find that the prices really aren't much more expensive than Thailand. Hotels for the week right in the city are on average about 1,000B (\$30 USD). So we decided to take a last-minute family trip out of Thailand and chose Taiwan's third biggest city Kaohsiung as the destination, due to a cheap deal on Thai Lion Air out of Bangkok's Don Muang Airport, with tickets costing just under 6,000B (round-trip per person). The catch? A 5 a.m. airplane out of DMK. I used AI to ask where would be a good place to stay in Kaohsiung that has a local feel but is also central. AI came back to me with Yencheng, between the city center and the big seaside port.



It was our three-year old son Fitzroy's first international trip and we wondered how it would work out. Luckily he loves buses, so we chose the 10 p.m. Pattaya Airport bus out of Jomtien, and then the little-known free connecting bus from Suvarnabhumi Airport to Dong Muang Airport. You can only take this free bus if you are able to show that you have a departing flight from the airport that you want to take the bus to. We simply showed our tickets and passport and got on. The bus connection was really easy. Fitzroy enjoyed looking out of the window. We were all excited. Thanks to Noochi for her packing skills, we were pretty sure we had everything we needed for a fun and successful Taiwan experience trip.





Kaohsiung is a huge port city where we chose to spend a week. It has a population of 2.4M and is in southern Taiwan. It has also has plenty to offer in the way of parks, relaxing areas along the Love River, shopping malls and a night market: Liuhe, in the center, and Ruifeng, not far from Lotus Pond, a beautiful area where you can see colorful, ornate temples. These include the famed Dragon and Tiger Pagodas, perfect for photographing.

The city is also known for children's playgrounds, amusement areas, sculptures, great coffee shops and delicious food in its many restaurants.

The plane from Bangkok went smoothly, and Fitzroy had a lesson in buckling his seatbelt. He did so well on his first airplane ride that to make the plane ride more fun, we walked up and down the aisles. But then he wanted to enter the cockpit door, thinking this would be the best way to get off the airplane. The flight attendant found this cute and before he got to the front she brought out a stack of travel themed stickers that they offer to kids on the plane. Fitzroy decided the stickers would look good on my face and I let him put them all over my face to keep him happy

Hotels are plentiful in Kaohsiung. Hotel Yam Lagom (in Yencheng) & FX Hotel Kaohsiung (in the city-center) worked out perfect for us. From this base, we went out each day. Pier 2 Night Market on Saturday evenings which we loved because it has all the local foods, an antique train for toddlers, and of course lots of tea stalls. I even found a street massage here in the middle of this market. A 10-minute strong-man session cost only about \$6USD. Other top night markets: Lingya/Ziqiang Night Market and Liouhe Night Market, were open really late until 2 -3 a.m.. These markets are full of local foods, such as fresh nougat, dumplings, seafood, fresh fruit smoothies, and as always in Taiwan, lots of tea shops.



The coffee shops we enjoyed were MARS MU, a workshop-style restaurant and a spacious place with old interior decoration. Also Ruh Cafe No.2 at a wet market with specialty coffee beans, even some from local Taiwanese farmers. One place we really liked was Kansya, a Japanese matcha green tea shop.

Of course as a family, we also found lots of toy stores and fun places to play in parks. We found an outdoor art venue with beautiful sculptures that provided backdrops for our photos

At one area in the park, Jason found a street massage for a Jason Rupp YouTube video as well as a barbershop for haircuts, shaves, and styling.

This city turned out to be a great place for a family trip both by night and day. The night markets were exciting and Fitzroy loved the children's attractions. Plenty of local children wanted to play or talk with him. During the day there were great malls all around the city to cool off, and we went to a lot of interesting shops. In one, Fitzroy had a chance to try out a ukulele -- and liked it!



We saved the National Science and Technology Museum for the last day, and it was full of fun and educational activities for kids of any age. As adults, we even found it fun and learned something. There are a lot of interactive exhibits that Little Fitzroy enjoyed.

Of course we also had to include the Children's Science Museum and a favorite activity for our toddler was the airplane experience. It was perfect, leading up to actually heading to the airport to board an actual plane. Lion Air took us safely back to Bangkok.

Taiwan was a good choice for our family trip. There is no civil unrest. It feels safe and it is peaceful because there is not mass tourism in this city. People are so kind, helpful, and friendly. Taiwanese hospitality reminded me of the world-famous Turkish hospitality, with kind and friendly faces everywhere.

A bonus is that in Kaohsiung, you can also eat local food for the same price as in Thailand. In fact everywhere prices felt similar to Thailand, a city bus costs 15 Baht. The underground MRT costs 20 Baht, and the city trams cost 20 Baht. To make life easy, there is also an MRT from the airport into the city center.

We can really recommend Kaohsiung for a quick getaway for a solo trip, for couples, for friends, but especially for a family. It turned out to be a really nice trip for us as a small family. Fitzroy was so well-behaved and loved exploring with Noochi and me. He found other children to play with at playgrounds as we supervised. We think he will be ready for another family trip in the near future.

Getting back to Bangkok was an easy flight on Thai Lion Air. We arrived a bit tired, yet happy after a successful trip, especially since three-year-olds like to be carried around – but it's all worth it!

Jason Rupp and Carla Marie Rupp are freelance travel journalists. They run a large Youtube channel called Jason Rupp, covering all things "Travel & Pamper."

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The New Norm for Foreign Property Buyers in Thailand

I'm here to meet with Gavin Perfect of ESS Developments to discuss the New Norm of Foreign Property Ownership in Thailand.

Good morning Gavin, There's been a lot of discussion recently about foreign property ownership in Thailand. So as a developer here for many years can you tell us more?

Gavin: Good morning, and yes over the past few months, there's been a lot of focus on foreign ownership of land in Thailand, particularly around company ownership structures. I want to discuss a different option that has actually existed for many years but is now becoming much more relevant—the long-term lease structure.

At ESS Developments, we've spent the last several months working with legal professionals to create a lease agreement that provides much stronger protection for foreign buyers. While Thai law limits land leases to 30 years, we've structured our agreements to give lessees greater flexibility and security throughout that lease term.



Under Thai law, what are the current limitations of a land lease for foreigners?

Gavin: Thai law allows foreigners to lease land for a maximum of 30 years. While many people talk about lease renewals, it's important to understand that a renewal isn't automatically enforceable by law. After the initial 30 years, the landowner isn't legally obligated to extend the lease. That's why we've focused on creating a lease structure that gives our customers practical protections during the lease period, rather than relying on promises of future renewals.

So who actually owns the land under this structure?

Gavin: The land is owned by a Thai-registered company that is 100% Thai-owned, and complies with Thai law. That company acts as the lessor and grants a registered 30-year lease to the foreign buyer. Importantly, the lease agreement clearly states that while the land is leased, the foreign buyer owns the house or any buildings constructed on that land.

Who is your leasing company and what makes your lease agreement different?

Zensiri Lakeside Leasing Co. Ltd is a 100% Thai owned registered company. The director is the owner of the Zensiri Lakeside project, Mrs Waraporn Perfect with her sons as shareholders. The company has been registered with 10 million capital and has registered objectives and directives for the proposed leasing of land only. The key difference is flexibility. Our lease agreement is designed so that, during its term, the lease can be sold, transferred, or inherited. This gives foreign buyers options that traditional lease agreements often don't provide.

What happens if the directors of the leasing company change?

Simple, if there is any change of directorship or shareholder ship during any term of any lease, those directors or shareholders are obligated by Thai Law to honour any registered lease agreement and those clauses within the lease agreement.

Can the Leasing company take out any loans or mortgages on the land that I'm leasing?

The simple answer is No. Once a lease is registered at the land office on a Channot title deed the land owners, the leasing company are not able to finance the land.

What would you say to foreign buyers considering purchasing property in Thailand?

Gavin: Our goal has always been to provide foreign buyers with greater confidence and practical protection when investing in Thailand. While no lease structure can change Thai property law, we've worked hard to create an agreement that offers flexibility through the ability to sell, transfer, and inherit lease rights, while providing ongoing administrative support through a professionally managed leasing company.



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Next month we shall talk to Gavin about Selling during the lease term. In the meantime if anyone would like to learn more about the structure or discuss how it may apply to their own property purchase contact ESS and go see their stunning villas currently under construction at Lake Mabprachan.

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Nowhere is this trust more evident than in the firm's highly specialized estate planning and testament execution services. The appointment as a testament executor is a solemn responsibility that Jo and Nee only accept as a result of years of dedicated service to an individual.

For expats residing permanently in Thailand, the primary concern is ensuring that their last will and testament is implemented with absolute fidelity regarding their local assets. Clients consistently bypass large, impersonal corporate law firms in favor of ESP STETCO because they can communicate their sensitive, intimate wishes in their native English, German, or French, which the firm then translates into ironclad Thai legal frameworks.

The scale of this responsibility is immense, often placing the firm in charge of assets of extraordinary material value, including luxury Jomtien Park villas valued upwards of twenty-five million Baht. In these profound scenarios, Jo and Nee are entrusted with complete stewardship over title deeds, bank accounts, and vehicle registrations, ensuring that the rightful heirs receive their inheritance exactly as described in the final wishes of the deceased. It is a commitment that outlives the clients themselves, handled with the same old-school European precision and discretion that Jo established at the start of his career fifty years ago.

As Jo and Nee prepare for their own well-earned retirement, their primary objective is the seamless preservation of this magnificent infrastructure. For a business holding original property deeds, active corporate balance sheets, and sensitive last wills, a standard closure is out of the question.

The firm is actively seeking a highly responsible, qualified successor or investment partner capable of stepping into this established role of community guardianship.

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