



Phuket International Women's Club

March 2009

e-newsletter

Dear Members and Friends

Heather Richmond

By now most of you will have heard of the sad death in a motorcycle accident of our member and friend, Heather Richmond. To be honest, it's hard to believe such a terrible thing has happened and many of us, her friends in PIWC, are still in a state of disbelief that she will never more make us laugh at Mah Jong, drop gloriously witty, pithy comments at lunches and coffee mornings, present us with scrumptious cakes "not one of my best", she'd sometimes say but she was being modest, be the woman we'd grown to know and love. Without her our lives will be less.

At this time we think of Heather's family – her partner Neil for whom she was, as one friend said in recent days, "the centre of his universe", of her son Ben who lives in the UK who she mentioned often, of her mother, her sister, her extended family. They will miss her most of all.

The thing about Heather was that she was direct, but in a gentle way. You'd always know how she felt about things; it was that refreshing honesty that endeared her to people along with her ability to make us laugh at the most unexpected moments.

Heather, it was our privilege to have known you.

[SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

The good news is that most of the students who have applied to us for third level funding have been allocated university places. One, whose heart is set on architecture is still waiting but the others are looking forward to life-changing challenges and future careers as petrochemical engineers, surgeons, pharmacists, teachers, nurses, linguists, the list is most interesting. There are so many heart-warming stories all made possible by the collective generosity of this organisation's members.

[SUPPORTING FRIENDS](#)

[Other students](#)

If you didn't make it you missed a great day at Ban Pakrong Cheep school in Phuket town when 26 US Navy personnel gave up their free time to paint the school.

Last month we mentioned that the paint had been paid for by employees of Clariden Lieu bank in Hong Kong who had intended taking on the job themselves. Unfortunately the world crisis has demanded their dedicated attention and they could not take the time to travel to Phuket. With the help of Rotary the US Navy “painters” were contacted and willingly set about the task. On the same day the 106 gifts collected for the children at the Christmas lunch were given out to great excitement. For some reason the girls did not open theirs immediately but the boys did. For more information on this story see the website: www.piwc.org and our grateful thanks to everyone involved.

OOPS.....

My apologies to John Dux regarding a mistake in last month’s newsletter. John and friends plan a fund-raising golf event in the last week of April for 96 invited players. All money raised will be donated to our scholarship fund. The competition will be held at LAGUNA GOLF CLUB and not as I mentioned last month!! Anyone wishing to play can contact Carole: mummydux@hotmail.com. Why not get up a foursome and make a team?

CLUB NEWS

Monthly Lunch

We had our first outing to Regatta, the new Mom Tri restaurant at Royal Phuket Marina. It was great. Many thanks to Lisa and all the staff for great food and service. 65 members and guests turned up which resulted in an extra Baht 17,000 for our coffers.

Our thanks also to Renate who hosted a coffee morning in her home in Kata on the 4th Thursday. It was a huge success.

And, on the subject of monthly lunches our next one, on 19 March will coincide with the AGM and will be at Le Meridien, Patong – located on the road between Patong and Karon.

Announcing the next lunch still brings up the thorny question of the people who arrive WITHOUT BOOKING. This should not happen and, as we pointed out last month, it can cause embarrassment. Contact Carole (mummydux@hotmail.com). Le Meridien has asked us to give them final numbers four days in advance of our event, which is earlier than usual! The lunch coordinator does a great job, please help her by being prompt with your bookings.

Timings are as follows. 10am: AGM followed by lunch at 12 noon. It is essential that we have a quorum for the AGM and so we urge all members to come for the meeting as well as the lunch.

If you would like to nominate yourself or one of your friends for election at the AGM, we need help for the following teams: Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations, Fund-raising, IT, lunches, activities and general committee members. Nominations to Carol Fryer (carol@aplusplussoftware.com). If you cannot attend the AGM please sign the Proxy form, which will be emailed to you in the coming days.

ALSO COMING UP.....

Sundowner

Khun Juree has offered to host a sundowner at her home near Laguna – directions later- on Friday 27 March. If you'd like to attend – members and partners are welcome, email Khun Juree at naning75@hotmail.com. Details to follow.

OTHERS.....

Fancy yourself as a budding Picasso, Mary Cassatt, Georgia O'Keeffe or Frida Kahlo then painting classes may be the answer. Contact Maggy Wigman at robmaggy@yahoo.com if you have the art urge.....

Michael Spratt, husband of Margaret and MD of Thaisarco has kindly invited PIWC to visit Thaisarco, the tin smelting plant in Cape Panwa on Thursday 30th April. Lunch will be in 'the best Thai restaurant in Phuket' preceded by a tour of the plant. Something totally different. Contact Margaret for details (sprattmargaret@yahoo.com) Further information next newsletter.

Monthly lunch in April will be held on 23rd, moved to avoid Songkran celebrations..

... The International Dance Festival comes to Phuket for the first time 18-21 March at Jungceylon with full length productions daily and master classes for experienced dancers and students....

.....and still with things artistic our own member Denise Bertrand is holding a free introductory Drama and Storytelling workshop, Wednesday 1 April, 2-4pm at Perfection Café. Denise is a Drama Coach/Specialist and Professional Storyteller with vast worldwide experience. This free workshop for adults could be the beginning of your performance life. Visit Denise's website: www.denisebertrand.com, email by 31 March: dtbertrand@gmail.com/ call 08 3181 9079..../

... and finally to a more somber note, given recent tragic events it has occurred to us that some of you may not have remembered to register with your local embassy or consulate where your details can be held securely and used, if required, to contact family members when needed. All embassies/consulates will have a preprinted document which they will send you if you ask them. Also, just in case, why not give your good friend or neighbour contact details of your family members and give your family details of the friend/neighbour. Embassy/consulate details are listed extensively in our Newcomers' guide to Phuket.

Have a good month

Anita Whooley

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mar 12	Meet and Greet	Starbucks. Central Festival	10 a.m. – 12 a.m.
Mar 19	AGM followed by monthly lunch	Le Meridien, Patong AGM @ 10. Lunch @ 12.	Proxies info@phuketiw.com Lunch bookings: Carole: mummydux@hotmail.com
Mar 19th – 21st	Phuket International Dance Festival	Jungceylon	Information from www.friends-of-the-arts.info
Mar 27	Sundowners hosted By K. Juree	Juree's home near Laguna Phuket	Juree: Naning75@hotmail.com
April 2	Committee Meeting	Perfection Fashion Café. 10 a.m.	info@phuketiw.com
April 9	Meet and Greet	Starbucks. Central Festival	10 a.m. – 12 noon

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Day	Activity	Place	Contact
Mondays	Mah Jong 9.30 a.m.	Member's House	Christine sweetpea_robinson@yahoo.com
	Bridge 1.30 pm	2Gusti, Central	Christine: sweetpea_robinson@yahoo.com
Tuesday	Golf 1.00 p.m.	Laguna Golf Club	Marion: m_tideman@yahoo.com
Wednesday	Tennis 8 a.m.	Hilton Hotel	Christine: sweetpea_robinson@yahoo.com
	Bridge 1.30	Skippers, RPM	Carole:
	Mah Jong	Laguna Area	mummydux@hotmail.com