

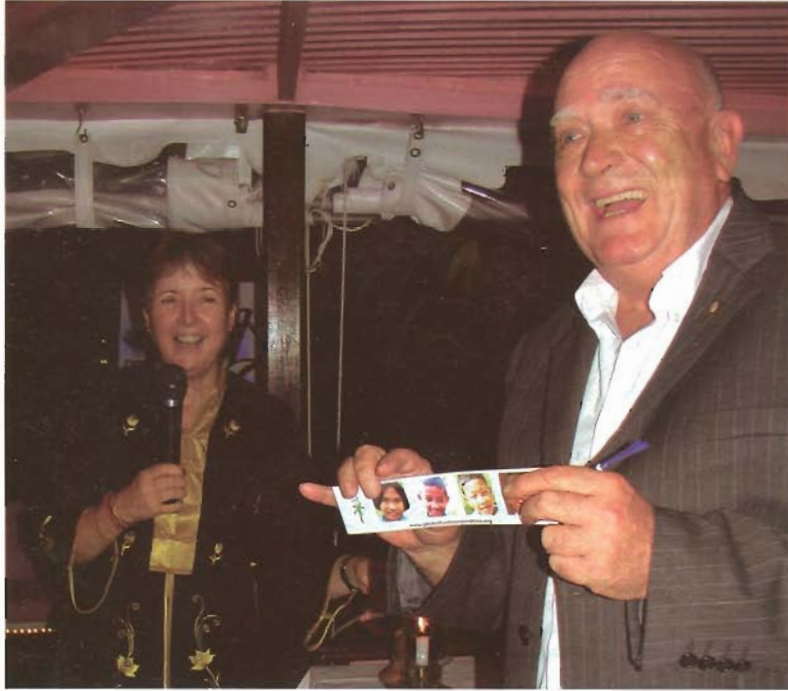
## LOCAL NEWS

# Aussie rock adds five million to children's foundation

**A**USTRALIAN MUSIC IMPRESARIO, Michael Chugg, was in Phuket recently to hand over a very big cheque to the Phuket Has Been Good To Us foundation. The cheque, for a total of 5,239,220 baht, was presented by Mr Chugg to the foundation's director, Dr Sriyada Shinawatra, at a cocktail reception hosted by Baan Rim Pa.

Mr Chugg, working with top Aussie bands, including Midnight Oil, headed the Wave Aid charity drive, which staged a major concert in Sydney to raise awareness and cash for countries affected by the December 2004 tsunami. While the money raised from the concert went into immediate aid for the region, Mr Chugg collected additional funds from sales of the DVD of the concert.

Dr Sriyada said that she was grateful to Mr Chugg and his colleagues for all their help. The foundation, she explained, was conceived by Baan Rim Pa's Tom McNamara to improve English-language skills among the island's primary school students. "I had to go to Bangkok to learn my English," she said. "So I hope that this foundation will help Phuket's children to speak better English than I do."



Michael Chugg is ecstatic after receiving an original bookmark artwork, created by the kids at Baan Kalim school, from foundation's Kate Cope. Below, Ms Cope and Mr Chugg are joined by the foundation's founders, Tom McNamara (left) and Dr Sriyada Shinawatra, and Capital TV's Rod McNeil.

Currently the program, run by the foundation's director of education, Kate Cope, is undergoing extensive testing at Baan Kalim School. Ms Cope reported that since the English training course was started at the school the students had shown an average of 120% improvement in their English skills. "I was so amazed that I had to get the scores checked twice, to make sure they were right," she told the gathering at Baan Rim Pa.

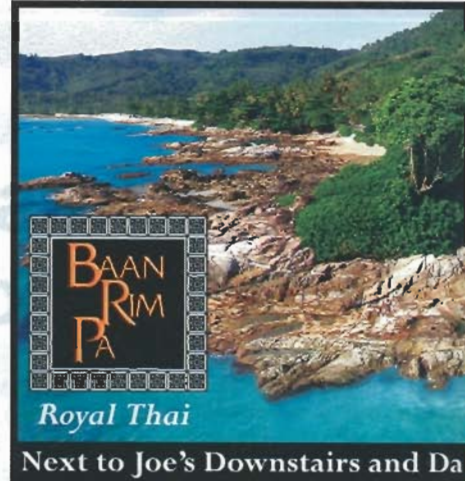
Mr McNamara said that the donation from Wave Aid would assist the foundation in spreading the English study program to other schools around the island. "This is all run by volunteers. My staff [at the restaurants] help to run the foundation in their spare time. Every penny donated goes into the English program."

*If you would like more information about the foundation, go to [www.phuket-has-been-goodtous.org](http://www.phuket-has-been-goodtous.org)*



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