

ABOUT TOWN



Bam Intha, Mine Techachokvivat, Mook Nushkasem and Bow Intha.



Monica de Salazar and her daughter Monica Salazar.



Master of the Pad Thai Sorawit Meejinda.

Fond memories

Wrapping up the year that was

STORY AND PHOTOS: **LYN MILLS**

It's a wrap ... almost. The end of the year flops into a fog of memories as we look back at what we've done and take a deep breath readying for the next one.

So time for the patchwork collection, starting with the reception at the Royal Thai Embassy for the 84th birthday of King Bhumibol Adulyadej. A familiar crowd with Federal MP Peter Slipper slipping into the formalities with his new found status and a love of all things Thai.

Most impressive, though, was the presentation to former Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keely of the bling and sash of the Knight Grand Cross (first class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand by Ambassador Kriangsak Kittichaisree on behalf of the King recognising his services to Thailand. It looks like something that at least requires us to call him Sir, but self-effacing Keely is the kind of bloke you can call Mick.

No formalities required at the

Rydes Capital Hill guest chef feast of a Venezuelan Christmas buffet. Jose Miguel Marin, who came to Australia in 2001 to study telecommunication engineering but found his preferred communications were of the nourishing and nurturing kind with food, prepared a feast to start the Christmas indulging in a delicious way.

The Ambassador of Venezuela Nelson Davila and his wife Maria Teresa invited a mix of diplomatic friends, local Venezuelans and from Sydney their friends Monica and Carlos Brik and their three boys.

A quick lesson about Venezuelan food and the boys' favourite Christmas memories with the rituals of preparing hallacas and the smaller bollos, the not-to-be-missed ham bread and three milks dessert, and a hint of homesickness from boys whose modern day social media communications keep their Venezuelan family and friends just a click away.

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Sue and Mick Keely.



Chunchai and Joe Giugni.



Ambassador of Thailand Kriangsak Kittichaisree and his wife Sarapee.



Maria Teresa Cisneros de Davil and Ambassador of Venezuela Nelson Davila with Jose Miguel Marin and Anna Mendez.



Wayne Smith and Jocelyne Rivero with Monica and Carlos Brik.