

## **Part 315 for Cathy's Blog.**

**Saturday 13th to Wednesday 17th December, 2025**

**Saturday 13th December, 2025.**

We caught a Tuktuk to the supermarket, because although I was feeling much better, I didn't want such a long walk.

Then we had a quiet day at home.

Our routines are so settled now.

**Sunday 14th December, 2025.**

For my birthday, we had planned a Pizza lunch. Unexpectedly for me, we went back to Polo Pizza, which is a small, local pizza restaurant.

Polo Pizza has been refurbished. It was being refitted when the owner was killed in a motorbike accident leaving a wife and at least one child. It has taken more than a year to re-open.

A young couple came in while we were there and ordered a pizza and two salads... the salads were huge! Family sharing size (and they took most of them home with them).

Two pizzas and a bottle of wine later... and we went home for a lazy afternoon (and no need for tea).

**Monday 15th December, 2025.**

**Temple Day : Wall walk South Gate to Prasat Chrung SE.**

After a slow week, it was time to pick up our exercises again, so we went for a wall walk. It is dark until after 6:00am and by 7:30 when we have parked the bike and are on our walk, the insects are only just waking up. The sunshine breaks through the trees in places, and the sun on the plants and flowers makes a perfect spot for photographing the insects.



**The famous causeway in the sun (and with no traffic).**



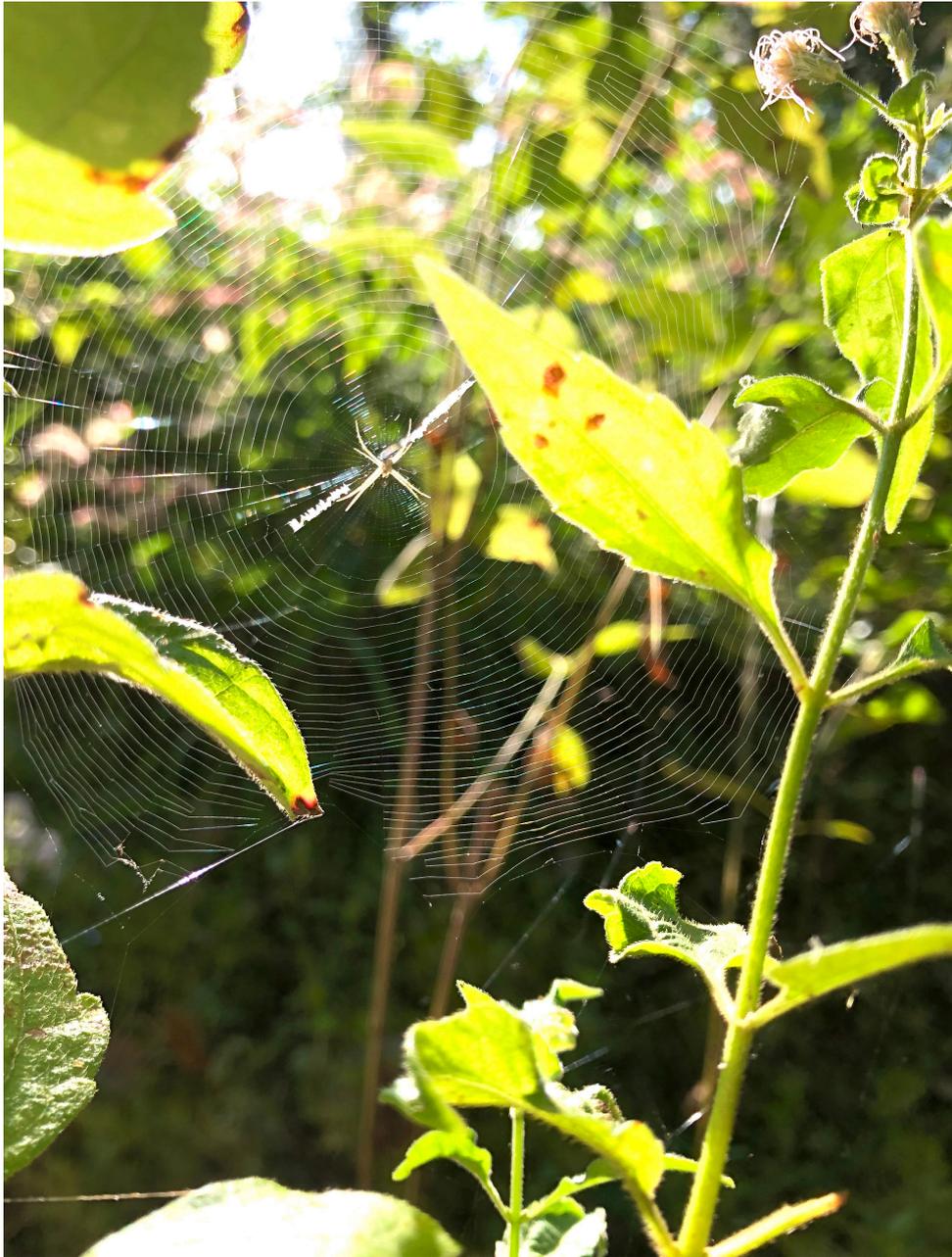
**Baby spider nest in the weeds.**



**Pretty flowers (with spikey stems).**



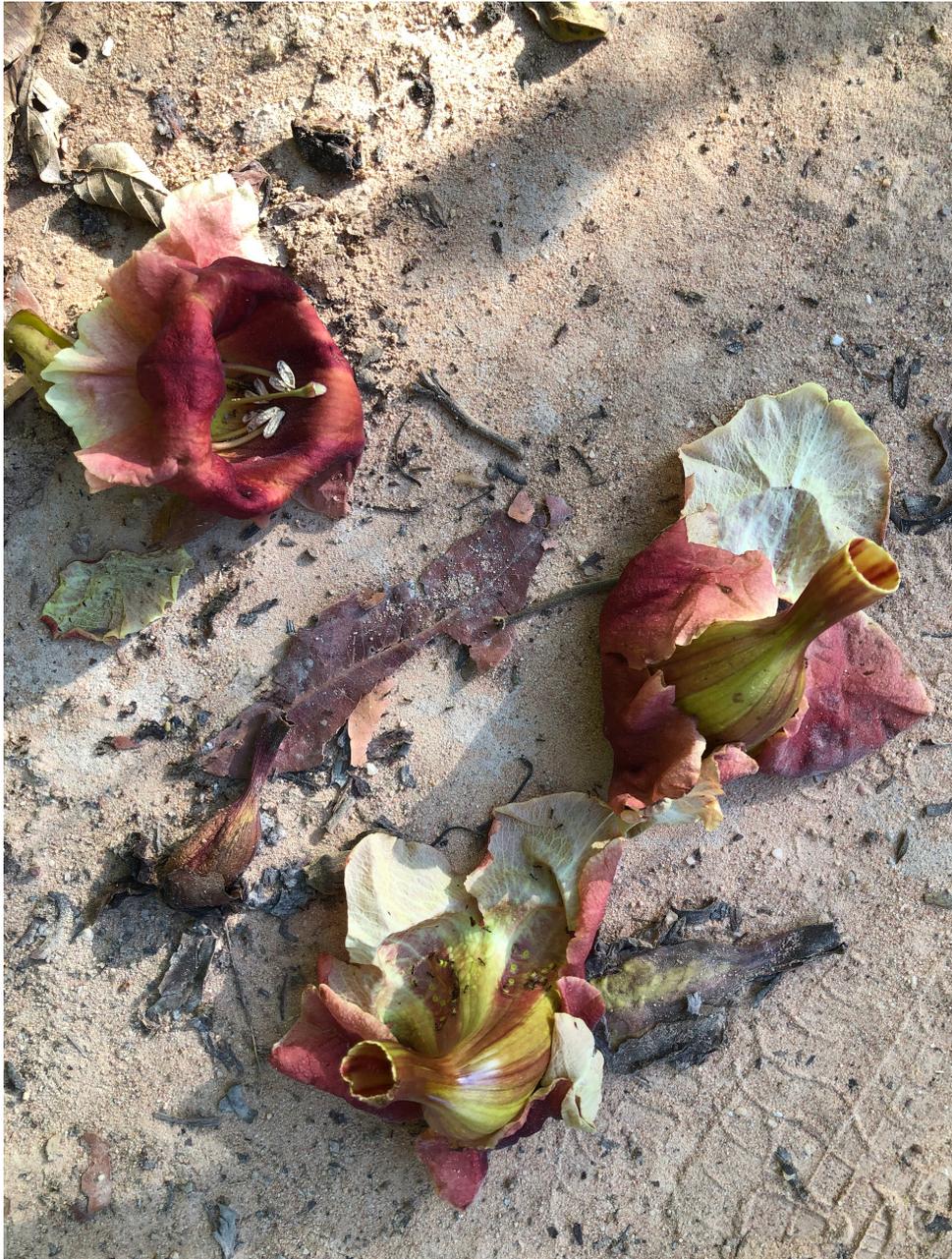
**Funny markings on the wings of the butterfly.**



**The neat work of this spider.**



**A larger Nephilia spider.**



**We often see these flowers on the paths.**



**They come from these trees.**



**Lovely patterns (and “well brushed fur”).**



**Dragonfly.**



**And more butterflies too.**



**A larger butterfly, patterned underneath and with brilliant purple/blue on the top side of the wings.**



**This butterfly is more delicate in colour and patterns.**



**A smaller black and white butterfly.**

We stopped at the supermarket on the way home, to buy fresh bread, cold meat and an avocado. Sandwiches for lunch.

Out for tea, I was (politely) interrupted by someone wishing me happy birthday : a fit man, older than us, from Germany. He loves Siem Reap and visits as often as he can. His wife did not come with him (they have family commitments back home). He knew it was my birthday because of David's (regular) Facebook posts.

## **Tuesday 16th December, 2025.**

Siem Reap has not been directly affected by the military aggression from Thailand, but it (and the surrounding villages) is now home to many of the 500 000 displaced persons (usually the elderly, the women and the children). They come to the pagodas (where the Buddhist custom is to welcome any one in need, and to feed them).

They travel using their small and versatile tractors pulling trailers, or even on motorbikes pulling a small trailer. Sometimes, they can pack up most of their household belongings (they simply don't have as much as we typically have). Even so, they have to leave any furniture.

They arrive at the pagodas having travelled at about 20kmph along red dirt roads, often in traffic jams.

Many local organisations (Khmer based or foreign based) and the government are supporting them as best they can.

In the new Psa Kraom, which we ride through to get to our language class, there are three families now living in the little stalls (they have roller doors on all four sides).

One local pagoda has about 600 families and the children there are already attending the local school (by simply going into the classes!)

This morning, we attended a meeting with some local organisers to talk about two things.

- 1) The situation as it affects expats.
- 2) What needs to be done and what can be done for these people.

There are a lot of expats here in Siem Reap. They have a lot of time but limited funds; they cannot support this many people for very long.

### **Wednesday 17th December, 2025.**

Today is my cleaning day again. David is at Anjali. After a thorough cleaning (it wasn't done well last week!), I settled to getting a few things finished (sewing), ready for our trip to Australia.