

**It's Still
FREE**

BONAIRE

June 8-22, 2015, Year 22, Issue 11

The REPORTER

BES Island News Too

Remember
Father's Day
June 21

P. O. Box 407, Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, Phone 786-6518, 786-6125, www.bonairereporter.com email: reporter@bonairenews.com Since 1994



photo by Greta Kooistra



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Bonaire smells these days. As do most Caribbean islands. That's because the Sargasso "weed" that usually circulates in mid-Atlantic were blown southward and washed up on the windward side of the island. The smell comes from the decomposition of the weed and should dissipate shortly.

► Newly named island Commissioner **Clark Abraham** was in the Netherlands to prepare for Caribbean Netherlands Week to fact find and learn what Dutch resources can help Bonaire.

He discussed possible cooperation between KPN (Dutch Telecom) and Bonaire for possible collaboration with the Dutch supplier of Internet (mobile) telephony, television and IT services.

He also he met with the **Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK)** to talk about centrally housing the government of Bonaire and revitalizing downtown Kralendijk.

Then he met with the **Water and Soil Department** of the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment with regard to drinking water supplies.

There was also an extensive discussion about financing improvements. The parties agree that the development of this basic facility should not lead to tax increases for the people of Bonaire. Finally, along with Governor Rijna, he met with officials of the **Port of Amsterdam** about a collaboration, necessary repairs, development and professionalization of the seaports on Bonaire.

► **AMSTERDAM--The US** has asked the Netherlands

for permission to set up **American border controls on Dutch territory to speed up immigration procedures in the US.** The US currently has preclearance facilities in 15



At US Unknown Soldier tomb

countries, including Aruba, Canada, Ireland and the United Arab Emirates and wants to expand this into other European airports. Preclearance would allow people travelling to the US to enter without going through passport checks and to transfer to internal flights more easily.

► **King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima** visited Washington, D.C. on June 1 to commemorate 70 years of liberation of Europe and to thank the US for their role in ending World War II. Strong political ties between the Netherlands and the US go without saying.

► **MIAMI, US—This Atlantic hurricane season will be less active than usual** this year due to cooler seas and a strong El Niño effect, the US government weather forecaster said on Wednesday. The official "below-normal" forecast calls for six to 11 tropical storms this year, with three to six reaching hurricane status of 74-mile-per-hour (120 kph) winds. This and other forecasts predict the most minimal hurricane activity in the Atlantic in 30 years.

Hurricane season officially runs June 1 through November 30, although this season's first storm, Tropical Storm Ana, occurred in May.

► **The Chamber of Commerce and RCN organized a network meeting for entrepreneurs on May 21st.** The meeting, called "creating new opportunities," was very popular. About 60 companies were given a simple explanation about how entrepreneurs can do business with RCN, the new tender procedure (purely local) of RCN and its goals, including providing more opportunities to local entrepreneurs. The Chamber of Commerce held two presentations about networking and crowd funding.

► **On Sunday, June 7th, Washington-Slagbaai National Park had its annual open house.** Admission was free. It is an annual tradition that STINAPA holds an open house for the Bonaire community. As usual, there was a variety of food and beverages available, a kid's corner, a STINAPA guided hiking trip for adults at 8am through Mondi Suit, a mountain bike race at 7:30am, and all day long local bands made music for anyone who just wanted to dance. More in an upcoming edition.

► **Mabel Nava, Manager of Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) has been selected as a participant in the 2015 Conservation Leadership in the Caribbean (CLiC) fellows program.**

CLiC is an opportunity for conservation professionals in the Wider Caribbean to gain invaluable skills and experience working with proven conservation leaders. Graduates will have the competence necessary to lead on critical issues facing wildlife in the region.

The 2015 CLiC fellows are 20 representatives from 14 nations in the Caribbean region



with a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences in the conservation field.

► **James Finies and followers of his "Nos ke Boneiru bek" (We want Bonaire back) movement are continuing their 200+ day-long protest demanding a new constitutional referendum on the island. Now, instead of chairs placed in front of the Executive Council Building the campaign is being conducted from a camper parked in the lot next to Wilhelmina Plaza.**

► **By the end of this month we may have weather radar back in action for our area.** Curaçao's old WSR-74S weather radar was recently dismantled to make room for the new Vaisala WRM200 radar. The dome was lifted from the tower above the Hato caves and then transported to Meteorological Service land at Seru Mahuma. The new radar will be assembled and installed there.

► **According to Olivier Arrindell of Curaçao's AVA Airways, manufacturer Airbus' latest Global Market Forecast (GMF) states that Latin American and Caribbean airlines will require 2,294 new passenger and cargo planes by 2033, including 1,784 single-aisle, 481 twin-aisle and 29 very large aircraft worth an estimated total of US \$292**

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Flotsam and Jetsam (from page 2) billion. Yes, more air service will be available for Bonaire.

► **Bonaire continues to grow its cruise tourism sector at an impressive rate**, with anticipated cruise arrivals of about 250,000 for the 2015 calendar year to grow to approximately 400,000 in 2016. Up to now 185,000 cruise ship passengers visited during the 2014/2015 season. TCB is awaiting the final number from the Bonaire Harbour Master.

Pullmantur Cruises and the Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) will be picking up passengers in Kralendijk for its cruises. The cruise ship season will be year-round beginning in the summer of 2016.

► **Want to write correct Papiamentu? SpèlChèk a spell checker for Papiamentu, is now available for Microsoft Office for Windows (PC).** After installation in your PC, you can check Papiamentu text for spelling errors in Word, PowerPoint® and Excel®. SpèlChèk costs \$34. Call 5999 869-1166 to order or try the local bookstores-Addo's has it.

► **The rain showers following a long drought caused numerous power failures** at the end of last month. Most were of several hours duration.

According to Water and Energy Company Bonaire (WEB) "the electricity grids are covered with the fine dust and when it rains after a long period, this can cause small fires and short circuits." Areas affected included Punt Vierkant, Belnem, Tera Kora, the Industrial terrain, North Saliña, Nikiboko, Amboina and Antriol.

► **Residents of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba can continue to travel to Aruba, Curacao, Colombia or Guadeloupe for specialist care not available on their home islands.** A ministry assessment of hospitals in those places plus two in Costa Rica, two in the Dominican Republic and two in Puerto Rico were compared in several key areas. Health Minister Schippers concluded, "I see, based on this study, no reason to reconsider the existing choices."

Fourteen hospitals were evaluated, 36 hospitals were invited to cooperate, however, 22 hospitals did not provide sufficient information.

► **The move to normalize relations with Cuba will have a direct impact on Americans seeking to vacation legally on the island nation** – just as they can in other parts of the Caribbean. However, in the newest Travel Leaders Group travel survey, a mere 8.8% of those

polled said they would go to Cuba immediately when all restrictions are lifted, and only 14.9% stated they would go when they believed Cuba was ready for American tourists.



► **Scuba Vision films is pleased to announce the launch of its new website, now under a new name: Bonaire Vision Films & Photo-www.bonairevisionfilms.com** They've worked for 17 years in film and photo on the island of Bonaire and will continue to offer the latest technology in film and photo productions. Look for special deals via Facebook for new customers.

► **International Yoga Day is coming.**

Practice, share and celebrate yoga on International Yoga Day, Sunday, June 21.



Smiling Buddha Yoga Studio at the Plaza Resort will offer free yoga classes for all levels from 9:30-12:30pm with teachers Corien, Ruby, Lolyman and



► **Annouck Loos, Anita Smits, Evy Witlox, Nathalie Petersen and Simone Sweers will travel to Medellin (Colombia) between the 17th and 25th of June** to swim in individual races and also start as the first Bonaire Women relay team in history who will participate in such a big event. They will start in the 4x50 freestyle and the 4x50 medley relay events. They have already put Bonaire on the international swimming map last year at the Aruban and Curacao open Championships where they made their ticket to enter the Pan American Masters Championships a fact. The Pan American Masters Championships will attract close to 10,000 competitors from North, Central and South America, Canada and the Caribbean. We will have more to report in our next edition. *Press Release*

Laura. A meditation at 11:30am will be guided by Arlene.

Then in the evening Smiling Buddha Yoga Studio and Lolyman's Yogarriba Earthship (near Kaya Korona) will offer a free screening of a very interesting documentary: "Yogawoman-Never Underestimate the Power of Inner Peace" by Kate Clare at Yogarriba Earthship.

Meet at Coromoto Church at 6:30 pm and drive together to Earthship.

Call Laura 700-5779 or Lolyman 701-2302

► **Energetic Touch Classes are returning to Bonaire on June 19 and June 20th.** Nurse/Instructor Susan DeSalvo-Reed will again be hosting beginning and advanced classes in Energetic Touch. "By optimizing the energetic systems of the body self-healing is a natural result," said Susan. For more information see the poster on page 7.

► **Thanks for reading.** Remember to tell the places where you shop to advertise with us. ■ *L.D/G.D.*

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\$ 199.500 US Dollar

Located in Punt Vierkant • Lot size: 220m2 • Lease land
Living area: 120m2 • 2 bedrooms / 2.5 bathrooms
Ocean access • Great rental possibilities

Villa Kokolishi - Ground Floor apt.



\$ 185.000 US Dollar

Located in Hato • Lease land • Living area: 75m2
1 bedroom / 1 bathroom • Spacious living
Located around the pool • Furniture is included

EEG Boulevard 75 Apt. C



\$ 189.500 US Dollar

Located in Belnem • Lot size: 900m2 • Owned land
Living area: 125m2 • 2 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms
Walking distance to the ocean • Large balcony

Kaya Saturnus 41 unit A



\$ 179.000 US Dollar

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On The Island Since... October 2014 - Jeroen Grotewal

“I was born and raised in Den Helder, Holland, and when I was little I didn’t have any ambitions, and I still don’t have them. Everything I have done so far came to me naturally. If you go with the flow, things happen the way they are supposed to happen... I think.

After high school, when I was 16, I didn’t have the faintest idea what direction to choose, but in the end I decided to do something practical so I chose secondary laboratory technicians training. It was practically oriented and we had to spend half the time in the chemistry room. Clearly, it wasn’t my thing, but I finished the year because my parents insisted on it. They wanted me to at least obtain the certificate. What I really wanted after high school was to go to the art academy, but my parents didn’t see the point. They were pretty sure you couldn’t make a living being an artist. So, after the lab year I had to make up my mind. I come from a very down-to-earth family and they wanted me to get an education, a diploma, so that I could provide for my livelihood.

As a child I had been hospitalized a few times and what I mostly remembered about those episodes was that the atmosphere at the hospital was very amicable and cool, so I signed up for what was called at the time ‘in-service nursing. It was training to become a nurse, given by the hospital itself – because up to the mid-90s the hospitals in Holland would all train their own nurses. The quality of education was still good in those days. It was a four-year education. You started with seven months pre-vocational training – only theory- and after that you began to work and every once in a while you got a course. I really enjoyed the work in spite of the fact that the hospital where I was trained had quite a few veteran nurses who were very strict. I was a rebel and I saw everything differently and it wasn’t always easy to get along with the deeply conservative nurses.

Nevertheless, I loved the job! It was very varied, and working with people of all ages, all walks of life and cultures was always interesting and never boring. However, it wasn’t challenging enough to stay a basic nurse so I applied for a combined CCU/ICU training site at the Gemini Hospital in Den Helder. I was a rookie when I was hired, only 23. It was 1995. The training lasted one and a half years; I was working at the Gemini Hospital and studying at VU Hospital in Amsterdam. Up until then it was my most challenging and toughest training. There were times you had to work at the top of your ability and it felt great. It was my first job that I felt a healthy tension while working, just like when I was mountain climbing, something I did for years.

Around that same time I started travelling. First I went for a couple of months to India and Nepal. Later I went back to Nepal five more times. My last trip was in 2011. It’s hard to say something about the terrible



Janita, baby Kees and Jeroen

earthquake that struck the country. It’s a horrible catastrophe, but not only because I’ve been there. Cities and villages I knew have been destroyed, but I didn’t know the people who lived there. For them it’s a total tragedy.

In 2000 I quit my job, gave up my house, sold my stuff and bought a one-way ticket to Kathmandu, Nepal. Ultimately I spent one year roaming through Southeast Asia, of which almost six months on Pulau Weh, Sumatra, Indonesia, where I worked as a dive master. I left in 2001 and after the tsunami on December 26th, 2004, I went back in the spring of 2005. Not much had happened on Pulau Weh because the ocean around it is very deep, but the mainland was completely ravaged.

“In my job I serve all the people of Bonaire: from the old, gracious Bonaireans to the new obnoxious Makambas and from the hard working Peruvians to the luxurious Americans and everybody in between.”

Travelling is something I learned at a very young age. We were a relatively adventurous family. My father was an instructor for the Dutch Mountaineering Association and often my parents would take me and my older brother to the Alps to go rock climbing. For me travelling stands for total freedom, but only for a limited amount of time, because at a certain moment you run out of money. So when the time came that I was penniless, I went back to Holland and was offered a job at the same hospital, at the emergency and ICU.

Everything was back to normal, like I’d never left. However, I couldn’t get a permanent contract. Then, an old classmate of mine from the ICU training had become the manager of an employment agency for people who worked in health care and he wanted me on the ambulance in the north-west part of Holland. Through the agency I took the ambulance training. Ultimately I worked for 13 years with the ambulance, 80% of the time in Amsterdam.

In 2005 I met Janita. She was an anesthesiologist assistant and we met during an outing of the employment agency. At first we were friends, but in 2006 it became a relationship and much later, it was already 2009, we moved in together. She’s my total opposite. Where I am quiet and analytical,



Jeroen on the job

she is straight forward, a very lively person.

In 2012 we came to Bonaire for vacation. We needed a break and it was the first vacation where I’d booked a hotel room upfront. From the moment we stepped off the plane, we felt at home. A friend of mine had been working at the hospital for six months and immediately we thought how incredibly cool it would be if we could work and live here too. The whole atmosphere of the island, the tranquility and the temperature – it was just perfect. We went back to Holland and I applied for a job on Bonaire through an employment agency but it didn’t work out. In 2013 I wrote a letter of application to the hospital and finally I had several interviews through Skype and we were in the

hard working Peruvians to the luxurious Americans and everybody in between. The difference between a hospital in Holland and here is mostly that I have a combined function, something that wouldn’t be possible there. Also, there are few layers in management and there are short lines of communication and it’s nice to work like that. We have a great team, everybody is good-humored and helpful. Of course I can only speak about emergency care which is certainly not inferior compared to a hospital in Holland. But there are limits considering diagnosis and treatment because of the size of the hospital and the number of people living on Bonaire.

I have a contract for three years and except for family, there is nothing to go back to in Holland anymore. We didn’t regret the move for one minute and the lack of choices makes life so much easier, it’s wonderful!

I’m very busy with my job and my sparse free time I spend with my family, because, when it comes to it, that’s the most important thing in life and when we want to do something we go for a drive, we roam the east coast and we drink a beer at Donkey Beach and watch the sun go down just like everybody else. Life is good.” ■

Story & photos by Greta Kooistra



final phase when it turned out that Janita was - unexpectedly but greatly desired - pregnant! We postponed the move for a year and when our son Kees was seven months old we came here.

I became a nurse in the emergency room, the ambulance and the air ambulance. Janita is a full-time mom, but she does work two days a week in hospitality. It’s not possible yet to work part-time at the hospital, but that’s what she would like to do. In Holland she worked with great pleasure for 20 years full-time as an anesthesiology assistant, but now that we have Kees, she doesn’t want to work full-time anymore. In fact, it would be virtually impossible, because I’m working all different shifts and when I am on call for the air ambulance, somebody always has to be there for Kees.

Another thing is that now that we have a child, we don’t want him to spend his life in a crèche. That can’t be the meaning of life. On the other hand I do realize that we are very privileged to come from a country where there are plenty opportunities to educate yourself, something which is unfortunately not yet the case in many parts of the world.

In my job I serve all the people of Bonaire: from the old, gracious Bonaireans to the new obnoxious Makambas and from the

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Word on the Street

Items not necessarily confirmed but are being talked about "on the street"

Bula recently reported the rumors about a new "Brazilian" style restaurant opening soon at the former location of Casablanca. Word was that beef picana and "Brazilian pizza" would be the specialties. Well, Bula has not left any stone unturned and discovered a "help wanted" ad looking for a "waiter/kitchen helper with experience in Charcoal BBQ", with the address of J.A. Abraham Blvd. 6....the location of the former Casablanca. The website www.bluegardenpizza.com mentioned in the ad only shows a photo of an interesting looking pizza and not much more. Stay tuned! Still turning over stones!

- Last issue Bula reported that the former **Cafe del Mar** was now **t'Ankertje** and under new management. Well, the "permit plague" seems to have struck again. Police issued a bulletin that a "horeca establishment" on Kaya CEB Hellmund was closed for failure to have the proper permits. Word on the street is that t'Ankertje was the target and that it is currently not open for business.
- Mini crime wave?** Police reported several break-ins during the very early morning hours of May 28 and also June 1. Victims included the new notaris office on Kaya Gresia, the Selibon office on Kaya Industria, the botica on Kaya Grandi, a store on the second floor above the botica, a travel office on Kaya Grandi, and an aluminum company on Kaya Industria. Police report all cases are "under investigation".
- Empire Cinema, Bonaire's open air movie theater in Hato, announces the world premiere of the new film "Jurassic World" on June 11.** According to Empire Cinema, it is a world premiere because it opens on Bonaire one day earlier than in the Americas and the Caribbean. The film is in English with Dutch subtitles.



•**Dive Friends Bonaire Retail store recently had their grand opening at their new location at the traffic circle in Hato.** It's a spacious new store with LOTS of available parking. Word on the street is that lack of available parking space in the downtown area coupled with high rent costs is causing many retailers to consider alternate locations.

•The number of empty storefronts downtown is on the rise. Perhaps the "powers that be" need to come up with a parking solution before our "main street" becomes a ghost town. Bula suggests that all government (RCN and local) employees be required to park at the stadium and provide them with a shuttle service to their place of employment. Why not give it a try during "non-cruise" ship season and put all those funky little caravans to work during their off-season. ■ *Bula Bonchi*



Picture Yourself With The Reporter Kingston, Mass., USA



A Bonaire Reporter first: Bonaire Ambassadors and a Picture Yourself all-in-one. **Howard and Ginger Benassi** from Kingston, Mass., USA were on the island in February and were honored for their 25th year of consecutive visits to Bonaire by being named Ambassadors.

The right photo shows the snow scene at their home in Kingston when they arrived home from Bonaire on March 1. They write: "The snow covered all the windows and doors on the first floor. Our son brought in a front end loader to open up the driveway and doors to the house the day before we came home. All the large piles of snow reminded us of all the salt piles in Bonaire." Howard wrote, "My wife, Ginger, is reading the latest copy of the *Bonaire Reporter* in our yard with the huge snow pile in the background. We had a total of about 9 feet of snow in 2 months. Many roofs collapsed from the weight of the snow."

They said they escaped dealing with the many blizzards of this past winter by being in Bonaire for the months of January and February but came home to another storm rain. They were honored this year for 25 years of visits to Bonaire by Helen Thode who herself is a great ambassador for Bonaire. They say, "We have been blessed to have found Bonaire and consider it to be our home. We have many friends there and would like to stay there longer but are limited by the 90-day restriction." ■



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WHY WE LOVE BONAIRE

Dear Editor:

After 21 years Mary and I are selling our house in Hato, which we used three or four all these years. We'll come back for two or three weeks each year, but the house sale is causing us to walk down memory lane, with so many wonderful memories! Everyone has their "why we love Bonaire list," and here is ours:

Bonaire is such a friendly island, with 70 nationalities that get along and enjoy the diversity

It's a happy island; people in cars smile; locals say, "Bon Dia" and people live in the "now"

It's a simple life – shorts and T-shirts, a slower pace

A contagious spirit of helpfulness – everyone helps everyone. Brad had a flat tire in a poor neighborhood on Bonaire, and residents came out to help. President Obama said he'd cross the street rather than risk walking by four young African Americans, but on Bonaire we pick up hitchhikers of all colors and feel perfectly safe

Kralendijk, with colorful buildings; the drive into town along the sea, from the north, is one the prettiest drives in the world with the colorful blue sea, old buildings, yachts, and many cultures hanging out together enjoying life

Rincon, a pretty, colorful native town dating back to 1537; lunch at Rose Inn

SCUBA diving on the dramatic east coast (rays, tarpon, eels, big fish) and the west coast (*Hilma Hooker*, Salt Pier, and so many more sites); snorkeling and wind surfing too

Free diving with record holder Carlos Coste

Snorkeling in front of our house: so many fish species - "mango" Rainbow Parrot fish - Squid - Gobies – and an occasional resident Octopus and Southern Stingray

Sitting by the sea; breakfast, lunch, drinks, with water lapping up on shore; beautiful sunsets; we love the sound of the surf!

Friends on the island; with so many nationalities, our friends are far more diverse than they are in Chicago

Fun meals at so many unique restaurants

Karel's Bar, where old and young, rich and poor, and all nationalities enjoy the atmosphere

Donkeys and goats roaming around (not a common site in Chicago)

The drive around the south side, with spectacular pink, blue, green colors and mountains of salt

The drive to the north, (Gotomeer) with the sea on the left, an inland lake in the hills, and flamin-

gos; 2000-year-old inscriptions; waves pounding onto the shore

Sunsets at Seru Largo, overlooking the island

Lac Cai, with fun windsurfing, dancing, tasty lunches, and people watching

Riding a bike north, along the sea – beautiful views of the sea

Adventuresome outings, like to Spelunk lighthouse and investigating caves on the gravel road to Rincon

Shopping at several grocery stores to find unusual things to cook

Birds – all sorts of interesting, beautiful birds singing to us all day, joining us under the gazebo for food, joined by lizards, iguanas, and geckos

Bonaire is improving -- the infrastructure (septic system, hospital and roads); reefs are coming back; the island feels safer

Memories like Brad's "Don't Eat the Reef Fish" initiative, with Capt'n Don, though the effort failed; over the years we produced several fun plays; dinner cruises on the *Samur*; the visit by the king and queen in Rincon

Brad S.

LIBRARY LAMENT



Dear Editor,

Why is our library so far from town center? Years ago, when it moved from town to the end of Kaya Korona, it was to be temporary. Now it looks like it will stay forever there and this is really not the best location for it to be.

The library should be easily reached by everybody. Its a public place that should be visited by young and old. But our library is on such a dangerous road and so far from town that children can never go there on their own. So they need their parents and a car which is not easy with the always working parents these days.

Also for very old people it's hard to reach there because they must depend on others.

What a pity for the newspapers waiting to be read, the many good books, the unused computers.

If the library was in town, working people could reach it easily during their break or after work. People could drop their children there while shopping. People with no car or who cannot drive can visit there by walking while visiting the town center.

Now who will cross that very busy Kaya Korona only for a book at the library? Not many people, or kids and old ones, and students not at all. That is why our public library is always empty. No public. So this very important public place is missing its purpose. It's a pity because it could be such a nice meeting point.

The library has become very nice and now has very good books and offers the use of computers. For children and youngsters this should be a place to study, a place to enjoy, stimulate and exercise reading, to look for information, to study on the computer, to participate in science and art projects, to update with news, and for the little ones to enjoy a story telling afternoon by the workers of the library. But no, its not possible. It's always empty because of its location.

The library is missing its purpose. Please let it move back fast to town so that we can enjoy our

beautiful library with all the interesting facilities it has now!

A member of society

BONAIRE MARATHON

Dear editor:

In the last edition of *The Reporter*, there was an article on having a marathon run on Bonaire. The article closed with the phrase "when will the first marathon on Bonaire be?" So this is the question that triggered me to write this email.

I participate in a running group called "Bonaire Runners." We practice two days a week together and some of us practice an extra day by ourselves. We love long distance running and our group has a lot of experience with half and full marathons. We did the most runs in Holland and participate in every event that is on Bonaire. We are also wondering when the next half or even full marathon will be on Bonaire. First we had our hopes up on Forsa. They would like to organize a half marathon, but the latest news is that the plan is off. We are very sorry about that.

After introducing our group to you I was thinking why don't we bring runners together to talk about what is necessary to plan an event like a marathon? Who loves to put the effort in to and how we get the sponsors and so on..... Would it not be great to start an event like this?

Mary Tielman

If you are interested Contact Mary Tielman at mary.tielman@gmail.com



Editor's note: in the past Bonaire runners were active in marathon competitions. In Curacao's Third Annual Marathon in December 2001 runners from Bonaire took third, fourth, fifth and sixth places overall.

The awesome wins were made by: police officer **Ronald Schleper - first** in his class of 40 to 44-year olds (3 hours, 40 minutes); teacher **Wim Olde - first** in his class of 45 to 49-year olds (3 hours, 58 minutes); Budget Rent a Car Manager "**DJ**" **Methorst - first** in his class of 32 to 34-year olds (4 hours, 5 minutes); and one-time Bonaire resident **Tijnen Vermaas - second** in his class of 40 to 44- year olds (4 hours, 17 minutes).

AWARE Of Litter



And the winners are....

On Saturday May 30th Tene Boneiru Limpi, Selibon, Plaza Resort Bonaire and Boneiru Duradero organized a first time clean up event especially for youngsters. The main goal of AWARE was to create awareness with regard to litter amongst the youth of Bonaire.

About 250 youngsters between the ages of 12 – 25 showed up last Saturday morning to lend a helping hand to keep Bonaire clean. The youth were often accompanied by helpful parents, motivated community leaders or involved teachers. One of the largest groups, with over 40 volunteers, was baseball group Stars. The Junior Rangers were well represented and there was also a group from Jong Bonaire. Most group sizes ranged between 10 and 20 participants, but there were also smaller groups with just three or four people. Rento Fun and Bonaire Tours transported groups to and from clean up sites. The clean up concentrated on streets near the center of Playa. Antril proved to be the bario with the most litter and illegal dumping sites.

The two-hour clean up had an incredible result: 3,500 kilos of waste collected. The organization was pleasantly surprised by the positive tenacity of Bonaire's youth to rid Bonaire's nature of as many bottles as possible. Beer bottles were the most collected item. But groups with their own transportation also brought in larger dumped items, such as rusted washing machines and rickety furniture.

In their eagerness to clean up Bonaire some groups overstuffed their garbage bags, which made it impossible for the Selibon pick up team to collect them by hand. However, Selibon promised that they will use heavy equipment to remove the bags no later than Tuesday June 2nd.

On return to the Plaza Medio Ambiente all teams received a free entrance ticket for a Dance Party that same evening and then went home for some well-deserved rest.

The Dance Event was held at Plaza Resort Bonaire where our local and very talented DJs: Chris Beat, DJs Ve-

loce, and DJ MARVV entertained the crowd and created an excellent party vibe. Raynel Cecilia (Bon FM) made a successful debut as Bonaire's newest DJ. The audience was also treated to a surprise performance by Curaçao rappers, Rashid Hato and Edrich Kopra. Coca Cola sponsored a graffiti wall where all participants could spray their own name. The graffiti panels will be on display at Selibon. During the event a clean up group named Jelly Beans were declared the "winner" of this year's youth clean up AWARE. They collected the most waste per person, 17.8 kilos.

The hot tunes and cool beats of the AWARE Dance Event were supposed to last until 1 in the morning, but unfortunately Plaza Resort decided to pull the plug half an hour early, due to complaints from their guests. The organization regretted the premature and abrupt end of an otherwise successful party night.

Tene Boneiru Limpi, Selibon and Boneiru Duradero consider AWARE to be a great success and consider organizing it as an annual recurring event.

AWARE was made possible by many sponsors and volunteers. Special thanks to: Bon Kousa, Massive Productions, Coca Cola, Dasani, Rento Fun, Bonaire Tours, Van den Tweel Supermarket, Kooyman, Flamingo Communications, Young & Talented, Hype Events, Tene Boneiru Limpi, Bonaire Logistics, Plaza Resort Bonaire, Selibon and Boneiru Duradero.

Visit the Facebook page of Selibon N.V and Boneiru Duradero Portal for all photos of the event. Photo taken at dance party below. ■ *Press release*



Apprenticing at De Freewieler

Bonaire/Kralendijk –

Maysen Mercera is learning mechanics. He is 14 and he is the new trainee at De Freewieler, the bicycle shop located at Kaya Grandi #61, the blue building, in down town Kralendijk. He is studying to be a car mechanic in high school under the guidance of his teacher, Joost Wilderdink. The relationship between De Freewieler and the *Scholengemeenschap* (Community High School) Bonaire has existed for some years now, and on a regular basis trainees are allowed to experience all aspects of two wheelers.

De Freewieler sells and repairs road bikes, mountain bikes and Dutch bikes. The shop specializes in Giant, Bikkel and Golden Lion bikes.

Frank Bohm, the owner of De Freewieler, says, "All shops can sell bikes but maintenance is something completely different. Modern bikes are getting more and more refined and complicated. Nowadays a lot of bikes have front and/or rear suspension, effective V-brakes, disc brakes and hydraulic operated brakes. Some bikes have up to 27 gears and it takes a lot of knowledge and experience to keep these bikes in a perfect condition. Running a modern bicycle shop is not just repairing tubes and tires anymore!"

Maysen Mercera likes the work as a trainee. He laughs and informs me. He is a real Bonairean (although born on Curacao/jb). He finished classes at the Reina Beatrix School. Now he is a student at SGB, class three. As a trainee he works 40 hours a week for three weeks. Maysen is a nice and quick learning young Bonairean with a willing and open mind. An island like Bonaire really needs chaps like this enthusiastic guy. ■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*



Maysen Mercera



ENERGETIC TOUCH

Instruction for Energy Medicine Coming to Bonaire

Friday, June 19th, **Energetic Touch 1** 9am to 6 pm

Energetic Touch 1- is Energy based therapeutic approach to healing. You will learn hands on techniques that bring the energy system into balance and harmony to promote self-healing. This class is life changing and you will leave with skills for healing yourself and others. You will receive a **Certificate of Completion** so you can start practicing immediately. ET is done in hospitals, wellness centers and private practices throughout the world
The Energetic Touch Class will teach you: About the Chakra system, How to relieve pain, anxiety, and stress, Charka Connection, Mind Clearing, Magnetic Clearing

Saturday, June 20th, **Energetic Touch 2** 9am to 6pm

Energetic Touch 2- This is an advanced class for experienced energy medicine practitioners. The class will give instruction, concepts, and skills to further develop energy based therapies knowledge and practice. Strong dedication to personal growth encouraged. A Certificate of completion is given at end of class. This is a deeply profound energy medicine class!

Energetic Touch 2 will teach you: Chelation- a technique to become a multi-dimensional healer, Back work, Charka Repair work, Energy Block clearings

This class is an advanced practice class in energy medicine, experience with the chakra system strongly recommended

Fee: \$133.00 per class both classes: \$250.00

To register please email Susan at blueskyz@idiom.com

Local Contact Donna DeSalvo 795-9332 or stop by Penny Lane

Instructor: Susan De Salvo-Reed is a Healing Touch Certified Practitioner and Instructor, Member of the Healing Touch Board of Directors, Wellness Coach and Nurse of over 25 years' experience. She is returning and will be offering two special classes just for Bonaire. She has held classes on the island for several years. She has been teaching Healing Touch and Energetic Touch in acute hospitals, hospices and wellness centers nationally and internationally. Her passions lead her to blend therapies for the best client care. Susan is an activist when it comes to Energy Medicine and Lifestyle Management. She believes healing comes through the body/mind connection. In her own words, "my quest is to bridge the gap between allopathic medicine and complementary medicine", she states, "this is the place where true wellness within can be found."

Another Chance To Learn



“BONAIREAN PEOPLE HAVE A GREAT HUNGER FOR EDUCATION - THEY ARE EAGER TO IMPROVE THEIR LOT IN LIFE”

“There’s this young woman, 22 years old, with two children. She had one year of SGB high school but had to drop out when she became pregnant. She had no job and was living with her two children on a government allowance of less than \$200 per month in a house with a lot of other people. There came a time that her situation became so desperate that referred by local police, social workers, or at her own initiative, she ended up at Forma.” Speaking is Inge Berben, director and project leader of FORMA for the last nine years.

“When the girl came to us we did an intake, evaluation and considered eventual problems— financial, psychological or health problems as well as the housing situation and whether there are problems with alcohol or drugs. We test general skills to get an idea how independent someone is. After this we decide which route this person is going to follow and with what assistance. We

discuss it with the client, and if she agrees we sign a contract. Then daycare and/or after school care is arranged and paid for her children, and she herself gets \$188 monthly. (FORMA gets that amount from the government). However, the moment she gets her monthly allowance from us, the government allowance she previously got is cancelled. The girl has to come to school at Forma for five days a week, but if she doesn’t show up without giving any notice then those days are cut in her allowance – which is also part of the work training.

Presently we have 120 youngsters in the house who are studying MBO 1 or Social Opportunity Direction. We have 70 adults who are following literacy training. Every single person gets a mentor and is assisted by social services if necessary, and each and every one gets an individual learning/treatment plan.

“In 2013,” Berben explains, “FORMA became the first educational institution on the three BES islands to achieve the Dutch standard for basic quality of education which was a huge milestone for us. We are a foundation for adult education which consists of four divisions.

- Department for adult literacy training for people aged 18 and



photo by Greta Kooistra

FORMA's management team - from the left to the right: Saskia de Blik, Marie Craane, Fernon Koeiman, Pierre Perigault Monte, Inge Berben and Lianne Dam. Not pictured: Soraida Mensche and Margie Pourier-Thode

older who cannot (or not sufficiently) read and write.

- **Social Opportunity Direction** for young people –ages 18-24- who have no basic qualifications, who attended for instance only elementary school, are unemployed and who have no prospect of a job.

I would like to mention that our wish for the future is that the age limit of 24 be extended so that many more people can step up and be accommodated.

- **MBO 1 – Vocational Education** for people 18 and older as well as youngsters, 16 and 17, who are

placed with us by the school attendance officer because they did not get appropriate education at SGB high school. At MBO 1 people can obtain a diploma in hospitality, construction and what we call AKA, which stands for generally qualified labor assistant. Graduates can immediately start working after obtaining a diploma. From January 2016 we will also introduce subjects like agriculture, landscaping, trade, technology and care. MBO 1 will

(Continued on page 19)



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A Garden? Just Do It!

I have good news about special plants with rare facts.

Let me start with the photo of the **succulents** that grow along our shores where the sea is rough like on the way to Sorobon. →→→

Once I was there with a friend from St. Maarten who picked some of the full round green and red beads, cut them into pieces and ate them. I was astonished. But as a nature lover and curious I needed to know how they tasted so I tried some too and they are delicious.

He said, as a cook, he often uses some of these beads in his salad recipes. Cut into pieces they give a nice soft salty taste with a crunchy bite. People with diabetes can use these beads to give their food and soup a tasteful flavor. And for sure they're healthy too, growing on unspoiled beaches, watered by sea, lying in the sun (not in a cooler). Nothing chemical there. Wow! And last but not least it's all there for free. Enjoy pure nature!

There is more healthy stuff in nature, growing right here. (Once I start, I cannot stop talking about this.) The cactus types are special too. There are different types, known under local names: Datu or Yatu, Infrou, Bolcactus, Kadushi, Kadushi di Pushi and Schijfcactus.

On Bonaire the **Kadushi** is a popular one. In the past locals used it a lot to make soup, and the older people still do. The soup tastes great and is one of nature's healthy goodies too. Here is



the recipe:

Between the green skin and the white inside of the Kadushi is a light green part. Cut away the skin and throw away the white inside. Just this light green part is used for the soup. Cut some onion, garlic, (salted) beef or salted pig tail or fish, sea food, fresh herbs and spices and let them cook together in a big pot with water for a while. Then add whole okra (yambo), the cut up kadushi and whole corn to the soup with some bay leaves. Let cook for a while and there you have your classic Kadushi soup.

For vegetarians this soup without meat is nice too. Just add more veggies. The soup can become slimy, especially



Schijfcactus

be lucky to find them as the Loras will most likely beat you to them.

In Malta the figs are made into "schijfcactus," a liqueur called Bajtra. In Mexico, cactus filled with vegetables is a popular food known as quesadilla.

The **Bol Cactus**, also protected, has small red seeds which taste very nice. Children here showed me how to pick the seeds from the cactus. Now I understand why the kids love to eat these seeds.

So, if you are fed up with cooking the same things every day, here are some interesting things to try. And if you don't succeed the first time it's no problem because nature has enough for you to try again. ■

Story & photos by Angliet, Nature Lover



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This is the 137th of a Reporter series of articles by J@n (wear a helmet) Brouwer, featuring some of Bonaire's interesting vehicles and persons that are "on wheels." Up to at least 200 articles!

YELLOW LIGHTNING FLASHES OVER THE ISLAND — THE BURTON

Santa Barbara/Bonaire —

On a regular basis a yellow colored sports car passes my house. I recognize the vehicle as a Burton, a handmade polyester two-seater, based on the chassis of a French made Citroen 2CV, also known in Europe as "ugly duck!" One day the driver passed again, honking at me. I wave. He stops the car, grabs the original "Burton knob" and shifts the gearbox into reverse. Then he parks his car in front of my house. The characteristic sound of a two-cylinder air-cooled four-stroke engine with push rods idling. We introduce ourselves and start to talk about the car, Andre Citroen, life on the island. We exchange e-mail-addresses.

Months go by. The car passes by

again. The driver uses the screaming police siren, originally mounted on an all-American Harley Davidson built in the 50s. Now there is time for another intensive talk and a photo shoot.

This Burton is, like all Burtons, handmade in the Netherlands. The little sports car is the product of the creativity of two brothers, Iwan and Dimitri Goebel. They have their factory in Zutphen, near Deventer, and this car carries a metal badge, reading: "Burton body number 0059, built by Duckhunt." The present owner, Evert Zwart, from the Netherlands, informs me about all the details of the vehicle: "This handmade Burton is based on the chassis of a real Citroen 2CV. Originally this "ugly duck" was constructed in France in 1984. The car is equipped with a two-cylinder, four-stroke engine, size: 605 cc, with forced air-cooling and a four-speed gearbox. Disc brakes are mounted in the front, close to the gearbox. The rear has two drum brakes. Wheel suspension is hydraulic/mechanical. Road holding and braking are excellent because of the low weight of the vehicle and the low gravity point. This is vehicle



THE BURTON

number 59 and it was built in the 90s. This Burton played a role in the Dutch movie: "Verliefd op Ibiza" (In love on Ibiza/jb) with Katja Schuurman (an attractive Dutch actress/jb) playing an important role. Burtons have an all polyester body. The material is through and through colored and very easy to repair. The mounted body is very ridged and strong and you can easily walk over it if you want. This car is, as all Citroen 2CV's, very basic. You can even crank the engine by hand!"

Then Evert starts his horizontal twin and jumps into the car. I join him. Off we go! Acceleration is very good for only 605 ccs. The car is real light weight with good road holding. Suspension is the ultimate, cornering is fast. Uphill we go, revving up the air cooled engine. Plenty of power, good handling, good braking. The excitement of open air and wind through your hair. The produced

sound is excellent and no radio is needed. People wave at us and Evert uses his American police siren again. This is fun! Up the hill, down the hill, cornering, accelerating, braking. Steering is very direct, road holding is very good. A high level experience! Then we turn the vehicle and we cruise along the coast, the beaches and the boulevard. Time to go home again. We stop in Hato and Evert parks the car. The engine runs smoothly, picks up quickly, idles satisfied... This is fun! If only Andre Citroen could have experienced this!

Those days, way back in history, before World War II, Andre Citroen designed the first 2CV. The car had to have four doors, easy removable seats and a lot of ground clearance. A farmer had to be able to drive the car from farm to farm, transporting a bucket filled with

(Continued on page 13)

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Sisters' Art At TCB



Kralendijk/Bonaire –

Beginning Monday, June 8, the art exposition of sisters, Agnes and Riet, will be officially open. Mosaic art, some 20 pieces, are displayed at the office of the Tourism Corporation Bonaire, located in the Kaya Grandi #2. Admission is free and the exposition is open to the public during opening hours of the TCB office.

The last few weeks were very busy for Riet Sealy and Agnes Joosten as they had to do a lot of last minute things to prepare for their first official exposition of mosaic art. Last Friday most work was done and from Monday, June 8, the exposition is open for the public.

"It all started more than 10 years ago," Riet Sealy explains. "In 2003 my sister Agnes and I went to Europe to celebrate the 80th birthday of our mother with six (!/jb) other sisters. During that trip we also went

to Barcelona. There we got impressed by the art of Antoni Gaudi, the Spanish Catalan architect who is famous for his *magnus opus*: the Sagrada Familia. In the Parque Guell we all got impressed by his art, using broken ceramics and tiles.

Upon returning to Bonaire I went to Curacao where I found a little booklet which told me about how to learn the art of mosaics in two afternoons. I discovered very soon that two afternoons were not enough. The following year I flew to the Netherlands to take a workshop in mosaics. Then at least I learned about the technique. The inspiration had to come by itself as on an island like Bonaire you really have to improvise.

My first "project" was the decoration of the top of an old French wrought iron folding table, those tables and chairs we know from the terraces of French bars and local

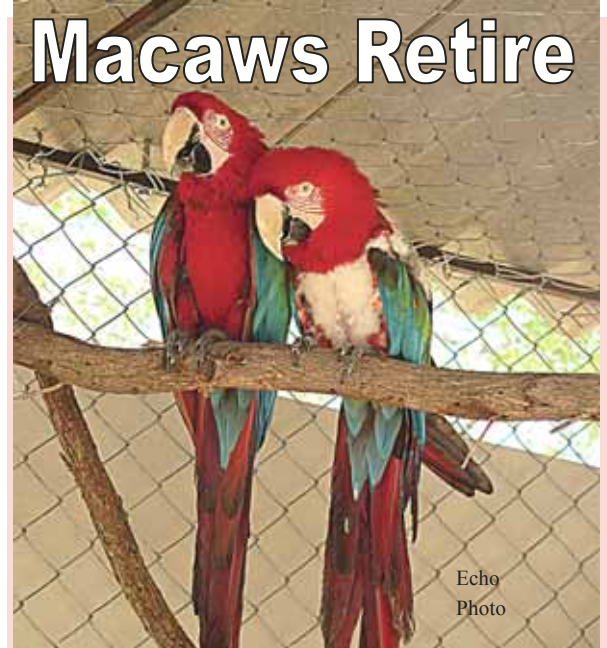
restaurants. And I continued as I had seen the light. People liked my work and wanted to order projects and buy my work. A table and a color scheme to fit their furniture.

But I did not like to work on assignment. It took away the fun and my creativity. Then I decided to start a workshop on Bonaire and five students joined me. One of them was my sister, Agnes, who also had been in Barcelona."

"My sister started with that French table in 2004" Agnes Joosten says. "I really liked her work, but I did not have the foggiest clue about how she did it. She started with the table and soon she decorated benches and seats and sculptures and even a wall in the garden of her house, inspired by the shadow of a tree, created by the light of the sun. So, I joined the workshop and then I was one of my sister's students. Now we are both inspired and infected by the secrets of the mosaics.

Sometimes we even work together on one project. She takes over, I take over. The co-operation is very pleasant and informal. We use tiles, shells, wood, mirrors, half marbles, decoration material, mother of pearl. All parts we glue and cement on a surface of wood or stone. This is a kind of 'applied art.' Do not ask us about the how or the what. We just like to create this kind of art as the process gives us a feeling of rest, peace and happiness." ■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*

Macaws Retire



Echo
Photo

The two Green-winged Macaw parrots, Baby and Stanley, that were a feature at Captain Don's Habitat and Rum Runners restaurant for almost 30 years are moving to a new home six times larger than their old one. Because Stanley and Baby have been captive for so long and are not native to Bonaire, it is not possible for them to be released into the wild. On Monday, May 25th, Stanley and Baby moved to deluxe quarters right here on Bonaire in a shaded area surrounded by mango trees in the lush area of Dos Pos, ECHO's Conservation Center. Captain Don's Habitat is very grateful for the efforts of *Dierenbescherming* Bonaire, the Dutch Army and ECHO with the generous funding of BamBam Construction and Caribbean Homes. If you would like to visit Baby and Stanley and find out more about the work ECHO does on behalf of Bonaire's birds, you can tour their conservation center every Wednesday at 4:30. Visit their website at www.echobonaire.org for more information. Donate to Echo and support Stanley and Baby in the manner they have now come to expect. ■

Press release

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Swim With Barracudas

In May the Bonaire Aquatics Club "Barracudas" in collaboration with Spice Beach Club held the "Spice Sprint Cup" for the first time. Anyone could join in, young and old!

About 35 swimmers showed off their talents in the various age groups and swimming disciplines. There were lots of prizes distributed in the following age groups: 8 and under, 9-10 years, 11-12 years, 13-14 years and 15 years and older. The event was held at the waterfront "Parke Rekreatie Arthur" Tului "Domacasse". The swimming lanes were placed in the sea for the 25 and 50 meter sprints in backstroke, butterfly, breaststroke and front crawl. **Emma van Wijngaarden** won the girls and **Nehemyah Maingot**, boys (photo above).

Would you like to participate in the next event? The next "Spice Sprint Cup" will be on June 13 from 10am to 1pm and promises to be an exciting



day. Bonaire Barracudas invites new members to come and train with them. When you see them at the waterfront stop a moment and join them. Everyone is welcome, all ages and all levels.

These fantastic events could not take place without sponsorship. Bonaire Barracudas thanks its sponsors Telbo, Giro Bank, Budget Marine, Gio's, Bon Bida Spa & Gym, InselAir, Carlos Costa, ACU, FWNB, WEB, Flamingo Communications, Freewieler, Spice Beach Club. Thanks to their contributions, the 1st "Spice Sprint Cup" became an unforgettable and fantastic event. ■ *Press Release*

Bonairean Sailors To Peru



Kralendijk/Bonaire –

On Sunday, March 31st the BSSA (Bonaire Sailing School Association) organized their final club championships. That day there was a lot of trade winds, competition was tough and a lot of sailors flipped over with their little sailing boats, with the teasing wind and the waves. A mast did not make it and sails were torn.

This day was a very important day for the competitors as the Sunfish sailors had to fight for their selection for the Sunfish World Championships to be organized in Paracas, Peru, this October. The final results. Sunfish Youth Championships selection: Brayan Thode and Nils van Eldik. Sunfish World Championships: Ton Nuijten ("Opa", "Grandfather"/jb), Brayan Thode, "Yellowman" (Ramon Martis), "Kabes" (George Soliana) and Sipke Stapert.

After the races the BSSA organized a barbecue for all sailors and other members of the sailing school.

Now that they know that they will represent the island of Bonaire, they are preparing themselves more and more. Skills have to be at the highest level, knowledge of sailing and physical condition have to be excellent.

Last year "Opa" said in an interview: "Next year's World Championships will be organized in the Pacific Ocean of Peru. Every day races will start at 13:00 because then the wind picks up to 15 knots or more. Wind, that's what we need!"

This year "Opa" said in an interview: "We are ready for it. Now we are chasing for sponsors again. Last year we were sponsored by: Insel Air, Fundashon Wega di Number Boneiru, TCB (Tourism Cooperation Bonaire), Akkermans Auto Supplies, Gio's Gelateria & Cafeteria, Krioyo Paint, Cadushy Distillery, Paradise Rentals, Firgos, Budget Marine and Buena Vista Optics. At this moment we are sitting around the table with a variety of potential sponsors. It takes a lot of money to fly to Peru to put Bonaire on the map of the world of sports and sailing! Peru, here we come!" ■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*

Bonaire On Wheels (Continued from page 10)

fresh eggs, a couple of bottles of wine and a goat in the back. To transport a massive goat the farmer was allowed to remove the rear seats. The first 2CV's were equipped with a roll-up-roll-down canvas roof from the front wind shield to the rear bumper so the rear hood was also part of the canvas roof. Windshield wipers were hand operated and the six-volt generator produced just enough electricity for the single eccentric mounted head lamp. 2CV's were cheap, light, simple and economical. Then World War II overcame Europe so Andre Citroen hid his prototypes and drawings. After the war only one model was found again.

As the Citroen 2CV "ugly duck" is basic, elementary, primitive and rural the Burton in a way also is. A standard Burton is not even equipped with doors. On the other hand a Burton has a very nice interior with a Formula One detachable steering wheel made from aluminum and wood, made by Moto-Lita, a speedometer, odometer, rev-counter, oil pressure gauge, volt meter, real windshield wipers and an aluminum gear shift knob. No fuel gauge is needed as a standard Burton has two dipsticks: one in the engine sump to check the oil level and one, hidden under the aluminum tank cap, to check the amount of fuel left in the gas tank. Luckily the Burton consumes little fuel because of its ultra-light weight and its aerodynamic shape. (Evert has a fuel gauge mounted as an extra meter in the dash board of his yellow monster.)

Upholstery, steering wheel center and rims of

this bright yellow colored Burton are purple. Evert shows me the secret of the detachable steering wheel and mounts the tonneau cover. There is also the possibility of covering the cabin with a so called vinyl soft top. Evert shows me a brochure with models and extras. One extra is an aluminum bar between the only windshield and the rear of the cabin. Two so called "gull wings" can be mounted as an option like on the very expensive Mercedes sports cars built in the 50s.

Everts' pride and joy is Bonaire registered as B-3031. Apart from the Citroen parts (made in France) all parts are made in Holland: the body, the grille, the split windows, the step-on badges on the side of the car. The two red rear reflectors and the pilot lights on top of the front mudguards are made in England.

Evert Zwart wants to import the Burtons to Bonaire as well as Curacao and Aruba. He wants to start a garage to build and maintain Burtons as Burtons are also available as a kit car. Above all there are plans for delivering 10 cars to Surinam.

"These cars are perfect for the island," Evert says. "They're made of polyester, indestructible, easy to maintain, no electronics. Now I am looking for a business partner to import a couple of Burtons as a kit to construct them on Bonaire. Burton already has three enterprises in the world and 24 representatives abroad. A Burton could be the first Bonairean made car!"

■ *Story & photo by Jan Brouwer*



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Bonaire-Sun Rise/Set, Moon Phase and Tides

Winds and weather can further influence the local tide's height and time

Day	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
	04:51	12:55	19:04				
Mon 08	0.75 ft	-0.33 ft	0.55 ft			6:10	18:59
Tue 09	Last Quarter	00:55	05:45	13:26	19:41	6:10	18:59
		02:15	06:41	13:58	20:21		
Wed 10		0.14 ft	0.52 ft	-0.28 ft	0.82 ft	6:10	18:59
		03:32	07:40	14:31	21:03		
Thu 11		0.07 ft	0.39 ft	-0.24 ft	0.93 ft	6:10	19:00
		04:47	08:46	15:05	21:48		
Fri 12		-0.01 ft	0.27 ft	-0.19 ft	1.01 ft	6:10	19:00
		06:00	10:00	15:40	22:35		
Sat 13		-0.09 ft	0.16 ft	-0.13 ft	1.05 ft	6:10	19:00
		07:10	11:25	16:15	23:23		
Sun 14		-0.17 ft	0.10 ft	-0.06 ft	1.06 ft	6:11	19:00
		08:14	13:03	16:50			
Mon 15		-0.23 ft	0.07 ft	0.02 ft		6:11	19:01
	00:12	09:13	14:51	17:26	New Moon	6:11	19:01
Tue 16	1.05 ft	-0.28 ft	0.10 ft	0.09 ft		6:11	19:01
	01:02	10:05	16:35	18:10			
Wed 17	1.00 ft	-0.30 ft	0.17 ft	0.17 ft		6:11	19:01
	01:51	10:50	17:32	19:36			
Thu 18	0.94 ft	-0.31 ft	0.24 ft	0.24 ft		6:11	19:01
	02:39	11:29	18:05	21:13			
Fri 19	0.87 ft	-0.30 ft	0.31 ft	0.29 ft		6:11	19:02
	03:25	12:04	18:34	22:42			
Sat 20	0.79 ft	-0.27 ft	0.39 ft	0.31 ft		6:12	19:02
	04:09	12:33	19:00				
Sun 21	0.70 ft	-0.24 ft	0.46 ft			6:12	19:02
		00:01	04:51	12:58	19:25		
Mon 22		0.31 ft	0.61 ft	-0.21 ft	0.53 ft	6:12	19:02

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ORCO Bank offers one-on-one attention, personal banking. Each client is a person, not a number. The office is the historic building at Kaya Grandi 48.

BARS

Zazu Bar at the Marina at Harbour Village is all you expect in a great bar. Super bartender, quality drinks and friendly service. Plus Bonaire's only Rum Bar— over 50 types! Great hangout spot for divers and sailors.

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Dive Friends has four dive schools and three retail shops so you always get the best deals and can be assured of top notch training. Remodeled shop, Dushi Shoes on Kaya Grandi, open now.

GARDEN SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

Green Label has everything you need to start or maintain your garden. They can design, install and maintain it and offer plants, irrigation supplies and garden chemicals. Off Kaya Industria, behind Lucky Supermarket.

HOME CARE

PPM- Prestige Property Management Can care for your property when you are off island doing Check-Ups, House sitting, - Contractor Supervision, Gardening & Landscaping, Meet & Greet guests, and more.

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RESTAURANTS

Bistro de Paris— Waterfront location at the Harbour Village Marina. Superb menu, genuine French dishes in a waterfront ambiance. Airco if you want it. Its Zazu Bar is a very popular hangout for divers too.



Bobbejans— Bonaire's quintessential "rib joint" not only has some of the best ribs but tasty extras like Gado-Gado, pork chops and fries. Open Friday night and weekends only.

La Balandra at The Harbour Village Resort offers Bonaire's most spectacular setting. Superb cuisine, top notch service. Eat on the deck or with your feet in the sand.



Pasa Bon Pizza—Bonaire's quality pizza-Best ingredients, best baking and best taste. Great salads and lasagna too. Eat in or take away.

RETAIL

Dushi Shoes & Dive Friends Shops – featuring Clarks, Guess, DC Shoes, Reefs – as well as Tee Shirts for men and women.

The Tung Fong Store is a great asset to everyone on Bonaire because it stocks so many things we want: clothes, hardware, food, auto and bike supplies. If you don't see it... ask for it. They probably have it.

Penny Lane is Bonaire's first upscale consignment store. Buy fashionable, top brand clothing, high quality toys and more for a fraction of their original price.



SECURITY

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STORAGE

The Storehouse (Mangazina in Papiamentu) offers Secure Storage for Vehicles, Household Items, Diving and Sporting Gear, Business Files or Inventory. Across from the northern hotel row.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING

REGULAR EVENTS

Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park Tours \$21 (includes tax). Discounts for residents and local people. Tel. 717-8489, 540-9800.

Soldachi Tours—See the Real Bonaire and be transported back in time. Learn about the history, culture and nature by Bonaireans from Rincon. Call Maria Koeks for more information: 796-7870, 717-6435.

Parke di Libertat -Park-playground and canteen (formerly Dare to Care Park) Behind the hospital. Open Monday-Saturday 8am-7pm. Free entry.

Saturdays

• **Marshe di Kunukeru (Farmers' Market) First Saturday of the month**, at Kriabon, Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am to 1pm.

• **Tera Kora Ranch Market**—2nd & 3rd Saturdays- local produce, clothes, food, games for kids, 2nd hand items

• **Monthly Cultural Market at Mangazina di Rei—Last Saturday of the month**, 8am-2pm. See the real Bonaire: traditional music, crafts, local produce, Creole kitchen, educational presentations. Mangazina di Rei is on the Rincon Road, at the eastern entrance to Rincon

• **Last Saturday of the month** – donate foods and household items to Food Bank (*Stichting voedselbank Bonaire*) from 9:30am-2pm in front of Van den Tweel Supermarket

• **Bonaire Animal Shelter's "Garage Sale" Pakus di Pruga—every Saturday**, 8am-5pm. At Kaminda Liberador Simon Bolivar, across from Brandaris Café. Tel. 717-4989. Drop off cast offs on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road weekdays. 717-4989

• **Wine Tasting at Antillean Wine Company's warehouse** on Kaya Industria, **Second Saturday of the month**, 7-9 pm. (*Always call to make sure it's on: Tel. +5999-560-7539.*) Snacks and tasting of six wines for \$10 per person.

• **Petanque- Jeu de Boules**, 2:30-6 pm, Landhuis DE TUIN on the road to Lac Bai. Info: 786-0150

Sundays

• **Landhuis DeTuin- Real Jamaican BBQ on the terrace** of the land house in the quiet countryside. Jerk Chicken, BBQ Chicken, Seafood Curry, Veggie Dish, Child's plate, Bread Pudding. On the road to Lac Bai – Kaminda Lac #101. Follow the signs, 12 noon to 6 pm. Tel. +599-786-6816, +599-701-1982. A Forsa training school.

• **Kunuku Arawak** - Music, drinks, local food, dancing, 10 am—6 pm. Live music starts at 4 pm. Tel.786-7210

•

Mondays

• **Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour—9 am**. Meet the goats, see milking, cheese making and more. **\$10 includes cheese tasting and tea, Kids \$5.** 786-6950- Also on Wednesdays & Fridays.

• **Happy Hour at Captain Don's Habitat Bar**. The books of Bonaire's dive pioneer, Captain Don, will be available: Island Adrift, Shangri-la, Sea Trauma and the newest book Reef Windows.

5:30-7pm. Tel. 717-8290.

Wednesdays

• **Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour—9am**. See Monday for more information.

• **Divers' Night at Zazu Bar at Bistro de Paris Restaurant at Harbour Village Marina**. Free house rum when you buy a coke.

• **Echo Parrot (Lora) Foundation** tours at the Dos Pos Conservation Centre. Get an insight into Echo's work and their efforts to protect this endangered species. Book your private tour for \$30 per person (minimum of 2) through Flow: info@flowbonaire.com Phone +599 788 4636. Or come to the weekly tour on Wednesday 4.30 pm. Meet at the Dos Pos windmill and bring good shoes as it is 'off road'. We invite you to enjoy Bonaire's nature!

• **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB)** presents an informative slide show: *Sea Turtles of Bonaire*, at 8pm, every **2nd and 4th Wednesday** in the conference room at Captain Don's Habitat (717-8290)

Fridays

• **Bonaire Goat Cheese Farm Tour—9am**. See Monday for more information

BONAIRE'S TRADITIONS

Mangasina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the view from "The King's Storehouse." Learn about Bonaire's culture. Visit homes from the 17th century. Daily. Call 717-4060/ 790-2018

Chichi i Tan Museum. Step into the past—a typical old Bonairean home, furnishings and garden. **Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays**. 10am -3pm. **1st Sunday of month**, live performances of local musicians, arts & crafts. Free but donations appreciated. **Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon. 786-6420/78-7842**

Washington-Slagbaai National Park Museum and Visitors' Center. Open daily 8 am-5 pm. Closed on December 25th and January 1st. **Call 788 - 9015 or 796 - 5681**

CLUBS and MEETINGS

Bridge Club - Every Wednesday, Bridge Club on Bonaire. 19:15, contact Jeroen Seegers for information tel. 717-4200or788-2819 or peejeesee@gmail.com

Lions Club meets every 2nd and 4th **Thursday** of the month at 8 pm at Kaya Sabana #1. All Lions welcome. For more information call 510-0710.

Rotary lunch meetings Wednesdays, 12:15-2 pm - Divi Flamingo Beach Resort in Peter Hughes meeting room upstairs above the dive shop. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

Toastmasters Club meets every two weeks. For more information call Cruxita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

CHURCH SERVICES

Protestant Congregation of Bonaire: (VPGB), Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service-10 am in Dutch.

Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday service-8:30 am in Papiamentu/Dutch.

Children's club-every Saturday from 4:30-6 pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.) Contact; Marytjin@gmail.com or Daisycoffie@hotmail.com

International Bible Church, Kaya Papago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/ Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Sunday 9am-Worship service in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. Tuesday 7:00 pm-Adult Bible study class. 717-8377 for more info or ride bonaireibc@yahoo.com

Catholic: San Bernardus in Kralendijk – Services, Sunday at 8 am and 7 pm in Papiamentu, 717-8332.

Our Lady of Coromoto in Antriol, Saturday at 6 pm in English. Mass in Papiamentu on Sunday at 9 am and 6 pm. 717-4211.

Assembly of God (Asemblea di Dios): Kaya Triton (Den Cheffi). In English, Dutch & Papiamentu on Sunday at 10 am. Wed. Prayer Meeting at 7:30 pm. 717-2194

Ministerio di Kristu Hesus Services Sunday mornings at 10 am at Jong Bonaire Youth Center in English, Dutch and Papiamentu. Preaching the full gospel. Contact: 786-2557.

Prayer and Intercession Church, in English. A full Gospel Church located temporarily at Kaya Alexandrit # 20, Santa Barbara, Republiek. Services are held Sunday mornings 10am-11:30am. Bible studies in English on Monday nights from 7-8 pm. Contact: 717-3322

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Kaya Sabana #26, Sundays: 9 am Sacrament Services (Translation to English and Papiamentu upon request) 10:20am- Sunday School 11:15 RS/YM/YW/PH Primary held from 10:20-12 noon Visitors welcome: Information: Call 701-9522 .

Foundation Fountain of Living Waters, Centro Fuente, Service Sunday at Kaya Aruaco 4 at 6 pm, in Papiamentu and Spanish. For Marriage Counseling, contact 717-2161.

Iglesia di Cristo (Church of Christ) Sunday: 10:30am & 7pm; Wednesday: 7pm. Services in Papiamentu (English also if needed) Address: Kaya Msgr. Nwndt. 25 (same street as Dr. Dorvil) Cell: 796-0721. email: iglesiadicristobonaire@gmail.com

CLOSE-IN EVENTS

June 12-14 - Paul Hedderman

talks about the dilemma of mind created problems and offer a simple way of stepping out. Single night \$50, All 3 nights \$100 Limited Space available Reservations Email: mireille@conet.net tel. + 599 700-2950

Friday, June 12- Rijsttafel buffet eat-in or take-away fund raising dinner. Starts at 7 pm at Jong Bonaire. Donation \$25 per person- Proceeds to be used to benefit the disabled community of Bonaire! For tickets call 717 4781/795 1574 or email michael@bonairehelpdesk.com

Saturday, June 13

-**"Spice Sprint Cup,"** Barracudas Bonaire Aquatic Club –10am-1pm, on the waterfront at the Domacasse Park. More on page 13

-**Tera Kora Ranch Market**– local produce, clothes, food, games for kids, 9am -3pm

June 17 to 27—Record Freediving Attempt— by Carlos Coste at Plaza Resort. Go to Facebook [CARLOS COSTE](https://www.facebook.com/CARLOS-COSTE) Free diving World Champion for more info. The event will be covered in *The Reporter*

Friday, June 19—Energy Touch 1 Class— 9am to 6 pm Energy based therapeutic approach to healing. . Details on page 5

Saturday, June 20

--**Tera Kora Ranch Market**—local produce, clothes, food, games, 9am-3pm

--**Auto Show at Auto City at Super Store**—See ad on page 10

—**Energy Touch Advanced Class**— 9am to 6 pm for experienced energy medicine practitioners Details on page 5

Sunday, June 21

—**Father's Day**

—**International Yoga Day** See story -on page 3

July 3-5—ProKids Bonaire Freestyle and Slalom Championship. More on page 11



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THE STARS HAVE IT

June 2015

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) Take your time; do not make any decisions in haste. You will get great satisfaction from your efforts. Avoid any petty ego confrontations; they could lead to estrangement if you aren't careful. Your partner could make you angry if they steal your thunder or embarrass you in front of others. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21) You can gain distinction; however, it may be for the wrong reasons. You may want to have a heart-to-heart talk with a close and trusted friend. Make changes regarding your status in society. Knowledge can be acquired if you listen. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Keep your feet on the ground, if you can. Don't press your luck with your loved ones. Direct your energy wisely this month. Anger will prevail if you expect help from others. Don't be too quick to blame others for your bad mood. Your luckiest events

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Try to slow down, and take another look. Stay mellow. You can expect to experience delays or additional red tape if you deal with institutions. Don't be too quick to judge partners or those you work with. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Travel should be on your agenda. Listening can be more valuable than being a chatterbox. Try to put your money away for a rainy day. Shopping could cost more than you bargained for. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Be very careful while in transit or while traveling in foreign countries. Organization will be the key to avoiding discord and family feuds. Get on with business. You'll have great insight. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) Romantic encounters will be full of excitement. Your dynamic, determined approach will win favors as well as a helping hand.

You can solidify your relationship if you plan a special evening with your mate. Extend an invitation to clients you enjoy spending time with. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) Try to keep any mood swings under control; they may result in alienation. You can work in conjunction with those in the know in order to get to the bottom of any pending issue. Some relatives will be extremely perplexing. Find ways to make extra cash. Start making things or reusing rather than buying ready-made. Your luckiest events will occur on a Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) There might be one who is quite willing to take the credit for your work. You always seem to spend more than you make. Unexpected visitors are likely. Be prepared to do your chores early. A romantic infatuation from your past may surface if you frequent places that you both used to go. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) You must steer clear of overindulgent individuals. Knowledge can be acquired if you listen. Don't be too pushy or demanding, or you may find yourself all alone. You will enjoy interacting with those who come from different backgrounds. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You have your own family to consider as well. Go after your professional goals. Let go of the past in order to progress. Stress coupled with diet will add to stomach problems. Your personal life will be disrupted if you have been too busy with business. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) If you can put some work into home improvements, you should. It might be time to do some of those chores at home. You will have a little more energy than usual. You should get into programs that will enhance your appearance and help you to be the best that you can. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday. ■

Michael Thiessen



BONAIRE SKY PARK*

*to find it... just look up

VENUS AND JUPITER RACE THROUGH JUNE.

Tonight – or any night in June, 2015 – look for the queen and king of planets – dazzling **Venus** and bold **Jupiter** – as these two worlds appear in your western sky first thing every nightfall. They'll appear in your evening sky throughout June 2015, and they'll be drawing closer together each evening!

Venus will pass Jupiter in late June/early July, 2015. At that time – especially on the nights of June 30 and July 1 – you can witness the closest Venus-Jupiter conjunction until August 27, 2016.

These very bright worlds will be hard to miss (unless it's cloudy) because Venus and Jupiter rank as the third-brightest and fourth-brightest celestial bodies, respectively, after the **Sun** and **Moon**.

As dusk turns into darkness, note the star **Regulus** above Jupiter, on line with Venus and Jupiter. Day by day, watch as Venus and Jupiter race toward Regulus, the brightest star in the constellation **Leo the Lion**. In fact, you can use these three luminaries – Regulus, Jupiter and Venus – to imagine the **ecliptic** crossing the sky with your mind's-eye. The ecliptic is the **Earth's** orbital plane projected onto the sky's dome. Because the planets orbit the Sun on nearly the same plane that Earth does, the solar system planets are always found on or near the ecliptic.

At present, the planets Venus and Jupiter are both heading eastward (upward) along the ecliptic, toward the star Regulus. You might think Jupiter should get to Regulus first, since the king planet lodges so much closer to Regulus, the only 1st-magnitude star to sit almost



squarely on the ecliptic. However, the closer that a planet resides to the Sun, the faster that the planet travels in its smaller orbit. Venus, the second planet outward from the Sun, races along at 35 kilometers per second whereas Jupiter, the fifth planet outward, plods along at 13 kilometers per second.

But that's not all. Jupiter's orbital path is a solid seven times longer than that traveled by Venus. For that reason, Venus will zoom toward Regulus day by day, whereas Jupiter will travel at a snail's pace.

Be sure to circle July 18, 2015 on your calendar as well. Venus will be almost in conjunction with Regulus, a slight bit ahead of Jupiter in the great race to the constellation Leo's brightest star. On July 18, the crescent moon, Venus and Jupiter will all fit within a circle, sporting a diameter of less than four degrees. (Four degrees of sky approximates two finger-widths at an arms length.) Don't miss out on this close-knit celestial grouping on June 18, featuring the Moon, Venus and Jupiter – the brightest, second-brightest and third-brightest orbs of nighttime, respectively. ■

Dean Regas & James Albury



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Pets of the Week



Annemarie photos

It's kitten season and many unwanted or discarded kittens have luckily found their refuge at the Bonaire Animal Shelter. While many Bonaire residents have taken advantage of the Shelter's free sterilization program, many cat owners or feral cat feeders have not, resulting in a large number of kittens who need homes. If you've been thinking about adopting one or more kittens now is the time. The Shelter has a veritable supermarket of kittens! You name it, they've got it! Boys, girls; long hair, short hair; short, tall; tabby, black, black and white, orange, grey, calico, tortoise, white and black and every color combination in between. The 15 kittens (yes, you read it right, 15!) range from six weeks to 16 weeks and all are loving, social and healthy.



In addition to the little ones, there are also 18 terrific adult cats looking for a loving home. If a kitten is what you are looking for, and you don't have other cats, you should consider adopting two kittens or a kitten and an adult cat. Young kittens need a lot of attention and activity to help them develop into a good companion, both physically and psychologically. Having a playmate or role model keeps them occupied and entertained. If you are not at home for most of the day, a single new kitten or cat will become lonely and bored which leads to mischievous activity like shredded curtains and furniture. In addition, just as it often happens with humans, lonely and isolated cats tend to become shy and reclusive and don't make for particularly good companions. However, if you have your heart set on a single cat, there are several adult cats at the Shelter that prefer the company of humans to other cats. Just ask the Shelter staff for a suggestion as to which cats would enjoy being in a single cat home. If there's a certain cat or kitten you are looking for, now is the time to visit the Shelter and browse the "cat supermarket."

All Shelter cats and kittens are healthy and have current vaccinations. The adult cats are sterilized and for kittens not yet old enough to be sterilized, the adoption fee includes free sterilization for those kittens when they reach the appropriate age. You can visit all the fine felines at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, Monday through Saturday, 8am-1pm and 3-5 pm. Visit their Facebook page at Animal Shelter Bonaire or check out the LIVE "kitty cams" at www.bonairecatcam.com ■ *Story by Jane Madden-Disko*



Animal Shelter Tips & News

GET READY FOR SUMMER

It's vacation time!

A vacation is a time to relax, unwind and take a break from the obligations and stresses of everyday life, but what to do with your pet? The last thing you want to be doing during your vacation is worrying about your dog. Finding a place to stay or someone to watch your dog or cat when you travel is always a challenge. Animal Shelter Bonaire provides a boarding place for your dog or cat. Your pet will be cared for around the clock in a safe, comfortable environment. From sleeping accommodation to an outdoor play area.

Please plan the stay for your pets ahead of time!

Animal Shelter Bonaire Education and Training Program ↗

We started a new education and training program in cooperation with Dog Partner Bonaire. We like to give dog owners all the information they need about how to handle and care for their pet.

For information about our sterilization program, dog training classes, animal behavior, rehabilitation, grooming, hydrotherapy and more we are there for you!

For the kids there are also lot of things to learn. Not only do we have an educational kids program at the Shelter but after the summer break we will also go on the road.

For information get in contact with us.

Become an Animal Shelter Volunteer

You don't have to be an animal expert to help out at the Animal Shelter Bonaire.



You just need to have the time and desire to lend a helping hand. And it doesn't have to be a lot of time. In fact, whatever you do for a living, you're bound to have skills and talents our shelter can use. We are looking for you, this is the opportunity to help out.

The Shelter is open Monday through Saturday, 9am-1pm and 3 to 5pm. Telephone 717-4989.

mail: animalshelterbonaie@gmail.com
annl: animalshelterbonaie

E-mail to animalshelterbonaie@gmail.com, call the Animal Shelter Bonaire (7174989)

or visit us at Kaminda Lagun 26.

■ *Story & photo by Natalie Peterson*



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Eat More Lion Fish. And Leave The Reef Fish...On The Reef!

If you love eating seafood then you may want to consider that what you choose to eat makes a difference. Although it doesn't seem right, what you see on the menu could be contributing to the widespread overfishing problem that is alarming scientists as well as those in the fishing industry. If you choose wisely, you contribute to restoring fish populations to a point where they may be sustainable for future generations. Seafood guides for eating sustainably are easily accessible online (websites below) and are very helpful for consumers.

Additionally, here are a few helpful basics for choosing what to eat when in Bonaire:

Eat lower on the food web. Predators such as sharks, groupers and barracudas should not be eaten. These fish take longer to mature and reproduce and therefore their populations are extremely vulnerable to overfishing. Barracudas caught in the waters of Bonaire are often quite small in size and haven't matured. These are the ones you are served most of the time on Bonaire according to STINAPA. So eat adult barracuda; it's more sustainable. These are hard to find on Bonaire's reef (and in restaurants) nowadays.

Avoid any and all reef fish. For decades, fishermen in Bonaire have based their catch almost exclusively on open water fish such as Mahi-Mahi/Dolphin Fish/Dorado, Wahoo and Tuna because they could no longer make enough money fishing reef fish. From what fishermen say, there just weren't enough fish left. Coral reefs are suffering from a multitude



Refuse to eat small barracuda
They should be released to reproduce.



Nice size fish to eat

of stressors and one of the main problems cited repeatedly in scientific studies is overfishing.

Therefore, eat Lionfish. Lionfish were accidentally introduced to the Atlantic and Caribbean regions and are an invasive species. Invasive means that they cause harm to native populations. Although beautiful, lionfish are voracious reef fish eaters and they have no natural predators in these regions. Their populations are growing rapidly and one of the only ways to keep their populations down is to

hunt them. They also happen to be very tasty! Ask for Bonaire's lion fish dishes at the restaurants!

To sum it up, you don't have to give up seafood to support sustainable seas. Just remember to eat lower on the food web, avoid eating reef fish and eat as many lionfish as you like.

<http://www.infobonaire.com/sustainableseafood.html> or <http://www.seafoodwatch.org/> or <http://www.nrdc.org/oceans/seafoodguide/>

<http://seafood.edf.org/> ■
STINAPA release

Nightmare Weed

There's something that really irritates me in my yard. It's a kind of weed (see photo) which is terrible, and if you have it in your yard pull it up immediately. It's very dominant and will take over your yard in a few months. The wind spreads its seeds all over the place, and before you know it the young plants are popping up among all your nice flowers, your vegetables and soon you see just this horrible weed.

I got it in some black dirt I bought from a local company. The big truck came full of nice black dirt. I was so happy with it. Soon after the young weed plant came up. I didn't know what kind of plant it was and when it started flowering I was even in love with the cute tiny



white flowers. But, after a few months my whole yard was covered with this weed, and since then I cannot get rid of it. It has roots going deep into the soil, not matter what kind of soil. Even if there is klip (limestone) under the soil, this plant can survive in any circumstances. When you try to pull it out, it breaks. And the next week you see it again, even bigger. The more it breaks the better it grows.

It looks like I will never get rid of this awful plant. So don't let the lovely tiny white flowers fool you. When you see it, dig it out with all roots and

throw it immediately into a plastic bag in the garbage to avoid the flowers dropping the seeds.

Rocky Emers from LVV advises that when you get black soil from here, cover it with a big piece of plastic so when the weed start growing it dies under the plastic. Then after awhile you can use the dirt. I should have known this before, but I'm writing about it so it won't happen to you.

There are some other awful weeds like the one they call "Anglo." It has small nice looking yellow flowers and horrible thorns. If you step on it, you have a problem. It looks like a bimbe plant (which I've written about before) and crawls over the soil. Once you have it in your yard, its hard to get rid of it. Ask the locals to show you this Anglo plant. Story & photo by ■ Story & photo by Angliet, Nature Lover

FORMA (Continued from page 8)

then become an entrance training with an outflow to all the options above.

- **Courses/Training** which focuses on adults who are already working, but who, for instance, need an upgrading, or who want to improve themselves. We provide a number of courses like Papiamentu, Dutch and English, basic knowledge, bookkeeping, electrical engineering, computer courses, secretarial services, budgeting, a driving license course, communication, customer friendliness and service. All in all a lot of courses that focus directly on what the market needs and demands.

- Then there is another department of ours which I didn't mention previously. **We also teach five days a week at JICN (prison)** and our goal is that when people are released from jail they will come to us to continue their education.

- We also work together with **Jong Bonaire's 'Shark' program** where youngsters are guided in learning how to live independently, but when someone has a child or a drug problem then that option is unavailable

Financials- who is paying for these services?

FORMA has a care contract for adult education with the **Bonaire government (OLB)**, but the Social Opportunity Direction is being paid for by the **Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW)**. OCW pays OLB which chose FORMA to be the executive organization for the Social Opportunity Direction for youngsters.

SGB (high school) bought us in to implement MBO 1. And the courses we offer are either cost covered, or the companies pay for their personnel, or people pay for it privately.

The reason I want to develop FORMA further is because education and personal assistance go hand in hand at FORMA, and I think that's a prerequisite for our target groups to be successful in the employment market. That's what we're doing it for!

In the beginning I gave you an example of how we work with someone who is participating in the Social Opportunity Direction for Youngsters, however MBO 1 is different. MKBO 1 clients work four days a week (a paid job) and go to school one day per week. However, for all the other programs they have to be here five days a week. If that's a problem financially, the student will get food packages (including Pampers, baby formula etc.) and all the students get a breakfast at Forma every morning.

We are open Monday through Friday from 8am to 10pm. **In total, we completed 2014 with 522 clients from the four departments . It definitely shows that people on Bonaire have a great hunger for education as they are eager to improve their perspective.** It is not easy when you live under the poverty line - \$188 per month is very little - with a couple of children and to improve your perspective in a situation like that is extremely difficult, but people do it and they are successful!

Behind this all is a team of 42 people working at FORMA (plus the other social services involved) who put their heart and soul into the support, the motivation and the guidance of these people so that they can reach their goal and at last can live an independent adult life by finding a job and keeping it.

You see, poverty is the main problem because when 10 people are financially forced to live in one house with two bedrooms it creates a lot of troubles like domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse and child abuse. When there is no steady income, debts grow higher and higher and with it enormous pressure, stress and anxiety.

When someone comes here we provide minimal basics of food and money, and next to educating a person we start working, very structurally, on their self-esteem, because once you believe in it, it becomes possible. And when a parent finds a job and establishes her or himself, the chance of a better future for the children is also much larger and thus the vicious circle of poverty and hopelessness is finally broken."

For more info: www.fundashonforma.com

■ Greta Kooistra



FORMA manager Inge Berben volunteering during Bon Doet. She formerly worked for the probation service and was one of the founders of Jong Bonaire where she was manager for seven years.



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