

**FREE**

**BONAIRE** Apr. 1 - Apr. 15, 2019, Year 26, Issue 7  
**The REPORTER**

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## **FORSA PWA lifts off in Bonaire April 9**

Amado Vrieswijk NB20 Photo by Jade Cardenas

"I think this is a dream come true; we've worked very hard for this," said Nick Schmit, Forsa PWA chairman at the press conference for the 2019 Worldcup Freestyle at Sorbonne in Bonaire, April 9-13.

PWA, Professional Windsurf Association, selected Bonaire to be the first stop of a 13-site calendar tour that ends in November.

This is the second time in five years that Bonaire was chosen for the PWA Worldcup.

Nancy Vrieswijk-Janssen, event coordinator joined forces with Schmit of FORSA to make this happen with a goal of involving Bonaire's youth.

Schmit said the Forsa method is a group-oriented educational method that emphasizes what can be achieved with cooperation, trust and responsibility. The pro-windsurfers are role models for many of Bonaire's youth.

Some say Bonaire is the spiritual home of Freestyle windsurfing with its beautiful turquoise waters and ever-constant

winds. The island has produced some of the best examples of world class talent.

There will be 13 events in four disciplines: Freestyle, Slalom, Wave and Foil.

The best of the best freestyle talents will be on display from 15 countries.

From Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 11a.m. Bonaire's youth can try their hand at windsurfing. The day continues when the pros take to their boards for competition till 6:30. The festivities continue with happy hour at the Islander.

Anyone around the globe can enjoy the freestyle excitement via a Live stream broadcast on Facebook - Forsa PWA World Cup Bonaire 2019. There is even an aptly named theme song "Chase your Dreams" produced by Coen van Gennip from FlowCreateGo and sung by Chaira Borderslee.

Forsa PWA Worldcup committee members remind everyone that Bonaire is a National Marine Park. Please respect our waters and beaches by keeping them clean. *JM.*



**FORSA PWA press conference representatives, L-R: Leonard Domacasse, MCB; Nancy Vrieswijk, event organizer; Nick Schmit, FORSA; Ludo Nicolaas, Bonaire Lottery, Ashanti Toppenberg, Digicel; and Malinda Hassell, TCB.**

# FLOTSAM and JETSAM

The March 20, 2019 elections in Bonaire again returned a Coalition government in which the MPB gained a seat and the UPB lost one.

Pictured at the swearing-in ceremony are Governor Rijna (center) and Registrar of the Island Council, Willem Cicilia

(3rd from left). The council members are (L-R) **MPB-Movimentu di Pueblo Boneriano**: 1.Hennyson Thielman, 2.Elvis Tjin-Asjoe, 3. Nina den Heyer, 4. Daisy Coffee. **DP-Partido Demokratiko Boneriano**: 1. Michael Pietersz, 2. Clark Abraham (both wearing red) 3. Rolanda Makaay. **UPB-Partido Demokratiko Boneriano**: 1.James

<b>MPB</b> VOTO <b>3576</b> ASIENTO <b>4</b> LIJST 8 <b>44</b> STEMMEN	<b>DP</b> VOTO <b>2130</b> ASIENTO <b>3</b> LIJST 5 <b>63</b> STEMMEN	<b>UPB</b> VOTO <b>1798</b> ASIENTO <b>2</b> LIJST 8 <b>44</b> STEMMEN	<b>ERA NOBO</b> <b>392</b> STEMMEN LIJST 5 <b>63</b> STEMMEN
<b>LIJST 8</b> <b>44</b> STEMMEN	<b>LIJST 5</b> <b>63</b> STEMMEN	<b>LIJST 8</b> <b>44</b> STEMMEN	<b>LIJST 5</b> <b>63</b> STEMMEN



Kroon .Absent from the photo is 2. Ester Bernabela Photo credit: Fittipaldi Pietersz (Extra)

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► **Anneke van den Breemer** has been appointed **Managing Director of the Belastingdienst/CN**. She will replace Nichalin Martina on June 1st, 2019. Anneke van den Breemer is currently Regional Director Douane Rotterdam, where she has worked since 2014. Previously, she has worked in other management positions within Customs and Tax departments of Belastingdienst.



► **George Buckley explains the 2019 sargassum invasion** in Bonaire and in the Caribbean. The film, produced by Henrick Wuyts of Bonaire Vision Films & Photo Int.can be seen at: <https://www.facebook.com/Bonairephoto/videos/408247299964943/?t=25>

You can also find it on *The Bonaire Reporter* Facebook page.

► As of April 1, 2019, the Bonairean Island Government has announced a **price increase for gasoline and diesel, and a decrease for kerosene** (propane). Gasoline will increase by 3.60 cents, diesel by 11.50 cents. The price of kerosene will decrease by 28.60 cents, so a large LPG 100 lb bottle will cost \$8.33 less, and a small LGP 20 lb. bottle \$1.63 less. The next fuel adjustment will be in May.

► **For the month of September, American Airlines will stage only one weekly return flight** to Bonaire, flying on Saturday. After September, American Airlines will resume their four flights per week.

► **Bon Doet Awards** ceremony was Saturday, March 16 at Eddy's Restaurant. All the NGO's and volunteers were winners. Many badly-needed jobs were completed, and all had the satisfaction of doing something for their community. The winners in each category received a document of recognition:

**Best promotion:** Fundashon Kuchara • Art and Culture Bo-

naire Foundation • Rincon Judo Club • Hospice Flamboyan • Animal shelter

**Best Job:** Fundashon Plataforma Cultural • Arko Iris play school • Cocari • Alzheimer's Foundation • Jiwiri play school

**Most Recruitment Volunteers:** Museo Chich'i Tan • We Dare To Care Playground • La fama • Krusada • BonSailing

**Best Food & Beverage:** Fundashon Cocari • Jiwiri play school • Scouting Sint Michiel • Mangazina di Rei • La fama

**Greatest Atmosphere:** Ecological Bonaire Foundation • Baracudas • Cocari • Jiwiri play school • Alzheimer's Foundation

► **Cultural edition of the "Taste of Bonaire"** will be Friday, April 5, 6pm at Wilhelmina Park. This is the perfect opportunity for island guests and locals to sample food from the well-known restaurants on Bonaire.

► **Dive Friends Bonaire and Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire will hold their quarterly cleanup dive** on Saturday, April 13, 9:30am. Site for clean up is the north pier. Tanks are supplied for the dive.

► **Cruiseship passengers and Marine Park fees.** *The Reporter*



recently received a letter to the editor defending the cruise ships. With the letter, the writer attached these paper tickets as evidence that cruise ship guests who dive do indeed pay a marine park fee. We forwarded this information to Caren Eckrich, Stinapa Marine Park biologist and Reporter contributor. This was her response:

"That's the diver one-day pass. If cruise ship passengers want to dive, they pay a fee - \$10 for one day. Other users - snorkelers, swimmers, windsurfers - from the cruise ship are not required to pay anything. This is what everyone is upset about.

Actually, the new law forgot to stipulate a day fee - we could charge them \$45, but we have kept selling the \$10 day pass and are trying to get that worked into the new law."

► **Rincon Day is coming April 30!** (see page 8)



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**The Bike Professionals**

## BOPEC is in maintenance phase

The following items are from [www.argusmedia.com](http://www.argusmedia.com), published February 2019

►Venezuelan state-owned company, Petroleum of Venezuela's (PdV) 10 million barrel BOPEC oil terminal is mostly dormant because of maintenance repairs, severing another critical link in the company's once-bustling Dutch Caribbean logistical network.

BOPEC will receive inspectors again next month from the environment and transport inspectorate (ILT), part of the Netherlands' Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management.

"As a result of the economic crisis in Venezuela" BOPEC operations "have decreased considerably. Repairs and clean-up must be carried out before the restart of operations," the ILT told *Argus*, adding that the next inspection is a follow-up to check on the "required investments." The agency did not specify the investment amounts.

The safety and environmental inspection follows an ILT decision in February not to impose an order for administrative coercion, known as a LOB in Dutch, which would have obligated BOPEC to empty its tanks and pipelines. At the time, the ILT said the situation was "currently acceptable. Because BOPEC eliminated the main risks within several months with a limited investment budget, it was not necessary to impose the LOB."

The ILT said "few or no tankers are docking at BOPEC and only a few tanks are still in service," but the terminal can continue to supply a local power plant. "Improvement plans are in place for when an investment budget becomes available."

The ILT conducted inspections at BOPEC in February, March, April and October 2018. The agency said PdV directors are often present during the BOPEC inspections.

PdV's Dutch Caribbean corridor was cut off altogether in May 2018 after US independent oil company ConocoPhillips imposed liens on the company's assets to try to enforce an arbitration award.

►In August 2018 the independent oil company ConocoPhillips secured a settlement with Petroleum of Venezuela (PdV) on an ICC award after the US company imposed liens on its Dutch Caribbean assets, BOPEC included. The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague in the Netherlands. More recently, on March 8, 2019, a World Bank arbitration tribunal has further ruled that Venezuela must pay ConocoPhillips more than \$8bn for seizing the US independent's oil and gas assets in 2007. Venezuela has more than \$190bn in unpaid debt, including multiple arbitration claims. The latest ruling came as a widespread power blackout darkened most of Venezuela. It coincided with rising political tensions in the country.

*Editor's note: Two weeks ago The Reporter sent these two flotsam items to BOPEC, and asked if the company would like to comment. We received no response.*

## The coral at Klein Bonaire is crumbling (and subsequently causing more damage to the reef)

By Cor Speksnijder. Published in *De Volkskrant* March 12, 2019

The coral reef at Klein Bonaire, an uninhabited island off the coast of the Caribbean island of Bonaire, is seriously damaged by "avalanches" of pieces of loose coral. Parts of the reef have collapsed, says coral expert Erik Meesters of Wageningen Marine Research. According to him, a possible cause is the poor water quality. Meesters saw with his own eyes how a single contact with the coral on a reef slope resulted in a large number of pieces of coral disappearing into the depth. "Horrible. I have not seen this before. "In places where there was an avalanche, he says, there is almost no living coral left. He examined the reef at three locations and saw that hundreds of square meters of coral were lost at two locations.

There is no certainty about the cause of the decline. Meesters suspects that this is a consequence of the years of decline in water quality. The increased amount of phosphate and nitrate in the water - including from sewers and from the many goats on Bonaire - leads to growth of algae that cover the coral reef and displace other organisms. This is at the expense of lime algae, small algae that form a layer of lime that serves as cement for the reef. Meesters thinks that the deterioration of the lime algae causes pieces of coral to become loose in the coral reef framework. That makes the reef vulnerable. Touches by divers, vibrations from cruise ships, a storm or waves can then cause collapse. "My estimation is that the lack of lime algae in the last 30 years in some places has led to poorly cemented reefs that become so unstable on steep slopes that they can collapse."

Meesters does not know whether such avalanches also occur elsewhere in the Caribbean. "I have not heard of it. The situation around Bonaire is similar to that of many other Caribbean islands. So I can imagine that this is also happening elsewhere. "Numerous studies have shown that calcium algae on the coral of Bonaire are not doing well, Meesters says. On the large coral reef of the Saba Bank (a subsea mountain near Saba) where the water quality is better, there are considerably more lime algae. The coral is also in better condition there. "In Bonaire and Curaçao, the lime algae have almost disappeared since the 1980s. That means there is no cementation for 35 years.

Coral researcher Bert Hoeksema of Naturalis Biodiversity Center reacts reluctantly. "To understand what is going on there, I would first have to see it myself. Every year in Indonesia there are avalanches of living and dead coral along reef slopes due to waves during storms. After that recovery always occurs. Perhaps the situation there cannot be compared with that of Klein Bonaire. Limestone can indeed kill dead coral, but also sponges. In any case, it is worth mentioning because it needs to be investigated further."

*Editor's notes: We received this shortly after the printing in De Volkskrant and sent to Bonaire Marine Park biologist Caren Eckrich, environmentalist and marine naturalist Dee Scarr and a few other coral specialists acquainted with Bonaire.*

### Caren Eckrich:

Yes, I actually asked Eric Meesters to have a look. I agree that it could be what he says, but that it needs more investigation. I think he will be looking into this with a

*continued on page 8*

## FOR SALE Holiday Resort



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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

With the crackdown on parking and apparently no relief from an ever increasing number of vehicles, it is high time all government offices be moved from Kralendijk to one large central building outside of town with a LOT of parking.

Bruce Bowker

Dear Editor: Cigarette Butts

I was recently at Te Amo beach with some friends. As we walked near the Kite City food truck we were horrified and disgusted to find HUNDREDS of cigarette butts literally all over the beach area surrounding the truck! I feel that the food truck needs to take some responsibility for the abhorrent and irresponsible actions of their customers. We did not see any ash trays, or signs directing people not to litter the beach with their chemical filled cigarette butts. Moreover, it is impossible that none of the staff at the food truck don't notice the amount of butts that their barefoot customers - and everyone else - are forced to walk over. So, why don't they ever pick them up? Why don't they seem to care? Obviously, the true fault in this irresponsible behavior lies with the smokers themselves and they must be held accountable. Shame on them! Cigarette butts on OUR beaches are toxic to the reefs and poisonous to aquatic life. They are gross and leaving them on the ground anywhere is just plain wrong! The island government needs to implement a ban on all smoking on public beaches in order to protect our reefs and sea life since the smokers have clearly demonstrated an inability to clean up after themselves. This isn't an isolated problem, as I am sure everybody reading this has come across cigarette butts on many of Bonaire's otherwise mostly pristine beaches.

Merchants, be they hotel operators or food trucks, must be required to take responsibility for the actions of their customers and staff who are actively choosing to pollute and poison our environment! Educating the public about this is also important, but, honestly, who doesn't already know that leaving a cigarette butt on the ground isn't the right thing to do? Bonaire deserves more respect! We must make changes to stop this behavior and to clean up our beaches! Get it together smokers and do the right thing--stop littering our island with your toxic chemicals!

Sincerely, Marco Escuandolas

Dear Editor,

As a 2.5 year resident of Bonaire, coming from Antigua, Costa Rica, Curacao and Sint Maarten, it was a breath of fresh air to see how clean the water is around my new home. I have frequently walked along the boardwalk in town, and have had very nice experiences with people.

BUT... recently I had two situations that tarnished those memories...One day, I was walking and saw a couple looking in the water, pointing, and speaking Dutch AND SMOKING. I stopped to look and saw a bunch of brightly coloured fish. I remarked in English, and they spoke a bit in English to me. We said goodbye, and I walked on, glancing back just in time to see them flick their cigarette butts into the water. Then recently, I was walking down near Karel's and there were three crewmembers from the *AIDA Perla* walking AND SMOKING. Just prior to getting to Karel's, one of them flicked the butt into the water also. So, rather than complain about the tourists and their lack of care for Bonaire, I think it is more useful to put more ashtrays along the waterfront.

How does one go about getting this done?

Thanks, Brian R. Niessen, Sabadeco

Have something to say? Want to give your opinion?

All letters must be signed.

Email: [BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com](mailto:BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com)

Longtime Bonaire windsurfer, Howie Soltanoff, after a horrendous windsurfing accident, was left with a fin protruding from his rib cage. "It's amazing that he could even stand, let alone consider windsurfing," stated a representative of Forsa's PWA World Cup.

Howie, however, maintained that he was determined to compete in the 2019 championship event. "It's important for us longtimers to act as role models for the younger set," he said. "It's not just style; it's fortitude."

This was sent in by [jybeman@aol.com](mailto:jybeman@aol.com)  
April Fools!



## Ask Kate

### Bonaire real estate advice

**Question:** How can I buy a place when I'm not on the island and they sell so quickly? I used to see homes that stayed on the market for years, now everything I see in my price range (under \$300,000) is sold by the time I come for vacation or I can't get an appointment to see them when I want to. Lynn

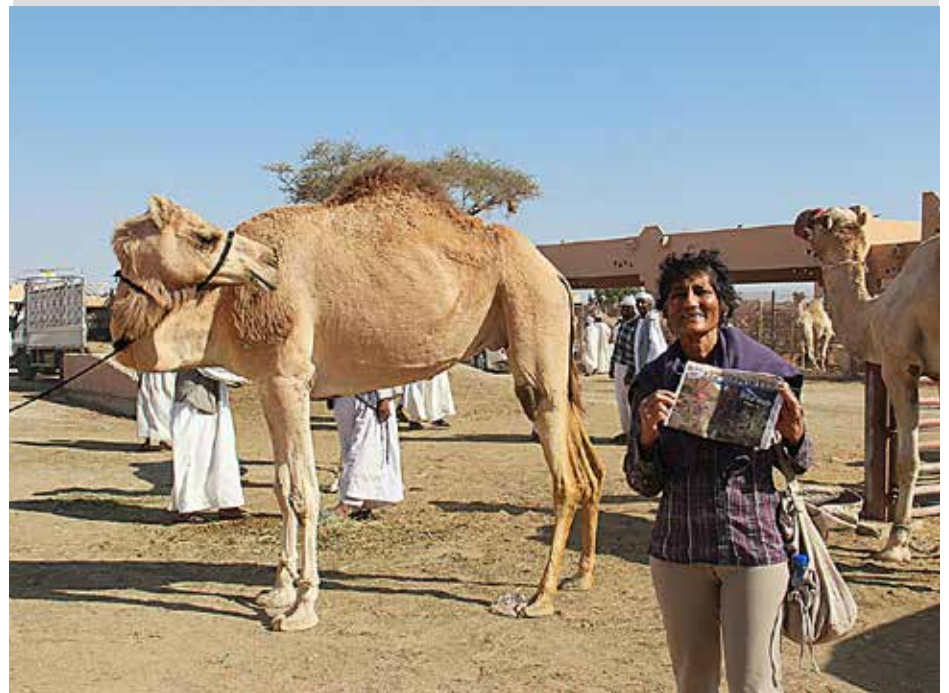
Hi Lynn,

Yes, in this price range you are competing with many other buyers. Since we have a limited inventory of properties, this price range sells very quickly, often before it appears in a catalog or online. Here are some tips: 1) **Act quickly.** People will view a home they like and go home to think about it or talk to their accountant and find it sold when they call back two weeks later. Talk to your financial advisor before your next trip, so that you can make an offer while you are on the island. 2) **Make buying a property the purpose of your trip.** Don't try to combine a family vacation, dive trip and buying trip in one week. Be available to see a property any day, at any time. I've had clients turn down a showing because they wanted to dive that morning, and then we were unable to get another appointment. 3) **Keep in contact with your real estate agent.** When a new property comes on the market, I immediately contact my clients who are in that price range. I also ask clients to let me know two weeks in advance of their arrival on the island, so I can block time to work with them.

Wishing you all the best, **Kate Butler, GRI, Real Estate Agent, RE/MAX Bonaire**

If you have a real estate question for Kate, email her at [kate@bonairehomes.com](mailto:kate@bonairehomes.com)  
Tollfree from US: 1-866-611-7362

## Picture Yourself with The Reporter in Oman



Angliet Baidjoe, *The Bonaire Reporter's* garden columnist, takes a break from tending her tropical plants to visit the desert sands of the Sultanate of Oman, on the southeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula in Western Asia.

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# On the Island Since December 17, 2004 — Nina den Heyer

“I was born on Curacao April 22, 1978. My mom was in banking, she’s from Bonaire, a daughter of Luciano Thodé and Elsa Craane. My father was born on Curacao but from Dutch descent. My grandfather on my father’s side was a banker and until his death he was a commissioner at Banco di Caribe. He has been more of a father to me than my father, who was a drug addict and an alcoholic. My mother was a workaholic and she showed me clearly that you don’t need a man to run a household. That’s how I grew up. My mom still is very religious and so am I; when things get really hard, there is always God. I am also a great believer in how you look at things – do you see a problem or do you see a challenge – for me it’s always a challenge!

In my teenage years one of my best friends was the son of Miguel Pourier. I admired his father a lot; I remember there was a strike and all the workers showed up at his private house to protest. I was surprised to see how calm he remained and how lovingly he continued to talk to and about the people. I thought it was very unfair how badly they spoke about him and I remember him telling me that politics was one of the most thankless jobs, but at the same time one of the most fulfilling if you do it sincerely.

I was nineteen, but I was always interested in politics because not everyone can stand up for themselves and so someone should be doing it for them. I went to Holland to study and became a member of MAAPP, a movement of Arubans and Antilleans promoting participation of Antilleans and Arubans to become increasingly involved with social issues that actually concerned them. At the time there were a lot of drug mules coming into the country and so we held a session with Antillean youngsters and Rita Verdonk, the Dutch minister for Integration and Immigration at the time. She was sure Antillean students wanted a scooter and a cellphone the moment they arrived in Holland and that they were willing to take the criminal path to achieve their goal. I was horrified by the image she painted of us – Antillean youngsters – but it motivated me even more to get into politics.

First I did psychology but I got homesick and went home for three months. Again I went to Holland and did business economics for one year. It wasn’t my thing, but I wanted to please my family. From there I studied applied psychology and social work and services. My grandfather got sick and I told him: ‘Opa, I want you at my graduation!’ But he smiled: ‘That could take a few more years! Sadly he passed away in January 2003, just before I graduated. When I got my Bachelor’s I didn’t party, I went to bed; it was the first time I realized I’d done something below my potential because it should have been my Master’s and I felt I had to be careful not to adopt the same lax attitude my dad had. So I went to University to study psychology once more while I worked at a supported housing project for Antillean risk youth.

Then my Bonairean grandfather became ill and at the same time I was offered a position on Bonaire, which I accepted. I arrived December 17th, 2004. I had never lived on Bonaire, but I’d been here many times. I thought Bonaire was boring but I loved the beach, I loved the Regatta and I loved visiting the elderly friends of my grandmother together with her! My grandmother always



Nina den Heyer

told me to listen to the elderly, because they’d seen everything! She also told me: ‘You have to brush your hair or you never get married!’ But I was more of a tomboy; if I had to wear a dress, I would put my Reebok Hi-Tops underneath and at all those neat children’s parties I would be up in a tree. And now I have a daughter who loves pink and glitter! Hahaha!

I became the welfare policy advisor at

Benefits. Also, they offered me the possibility to get my Master’s in Social work, which I did. Looking back, there are a few people who helped shape me professionally; Ruben Severina from MAAPP, Marijke van den Brink at Saso, Jeanne de Bruijn from UNA and Huub Bouwen at SZW– these people coached me and really influenced me.

May 2016 I became the MPB deputy for Social Affairs, Education and Youth, Cul-



Nina van Heyer and Elvis Tjin Asjoe

**“I remember (Miguel Pourier) telling me that politics was one of the most thankless jobs, but at the same time one of the most fulfilling if you do it sincerely.”**

Saso. August 2005 my grandfather passed away. At the time I was with UPB, but more organizational. In the run-up to 2010 I started working with Dutch civil servants and quartermasters and I saw new chances for Bonaire as the method of the Public Body was like ‘we’ve always done it like this and that’s how we keep doing it.’ Plus: ‘There’s no money’. Well, 10-10-10 came and it became prohibited to talk work with the Dutch quartermasters; very frustrating! During those years my children were also born, Elijah, my son is twelve and my daughter Elisha is ten now.

Then I got the chance to work with RCN SZW, Social Affairs, and I became acting head/department head Social Insurance and

Public Health. But the coalition fell and when hurricane Irma hit the Windward Islands in 2017, I did several projects on Saint Maarten, Saba and St. Eustatius.

From July 2018 till February, 2019 I worked as the ad interim team leader Supervision, Taxation and Administration at the tax authorities. Now I’m on a two months leave because of the elections and it turned out I got for MPB the most votes a woman ever got – 1088. So, now we’ll see what’s going to happen.

Throughout the years I’ve always said that the way my mother and father were, that it wasn’t going to happen to me, but... it did happen. The only difference was that I didn’t ‘stay with him because of the chil-

dren’. I know for a fact it doesn’t make the kids happier and I don’t want my children to think an abusive relationship is the norm. And it’s of great consequence that a child’s home is a place of peace and security. Domestic violence is one of the main issues I want to work on; it damages so many children and therefore our future society. I can relate to it, because I’ve been there but most importantly, I got out of it.

In addition, if there is domestic violence, there is often animal abuse and that is why, together with the awareness of domestic violence, I want to conduct campaigns at school against animal abuse.

Poverty is another issue, concerning families with children and the elderly, but also disabled people and people who are incapacitated. However, if we can arrange it for the elderly, the last two groups are also included because the same characteristics count for them; they cannot work and they are less mobile.

I think, together with the present cabinet in Holland, we can accomplish many things for Bonaire; I wish we’d had this cabinet when I was a deputy. We still don’t know what we’re going to get, but I sure hope we’ll be in the government.

For me is local cooperation is number 1, then collaboration with BES and with Holland but also with Curacao and Aruba. The political structure might have changed but our cultural, business and family ties are still very much present. And for Saba and St. Eustatius it is particularly important that we enter into dialogue with the Netherlands as one front. I think it’s very unfortunate that after we weren’t in the government anymore there has been no cooperation with Saba and St. Eustatius regarding for instance the Poverty Dossier; that way you lose strength and power.

My aunt, who kind of acts as my mother (my mom lives in Holland), also has a big influence on me and the only thing we don’t agree on is me being in politics. She says it’s dirty and that my family will suffer, but I can’t explain it in any other way than that I feel very strongly that I have to do it, to show that it can be done differently, and to inspire others to do the same. I want to take advantage of opportunities and let people develop their skills and talents and facilitate them to get the best out of them. There will always be people you can’t do anything with, but then I say ‘let’s focus on the others’; on that big group of (young) people who are willing and eager and who will be successful.

I see myself as a facilitator, nothing more, nothing less, and being half Antillean, half Dutch, I could build that bridge, because I understand both sides.” *Story and photo by Greta Kooistra*

**Editor’s Note: After 18 years of writing for the Reporter, Greta has decided to retire her interviewing skills. Over the years, she has entertained and enlightened us with the life stories of countless Bonaire residents. We thank you, Greta, on behalf of ourselves and your numerous fans. JM**



**Results**  
**World Summer Games**  
**Special Olympic Bonaire 2019**  
**held in Abu Dhabi and Dubai**  
**March 14 to 21.**

**Total Medals: 14**  
 gold 2  
 silver 6  
 bronze 6  
**Total ribbons: 10**

**Bocce:**

**Team (bronze 4)**

Lucille Pikerie, Suendry Weef,  
 Selvine Offerman, Kenneth Piar

**Doubles (silver 2)**

Selvine Offerman, Lucille Pikerie

**Doubles (4th place-ribbon 2)**

Suendry Weef, Kenneth Pia

**Track & Field:**

**100 Meter Run (silver 1)**

Lixsandro Mauricio

**200 Meter Run (8th place ribbon 1)**

Lixsandro Mauricio

**25 Meter Run (silver 1)**

Marcelino Josefa

**50 Meter Run (4th place -ribbon 1)**

Marcelino Josefa

**100 Meter Run (silver 1)**

Michelli Matthew

**200 Meter Run (5th place-ribbon 1)**

Michelli Matthew

**100 Meter Walk (gold 1)**

Shalimar Mattheuw

**Softball Throw (5th place-ribbon 1)**

Shalimar Mattheuw

**Music! Music! Music!**

Drive out the Rincon road, Saturday April 6 until you come to the Electric Tribe II music festival at Arawak, and stay to listen from 3pm. to 3am.

For the second year, the festival will bring together all types of music, from every kind of techno music to reggae and dance. With two music stages, great food and drinks, this event is guaranteed to bring people together through music. Presale tickets are \$15 at various locations around Bonaire or \$20 festival day. For more information email: [info@electrictribefestival.com](mailto:info@electrictribefestival.com).



**Our team returns triumphant**



Bonaire's Special Olympic team returned Friday, March 22 to a hero's welcome with a crowd of approximately 500 fans at Flamingo Airport. The Olympic athletes garnered a total of two gold, six silver, six bronze and 10 ribbons in the Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi and Dubai

**Swimming:**

**50 Meter Breast Stroke (5th place-ribbon 1)**

Suraya Hendricks

**50 Meter Free Style (5th place-ribbon 1)**

Suraya Hendricks

**25 Meter Breast Stroke (4th place-ribbon 1)**

Nina Braeken

**50 Meter FreeStyle (Silver 1)**

Nina Braeken

**50 Meter Breast Stroke (4th place-ribbon 1)**

Daremy Soleano

**50 Meter Freestyle (bronze 1)**

Daremy Soleano

**50 Meter Breast Stroke (silver 1)**

Roel Scherp tong

**50 Meter FreeStyle (gold 1)**

Roel Scherp tong ■

**Walk-a-thon 2019 is just up the road**

Exercise enthusiasts are gearing up and training for the 17th annual Walk-A-Thon scheduled April 7. This annual event sponsored by Digicel Bonaire supports our Special Olympics team and funds events such as their March trip to the World Games in Abu Dhabi.

Last years Walk-a-thon challenged over 800 walkers, bikers and runners in a 30k (18.6 mile), five hour trek from south to north Bonaire. The route remains the same for this year with a projected 1000 participants anticipated.

Walk-a-thon sign-up is Friday, April 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. or on Saturday, April 6, at El Mundo. Cost of the event is only \$15 and includes a Walk-a-thon t-shirt, drawstring bag, cap and water bottle.

Start time for the trip is 5 a.m and begins at the White Slave Huts to Pasadio Karino in Rincon. Volunteers will support the participants with water and fruit along the way until they take their final strides into Rincon where a small breakfast will be served.

This is the biggest fundraising event of the year for Bonaire's Special Olympics team. Interested volunteers can call 700-5027. ■

# Diving in Bonaire drives rehabilitation

Driven by his love of diving in Bonaire, Mike Franey would not allow a near fatal stroke to stop him from returning to his beloved island to pursue his passion.

Only a month after his first visit to Bonaire, in March of 2013, Mike suffered a stroke that left him paralyzed on his left side and confined to a wheelchair for two years.

Mike was determined to return to Bonaire and to dive again. After being discharged from the hospital, he started physical therapy (PT).

While in PT, Mike was visited by Darryl Edmiston, owner of Discover Diving in Depew, NY, where Mike had been working on his Master Diver Certification.

Darryl saw Mike's determination and desire to return to scuba diving and to Bonaire.

"I believe in finding answers for people," Darryl said, and told Mike, "Let's find a solution on how you can do this. If you work with the doctors, and they say okay, I'll take you there and we'll do it."

In July 2013 Mike returned to the pool to practice scuba diving. It was the first step in getting back to Bonaire.



On the dock leading to Bari Reef at Sand Dollar, (L-R): Trey Franey, Mike Franey and Darryl Edmiston

With Mike's love of Bonaire and Darryl's commitment to take care of divers, they have formed a very special and unique buddy dive team.

In March 2015, two years after his stroke, Mike returned to Bonaire to dive, and has continued to do so every year since.

This would not have been possible without Darryl. He accompanied Mike on almost every dive since returning to diving after the stroke.

Mike sits on the steps of the dock leading to Bari Reef and a team helps him to gear up. As Mike describes it, he then "falls into the water" and Darryl tows him out to the reef.

They descend together with Darryl controlling the buoyancy and the dive for both

of them. With one hand underneath the base of Mike's tank and his other on the yoke, Darryl "carries" Mike over the reef as he regularly monitors his own gauges. Occasionally, Darryl will pat Mike on his head and point to something he wants him to see. Mike responds with a raised right fist to signal "okay".

Since Darryl is controlling the dive, Mike doesn't wear fins, in order to protect the reef.

Besides Darryl, there is always a safety diver accompanying the buddy team. For most of the dives, on his March trip there could be no better safety diver than Mike's grandson, Trey Franey, whose quick actions on the night of Mike's stroke are credited with saving his life.

Suffering a stroke is not the only chal-

lenge Mike has faced in his life. In 2008 he beat prostate cancer, from exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. He is a disabled American veteran as a result of Agent Orange.

Mike feels he has regained 90% usage of his left leg but nothing in his left arm. He's been told he will not regain use of this limb. He refuses to give up and continues to go to physical therapy with hopes of regaining some mobility.

Since his stroke, with the help of his dive buddy Darryl and others, Mike has logged about 90 dives. In March 2019, Mike did ten dives, including a night dive.

Mike says, "It (diving) keeps me going, it gives me momentum and spirit." ■ *Story and Photos by Alan Zale*



SPECIAL OLYMPICS BONAIRE TA PRESENTA

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**Coral at Klein is Crumbling, continued from page 3**

student. The article is a good summary of what Erik wrote - the only thing I saw that looked odd was Hoeksema's quote that limestone can kill corals - I think the writer mistook his meaning because this does not make sense to me.

**Dee Scarr:**

**A few observations:**

1. The reefs around Bonaire and Klein Bonaire are unique in two respects that relate to avalanches: the proximity of the reef slope to shore, and the angle of the slope. Most places in the Caribbean and South Florida have almost-flat reef areas.

2. Much of Saba's diving is on sea mounts, most coming up to 65 to 125' of depth. Which areas and depths did they compare to Bonaire?

3. Since when do we have "many" goats? How does one even define "many" goats?

4. I love this line: "...saw with his own eyes how a single contact..." (gee, I wonder whose contact it was?) "resulted in a large number of pieces of coral disappearing into the depth." Is there a dive-master on Bonaire who hasn't seen an out

of control or unaware diver make contact with a coral head? Some of those coral heads are precariously perched, and any contact knocks them over. In most places in the Caribbean, the bottom is essentially flat, and the coral falls over and many people can't tell the difference. In other places there's a vertical dropoff, which is not a place where boulder coral colonies normally grow well. But if there was one there that got knocked over, it would fall down the vertical dropoff and be unlikely to hit anything.

Our reef slope angles are unfortunately very good for maximum avalanche damage. One knocked-over coral head literally bounces its way down the reef slope, sometimes knocking over other colonies which do the same.

5. The final sentence or two make no sense in relation to the rest.

6. I've heard too many "statements" that were casual about accuracy, some that were totally inaccurate, some that drew conclusions without taking other significant factors into account. I think too many scientists publish too soon; I no longer believe everything they say. ■



**The oldest town in the Dutch Caribbean invites everyone to party**

For the last 30 years Rincon, Bonaire has celebrated their own special day on April 30. This year is no different with the oldest town in the Dutch Caribbean inviting everyone on Bonaire to the festival. The day begins at 8am in front of the iconic church and continues through the night. There will be craft vendors selling local food, drinks and souvenirs. In early evening the party continues with the Simadan parade featuring residents dressed in traditional costume. ■



Bonaire World Cup team celebrates at press conference by giving Forsa PWA event organizer Nancy Vrieswijk a lift: L-R: Youp Schmit, Julien Mas, Nancy Vrieswijk-Janssen, Amado Vrieswijk, Kiri Thode, (in the back) Nic Hibdige, Antony Ruenes and Sarah-Quita Offringa.

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## Remembering Hans Hass photographing the pirate trumpetfish

Hass was fascinated by the life he saw in the splendid coral reefs of Klein Bonaire. He documented what he saw by photographing the fish and making detailed notes on their behavior. He discovered, for example, that trumpet fish could sometimes be found “riding” parrot fish in order to creep up and pounce on their unsuspecting prey.

Hans Hass described this in his book: “*Again and again I saw the same scene: a parrot fish would be swimming unsuspectingly along, when suddenly a trumpet fish would shoot at it and lay itself along its back, so close that its thin, stick-shaped body looked like the parrot fish’s dorsal fin. The parrot fish did not seem to care for this at all; it would try hard to shake off the interloper by quick dashes hither and thither. The trumpet fish would follow every movement, and stay on its back like a rider on a shying horse. So the two would go on swimming together through the coral.*

*I racked my brains for a long time over what the trumpet fish meant by this behavior; at first I thought of some erotic perversion of our lanky friend. But we probably did him an injustice. The strange creature obviously has another and quite prosaic aim in view which causes his even stranger behavior.*

*The trumpet fish is a freebooter who plies his trade in a most crafty manner. He saves laborious stalking by using his long, stick-shaped figure so skillfully that his prey positively swims into his mouth. Often enough we would see trumpet fish hanging stiff, head downward, as motionless among the coral as if they were part of it. If some unsuspecting fish came darting along, the trumpet-shaped mouth would suddenly open, and in a flash the little fish was devoured.*

*Actually the riding on the parrot fish was a simpler but even wiler dodge. As aforesaid, the parrot fish live on the tiny coral polyps; they do no harm to other*



Hass shown filming wearing his open diving helmet, which was supplied with air via a hand pump from the surface.

*fish. Accordingly the small reef fish show no fear at the approach of a parrot fish; they recognize him from afar by his conspicuous colouration and let him come as close as he pleases. And that is evidently the reason why the trumpet fish “rides” on the parrot fish. Snuggling close to the body of his “horse”, the robber creeps up on the small reef fish unnoticed, and then suddenly shoots forward from his hiding place and makes a meal of some innocent.*

*Due to such and similar observations, which I made during my weeks on the unspoiled reefs around Bonaire and Klein Bonaire, my interest in the biological interrelations under water grew. I knew that no human being had seen this before me and realized what a huge, unresearched area was there below the sea! Soon I exchanged my harpoon for an underwater camera, which helped me to document my underwater experiences to those who had stayed up there, to better explain and evaluate them. There, in the wonderful coral gardens of Bonaire, the marine hunter became the marine researcher, a glowing admirer of the variety of underwater life.”*

Story by Michael Jung—To be continued: Hans, Alfred and Joerg continue to explore Bonaire’s diving sites, but, as WWII approaches, % are suspected of being German spies.



## Reef Glimpses



### War and Peace, Underwater Style

In this photo are three separate colonies: on the right is a star coral, in the middle is a lettuce coral, and on the left is a sponge. Look at the shapes of the colonies, and you’ll realize you can figure out how the growth of each affects the others.

The top of the star coral colony closely overlaps the lettuce coral, and the lettuce coral just under that part of the star coral is dead. In fact, the dead section of lettuce coral was probably killed by the star coral. More precisely, the tentacles of individual star coral polyps stretched out and reached lettuce coral polyps beneath them – and fought them, and killed them.

Who would have thought coral colonies, so beautifully patterned and rocklike, would be so aggressive? If you look for coral colonies growing close to other coral colonies, you’ll almost always see a dead zone where they would otherwise meet. The dead zone gets that way because the polyps of each colony fight each other, and neither colony allows the other to grow.

Below that site another lobe of the star coral is growing over the plate coral. It’s farther away from the plate coral than the

other lobe, so no mayhem has yet taken place.

On the left side of the photo, the lettuce coral is having a peaceful interaction, growing around the rope sponge. Neither the sponge cells nor the coral polyps are having any strong effect on the other, although the ability of the sponge cells to circulate water – and thus to breathe and feed -- is muted where the lettuce coral wraps around the sponge. That may be why this rope sponge looks short for its thickness.

Sponges are biologically more primitive than corals: sponge colonies are composed of cells but coral colonies consist of individual polyps, each with tentacles, a mouth, and a hard skeleton.

Sponges, despite – or because of? – their “primitive” nature, don’t fight with other sponges. Sponge colonies host dozens of other critters. Sponges add amazing color to our reefs. Coming soon: more in Reef Glimpses about sponges. ■ Photo and story by Dee Scarr



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FOR THE **ROSES**  
Fight against cancer!



“Instead of always dissing, here’s a feel good pic. U.S. Coast Guard doesn’t dump black water at sea!!! (I remember flying into Curaçao one day, and saw the honeywagons dumping directly into the ocean on the east side. I queried people about it - answer was ‘Treatment plants can’t handle it, so that’s all they can do with it.’) Thank God I am on Bonaire now” :) Brian Niessen












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# A Garden? Just Do It!

## Surviving drought

It's hot, the drought is heavy, and it's a tough time for flora and fauna on Bonaire. In my yard all trees have suffered from the drought no matter how much I have watered them. They have dropped all their leaves and have only empty stems. Because there is no more shade, I have to move the orchids and all the other plants that hang from the trees to different places.

The almond trees with their big leaves give nice shade to orchids that cannot stand too much sunlight. When it rains, the big leaves drip raindrops little by little into the orchid baskets, which are perfect for the growth of difficult orchids.

## Orchids

Most orchids live on air. Those orchids in coconut fiber hanging baskets grow their roots throughout basket and are kept alive with air and raindrops. Sometimes they hook their roots on the stems and trunk of their guest tree. So when I removed the orchids from the almond tree, I had to take away the roots carefully from the stems. Little birds love to hang around these baskets when the orchids are flowering because they find water and ants. The birds and bees love the sweet liquid and smell from certain orchid flowers. I find it so beautiful to enjoy all that hard-working, peaceful life early in the morning, when Mother Earth is soft and sweet. During the drought the baskets hang in the wayaka and mango trees. They dropped their leaves too, but not as much as the almond trees which were totally denuded.

## Trimming

One of my friends was wondering if the trees were still alive. I told him that nature has miracles. Plants like trees have a strong force to survive. Two weeks ago I began to trim the trees and small plants. It takes a lot of energy for these plants to stay alive in this tough weather. Dead stems use so much energy that there is less energy left for the plant to survive. So trim the plants, take away dead and almost dead parts and also some young shoots, when there are too many. When you notice parts infected with white fly and other sicknesses, chop those parts away. If you leave them the whole tree will die due to the drought and the sicknesses. After trimming, water the plants and trees and see what happens. Within two weeks young shoots will appear and soon your plants will be nice and green again.

Look at the pictures. The almond tree, green as grass, while three weeks ago it was a dry, almost lifeless looking plant. The same is true for the banana tree after I trimmed and replanted. It grew like crazy, 40 centimeters in one week. Before trimming, it was



40 cm. growth

skinny and the leaves grew smaller and smaller. Pruning saved it and I'm sure that one day it will produce a nice bunch of de-



An almond tree three weeks after trimming

licious bananas.

I chopped all young and old stems on the hot pepper plants to keep them small. I did the same last year and the plants grew beautifully as it rained in the middle of the year. After three months, I had a lot of big, nice-tasting hot peppers and I expect success again this time.

Flowering plants like bougainvillea (local name trinitaria) and tuturutu need a good trim too. They can stand drought because of their self-defense system, the thorns that save liquid for the bad days. So these thorny flowering plants will survive, as will all the wild Bonairean plants with needles and thorns. To keep them nice looking and healthy you have to trim them.

## Fruit trees in blossom

You will notice there are a lot of fruit trees in blossom with young fruits. The mango, tamarind, baby druif (grapes), banana, carambola, golden apple, papaya and guava are full of young fruit. It takes a long time before all these fruits are ready to consume. A bunch of bananas needs almost nine months to ripen, the same with papaya, soursop, mangos, cocos and mispel. The wild cherries, prunes, knipp, tamarin, carambolas, appledam, grapes, djamoe take less time.

Due to the dry soil and air, strong wind and hot sun, bearing fruit takes a lot of energy and more time is needed to deliver ripe fruit. So be patient with your fruit trees and support them during the drought with extra water to survive.

Now and then, short rain showers give me the opportunity to catch water from the roof in buckets. I cover the buckets so mosquitoes can't breed there. I mix this water half and half with some WEB water and water the plants and trees every three days. The plants get the minerals from the rainwater to help them survive. I add dry leaves around the plants to keep the soil cool and moist and the water does not run away.

## New plantings

Even when it's so dry, I plant young tomato plants, okra seeds (local name yambo), sweet pepper and red spinach. If the older plants, which I have trimmed, don't survive, then I already have young plants coming up. And by June and July, when we get more showers, I have vegetables ready to consume. I plant these seeds in big containers like half-cut oil barrels and old wheelbarrows. To protect the young plants against the hot sun, I lay chopped coconut leaves on top of the containers. These leaves let in air and a little bit of sunlight and provide shade.

All this makes for a busy day in the garden from early in the morning and late in the afternoon. Even when it looks like nothing



## Making Bonaire "Accessible"

### OUR WHEELCHAIR CHALLENGES # 7.

Who doesn't remember going to your grandparent's house and knowing everything that was there? They were always happy to see you and you always felt safe with them. They had special things for you to play with, a box of buttons or a drawer full of old clothes and there were goodies that you weren't allowed to eat at home. They knew all your secrets and told wonderful stories. You went to church with them and in their pockets were mints to suck on when the sermon was too long.

They taught you everything you needed to know about nature, the seasons, love and respect. They also taught you to respect everybody, especially your elders. You were taught to offer older persons your seat on the bus, greet them with respect and treat them with dignity.

Nowadays it looks like nobody has grandparents anymore. And if they do, they are disrespected, left alone and neglected. These elders and what they have to say are ridiculed by younger people. This makes me very sad and unhappy. Because I know the difference and I feel sorry for them.

When a grandparent has to move to assisted living, they need their family and grandchildren. These elder family members look forward to their visits.

And when the grandparents have no family left to pay them a visit, it is so nice for other people to drop by and make them feel good. These visits help them remember the old times and the good times.

This is why the "memory-box" was invented.

This box can be filled by a loving family or volunteer with things that once were so important to these people. They can be:

pictures of the person, their family, their house, the garden or dried leaves of

the trees and flowers from that garden. The box could hold their favorite cup, perfume in a tightly closed sachet or the wrapper of a can of a favorite food or snack. It might have tickets to a great show they loved to watch. What goes into the box doesn't really matter as long as they are things that bring back good, sweet memories. The items need to be as tactile as possible. And then on certain occasions a volunteer or family-member can come by and sit with them. They open the box and take the objects out one by one and talk about it, ask questions and react to it.

If the elder person is very old and suffers from dementia or Alzheimer's, the volunteer can do this. They can talk about each object and let the person feel, touch and smell.

The memory-box can be used for persons that have a stroke, brain-hemorrhage or persons with mental retardation. The box can be very helpful during rehabilitation.

It works wonders for everybody that does not live at their own home anymore and are placed somewhere where there are no family members to come and visit.

Memories are important. They belong to your own private world and you can always recollect them. Sharing those memories with others is so precious.

So, when the world is not accessible to someone anymore, you can bring the world to them. Start right now to make a memory-box with your mother, father, grand parents or that old aunt who has no children. It is fun to make and it will teach you to share. Start today even if it is going to be just for you! ■ *Ria Evers-Dokter*

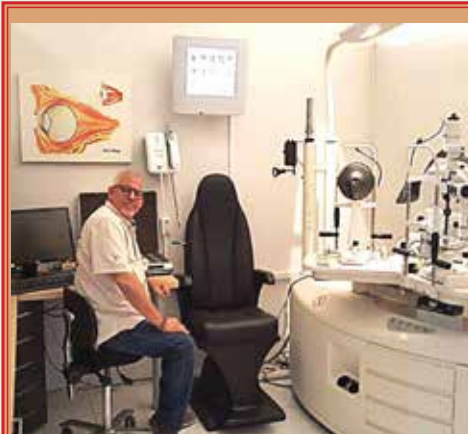


can grow in the dry windy weather, I still have vegetables and fruit in my garden to consume. It's not much, but it's enough for me. I enjoy my food with more pleasure because of all the good things in it. No chemicals in my food, more taste, pride in my work and the pleasure of sharing with others who pass by for a cup of tea or an

easy lunch or dinner.

You can have it all too. Just go in your garden and make a start. Just do it now.

Just do it now. ■ *Story and photos by Angliet, Nature lover.*



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**Did You Know...Every two years, Dr. Robert Steneck (pictured above) and a group of coral reef researchers come to Bonaire to conduct coral and fish surveys on our reefs?**

Dr. Steneck is a professor at the University of Maine and has been researching coral reefs for more than 40 years, earning himself a reputation as a leading coral reef researcher. He began a long-term research project in Bonaire in 2003 with the help and guidance of key staff at STINAPA Bonaire. The goal of the research was to understand trends (or key processes) on the coral reefs of Bonaire in order to guide management practices. Dr. Steneck and his team visit the same reefs each time and measure things like: coral cover, juvenile coral abundance, fish abundances, abundance and height of algae and the height or complexity of the reef. They produce reports titled, 'Status and Trends of Bonaire's Reefs'. What are good trends? Increasing coral cover, increasing numbers of baby corals, increasing numbers and sizes of fish, less algae and a high or complex reef. Unfortunately, throughout the world's oceans, and

particularly in the Caribbean, these are not the trends that researchers are documenting. Even in Bonaire, often thought of as home to the region's best coral reefs, reefs have suffered since the 1970's.

Bonaire has a long history of coral reef protection and conservation. Since the 1960s, our government, our people and our parks have enacted rules and regulations to safeguard our reefs and ensure a growing economy influenced largely by nature-based tourism. We protected corals and sea turtles, created nature parks and reserves, outlawed spearfishing and replaced anchoring with mooring buoys. We had the brilliant idea to have divers and other users fund the parks, and required mandatory diver orientations. But even with all of these measures, our reefs were still suffering. Several more recent regulations were developed based on the findings of STINAPA and Dr. Steneck's long-term research findings: the development of Fish Protected Areas in 2008 and the protection of some species of fish, including parrotfish in 2010. Dr. Steneck's research showed that parrotfish are some of the most important grazers of algae on the coral reefs and areas that had an abundance of parrotfish also had low amounts of algae. This is necessary for healthy corals and baby corals. Bonaire's wastewater treatment plant was also built and many coastal properties were connected, providing a good start to improving the water quality of our coastal waters. With an increasing population and an increase in visitors, water quality is our next big challenge.

Last Friday, Dr. Steneck gave a sneak peek into the groups' finding from this year. His reports (all available on the STINAPA website) documented some negative and concerning trends after 2009. He says this is largely due to a coral bleaching event in Bonaire in 2010. In 2015 and 2017, however, his group documented the recovery of

those reefs. Preliminary results from this year suggest that our reefs are holding steady with the 2015 and 2017 numbers. This indicates that Bonaire's reefs are some of the only reefs in the Caribbean that have been documented to recover after a disturbance.

With threats including climate change, the new coral disease from Florida and massive coral bleaching events on the Great Barrier Reef, it is difficult to be optimistic. But these positive signs give us hope and some assurance that what we do at the local level does make a difference. It is essential that we go forward in a sustainable way, with development and with tourism so that we give our reefs and our economy the best possible chance at success. ■ *Written by Caren Eckrich, STINAPA Biologist. Connecting People With Nature. Photos by Julie Morgan.*



## STCB attends WIDECAST meeting in Suriname

Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) staff and volunteers attended the annual 'Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network' (WIDECAST) meeting in Suriname last week. More than 60 sea turtle experts from 25 countries in the Caribbean were present. Their focus was to evaluate current national and regional programs and set priorities for the coming year including population monitoring, development of guidelines, protocols and reporting tools and education initiatives.

STCB staff presented survey results that included

number of sea turtle nests and health status conducted along the west coast of Bonaire, around Klein Bonaire and inside Lac Bay between 2003 and 2018. Data collected during the 2018 nesting season showed sea turtle abundance and shared the remarkable journey of 'Bonni', a green turtle fitted with a satellite transmitter in September 2018. Some of the other presentations included regional initiatives and updates, bycatch assessment and reduction, and public awareness and outreach. STCB staff also participated in a working

group session on sargassum to discuss effects on wildlife, tourism and fisheries and to share thoughts on unified approaches.

The attendees visited two nesting sites in Suriname, Braampunt and Galibi, to learn more about local efforts to protect sea turtle nests and reduce poaching in the area.

The next WIDECAST meeting will take place in March 2020 in Cartagena, Colombia. ■ *Kaj Schut, Communications & Fundraising Officer. Photo by Ian Winter.*



© Ian Winter

# What's Happening

## CLOSE IN EVENTS

**April 1-5—Windsurf/Yoga and Wellness Week** Bonaire 2019, Bonaire Spiritueel.

**Friday, April 5, 6-10pm. Taste of Bonaire, Cultural Edition.** Wilhelmina Plaza, Kralendijk. Food vendors from Bonaire's fine restaurants. Live music and folk dancing. Arts and crafts stalls.

**Saturday, April 6 3pm to 3am. at Ar-awak (road to Rincon),** Electric Tribe II music festival (see page 6).



**Sunday, April 7—Special Olympics Walk-a-Thon.** \$15. Pick up event T-shirts Fri. & Sat. Walk begins 5am at White Slave Huts to finish at Pasadia Kariño, Rincon.



**April 9-13. Forsa PWA World Championship freestyle windsurfing.** Sorobon at Lac Bay.

**Wednesday, April 10 - Sea Turtle Awareness Presentation by Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire.** Front porch Yellow Sub, Dive Friends. 8pm

**Saturday, April 13 - Quarterly Clean Up Dive and Snorkel by Dive Friends Bonaire**



**Sunday, April 14— Ride, Swim, Walk for the Roses fight against cancer** at Eden Beach Resort and Spice Beach Club. To sign up for the "Roses", go to [www.RidefortheRoses.org](http://www.RidefortheRoses.org). Tickets for \$15 or \$20 are sold at multiple locations.

**Tuesday, April 30. Rincon Day** (see page 8.)

## 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.

**Nature Organization, STINAPA,** has frequent events—bird watching, sunset hikes, lectures, etc. Go to their website for information of events for the rest of 2019: [stinapabonaire.org/events](http://stinapabonaire.org/events), Tel. 717-8444

**Bonaire Goat Farm Tour.** Monday, Wednesday & Friday. 9 am. Meet the goats, see milking, and more. \$10 includes tea. Kids \$5. 786-6950.

**Echo.** See Bonaire's parrots. Wednesday at 4:30 a free (donation-based) Public Conservation Tour. No reservation needed. For optimal birding, book a private tour by calling 701-1188 or email [info@echobonaire.org](mailto:info@echobonaire.org). We need at least one day's notice. Private tours \$25/person 2 person minimum.

## SATURDAYS

• **Marshe di Playa (Bonaire Duodero)** Every Saturday, 8am-1pm, near Warehouse Bonaire, locally made and grown products.

• **Marshe di Kunukero (Farmers' Market)** At Kriabon the first Saturday of the Month. Kaminda Jatu Baco #55, next to Aquamarin School, 8am-12noon.

• **Monthly Cultural Event 'Nos Zjilea' at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei** - Every last Saturday of the month A fusion of local arts & crafts, plants & vegetables, educational presentations, food & music and an exhibition about the most interesting sights around Rincon. Fun, relaxed and entertaining for both kids and adults. All proceeds go to our educational programs. SEE, FEEL AND TASTE THE CULTURE OF BONAIRE

• **Marshe Rincon Krioyo** 1st & last Saturdays. Street market in Rincon, crafts, local food, sweets, noon—6pm.

• **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 cast offs on Saturdays or at the Shelter on the Lagoen Road weekdays. 717-4989.

• **Food Bank (Stichting voedselbank Bonaire)** Last Saturday of the month. Donate foods & household items 9:30am-2pm at Van den Tweel Supermarket.

• **Petanque—Jeu de Boules,** 2:30-6pm, Bolsacentre GOLDFINCH (next to baseball centre on Kaminda Sorobon) Info: 786-0150.

## CLUBS and MEETINGS

• **Rotary** lunch meetings **Wednesdays,** 12:15-2 pm - Marriott Courtyard Hotel, Piet B meeting room. All Rotarians welcome. Call Gregory Obersi 785-9446.

• **General 12-step meeting (AA, NA, CoDa etc.)**—Every **Wednesday** at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Starts at 19.15, ends at 20.30, walk in from 19.00. For more information, email: [12stepbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:12stepbonaire@gmail.com)

• **Chess Club** meets **Wednesday** to play starting at 6 pm at Tera Cora Ranch.

• **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.

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

## 2019 Cruise Ships

DAY	DATE	CRUISESHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY & LINE
Monday	4-1	<i>Azamara Journey</i>	0800-2200	N.Pier	694 Royal Caribbean
Tuesday	4-2	<i>Monarch</i>	0800-1800	N.Pier	2744 Pullmantur
Thursday	4-4	<i>Navigator of the Seas</i>	0700-1600	S.Pier	3276 RCCL
Tuesday	4-9	<i>Mein Schiff 5</i>	0730-1900	N.Pier	2500 TUI
Tuesday	4-9	<i>Reflection</i>	0700 -1500	S.Pier	2858 CEL
Thursday	4-11	<i>Silhouette</i>	0700-1600	S.Pier	2886 CEL
Thursday	4-11	<i>TUI Explorer 1</i>	0700-1400	N.Pier	1924 TUI
Friday	4-12	<i>Koningdam</i>	0800-1800	S.Pier	2650 HAL
Friday	4-12	<i>Norwegian Pearl</i>	0700-1300	N.Pier	2395 Norwegian

## CHURCH SERVICES

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.** Kaya Sabena 26 Sunday Services - Papiamentu/Espanol 9am to 12 noon Add'l Info (599) 701-9522 Dutch/English 1pm to 3pm. Add'l Info (599) 701-2892

**Protestant Congregation of Bonaire (VPGB ),** Kralendijk, Plaza Wilhelmina; Sunday service-10am in Dutch. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday service-8:30am in Papiamentu/Dutch.

**Children's Club** Every Saturday from 4:30-6pm in Kralendijk, (annex of the church.) Contact: [Marytjin@gmail.com](mailto:Marytjin@gmail.com) or [Daisycoffie@hotmail.com](mailto:Daisycoffie@hotmail.com)

**Dutch service** Every Sunday evening at 7pm, Hanchi Amboina 37. Kralendijk. Pastor Oppeneer. Info call+599 787-0646

**International Bible Church.** Kaya Pajago 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. 717-8332 for more info or ride [bonaireibc@gmail.com](mailto:bonaireibc@gmail.com).

**Catholic.** San Bernardus in Kralendijk. Services, Sunday at 8am and 7pm in Papiamentu.

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

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

**Casa de Oracion para todas las naciones.** Hanchi Amboina 37 Kralendijk, Spanish service: every Sunday morning at 9 am. Dutch service: every Sunday evening at 7 pm.

**Prayer Walk at Rooi Lamoenchi** every first Sunday of the Month (or on request) for all followers of Christ. 4.30 pm till 7.30 pm.

Contact Ellen Cochrane-Herrera at [el-lenherrera-cochrane@yahoo.ca](mailto:el-lenherrera-cochrane@yahoo.ca) or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800. English/Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish.

## MUSEUMS & EXHIBITS

• **Terramar Museum** at Terramar Shopping Mall, on the waterfront. Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm. Sunday, closed. Cruise ship days 9am-6pm, \$10, \$5 for residents, children free. *Coral Restoration exhibit.* 717-0423, 780-4327

• **Museo Bonaire** on the waterfront at the old Kas di Arte, Kaya Kachi Craane #34. 717-8868. Monday-Friday 9am-noon, 2-4pm. *Salute to the Sailors exhibit*—Free

• **Chichi i Tan Museum.** Step into the past in an old Bonairean home and garden. Open Thursdays through Sundays. Reserve 717-3183 or 795-2021 Free but donations appreciated. Kaya Melon #4, behind Rose Inn in Rincon.

• **Washington-Slagbaai National Park Museum and Visitors' Center.** Open daily 8 am-5 pm. 788-9015 or 796-5681

• **Tanki Maraka Heritage Park and Open Air Museum.** Site of an American soldiers' camp during WWII. Self-guided tour with excellent signage. After leaving Kralendijk on the Rincon Road watch for sign to the park on the right. Driveway to entrance just a short distance. Free entry.

• **Yana's Fine Art Museum** at Lagoen Hill 19- Call: 599 785-5002. Free entry. Yana's Art is also exhibited at Bon Bida Spa and Gym. Info: 599 785-5002

• **Bonaire Museum of National History** Kaya Julio C. van der Ree #7, open all cruiseship days, 9am-3pm. Free entrance



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# BONAIRE SKY PARK\*

\*to find it—just look up

## “OPHI-WHO?” THE 13TH CONSTELLATION OF THE ZODIAC

There are currently 88 officially recognized constellations in modern astronomy. Twelve of these constellations have particular significance because during the course of a year, the sun, moon and planets appear to drift in an eastward direction against these background stars. The constellations along this path are referred to as the zodiac.

Zodiac, loosely translated means ‘circle of animals’ and the constellations of the zodiac in order are as follows: Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpius, Sagittarius, Capricornus, Aquarius and Pisces. However, between Scorpius and Sagittarius there’s actually a 13th constellation, that the sun passes through on its journey. In reality, the earth is the one doing the traveling. The sun just appears to move through this constellation as we orbit.

This constellation is Ophiucus and he is often represented as a man holding a snake. His name is derived from the Greek for ‘serpent-bearer.’ According to legend, Ophiucus, the son of Apollo, was an expert in the art of medicine. One day, Ophiucus killed a snake, but a second snake came along with a medicinal herb in its mouth. The live snake gave the dead snake the herb, restoring the dead snake to life. Ophiucus collected the herb from the snake, and was able to restore life to the dead.

Pluto, the god of the Netherworld, didn’t like the fact that Ophiucus had this ability and he complained to Jupiter. Jupiter sent his pet eagle Aquila after Ophiucus with a lightning bolt. The lightning bolt struck Ophiucus, killing him. Jupiter, not wanting Ophiucus’ knowledge to fade into oblivion, placed the medically-gifted serpent-bearer among the stars.

Before being brought into the heavens,

Ophiucus became good friends with Orion the hunter. Years later, Orion, boasting about what a great hunter he was, decided to prove his ability by killing all the creatures of the earth. Gaia, the goddess of the Earth sent Scorpius the scorpion to stop him. The resulting sting from the scorpion killed Orion.

Ophiucus, seeing what happened and having the power to restore life, revived Orion and asked Jupiter to place Orion on the opposite side of the sky away from the scorpion. Ophiucus promised to keep watch over the scorpion so it wouldn’t try to escape, and to this day, the star marking the foot of Ophiucus can be seen just above Scorpius. This star is along the path the sun travels during the month of December, thus making him (albeit unofficially) one of the constellations of the zodiac.

Shortly before sunrise on Saturday, April 6, if you look to the south, you’ll see the giant planet Jupiter among the stars of Ophiucus. Jupiter entered Ophiucus back in December 2018 and will be hanging out with the serpent bearer well into November of this year.

A little further towards the east, in the constellation of Sagittarius we see the ringed planet Saturn. Saturn has its northern hemisphere tilted towards us right now, so if you have a telescope handy, make sure you check it out. The rings will look exquisite.

Way over towards the east, we have Mercury and Venus in the constellation of Aquarius. Both planets will both be fairly close to the horizon, so you’ll have to time your viewing just right.

Mercury should stand out since Aquarius doesn’t have many bright stars, plus Venus is nearby to help you find it. ■ *Dean Regas & James Albury*



# THE STARS HAVE IT

Horoscope April 2019

**Aries** (Mar.21–Apr.20) You will need to work diligently in order to accomplish even the smallest amount. Get busy making those changes to your home. You will tend to overeat this month. A little volleyball or other outdoor sports should be on your agenda. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**Taurus** (Apr.21–May 21) You could be quite erratic regarding your personal relationship. A passionate encounter with your mate should help alleviate that pent-up energy. Think twice before you pursue an unrealistic endeavor. You need to mingle with people who can spark enthusiasm and confidence in you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**Gemini** (May 22–Jun.21) Changes in your domestic scene are evident. Spend a quiet day with the one you love. Be cautious while traveling to foreign countries. Added knowledge will give you the edge when dealing with peers. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**Cancer** (Jun.22–Jul.22) You can enjoy short trips. You will be too quick to point your finger at your mate. Keep an open mind when dealing with youngsters. You should be getting into self-improvement projects. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

**Leo** (Jul.23–Aug.22) Real estate and joint financial ventures will be profitable. Be prepared to make compensations and adjustments. You will be able to get along well with colleagues. Get proper medical attention and confront your situation decisively. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

**Virgo** (Aug.23–Sept.23) Refuse to get involved in idle chatter; it will only make you look bad. Social activities or travel should be in your plans. You might find that delays will cause setbacks and upset. You’ve been in a rut and you need to do something that will help you break the pattern you’ve fallen into. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.

**Libra** (Sept.24–Oct.23) Be sure to take

care of any minor ailments. Depression may be likely if you’re away from home. Don’t be too confident that coworkers are on your side. You must be sure not to be frivolous, because as the saying goes, easy come, easy go. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

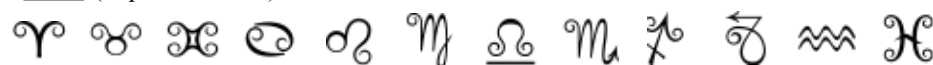
**Scorpio** (Oct. 24–Nov. 22) Enjoy taking courses or lecturing others. You may experience financial loss if you don’t use good judgment. Emotional matters may not be easy for you to handle. Consider a conservative investment that will stay solid when everything else goes sour. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.

**Sagittarius** (Nov.23–Dec.21) You will be able to work with fine detail this month. You can evade the issue as usual by being affectionate, fun loving, and far too active for your lover to catch on. You’ll find travel or involvement in large groups gratifying. Don’t let others know about your private affairs. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**Capricorn** (Dec.22–Jan.20) You need to keep everyone on your domestic scene too busy to complain. You will get upset over trivial matters. You will have the ability to capture the interest of others. You have a real need to be vocal. Monday is your luckiest day.

**Aquarius** (Jan.21–Feb.19) You have to let go of your past if you wish to get out of any sentimental mood that might be hanging over your head. Be prudent and don’t be led down the garden path. Don’t prejudice. You may get drawn into a personal situation that will not be to your liking. You can help them more than they can help you. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

**Pisces** (Feb.20–Mar.20) You can expect changes in your living arrangements. Take a look at the possibilities of starting a small part time business with friends or relatives. Try to be reasonable. Accept the inevitable, and opportunities for advancement will follow. Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday. ■ *Michael Thiessen ©Astrology online.com*



Bonaire Sun Rise/Set Moon Phase & Tides (AST)							
Winds and weather can influence the local tide's height and time.							
April	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Mon 01		03:49 0.12 ft	09:52 0.60 ft	17:59 -0.05 ft	23:24 0.27 ft	06:32	18:47
Tue 02		04:43 0.14 ft	10:36 0.51 ft	18:33 0.00 ft		06:31	18:47
Wed 03	00:06 0.31 ft	05:56 0.15 ft	11:28 0.43 ft	19:03 0.05 ft		06:31	18:47
Thu 04	00:46 0.36 ft	07:27 0.14 ft	12:36 0.34 ft	19:28 0.10 ft		06:30	18:47
Fri 05	01:24 0.42 ft	09:01 0.09 ft	14:02 0.27 ft	19:49 0.14 ft	New Moon	06:29	18:47
Sat 06	02:00 0.49 ft	10:17 0.01 ft	15:35 0.22 ft	20:07 0.16 ft		06:29	18:47
Sun 07	02:36 0.58 ft	11:14 -0.08 ft	16:54 0.20 ft	20:29 0.17 ft		06:28	18:47
Mon 08	03:15 0.67 ft	11:59 -0.16 ft	17:48 0.18 ft	21:04 0.16 ft		06:28	18:47
Tue 09	03:55 0.76 ft	12:40 -0.22 ft	18:22 0.18 ft	21:52 0.14 ft		06:27	18:47
Wed 10	04:38 0.83 ft	13:17 -0.27 ft	18:49 0.18 ft	22:45 0.11 ft		06:26	18:47
Thu 11	05:23 0.89 ft	13:55 -0.30 ft	19:18 0.19 ft	23:42 0.07 ft		06:26	18:47
Fri 12	06:09 0.92 ft	14:32 -0.31 ft	19:51 0.23 ft		First Quarter	06:25	18:47
Sat 13		00:41 0.05 ft	06:57 0.91 ft	15:09 -0.30 ft	20:29 0.28 ft	06:25	18:47
Sun 14		01:44 0.03 ft	07:46 0.86 ft	15:47 -0.27 ft	21:12 0.36 ft	06:24	18:47
Mon 15		02:52 0.03 ft	08:39 0.77 ft	16:26 -0.23 ft	21:59 0.45 ft	06:23	18:47

**Who's Who on The Bonaire Reporter**  
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Emily Gorski and Colin Travers returned to Animal Shelter Bonaire again this year to liven up our facility. Last year, the two young muralists from Brooklyn, New York, painted a charming mural on the outside wall of the Cat Palace. This year they took on the big job of transforming an ugly brown 40-foot container into a delightful Bonairean landscape populated with cats and dogs. Emily and Colin are the talented painters who “energized” the unfinished ruins of Esmeralda Beach Hotel at the south end of the island. Their work also adorns numerous sites all over Brooklyn. Thank you, Emily and Colin, for your great work and continued support of the Shelter. *Photo: Luvinia Rodriguez*

## Shelter News

### Jolen, Pet of the Week

Howdy folks! My name is Jolene and I am as pretty as the girl in the country song. I get along well with other kitties but I especially like people. Doggies do scare me a little though. They call me a “muted calico” because, instead of being black and orange, my long soft hair is grey and peachy tan. I love to be petted and I am a pretty “chill” lady. Everyone tells me I am one of the sweetest cats you will ever meet.



I am about a year old, vaccinated and healthy. Will you come see me and let me snuggle on your lap? I am sure you would like to be my fur-ever family! My address is Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, and I can have visitors on Mon.-Fri. 9am-12pm / 3-5pm and Saturdays 9 am-3 pm nonstop. The phone number is 717-4989 or 701-4989.

I am healthy, sterilized and vaccinated. Will you come and see me and let me snuggle on your lap? I am sure you would like to be my fur-ever family! My address is Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26, and I can have visitors on Mon.-Fri. 9am-12pm and 3-5 pm, Saturdays 9 am-3 pm nonstop. 717-4989/701-4989 ■ *Story and Photos by Laurie Smith*



Congratulations to Shelter employee Kenneth Piar, and the entire 2019 Bonaire Special Olympics team! Kenneth took bronze medals and 4th place ribbons for Bocce Ball (Bolos), part of the “haul” of 13 medals and 10 ribbons our Bonaire athletes brought home.



And the trip wasn't just all “games”, there was “fun” too! Just look at the expression on the faces of Kenneth and Suraya Hendricks (Special Olympian and former Shelter volunteer) as they enjoy a camel ride. So proud of our Bonaire team! ■ *Story: Jane Disko. Photo: DIGICEL*

### Bonaire Reporter Classifieds—SELL!

Call 796-4055 or e-mail [BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com](mailto:BonaireReporter2019@gmail.com)  
 Commercial Classifieds: \$0.77 per word for each two-week issue.  
 Personal Classifieds: FREE for 2 insertions (max 4 lines +/- 20 words)

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## Nikiboko, Kaminda Nieuw Amsterdam 6

### Highlights:

- 2 bedrooms / 2.5 bathrooms
- air conditioning in bedrooms
- spacious loft floor above the living room
- master bedroom with built-in closet
- located in the quiet residential area of Nikiboko
- total ground area: 6,458 / 600 sq.ft./m2
- total living area: 1,808 / 168 sq.ft./m2

**Asking price**  
**US\$ 260,000** Buyers cost  
including furniture



Kaya Grandi 41, Kralendijk  
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