



**Ride for Roses 2020**  
**Boulder reef renewal**  
**Experimental algae farm**  
**Photos needed for waterfront**

**Story and Photos: Julie Morgan**

**Cruising in to 2020 (part one)**

Tourism was in its infancy when the first cruise ship, the *Bergensfjord* arrived in Bonaire in November 1967. The arrival was a special occasion and even the schools were closed so the kids could see this first time event. This day would change Bonaire tourism forever.

Back then, all the boats were considered luxury liners catering mostly to the wealthy.

During the 1970's and 80's, Bonaire was visited by about 10 ships per year with each carrying between 900-1200 guests. But by the early 2000's the number of ships grew to approximately 30-40 per year.

In 2016, a hurricane devastated St. Maarten's port and Bonaire took up the slack. Yearly cruise visits jumped to 180 making Bonaire a cruise ship destination resulting in 190 ships in 2019 and 228 scheduled for 2020.

Bonaire residents and regular visitors

have a lot of mixed feelings as to whether they are good or bad. Dive shop owners report, some guests that have spent over \$3000 a trip say they love the island but will never return because of the cruise ships. Others say it is a love/hate relationship. The topic is of major concern to everyone that loves Bonaire and the cruise ships are here to stay.

Since that first ship moored here 53 years ago, Bonaire has seen many changes and learned first hand how tourism conflicts with our most valuable resource, nature. Even in the early days, Bonaire's tourism growth was beginning to have an ill effect on nature. Scientists and concerned residents took steps to alleviate the problems by the creation of the flamingo sanctuary, STINAPA and the marine park.

The 1990's Pourier Report attempted to solve the nature and tourism problem. It emphasized Bonaire's environmental product (nature) and the need to sustainably develop it by attracting and catering

to a small but affluent clientele of tourists.

This same idea is echoed in the 2017-2027 Master Tourism Plan. But in addition to the affluent tourists, it claims Bonaire needs more hotels and cruise ships to realize more money for the islands people.

Bonaire welcomes two types of tourists, the stay over ones that usually fly in to the island and the day kind that come via what is called the oceans biggest polluters, cruises ships. In a 2019 report from Wageningen Marine Research, cruise ship tourism accounted for only 1% of

**Cruise ships, continued on page 13**



**Bonaire's first cruise ship, *Bergensfjord*, at the pier November 1967 (photo courtesy of Boi Antoin)**



## Experimental algae farm to be built on Bonaire

Equipment for building an experimental algae farm is currently en route to Bonaire from the Netherlands. The project is an initiative of professor prof.dr.ir. René Wijffels from Wageningen University & Research, plus the public entity Bonaire. The Water and Energy Company Bonaire (WEB NV) will set up the pilot and the follow-up process. The Executive Council is supporting the experiment “to encourage sustainable development focused on the island as a breeding ground for technological innovations.”

The experimental facility will be built between Hato and Sabadeco in the Barcadera area, then expanded if successful. The lab results achieved in Wageningen were encouraging, so the research is being relocated to Bonaire where testing can continue under realistic conditions. This next phase should be completed in about a year, then the project could be expanded.

If algae can be produced and harvested on a large scale, then decisions will be made regarding what to use it for. Serving as a raw material for animal feed, cosmetics, or fuel are among the possibilities.

Environmentalists have been concerned for years about rumors of algae production on Bonaire. They see a danger of the algae escaping into the ocean. If the algae can be grown successfully in sea water under controlled circumstances, it might flourish in the open ocean and damage the reefs. *D.M.R.*



Here is what the experimental algae farm near the ocean at Barcadera will look like. The plan shows sea water being pumped into the facility, then eventually exiting into the tank at the top left of the illustration. The drawing suggests that water will likely be contaminated with algae. Environmentalists want to know what will prevent that contaminated water from returning to the ocean.

## Additional 47 million dollars committed to school construction on Bonaire.

In 2012 a covenant was signed between the Netherlands and Bonaire for school construction and renovation. Subsequently a number of school buildings were radically renovated and a new accommodation was built for Kolegio Papa Cornes (primary education) and for Liseo Boneriano - specifically the MAVO, HAVO and VWO sections the high school program (SGB).

Now a second covenant for 47 million dollars has been signed. New accommodation will be built for the MBO and VMBO section of the high school (SGB), and for De Pelikaan (primary school). Kolegio Kristu Bon Wardador (primary school) will be renovated.

For the first time on Bonaire, these construction projects will be executed by the Fundashon Propiedad Imobil Bonaire, under the responsibility of the public entity Bonaire. Until now, the Central Government Real Estate Agency (Rijksvastgoedbedrijf, RVB) was responsible for the management of the various projects on behalf of the public entities and the Ministry.

The agreement was signed by Minister Arie Slob (Primary and Secondary Education and Media) and Deputy Nina den Heyer. At the meeting Slob said he was proud of the quality of Bonaire’s teaching and education. He stressed the importance of developing young people. Signing the contract is only the first step, Slob said, and there is a lot of hard work ahead, but educational results are starting to show what we can do together.

After the signing, Minister Arie Slob, Deputy Nina den Heyer and other guests enjoyed a meal and drinks prepared by the culinary department at Bonaire’s technical school.



Minister Arie Slob (Primary and Secondary Education and Media) and Deputy Nina den Heyer sign the second covenant for improving school accommodations on Bonaire.



Architectural drawing of the MBO and VMBO sections of the high school (SGB)

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# Photographs needed for the waterfront trash bins

Imagine being able to help control the litter and trash along Bonaire's waterfront by simply taking a photo? From now until February 8, A Plastic Free Bonaire (APFB) is accepting images of Bonaire to be exhibited on the front of the eight new recycle/trash bins to be located on the waterfront.

Bonaire nature and culture is the theme of the photo contest. Images on the bins will be displayed 4 ft x 2 ft across the front, so they will be easily identifiable for anyone needing to dispose of litter or look at your great image!

For the contest, all photos will be displayed on the APFB Facebook page and anyone in the world can vote for the best 20 images. Qualified photography judges will select the final eight to be displayed on the bins. Finalists will receive a 50 x 70 cm canvas print of their photo in addition to other prizes.

### A few rules:

Only Bonaire residents can enter  
Must be 13 years or older  
Four submissions per person  
Horizontal (landscape), high resolution (300 dpi) photos only  
Final deadline for submission is February 8, 2020

Photographs may be submitted to: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/APLASTICFREEBONAIRE/](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/APLASTICFREEBONAIRE/)

COM/APLASTICFREEBONAIRE/ or via WeTransfer to [Aplasticfreebonaireinfo@gmail.com](mailto:Aplasticfreebonaireinfo@gmail.com).

Not a Photographer but want to help? APFB needs sponsorship for the community-funded project. Sponsor's logos will appear on the side of the eight bins for only \$500 a year with a two-year commitment. This is great opportunity for a business or organization to show their support in keeping Bonaire litter free.

The wooden bins are made locally and will be main-

tained by A Plastic Free Bonaire with the help of your sponsorship. They will be removed during a wind reversal and during New Years to prevent any damage.

The bins should be completed by March 1.  
*Julie Morgan*

*"This is your waterfront and we need to protect and keep it for future generations."*

A Plastic Free Bonaire Presents

HELP KEEP BONAIRE BEAUTIFUL

## PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

PHOTOGRAPHY THEME: BONAIRE NATURE & CULTURE

ENTRY DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 8TH 2020

ENTER TO WIN A GRAND PRIZE \$250.

PHOTO CONTEST CRITERIA:

1. ONLY BONAIRE RESIDENTS CAN ENTER
2. YOU MUST BE 13 YEARS OR OLDER
3. 4 SUBMISSIONS PER PERSON
4. HORIZONTAL (LANDSCAPE) HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS ONLY
5. ANYONE CAN VOTE FOR THEIR FAVORITE PHOTO

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTO'S TO: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/APLASTICFREEBONAIRE/](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/APLASTICFREEBONAIRE/)

APPROVED AND ENDORSED BY THE FOLLOWING:

BONAIRES DURADERO, SELBON, STCB, CLEAN COAST BONAIRE, MEGA

WINNING PHOTOS WILL REPRESENT BONAIRE ALONG KRALENDIJK'S WATERFRONT

## FOR SALE Sand Dollar A5 Oceanfront Condo



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- 2 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms

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- Scan code for a virtual 3D tour



Listed for \$ 299,999 US Dollar

Kaya Grandi 24-A Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean Tel. +599-717-7362  
[info@bonairehomes.com](mailto:info@bonairehomes.com) [www.bonairehomes.com](http://www.bonairehomes.com)  
<http://www.facebook.com/REMAXBonaire>





## The public entity Bonaire has a new telephone number

Starting January 2020, the public entity Bonaire (OLB) will have new telephone number. The new general number is 715 5330.

The new general telephone numbers of the OLB are:

- 715-5330 Operations & Support Department
- 715-5300 Supervision & Enforcement Department
- 715-5381 Directorate of Space & Development
- 715-5311 Society & Care Directorate
- 715-5315 Civil Affairs Department

All fixed telephone numbers of the OLB have been changed, but the old telephone numbers will remain active temporarily to give callers time to get used to the change.

## Paying your motor vehicle tax for 2020

If you have a car or motorcycle, you will soon have to pay the motor vehicle tax for 2020. You will receive a letter by mail at the beginning of February telling you how much you have to pay and when you pay.

### Do you want to pay in two parts?

You can pay the amount in two parts, if you wish. This is how you do it:

- You pay the first half before April 1, 2020.
- You pay the second half before July 1, 2020.

If you have not paid anything before April 1, 2020, you must pay the entire amount on April 2, 2020. The letter you receive will contain more information about paying in two parts.

### Do you want to pay earlier?

You can pay the motor vehicle tax before you receive the letter. You can pay with internet banking or at your bank's counter. Put your CRIB number / 01 base rate 20 plate number under "payment reference". Example: 123456789 / 01B20B1234.

### You can transfer your payment to:

- R.B.C. : 8400000180872997 - RBTTBQBN
- ORCO BANK: 7601000195 - ORBABQBN
- M.C.B. : 402,917.08 - MCBKBQBN
- B.D.C. : 30638802 - BDCCBQBN

### Your bank statement is proof that you have paid.

In the diagram below you can see how much you have to pay. Look at the fuel and the letter on your license plate. *Department of Communication of the public entity Bonaire*

Motor Vehicle tax 2020					
Fuel	Letter on License Plate	Base Rate	All year	Half year	New Plate
Gasoline	B or V	B	USD 190.00	USD 95.00	USD 8.40
Diesel	B or V	D	USD 838.00	USD 419.00	USD 8.40
Gasoline	TX or AB	C	USD 137.00	USD 68.50	USD 8.40
Diesel	TX or AB	E	USD 209.00	USD 104.50	USD 8.40
Gasoline	MF	A	USD 137.00	USD 68.50	USD 5.60
Diesel	Z	G	USD 1,257.00		USD 628.50

# Letters and Opinions

## "Bolivia is a bare-eated junk"

The millionaire who has bought Bolivia called the area a "bare-eated junk". You must be either blind or unfamiliar with the area to be able to make such a claim. We have been coming to the area for decades and walk around it every week. As a result, we know that Bolivia is not a "bare-eated junk".

### What is Bolivia then?

Bolivia is an important area for Bonaire and the Leeward Islands. The plantation houses a number of rare animals. This includes different types of bats, the barn owl, the Lora or yellow-wing Amazon parrot and land crabs.

The flora is also interesting and of great ecological importance. Bolivia consists for a large part of dry tropical forest in which you can discover "islands" of Verfhout trees, view the oldest and thickest pokhout tree on the island with a diameter of 84 cm, and encounter thousands and thousands of cacti. And those cacti are of the utmost importance for the bats, because a number of species live off the nectar of the cactus flowers. The Lora is a regular guest of Bolivia because the parrot lives on the faded flowers of the cacti. Fewer cacti, fewer Lora's. And there are so few of them.

Bolivia has the largest dry tropical forest of the windward islands. Moreover, it forms a corridor between the northern and southern parts of the island.

In addition, the landscape of Bolivia is also important. A large number of caves have been formed in the cliff that are inhabited by the bats that also reproduce there. The new owner is planning, as can be read on his website, to build cave dwellings there. Talk about bare-eating!

### How does the new owner come to call the area a bare-eated junk?

You only have to walk around for 5 minutes to understand how he gets there. There are thousands of goats and hundreds of donkeys. Nobody knows who these animals belong to, but they really ate everything they can eat. And no one who acts against it, not even the government, while it was just a few years ago that it launched the goat policy forcefully. We know from the experience of the Christoffel Park in Curaçao that when the goats are driven away, the flora recovers rapidly and long-lost species return as if nothing had ever happened.

For decades, (scientific) publications have been calling for the removal of goats in the public domain of Bonaire because they have a destructive influence on the flora of Bonaire. It is high time that either the responsible representative or the governor himself intervened in this policy area. And that they understand that Bolivia is not a bare-eaten junk, but a seriously neglected piece of nature. Shame on those who let this happen.

*René Roders*

Dear Editor,

A very good first meeting about preserving Bolivia I think!

Thanks to Bart and Habitat for their efforts to make that happen!

I came to Bonaire in 1976 to study its land snails and coral reefs.

I have returned over 125 times to lead dozens of study groups and made several films about various habitats and environmental issues in Bonaire and used it as a case study for preservation of nature in hundreds of presentations to environmental groups and in my classes on environmental management for some forty years until my retirement as co-founder of the Sustainability and Environmental Management programs at Harvard University.

From wind power and water desalinization to the Marine Park, Lac Bay, Washington Park, Klein Bonaire and the Salt pans, Bonaire has been very forward thinking and proactive on most environmental matters.

I came this week to make a short film about issues related to the development of the Bolivia area with Hendrik Whyts and we hope to make that available next week.

Perhaps that can be the impetus for a film similar to the one that we did about the preservation of Klein Bonaire many years ago. Bart, Julie, George, Laura, myself and several others worked on that successful effort.

Besides the creation of a Foundation and the gathering of information as to the status of the sale and plans for development, it is very important to get greater details about the biota and biodiversity of Bolivia as well as standing regulations about the land areas and their possible development. The often delicate geology of the area needs to be studied; the cultural and historical uses and features documented and the many varieties of bats, cactus, birds, lizards, insects and land snails all need to be accounted for and their ecological importance understood before any development is allowed. Once all that is known, perhaps like Klein Bonaire, people will realize the importance of preserving Bolivia from development!

Best,

*George Buckley*

*Director*

*Environmental Management Project*

Tues.-Fri. 9-6 pm  
Sat. 9-2 pm

## HAIR AFFAIR

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Whats App 786-1942. www.hairaffairbonaire.com

# Law Enforcement

## Theft from cars

In recent days, thefts have been committed from parked cars in various places. KPCN wants to emphasize that people should not to leave valuable items in the car when the car is parked unattended for a longer period of time.

## Street races or “fevering”

During the New Years and in the days after, there have been many street races / events on the public roads of Bonaire. There have been several reports for the streets surrounding Kaya Nikiboko North

and Kaya Korona.

Street racing is not only punishable. It also puts other road users at risk.

The KPCN asks anyone who has video images and / or photos of street races, races and / or noise pollution from motor vehicles to send them via a Facebook message (messenger) to the Dutch Caribbean Police Force - KPCN. Reporting this type of nuisance is also possible via telephone number 715-8000 or via the anonymous telephone number 717 7251.

## Police Report for January 6 to 17, 2020

### Robberies

On Jan. 7, following an investigation into domestic burglaries, police have held a man of 30 years with initials S.L.M.P. The investigation is still ongoing.

Between 10am and 3pm on Jan. 16 thieves entered by forcing the rear sliding door in a house on Kaminda Lagun. They took various goods with them.

Between Jan. 15, around 8:30pm, and Jan. 16, around 6am, thieves took a purse with contents from a locked car parked in front of a house on Kaya Den Tera.

### Dive site/shoreline robberies

On Jan. 13 a report was made of theft from the beach at the dive site 1000 steps. Thieves took two bags with contents while the owners were snorkeling. The bags included a laptop, sunglasses, clothing and cash.

At the dive site Jeff Davis on Jan. 14 between 10:45 - 11:45am, thieves destroyed the car window on the driver's side and took two bags with contents.

On Jan. 15, thieves took a handbag and a cooler bag with contents from an unlocked car parked at the Boka Onima.

On Jan. 16, between 3 - 4 pm, at the dive site “Alice in Wonderland,” on the E.E.G. Bulevar, thieves stole items from a locked car, including a wallet with various bank cards and credit cards, a red Linux camera with a green cover and charger, and three keys from a bag.

### On the roads

In the early afternoon hours of Jan. 14, three cars collided at the T-junction of Kaya Korona and Kaya Neerlandia. Car #1 traveling from the Kaya Neerlandia gave no priority to car #2 driving on Kaya Korona towards Playa, so that the cars collided. Car #2 in turn collided with oncoming car #3. The driver of car #2 was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

On Jan. 14, between 4 to 6:15pm, a traffic check was held at the airport where 5 police reports were issued for not having valid insurance documents and / or not being in possession of a valid driver's license.

Around 9:20am Jan. 15, two cars collided on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot. The driver of one of the vehicles was taken to the hospital with the ambulance.

In the early afternoon hours of Jan. 15, a car and a scooter collided on Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt. The driver of the scooter did not see that the car slowed down in front of him to turn left and crashed into the rear of the car.

At around 2:45pm on Jan. 16, two cars collided at the intersection of Kaya Avelino J. (Abechi) Cecilia and Kaya Andres Emerenciana. A little boy in one of the cars was treated on site by the ambulance personnel.

**How to contact the KPCN**  
emergency number 911 (free)  
anonymous tips, (+599) 717 7251  
general (+599) 715 8000 or 717 8000



## Ask Kate

### Bonaire real estate advice

*Editor: Kate has asked that for this issue we repeat her column from Issue 6, 2019.*

**Question: I heard you can only get a mortgage on Bonaire if you pay it off by age 65. I'm 59 now, does that mean I can't get a mortgage? If not, can I get a mortgage in the United States for a Bonaire property? Thanks, Jeff**

Hi Jeff,

This is one of the most common areas of confusion I hear from clients. A Bonaire mortgage does not need to be paid off by age 65, I recently sold a property to a 70 year old American who was offered a 7 year mortgage. However, the older you are at the time you apply for the mortgage, the shorter your loan term is likely to be. Generally, the maximum mortgage term on Bonaire is 20 years, and the actual term is personalized to your situation. The bank will take into consideration your age, income and assets, whether you are still employed and other factors. Two different buyers of

the same age may receive different loan terms, so it's important to consult with the loan officer about your individual situation.

At this time, no US banks will loan a mortgage on a foreign property in Bonaire. Some buyers with equity in their US homes choose to refinance that property and use the funds to purchase their Bonaire home with cash. Since US mortgages are not based on the age of the borrower and can be issued with a 30 year term for repayment, this is an attractive option for some buyers.

Best of luck in finding your dream home on Bonaire!  
*Kate Butler, GRI,  
RE/MAX Bonaire*

**If you are looking to buy or sell a home on Bonaire, or if you have a real estate question for Kate, email her at [kate@bonairehomes.com](mailto:kate@bonairehomes.com). Tollfree from U.S.: 1-866-611-7362**

## Two inquiries into Bonaire's election uncover only minor problems

The Organization of American States (OAS) monitored Bonaire's March 20th election last year, and the Inter-Continental University of the Caribbean conducted a post-election inquiry at the request of Lieutenant Governor Edison Rijna. Rijna was concerned about the drop in turnout since the 2015 election. In 2019 only 64% of Bonaire's eligible voters went to the poles, vs 78% in 2015.

The OAS delegates praised the 'special dedication' with which members of the polling stations performed their duties, the accessibility of the polling stations (including for wheelchair users), and the use of computers at the polling stations, which they said was good and could be made even better. They suggested Bonaire could adapt to its own needs “a toolkit used in the European Netherlands” for conducting elections. The OAS also recommended that Bonaire “ensure that all means of communication are also available in Papiamentu and provide the ballot papers with party colors and photos of the candidates.”

The researchers from Inter-Continental University of the Caribbean interviewed more than 200 voters and non-voters, as well as many of the people involved in conducting the election. Long waiting times at the polling stations was the major problem cited, especially after 5:00 pm. Half the votes were cast in the last three hours of the election. Problems with the distribution of voting cards, and the time required to process powers of attorney also slowed down the lines.

Both voters and employers need to be made aware that employees have a legal right to leave work to cast their votes during working hours. The researchers also recommend that coordination and internal communication be strengthened between the main polling station and other polling stations, the distribution of voting cards be improved, polling stations staff receive more training, and the number of computers at polling stations in increased to discourage the use of powers of attorney.

Rijna is especially interested in the researchers' recommendation that ways should be considered for getting young people more involved in politics. “Maybe it's time for a junior version of the Island Council,” he said. *D.M.R.*

## TCB announces new cruise coordinator

**Mr. Rolando Marin has been appointed Cruise Coordinator for Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB).**

**Rolando has worked at TCB for more than 25 years, and since 2013 he has assisted TCB's cruise coordinators. He has visited the FCCA (Florida Caribbean Cruise Association) conferences in Miami on many occasions.**

**Rolando's previous position at TCB was Information Officer. In that position, he provided information to tourists, assisted travel agents, filming groups, and lately provided tours/information when vloggers visit Bonaire to write articles.**



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<https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter/>



# Support World Cancer Day with a ride

## Ride for the Roses Feb 2



**Governor Edison Rijna purchased the first ticket from Marga van Lieshout.**

illustrates how deeply we all care.”

All funds from Ride for the Roses go to Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds. Treasurer Anne-Marie Mercera said, “Prinses Wilhelmina Fonds supports less wealthy cancer patients on the island. To help fight cancer, one of the priorities is to teach people about cancer prevention.”

In addition the organization uses the funds for patients to receive psycho-social assistance during treatment. The fund supplies healthy fruits and vegetables and informs the general population about cancer.

The event is designed to get everyone involved in a healthy way. Anyone and everyone can take part in the fundraiser. Participants can walk, run, ride, swim, kite surf and do yoga.

“Roses” secretary Marga van Lieshout said, “We want to make this a family event and get everyone involved. Kids are welcome to join their family in the races and kids t-shirts are available for young participants. A children’s program has been set up with free beach games and face painting.”

Volunteers play a big part in helping things run smoothly and keep everyone safe. For the last few years STINAPA, Jong Bonaire, the coast guard and Red Cross have played significant roles, but more volunteers are always needed according to Marshall. Volunteers can sign up at [www.RidefortheRoses.org](http://www.RidefortheRoses.org).

[RidefortheRoses.org](http://RidefortheRoses.org).

Registration and ticket sales began January 16, Governor Edison Rijna purchasing the first ticket.

Participants can register online and buy tickets in advance at many locations: Airport Restaurant (TecnoBar), De Freewieler, Multipost, Bon Bida Gym, Dushi Yoga by Dragana, Lisa Convenience Store, Yoga Center at Eden Beach Resort, Yogarriba by Lolymar, Special Occasions, Princess Wilhelmina Fonds Kaminda La Union. Tickets are also available from the board members from Stichting Ride For The Roses Bonaire. Price of a ticket is only \$15 or \$20 for a combination ticket. Sail participation is \$75. Everyone receives a 2-02-2020 commemorative t-shirt and bag of goodies. To keep everyone hydrated and moving there will be water, energy drinks and fruit.

Pick up days for t-shirts are January 31, 3-7pm and February 1, 10am-7pm at ORCO Bank. Race Day pickup is at Eden Beach Resort from 6-6:50 am.

Most everyone worldwide has been touched by cancer in some way. This fun and healthy event is the perfect way to make a difference in fighting this deadly disease and support the memory of someone or lend a hand to someone suffering today. [WWW.RIDEFORTHETHEROSES.ORG](http://WWW.RIDEFORTHETHEROSES.ORG).

*Story & photos, Julie Morgan*



**Ride for the Roses organizers: Marga van Lieshout, secretary; John Soliano, president ORCO Bank; Jursi Marshall, president of Ride for the Roses; Anne-Marie Mercera, treasurer and Charles Lont, volunteer**

For the fifth year in a row Bonaire will ride, sail, swim and walk to raise money for cancer patients in Ride for the Roses 2020. The event will be held at Eden Beach Resort on February 2.

Last years “Ride” attracted 550 people and brought in \$33,263.

“Roses” president, Jursi Marshall, said that higher numbers are expected in 2020 as World Cancer Day is observed on February 4 and February is National Cancer Prevention Month.

Sister island Curaçao, is holding their Ride for the Roses on February 2 too. They held their first event in 2005, and it has grown to over 10k participants. Curaçao provided the inspiration for Bonaire in the beginning, along with ORCO Bank that is the main sponsor for both islands.

President of Bonaire ORCO Bank John Soliano said, “ORCO is proud to be the main sponsor for Ride for the Roses in both Bonaire and Curaçao.”

The good work accomplished for those suffering from cancer through the ‘Roses’

### Race day schedule:

- 6 am** – Final ticket sales, registration and t-shirt pickup
- 6:50 am** – Warm-up 7 am Start of Walk
- 7:05 am** - Start of Ride
- 8 am** - Arrival first walk participants
- 8 am** - Start Kids program with face painting and games
- 8 am** – Registration swim event at Spice Beach
- 8:30 am** – First bus departs to “Kas di Regatta” from Eden Beach 8:50 am – Second bus departs to “Kas di Regatta”
- 9 am** – Pre-swim Yoga with Dragana (Dushi Yoga) and Elisabetta (Yoga Sensibile) at Kas di Regatta (KDR)
- 9:15 am** – Yoga by Loymar (Yogarriba) for arriving participants
- 9:30 am** – Start of swim event at “Kas di Regatta”
- 10 am** – Kids program ends with music and certificates at Spice Beach
- 10 am** – Live music by Farley’s Band
- 10 am** - Arrival of first swimming participants at Spice Beach
- 11 am** – Start of Kite Surfing event
- 11 am** - Yoga at Spice Beach
- 11:30 am** – Arrival of first surfers
- 1 pm** – End of event

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# Reef renewal growing boulder

Following a consulting visit from Ken Nedimyer, manager and founder of Reef Renewal LLC, Bonaire's Reef Renewal foundation is now propagating three species of boulder coral.

Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB) says this is an exciting first for the foundation and the island of Bonaire

Nedimyer visited Bonaire last October and began implementation of the project through funding by Cargill Bonaire and Cargill Global Partnership\*.

Since 2013 RRFB has primarily focused on two fast growing branching coral species: elkhorn (*Acropora palmate*) and staghorn (*Scopora cervicornis*).

Francesca Viridis, project coordinator of RRFB said, "Some criticism to our restoration effort have been that we are just working with two coral species. We are working on increasing diversity with these additional corals."

Boulder coral is a major reef building coral but slower growing than elkhorn and staghorn branching corals. They were once wide spread across the Caribbean and Bonaire but have shown a significant loss due to disease, an acidic ocean, pollution, hurricanes and climate change.

Reef Renewal is growing three of the most common reef builders that make up Bonaire's reef: lobbed star coral (*Orbicella annularis*), mountainous star coral (*Orbicella faveolata*) and great star coral (*Montastraea cavernosa*).

Three years ago Nedimyer was contacted to remove some coral on a Florida bridge project. Along with Mote Marine they implemented a way to propagate boulder coral taken from the bridge. After various trials; first hanging them and then placing them on water tables on land they found a solution.

The corals are placed on a ceramic disk on a modular tree in the water column. The tree has trays that can be removed or added to when needed.

Coral bits that have been cut to approximately 1/2 inch are used. The coral pieces are super-glued to the ceramic tile card and left to grow on the trees that are placed in about 20 ft of water.

Reef Renewal assistant coordinator Garrett Fundakowski said, "The card system is kind of smart. They don't grow into it but on top of it."

Garrett checked the corals on Jan 10, three months since they were 'planted'.

He said they are growing down the side of the card, look healthy and have good color. Every two weeks they check the coral and brush away any fuzzy algae with nylon bristle brushes.

They began with 100, 1/2 in. coral pieces taken from four different sites including the Klein landslide areas of Just a Nice Dive and Keepsake.

At this point, they are growing the coral brood stock. In six months they will be placed on a plug to grow for another six to nine months in preparation for out-planting.

"This is a critical step and we can't go too soon. We have to make sure they are a decent size," said Garrett. "No out planting this year, we are just getting the production up."

\*Cargill has strongly supported the project, sponsoring materials and consultation for the first couple of years.

*Julie Morgan*

\*Cargill has a small sponsorship commitment for two years to help fund Reef Renewal projects and consultations such as Nedimyers' visit because they believe in the work.



Top photo: Lobbed star coral (*Orbicella annularis*)

Middle photo: Great star coral (*Montastraea cavernosa*).

Bottom photo: Mountainous star coral (*Orbicella faveolata*)

Photo credit: David Fishman



Close-up of a tray of boulder coral fragments following installation  
Photo credit - Reef Renewal Bonaire



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# Reef Glimpses

## Extreme Backups

The hermit crab and anemones in this photo are great examples of backups in nature.

Crabs have to be able to survive despite the fact that human beings and many marine creatures find them delicious. Every crab's first line of defense is its shell, but the hermit crab's shell has a glaring omission: the sturdy shell covering the front of its body does not cover its tail, thus making its tail incredibly vulnerable. The hermit crab solves this problem by outsourcing: it protects itself with a snail shell.

The snail shell protects not only the hermit crab's tail, but also the rest of its body: when threatened, the hermit withdraws into its shell and turns the shell opening down. Any predator must first upend the shell, then get past an additional defense, the hermit's claws.

And, for some hermit crabs, those defenses just aren't enough.

That's when the anemones come in for our starry-eyed hermit crab.

Tricolor anemones are easy for a crab to attach to its shell if that crab is in the know. A tap or two on the base (I have tried this), the anemone loosens up (this has never happened for me; maybe there's a secret knock), and the crab uses its claws to relocate the anemone to its snail shell. The crab follows the same procedure when it changes snail shells. After a long and successful relationship during which the anemones multiply by splitting, the crab's snail shell can be completely covered with anemones.

The stinging cells on the anemone's

tentacles protect them from predators such as nibbling butterflyfish, and also protect the crab from nibblers. When there's a more determined predator, however, tricolor anemones withdraw their tentacles, leaving only a leathery lump. If the leathery lump does not discourage the predator, the tricolor anemone squirts out, from the round dark pores near its base, a thready substance imbedded with stinging cells. The thin pinkish strands look like Silly String, or like the tubules of Cuvier that some sea cucumbers squirt out when threatened, and they stick to whatever they touch. Predators quickly lose their enthusiasm when these stinging strands stick to the inside of their mouths, or to their fins. The predator departs, the crab cautiously emerges from its snail shell, the anemones cautiously extend their tentacles, and daily life resumes.

This hermit crab's defenses include a strong crustacean shell, a strong snail shell, claws, and, thanks to the anemones, camouflage and cover and two different types of stinging defenses. Wow!

What does the anemone get out of this? Sustenance. Nourishment. Food.

Just being mobile increases the anemone's chances of food coming in contact with its tentacles. In addition, the anemone gets the opportunity to grab bits of food as they drift away from the hermit, who isn't known for neatness. Finally, since hermit crabs are scavengers, the anemone is carried to the very restaurants it enjoys most!

The starry-eyed hermit backs up its defenses with tricolor anemones, and the tricolor anemones improve their lives with hermit crab transportation. Their partnership is extreme -- and uncommon



The snail shell of this hermit crab is completely covered by its tricolor anemone passengers. The slight split of the tentacles of the anemone on the left probably means it's getting ready to divide into two.



This hermit crab carries not only two tricolor anemones, but a small crab, who is resting on the lower part of the anemone's stalk.

-- off Bonaire, so enjoy it when you see it!  
- Dee Scarr

Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books, *Touch the Sea*, *The Gentle Sea*, and *Coral's Reef* (for children); in *Dive Training Magazine*

from 1990 to 2000, with "Coral Glimpses" in the *Bonaire Reporter*, and now with "Reef Glimpses". The *Bonaire Reporter* is delighted to bring "Reef Glimpses" to you free of charge. Dee's books are available for purchase at the Carib Inn on Bonaire or through [touchthesea.com](http://touchthesea.com).



Lieutenant Governor Rijna and Commissioner Tjin Asjoe paid their nature fee for 2020. Lt. Governor Edison Rijna paid his nature fee online with STINAPA. Paying the \$45 nature fee is required by law for those who want to dive in the Bonaire National Marine Park.

It is still possible to pay the nature fee over the counter at local dive shops and at STINAPA headquarters. Commissioner Elvis Tjin Asjoe used the over counter system. Both Lieutenant Governor Rijna and Commissioner Tjin Asjoe received their limited edition souvenir tag. In 2020 the round and square tags will not be available anymore, however everyone who pays the nature fee will be able to receive a limited edition souvenir tag. This tag will not be a proof of payment, as it is still required by law to carry the paper proof of payment..

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# Making Bonaire "Accessible"

Our wheelchair challenges # 2020/02



*What would you really want to choose?*

We live in a "makeable" society. Whatever you want, you can make. Whatever you want to change, you can change. You get wrinkles, you can use fillers, Botox, laser or operate. When your eye-sight is worsening, you can get glasses, get lasered or have operations. When you are getting older, you can try a lot of things to look younger and feel younger. But you never really get younger. We all get old and leave this world at a certain time. What would you choose?

Now, when you have a handicap.... could you change that also? When a baby is expected, one can have echocardiography or ultrasounds, do blood-work, maybe even operate on a baby in the womb. But does that change the fact that the child has a handicap? There are people who have tests done that prove that the baby will be born with Down Syndrome or other syndromes. You get to choose as a parent if you want this baby or not. Now when a handicapped baby is born, will this baby feel wanted? Of course, you have the right as a parent to choose if you want the baby or not. But would it not be

better to make sure you do not conceive? What would you choose?

When you get sick or acquire a chronic disease, you can go to rehab, visit several specialists, and still nothing can be done to cure this disease. Would you stay and live at home or would you find placement in a home? What would you choose?

When your parents or your spouse cannot take care of you in a proper way, or when your parents or your spouse pass away and you cannot live by yourself without help, there are homes. There is home-care or live-in help. What would you choose?

We have a government that makes decisions for all of us citizens of Bonaire. We have chosen this government. When decisions are made concerning persons with a handicap has there been enough research? Have persons with a handicap been asked for their opinion, their needs or their wishes?

You never see a P.R. picture of a Deputy with someone in a wheelchair or with a walker in a press release about changes for the good of the handicapped population. Empathy is very important, but it needs to be expressed

and executed.

On Bonaire we have a lot of organizations and foundations that stand for rights of persons with a handicap. Do these organizations have persons with a handicap on their boards or on their advisory committees? Do these organizations have residence committees? Are all involved properly heard and taken into consideration? If you were a client, resident, patient in those organizations, what would you choose?

Bonaire is a special municipality of the Netherlands. Do you not think the persons with a handicap and the caretakers should have the same rights as they do in the Netherlands?

What does the handicapped population choose?

I think it is about time the Dutch minister of health came to Bonaire for a huge conference, where not only the boards of organizations are invited, but also the handicapped population. Together at this conference, decisions will be made that are good for all of us: the people and the island.

What do you think? *Ria Evers-Dokter.*

## *A Garden? Just Do It!*



### *Bitter Melon*

You might have heard the name Bitter Melon, but do you know what it is? I thought I would write about it since it is a very healthy vegetable and at the same time a medicinal plant/vine which grows right in my yard.

There are two types of the bitter melon fruit: a large, cultivated one available at vegetable and Chinese stores and a small one that grows wild on hedges and fences on Bonaire. This vegetable is not really popular because it has a bitter taste. This bitter aspect is the medicinal or healthy part. The bitterness is most evident in the small one. Bitterness in plants means they have a high potential for healing: think of grapefruit, quinine and absinthe.

Sopropo is what we call it in Surinam and Bonaire, but it is also known as bitter apple, bitter gourd, bitter squash, balsam pear, karela pear and momordica charantia. It is from the family of Cucurbitaceae or cucumber family. This tropical vine originated from the South Indian state and from there spread over Asia and the world. Bitter melon looks strange, but the nutritional value of the whole plant is enormous.



It contains Vitamin C, K and E, B1, B2, B3 and B11. Mineral values include: sodium and potassium, magnesium, calcium, folate, iron, manganese and zinc. Bitter melon has two times more beta-carotene than broccoli, two times more calcium than spinach and two times more

calcium than in plantain. Sopropo juice is a good blood cleaner. So it is a good detox for the body to get rid of all oxidants especially at the beginning of the year. This plant is also a natural antibiotic against toxins in the blood and also fights viruses. Even the young seeds are good to use, but be aware of the ripe seeds as they can have a poisonous effect, creating bad stomach reactions. Bitter melon supports the balance of blood sugar levels because it contains two phyto-nutrients: charantin and polypeptide. They have the same effect as insulin. When eaten, the bitter taste stimulates the receptors in the mouth and from this the body is able to get sugar. Sopropo is also good for the stomach, cough, ulcer, gout, rheumatism and more.

For medicinal treatments the fruit, leaves and flowers can be used raw in tea and smoothies, but they are very bitter. When cooked in a wok with some dried shrimp, salted beef or other mixed vegetables, the bitter taste is mild. You can also buy bitter melon capsules without the bitter taste and still have all its goodies.

Once it's cut, it has to be used the same day. Use green Sopropo (light- or dark green); ripe ones are not good. Remove the seeds, slice it and wok. We call it a bitter melon, but it is bitter gold. Look for it on Bonaire

Give it a try in your yard, it grows so easily. Just do it  
*Angliet, Nature lover*

### **Biker training successfully completed.**

Four members of the Royal Military Constabulary successfully completed their biker training on January 17. Through bicycle surveillance police can respond to trouble more quickly over short distances. Two KPCN are trained to supply training to future officers.





# Did You Know? that tropical dry forests, Bonaire's only forest type, are among the most critically endangered of habitats?

Many of us do not think of Bonaire's vegetation as a forest. While there are many different recognized forest types, rainforests are the ones most people think of first. After all, when we think forest most of us think of places like the Amazon Rainforest or the heart of Borneo. Maybe you even think of the Black Forest, prominently featured in some of the Grimm fairytales. For most of us forest is synonymous with large areas dominated by big, green, lush trees. Rainforests are usually the ones that receive the most attention from researchers, conservationists, and avid adventurers. And for good reason: they are home to over 40% of forest dwelling species, many of which are found only in one place.

But, did you know that tropical dry forests (TDFs) are no less impressive and even more threatened than tropical rainforests? TDFs are very diverse systems, with those in the Caribbean even being considered as biodiversity hot spots! Many contain animals and plants, incredibly well adapted to harsh conditions, that are found nowhere else on the planet. After all, the one defining characteristic of tropical dry forests is that they are very dry. TDFs have to deal with prolonged periods of drought. After the last rain of the rainy season it can be four to seven months, if not longer, before the forest sees another drop. Bonaire's dry forest is no exception: there are several endemic species, including the recently discovered sabal palm *Sabal lougheediana*, only found on Bonaire, that need to deal with months on end of little to no rain. Before the time of the Conquistadors, tropical dry forests covered nearly half (42%) of tropical areas globally. At present much of the forest has been lost to deforestation to convert the land for other uses, logging, habitat fragmentation, excessive grazing, and fire. We have all heard about the

devastation being caused in Australia due to wild fires. As a result of these threats, less than 5% of tropical dry forests remain in good condition. This makes TDFs not only the most threatened tropical forest type, but also more endangered than coral reefs!

Like all of Bonaire's major habitat types, the dry forest also provides services that benefit us. Because plants and animals in dry forests are well adapted to prolonged periods of low water availability and high temperatures, they are uniquely well suited to withstand the predicted consequences of climate change that include more erratic weather, decreased water availability, and higher temperatures. The dry forest not only helps with local climate regulation by providing shade and moisture, but also helps to regulate groundwater availability and removing CO2 from the atmosphere. Trees, such as the divi divi, and shrubs in dry forests also help to maintain healthy and fertile soil that encourages other plants to grow. Bonaire's tropical dry forest also benefits our coral reefs! By trapping water and nutrients on land they reduce the amount of runoff, particularly runoff that contains nutrients harmful for coral reefs, that ends up in the marine park. They play an important role in preventing land based pollution from negatively impacting our coral reefs.

Our dry forest is not only beautiful, it is also incredibly valuable and a significant part of Bonaire's culture and history. Recognizing the importance of this unique resource, and the pressures it's facing, it is on us to protect it. Starting this year STINAPA aims to conduct yearly monitoring of the condition of the TDF in Washington Slagbaai National Park. To do this we have selected ran-



While not included in the monitoring program, interesting fungi are found in one of our plots in Washington Slagbaai National Park. Photo by Roxanne-Liana Francisca

dom points in the park where we set up permanent plots measuring 10m x 10m. For all the cacti, trees, shrubs, and seedlings in the plot we measure the height and the diameter. We also record what percentage of the plot is covered by wild sage (*welensali*), if there are any orchids or bromeliads present, and quantify the composition of the ground. With the data we gather we hope to establish a baseline for the vegetation in the park. We want to know what plants are growing, their abundances, and where they grow. A monitoring program also allows us to track how the vegetation changes over time. Knowing how the forest is changing allows us to better manage and conserve it. Stay tuned to learn what we find! *Roxanne-Liana Francisca. Stinapa biologist. Connecting People With Nature*

## New home ready for a family to move in, first of 500 planned

The central government has committed 2.5 million euros to the construction of affordable rental housing on Bonaire. The first house—in a planned tract of 76 being built on Nieuw-Amsterdam—has been completed. An additional 424 homes are planned. At the transfer ceremony, Minister Raymond Knops of Interior and Kingdom Relations said, "These homes are a huge step forward for residents with a small wallet."

Minister Knops also said: "This first home is the visible result of good cooperation on the island, laying the foundation for further socio-economic development." Under agreements made in the Governmental Agreement and the Housing Covenant, the money allocated by the central government has been supplemented with infrastructure funds from the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB). *D.M.R.*



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# What's Happening

Saturday January <b>25</b>	<b>Annual Lora Roost Count 6-9am</b> <i>Echo Foundation's annual parrot count.</i>
Sunday January <b>26</b>	<b>FunRace Bolivia 8am start time</b> <i>Riders can choose between a short and long route through Bolivia. See page 14.</i>
Sunday February <b>2</b>	<b>Ride•Sail•Swim•Walk for the Roses.</b> See page 6.  <b>World Wetland Day.</b> Come over to Lac Cai to celebrate. There will be information, mini-kayaktours, fun for kids and mangrove planting. We will be there between 10 am and 2 pm
Sunday February <b>9</b>	<b>Clean Coast Bonaire Clean-up Survey.</b> Piedra Pretu. 4pm <i>Clean Coast Bonaire recruits volunteers and trains local residents and visiting eco-tourists to complete monthly surveys of marine litter.</i>
February <b>15-25</b>	<b>Carnival 2020</b>

## —Regular events—

**“Reef Renewal Bonaire.”** A free educational presentation every Sunday at 6:30pm at Blennies at Buddy Dive. For questions, email [info@reefrenwalbonaire.org](mailto:info@reefrenwalbonaire.org).

**“Sea Turtles of Bonaire”** is a free public presentation about Bonaire’s endangered sea turtles—topics such as where to see sea turtles, how they live, what they eat, how they reproduce and how you can help! Where: Yellow Sub, Dive Friends Bonaire (on the front porch) 8:00pm, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

**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 Bo-

naireans 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 5pm \$10 per person. 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. See the calendar above.

• **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, Bo-lascentre GOLDFINCH (next to baseball centre on Kaminda Sorobon) 786-0150.

## —Clubs & meetings—

• **Bridge club.** Meets every Wednesday to play. Start at 19.30 at Jasmin Garden. To join: call 7174052 or mail to: [tonsailing@gmail.com](mailto:tonsailing@gmail.com)

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

• **Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (all addictions welcome) Wednesdays** at Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47. Meeting

starts at 7pm. For more information, email: [12steprecoverybonaire@gmail.com](mailto:12steprecoverybonaire@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** every two weeks. For more info. call Crusita de Palm at 786-3827 or Lucia Martinez Beck, at 786-2953.

# 2020 Cruise Ships (TCB)

DAY & DATE:MM/DD CRUISESHIP TIME PIER CAPACITY & LINE

Wednesday	01-22	Crown Princess	1200-2000	N.pier	3150	PCL
Wednesday	01-22	Disney Wonder	0730-1700	S.pier	(Pending)	
Thursday	01-23	Summit	0700-1500	S.pier	2450	CEL
Friday	01-24	Ventura	0700-1900	N.pier	3192	P&O
Monday	01-27	Reflection	0700-1500	S.pier	2858	CEL
Tuesday	01-28	Mein Schiff 2	0730-1900	N.pier	2894	TUI
Wednesday	01-29	Explorer of the Seas	0900-1800	S.pier	3114	RCCL
Thursday	01-30	Norwegian Epic	0700-1800	S.pier	4266	NCL
Thursday	01-30	M/V Windsurf	1300-2200	N.pier	386	Windstar Cruises

## 2020 Cruise Ships from Crew Center.com

Sunday	02-02	Seven Seas Explorer	0700-1400		2650	HAL
Tuesday	02-04	Britannia	0700-1400		826	Oceania Cruises
Tuesday	02-04	Monarch	0700-1800		988	Fred Olsen
Wednesday	02-05	Adventure of the Seas	0700-1800		1878	P&O
Wednesday	02-05	Silver Wind	0800-1800		2744	Pullmantur
Thursday	02-06	Norwegian Joy	0800-1700		4620	NCL
Friday	02-07	Koningsdam	0730-1700		(Pending)	
Friday	02-07	Norwegian Dawn	0800-1800		2800	NCL

## —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 Thurs.- Sun. Reserve 717-3183 or 795-2021 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 WWII American soldiers’ camp. Self-guided tour. After leaving Kralendijk on the Rincon Road watch for sign to on the right. Entrance just a short distance. Free entry.

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

• **Bonaire Museum of National History** Kaya Julio C. van der Ree #7, open Wednesday through Saturday, and cruise-ship days, 9am–3pm. Free.

## —Church services—

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.** Kaya Sabana 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-10am in Dutch. Rincon, Kaya C.D. Crestian; Sunday 8:30am in Papiamentu/Dutch.

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

**International Bible Church.** Kaya Pappago 104, Hato, behind Bon Fysio/Bon Bida Spa & Gym on Kaya Gob.N. De-brot. Sunday 9am-Worship in English; 10:45am-Sunday school for all ages. 717-8332 or ride [bonaireibc@gmail.com](mailto:bonaireibc@gmail.com).

**Catholic.** San Bernardus in Kralendijk.

Services, Sunday at 8am & 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.

**Prayer Walk at Rooi Lamoenchi** every first Sunday of the Month (or on request) for all followers of Christ. 4.30pm-7.30 pm. Contact Ellen Cochrane-Herrera at [ellenherracochrane@yahoo.ca](mailto:ellenherracochrane@yahoo.ca) or phone 717-8489 or +5999-540-9800. English/Papiamentu/Dutch/Spanish.



# OMNI moves to new location

Since 1998, Omni has held a position in downtown Kralendijk as a go to place for appliances and audio-visual products. That will all change on January 24 when the store moves to Kaya Amsterdam 25B.

Keeping in tune to Bonaire's growing population, traffic and development, Omni decided to make the move so shopping is more convenient with easier parking, accessibility and a larger store.

Omni is holding a kick off party to announce the move to the new location on January 24. The store is more than twice

the size as before. There will be music and customers will have an opportunity to win some great prizes. One of the amazing new features at the store is the Samsung corner that allows customers a hands-on experience with the latest smart phones, smart watches, televisions and other Samsung products. Omni has also added a new sleep center room. All the great product lines including Radio Shack products will still be available.

The Omni company was founded in Curaçao in 1982 initially to provide elec-

tronic products to tourists. They expanded their line and customer base to include name brand appliances and air conditioning equipment a year later. In 1989 they opened their first store in St Maarten.

Omni owner Sundeir Manglani brought the store to Bonaire under the management of Prakash Gangaramani in April 1998. After many successful years, Omni became a part of the Unicomer group in 2016. This allowed Omni to offer an even larger variety of products and recognized brands backed up by the Unicomer name.

In 2018, after 20 years, Gangaramani retired entrusting management of the store

to Hitesh Baxani who has worked at Omni for 11 years. Regional managing director Sonia Manglani heads up the group for Bonaire, Curacao, Aruba and St. Maarten. Their goal is to continue to provide the best services and products as they have done for over two decades.

Headquartered in El Salvador, Unicomer has over 1000 stores throughout Central America, South America, the Caribbean, Dominican Republic.

Everyone is welcome to visit, shop and experience the new store from Monday – Saturday 8:30 am to 12:30 pm and 2-6 pm. *Julie Morgan*

## Cruising in to 2020, continued from page 1

all shipping, but contributed an estimated 25% of waste generated on ships with up to 70 times more waste generated than a typical cargo ship.

Cruise ships are required to comply with IMO (International Maritime Organization) standards to berth at Bonaire's piers.

According to Bonaire's harbor master Gunter Flanigen the IMO checklist includes information on each ship's sewage treatment, air pollution reduction, water quality compliance and criminal violations.

Flanigen said, "We follow marine park laws that prohibit any thing to go from the ship in to the water, so no painting, no sewage water, no trash and no chemical wash."

But a quick look at an environmental report card by FOE (Friends of the Earth) or NABU gives the majority of our visiting ships a failing grade or red flags in those exact same areas. <https://foe.org/cruise-report-card/> or <https://en.nabu.de/news/2018>

In regard to the report card and stricter regulations, Commissioner of Economic Affairs Elvis Tijn Asjoe said, "I agree

we need a standard for the cruise ships. We have to introduce a profile for quality ships gradually so they can comply realistically."

Whether a curse or a blessing, cruise ships are here to stay. The more Bonaireans know about to industry, the more wisely we can manage its impacts. This story is the first in a two part series on the subject

*Cruising in to 2020, part two will appear in the February 5th issue of The Reporter.*

## South pier extended by 40 meters

Bonaire's south pier is being extended 40 meters (120 ft) to allow more room for the Don Andres and other cargo ships and for safety.

In past months, these ships were unable to come into port with their goods due to the cruise ships at the piers, and residents suffered. This extension will allow the cargo ships to be in port at the same time as the cruise ships.

There are no plans to have more than two cruise ships in port at a time. Experts are concerned that the piling placement could have a negative impact on nature.

## Ask a Geek: YouTubing as a career?

by Brian Niessen

What I call YouTubing is actually called "streaming" and the people who put up videos or do live broadcasts are "streamers" (I used to think streamers were tied to your bike handlebars.)

Streaming is now a legitimate job. Do you know what the highest paid YouTuber made in 2019? How about US\$26 MILLION. And how old is he? 8 (yes, eight) years old. And what kind of genius was to do this? He isn't... He only unwraps toys and has millions of other kids watching him unwrap them... 8 years old?!?!?!?

Then there is the lady in South Korea that uploads videos of her cats, and makes about \$5,000 per day!

There are thousands if not more stories like this where

people narrowcast their videos on YouTube and earn money. Most of the travel vloggers (video bloggers) pay for their trips from money they earn on YouTube. Or the thousands of mothers and grandmothers teaching you how to cook various kinds of food, earning money along the way.

How do they actually earn it? Remember all the times you've seen advertisements while watching YouTube. Somewhere an advertiser is paying YouTube to show their ads... and YouTube generously shares a small part of that advertising revenue with the YouTuber. And if you click on the ad, they all get paid more.

They didn't teach that in business school...

Last issue I wrote of the issue with the Dell power charger. Well, try to find a replacement on Bonaire, or order one online that isn't very expensive, since we cannot use the generic cheap ones. Both are futile efforts! (I even looked through the box of chargers at the Animal Shelter Pakus di Pruga on Saturday mornings.)

As it turns out, I carefully inspected the cable and saw a tiny puncture mark.... So I cut off the outside plastic and saw that the puncture went through the insulation on the actual wire and had cut it. I soldered it back together and BINGO! It worked. By the way, the puncture was from a kitten's tooth.

Remember kids – Cats and cables don't mix.

Do you have a question about using computers and computer technology on Bonaire? Email it to the editor, and we'll get an answer for you next issue.

## BONAIRE SKY PARK North Star orienteering

If you are new to astronomy, it can be a bit overwhelming! The sky is a constantly moving sea, filled with stars, galaxies, nebulae, comets, planets, and even orbiting objects like the international space station! To find things you need to orient yourself which can be tough because the sky

The sky is always moving... Well, some of it is... The bottom of the sky is the horizon, and the top is zenith, these never move -- but neither does the North Star!

To find it, look for the Big Dipper -- one of the most recognizable shapes in the sky. The Big Dipper is not a constellation, but an asterism — a prominent pattern

or group of stars, typically having a popular name but smaller than a constellation.

It's part of Ursa Major, the Great Bear. The two stars on the end of the bowl are Merak and Dubhe [doob-huh] -- using those, make an arrow right to Polaris, the North Star.

Facing away from Polaris, the east is on your left, west is on your right! You can look up toward the zenith, or down toward the southern horizon.

Using the North Star, we can start hopping across the sky -- there are two bears, and two dogs out here, so let's catch 'em all!

Face north at 9:30pm and find the Big Dipper. These stars mark the rear half and tail of Ursa Major, or the Great Bear.

Remember, the two stars on the end of the Big Dipper point you to the North Star, Polaris. Which marks the end of the Little Dipper and the tail of the constellation Ursa Minor... The Little Bear!

Boom, two bears.

Next turn around and look southeast. The Big Dog, Canis Major is easy to find since it has the brightest star, Sirius, for a nose.

Then look up and to the left of Sirius and you'll find another bright star called Procyon. Procyon is part of the Little Dog constellation Canis Minor -- what a good boy.

Next time you go for a nighttime stroll, show off these bears and dogs, and keep looking up!

Source: <https://www.stargazersonline.org>. Hosts: Trace Dominguez & Ata Sarajedini.



# -----Shelter News-----

## Protect your pets from the rain...and fleas and ticks!

While our seemingly endless rainy season may be annoying to humans, you also need to think about the effect on your pets. Rain and fleas and ticks often come hand in hand. Wet weather combined with heat and humidity equals the perfect conditions for a surge in these parasites. Bonaire is once again in the thick of flea and tick season! The Shelter is seeing many pets that are suffering from tick and flea infestations. There are a few things you can do to help your pet get through these muddy times.



Be sure you have a place for your pet to seek shelter from the rain. It should have an area that is elevated off the ground so it is dry and less likely to be a breeding ground for fleas and ticks.

Most importantly, if you notice ticks or fleas on your pet, please visit a veterinarian for medication before the problem gets worse. These insects live on the blood of your pets and can cause health problems ranging from allergic reactions to life threatening illnesses.

Ticks can cause a variety of serious anemia-type illnesses that are generally referred to here on the island as "tick disease". Because they are found deep within the hair of animals, pet owners may not immediately see them. Adult ticks typically imbed themselves to a dog's ears and between its toes so always check there.

Fleas can jump thousands of times and as high as two feet in each jump in search of a host. Depending on the

environment, fleas can live a long time feeding on your dog or cat about once every two days. Fleas can cause anemia in adult dogs and for puppies a flea infestation can be life threatening. Pets who are allergic to the saliva of fleas can have problems after a single bite of one insect. And remember, fleas bite people too!!

It is very important that you get specifics from your vet on which product is safe to use on your cat, dog, kitten or puppy. And if you have both cats and dogs, be aware that some dog products are extremely toxic and deadly to cats. You want to make certain you **do not use products designed for dogs on cats, and vice versa.** Even if you use the proper product, be sure to keep your cats and dogs separate for at least 24 hours after treating your dog.

Keep your pets dry and safe...and keep them healthy by getting flea and tick medication from your vet.

*Jane Madden-Disko*

## Pet of the Week: Vixen

Dear all,

My name is Vixen, I am about two years old, vaccinated and sterilized and a very healthy young lady!

I came to Animal Shelter Bonaire about six months ago, along with my babies who were only three days old. With help from the Shelter people, I had all the time in the world to give my babies a good start in life. Now all the young ones have left my care and found their forever homes. I stayed behind and am really looking forward to a home for myself, where I can be taken care of and be the "baby" for a change!

I am very active and would love to go for walks. I go crazy for toys and love to run around with them. I love to cuddle and have your attention, but am also fine with some "me time".

I am friends with all the other dogs, male or female, small or big. I like them all, so a friend would be great. On the other hand, cats I do not really like. Maybe with some slow introductions I might get used to them.

Do you have time for me and space



in your heart for me? Would you like to play with me and give me a forever home? Then please come visit me at the Animal Shelter, Kaminda Lagun 26A, Monday through Friday from 9am-12pm and 3-5pm, Saturday 9am-3pm nonstop or call the Animal Shelter at 701-4989 or 717-4989 to arrange a visit with me. *Story and photo by Sanne Attevelt*

## Funrace scheduled through Bolivia



De Freewieler is hosting a funrace through the rough and wild terrain of Bolivia on Sunday, January 26 beginning at 8 am.

**Directions:** The starting point of the bike ride begins off of Lagoen Road. At the end of Lagoen, turn left onto a dirt road and follow the arrows to the parking lot.

Riders can choose between a short and long route through Bolivia. Helmets are required. Cold water and sport drinks will be supplied. Registration and more information is available at De Freewieler. The fee is \$10.



L-R: Sanne Attevelt Travis Sullins Laurie Smith Jane Madden-Disko

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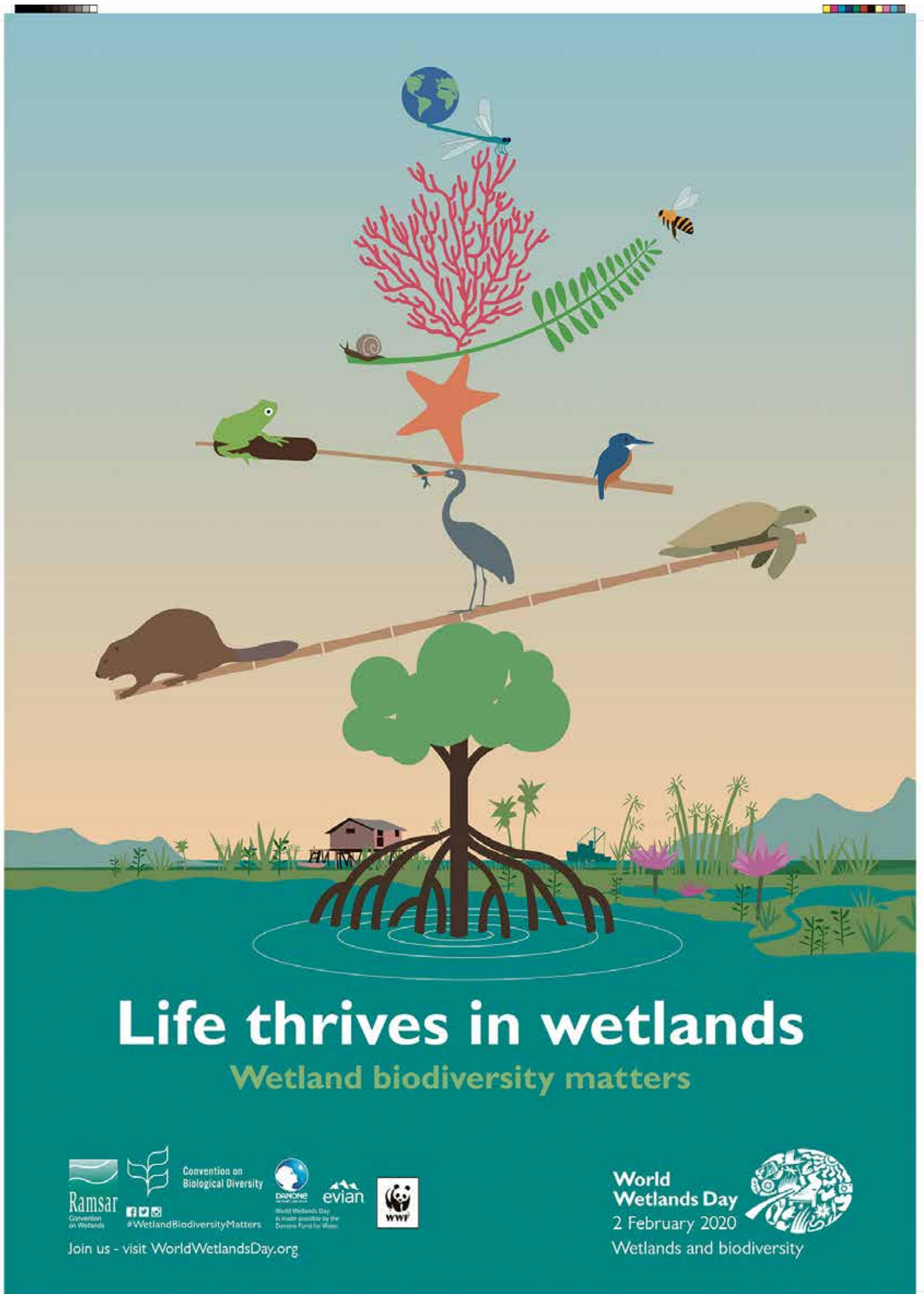
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**World Wetland Day is on Sunday, February 2nd. Come over to Lac Cai and celebrate this with us. There will be information, mini-kayaktours, fun for kids and mangrove planting. We will be there between 10 am and 2 pm**



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