



Two mammoth cruise ships in Bonaire's port including Pullmantur's Monarch that was sold for scrap in 2020. Photo: Julie Morgan

## Can Bonaire cruise tourism change?

Cruise ships will be returning to Bonaire in September 2021 in full force to the delight of some and disappointment of others. Deputy Hennyson Thielman announced in a press conference on July 5th that a limit of one ship per day was planned. But, he added there might be an overlap of two ships until the kinks in scheduling are worked out.

A look at the temporary schedule from Sept 2 – Dec 30 shows Bonaire could expect 87 cruise ships in port during 55 days with 35 of the days booked for double arrivals and one triple. There are a few small specialty ships scheduled with less than 200 guests that sync with the new policy and vision for Bonaire's cruise tourism. But another scheduled ship has a capacity for 5700 passengers.

Quality versus quantity is the phrase we have been hearing since Covid 19 invaded our island and brought tourism to a sudden halt. The government used the pandemic time to take a hard look at our nature and tourism policies and noticed some major policy contradictions that did not hold with protecting Bonaire's nature. A new tourism plan was designed over many months and many of the old ideas were canned and replaced with more environmental ones, including an updated policy on cruise ships, which is still being defined.

Questions remain unanswered in regard to what the new environmental policy is for cruise ships. What is the maximum size, number of passengers and will there be stricter regulations in regard to air pollution, emissions, discharges and fuels? The current BES maritime decrees in force date back to 1973 and 2010. And, STINAPA is operating under policies from 2007.

Elesier Angel, Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB)

Cruise & Project Coordinator said, "Everything [the policy] has completely changed. We never had a policy before in regard to cruise ships. Covid gave us a chance."

There was not much cruise ship traffic on Bonaire until a few hurricanes wiped out many Caribbean ports of call. Suddenly Bonaire became a new destination.

At the time Bonaire had no control of how many or when the ships were booked and countless issues developed.

Angel added, "We are the victim of our own success. Having no regulations got us where we are today."

Recently Bonaire sent a delegation of TCB's marketing coordinator Derchilien Vrolijk, Elesier Angel, the government's commissioner of economic affairs and tourism Hennyson Thielman, harbor master Gunther Flanegin and policy advisor Debby Rauwers to the



The cruise ship craft market includes vendors selling some specialty foods, some genuine 'made in Bonaire' art and jewelry and some that is not so genuine. Photo: Julie Morgan

FCCA (Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association) cruise summit in Miami. The delegation attended one on one meetings with the major cruise lines: Carnival/Norwegian, Disney, Royal and Legend of the Sea. They also met with the smaller, more environmental, luxury cruise lines Virgin and Sea Dream. The delegation explained Bonaire's new tourism vision and new tourism plan emphasizing they were only looking for cruise lines that would comply with Bonaire's new environmental policies.

Debby Rauwers said that the new policy has to be accepted by the ships and they can say no. They have to go by our rules not theirs.

People have to be fully vaccinated to be on a ship that comes here along with a prior 24hr test," said Rauwers.

The rules could change in regard to testing/vaccinations by September depending on what happens with the Delta variant of the coronavirus. Bonaire's health department will be strict in making any changes to the rules.

Many of the cruise ship lines on the 2021 schedule are still under a three-year contract with Bonaire. Due to Covid-19, one contract year is gone with two remaining. The cruise lines can opt out of their contract if they don't agree or meet Bonaire's new environmental regulations and covid vaccination policy.

At this time it is unknown how many of the cruise ships will complete their remaining contract raising the question if it could be two years before the island re-

**Cruise ships, continued on page 10**



## State Secretary Knops visited Bonaire



During a July 5 and 6 stop over on Bonaire, State Secretary Raymond Knops spent most of his time talking with ordinary people in various organizations and observing the results of government initiatives. He visited 'Plenchi di Trabou,' the progress at the harbor and pier, and talked with the first person to buy a home under the Bonaire Mortgage Guarantee program. He went to Klein Bonaire to see Stinapa's project for planting 200 Sabal palms. He also talked with students from Liseo Boneriano who will be studying in the Netherlands next year and listened to concerns they have about the transition.

During an upbeat press conference he spoke positively about Bonaire. "When I see how the people here are busy in all kinds of organizations, with a heart for the island, it just gives me energy." He avoided answering substantive questions about governance, as well as questions about the likely timing of his expected retirement. He did say, however, that this would not be his last visit to the island. "If I don't come back as Secretary of State, I'll definitely come back privately." Knops had already spent a holiday on the island with his family, something he called a beautiful experience at the time. *DMR*

## Government finances looking strong (except for reporting)

The Board of Financial Supervision Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (Cft) predicts a strong financial recovery for Bonaire in the second half of this year, given the anticipated recovery of the tourist industry as a result of Bonaire's low covid infection rate and high vaccination rate. The Cft has even advised Bonaire to plan how it will spend the reserves it has built up in recent years.

The Cft is hopeful that now that two important positions have been filled, the Head of Finance and the Island Secretary, Bonaire will make better progress on implementing its plan for improved financial management and reporting.

The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK) is also pressuring the public entity Bonaire to quickly adopt a land policy. That was set as a condition when Bonaire's budget was approved. The public entity has missed two deadlines for adoption of a framework memorandum for land policy that it was given for consideration some time ago. *DMR (BES Reporter)*

## Correctional Institution's teaching certification upgraded

The Correctional Institution Caribbean Netherlands (JICN), previously recognized as a learning company, has now been accredited by the Labour Market Education Council Caribbean Netherlands (ROA CN) as a training company. Trainees who receive training while in detention are better able to reintegrate with society and the economy after their release.

As a training company the JICN provides, in cooperation with Fundashon Forma, secondary vocational education training for detainees. It is also authorised to facilitate internships (nowadays known as vocational practice) for both external students and detainees. The JICN itself employs several trainers, who are trained and authorised to supervise detainees and other students during their professional practice. *DMR*

**Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 7**

## Bachelor's Beach to be fully developed



The Public Entity Bonaire has announced that Playa Forni Kalki (Bachelor's Beach) will be developed in a way that "takes care to preserve the unique, natural aspects of the beach and guarantees that they will remain intact . . . it will only get a facelift for our local people and our visitors." The announcement further says, "There will be plenty of parking spaces with enough space for buses. On the higher part, a terrace with palapas, free internet connection, a better and safer staircase to the beach . . . There will also be a playground for children, kiosks where local entrepreneurs can sell or rent beach equipment, a place with picnic tables where food and drinks are sold and a building with shower and toilet and where people can change clothes."

A later press release assured that the public will have full use of Bachelor's Beach. They will be free to bring their own food, drinks, and beach accessories and use a barbeque that will be installed at the site. Permits to conduct commercial operations at the beach will be limited to local entrepreneurs, including one food truck at a time.

When interviewed, Debby Rauwers, policy advisor for tourism and the economy for the Public Body, and Elesier Ange, cruise & project coordinator for the Tourist Board Bonaire, were enthusiastic in their support of the project.

At the Bachelors Beach we tried to find a balance for everyone, Angel said. She explained that the new facilities will give local entrepreneurs an opportunity to build businesses and attract more tourist dollars by supplying food and drink, by renting snorkel and beach gear. They will be able to propose businesses for the beach and tender for kiosks and stands. Craft fairs can operate there.

A local architect, Gino Obersi, designed the new facilities, which are expected to be in operation in six months. Similar development of Te Amo, also known as Airport Beach, is being considered. *DMR*

## Covid-19 round-up

**The emergency ordinance has been withdrawn but some current measures remain in force.** Passengers from high-risk countries no longer need to be quarantined upon arrival. However, catering establishments must close at midnight and dancing is not allowed in indoor areas. The current measures on the island as determined by the Lieutenant Governor will remain in effect until July 22.

**Everyone on Bonaire can now be vaccinated,** including children from 12 years and older. The Public Health Department has enough vaccines to vaccinate young people. Make an appointment for this via 0800 0900 or go to the sports hall on Kaya Amsterdam on the screening days. The injection days can be found on the Facebook page of the OLB and at [www.bonairecrisis.com](http://www.bonairecrisis.com).

**Young people should now get vaccinated.** On the island there are about 1,400 young people between the ages of 12 and 17. Enough vaccine is available to vaccinate them all.

**Covid, continued on page 4**

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## Covid-19 on Bonaire

totals as of July 13, 2021

<b>8 active</b>	<b>0 hospitalized</b>
<b>1635 total</b>	<b>17 deceased</b>
<b>79.5 % have had 1st vaccination</b>	
<b>(14, 997 persons of 18,944 eligible)</b>	

For up to date covid news go to the online

Reporter <https://bonairereporter.com> or FB

Government site is

<https://www.bonairecrisis.com/en/>



# Clean Coast Bonaire



generated as a direct result of the global pandemic. Particular items of concern are single use masks and wipes. In Bonaire, we're not seeing them washing ashore on the east coast - yet. But we're seeing a secondary impact with marked increase in Te Amo Beach litter that began during the lockdown closures of bars and restaurants.

## Plastic Free July – be a part of the solution

Are you up for a challenge? This awareness raising project has different levels of plastic reduction and great suggestions about replacements and life-style changes. Join the global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution, so we can have cleaner streets, oceans and beautiful communities.

Our next scheduled cleanup survey is at Boka Onima on Sunday, July 11, 4 – 6 pm.

## Clean up survey at Te Amo Beach

It's quite sad to report that the June survey broke all of our cigarette butt records. Of the total 5,463 items that we collected, 4,132 were butts. The other common litter items were 432 metal bottle caps and 89 straws.

## Increased litter due to pandemic?

Within the marine litter community, there is growing concern about the amount of single use plastic items being



# Bonaire wins DCNA's Nature Quiz



**Bonaire team The Jonkers were the first place winners of DCNA's Big Live Nature Quiz for adults. Second place went to the Aruba team Mini's Butlers and third place was awarded to Gwen and Dunc of Bonaire.**

On Friday July 2nd, the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) hosted its first Big Live Nature Quiz (BLNQ) for adults on Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius, and St. Maarten.

The BLNQ consisted of 35 trivia questions on Dutch Caribbean animals. Over 100 people competed in the online, live interactive quiz. First place went to the Jonkers from Bonaire who will receive a sailing/snorkeling trip around the island. BLNQ hats and t-shirts go to second place winners from Aruba, Mini's Butlers, and third place winners from Bonaire, Gwen & Dunc.

DCNA wants to make the quiz a year-

ly event for both adults and kids. The next kids' quiz is planned for October.

Check out DCNA's Facebook (Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance), Instagram (DCNAnature) or BigLiveNatureQuiz.org for more information and photos of the events. If you have any questions, send an email to [info@DCNAnature.org](mailto:info@DCNAnature.org) or call +599-717-5010.

The Big Live Nature Quiz is generously funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) and DCNA's activities are supported by the Dutch Postcode Lottery. *DCNA communications.*

## FOR SALE Caribbean Court 317 Spacious Waterfront Penthouse



- Location : Kralendijk
- Living area: 130 m2 / 1400 sq. ft.
- 2 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms / loft area



- Communal pool, parking, onsite dive shop
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**3D tour**



**Asking price \$265,000 US Dollar**

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# POLICE REPORT

## Ask Kate Bonaire real estate advice



**I was on Bonaire on vacation 2 weeks ago and I tried to see some properties for sale. I was told we couldn't go in because they were rented, or the owner wasn't available that day, but I could see them "next week." How can I see properties when I'm not going to be on the island the next week? Robin**

Hi Robin,  
You're right, this can be challenging. Jean and I always encourage our buyers and sellers to be as flexible as possible. Like you, we get frustrated when we can't arrange a showing. It may be because the buyer only wants to see properties in the afternoon after they have finished diving, or the seller only wants to have their property shown on a certain morning. It may be because there are vacation renters in the property and the owner does not want to disturb them. Sometimes, the buyer calls at the last minute. We often get calls in the morning from potential buyers who want to see properties that day before they leave the island.

We advise sellers to be as flexible as possible with showing times, and to not require more than a day's advance no-

tice. Our advice to you as a buyer is to contact us a week in advance of your arrival so we can discuss the properties you want to see during your trip. Our listings have 3D tours you can view online before your arrival so we can schedule viewings for the ones you are most interested in. We also suggest that buyers spend two weeks on Bonaire if possible, to give them the best chance of seeing everything they want. Call or email before your next trip, Robin, we'd be happy to help!  
!

All the best,  
Kate Butler and Jean Searce  
Re/Max Bonaire

**If you have a real estate question or want to buy or sell property, email us at [kate@bonairehomes.com](mailto:kate@bonairehomes.com).**

### Traffic accidents/violations

**July 3-4.** Around 3 am, a report was received of a collision with injured people near Kaya Korona. Both the driver and passenger were intoxicated. The car was towed. One man did not have an ID or passport with him. He was found to be staying illegally and was transferred to the JICN pending deportation.

**July 4.** Around 8 am, a report was received of a collision near the stadium on the Kaya International. Two people were injured, one with chest pains and another with a severe cut to his head.

**July 4.** Around 6:45 pm, a car overturned near Kaminda Onima. When police arrived, the driver was intoxicated. The driver said he was trying to avoid a goat.

### Traffic control

**June 23 - July 7.** Fines have been issued for violating the road traffic regulations. Most common offences include using mobile phones and alcohol in traffic and not wearing the seat belt.

**Did you see anything suspicious? Call 911 or 717 8000 or the anonymous tip line 717 7251.**

### Theft at dive sites and beaches

**June 25.** Around 3:30 pm, various goods were taken from the 1000 Steps dive site, including a wallet with contents, an iPhone and a Samsung phone. The goods were in a bag on the beach.

**July 2-7.** There have been several reports of theft from cars at dive sites and tourist locations such as Tolo, the tourist road, Andrea 1, 1000 steps, Oil Slick Leap and on EEG boulevard. Various goods have been taken from cars, on the beach and from the luggage rack of a golf cart.

The investigation into these thefts is ongoing. It is very important to keep a close eye on property at all times, especially at dive sites. The police advise to leave valuables at home as much as possible and not to take them to dive sites.

### Arrested/held in custody.

**June 26.** A car with a stolen license plate number was found during a regular patrol. Residents, a man, 37, and a woman, 32, have been arrested for trespassing and a telephone has been seized.

**July 6.** Around 9 am, a man, 50, was arrested for threats and insults.

## What happens with citizen complaints against the KPCN

In response to recent negative comments in the media regarding low trust in the judicial chain on Bonaire, the Dutch Caribbean Police Force (KPCN) have explained in a press release that, like other police forces in the area and in the Netherlands, they must adhere to existing procedures and laws when they receive a complaint from the public. These procedures and laws provide the protection of due process to both the complaining citizen and the officials in the legal chain whose behaviors are being questioned.

Every citizen complaint passes through a series of decision points.

First, complaints against the prosecution system are passed on to other authorities. Complaints against the police, on the other hand, always trigger an internal investigation. The Internal Affairs Office and the Public Prosecution Service consult to determine whether the accusation concerns a criminal complaint or a less serious violation of rules. Accusations of relatively minor infractions are investigated internally and, if proven, punished

internally. During the covid lockdown, for example, some police colleagues were fined for violating the emergency regulations during off duty hours.

If the citizen complaint involves a possible violation of civil servant law or criminal law, the investigation is transferred from Internal Affairs to the Public Prosecution Service for further processing. In cases involving a potential conflict of interest, the Public Prosecution Service may decide to transfer a case to the Prosecutor General (PG). The PG is

the boss of the Public Prosecution Service, who will turn the case off to the National Criminal Investigation Service.

At each of the decision points, the accused employee is assumed to be innocent until proven otherwise and has the right to appeal the determination made at the time. All court decisions are made public. The KPCN always informs a complainant about result of the case, and the complainant may appeal the decision to the National Ombudsman. *DMR*

### Covid, continued from page 2

Recently, there have been more cases of young people and their housemates becoming infected. Young people do not usually become seriously ill, but they need to be isolated so they don't spread the virus to others, and it's difficult to keep young people isolated. Parents must give written permission at the injection site. They must bring an ID or sedula. Vaccinations can be arranged by calling the toll-free number 0800 0900, from Monday to Friday from 8 am – 5pm.

**American and Dutch travelers still need to be tested.** Bonaire has currently designated the Netherlands and the United States as High Risk areas. Consequently, all travelers to Bonaire from both countries, including those who have been fully vaccinated, must meet the following requirements. Travelers 13 years of age and older may travel to Bonaire only

with a negative test result. The following tests are accepted on Bonaire: 1. A negative NAAT (PCR) test result, from a test taken within 24 hours of departure, or a negative NAAT (PCR) test result, from a test taken within 72 hours before arrival on Bonaire and an antigen test immediately upon arrival at Bonaire airport. Information on the antigen test and how to book one can be found at <https://www.bonairetravel.org/arrivalBonaire/>

All travelers, from 0 years old, must complete a Health Declaration for the Public Health Department within 72 hours and 48 hours before departure. You may do this at <https://www.bonairepublichealth.org> Passengers must present this printed Health Declaration and the result of the coronavirus test when they check in, board and arrive on Bonaire.

When departing to Bonaire, travelers should not have any symptoms that may

be related to COVID-19 such as: a runny nose, sore throat, cough, sneezing, shortness of breath, loss of smell and taste, increased temperature or fever. Travelers must also not have had direct contact with someone infected with covid.

**Some people on Bonaire can get a free corona test during July and August.** These are people who intend to travel abroad but have not yet been fully vaccinated. The group includes children from 7 to 18 years of age and women who are pregnant or who have recently been pregnant. Patients who could not be vaccinated due to their medical situation can also take the pre-travel corona test for free.

**Travelers from very high-risk countries no longer face mandatory quarantine** when they arrive on Bonaire. However, they must be tested before departure to Bonaire and, if necessary, also take a test on arrival. They are also asked to retest

with a PCR test on the fifth day after arrival on the island. That test will be free. On the sixth day they may still be tested, but at their own expense. Travelers from very high-risk countries who do not have themselves retested will be quarantined for 10 days at their home or holiday address.

**Vaccinated Bonaireans can now get a vaccination certificate to travel to countries within Europe** without corona tests. When applying for and collecting the QR code, citizens must have the vaccination card and their passport at hand. They can make arrangements by calling 0800 0900. Soon people on Bonaire, like those in the Netherlands, will be able to go online and upload their certificate. Unless they intend to travel immediately, they should wait so the Public Health Department phone lines don't get overloaded. *DMR*



# Letters & Opinions

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the various authors and forum participants do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of The Bonaire Reporter.

## Dog Parks

Many people like to walk their dogs and take them so they can exercise in the ocean. Since emphasis has been put on some locations to prohibit such activities, I'm wondering if any thought has been given to create a community dog park where the dogs can romp and that has an area set aside where the dogs may swim. Is this something that could be accomplished? Dog parks have become successful in many countries.

I'm encouraged learning Bonaire has plans to improve their aging community centers and creating parks open for every age to use. A dog park would take a lot of stress off animals and their owners too.

Earline Wasser

## Vaccinated US travelers cannot find testing answer

Travelers coming from the U.S. who have been fully vaccinated need to know whether they must meet testing requirements when they come to Bonaire. They are told to go to [bonairecrisis.com](http://bonairecrisis.com), Q&A travelers, "What are the requirements that need to be followed when traveling to Bonaire?"

When someone does go to [bonairecrisis.com](http://bonairecrisis.com), Q&A travelers, and does click on "I have been vaccinated. Do I still have to undergo a corona test before my trip to Bonaire?," here is the answer they receive: "Different requirements may apply to people who have been vaccinated as to those who have not been vaccinated. Further information about the entry requirements please refer to the Q&A travelers, "What are the requirements that need to be followed when traveling to Bonaire?"

Then, if travelers happen to go back to the top of the page, and if they happen to read down 20 or 30 lines of information about onerous testing requirements for travels from high-risk countries, they will eventually find this answer: "For their trip to Bonaire all travelers 13 years of age or older must have: 1. A negative NAAT(PCR) test result, from a test taken within 24 hours before departure. . . etc."

Being in the category "all travelers," they may then deduce that they need to be tested even though they have been fully vaccinated. Or they may wonder why they cannot get a straight answer to straight forward question.

The actual answer seems to be: all travelers must still be tested, except fully vaccinated travelers from Aruba and Curaçao. DMR

## Minister of I&W will visit the ABC islands

Minister Cora van Nieuwenhuizen of Infrastructure and Water Management will pay a working visit to Curaçao, Bonaire and Aruba from the 12th of July until the 15th. The minister will arrive on Bonaire on July 12th. She will meet, among others, with the Executive Council and the acting Kingdom Representative. The minister will visit the airport on July 13, where she will be shown around by BIA manager, Jaap Engel, and commissioner, Hennyson Thielman. While in Curaçao, the minister will meet with DC-ANSP, which, among other things, provides air traffic control over Bonaire and Curaçao. Also, the minister will visit Hato airport.



Minister Cora van Nieuwenhuizen of I&W

# Healthcare insurance claims revised

On July 1 many revisions in the BES Healthcare Insurance Claims Regulation came into effect. Their purpose was to make completely clear what is reimbursed and what is not.

For more information about the BES Healthcare Insurance Claims Regulation [Regeling aanspraken zorgverzekering BES] (Raz BES) 2021 please use the following link:

<https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0029442/>

Some of the changes include:

### Treatment that is eligible for reimbursement

**Dental treatment:** Insured parties are entitled to a mouth disinfection procedure if essential for medical treatment. You need to get permission in advance.

### Addition

**Contribution by pensioners to long-term care:** Amendment: the entire pension amount is no longer paid to the care institution. Instead the insured party can retain part of the amount (to be used as pocket money and clothing money).

**Contraception:** The reimbursement of contraceptive devices has been broadened to include a reimbursement for vaginal hormonal rings.

### Clarification and additional requirements

**Second Opinion:** If an insured party has any doubts about treatment provided by a care provider, a second opinion can be requested from another care provider in consultation with the care provider in question and the BES Healthcare Insurance Office. The second opinion must be provided in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom and is a one-off consultation exclusively on the basis of the details contained in the medical file provided by the insured party. A second opinion can be requested via the referrer.

**Primary psychological care:** In order to be eligible for a reimbursement of primary psychological care, a clear diagnosis (disorder) must have been made in accordance with the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5). Serious symptoms which are expected to require more than nine treatment sessions do not fall under primary psychological care, but under medical-specialist care instead.

**IVF treatment:** The definition of IVF treatment has been brought into line with the definition in the Dutch Health Insurance Decree [Besluit Zorgverzekering]. The reversal of sterilisation is not part of IVF treatment and therefore not eligible for reimbursement.

**Eye laser treatment:** Eye laser treatment to correct long-sightedness or short-sightedness, so that the insured party no longer needs glasses or lenses, is not reimbursed.

**Medical pedicures:** Applications for medical pedicures will have to be accompanied by a substantiated diabetic foot risk classification, as referred to in the Diabetic Foot Guidelines [Richtlijn Diabetische Voet] of the Federation of Medical Specialists [Federatie Medisch Specialisten].

**Physiotherapy and remedial therapy:** The reimbursements for physiotherapy and remedial therapy have been amended on the basis of reimbursements in the European Netherlands.

**Speech therapy:** Applications must fulfill certain requirements. This element of the Raz BES has been clarified. The Raz BES now also states that speech therapy care does not include care needs relating to language problems which can be resolved in regular education, such as bilingualism or language delays.

**Wigs:** Wigs will only be reimbursed if a medical disorder or medical treatment is the cause of permanent or long-term full or partial baldness.

Policy and Project department of Spatial Planning and Development gave the white slave huts a fresh coat of paint in recognition of Emancipation Day of Slaves on July 1.



## Renovation of community center continues



OLB's Integral Neighborhood Development project (IWO) has arranged for Fundashon Cas Bonerianoto to take responsibility for the renovation and maintenance of the neighborhood centers of Nort'i Saliña, Amboina, Tera Kòrà i Antriol / Family Justice Center. Cas Bonerianoto is the organization that provides for social housing on Bonaire. IWO will also hire someone to develop activities in the neighbourhoods. DMR



# Mercera named TCB director

Miles Mercera, Tourism Corporation Bonaire's (TCB) new director/ CEO has wanted to work in tourism since he took his first flight as an eight year old kid heading to Disney World.

"I loved stepping into an airplane and the hotel – I felt this excitement about it all," said Miles.

He said his family couldn't understand why he didn't want to be an astronaut or a doctor or something else. Miles knew his path and has worked hard in his 32 years to make it happen.

He has pretty much done it all in the tourism sector. Miles trained and worked as a chef, a waiter and in house-keeping. He considers these jobs as tourism stepping stones as he focused on associate and bachelor degrees in marketing and PR.

Miles grew up in Bonaire and said it's great to be back home. This role at TCB is one he has dreamed of for a long time.

Miles' first day as CEO was July 1. He is hoping in the next 100 days to achieve a new branding for Bonaire tourism.

Miles' plans include developing a new

TCB in both public and private partnerships, a new relationship with government, air service development /renovation and data collection.

According to Miles, Bonaire needs to reposition itself back into diving. For the past 10-12 years Bonaire has had a number of campaigns that are confusing to the consumer.

"We need to share that we are the number one diving location in the Caribbean. We need to let people know that again," said Miles.

For the last 10 years there has been no data collection on who Bonaire's visitors are and why they are here. This will be changing through a new form guests will complete when visiting. A new visitor tax is also proposed.

Miles said that we hope to create a circular economy by involving residents with the visitors. He applauds the initiatives of the new Mindful Barrio project. He says it is in line with the inclusiveness we want. We want visitors to see and experience what's happening in the real Bonaire.

"These are experiences the locals can



Tourism Corporation Bonaire staff members including the new director Miles Mercera. L - Rolando Marin, Marjolein Oleana, Joanny Trinidad, Annette Emerenciana, Miles Mercera, Cristely Cranston, Elesier Angel, Derchlien Vrolijk-Dijkhoff, Helen Mercera-Thode, Angelo Domacasse – R. Photo TCB.

provide and these are the things we can share. We need to grow into a destination," said Miles.

Miles Mercera holds an associate degree in hotel management from the Aruba Hotel School, a bachelor's degree in international hospitality and tourism management from the University of Curacao and a master's degree in con-

sultancy and entrepreneurship from the Rotterdam Business School. He spent nearly 10 years with the Curaçao Hospitality and Tourism Association (CHATA), the last four as President & CEO. Most recently Miles has worked as an independent consultant in tourism.

By Julie Morgan



## Comfortable banking

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## BANBAKUNA at Mangazina di Rei.

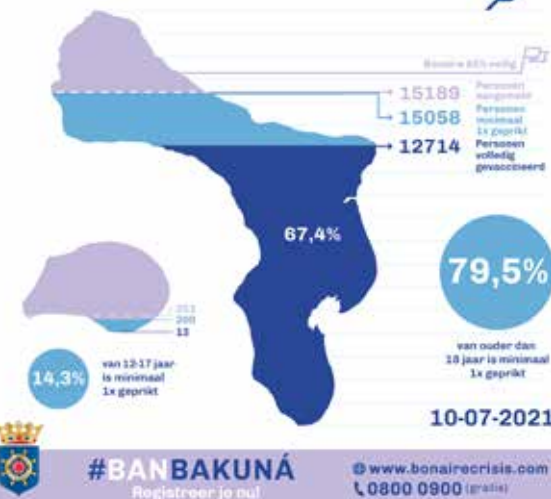


**BANBAKUNA** was held July 4 at Mangazina di Rei. Guests were greeted at the entrance by Sunniva Manuel and Jane Crestian who logged everyone's name, email and vaccination status. Each person received a personal hand sanitizer. The parking lot at Mangazina was overflowing with guests coming by to enjoy the great food, live music and crafts. Booths included an Echo booth and a breast cancer screening sign up. Anyone who wasn't vaccinated could get information and sign up. We are all safe - when we are all safe!! Below: Echo's Sara Remmes and Rayshantaly Coffie shared information about Bonaire's Yellow shouldered Amazon parrot and sold T-shirts and native plants for reforestation of Bonaire.

Photos Julie Morgan







## How is Bonaire doing with vaccinations against Covid-19?

According to the above chart, 79.5% people over 18 have been given their first shot and 67.7% are fully vaccinated. Vaccinations for the 12 to 17 age group have begun and 14.3% have their first shot.

## DIVE FRIENDS BONAIRE IS HIRING!

We are looking for a responsible, pro-active, and enthusiastic PADI professional who can work in a team. Newly certified Instructors and couples are welcome to apply. Due to immigration rules on the island, we are currently only able to hire instructors who are Bonaire citizens or with a Dutch or US passport.

We are looking for instructors who are willing to commit for a longer period of time (one year+). Your duties and responsibilities will include all functions of a busy dive center, such as:

- Instructing courses from Bubblemaker to Divemaster
- Guiding dives from shore and boat
- Organizing Marine Park orientations
- Checking In and checking out of guests
- Customer service
- Filling tanks and driving them to locations
- Front desk administration and cashier
- Equipment sales
- Site maintenance, repair & cleaning
- Equipment maintenance & repair

### Requirements:

- PADI OWSI (or higher), renewed and in teaching status.
- Minimum one year experience
- Fluent in English. Second language is a plus.
- Bonaire citizen or someone with a Dutch or American passport
- Valid driver's license
- Knowledge of MS office

### The following skills are helpful but not required:

- Boat captain experience

If you are interested in working on Bonaire and would like to be part of our team, Please send an e-mail with your CV and cover letter to [info@divefriendsdbonaire.com](mailto:info@divefriendsdbonaire.com)



## Asset smuggling loopholes closed

New legislation that closes known loopholes in the laws against money laundering and the financing of terrorism came into effect on July 1 in the Caribbean Netherlands. The basic rule, that cross border transfers of liquid assets that exceed \$10,000 must be declared to CN Customs, is unchanged. Now, however, not only transfers of cash, but also transfers of gold, precious metals, diamonds and other precious stones must be disclosed on the Customs declaration form at border crossings.

Customs must also be notified if unaccompanied liquid assets with a combined value exceeding \$10,000 in value are sent by post, courier shipments, unaccompanied baggage or container freight. The customs authority can require of transfers, whether accompanied or unaccompanied, that are valued less than \$10,000 notice if there are indications that criminal activities may be involved.

Penalties include forfeiture of 10% – 30%, depending on determination of intent, plus fines up to \$14,000. DMR

## Money is available for road work

Following an ambiguously worded news release that suggested the island was waiting to receive money promised for road upgrading, the Executive Council apologized for the confusion and declared that the road program has been well funded by the Netherlands. In total, Bonaire has received €8.5 million for roads from the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, and € 3 million will be transferred this month. This is enough to carry out all the roads planned for the year 2021. More money will be made available as road improvement plans for 2022-2023 are completed. DMR

## Electric bills increased

After a period of decline, fuel prices are rising again.

## Childcare workers complete training



This month 25 people employees on Bonaire passed their MBO training to become assistant) pedagogical employees. They are one step closer to meeting the diploma requirements set out last year in the new Island Ordinance Childcare as part of the BES(t) 4 kids program. The ordinance declares the requirements childcare organizations must meet, including the required educational level of childcare professionals.

Professionals and host parents on Bonaire must all complete a pedagogical training on at least MBO-3 level in the coming years. In addition, a childcare center must have at least one professional with an education on MBO-4 level that qualifies them to identify devel-

The monthly bill of the average household on Bonaire went up by \$10.00 on July 1. The OLB paid the increase on behalf of consumers for the first month while trying to arrange for an additional subsidy from the government in the Netherlands. Because of the corona virus pandemic, the government is already covering the costs of the network for 2021, one element that determines how much people are charged for electricity. The Authority for Consumers and Markets sets the maximum tariffs WEB can charge. DMR

## Food aid continues for Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten

Having donated more than 85 million euros in food aid to Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten since the corona crisis began, the Netherlands is donating an additional 14 million euros to support food programs through September. DMR ([Koninkrijk.nu](http://Koninkrijk.nu))

## Profit tax filing extended

The final filing date for the Profit Tax for 2020 has been extended from September 30th to December 31st because of the business slowdown caused by the corona virus.

Companies and institutions can simply defer filing. They do not need to take any other action. December 31st is also the date that annual accounts signed by the director, manager or authorised representative must be submitted to the Tax Office. DMR

## Search for fisherman continues

No sign has turned up of fisherman Ulrich Pinedo who went missing on July 5. Searches at sea and of the coast line having failed, police and divers are now looking for signs of him or his boat underwater. DMR

opmental and learning disabilities in children. Because the training courses are attended during regular working hours, childcare centers can apply for reimbursement for hiring employees to fill in for those who are in training.

Tamara Nicolaas, project leader BES(t) 4 kids Bonaire: "It is fantastic that the first results of the BES(t) 4 kids program are visible. Of course the BES(t) 4 kids program tries to support childcare organizations as well as possible with improving the quality. But ultimately, it is the people in childcare who provide the progress." DMR



tival” with music, dance, art and culture is in the plans.

At the launch, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mindful Spirit Foundation was signed by Alvin Obersi and committed organizations: Tourism Corporation Bonaire director Miles Mercera; Krusada Fundashun director Junny Josephine; Black Durgon owner Al Catifumo; Aftercare World Caribbean director Sjarnada Inacio; Mindful Bario vice president Adnan Hassan and Selibon NV director Ludsel Leito.

The Mindful Bario Foundation team working to make this happen are: Alvin Obersi – Chairman, MSF; Adnan Hassan – Vice-Chairman, MSF and advisors: Fausto Carcabelos, micheiel Berssenbrugge, Frank Dieters, Junny Josephina, Sjarnada Inacio, Naidy Cicilia and Moreno Bineli. Nathan Senchi is marketing and communications and Jeny Molina is program coordinator.

Currently there are 21 partners who are committed to the project.

Watch the Mindful Bario program video created in collaboration with WE.CRDNATE and Casy Roosje Creates: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQscUyhY7K4>

**“Bonaire: A Tranquil Community of Mindful, Creative and Sportive Spirits!”**

*Story and photo Julie Morgan*



# Mindful Bario Foundation launched



Committed to the Mindful Bario Foundation are (L-R) - Tourism Corporation Bonaire director Miles Mercera; Krusada Fundashun director Junny Josephine; Aftercare World Caribbean director Sjarnada Inacio; Black Durgon owner Al Catifumo; Mindful Bario president Alvin Obersi; Mindful Bario project coordinator; Mindful Bario vice president Adnan Hassan and Selibon NV director Ludsel Leito

**“If we lose our people, we will lose Bonaire itself,”**

**Alvin Obersi**

Since 2010 tourism has driven Bonaire but according to the people behind Mindful Bario, it should be the other way around. The people of Bonaire should drive tourism.

On July 6 at Sentro di Bario Nort’l Salina, the Mindful Bario Foundation was launched. Its aim: to keep Bonaire alive and give people hope.

Eight years ago Alvin Obersi, president of the Mindful Bario project had an idea to reinvigorate the barios. He wanted to bring people together as a community again by inviting others to become part of the Bonaire family.

Adnan Hassan joined Obersi and together they molded the first ideas behind the Mindful Bario Foundation. Others signed on to develop the project. The result - a partnership between local, national and international contributors.

According to Obersi, the project will bring back jobs that existed before in the bario, create training programs and create new opportunities to reinvigorate the spirit of the people.

“We want to build an upper scale economy where people can afford to live. We’re not wanting the government to do something; we are going to drive the agenda,” Obersi said, “We need to give the government a way to look at tourism without [thinking] of businesses they can open... and quit thinking of Bonaire as a destination.”

Social entrepreneurship will be encouraged in all the barios through mind-set coaching in the Mindful Academy. Each bario has its own ambassador to further the work of the project:

Nort’l Salina – Ricardo Alberto, Leonard Melaan; Tera Kora – Ixiomar Sluis; Antriol – Ruvien Rodriguez, Alsi Anthony; Amboina – Marcelo Martina; Nikiboko – Robby de Palm and Rincon – Gefely “Geffy” Vlijt.

Adnan said, our dreams are to develop innovative programs of “observational tourism.” Possible ideas would include local bread and breakfasts, yoga in the bario, boutique restaurants serving foods farm to table prepared from the neighborhood community, local markets with artisan crafts and historic tourist and bike trails. He also said a “Mindful Bario Fes-

## Celebrate Women’s Dive Day three ways on July 17

### Dive Friends

Join a group of ocean loving women on Women’s Dive Day, at Dive Friends Hamlet Oasis at 8:30 am. This special day for women divers only will be filled with yoga, diving, taking fun photos. The yoga class will be led by Dive Friend’s very own yogi divemaster Gwen.

Cost is only \$10 for the yoga session, air tank and a healthy smoothie.

Space is limited so reserve your spot by dropping by any of our dive locations or calling 780-2572 or email [info@divefriendsbonaire.com](mailto:info@divefriendsbonaire.com).

Dive Friends says: Please bring your own yoga mat if you have one or let us know if you don’t have one.

If you aren’t already registered with us please bring a copy of your certification card when you sign-in. Participants will also need to fill out a liability form and Covid-19 waiver.

### Toucan Diving

Plaza Resorts Toucan Diving is celebrating Women’s Dive Day with a dive on their new dive catamaran “Silver Surfer.” All divers will be women with the exception a male boat captain. Drinks



Women’s Dive Day 2020 was held at Bruce Bowker’s Carib Inn. Photo Ed Diehl

and sweets will be served after the dive. The dive trip is scheduled for 1:30 pm and the price is \$45 per diver and that includes the tank and weights. Only 16 spots available so reserve as soon as possible by email to [info@Toucandiving.com](mailto:info@Toucandiving.com). Please include any special needs for the dive for equipment

### Young Mermaids Day

Since any day here on Bonaire is a women’s dive day, a group of Bonaire women divers will be celebrating Young Mermaid’s Day, a girl’s snorkeling day, instead.

Each young mermaid will be accompanied by her own buddy, a woman who’s an experienced snorkeler. We’ll visit a

site with an easy entry and explore shallow reefs, learning who’s who and who lives where, including angelfish, butterflyfish, anemones, and corals. We’ll have an underwater treasure hunt.

Young Mermaids must meet only three requirements: they must be girls, they must be between the ages of 8 and 14, and they must be good swimmers. Participants who don’t have their own snorkeling gear will be supplied with masks and snorkels, and fins if possible, for the event.

To join us on Saturday afternoon as a young mermaid, or as a buddy, call or text Dee Scarr at 599-796-8529.







# Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr



Hooked Mama shark

had been unborn, and died when their mom did. On the underside of each of them is a little break in the skin, where the egg had been attached before being consumed; soon those breaks would have healed and they would have left their confinement.

Although these little ones didn't have a chance to experience the world, their deaths won't be wasted. Two of them are preserved at BNMP headquarters for eventual continual study, and a third is being studied now. Just knowing their species and where they were caught will yield useful information about these tough-to-study sharks.

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).

## Shark Babies

Since I wrote about fish babies in the last *Reporter*, I've seen a 4" (10 cm) trumpetfish alongside a rope floating at the surface, two 2" (5 cm) spotted drumfish, a spotted moray about the same length and width as my snorkel, and eight baby sharks.

Unfortunately, the baby sharks were dead.

What I found was a shark head with a fishhook in the mouth, a few scattered fins, and eight babies so perfect that when the water ruffled their gills they looked as if they were about to swim away. Their fins were darker at the edges, and one diver guessed they were reef sharks. I was surprised at how long the top lobe of their tail fins was so I guessed thresher shark. We did agree that they probably weren't hammerheads or whale sharks.

I was low on air and heading back to my exit when I found them on the bottom at about 15'; I was grateful for the shallowness (the shallower the water, the longer SCUBA air lasts) and annoyed by my limited time. But how could I leave without checking out the jaws of the mama shark? I opened her mouth and ran my finger along her teeth. Yes, you read that correctly: I was able to run my finger right along her teeth, because there were no sharp edges! Instead of rows of pointed teeth, this shark had what felt like rows of tiny flat tiles!

Back in the 1970's, when I was diving off Miami, a diver grabbed the tail of a nurse shark about 2' (66cm) long. The little shark instantly whipped around and bit the guy on the arm, resulting in plenty of cuts and lots of bleeding! Divers – certainly this guy -- think of nurse sharks as the most docile and least harmful of sharks, and usually they are, but even the little ones have sharp teeth.

So off I went to the Internet, where I discovered that a search for any kind of shark teeth resulted in huge amounts of information, most of which was useless unless you wanted to buy shark teeth.

Luckily, before this information avalanche buried me, I heard from Roxanne-Liana Francisca of STINAPA's Nature Unit, identifying the sharks as Shortspine Spurdogs. (Isn't that the perfect name for a marine biologist band? "And now, preeeesenting, the Shortspine Spuuurdogs!") Knowing the owner of the flat teeth cut down the info avalanche to a landslide, and I finally got my answer about the teeth: they're pointed, but the points aim toward the side of the shark's mouth rather than straight up! Even nurse sharks, who hunt for crabs and snails, have up-pointed teeth. Why are these side-

ways? Time to hit the Internet again.

The Shortspine Spurdog, *Squalus mitsukurii*, is one of at least nine *Squalus* sharks, all enough alike to confuse identifications: they can be found anywhere in the water column from the surface to the bottom – and, where some of them live, the bottom can be 1000 m deep. The word for this, by the way, is benthopelagic (BEN-thow-pell-LAJ-ick). Their diet includes crustaceans, squid, and fish, creatures that sideways teeth can grab and crunch just fine.

### What about those babies?

Sharks and rays generally provide more care, and for many fewer offspring, than bony fish, who release thousands of eggs at every spawning. Bony fish get no parental care whatsoever.

Although some sharks deposit eggs, the Shortspine Spurdogs are ovoviviparous (pronounced oh-voh-vie-VIP-er-us), which means that their fertilized eggs, and the babies who hatch from them, develop within the mother. With our sharks, this development time is 18 months to two years. When these babies are born, they are ready to start independent life!

The little ones we found



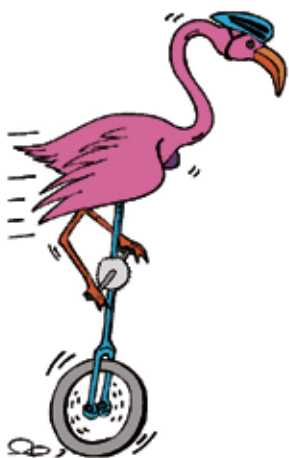
This baby shark looks as if it's swimming along...

**PADI WOMEN DIVE DAY**

**DIVE FRIENDS BONAIRE**

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This article appropriately follows my last article about recycling old computers. Why? Because Windows 11 is coming out soon and in the majority of cases, it is NOT compatible with old computer hardware.

What does this mean? It means Microsoft, following their pattern, will stop supporting Windows 10 soon, forcing everyone to move to Windows 11 or be bombarded with viruses, trojans and hacks.

But the thing that makes it so utterly incomprehensible in this day and age of recycling and cutting back on waste is that so many of the computers in use now will become landfill because they won't be "allowed" to run Windows 11.

It's not a technology issue. A computer is a computer. An older computer may be slower, but it can still play

solitaire, surf the web, send email and let you type a letter.

Imagine the backlash if Toyota were to say "Starting next year, we don't provide parts and service for any Toyota older than five years. You have to trash it and buy a new one." But for the computer industry, it is just accepted that this is the cycle (not recycle).

I, for one, am really upset that I cannot use my functioning, expensive Acer Ferrari Laptop with Windows XP for anything other than a heating pad for my cats.

So, on that note if you have anything you'd like to recycle/donate, please contact me at [info@bonairetech-support.com](mailto:info@bonairetech-support.com)



## Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

*Do you need more kindness, presence or flexibility in your life?*

When making decisions it is important Mindfulness is a natural capacity that we all have. Although originated from meditative practices of eastern and western spiritual traditions, it is not something necessarily related to mysticism or spirituality. Its practice is well spread due to its proven benefits that have been demonstrated by neuroscience. Mindfulness implies being present, focused on the object of meditation, gently bringing your attention back to it and the present moment without judgment. In the course of its practice the mind wanders, but it is consistently brought back to focus.

One of the modalities of Mindfulness is the concentration on the breath. By drawing attention to the passage of air through the nostrils or the throat, we can perceive the flow and temperature. Another option is to pay attention to the movements involved in the inhalation and the exhalation, either at abdominal or thoracic level. In a more subtle way, the focus of attention can be brought to the sound, detecting the subtle vibration caused by the slight friction of the air as it passes. Maintaining the focus of attention for several minutes on a certain element trains concentration, something that in

recent times, due to the over-stimulation under which we live, is quite deteriorated.

During the practice, it happens that the mind wanders, so concentration is periodically lost and the focus leaves the object of meditation and goes with our thoughts. In the practice of Mindfulness, we train kindness and patience by bringing again and again the focus back to where we want, avoiding judging ourselves or the experience. This is a very important part of the practice, because training the mind should be done with gentleness and not with grumbling and anger.

Also by letting go of our thoughts and returning to the chosen object of attention, we have the real experience that we are not the same as our thoughts, since we manage to abandon them and we also manage to see that behind these thoughts come others. Returning the focus to the object of attention allows us to slow down the thoughts and put a pause between them. This allows us to observe them for what they are; just thoughts that pass, change, come again and change again. In turn, this allows us to differentiate and separate ourselves from our thoughts. This coming and going, from focus

to wandering, improves our flexibility, allows us to see that we can choose to follow our thoughts, but also that we can let them go and go back to where we want to be.

These improvements are not only functional but are also reflected in anatomical changes at the brain level. Imaging techniques have shown thickening of the hippocampus in subjects who practice mindfulness for a minimum of 21 days, 30 minutes per hour. The hippocampus governs memory and learning. Also the increase of gray matter in the brain cortex where emotional regulation, problem solving and other important functions are carried out

Unlike pharmaceutical drugs, Mindfulness has no adverse effects and does not interact negatively with other medicines, and it is very difficult to overdose. To begin practicing you don't need any special equipment and you don't need to add or change anything radically in life.

So if you think that your life could benefit from a little more concentration, presence, flexibility, detachment, calm, slowing of the stream of thoughts, gentleness, acceptance, patience among others, what are you waiting to start your practice?

*Irene is passionate about health, neurosciences and personal growth. Originally from Uruguay, she is an Integrative Psychotherapist (PNIE), Life Coach (ICF), Master in Nutrition(IUSC) and Yoga Instructor.*

## Cruise ships, cont. from page 1

ceives a significant switch to the luxury high end, quality over quantity ships.

The new policy also includes an increase in the ship head tax from \$3.50 to \$10. And STINAPA is working on a day fee for all passengers that enjoy Bonaire's nature.

Many people wish the cruise ships would just go away. They cite traffic chaos, disrespect for the island's nature, little or no profit to most shops and the environmental impact of the ships on Bonaire's reefs, not to mention their significant contribution to climate change. While others think there should be a happy medium between none and too many. And others only want to return to pre-pandemic cruise visits with no policy whatsoever.

The Bonaire government and TCB hope to create a real Bonairean experience for all visitors to the island and create local jobs and a profit while keeping in line with the new tourism policies.

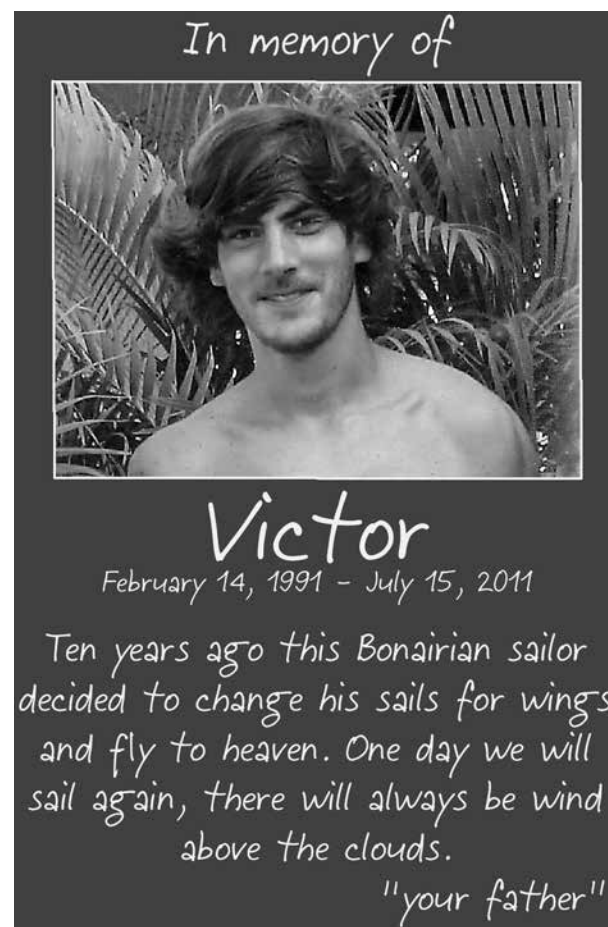
According to TCB, cruise ships will always come to Bonaire. The government is making a profit and says that about 200 tour operators depend on the cruise ships to make a living.

Opinions and statistics vary on how much Bonaire

profits economically from the cruise industry. The numbers differ depending on the source; but at what cost to Bonaire's nature? *Story and photos Julie Morgan*

**The tour operators recently organized as BCTA (Bonaire Cruise and Tourism Association). They wrote a letter to the government in opposition to the new policy changes, saying they are not in line with the tourism plan.**

**TCB's Elesier Angel said, "We understand and recognize their concerns and will schedule a meeting with them to dialog about their letter. We hope during our meeting they can explain their opinion, perspectives, and concerns. And we will also be open and clear with them regarding the developments and the decisions that have been made and why. At the end of the day, we anticipate having a good working relationship, open communication, and hopefully a similar vision for Bonaire."**







# Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

## Question marks.

About a week ago, I was shocked by this picture one of my Facebook friends posted. This is a picture of a sidewalk in Playa where a huge part of the sidewalk is open with loose pavement. And according to the person who posted this the situation has existed quite a while.

I have not been to town in some time, but when I did I was shocked by the fact that there were a lot of cars parked on the sidewalks again. It seems as if all the actions by our police force has been for nothing.

Since then I haven't slept well as this has me seriously worried. The elderly are a fast growing group of inhabitants. And this large group needs to be taken seriously along with all the people with other disabilities.

I remember when Hotel Plaza was renovated. The board members of MiVaBo went to take a look at the progression of the construction and noticed that the lift in the pool that gave accessibility to the disabled had been removed. When the Plaza staff was asked if accessibility for the disabled was taken into account, the answer was very negative.



We are watching the building of the new TUI hotel with watchful eyes and sincerely hope that disabled guests are welcome and catered to in every way.

Last week a very ambitious plan to renovate Bachelor's Beach was launched. It looks really spectacular,

but on a closer look it appears the plan does not consider people with limitations. The plan only shows the part directly at the street. The stairs to the beach will be renovated and we were very glad to hear that. But it seems that it is only accessible for people without disabilities. It would have been so wonderful to create a long sloping ramp so the beach would be easily accessible to everyone. This however will not be the case as a long slope is "too expensive".

I wonder: should Fundashon Cas Bonairiano have planned to build a large number of houses? Will these houses be equipped and adapted to the handicapped codes? Are these houses "life cycle -proof"? Will people moving into the houses be able to live there until they pass away, without the house needing changes made to it? Will there be at least 10 to 15 houses equipped with wheelchair ramps, no thresholds, high toilets, handles at hot-spots like toilets and showers, wide doors and easy access everywhere?

Isn't it logical to take all things into consideration before building? This all makes me wonder: are there no building regulations and codes to reckon with? And if not.... I think it is about time we get these regulations and codes organized?

As I said before: the group of elderly is growing fast. Kas di Kuido and all the daycare centers will not be big enough to host all those in need.

## "Bonaire Culinaire, named a success"



**Rozemarijn and Arrie Vis (the new owners of Scooters Bonaire) and Pien Jas, Intern at The Cadushy Distillery and PR-officer Bonaire Culinaire Spring 2021.**

The 14 restaurants participating in Bonaire Culinaire's second edition, May 20 – June 3, judged the event a complete success. Culinary specialties were introduced from each restaurant in the 15 day event providing diners to experiment at a special price.

In total, over 2,350 Bonaire Culinaire menus were ordered. Guests rated the menus with 4,5 star on average and almost 100 percent of the diners said they would revisit the restaurant again.

During the event, guests participated in a raffle with prizes such as, pizza for two at Sebastian's Restaurant, Breakfast at Oscar Lighthouse, a bottle of Rom Rincon and more.

The next edition of Bonaire Culinaire will be held September 23 – October 7. And this third edition will not only include our great restaurants to explore but also Bonaire's lunch rooms and food trucks. To keep in touch with Bonaire Culinaire and upcoming edition, visit [www.bonaire-culinaire.com](http://www.bonaire-culinaire.com) or on Facebook 'BonaireCulinaireEvent' or Instagram @bonaireculinaire.



## Diamond PR presents a progress report

While in Miami, Florida representatives from Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) and Bonaire's Public Entity (OLB) met with Jody Diamond, president of Diamond Public Relations (DPR) a firm that has partnered with TCB since November 2020. Bonaire's delegation consisted of TCB's Marketing Coordinator Derchlien Vrolijk and Cruise & Project Coordinator Elesier Angel together with the OLB's Commissioner Hennyson Thielman, Harbor Master Günther Flanegin and Policy Advisor Debby Rauwers.

DPR has given Bonaire substantial trade and media coverage in North America in publications such as Caribbean Journal, Travel Pulse, Travel Weekly, The New York Times, Travel+Leisure, and Forbes. Also, thanks to DPR, TCB has hosted different press members and social media influencers such as Haroon Ali from National Geographic Travel Netherlands. For North America the total reach has been over 102 million, with over 126 clips. For Europe the total reach is over 20 million, with over 27 clips. Bonaire has also received coverage on different social media platforms such as DUIKEN, Focus, and Connoisseur.

Even though direct flights from the US were on hold until just recently, DPR continued with several initiatives to publicize Bonaire. They hosted a Zoom Meet & Greet session with partners, and created the campaigns: Love is in Bonaire, and Bonaire Misses You. They also secured multiple broadcast giveaway opportunities such as Live with Kelly and Ryan. All their efforts support the main objectives of the Tourism Recovery Plan: reaching the existing dive market, highlighting the diversity of outdoor activities, the culinary and the luxury amenities Bonaire has to offer.



TCB and DPR have several initiatives planned for the North American market with a summer media blitz in media outlets such as BRIDES, Cosmopolitan, Miami New Times and Fodor's as well as coverage by Travel+Leisure, Wheel of Fortune, ON magazine and a CNN Travel segment. They are also planning a photography project with well known professional underwater photographer and nature lover and several influencer and press trips by Men's Journal, Sophisticated Living, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Access Hollywood.

TCB and DPR are also planning campaigns for the Canadian market when the borders reopen. For the European market they are working on several initiatives such as a filming production on Bonaire of the final segment of a well-known TV program in the Netherlands which will take place in October, Margriet Magazine, coverage by National Geographic Travel Netherlands, and a giveaway in LINDA magazine with collaboration of a local partner. *TCB press release*

**Have you tried out the new linked business ads on the online Reporter's "At Your Service" business directory? (page 14)**

**Most every ad has a direct link to the advertiser's Facebook, email or website.**

**With this new addition, readers who are interested in a particular service can save time by just clicking the ad to make contact or see what the business is all about.**

**No longer do you have to do your own search, the connection is right there. Try it! Photo Julie Morgan**





# What's Happening

**Washington Slagbaai:** Wed-Sun. 8-5 (entry up to 1 pm)  
**STINAPA headquarters:** Mon-Fri 8-2. +599 717 8444.  
+599 777 8444.

**Animal Shelter:** Open fully. Mon-Fri 10-1; 2-3:30. Sat. 10-2:30. phone/whatsapp: 7014989 or 7174989. Email: animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

**Pakus di Pruga (Shelter flea market store):** Saturdays from 8 - 4. Masks required.

Friday, July <b>16</b>	<b>Sunfish Sailing Demonstration</b> 5:30 -6:30 pm. Karl's Beach Bar. See this page.
Saturday, July <b>17</b>	<b>WOMEN'S DIVE DAY</b> See page 3.
Thursday, July <b>22</b>	<b>Business Workshop for kids.</b> 8-12. See this page.
Sunday, July <b>22</b>	<b>Clean Coast Bonaire.</b> 4-6pm Piedra Pretu. Collect marine litter & data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist. .See page 13

**Open meeting Alcoholics Anonymous**  
Every Thursday, 7 - 8 pm. International Bible Church Kaya Papago 104 in Hato (Behind Bon Bida Spa and Gym and Bon Bida apartments) All welcome, regardless of primary addition or no addition at all.

## Business tour for kids

In connection with "Buki Di Pret" the Chamber of Commerce is again organizing the annual Business Workshop for children. This year, the Business Tour For Kids!

On this day the children will get to know the most important skills of an entrepreneur in an interactive way. In addition, they will learn all the necessary steps for starting their own business. All this in a child-friendly and fun way.

Age: 9 – 13 years  
Date: July 22, 2021  
Time: 08:00AM-12:00PM  
Language: Dutch/Papiamentu  
Cost: Free

Do you want your child to experience this?  
Register him/her immediately for this unforgettable workshop organized by the Chamber of Commerce Bonaire via the link below. It will be fun!

<https://www.bukidipret.com/bdp-bon-res2021>

## Poem for Today

Each issue will feature a different poet.

### God's Beautiful Gift To Bonaire

Fresh air, sunshine, flamingoes and all the rest,  
you do not have to worry,  
no one is in a hurry.  
You do what you think is best.

If you need to relax,  
you do not have to ask.  
Bonaire is the ideal place,  
there's always a little space.

So let us enjoy it,  
for we are so fortunate,  
to dwell on such a lovely spot,  
that God has given us from this precious lot.

Written by D.L. Coffy-Green  
November 7th, 1994



If you are in Kralendijk 5:30 pm Friday the 16th, pass by Karel's Beach Bar and watch a sunfish sail by and race. The seven sailors who are racing will be representing Bonaire in the World Sunfish Sailing Championships the last week of October in Sarasota, Florida, USA.

The race is close enough to shore for all to see clearly. The race commentator will be a very experienced sailor who is a frequent participant in World Laser Championships.

**Program Friday:**  
5:30 pm: parade by the sailors: they sail along the terrace of Karel's and are introduced  
5:40 pm: start, short race, with undoubtedly some spectacle at the nearby competition buoys  
6:00 pm: start at Karel's  
6:15 pm: start, short race, after the finish the sailors sail briefly past Karel's back to Kas di Regatta

## OLB surveys spatial development choices

What do you think about your home and your neighborhood? What are your housing needs for the coming years? Where do you work? Where do you go for relaxation? Which places on Bonaire do you value? These are a few questions that the R&D directorate of the public entity Bonaire asks for the new Spatial Development Plan Bonaire (ROB).

The Island Council established the ROB almost 11 years ago. This plan provides rules for the spatial planning of Bonaire, for example in which areas homes, businesses or hotels may be built. And it protects the natural areas. The Spatial Development Plan Bonaire can be viewed at [www.bonaire-ro.nl](http://www.bonaire-ro.nl).

A survey has been drawn up for a review of the ROB. Citizens can fill in this questionnaire until the end of August, so that the OLB has insight into what the Bonairean considers important. What the wants and needs are.

The results of the survey are included in the assessment of the current ROB. It takes about 10 minutes to fill in. Your contribution is very important.

The survey was written in Papiamentu, Dutch and English. It can be entered here:

<https://new.maptionnaire.com/q/3bct6cnp848u>  
OLB communications.

## Chess Champs play end-of-year tournament



Bonaire's Youth Chess Club closed out the school year with a chess tournament. The results:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Group A:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Adrian Fernandez</li><li>2. Jeronimo Lont</li><li>3. Eugendrick Dirksz</li></ol> | <b>Group B:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ralph Salimin</li><li>2. Christiaan Smeets</li><li>3. Santiago Lont</li></ol> |
|---|--|
- The best female player was Tamaris Pikeur.



# Parrots and People!

by Echo communications



## In a degraded dry forest habitat, parrots now mostly breed in cliffs.

Since our last update to you, Bonaire Reporter readers, the Echo team has been busy monitoring and protecting the future generation of Yellow-shouldered Amazons.

This year, Echo is fortunate to have a parrot researcher intensively surveying nesting efforts among the wild population, while training the local Echo team on field research and monitoring techniques. The goal is understand the population's overall breeding habits, and also to understand fledging success.

Our Loras are secondary nesters, meaning they need to find a natural cavity in which to lay their eggs. Increasing levels of habitat degradation and deforestation, combined with the natural loss of historic nesting trees, have made suitable tree cavities significantly more difficult for pairs to find. These conditions have forced breeding pairs to move in-

creasingly towards the cliffs of Bonaire.

So far the team has been working five days a week in the field to monitor and identify new nest activity. Thirty-one nests have been identified of which 25 nests are actively being used for breeding. Amazingly 41 chicks have hatched so far this season. To prevent poaching, we consistently monitor these nesting areas so we have can detect new breeding activities. The team has placed trail cameras at nine locations that have been identified as high risk for poaching. All known cavities are being climbed/repelled to inspect the health of the chicks.

Several nests have chicks which are expected to fledge within the next few weeks! If so we will see a growth in our parrot population. We hope they will all fly free and we can launch a campaign to support the monitoring program. To help please visit our Facebook page: EchoBonaire.

## It's been six months since we were out for our annual parrot roost count.

Our field team goes out at 5:30 am to monitor nests. We have seen big changes in the numbers of parrots roosting at some of the known roost sites. We wonder how they are spread over the roost during this season. That's why we need your help to count the parrots on July 31!

We would like to invite you to our breeding season roost count. We would be happy if you can cover the same roost site you have done in our previous roost counts. If you are interested to help us count one of the roosts we did last time or know someone who might love to support conservation efforts through community science, please let us know!

Monitoring the parrots in dry and breeding season will help Echo get a better understanding of where they roost during this season. The collected data will be compared to previous Roost Counts!

If you are interested in helping please sign up through email at [echobonaire@gmail.com](mailto:echobonaire@gmail.com). You would need to be at your observation point at 6:00 am.

To learn more about Echo visit [www.echobonaire.org](http://www.echobonaire.org).



## Live Inspired Today!

by Malcolm Wilson

Ignite your daily success with a *Reflection For Today* to stimulate your thinking, a *Tip For Today* to equip you and an *Affirmation For Today* to empower you.

### Eldercare Matters!

#### Reflection For Today

*"To care for those who once cared for us is one of the highest honors." - Tia Walker*

#### Tip For Today

"Did you know that June is Care for your Grandparents month?", Swinda asked her best friend.

"Of course I knew that, Swinda! And then there's the Senior Citizens Day, the National Senior Health and Fitness Day, the National Family Caregivers Month, and I'm sure that there are a few more of these special days."

"But you know, Chichi, here's the thing...many of us here in Paradise

(also known as Bonaire) are taking care of a loved one at our home or at their home. And of course, we do it with love and dedication, to the best of our ability. However, most of us are amateur care givers and this noble task can be both physically and emotionally demanding." "If only we could get some tips and tricks to help us during our eldercare journey..."

When it comes to caring for your loved one who is an elder, these tips are essential...

1. **Eldercare matters.** Our elders need care and comfort. They deserve a life with love, affection, and dignity.

#### 2. Eldercare requires a shift in perspective.

Sometimes we know what's best for our elders. However, looking at things from their perspective improves our understanding of their needs and concerns, and sets us up to better care for them.

#### 3. Eldercare is a privilege.

Remember...

Elder care matters and eldercare is a privilege. It's an opportunity to care for and give back to loved ones who have given us so much during our lives, and who are now in need.

Successful people are not highly proficient in all areas of life. Yet they set themselves up to be successful in all areas of life, including caring for their elders.

"You know, Chichi...the way we see things determines the way we experience things. I now have a fresh perspective on how to care for my elders!"

"Are you ready for our Malecon Sunset

Powerwalk later today, Swinda?"

"Of course...but first I'm going to spend some quality time with my mom!"

#### Affirmation For Today

Eldercare is a privilege. Today I am shifting my perspective and setting myself up so I can better care for my elders in a loving way.

So...think, be equipped, feel empowered, and ... **Live Inspired Today!**

*Malcolm Wilson is an inspirational speaker, success coach and certified John Maxwell speaker, coach and teacher. Born and raised in Bonaire, his purpose in life is to inspire, equip and empower students and adults to be successful in school, at work and in life. Success is a journey and Malcolm defines success as "Living your purpose, growing into your potential and serving people."*

## Reporting on Covid-19's socioeconomic effect on Bonaire



The Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) has finalized its evaluation of the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods and businesses across Bonaire. The assessment focused on critical sectors, such as tourism and logistics, and identified steps needed to facilitate recovery from the pandemic.

The analysis of Bonaire's macroeconomic performance estimates a 23.1 percent contraction of the baseline 2020 GDP estimate in the absence of COVID-19 and a 19.3 percent decrease compared to 2019. This is comparable to other tourism-dependent economies in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Without financial intervention, the report concludes that the economy would have experienced an estimated 36.2 per-

cent downturn.

Hennyson Thielman, Commissioner of Economy, Tourism, and Finance in the Executive Council of Bonaire said: "This PDNA report shows how vulnerable we are as Bonaire for disasters, with a specific focus on COVID-19 and the impact on the social and economic situation of the island. We all knew the impact would be big but seeing the numbers in this report shows the harsh reality."

Nina den Heyer, Commissioner of Social Affairs in the Executive Council of Bonaire said: "We all felt -and still feel- the enormous impact COVID-19 had on our island. This report shows the naked truth concerning the social and economic reality on the island and will

be a strong foundation to have constructive conversations with our partners and stakeholders. Together we will work on the next steps to make the society of Bonaire stronger and more resilient."

The COVID-19 Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) Bonaire: Socioeconomic Assessment Report is available on the websites of OLB and Bonaire's Chamber of Commerce. The report is the result of a collaboration between OLB, Bonaire's Chamber of Commerce, the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Bank and the European Union (EU).



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# Pets of the Week

## Beverly



**Hello, my name is Beverly.** I am approximately one year and seven months old. I am a very social cat and get along pretty easy with new people. I love to relax sometimes and don't like it when other cats interrupt my beauty sleep...I have to be sure my beautiful green eyes don't look tired! I am healthy, vaccinated, sterilized and ready for a fur-ever home. Are you looking for a calm, beautiful, cuddly, well-mannered cat? Then look no further than me, Beverly! You can find me in the Cat Palace at Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun, 10:30 am-1 pm or 2-3:30 pm, and Saturday 10 am-2:30 pm. I'll be waiting for you!

*Story and Photo: Thamar Cachemir*

## Willy and Wonka



### Hello everyone!!

We would like to introduce ourselves. We are Willy and Wonka and we are searching...but not for a chocolate factory! We would like something better than that..... we would like to find a forever home.

We are brothers, about one and a half years old, healthy, neutered and vaccinated and basically ready to go home. My brother, Wonka, is light brown with a black snout and he loves to spend time in his private pool. Myself, Willy, I am a dark brindle and I love to sun bathe. And, of course, we really like to play together, sleep together and share treats together. We would also enjoy some training with you and would bring some sweet love into your home. If you would like to meet us, don't wait! Contact the Animal Shelter, Kamin-da Lagun 26A at 7014989 or 7174989. Also available on Whatsapp, Facebook messenger and by email [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com). Or you can just pass by and ask for us!!!

*Story and Photo: Sanne Attevelt*

# Shelter News

## Animal Shelter needs volunteers!



Animal Shelter Bonaire is in dire need of volunteers to help our staff clean kennels and care for our dogs and cats. We currently have over 100 dogs and over 75 cats and we are filled to the brim! If you have a couple hours to spare around 8/8:30AM, we would love to have your helping hands with cleaning, feeding, and most importantly...love giving! Just two hours per week (8/8:30 a.m.-10 a.m.) on any day would be a huge help! Choose your favorite species to work with (cat or dog)...if you are "non-denominational," you can work with both! Providing care to our fur residents is fun and rewarding. Shelter staff will accompany you on your first day to show you the ropes. We need volunteers seven days a week and can accommodate whatever day/days work for you. If you prefer to do things like laundry, kitchen clean up, office cleaning we can use help in that area too.

### Why volunteer?

As a volunteer at the Shelter, your work helps them find loving forever homes. Your interaction with them could change their future. You are capable of changing the animal world one cat or dog at a time. It's also a great way to meet new people and make new friends. The people around you are all at the Shelter for the same reason: they love giving back to the animals. Volunteering at the Shelter ensures that you're surrounded by caring people, all working toward a common goal.

You'll see the same people on a regular basis and have a chance to meet people outside of your usual circle that you otherwise might never have had the chance to interact.

Your volunteer work at the Shelter is healthy! Scientific research proves that spending quality time with an animal has numerous health benefits and is a "de-stressor". If you are unable to have a pet at home, you can reap many of the same benefits by working with our Shelter residents.

### What is your reward? Unconditional love!

Shelter animals have a lot of love to give. You will get your dose of furry love by spending time with some very lucky cats and dogs who have no shortage of unconditional love and appreciation to give. No animal appreciates the love you have to give better than a shelter animal. If you are interested in any type of volunteer work at Animal Shelter Bonaire, please contact us at 717-4989/701-4989 or email us at [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com). We'd love to have you!

*Jane Disko*



## Bonaire's sky park

### Come to know the Summer Triangle

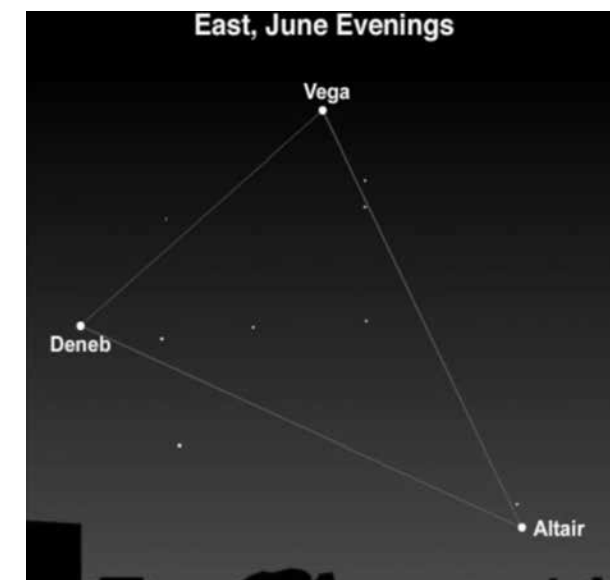
*Thanks to Bruce McClure and Andy Briggs, EarthSky.org*

The Summer Triangle is an asterism, not a constellation. Andy Briggs, writing for EarthSky.com, explains the difference.

A constellation is a recognized pattern of stars in the night sky. The word is from the Latin *constellatio*, meaning a set of stars. There are 88 official constellations. Many are very old. They're a link between us and our ancestors, a projection of human imagination into the cosmos: ancient people looked at the stars and thought they saw mythical beings, beasts and cultural touchstones among the stars. On the other hand, most asterisms are relatively new. Most are small patterns within a constellation, although some are large patterns made of bright stars from several constellations. There's nothing official about asterisms, but people on all parts of Earth still love them and enjoy them.

The Summer Triangle is an asterism made of three bright stars in three different constellations. These stars are Vega, Deneb and Altair.

Summer Triangle is most prominent in the northern summer season. So, on a June or July night, look eastward for this great star pattern. It's difficult to convey the huge size of the Summer Triangle. At nightfall in northern summer, look for the most brilliant star in your



eastern sky. That'll be Vega, the brightest star in the constellation Lyra the Harp.

Look to the lower left of Vega for another bright star. It's Deneb, the brightest in the constellation Cygnus the Swan and the third-brightest star in the Summer Triangle. An outstretched hand at arm's length approximates the distance from Vega to Deneb.

Look to the lower right of Vega to locate the Summer Triangle's second-brightest star. It's Altair, the brightest star in the constellation Aquila the Eagle. A ruler held at arm's length (12 inches or 30 cm) fills the gap between these two stars.

<https://earthsky.org/tonight/summer-triangle-pre-dominates-during-the-summer-season/>





# A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

## Talking about basil

I love to see different types of basil in many gardens on Bonaire. It's an annual in most zones and considered a lucky plant by those who believe in feng shui. One very popular type on Bonaire is Sweet Basil. The locals call it Yerbi Hole (holy herb) but its official name is *Ocimum Santum*. Basil is also called Kingsherb because it comes from *Basileus*, the old Greek word for king.

There are many types of basil and all are from the family *Ociminea* or *Lamiaceae*. Here is a list of the most popular ones: Tulsi, lemon basil, lime basil, lijmerigst basil, mammoth basil, new guinea basil, osminpurple basil, persian basil, red rubin bal, Thai basil, spicy globe basil and of course sweet basil.

Sweet basil is not only the most common of the basil varieties, but also one of the most significant culinary heroes in the world. Another popular one is the genova basil that is considered the best for making pasta dishes, pesto, basil oil and basil sugar and is thought to augur love. There is even a cinnamon basil and you can imagine why its called that.

**Basil is a great herb plant to add to your garden.**

The many varieties grow easily and can turn your ordinary meals into masterpieces. To get the best taste and flavor, fresh basil is a must. Basil can be grown from seeds or cuttings. During Bonaire's dry season it needs to be watered almost every day. It loves sunlight but some shade during the day is best for growing conditions. Although it pops up everywhere in my garden (even where there are a lot of stones), I've found the best soil is black dirt or a mix of Bonairean soil mix with compost and manure. Basil grows very fast and one can mix various types in their flower beds.

When the plants grow to four to six inches, pinch off the topmost branches to promote more side shoots and pinch



Thai basil in my garden

off blooms to prevent your plant from going to seed. Harvest the leaves anytime by pinching them off. Space the plants 12 to 18 inches apart when growing them in your garden. Water often, but make sure there is good drainage to prevent root rot. If planting in a container, use a large pot to keep the plants from drying out quickly in hot weather.

Sometimes basil attracts aphids and slugs, but strangely

enough, not iguanas and lizards, or at least not in my garden. When the plant stops growing due to seeds, shear off the top third of the stems, but never cut the woody part or the plant won't sprout back.

Harvest leaves by pinching them from the stems anytime after the young plants have reached a height of six to eight inches. Pinching is good because it encourages the branch to make more leaves. Keep stems pinched even if you don't use the leaves, otherwise the plant will begin to flower, make seeds and stop producing leaves.

**Cooking with basil.**

To get the fullest flavor when preparing food, add the basil during the last five or 10 minutes of cooking time. Use fresh basil in tomato dishes, soups, salads, sauces and pasta. Its flavor blends well with parsley, rosemary, oregano, thyme and sage. Basil turns black in the fridge, but freezing or adding to vinegar can preserve the herbs flavor. If used in a pesto, it should be refrigerated or frozen. Keeping cut stems in fresh water will preserve it till ready for use and adds a fresh fragrance to the air.

**Health benefits.**

Besides all this, basil is a very healthy herb. Look at the list of all the goodies:

-Combats infection, reduces inflammation and swelling, boosts mental health, supports cardiovascular health, reduces high blood sugar, protects against aging skin, and it contains a high amount of vitamin K, calcium and antioxidants.

So make use of these goodies by having your own basil in your garden. Just do it now.



**ROCARGO**  
LOGISTICS SERVICES B.V.

### COVID-19 MEASURES & TO MINIMIZE VISITS & INTERACTION:

- For any inquiries of your Cargo(arrival / invoices / payments), please call or e-mail us at 717-8922 / [info@rocargo.com](mailto:info@rocargo.com) and [frontdesk@rocargo.com](mailto:frontdesk@rocargo.com) and avoid visiting our offices unnecessarily.
- Kindly pay your invoices through online banking and please e-mail proof of remittance to [frontdesk@rocargo.com](mailto:frontdesk@rocargo.com)
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