



Karel Visser sitting in front of the new restaurant expansion.  
 Photo Julie Morgan

## Karel's Pier expansion to begin soon

Unless you have been living under a coral head for the last 13 years you are aware of the pier expansion controversy surrounding Karel's Beach Bar. As Karel Visser, director of the project announced, the construction will now take place and everything is pretty much ready to begin.

the project on Facebook with numerous signees.

### How it was resolved

Since then Visser has had three environmental studies done by Carmabi as well as a MER environmental impact assessment.

The Vissers applied for a nature permit again in Feb. 2017 and on Oct. 23, 2018 the permit was granted by the OLB and STINAPA.

Stipulations were made and Visser agreed to multiple changes. He has changed the design four times to adhere to building requirements. The structures

will be composed of steel and wood instead of the concrete in the previous designs. Concrete can be deadly to the marine environment.

The design itself will consist of a building of steel and wood built 14m from the shore wall with a steel beam type bridge connecting to the existing beach bar. The new building will have palapas, and possibly sunbeds but no bar.

Visser said, "We must keep STINAPA informed on everything we do five days in advance. First a meeting and then discuss the work plan."

The plan must conform to 23 points including: No kitchen cooking on the pier; No single use plastic; No underwater lighting and No live music. The pier structure must be maintained.

Visser said he is very much aware of the live coral in the area of the new building, including a large beautiful elk horn coral that will die along with the existing corals on the pilings unless they are moved.



A view of downtown Kralendijk in 1980. Karel's Beach Bar was later built in front of the Zeezicht, Bonaire's first restaurant (the building with arches behind the small boats).

**Karel's,**  
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### Covid-19 on Bonaire

totals as of FEBRUARY 14, 2022

147 active 6830 total	1 hospitalized 28 deceased
Over 86% have had 1st vaccination	

For up to date covid news go to the online Reporter <https://bonairereporter.com> or FB  
 Government site is <https://www.bonairecrisis.com/en/>

## Alexandra van Huffelen gets acquainted with Bonaire



The job center Plenchi di Trabou celebrated its one-year anniversary on Monday, February 14, in the presence of State Secretary Van Huffelen. Photo Skyview

Alexandra van Huffelen, the new State Secretary of Kingdom Relations (BZK), just completed the Bonaire leg of her February 10 to 24 get-acquainted visit to the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. She said the purpose of her visit was to inform herself about matters that are important to the islands, such as livelihood security, education, the economy and care for nature. She wanted to meet as many residents and entrepreneurs as possible, as well as government officials.

She arrived on Bonaire on Sunday and conferred with the acting Kingdom Representative, the Island Governor, the Executive Council and the Island Council. She also met with representatives of the Central Dialogue and visited Plenchi di Trabou and talked with the people who receive support there. On Tuesday the 15th, the State Secretary went to a number of locations around the island and met people who are working on issues such as sustainable energy, poverty and social housing.

Also on Bonaire from BZK was René Bagchus, director of Kingdom Relations/Caribbean Netherlands. He met with deputies and the management team of the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB). His agenda included the topics: waste, supervision and enforcement, social childcare, the neighborhoods, Rincon, and LVV. DMR

## BONHATA wants Airbnbs registered and taxed

BONHATA (Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association) believes people who rent out visitor accommodation online should be required to register and pay the tourist tax. BONHATA says unregulated homes, apartments, and studios that are rented out via online platforms such as Airbnb, Booking.com, and Vrbo compete unfairly with hotels and resorts that do collect and pay taxes. And the island loses tax revenues.

According to BONHATA, online rentals attract "the type of tourists who contribute relatively little to the economy of Bonaire." They also worsen the island housing shortage and cause a nuisance in neighborhoods that are not intended for tourism traffic. Vacation rentals in residences are illegal, but the law is seldom enforced and no one knows how many are in operation.

In Amsterdam only private individuals who have registered with the municipality are allowed to list their homes on online vacation rental platforms. When the regulation went into effect last October, the number of accommodations available on these sites in Amsterdam decreased by 75 percent. DMR

## OLB wants to use funds unspent in 2021

The Executive Council of Bonaire wants to spend, this year, the \$2.8 million surplus remaining in the 2021 budget. It has submitted a list of the ways it would use the money. The Financial Supervision Board (FSB) has agreed in principle. But the board pointed out that the leftover money, and its intended uses, must be included in a revised budget for 2022, and that the expenditures must be approved by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

The board also deemed that a number of the amended spending targets had not been sufficiently explained. It questioned, for example, the proposal of the deputy of tourism Thielman to allocate one million dollars for "the participation of citizens in the development and professionalization of tourism on Bonaire." DMR (*Dossier Koninkrijks Relaties*)

### Flotsam & Jetsam, continued on page 13

## Covid-19 round-up

During the first two weeks of February, Bonaire's active cases of covid-19 dropped from 388 to 147. The number of people hospitalized dropped from eight to one. An additional person died, bringing the island's total to 28.

Children aged 5 to 11 can now be vaccinated, if needed. Children aged 5 to 11 can receive the corona vaccine if they are seriously ill and are being treated by a pediatrician, or have regular contact with vulnerable elderly people with serious medical problems. The children receive the Pfizer vaccine in a quantity specially adapted for them, and their parents or guardians must give permission. An injection appointment for a child can be made by calling 0800 0900.

The Public Health department is again contacting people directly about test results. Now that the volume of infections has become more manageable, employees of the Public Health department call rather than emailing PCR results to people who have been tested. They try to contact each person within 24 hours of the test.

Some corona restrictions have been eased on Bonaire. Restaurants and cafes are allowed to stay open until midnight, although guests must have a fixed seat and they are not allowed to dance

or sing. This relaxation also applies to restaurants and cafes at hotels. Casinos and cinemas are allowed to be open until midnight; they are allowed to use 50% of their capacity. Sex establishments are allowed to open again. These establishments have rules to protect the safety of their visitors and staff. Saunas are allowed to use 50% of their capacity.

Bonaire has relaxed the travel requirements for fully vaccinated travelers from Curaçao, Aruba and St. Maarten. They no longer need to take a PCR test to come to Bonaire. Those who are not fully vaccinated or unvaccinated must have a PCR test within 48 hours before departure or an antigen test within 24 hours before departure.

Travel requirements for fully vaccinated travelers from Saba and St. Eustatius are expected to be relaxed soon. Because the BES islands are special municipalities of the Netherlands, a different procedural path must be followed than for the CAS islands. And that, OLB tells us, takes more time.

Barrio vaccination has begun. The people most vulnerable to serious covid infection include those who do not have access to transportation or are dependent on others for transportation. They can now be vaccinated in their own neighborhoods, either at the Sentro di Bario or, by appointment, in their own homes. The Banbakuna den bario is already underway. The neighborhoods to be serviced are Tera Kora, Rincon, Antriol, Plasa Chic Goeloe, Amboina, and Nort'I Salina. People can call 0800 0900 for information. DMR



# Diver's Diner



Owner and chef Louis Dorothea

If you're looking for some great home-style food and drink in a relaxed waterfront atmosphere, then Diver's Diner is the perfect spot. The restaurant / bar has a feel of the old days of diving on Bonaire when divers would gather to chat over a few drinks and a meal. Nothing pretentious about it, just a great view with great food in welcoming surroundings. And the prices are good too.

Owner and chef Louis Dorothea took over the previous restaurant Paradise Moon seven years ago and renamed it Diver's Diner.

Louis calls the food 'home style' Caribbean and American fusion not fancy. He considers himself a local style food chef. The restaurant has daily lunch and dinner

specials posted on a chalk board, just like the 'old style' diners. Diners will find seafood, steaks, burgers, local stobas, kapsalon, pork chops, pastas and salads.

Diver's Diner attracts both locals and customers from all over. Louis said, "The Americans come to eat the local type food while the Dutch come for the non-Dutch type food."

**Daily specials are:**

- Monday – 'all you can eat' paella
- Tuesday – Tex-Mex
- Thursday - Burger night
- Friday - BBQ
- Saturday -Mix and Match
- Sunday – Pizza Madness

Lunch specials are only \$14. Dinner is

\$17. Both are served with a free soft drink or juice. Happy Hour is everyday 5:30 -7:30 pm which is something of rarity nowadays, but hey, it's Diver's Diner.

And on Tuesday from 6 - 10 pm local musicians, cruisers and other island visitors bring their instruments and 'jam' and have fun. Any and everyone is invited to join the fun, spontaneous music session either to play or just listen.

Louis has worked as a cook then chef since 1998. He contributes much of his knowledge to former boss and friend Kurt Gosden once manager and chef at Lion's Den, saying, "He taught me almost everything or all he could."

Diver's Diner is leased from Karel Visser of Karel's Beach Bar. With all the new plans for the area, Diver's Diner is looking for a new location. Visser has promised

Louis a small restaurant in his new complex but that won't be finished for over a year once construction begins. Louis hopes to find something on the waterfront in the downtown area.

In the meantime, all diners and divers can enjoy the view and great food and drinks at Diver's Diner.

The restaurant is open for lunch Monday – Saturday 11am – 3 pm and dinner 5:30-10 pm. Diver's Diner is closed on Wednesday for dinner and open for lunch on the first and last Sunday of the month.

For more information about Diver's Diner visit their Facebook page, Diver's Diner Bonaire. Online readers can go to our Foodie's Guide on page 9 and just click on their ad.

Story & photos Julie Morgan



## FOR SALE Crown Ridge 29 Modern Villa with Ocean View



- Located in Sabadeco, within walking distance to dive site Andrea I
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# POLICE REPORT

## Property crime

**Feb. 3/4.** A shop at Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot was burgled in the night. Thieves smashed a side door to gain entry and took, among other things, cameras, glasses, phone cases, beach shoes, jewelry and cash.

**Feb. 3/4.** A house on Kaya Tre was burgled in the night. Thieves took, among other things, a laptop, airpods and a black backpack.

**Jan. 31.** Items were stolen from cars parked at several dive sites. Between 10 and 11 am, thieves smashed a car window at the Jeff Davis Memorial dive site and stole a Samsung phone, sunglasses and beachwear. Somewhat later, between 11:15 and 12 noon, thieves took reading glasses and clothing from a parked car at the Oil Slick Leap dive site. Around 12 noon, thieves stole several items, including an ID card, a Nokia phone, a wallet and clothing from a car parked at the dive site.

## Arrested/held in custody.

**Feb. 5.** At about 4 am on Saturday, February 5, the police station received a report of a shooting at Lagun where illegal parties were being held. Someone had fired shots during a fight but no one was injured. As the patrol was en route to the site, they saw a car speeding away. The patrol tried to stop the car, but it drove on and the police gave chase. The car was involved in a one-sided collision near Kaya Amerika, after which the driver, 26, tried to continue driving but was stopped. He was arrested because drugs were found in his car. Later police searched a tourist accommodation on Kaya L.D. Gerharts in connection with this arrest and a quantity of drugs was seized. A little later, a man, 21, was arrested for violation of the Firearms Act BES. A 17-year-old young man came to report himself to the police and was also arrested for violation of the Firearms Act BES.

**Feb. 2.** The resident of a house on Kaminda Djabou came home to see a man running away. The resident and an acquaintance ran after him. During the chase, the suspect threatened the resident. The suspect eventually got into a car and drove away although the resident tried to block him with his car. A chase ensued in Antriol, but the resident lost sight of the car. The suspect was arrested a little later on Kaya Marcela for violent theft. The suspect also took several tools with him. His car was seized for further investigation.

## Traffic accidents/violations

**Feb. 11.** At about 4:15 am the driver of a scooter slipped in a bend and came to a stop against a fence on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot. She was taken to hospital by ambulance.

**Feb. 10.** Two cars collided on Kamin-da Gurubu at about 5pm when one failed to give way. One of the cars came to a stop against a residential container, and one driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

**Feb. 8.** Two cars collided on Bulevar

Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot when a car skidded, collided with another car and then crashed into a lamppost. The driver of the skidding car was taken to hospital by ambulance.

**Feb. 8.** On Kaya Nikiboko Noord a pickup truck failed to give way to a car and they collided. The driver of the car was taken to hospital by ambulance.

**Feb. 6.** Two cars collided in Kaya Grandi. The driver of the car that was hit and her 13-year-old son were taken to hospital.

## Traffic control

Over the past few days, vehicles were checked in various places. Official reports were written mainly for driving without a seat belt and without valid documents.

**Feb. 2.** The driver of a scooter was stopped on Kaya Marowijne because he was driving without lights, the scooter had an old number plate and the passenger was not wearing a helmet. The driver did not have a valid driver's license or insurance documents. He also had no ID on him. The driver received an official report for the aforementioned violations and the passenger received an official report for driving without a helmet. The scooter was seized.

## Public order

**Feb. 8.** On behalf of KPCN, a vet had three dogs put to sleep after receiving various reports of aggressive and destructive behavior by these dogs. The dog's owner had been approached earlier about the fact that his dogs could jump over the fence. Later in the day, another report came in of the same group of dogs roaming outside the yard causing damage. The dogs were put to sleep for the safety of local residents.

**Feb. 6.** Around 6 pm police checked for gatherings of "fever" motorcycles and cars that had lately caused nuisance in Center area and on Kaya Kòrsou. Several motor vehicles were checked for valid documents. Police confiscated a quad bike and a scooter, to be collected when their drivers show a valid driver's license and insurance card. A car parked on the roadside was towed away. The action was peaceful and around 10 pm all streets were reopened to traffic.

**Feb. 2.** In the early afternoon hours, a truck's oil hose broke causing a large amount of oil to spill onto the road surface of Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot near a radio transmitter. The road was closed so that sand could be thrown over it, let sit for a while and then removed. This process took a few hours and road users were asked to take this into account.

**Car unattended.** On Kaya Pauwnee in Hato, a car has been unattended for months. It is a dark blue Hyundai Elantra with registration number B-9465. Police are asking the owner to remove the car from the location. By law, it is not allowed to leave a vehicle unattended in a public place. If this request is not met, the costs for removal by Selibon will be passed on to the owner and the car will be 'crushed.'

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

## Ask Kate & Jean Bonaire real estate advice

**Can I view properties for sale or are owners not allowing showings due to Covid? I wanted to see what's available while I'm on vacation in two weeks with the intention to buy next year.**

**Rafe**

Hi Rafe,

That's a good question. Right now is high season, so many properties are rented to vacationers who don't want showings during their stay. Sometimes we can get in to see a property on the changeover day, after one renter leaves and before the new one arrives. To do this requires that you be flexible about the day and time of your showing. For Sellers and Long term tenants who live in their units, most will permit showings, some may ask that clients wear masks in their home.

The other consideration is that if you don't plan to buy this year, any properties you look at will not be available when you are ready to buy. We have many people each week flying to the island who all want to look at homes, so Sellers



L-R: Jean and Kate

prefer to have their homes shown to clients who are ready to buy.

An excellent way to get a sense of what is available is to view the 3d tours for properties online. You can virtually walkthrough the entire home on your phone or computer. You can also find photos and brochures online. While you are here, drive around to the areas that you are most interested in. You can also schedule an initial meeting with a real estate agent. We are always happy to answer your questions and give suggestions.

*Kate and Jean, your Bonaire team  
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).**

## Karel's, continued from page 1

"We will transplant as much as we can... The plan with the [nature] permit is to relocate, compensate, transplant or mitigate. I'm aware that if we destroy 10m of coastline we must redo someplace else," said Visser.

Visser plans to donate \$10,000 yearly to STINAPA for mitigation.

Three permits are needed to build on Bonaire: construction, building and nature. All three have been approved. In addition, Visser holds a fourth permit from the Netherlands ensuring the structure will stand up to a category 4 hurricane.

To date the Visser family has spent \$1.6 million on the project and the walkway building will be another \$700,000.

The pier design was a dream of Visser's grandmother, Sylvia Abraham, who was instrumental in making a name for ZeeZicht, the first restaurant on Bonaire.

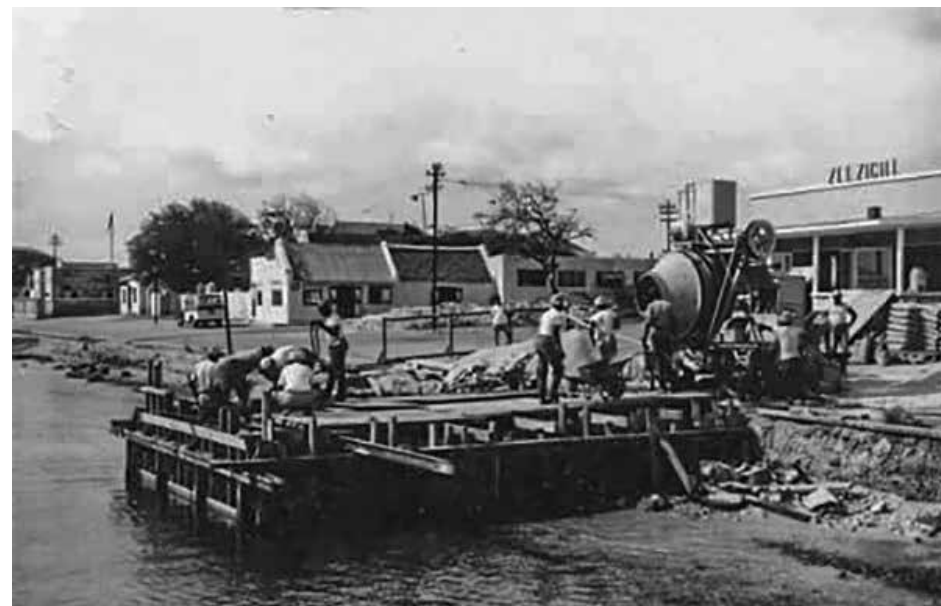
Karel's Beach Bar was built in the 80's to give customers a place to sit while waiting for a table at the restaurant.

Visser said, "I'm doing this for my grandmother, a single woman. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't be here doing this. I wish she could have seen it."

The expansion of Karel's is a small part of the Visser's plan for apartments and shops for the seaside area.

*By Julie Morgan*

*\*On Bonaire permits cannot be retracted no matter how old they are. Whereas in the Netherlands permit holders must build within six months.*



Construction of the first pier in front of Zeezicht Restaurant.



# 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 ATTACK – Due to Negligence of Owner February 1, 2022

Tonight around 20:30, February , 2022, several dogs attacked a man in Lagoen Hill, as he was walking down the public street to his house next door. That is the 2nd time a person has been attacked and mauled in Lagoen Hill, by the same dogs. Another neighbor was attacked while working in his own garden a couple of months earlier.

As a resident of Bonaire, I expect the right to be able to walk down a public street to the house next door, and I expect to be able to work in my own garden, without fear of being attacked by dogs belonging to a neighbor.

My friend could have been killed tonight.

This is a two-fold tragedy. You, as the dog’s owner, are personally responsible for badly injuring 2 human beings, and you are also responsible for the death of all the dogs that had to be put down. Don’t you DARE accuse anyone else in the death of your own dogs.

You, and you alone are the problem.

If the dogs had a responsible owner, if they had been trained and cared for properly, they would not be dead now. And no “responsible” owner has 14 dogs on his property to start with. Definitely not 14 dogs that he cannot control.

You send your children to school for 10 to 12 years to train and educate them, so they can hopefully become decent members of society. Yet you never walk your dogs, never train them, never work with them. You just “collect” them.

You are incapable of keeping dogs in a manner that is safe. You have already exhibited this fact . . . twice.

You should be banned from owning and / or keeping any dogs, so long as you live on the island of Bonaire. The people of Lagoen Hill deserve better. The dogs deserve better.

### Possible solution:

- Whatever dogs or puppies are still on your property should be taken away from you and placed somewhere safe – where they can be trained and cared for.
- If this is not possible due to the Shelters being at capacity, then at your own expense, (you can afford to feed 14 dogs, then you can afford the following):
  - You keep the puppies you have.
  - As soon as they are of the correct age, the Vet will neuter / spay all of the puppies.
  - You will bring in a licensed dog trainer to train the dogs, and teach you how to work with them to avoid anything like this happening ever again.
- You are not allowed to “collect” or own any more dogs.

Period. To the Residents of Lagoen Hill: I doubt anyone wants a repeat performance of this night. I certainly do not. Are you willing to do something to avoid another lose-lose situation like this? Because if nothing is done, there is a chance this may occur again in just a few months.

*M. DiSanza*

## Seymonson presents sculpture to Posada para Mira



While vacationing in Bonaire, Surinam artist Ruben Seymonson, found inspiration in Bonaire’s trees. Seymonson transformed discarded pieces of Wayaca and Tamarind trees into a sculpture he calls, “You and Me” (Abo y ami). On February 13 he presented the sculpture to Jovianka Bernabela owner of Posada Para Mira where it is now on display.

Seymonson, currently living in the Netherlands, has been working with wood since 2008 and had his own show in his home country of Surinam. The theme running through his work is from these words: “Together we are strong by seeing the strength and beauty of each other.” J.M.

Photo Julie Morgan,

See page 16 for more about the Artisan Market at Posada Para Mira.

## No end in sight to the squabbling

The new State Secretary for Kingdom Relations, Alexandra van Huffelen (D66), says she intends to listen carefully and try to work constructively with the islands. Nevertheless, the national autonomy vs. fiscal responsibility debate is predicted to continue. The CAS Islands (Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten) have long agreed with the Dutch on one thing: the Dutch should give the islands money. But the two parties continue to differ on whether the island politicians should be held accountable for how they spend it.

The outgoing State Secretary for Kingdom Relations, Raymond Knops, consistently denied that autonomy was even an issue. He said the island governments were always free to choose. They could continue to avoid financial oversight and pay their own way. Or they could implement financial oversight and continue to receive liquidity support from the Netherlands. He insisted the Dutch objective was to help each island achieve responsible solvency in the short term so they could successfully govern themselves autonomously in the future.

Progress toward financial reform has been achieved in fits and starts. Though the CAS politicians have always insisted their islands’ political autonomies are sacrosanct, they became more flexible each time bank accounts ran low and the payment of government salaries, including their own, is threatened. Then they find it easier to find reasons to compromise their principles.

The island prime ministers—Pisas (Curaçao), Wever-Croes (Aruba), and Jacobs (Sint Maarten)—may believe van Huffelen will be easier to work with than Knops. They will likely be disappointed. Van Huffelen has said she wants to educate herself about the islands and intends to talk with all kinds of people during her extended February visit. She is looking to form a broad understanding of the difficulties faced by the islands. That does not mean she is especially interested in listening to disgruntled politicians reiterate their complaints.

The focus of the disagreements has been the evolving Kingdom act which eventually will empower COHO (the Caribbean Agency for Reform and Development). The discussions and sub-discussions have generated frequent and lengthy announcements from all the parties involved. Not every press release is informative or newsworthy, or even trustworthy.

For instance, the island prime ministers last week jointly issued a press release announcing that a “final agreement on COHO” had been achieved. There has been no final agreement though, nor anything near it. The political motives behind the exaggerated announcement are unclear, although various conjectures have been offered.

Now and then gems of information can be dug out of the press releases and other announcements, three recent ones in particular. First, the Dutch have decided that the island governments cannot challenge in court decisions made by the Kingdom government. That was implied at least in a letter van Huffelen sent to the House of Representatives recently. Providing a means for the settling COHO political disputes will not become a function of the judiciary.

Second, both parties have agreed that the draft of the COHO law does lack a dispute mechanism, and further that it cannot be enacted until one has been negotiated. The Dutch say they are waiting to hear what the island governments propose.

Third, The Hague acknowledged It would be impossible for the island governments to balance their 2021 and 2022 budgets as required, and it agreed they would perforce have to report deficit budgets for those two years. There seems to be some uncertainty whether the Dutch will nevertheless restore fluidity support payments. *DMR*

## Bonaire and Saba delaying approval of Nature Plan

The Caribbean Netherlands is the largest nature reserve in the Netherlands. But the Nature and Environmental Policy Plan for the BES Islands cannot be finalized because Bonaire and Saba have yet to agree to the implementation agendas intended to provide enforcement mechanisms for protecting nature.

Christianne van der Wal-Zeggelink (Minister for Nature and Nitrogen) reported to the House of Representatives in The Hague. “The implementation agendas are ready in draft,” she said, “but have not yet been adopted by all Island Councils and that is a legal obligation. I will consult with the Executive Councils of Bonaire and Saba about adoption as soon as possible so that we can continue.”

D66 Member of Parliament Tjeerd de Groot pointed out that the Chogogo Resort on Bonaire and the plan for the construction of homes on the Plantage Bolivia site illustrate the importance of enforcement and supervision in fulfilling the objectives of the Nature Plan. Van der Wal-Zeggelink confirmed that Bonaire has requested and is receiving support for supervision and enforcement. *DMR (Amigoe)*



# Maniacs outplant more mangroves



Approximately 30 volunteers of all ages showed up to help Bonaire's wetlands by outplanting 350 red mangrove trees with the Mangrove Maniacs on February 13.

The event is a part of a larger project, Best 2.0+ EU project grant. The project is supported by EU International Partnerships through #BEST 2.0+.

The outplanted mangrove plants are collected as propagules (small seedlings) in the Lac Bay forest and raised in nurseries. Once they are big enough to survive on their own, volunteers move them to different locations to help boost fringing mangrove forests on Bonaire. The majority of locations are on the southwestern coast of the island.

These mangroves will play an import-

ant role in the future as the first line of coastal defense during strong storms and waves. Mangroves help break up wave energy and anchor sediments to minimize coastal erosion. They also provide increased habitat and foraging grounds for a number of bird species as well as significant carbon sequestration capabilities for the island.

To date over 1500 mangroves along the coast have been planted and the group plans to double that number this year.

More information is available on the Mangrove Maniac website. Or if you are really interested in learning more, join the Maniacs during one of their Tuesday volunteer sessions.

*Jessica Johnson Photo Julie Morgan*



# Reporter photo winner receives Digicel DL3 Plus Pro

After two long years away from Bonaire, Attila Varga returned to Bonaire to pick up his third place prize in the Bonaire Reporter's first ever photo contest. Varga's fairy basslet image earned him a Deep Blue Gear bag and a Digicel phone. This week he picked up the phone which was an upgrade from the original prize promised.

Digicel's marketing executive Candy Rasmijn handed over the new Digicel DL3 Plus Pro to Varga earlier this week. The 32GB phone has two cameras, 2 GB Ram, Quad core processor and an esti-

mated value of TTD 625.

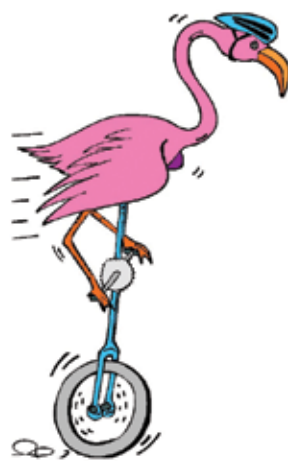
Varga and wife Christina from Calgary, Alberta Canada are back on Bonaire for a six week stay at their Sand Dollar home away from home.

The Reporter would like to thank Digicel for providing such a great gift. Also thanks to Deep Blue Gear for the gear bag prize and mailing it to Varga. Congratulations to Varga for a beautiful image and being a part of The Reporter photo contest. Welcome back to Bonaire.

*Julie Morgan story and photo*



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# A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

## Composting leaves

A lot of new gardeners, especially from abroad, are trying out gardening on Bonaire. They start with composting dry leaves from their own yard and then collect leaves from others to make it a good amount. Later in this article I will tell you an amazing story about this subject. But first some information about composting.

The best leaves for composting are those high in calcium and nitrogen but lower in lignin that makes the compost harder to break down. These leaves include ash, fruit tree leaves, small leaves from local trees like wayaca, moringa, neem, watapana, appeldam, pal'I and tamarind.

The leaves decay quickly and turn into nice rich compost. The trees are a great source of nutrients and minerals with up to 80% of these values in its leaves. Leaves are nature's nutrient recyclers. Composting leaves is the best way to get valuable nutrients and minerals back into soil. This is a free source of goodies for your garden.

Different leaves need different times to decompose. Small leaves go faster than big, hard leaves from the mango, amandel and banana trees.

### There are different ways to compost:

1-Mix dry leaves with green materials such as kitchen waste and green clippings in your compost pile. This type of composting process is called bokashi composting and there is a lot of information about this on the internet.

2-Leaf Mold is the type of composting whereby you let leaves sit and decompose over time. On Bonaire locals

go to the mondi (dry forest) and take the topsoil to use in their garden. Often this soil is mixed with free-walking animal manure (goats and donkeys).

You can do this too. Just put your dry leaves on a heap or in a large container where they can rot. It will take more time to decompose but if you add manure, ashes, charcoal and black dirt, it will become rich in nutrients and great for your plants.

### And so here is a great story about gardening on Bonaire.

One of my friends lives close to Lagun where the soil is hard, tough, scattered with a lot of cacti and thorn plants. There is also very little rain. He complains fruit trees will not grow on his land no matter what he tries. I kept on telling him what to do about it and that I don't believe nothing can grow there. But, he's also been plagued with iguanas eating all the young plants and a lot of white flies in the dry season. He gave up hope for good gardening results on his land and was very disappointed.

One day he asked if he could get the dry leaves in my yard because there were some young people from abroad who wanted to try planting on his land. He passed by with the people, gathered dry leaves, old banana trunks and went through my neighborhood to gather even more. They built a large greenhouse and turned the hard topsoil upside down to make beds and mixed it with loads of leaves. They even used big leaves from the coco and palm trees chopped into small parts. Rainwater was collected in large containers beside the cistern full with water. When all was ready they started to plant in the greenhouse as well as in the prepared beds.

Now months later, the project is a great success with vegetables, fruit trees and herbs growing in good condition. When I saw pictures, I couldn't believe my eyes. It is like a miracle happened there.

And my friend, he is the happiest one on Bonaire.

So you see, if well prepared, even in difficult circum-



My friend's miracle garden

stances gardening can be done with good results, effort and care. Don't give up just go ahead and just do it.

*Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, and trained as a teacher; then in Alternative Healing. She has traveled the world - north to Russia and Alaska, south to Tierra del Fuego and Africa and all points in between. Returning to the Caribbean with her young family, she taught in St Eustatius and Bonaire. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.*

# Protecting the big trees for parrots and people

by Daria Taiakina

Last issue we reported on the results of our annual roost count for the Lora (also known as the Yellow Shouldered Amazon parrot). In today's update, we'd like to tell you about the roosts that were missing during our count. A roost site is where the parrots settle for the night to sleep. Sometimes, groups of parrots will move from their typical roosting location to a new one, abandoning the old roosting site for various potential reasons. One of the biggest reasons for Loras to abandon a roosting site is simply because the trees they used for roosting were cut down. Loras use larger older trees as roosting sites to sleep, for nesting in the tree cavities and the fruit and seeds provide food. These important older larger trees are being removed from private gardens and from land used for commercial development.

When the trees are cut down, Loras lose more of their already very diminished habitat, leaving fewer places on the island for them to thrive.

This is the primary reason that Echo devotes so much time, energy, and resources to reforestation with native trees. We host educational seminars and tree planting days with school children, visitors, and anyone else interested in contributing.

Recently we have been planting fruiting trees at Seru Largu, where we have noticed fewer parrots roosting than in



One of the many roost areas lost with the destruction of these trees.

past years. There is a lot of land degradation in the area. This also causes rainwater runoff through the reforestation area, damaging the newly planted trees.

Reforestation is challenging and costly. To protect the tree saplings from being eaten by wild donkeys, goats, and feral pigs, we must build fencing to create exclusion areas from these herbivores. The saplings need to be planted out, tagged

and monitored. We often supplement them with water during the dry season. All this is to say, it is important to protect the precious remaining old trees we have left on the island.

If you have a native tree on your property that you are considering removing, there are alternatives. Trees can be trimmed and pruned to open a view, create more space and still leave precious

habitat for the Loras. In some cases, it may even be possible to relocate a tree rather than kill it. Please consider the alternatives before removing trees from your properties, we know the Loras will be very grateful.

**Would you like to help create more habitat for the Loras?** You can plant native trees in your yard. Echo has a large plant nursery where we nurture native trees from seeds to saplings that are ready for planting in exclusion areas or private gardens. Planting a native fruiting tree in your garden will provide habitat for the beautiful parrots and fruit for you to enjoy. If you would like to get a tree for your garden or help Echo with our reforestation efforts in other ways, please contact us at [info@echobonaire.org](mailto:info@echobonaire.org).

Photo: Rayshantaly Coffie

In case you didn't receive a Valentine...

## She's My Valentine

*She's a very special lady  
And she's one of a kind  
And she's always on my mind  
And she's in my heart and  
She's in my soul  
And she's truly one of a kind  
And I'm sending her this  
Beautiful love poem  
Because I just wanted to say  
I'm thinking of you sweetheart  
On Valentine's Day.*

David P Carroll





# BON DOET

brings social organizations  
and volunteers of Bonaire  
in one big event together!

Every year for two days, social organizations offer projects that are to be completed by the organization's own volunteers in teamwork with new volunteers. During **BON DOET** these new volunteers get a view and taste of what the organization stands for and what they strive to accomplish within the community of Bonaire.



By joining forces, a lot of projects get done in little time and the synergy that is created between organizations and volunteers is of great value for the island.

Oranje Fonds is the fund that makes not only **BON DOET** possible, but all the "DOET" events in the Kingdom of the Netherlands. As a social fund, they enable organizations to organize projects with a budget and finance these if they comply with the goal of the event. The promotion around these "DOET" events contribute to the awareness of the importance of volunteer work on the island.



This year, Bonaire celebrates the 12th edition of **BON DOET** and the participation is grand! Social organizations participate by registering their project, volunteers participate by choosing one of these projects to execute and businesses show corporate social responsibility by either volunteering with a group of colleagues or by sponsoring extra materials needed.



**BON DOET TEAM 2022**  
wishes Bonaire a wonderful  
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Together we make it happen.  
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# Making Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

## Adventures during rehabilitation

Last week I was cleaning out a cupboard and placing utensils at a height that I can work with since my shoulders have become a "problem-area". I found a badge that was made especially for my husband to wear if he was out alone in his wheelchair. Rehabilitation played a big part in our life those days. My husband was out longer than normal at his appointment because the speech therapist was working with him on a new kind of "speech-computer" and other interesting devices.

She made this badge stating, "I suffer from aphasia and cannot speak. I am able to understand you if you look me in the

face and speak slowly and clearly. If you ask questions I can answer Yes or No."

It was mid-November and I had to go to the hospital for a complete hip replacement. Normally you are accompanied by a family member or spouse to get you there. Since we did not have that possibility, I made another plan that would fit perfectly into his rehabilitation. When his weekend at home was over, together we got into a taxi. We would stop at the hospital and I would get out and leave him. He would then continue on his route to the rehabilitation center.

For him to be able to pay me a visit he had to wear his badge and come by taxi

all the way to the hospital, all by himself. The driver was informed.

Anxiously I was waiting in my hospital bed for his visit. But, he did not appear! When official visiting hours were nearing to an end I decided to get out of bed and walk to the elevator. Then my phone rang with a number I did not recognize. A female voice asked if I was the wife of Mr. A.E. When I confirmed this, she said, "I am standing in the hall with a man in a wheelchair and he has a piece of paper in his hand on which is written,"Call this number in case of an emergency".

Very relieved I told her to direct my husband to my room, but she told me she would prefer to bring him to me and so she did. I was waiting by the elevator and when he saw me he started to cry. He was so happy he had found me. The girl left us and I thanked her very much.

Visiting hours were over and the staff was very strict and our visit was brought

to an end. I decided to take him to the elevator and sit in the hall to wait for the taxi driver to come and pick him up. I did not want to be sad or angry in front of my husband because this adventure had cost him so much. I thanked him for the wonderful surprise visit and sent him on his way.

As you can imagine the speech therapist had a little more work to do. But not for long, because by mid-December we had to move to an adapted apartment and he was released from rehabilitation.

*Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she also used to work as a director at the FKPD and started Special Olympics Bonaire. She took care of her husband (R.I.P) for many years and feels that accessibility is the most important issue on our island.*



# Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

## What's new?

How many times do we find ourselves relearning concepts that our ancestors have already elaborated? We tend to forget them and reinvent them with other names, but many of them were already part of our world heritage. I refer to the teachings of the Greek philosophers, among others, Epictetus, Socrates and Plato. Many of my writings reflect a lot of what they taught.

Epictetus, Socrates and Plato maintained that the foundation of all philosophy is self-knowledge and that philosophy is a way of life and not simply a theoretical discipline. Socrates said that "The unexamined life is not worth living." This is where journaling comes in handy to help in the self-knowledge process.

cess.

Epictetus thought that external events are beyond our control. However, individuals are responsible for their own actions, which they can examine and control through self-discipline. This relates with what we know about our circle of influence and our circle of concern and this brings us to the point of our own responsibility in choosing our options. Epictetus described the distinction between those things in our power and those things not in our power. According to Epictetus our own work, our opinions, impulses, desires, and aversions are in our power, while all the rest are not. Any delusion on this point leads to the greatest errors, misfortunes, troubles and to

the slavery of the soul. Because external events are beyond our control, we should accept whatever happens calmly and dispassionately. This reminds us of the equanimity we can achieve through the practice of mindfulness.

Plato who was a disciple of Socrates stated that our greatest victory would be to conquer ourselves and not let desires and impulses rule our actions. In exerting will, volition, choice or rational analysis, people can choose how to react to events and this is a distinction from other creatures.

The Socratic method is a way of questioning our thoughts and beliefs. Through questions we are testing their rationality and logic and we also subject them to a reality test. When we properly train ourselves in this system, we manage to debunk many irrational ideas that, without proper analysis, we accept as true and let them rule our lives.

The translated version of Epictetus used the term impressions to describe

what now cognitive psychology would name interpretations of reality. The way one person makes these interpretations will determine the reaction. This quote is attributed to him, "Not things, but opinions about things, trouble men."

He advises, not to be carried away by the impression; but to allow time and respite, to find it easier to control our reactions and emotions.

So, we can see that cognitive restructuring, journaling, circle of concern and circle of influence are useful tools for wellbeing. And, although they might seem to be new concepts, they were elaborated a couple of thousand years ago.

*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.*



## Statistics Netherlands (CBS) reports

### CBS launches National Accounts Survey 2020 in Caribbean Netherlands

During the next months, Statistics Netherlands (CBS) will carry out a survey among companies in the Caribbean Netherlands: the National Accounts Survey 2020. The survey aims to show the economic development on the three islands. Companies on Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba will be approached by CBS to complete the questionnaire.

The results of the survey will be published in the last quarter of 2022.

The 2019 survey revealed that in 2019, Bonaire's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 6.3 percent in volume. The value added of the construction sector on Bonaire rose by 23.3 percent. Trade benefited from the strong growth in construction, due to higher imports of building materials by DIY stores. Other

companies in the trade sector, such as supermarkets, also fared well in 2019. The value added in this sector increased by 10.1 percent, and in the accommodation and food services increased by 11.2 percent.

If there are any questions, or if assistance is needed for completing the questionnaire companies can contact: CBS Caribbean Netherlands

Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot 67, unit 9 Kralendijk, Bonaire

Phone: +599 717 8676

Email: caribischneiderland@cbs.nl

### Bonaire's international trade deficit up in 2021

On Bonaire, the value of both imports and exports of goods increased by one fifth relative to 2020. Both Bonaire and Saba saw their trade deficits rise. St Eustatius, on the other hand, recorded a

lower trade deficit compared to 2020.

The islands of the Caribbean Netherlands have structural trade deficits: more goods are imported than exported. In general, an increase in goods trade therefore results in larger trade deficits. In the Caribbean Netherlands) most revenue comes from services (tourism in particular). However, this news release focuses on goods trade only.

There are no indications that the trade deficit on the islands is directly related to the coronavirus crisis. The 2019 survey found:

- Bonaire's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 6.3 percent in volume. The value added of the construction sector on Bonaire rose by 23.3 percent. Trade benefited from the strong growth in construction, due to higher imports of building materials by DIY stores. Other companies in the trade sector, such as supermarkets, also fared well in 2019. The value added in this sector increased by 10.1 percent, and in the accommodation and food services increased by 11.2 percent.

- The 8.6 percent contraction on St Eustatius was mainly related to a few large companies on the island. Their production is mainly export-oriented and dependent on regional developments in the oil sector.

- On Saba, education showed a decrease due to a declining number of students in 2019. The construction sector declined because a lot of work was needed in 2018 to repair the damage from hurricanes Irma and Maria.

### Rising inflation in the Caribbean Netherlands

In Q4 2021, consumer goods and services on Bonaire were 5.7 percent more expensive than one year previously. The inflation rate was still 4.3 percent in Q3. Year-on-year, the price of electricity rose by 31.1 percent and the price of water by 6.7 percent. The price of petrol was 26.6 percent up on Q4 2020. On St Eustatius, prices were up by 2.5 percent year-on-year. On Saba, the inflation rate rose from 3.2 to 3.7 percent in Q4.



# Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

## A Short History of Lionfishing on Bonaire or

### Why Divers Were Invited to Become Underwater Predators in One of the World's Best-Protected Marine Environments

Our first lionfish was reported to the Bonaire National Marine Park in October of 2009 -- and removed by Park Rangers that same day.

Why? Lionfish are voracious predators who are not native to the Caribbean, so our marine animals are easily hunted by them; areas in which invasive lionfish populations have been left alone show huge decreases in populations of other fish. In addition, lionfish have few (if any) predators here, so Bonaire's volunteer lionfishers have taken that role to keep lionfish populations down.

Since the Caribbean lionfish invasion had been expanding south for years, the BNMP was prepared with the latest recommended (by REEF) lionfishing gear: nets that were 14" (34 cm) deep with a frame measuring 11" (28 cm) square (a real joy to carry around on a dive...), and thick, spine-resistant gloves. Volunteers were provided with laminated "Lionfish Removal Team" cards: the BNMP's protection of our underwater world was well-known, but lionfishers were new at the time, so occasionally visiting divers would challenge lionfishers about their nets and gloves. Having visitors ready to protect the reefs was pretty special, and an explanation of the lionfish invasion was usually well-received, but the ID cards were necessary once in a while.

For a few months, the nets worked fairly well, especially after volunteers discovered an extremely helpful tool: the flyswatter! We could carefully place the net so it didn't touch the coral and was below the lionfish, then use the flyswatter to tickle the lionfish away from the reef. When the lionfish descended, it would find itself in the net.

Around four months later, when our lionfish grew to 4" or 5" (10-13 cm), they became nearly impossible to net: the lionfish would not come out of their coral formations, and the nets wouldn't fit where the lionfish were. Even worse, with every failed netting, that lionfish would become tougher to trap.

Meanwhile, the frustrations of trying to get lionfish out of holes in the coral, and tires, and bunches of other places inaccessible to nets, was mounting. Although the nets worked in areas with flat profiles, Bonaire's

high-profile reef system required something more efficient. A little more than a year after the first lionfish was found here, the BNMP approved a speargun-like device called the ELF (acronym for Eliminate LionFish) for lionfishing. The ELF's spear only moves forward as far as the operator can stretch the spring; this captive-spear design is safer for the coral (and for other divers). Then, once Bonaire's Bas Tol designed and created a trigger for our ELFs, the balance between lionfish and lionfishers became more even.

On one of the most bizarre days of my life -- after pledging and signing proper use, etc. -- I was given possession of a speargun-like device BY the BNMP. Yikes.

Naturally, we all worried that unscrupulous people would begin spearing fish other than lionfish. In my early diving, off Florida, it was obvious that fish in protected areas accepted divers as part of the environment. In areas where spearfishing was allowed, just as you'd expect, the fish were spooked by divers.

I am delighted to report that in more than forty years of diving around Bonaire, I have never seen a native fish express unnatural fear of divers. On a couple of occasions, I've even had to shift my ELF to avoid an angelfish or snapper, because our fish are so gloriously unaffected by divers.

With that one exception: with ELF's as well as nets, once a lionfish has been targeted, it becomes wary around people. On the other hand, if it hasn't been targeted, such as when a few lionfish hang around in the same area, the others watch calmly as their fellows are removed!

A few lionfish understand our ELF's perfectly, too: they deliberately hang out just barely too far away from where we can reach them, and once in a while -- I swear -- I can hear them laughing.

(Note: for space reasons, this history omitted some events, including marking lionfish locations with wine bottle cork floats, an enjoyable way for even non-divers to help.)



Jay Silverstein

Jay Silverstein, who was one of Bonaire's most dedicated lionfishers, speared and photographed this individual.



Although Joi looks the same size, this lionfish looks much smaller out of the water. Photo 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).

## Markus Taurer exhibits at Terramar



Markus Taurer's work explodes with the color of our underwater world.

Terramar Museum is exhibiting the most current work of painter Markus Taurer from February 1 -- 28. His work in oil was a year long journey resulting in 32 paintings based on photographs taken of underwater creatures. Although not totally photo realistic, the brightly colored animals are full of texture true to the subject and gives the viewer an almost velvety feel from Taurer's brushwork. The paintings are for the most part 24 x 30 inches.

Taurer, a practicing physician, took a break and made his first trip to Bonaire in 1992 during a sailboat tour from Europe through the Lesser Antilles. With his Nikonos camera, he captured his first images from Bonaire and on return to Austria transferred those images to oil on canvas.

Taurer writes that he was inspired by what he saw in the crystal, clear waters of the Caribbean and returned to the university for a second degree to study biology. He special-

ized in freshwater and marine biology receiving a doctoral degree for research on distribution and ecology of freshwater mussels in Austria.

"I love colors and try to combine them in ways that allow them to play off and enhance one another. That's just what the Impressionists did, but my style is different from theirs," said Taurer.

Since retiring from medicine in 2020 he and wife Heidi have spent more and more time on Bonaire enjoying the island, diving and capturing images.

This is the second exhibition Taurer has had of his paintings in Bonaire. The show is a must visit for anyone who loves art and Bonaire's underwater and land critters. Taurer's work is available for purchase.

Terramar is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 am to 1 pm. There is a small admission fee. *Story and photo Julie Morgan*



# Activities, Events & Meetings

**12 steps meeting:** Every Wednesday evening 7:15 pm to 8:30 pm  
Address: Bonaire Basics, Kaya Korona 47 (in the yellow building)

**Alcoholics Anonymous open meeting** 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.

**Beach Tennis Bonaire** can now be found at its new location, the Kaminda Djabou (direct left from Kaya Neerlandia --behind Budget Marine). It is open daily until 10 pm. People can play for free or register for training and tournaments for a fee.

**Bridgeclub Bonaire** organizes a bridge evening Wednesdays from 7:15 pm. You are welcome, whatever level you play. Contact us via phone 796 2819 or email [peejeesee@gmail.com](mailto:peejeesee@gmail.com). See <https://www.facebook.com/BridgeclubBonaire>.

**Rincon Artisan Market** is held every Saturday and Sunday (Currently 12 - 3 pm) in Rincon at Posada Para Mira.

## BEE CARIBE – ISLAND ESCAPE GAMES



Bee Caribe has designed a new app for your phone that gets you off the sofa and out and about in Bonaire in search of interesting destinations on the island. The app is educational and the questions are challenging in four different themed “Escape Games”.

The games are: Diver’s Paradise - 2.5 hrs, Bonaire in times of Cholera – 2.5; Expedition Bonaire 1642 – 3 hrs and The Secret of Calypso – 1.5 hrs.

For more information visit: [www.beecaribe.com](http://www.beecaribe.com) or email, [beecaribebonaire@gmail.com](mailto:beecaribebonaire@gmail.com) or WhatsApp: +599-785-1006.

## VACATION ART SCHOOL

For the second consecutive year, ACE Foundation will present ACE Kids Club “Vacation Art School” during the Karnaval school vacation, February 28-March 4, for children 6 to 11 years old. Activities will take place each day from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$60.00 per child.

During the week students will create a theatrical work with music, dance and acting. Special guest coaches are Richailine Elisa, an actress and teacher with over 10 years experience in the theatre world, dancer Zoe Bernardina together with Lilimar Valencai and Segni Bernardina. The final project will be presented at the end of the week. Space is limited so register early to be part of this great week. For more information contact Lilimar Valencia at +5999 6658177 or email [acesbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:acesbonaire@gmail.com)

## BONAIRE SKY PARK February’s starry menagerie

Howdy starfriends; Trace Dominguez of [stargazersonline](http://stargazersonline.com) here!

**Two dogs and two bears**

Every winter you can find two bears and two dogs in the evening stars!

Hit the skies at 9:30 pm and face north to find the Big Dipper asterism standing on its handle. These stars mark the rear end and tail of the larger constellation called Ursa Major, or the Big Bear.

Now let the two stars on the end of the Big Dipper’s spoon point you to Polaris, a.k.a. the North Star. This marks the end of the Little Dipper and the tail for the constellation Ursa Minor, the Little Bear.

Now flip around.

Looking south you should see Sirius the Dog Star – the nose of the Big Dog, Canis Major. Up and to the left of Sirius you’ll find another bright star called Procyon. Procyon is part of the Little Dog constellation Canis Minor.

There you have it! Two dogs and two bears.

**The big cat in the sky**

There are so many constellations above us. The best way to find a new constellation is to star hop from one we know to what we’re learning – today, let’s find Leo the Lion.

Hit the skies around 8:30 pm and find the Big Dipper asterism in the northeast. This is part of Ursa Major, the Great Bear. If you were to use the stars of the bowl of the Dipper and draw a line to your right, you would find the bright star, Regulus, at the bottom of what looks like a backward question mark.

That’s the friendly feline face of Leo the Lion! The top of the question mark, called the sickle, is Leo’s head, and the bottom of the question mark is a star triangle marking Leo’s rump.

Leo has been thought of as a lion in the west since antiquity; astronomers in China used the sickle as part of Xuanyuan the Yellow Dragon.

A powerful constellation no matter where you stand. Enjoy, and keep looking up.

Watch Trace locate these constellations: <https://www.stargazersonline.org>

# What’s Happening

**Bonaire Library:** Mon. 12-5; Tues. to Thurs. 8-5; Fri. 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12. With a subscription from the library, members can also find books online outside opening hours and request information. More than 20,000 Dutch and English novels and informative books can be found on [www.onlinebibliotheek.nl](http://www.onlinebibliotheek.nl)

**Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei in Rincon:** Tuesday - Friday 9-4

**Washington Slagbaai:** Open every day. 8-5 (entry up to 1 pm)

**STINAPA headquarters:** Mon-Fri 8-4. +599 717 8444. +599 777 8444.

**Animal Shelter:** Open fully. Mon-Fri 10 am-12:30 pm; 2-3:30 pm. Sat. 10 am-2:30 pm phone/whatsapp: 7014989 or 7174989. Email: [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)

**Pakus di Pruga (Shelter flea market. Central Kralendijk):** Market closed due to covid regulations. Donations can be dropped off Saturdays from 8 - 4. Masks required.

February <b>1 -28</b>	<b>Terramar Museum</b> is exhibiting the work of painter Markus Taurer. Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 am to 1 pm. There is a small admission fee. (See page 11)
Saturday February <b>19</b>	<b>Virtual Karneval:</b> Watch on social media a dress up contest
Saturday February <b>26</b>	<b>Virtual Karneval:</b> Watch on social media a combined Bonairean Tumba and Roadfire show
Friday March <b>11</b> Saturday March <b>12</b>	<b>BON DOET: Bonaire’s national volunteer event.</b> The largest volunteer event on Bonaire. Register a job for your non profit organization...or participate as a volunteer <a href="https://www.bondoet.com/en/">https://www.bondoet.com/en/</a>
Sunday March <b>13</b>	<b>Clean Coast Bonaire.</b> 8-10am Te Amo. Collect marine litter & data by donating your time working as a citizen scientist. . <a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire">https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire</a>
Wenesday March <b>16</b>	<b>Open Bonairean Championship Bridge.</b> At Hillside in Antriol. Participants can register via the email button on the facebook page <a href="https://www.facebook.com/BridgeclubBonaire">https://www.facebook.com/BridgeclubBonaire</a> . The winning pair can call themselves Bonairean Bridge champions for a year.

## Tentative cruise ship schedule end-February 2022

DAY & DATE:	MM/DD	CRUISESHIP	TIME	CAPACITY	LINE
Wednesday	02-16	<i>Nieuw Statendam</i>	0800-1700	2650	HAL
Wednesday	02-16	<i>Riviera</i>	0700-1300	1250	O.REGENT
Thursday	02-17	<i>Freedom</i>	0900-1700	2980	Carnival USA
Friday	02-18	<i>Silhouette</i>	1400-2100	2858	RCCL/CEL
Saturday	02-19	<i>Pride</i>	0900-2200	2680	Carnival USA
Saturday	02-19	<i>CEL Constellation</i>	1100-2100	2034	RCCL/CEL
Sunday	02-20	<i>Mein Schiff 2</i>	0730-1900	2894	TUI Germany
Monday	02-21	<i>AIDA PERLA</i>	0800-1800	3300	IAIDA
Wednesday	02-23	<i>Horizon</i>	0800-1600	3954	Carnival USA
Thursday	02-24	<i>Enchanted Princess</i>	1200-2000	3660	Princess
Thursday	02-24	<i>Grandeur OTS</i>	0800-2100	1992	RCCL/CEL
Friday	02-25	<i>Explorer OTS</i>	0700-1600	3114	RCCL/CEL
Friday	02-25	<i>Silver MOON</i>	0800-2300	609	Silver Seas
Monday	02-28	<i>Brittania</i>	0700-1800	3647	P&O

## International Flights to Bonaire

<b>Amsterdam (AMS)</b>	<b>KLM</b> direct flights to Bonaire ended January 2022. KLM connects daily through Aruba arriving Bonaire 20:50 <b>TUI Fly</b> direct flights will start in March 2022, flying W. Th. F. Sat. TUI now connects through Curaçao.
<b>Atlanta (ATL)</b>	<b>Delta</b> Jan. 4 to April 9, 2022: four weekly flights: M. W. F. Sat..
<b>Miami (MIA)</b>	<b>American</b> From Jan 3, 2022: Weekly flights M. W. Sat.
<b>Houston (IAH) &amp; New York (EWR)</b>	<b>United</b> Saturday flights from both Houston and New York Newark Liberty International. Return flight on Sunday
<b>Toronto (YYZ &amp; YTZ)</b>	<b>Pearson International (YYZ)</b> Seven routes with one connection via: Aruba; Miami; Punta Cana; Atlanta; Curaçao, New York; Huston. <b>Billy Bishop (YTZ)</b> One route with one connection via New York (EWR)



# Fundraising Request for Dental Equipment for Vet Clinic

Bondia,

As you probably know, Dr. Jan, the Vet at Nikiboko sold his clinic last year to a great group of young people who have sweated bullets and poured love and money into bringing the clinic into the 2000's.

They have gotten meds, two more veterinarians, a vet tech and an assistant to help with looking after our "kids".

They have purchased equipment like an ultrasound scanner, x-ray machine, blood testers, etc.

They have a full medicine cabinet now with all kinds of pills, injections, creams and other things to help our "kids" stay healthy.

They have a great on-line system now for setting and reminding about appointments, as well as providing us 'parents' with full reports of what was done, what meds were provided and any other information. And all of this can be accessed on our own phones with the clinic's app.

They have turned the old, little one-room veterinary clinic that was stuck in the 1980's into a great little clinic with two surgeries, a reception area/store, all cleaned and brightly painted and staffed by very helpful people.

I had to take one of our cats in the other day, and immediately I heard three words I have never heard on this island in the five years I have been using veterinarian services, "We should do a BLOOD TEST, URINE TEST and ULTRASOUND."

It was an amazing experience, even though our little girl didn't pull through. She had an embolism, which was fast and hopefully painless after the immediate injection of painkiller.

All this happened after hours and took 90 minutes without any feeling that I was wasting the doctor's time. And all this for \$120.00. They are definitely a non-profit clinic!

What I did notice during the time while waiting for the tests was a Dremel hobby drill in the surgery. I asked what it was being used for and was told it was for dental work because the clinic didn't have a proper dental drill.

At first I thought that it was a unique solution, until I spoke with the doctor and she told me that it isn't a good solution because it is slow, noisy and the drill tips are not small enough to work on pets properly and it doesn't have water or suction so it gets hot on the teeth. But in true Bonaire fashion, it was all they had to work with.



I did some research to see how prevalent dental issues are in cats and dogs, and it turns out it is quite common – just like with human children and adults. Probably more so because the pets cannot brush their teeth.

So I made it my mission now, with your assistance, to raise \$4,500 to purchase and ship in a proper dental drill system with compressor for them to use so that we can look after the teeth of our pets properly.

I have started the process with a \$500 donation.

I know that some of you may no longer have pets, I am hoping you are willing to give a donation to help those who do as a tribute to your 'kids'.

And for those of you with pets, this is definitely one of THOSE times to step up and help outfit our veterinary clinic so they can provide better care to our pets in their time of pain and suffering.

If you would like to make a cash donation, it can be dropped off at Flamingo Veterinary Clinic (Please put it in an envelope and mark it "For Dental Drill") or you can contact me for pickup. If you would like to make a bank transfer, please email me at DentalDrill@Brian-Niessen.com for bank instructions.

Thank you for your consideration. No amount is too small, and if you know of anyone else who may be able to help, please pass this email along.

*Have a good day,*

*Brian.*

*PS. Thank you to our first donors: Dabney Lassiter \$100, Deepak Daryanani \$1000, Ron Lockhart \$100, Earline Wasser \$100, Barbara Levine \$25*

## *FLOTSAM and JETSAM continued*

### Curaçao to reclaim FAA Category I status

The Curaçao Civil Aviation Authority (CCAA) plans to upgrade its capabilities in order to requalify for US Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) Category I status. Then airlines from the island will again be allowed to start routes to the United States and enter into codeshare agreements with U.S. airlines.

About ten years ago the FAA downgraded Curaçao to Category II status. Eight or nine new employees will be recruited to bring the CCAA to the required full strength. The government will increase the tax on each ticket to 4.50 guilders cover the costs the upgrade. *DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

### Ban on pork products extended

Importing meat and meat products such as sausage, chorizo and salami from the Dominican Republic and neighboring Haiti is still prohibited. The highly contagious African swine fever is still being detected in those countries. *DMR*

### Subsidies available for basic skills training

Organizations (broadly defined) can again apply this year for government subsidies for programs that combat illiteracy, low literacy, or basic deficiencies in arithmetic and digital skills.

The "Tel mee met Taal" ("Count on Skills") subsidy can be used to promote and conduct basic skills courses and lessons that are taught in Papiamentu or English. Employers, social organizations, and schools, can apply, as can such in-

stitutions as pre-school and after-school care organizations, educational care centers, providers of second-chance education, libraries, and departments of the Public Entities whose clients (for example, parents) are faced with illiteracy, low literacy or arrears in arithmetic and digital skills at a basic level. A special budget has been reserved for applications from the Caribbean Netherlands. *DMR*

### The left hand taketh, the right hand giveth back

The cabinet is considering compensating people in the Caribbean Netherlands for the significant loss of purchasing power they incurred when the subsidies on water and electricity were terminated, and because prices in general have increased. The compensation would be temporary because structural solutions to the problem will come in the future. *DMR*

### Coast Guard to become more proactive

In 2022, the Coast Guard will continue to evolve from being a reactive protector into more of a proactive enforcer. The Joint Rescue Coordination Center will be modernized. But the major goal is to strengthen 24/7 the control of the air and maritime borders. Upgraded information management and organization will enable the Coast Guard to improve its collaboration with the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, Customs Netherlands and the Landsdiensten, as well as its international cooperation with Colombia, the United States, and France. *DMR (Kingdom Relations File)*



### CRUISE SHIP RATING

Silver Spirit of Silver Sea Cruises visited Bonaire on February 9 with 360 passengers and capacity for 1019 including crew. The ship earned an overall C- on Friends of the Earth (FOE) environmental report card. The Spirit received a C for sewage, F for air pollution and an A for water compliance. None of the line's 11 ships have installed scrubbers but seven have installed advanced sewage treatment systems. The cruise line received an A for transparency for responding to all inquiries from FOE.

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# Algae project looking for next phase funding

The Wageningen University project research project on Bonaire, headed by Professor in Bioprocess Engineering René Wijffels, has completed its planned early phase and is now searching for funding to proceed to the next step. They have achieved their initial objective: to demonstrate that a microalgae that is a good source of fats and proteins can be successfully farmed in tropical conditions like Bonaire's. Now Wijffels proposes to combine their findings into a fully working demonstration model, a mini bioreactor that would convince investors – if necessary from other countries – that commercial algae production is feasible in warm climates.

They have been growing *Picochlorum* sp., a microalgae that consists of up to 50 percent nutritious fats and proteins. They describe it as “a very robust microalga with a good tolerance against high temperatures and salt concentrations, and moreover it's one of the fastest growing microalgae in the world.” *Picochlorum* sp. already exists naturally here, so there is no risk of introducing an invasive algae into Bonaire's waters.

The Wageningen project is based on

a “closed system”: an algae bioreactor that runs completely on raw materials that are available locally. According to Wijffels: “Algae are extremely suitable for this, as they primarily need seawater, CO<sub>2</sub> and sunlight. These are inexhaustible raw materials which are present in abundance on tropical islands.”

The research project on Bonaire continues to confirm scientific knowledge that has been shaping commercial applications of Artificial Biology for years. It has demonstrated that strains of algae and bacteria can be engineered and grown to produce targeted fats and proteins. For example, the major aquaculture operations around the world now depend on high protein, nutritionally supplemented, fish foods produced by microorganisms.

The Wageningen project has also confirmed that scalability is a major limiting factor. Jet fuel, for instance, can be manufactured biologically from organic matter, but not economically in the volumes that would be needed. The cosmetics industry, on the other hand, is now using engineered microorganisms to produce the specialty oils it needs. *DMR*

## Shelter News

### BACK TO FULL STAFF AND REGULAR HOURS



Top L-R: Josie Bockhorst and Rachella Lenten

Bottom L-R: Dennis Quesquen and Sophie Verheijden

Last month the Shelter had to cut back on visiting hours because we were short-staffed due to a scooter accident and unexpected absences. We are now back to full staff and normal visiting hours: Monday through Friday 10 am-12:30 pm and 2-3:30 pm, Saturday 10 am-2:30 pm nonstop. In the last few months some new faces have joined our Shelter team. Dennis Quesquen, Sophie Verheijden, Josie

Bockhorst and Rachella Lenten are hard at work taking care of the 150 animals currently residing with us. Please come by and visit all our wonderful residents, you might just find the fur-ever love of your life. While you're there, be sure to say hello and welcome to the new members of the Shelter staff.

Story: Jane Disko; Photos: Various



L-R: Jane Disko Sanne Atteveldt Monique Degenaar Yolanda van den Nieuwenhof

# Pets of the Week

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. The Shelter is open Monday through Friday 10 am-12:30 pm and 2-3:30 pm, Saturday 10 am-2:30 pm nonstop. You can also call 7014989 or 7174989 to make an appointment to see them, via whatsapp, facebook messenger and email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com



## Kimba

Our Kimba came to the Animal Shelter when he was a little boy only 8 weeks old. He came together with his brother and two sisters. The others were adopted in their first year but not Kimba, he was a shy little one and never out front when people came to look for a furry friend.

But his behavior changed. He grew from a little shy kitten into a friendly, calm and self-assured young man. If you enter our cat palace, give him three minutes and he will be sitting next to you, asking to be petted and loved.

Kimba is at the shelter for almost three years now. Don't you agree it's time for him to meet his forever family? Kimba is healthy, has all his vaccinations, is neutered and will be chipped when you come to adopt him. Please come and visit this handsome loving boy and give him the home he deserves.

Story Monique Degenaar

Photo Yolanda van den Nieuwenhof



## Batman (Bruce)

### Hello animal friends,

I would like to introduce myself as Batman, but mostly I go with the name Bruce.

I've been a shy guy since I came to the shelter, but that's just who I am. I'm around 2 years old.

If you would take the time to get to know me, I will be a very nice companion.

I do like other dogs, especially the girls.

With children I will be good, but I'm more comfortable if they are a little older, around 8 years.

If you think that I will fit into your family then come and meet me at Animal Shelter Bonaire. See you soon !!

Story and photo: Sanne Atteveldt

## Nature magazine for kids launched

The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) released the first edition of Bionews Kids. Bionews Kids is a free printed and online nature magazine for children of ages 9-11 who live on the six Dutch Caribbean islands. It was designed to educate kids about the extraordinary nature in their own backyards while sparking their curiosity and motivating them to read more.

The theme of first issue of Bionews Kids is the marine environment. Kids can read about coral reefs, tidepools, mangroves, and the many creatures that live there. The magazine also includes activities such as coloring pages, a beach journal, puzzles, photo ID of sea ani-

mals, and exposure to environmental terminology.

Each issue includes a drawing competition. Children can submit their drawing on the theme “Why I love the ocean and why I want to protect it.” The chosen drawing will be featured in the following Bionews Kids magazine.

Bionews Kids is freely available to youth between 9 and 11 years old on the islands of Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius, and St. Maarten in the languages of English, Dutch, and Papiamentu. It is distributed through the nature education programs of the Protected Area Management Organizations. *DMR*



# New Rincon Artisan Market announced

A new arts and craft market is taking shape in Rincon at Posada Para Mira. The market has been open for the last three weekends, with positive results for the three pilot participants.

The idea is to promote a market that combines sustainable efforts and talented local craftspeople.

Providing her restaurant as the site of the Artisan Market is "Posada" owner Jovianka Bernabela. She hopes the market will help develop and promote Rincon. Bernabela who is an artisan in her own right, especially in the kitchen, hopes to attract local Rincon arts and crafts people. She will be the only food artisan selling local baked goods and chutneys.

Anyone who has visited Mangazina di Rei's Nos Zjilea event has seen the wealth of talented Rincon craftspeople selling there. Many are carrying on the tradition of crafts practiced in the early days of Bonaire and the market hopes to attract this type of local sustainable artistry.

Owner Sharon Bol of **Mèh Bonaire Goat Ware** said, "It's important to have products that are truly locally made on Bonaire by talented people. We are in the starting phase and the idea is to get more people involved."

Sharon is one of the three pilot Artisan Market vendors with her company Mèh. Sharon sells a variety of items made of goat skin with the hair intact. There are goat skin bags made with felt and canvas, glasses cases, phone cases, key chains and bag hangers. Prices range from \$15 - \$75 depending on the amount of goat leather used. Sharon got the idea after taking a class to

tan her own leather with Thelma De Palm. To ensure the craft is not lost and perhaps revive it, Thelma and her son Wolter teach workshops about goats and goat leather tanning that is completely chemical free.

**NOBO**, the Bonaire company that turns plastic trash into products is the second pilot vendor at the Artisan Market. The company was developed with the support of WWF-NL following a completed project at Selibon. The equipment used was gathering dust and NOBO was born.

Recycled #2 plastic, (detergent, shampoo, cleaners, etc. bottles) is cleaned, melted down and turned into useable items to give the trash a new life. The items produced are things we use everyday: coasters, phone holders, key rings and even flower pots. NOBO is now collaborating with Limpi of Curaçao to extend their possibilities for making even more and larger products from recycled material.

**ECHO Bonaire**, the island organization that is the primary caretaker of the Lora, the Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrot is the third vendor. ECHO's restoration efforts of Bonaire's dry forest helps provide food and habitat for the parrots. Their reforestation work also decreases the chance of land erosion. ECHO T-shirts are sold to support the organization.

According to Sharon, the artisan market is not just a market but a community. It's not just selling but a way for people to share their work, exchange ideas and support each other.

*The Rincon Artisan Market will be held every Saturday and Sunday. If you are interested in being a part of*



(L-R) Julianka Clarendia of ECHO and Sharon Bol of Mèh

*the market, please contact Sharon Bol at 700-9374. The Artisan market is for handcrafted products from Rincon, not for imported items or food products.*

*Julie Morgan story and photo*



## 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)
- Pickup & Deliveries are on appointment, for arrangements please call or e-mail us at [warehouse@rocargo.com](mailto:warehouse@rocargo.com) and [frontdesk@rocargo.com](mailto:frontdesk@rocargo.com) (use both e-mails)

