

**FREE**

# BONAIRE The REPORTER

June 21 - July 5, 2023 Year 30, Issue 13



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Channing Griggs of Papa's Pilar finds rum  
Photo Julie Morgan

## For the love of rum, food and fun

Rum lovers were smiling inside and out at the Caribbean Journal's second Bonaire Rum Week June 12-17 hosted by Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB).

The rum flowed freely as Bonaire's top restaurants and resorts were challenged to create the best celebration of rum and cuisine.

Day one of Rum Week was only for VIP's at Bamboo Bonaire and Chef's. But the real grand opening was at Captain Don's Habitat Rum Runners bar and restaurant. The rum tastings were perfectly staged at the ocean-front patio bar with music by the jazz and blues band JEMEBZ. Tastings were available from Bottles and the Key West rum distillery, Papa's Pilar, named for Ernest Hemingway. Guests were served four flagship rums by Pilar's Shawn Martin who is with the environmental Surfrider Foundation and coral reef conservation organization I Care that Papa's Pilar supports.

Rum Runners restaurant was sold out for their five-course dinner with six different rum pairings created by Rum Runner chef/owner Floris van Loo. Guests enjoyed a roasted spice crusted wahoo tataki; maple leaf farm chicken with chorizo, risotto and asparagus; a jerk seasoned Picanha with chocolate and nutmeg; Taleggio cheese and a dessert of caramel, coconut roasted nut praline with merengue and pineapple.

Wednesday began with a fun beach party at Plaza Beach and Dive Resort. Guests tasted several of the week's featured rums while they enjoyed music on the beach.

In the evening, rum drinkers gathered at the luxurious cigar bar Casa di Havana where they listened to music by the acoustical duo

of Ernesto Los Campadres. Managers Eduardo Ulloa and Sandra Santan recommended the perfect cigar pairings for three signature rums: 15 year Ron Naradero, 12 year Ron Caney and Ron Caney Anego Centueria.

An exquisite rum luncheon was created by Chef Rodrigo at Harbour Village's waterside La Ballandra bar and restaurant. The four courses were served with a variety of rums. The lunch included: rum cured wahoo sushi; a tostado trio of rum infused grilled octopus, barracuda ceviche and carnitas; a land and sea entrée included grilled tenderloin, tiger prawns, truffle baby potatoes, vegetables with

a rum garlic sauce and for dessert a rum infused passion fruit mousse.

Next up was the Buddy Dive rum treasure hunt with 25 divers participating to find a numbered painted rock hidden on the reef at a depth from 10 – 25 ft. Fourteen winners received a 750 ml bottle of Pilar rum, a 100 ml bottle of blonde rum, a sticker and a koozie. Danielle Klose from the United States won the grand prize worth \$600: a Papa's Pilar fishpond cooler, Tervis tumbler, cocktail making set, tokens for a VIP tour of the Pilar Key West distillery, two hats and four bottles of different signature Pilar rums.

In the evening rum lovers gathered at Divi Flamingo Resort to taste the one and only rum made on Bonaire, Cadushy Rom Rincon. Cadushy owners Eric and Jolla Gietman unveiled a 'lost barrel' of aged rum along with their other rums to serve to the guests.

Friday's schedule included a rum happy hour at Buddy Dive with music from long-time favorite musician Moogie.

The day ended with an informal 'walking around dinner' by chef Niek Bonninga at the highly acclaimed Brass Boer at Delphins Beach Resort. Guests enjoyed rum tastings with music by DJ Goos. The exclusive menu featured: bites of crispy wonton with beetroot and Bahart, tomato with basil and foam of matured cheese; local freshly caught tuna, avocado with macadamia, Vadouvan and Ponzu vinaigrette; Corvina, Jerusalem artichoke with beurre blanc and smoked bacon; veal with sauerkraut, potato and Epoisse and a finish of chocolate, mango, blue berries and sabayon of tarragon.

Taste of Bonaire on Saturday wrapped up the week with local music, crafts, local food and a final opportunity of rum tasting. (See page 10.)

Brass Boer was voted the winner of the rum cocktail contest with their cocktail, Caribbean Dream by Cashley Rosario.

Featured rum brands served throughout the week were: Ron San Pablo, Ron Diplomático, Havana Club, Ron Barcelo, Papa's Pilar, Rom Rincon, Ron Papiamento, Ron Pepon, Ronsanto, Ron Tresclavo, Don Q, Siesta Key Rum and Gosling's Rum.

Story /photos Julie Morgan



Enjoying a great cigar and a rum at Casa di Habano

# The Hague and OLB agree and disagree on management of island development

In a press release the European Netherlands has announced it is moving to take direct control of licensing, supervision and enforcement (VTH) of building, environment and nature in the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba). These Public Entities are considered too small to set up and run a robust VTH system. The “proximity” of local administration also complicates professional and independent implementation of VTH tasks.

In a responding press release, the OLB agrees that VTH control must be improved, and it agrees with the improvements the Dutch intend to institute. The OLB acknowledges that its VTH system needs more transparency, more clarity, and needs to process applications more promptly. It also points out that in recent years many new national laws and regulations have been introduced and coordinated, leading to new processes and procedures. The number of applications for a permit has also increased enormously.

On the other hand, the OLB declares, the problems should be solved on Bonaire, not in Europe. “It is up to BC, management and employees to take joint and united action,” the OLB says. “The BC will request the State Secretary of Infrastructure and Water Management to give the OLB the necessary time for this. The BC will periodically inform the Island Council about the progress.”

## Island Council visits Åland, a separate Finish municipality

A delegation from the Island Council recently returned from a two week working visit to Europe. Their first stop was the autonomous archipelago of Åland. Every year delegations from various countries visit Åland to familiarize themselves with the constitutional status of the region, which enjoys a relatively high degree of autonomy within Finland. Those delegations come to learn more about Åland’s separate constitutional position and political structure within the Finnish polity. The Bonaire delegation gained a comprehensive understanding of how Åland protects, presents and promotes its culture and cultural heritage. In addition, the Island Council learned about the special agreements between Åland and the European Union.

The Island Council delegation then attended the annual conference of the Association of Dutch Municipalities (VNG) in Groningen. A group from the Island Council visited a modern and innovative waste processing plant in Breda to get ideas for improving waste collection and processing on Bonaire. In The Hague, the Council met with various ministries, the Council of State and the Permanent Committee for Kingdom Relations of the House of Representatives. *DMR*

## Winair to resume service from Sint Maarten

Winair will begin twice a week service connecting Sint Maarten, Curaçao and Bonaire next month. Thursdays and Sundays a morning flight will fly from Sint Maarten to Bonaire via Curaçao. The afternoon flight will return to Sint Maarten via Curaçao. A 48 passengers ATR 42 will service the route.

*DMR (Bonaire.nu)*

## Curaçao taxes travelers \$63 for connecting flight

A newly formed group, known as Airport Tax Busters Bonaire (ATBB), aims to rectify the unchecked collection of taxes from travelers from Bonaire who use Curaçao as a primary transit hub. They’re also going after the OLB for failing to enact promised reforms to Bonaire’s Visitor Entry Tax (VET).

Bonaireans living or studying abroad still have to pay the VET to get back on the island, as do tourists returning from short visits to other islands. And everybody has to pay \$15 to get off the island. Airport taxes are often embedded in the ticket price and can account for as much as one-third of the total ticket costs the ATBB says.

Individuals including Harald Linkels, Lisandro Cicilia, and Angelo Engelhart have joined to form the ATBB.

*DMR (BESreporter)*

According to State Secretary Vivianne Heijnen, a survey revealed concerns about the functioning of the VTH system amongst Members of Parliament and in the Cabinet, and also amongst local official authorities and inhabitants of the islands. “The survey shows substantial shortcomings, at the cost of nature and the environment,” Heijnen said. “We are going to work on improvement in the time to come. I want to do this carefully and in association with the Island governments.”

## The study offered four recommendations:

1. Transfer the VTH functions of the individual BES Islands to a single environment service in the European Netherlands as soon as possible.
2. Immediately tackle the identified bottlenecks within the official organization of the Public Entities in close cooperation with the environmental service so that part of the VTH process can continue to be carried out by the Public Entity.
3. Provide for up to date and adequate laws and regulations for building, the environment and nature.
4. Strengthen the position of the Kingdom Representative so they can intervene when things go wrong with the implementation of the VTH tasks. *DMR*

## Fire at Contour Global causes power shortages

A fire on the morning of June seriously damaged the Contour Global power plant at Karpata. WEB had to resort to load shedding to assure the whole island system didn’t go down. Service was temporarily interrupted to various neighborhoods on a rotating basis. Later in the week WEB asked sports facilities to avoid night events under the lights. *DMR*

## Baggage handling at Flamingo being upgraded

A larger baggage carousel and a bigger arrivals hall are under construction at Flamingo International. Passengers will have to reclaim their luggage without a baggage carousel for three to four weeks while the new carousel is being built. Then passengers will have access to a temporary arrivals hall while the new one is under construction. *DMR*

## Mischa Prinsenbergh new head of the RCN unit SZW

Mischa Prinsenbergh starts as head of the RCN unit Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) July 1. Mischa lived and worked on Bonaire from 2017 until June 2022. She worked for the Public Entity of Bonaire (OLB) as program manager Employment Support and as project leader in the Social Domain. During this period, she helped set up Plenchi di Trabou and Sentro Akseso.

From June 2021 to June 2022, she was the interim director at Sentro Akseso, and was responsible for the day-to-day management. On July 1, 2023, she will take over the reins from Eric Brakke, who has been head of the RCN unit SZW since July 2018.



## Basic grant resumes for Caribbean students studying in the Netherlands

The Rijkdienst Caribisch Nederland has announced that Caribbean students intending to study in the Netherlands will again be eligible for the basic grant, beginning in September.

Students living independently will receive more money than those living with family, and the income limit of parents has been increased to €70,000, so more students will be eligible.

The repayment rules for student loans will be standardized for MBO, HBO, and WO students. Also, provisions have been made to gradually forgive or reimburse loan indebtedness of approximately 375,000 students who studied from 2015/16 to 2018/19. *DMR*

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### How to Find Us

Read us online:  
<https://bonairereporter.com>  
<https://www.facebook.com/TheBonaireReporter/>  
 Available in 70 locations  
 Printed every two weeks  
 Next edition: July 5, 2023  
 Contributor's Deadline: June 30, 2023  
**Stories, tips, questions, ideas & ads:**  
 Phone (+599) 796 4055  
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 Distribution: , Divi-Divi Airline, Errol Winklaar  
 Printed by: DeStad Drukkerij, Curaçao  
 Founders: George and Laura DeSalvo  
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**Spend the evening at  
 Nos Zjilea  
 See page 6**

# Calling all chefs



Club di Koki meeting at Hotel Wanapa Bonaire: L-R Jochem de Heer, Royser Villalobos, Mark Tromop, Corjan Hoogerheide, Han ten Winkel, Charles Lont, Melvin Leermakers, Egon Ekiman-Manuel, Marthieu Savelkous and Wil Heemskerk

If you are a professional chef or cook on Bonaire who is interested in what's really happening in the other hospitality industry kitchens on the island, then we have a club for you – Club di Koki di Boneiru. Every six weeks the club members meet at a different location for a fun workshop or an outing to learn from other professionals.

Corjan Hoogerheide, chef at Red Palm, said, "It's a great way to get in touch with fellow professionals, learn about local companies, talk about new ideas and to learn from one another."

So far, the Club has visited Bottles, Fresh Supplier, Daily Fresh, Aquaphonics. It has enjoyed lunch prepared by the MBO school cooking students, gone foraging at

Tera Barra, tasted goat and lamb meat from LVV and had cooking competitions.

The most recent outing was at the Boutique Hotel Wanapa. To get things started, the chefs enjoyed two different Rose wines from Alcon presented by representative Charles Lont.

Egon Manuel of Pastechi and More presented a demo workshop and tasting of the most popular snack on Bonaire - the pastechi.

Egon learned to make pastechis from his mother. When he found himself without a job last September, he decided to use that knowledge to start a pastechi food truck business. The venture succeeded thanks to the

secret recipe of the crust and the variety of pastechis. Egon's pastechis are usually fish, chicken, meat, carco imported from Honduras, as well as veggie and cheese which is the number one best seller.

In addition to the pastechis and wine, members had the opportunity to taste several varieties of Flaming Flamingo sauces produced by member Wil Heemskerk for-

**Calling all chefs, continued on page 4**



Egon Manuel of Pastechi and More

## FOR SALE! Charming Waterfront Condo Caribbean Court B217



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# 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.

## Follow the Money: ILT states The Hague must take control of supervision over construction on Bonaire.

<https://www.ftm.nl/artikelen/inspectierapport-bonaire-bevestigt-onthullingen> 14/6, 2023

Supervision over construction, environment and nature by the Bonairean government doesn't comply with legal standards. That is the conclusion drawn by the 'Inspectie Leefomgeving en Transport' (ILT, Inspectorate for Environment and Transport) in an investigation, instigated by deputy minister Vivianne Heijnen, in connection with an article by Follow the Money. The recommendation to the national government: take the process of licensing ('vergunningverlening') out of the hands of the Bonairean government.

'Construction plans are implemented without permits, and in protected areas', the ILT concludes in a research report on sustainable building on Bonaire's coastline. The interests, established to enforce legislation on building, environment and nature, are therefore insufficiently safeguarded.

The trigger for the deputy minister to order the investigation were a number of questions in the Dutch parliament about a publication by FTM, in October 2022. FTM depicted, how business owners from the Netherlands were illegally building up the coastal areas.

The real estate entrepreneur Jeroen van Straalen, for example, has built an artificial beach, a dive school and a jetty close to his luxury restaurant Ocean Oasis, without the necessary permits being granted to him. Despite the fact that the 'Commissie Natuur Bonaire' and STI-NAPA, the wildlife protection organization, regularly requested the Bonairean government to act against these practices, it didn't happen.

The ILT states that 'during the construction of a beach club and annexes, and a dive school, since 2019, a number of violations of legislation in the field of nature preservation and construction have been observed'.

### No grip

When asked, Van Straalen again denied to FTM that he violated any rules. He agrees the Bonairean government lacks the ability to control more complicated

construction projects: 'Based on the permission given by one department, I start building, then the next department starts criminal proceedings'.

Van Straalen has new plans. Next to his restaurant, he intends to build a boutique hotel. To implement the project, he hired an advisor: Masoumah Hosseini, former Lieutenant Governor Edison Reina's fiancée.

Early in 2022 Hosseini presented Van Straalen's plans to the island government – at the time presided by her boyfriend Rijna. The former L-G didn't see an impediment in his double role. 'It's only a presentation', he told FTM. 'Friends, family, acquaintances: everybody may pitch a project. The moment I feel there's a conflict of interest, I restrain from any involvement'.

A bit further North, in October 2021, Hans Schellevis deposited an illegal beach in front of his Chogogo resort, the imported sand posing a great danger to the coral along the coastline. Schellevis didn't get a permit, but research by FTM proved that he had received oral permission by Mr. Rijna, the then L-G.

The ILT concludes, there are numerous situations in which illegal projects receive an authorization afterwards. 'Under exceptional circumstances that can be acceptable, but on Bonaire, it happens regularly'.

In the case of Chogogo the local government tried to enforce by imposing fines, but then never collected them. The Inspection confirms the lack of enforcement in case of violations. 'The issuing of fines is not consistently followed up by actually collecting them. Violations are not consequently enforced'.

According to the ILT there's a lack of checks and balances in the department's dealing with spatial planning and enforcement. 'The process is characterized by a lack of the rule of law, leading to a regime of random decisions', the report states. 'The local government', so ILT, 'does not have the necessary knowledge or experience to perform tasks in the field of licensing'.

### Unsafe working conditions

FTM also described a culture of fear within the local government because of the illegal building. Various civil servants stated they were threatened, refusing to cooperate in the wishes of the lawmakers. Among their colleagues, they also can be the victim of intimidation. One of them was threatened by a colleague: 'If you really go on enforcing, you have to watch out crossing the street'.

Another former clerk told FTM he lost his job after refusing to comply to a deputy's request. 'I had to break the law in order to favor an entrepreneur. I reported the case to the island government, but they didn't react. Subsequently I was told to leave'.

The ILT report confirms, that working conditions at local government offices are unsafe. 'Employees of the OLB are being instructed to hand out permits. They are also intimidated to not start or pursue enforcing actions. During inspections, they are being intimidated by supervisors or deputies not to proceed'.

The ILT wants a Dutch environmental authority to take over tasks in the field of construction-, environmental- and nature management, but emphasizes the responsibility of the local government. Officials issuing permits and supervisors of the OLB are supposed to be closely involved in the process, under direction of the environmental authority.

Jeroen van Straalen isn't happy about the negative publicity about his resort. In an earlier stage he tried to block the FTM article from being published by starting a lawsuit, and even now he seems combative: 'You have to do what you have to do. I only can say: if this harms me in the long run, I'll claim the damage. We'll see what that's going to bring me'.

*Translation/paraphrase: Gijs Borsten*

## Calling all chefs

*continued from page 3*

merly of Wil's Restaurant. The sauces added that extra kick and were the perfect accompaniment to the pastechis. Wil makes 30 different sauces and the members tried Flaming Flamingo Banana Ketchup, Fresh Pineapple Hot Sauce, Fresh Mango Hot Sauce, Caribbean Fire Hot Sauce, Bonaire Burn Hot Sauce and Flamingo Tears Hot Sauce.

If you are wondering about the 'more' in Pastechi and More, Egon serves hot plates of chicken, beef, conch, shrimp and pork with a fresh green salad and pita bread from his green food truck at SKAL Mon – Sat 6:15 -10:30 p.m. Call +599-795-2899 for ordering or to find where the green food truck is for lunch.

Flaming Flamingo sauces are available for sale at the cruise market, Van den Tweel and Multishop.

To learn more about ALCON and their amazing selection of wines visit [info@alconbonaire.com](mailto:info@alconbonaire.com) or on Facebook. For more information about Boutique Hotel Wanapa go to [www.hotelwanapa.com](http://www.hotelwanapa.com).

The next Club di Koki di Boneiru meeting will be July 11 at 12 p.m. at Chefs with Nort van Hulsten, coffee roaster Bonachi Boneiru. Chefs Mark, Han and Jochem will present dishes from the smoker and something special to accompany the freshly roasted bean coffee.

If you would like to join the next Club di Koki of Bonaire contact Corjan before July 5 at: [koksclubbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:koksclubbonaire@gmail.com)

*Story / photos Julie Morgan*

## Ask Bob

*Bonaire real estate advice*



**What does "long lease" mean? I want to own my property, but it seems many of the house and condos I like the most are listed as long lease. Ryan**

Hi Ryan,

Long-term land lease, also referred to as long lease, is common on Bonaire, as it is on some other islands. To get the full picture, you'll want the specific details of the lease on the property you are interested in, but here are the basics.

The government of Bonaire issues long leases (generally 60 years) and unlike a normal lease, the lessee receives a proprietary right, which means the lessee is

allowed to use the real estate as if he or she was the owner. The lessee pays the annual property taxes on the property and can mortgage the property, build on it, or sell it. If the property is sold, the new owner assumes the lease terms.

The lease does not start over each time the property is sold, so you may see one home with a lease that is subject to end in 50 years, or one that ends in 20 years. At the end of the lease, the government has the option of renewing the lease or paying the lessee for the fair market value of the property, including any buildings on the land.

The fee is determined per square meter basis, and by the location of the property. The long lease cost is determined by the government, and by the terms of the lease.

My wife and I own houses on both owned land and leased land here on Bonaire, and like many owners, the only difference we notice is that we pay an annual lease fee for our leased property in addition to our property taxes.

Please email me directly if you need more information on a specific property.

*All the best, Bob*

*Bob Bartikoski, Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner  
Mobile: +599-786-7362,  
US Toll Free: +1-866-753-2666*

**If you have a real estate question or want to buy or sell property, email me at [bob@bonairehomes.com](mailto:bob@bonairehomes.com) or call or WhatsApp me at +5990786-7362**

# POLICE REPORT

## Property Crime

**June 14.** A pair of burglaries were reported at Kaya Industria. Between June 1-2 and June 7-8 there were break-ins and various tools stolen. The case is under investigation.

**June 13.** A burglary was reported in a home on Kaya Saturnus. Between 5:30 and 10:30 p.m., unknown persons broke in and took cash, among other things.

**June 12.** A scooter was stolen from a home on Kaya Hulanda. It is a black rental scooter with yellow and orange stripes and a license plate number MF-2370.

**June 5.** Recently, KPCN has received several reports about stolen scooters. As a result, patrols checked various scooters and arrested a 17-year-old driver for indication of handling and violation of the BES Identification Requirement Act. He has also been ticketed for driving without a valid driver's license and without insurance.

## Arrests

**June 14.** A man, 47, was arrested for violation of the BES Opium Act. During a routine traffic check, police smelled a marijuana-like odor, searched the car, and seized some marijuana-like herb.

**June 14.** A man, 22, was arrested at Kaminda La Union for violation of the BES Identification Act. The suspect was stopped because his scooter had no license plate. He was unable to show a valid driver's license, insurance documents or an ID. In addition, his behavior was rude and aggressive. The scooter was confiscated.

**June 11.** Around 11:15 p.m., a 33-year-old man was arrested at Kaya Neerlandia because he refused to pay his bill at a catering establishment.

**June 10.** Around 10:30 p.m., the central control room received a report of an unwanted drunk person at a house on Kaya Kamari. When police tried to remove the man from the premises, he physically attacked them. While the police were arresting the man, a second man tried to obstruct the arrest by using physical force against the officers. Both men have been arrested. The first man, 46, has been arrested for crimes against public authority, insult, assault and crimes against personal liberty. The second man, 21, has been arrested for crimes against public authority and assault.

*The Caribbean Netherlands Police Force does not tolerate any form of verbal or physical violence against agents. In addition to an arrest for crimes committed, officers have every right to press charges against suspects for any form of assault they experience whether*

*in or out of uniform. The calm cooperation of everyone during checks and when violations are found leads to a peaceful solution, which is desirable for everyone.*

**June 9.** A man, 45, was arrested for vandalism after he threw a stone through the glass window of a catering facility located on Kaya Neerlandia.

**June 8.** A man, 24, was arrested for violation of the BES Opium Act. When he was stopped because he did not have a license plate, police smelled a marijuana-like odor. During the check, some marijuana-like herbs were found and seized.

**June 8.** During a patrol, a car was spotted whose driver had a phone in his right hand and was drinking from a cup with his left hand. The optical signals (flashing beacon) were activated to stop the driver and warn of his behavior in traffic. The driver did not stop when police turned on their flashing beacon but was forced to stop because a car stopped in front of him. The 16-year-old driver was arrested for not complying with police demands, for dangerous behavior on public roads and for violating the Bonaire Road Traffic Ordinance.

## Driving under the influence

**June 10.** A police patrol stopped a vehicle on Kaya L.D. Gerharts. The driver, 44, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. At around 9:30 p.m. the central control room received a report about a driver on Kaya Thomas M. Marchena who was probably under the influence of alcohol. A few minutes later, a police patrol found the vehicle and a man, 64, was arrested for driving under the influence.

**June 4.** A man, 31, hit the fence of a house. He was arrested after a breath test for driving under the influence.

## Traffic Accidents

**June 6.** In the morning hours a hit & run took place on Bulevar E.E.G. Car 1 heading south stopped at the intersection of Bulevar E.E.G. and the Kaya Ir. R. Statius van Eps because the car in front wanted to turn left. At that moment, car 2 collided with the rear of car 1. While the driver of car 1 was calling CRS, the driver of car 2 took off. KPCN requests the driver of car 2, whose license plate number is known, to report to the police station.

**June 5.** A car and a scooter collided on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot when a car entering from a side street did not see the approaching scooter. When the scooter collided with the car the passenger fell off the scooter. The victim was treated at the scene by paramedics.

**June 4.** In the morning hours a collision took place on Kaya Korona involving four cars. Cars 1, 2 and 3

all headed towards Playa on Kaya Korona. Car 4 came from the opposite direction and headed toward Rincon. For unknown reasons, car 4 first collided with car 1, then car 2 and finally car 3. The driver of one of the cars became trapped in the car and was removed by firefighters. The drivers of car 1 and car 2 were taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. Car 4 was taken into custody for further investigation.

## Traffic Control

*Traffic checks continue regularly. In recent days, fines have been issued for driving without valid insurance documents, without a valid driver's license, for holding a phone while driving and for driving without a seat belt. Not following the rules? Then you can get a fine. The amount of a fine for the above violations varies between \$30 and \$225.*

**June 10.** During the night a driver was given two tickets: he entered where prohibited on Kaya Nikiboko South and had no insurance documents. Later on Kaya Bamba, a police patrol encountered a vehicle traveling at high speed. At first, the driver ignored the police stop sign, but came to a stop after a short chase. The driver had no driver's license or insurance documents and was ticketed for both offences. At around 11 a.m., a collision took place between two vehicles on Kaya Nikiboko North. During the check, one of the drivers was ticketed for driving without a license and without insurance.

**June 10.** Around 6 p.m., a vehicle stopped at the Kaya Apelsina for inspection. The driver was underage and was therefore driving without a driver's license or insurance. The driver was ticketed for both offenses and the driver's father was ticketed for letting a minor drive. Moments later, at around 6:30 p.m., a driver was stopped in the downtown area for using a mobile phone while driving. Around 8.30 p.m., the driver of a scooter was stopped on Kaya Andres A. Emerenciana for driving without a license plate. The driver had no driver's license or insurance documents. The scooter has been seized for further investigation.

**June 9.** Six tickets were issued for traffic violations. Two drivers had no valid insurance documents; a driver of a scooter was riding without a helmet; a driver of a car was using a mobile phone while driving; two drivers were stopped on Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar for entering where prohibited.

**June 6.** A traffic control took place on Kaya Korona. A total of 39 vehicles were stopped and checked. Nine tickets were issued for driving without a seat belt (3); insurance (4); a driver's license (2); and for letting a minor drive without a driver's license (1).

## Islanders asked for their opinions on two laws

**Residents of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba are asked to share their ideas about amendments to two laws: WolBES and FinBES**

European Netherlands and the Caribbean Netherlands and on greater local self-government.

representative, the Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba Board of Financial Supervision and the various ministries.

### The main amendments to WolBES and FinBES

A number of proposals have been made to improve administrative and financial relations. There are plans to increase the number of island council members and governing council members. This will strengthen local democracy. In addition, the position of the Government Representative is being discontinued. Some of the associated duties will be transferred to the lieutenant governor. The amendments also seek to make supervising the performance of the islands' tasks simpler and more flexible. The legislative amendments will help ensure a better functioning and more effective government and less bureaucracy, which will benefit the inhabitants of the Caribbean Netherlands.

### How the amendments have been developed

The legislative proposals have been drawn up in close consultation with the public bodies of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. Advice has also been sought from various stakeholders, including the National Office for the Caribbean Netherlands, the acting Government Rep-

### Islanders are asked to give their view

All residents of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba can say what they think about the bill in their own language. The central government is collecting suggestions on improvements to the bill from citizens, businesses and other organizations through a special website. Islanders are being actively invited through various media channels to respond to the proposed amendments to WolBES and FinBES.

**Responses can be made up to September the 30th 2023, 23:59 am European Dutch time.**

This can be done through <https://www.internetconsultatie.nl/wolbesfinbes>

**You will find more information on The Reporter's online update pages <https://bonairereporter.com>**

## Festival di Lora: A Parrot Party

by “Mel” McCombie



**Jourdi-Ann Koffie, A true parrothead**  
Photo Julie Morgan

colors their feathers were.

Children colored in the drawings, answered the questions, and the colored drawings turned into entries in the first ever Lora-focused art contest. The nine hundred drawings distributed to local schools turned into over twelve hundred, as schools photocopied them, and children begged to be included in the contest. After all, the twenty winning entries would earn the kids an Echo adventure tour on July 22nd. Everyone wanted to join!

Entries were judged by Dana and by Echo’s director, Julianka Clarenda, with two winners from each school. They looked for images representing the Loras and plants faithful to nature, as well as accurate answers to the questions. That does not mean, however, that all the entries looked like real Loras. As I looked over the hundreds of submissions, I saw wonderfully capricious and inventive colors. Some kids chose to color in their Loras in Day-Glo tones, or vivid reds and oranges. Several multi-colored pictures reminded me of the Pride celebrations on the calendar. I honored the imagination and sense of fun in the fanciful images almost as much as the accurate depictions of the winning drawings. It begat visual pleasure.

Children lined up to have their faces painted by Renata. After all, why should Loras have a monopoly on colorful adornment? And I enjoyed seeing work by local artists like Nochi, Lize van Deven and Marz as well as hand-painted ornaments and small boxes. Local jams and chutneys provided a tasty souvenir, and Méh’s hand-crafted goatskin bags and wallets turned throwaway skins into useful items.



**Echo team and interns** Photo Julie Morgan

The idea for the Festival di Lora began with Julianka Clarenda, herself a mother of four, who proposed celebrating Loras and engaging with children. With funding from Disney (who fund many worthy causes), everything at the Festival, the first of what Echo hopes will be many celebrations, could be free and open to the public. The Festival included a local plants workshop, reflecting Echo’s ongoing work to replant Bonaire with hardy endemic species, as well as offerings from local artists and craft-makers. Carrying on their commitment to our youngest conservationists, Echo is also sponsoring summer programs for kids. And beginning in September, Dana will

be in the middle schools, facilitating educational programs about our charismatic Loras.

It was a great Saturday at Jong Bonaire, celebrating Loras, enjoying local foods and art, and most importantly, recognizing the power of children to determine the future.



*Mel McCombie is a retired professor, and conservation activist, and has lived part-time in Bonaire for 30 years.*

Flamingos are emblems of Bonaire—witness our flamingo pink airport—but Loras are also part of what makes Bonaire, Bonaire. On Saturday, June 17th, Echo sponsored its first celebration of the yellow-shouldered Amazon parrot, or Lora, and its place in local culture.

Children can be powerful agents of change, as any parent can tell you. The Festival di Lora begins with Bonairean children. I spoke with Dana Bol, Echo’s outreach and education coordinator, about how they are involving local kids with Echo. Dana told me that they distributed nine hundred copies of an outline drawing by local artist Ghislaine Monte that depicted a Lora in flight against a calabash tree, and a Lora perched on a fruiting cactus. Two multiple choice questions on the side of the drawing asked what foods Loras liked, and what



### Spotlight on LOCAL ARTISTS

**Juliette Blanco**  
Bonaire Museum  
Kaya J.C. van der Ree 7  
Wednesdays.-Saturdays  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
See page 12.

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# Paulo Bertuol gives an update on lionfish



STINAPA biologist Paulo Bertuol has been fighting the lionfish invasion since he first arrived on Bonaire 11 years ago. Prior to Paulo's arrival, STINAPA had a management plan in place and held workshops for divers. This was even before the first one was spotted in Bonaire waters in October 2009.

That was 13 years and the lionfish are still here.

In a lionfish presentation on June 7, Paulo explained a bit of the history, monitoring, the results and conclusions on Bonaire's lionfish population.

Lionfish are native to the Pacific and Indian oceans and Red Sea so when first spotted in Florida in 1985, scientists knew this was going to be a problem.

Paulo explained that the invasion took several years to travel from Florida to the Caribbean.

"It was amazing how fast they spread. In 2020 an Amazonian fisherman caught one in his lobster trap and now there is a South American invasion," said Paulo.

At the end of 2009, Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP) held 40 workshops and began training volunteers in removal tech-

niques. They originally used markers to mark the location of a sighting and caught the first ones in nets.

In 2010, the fishing laws were changed in Section IV of the BNMP rules on the no spearfishing legislation. In 2011, 330 mechanical tools known as the ELF (Eradicate Lionfish Tool) were purchased by BNMP and distributed to divers after a mandatory training. Divers were contracted with STINAPA to carry the ELF. At that time lionfish hunters were still using a wetbag to store the fish. Today hunters have upgraded to a Zookeeper

containment unit. In 2012, lionfish hunter laws were established allowing both locals and tourists to take a course for lionfish hunting at certified dive centers. Tourists could only hunt with a local guide.

In 2014, one restaurant bought 967 kg (2131.9 lbs) from lionfish divers. But in 2018 the number dropped to 150 kg (330 lbs). Also in 2014 an island wide two-day lionfish derby claimed almost 1000 lionfish.

During Covid, many of the divemasters who worked for shuttered dive centers became active hunters but the number has dropped off

as the economy is moving again. And many of the regular hunters aren't as active.

STINAPA regularly monitors the dive sites and reefs for lionfish activity in transects. The density of fish is higher in the no fishing zones and in the non-recreational areas.

Paulo said, "The density didn't change much in Bonaire from 2011 – 2020 but in 2021 and 2022 apparently it has gone up."

Paulo hopes to control these populations by holding Lionfish Derbies in the reserves on a regular basis.

The lionfish are known to inhabit the deeper depths. Evidence from videos have revealed large colonies of lionfish as deep as 300 meters (984 ft).

If you are a hunter or planning to take the course: avoid feeding the lionfish to other animals; always use a Zookeeper; use a spotter diver for safety; avoid hunting when predator fish are around; do not use knives underwater to kill the lionfish and bring all the fish with you back to shore. If there is an incident report it to STINAPA.

Attempts have been made to perfect a deep-water lionfish trap, but the bycatch remains a problem. A solution is being studied.

For more information about lionfish hunting training/licensing contact STINAPA at +599-717-8444. The ELF is issued by STINAPA to certified lionfish hunters with a \$150 deposit. . . Story/Photo Julie Morgan

## Make Bonaire Accessible by Ria Evers-Dokter This sign does not exist

Recently a very special action program was started in Holland by the Stichting De Zonnebloem, "Sunflower Foundation"

Their plan is for people with disabilities to enjoy life as much as possible and feel that there is so much more possible than one might think.

Having a physical disability should never have to be a hindrance.

Everybody can mean something to somebody and there is always a fitting way for you.

When planning a trip, having physical disabilities means having no fun in advance. There are always those questions and worries... is there easy access? Is there an adapted

toilet....

The Zonnebloem finds that nobody should have to worry about all those problems. They fight for an accessible society. They test recreational locations for accessibility.

Bonaire is a fantastic location for everybody. Persons with disabilities should also be able to come and enjoy our beautiful island and the amazing waters surrounding it. For the Wounded Warriors this is no secret. For years they came to Bonaire to dive. And so can anybody else.

It would be a very good idea if TCB (Tourism Corporation Bonaire), MiVaBo and other organizations could get together and focus on accessibility taking a critical look on what is possible on Bonaire. They could have test sites with mystery guests and get to work on this special side of tourism.

Just some suggestions: invest in a few accessible tour buses, train special tour guides, train dive instructors for handicapped diving and offer special diving and snorkeling. Make beaches accessible and have beach wheel-

chairs available, make restaurants better accessible and offer possibilities for sports for persons with disabilities.

With all the money coming in for tourist taxes, this should not have to be a financial problem.

When cruise ships are in the harbor, you see a lot of their passengers driving around in those small and low scooter mobiles. For our roads and sidewalks they are not fitting. The scooter renting places should offer good sturdy scooter mobiles or bicycles with three wheels.

And the best thing ever would be decent and safe accessibility into and from the aircrafts. NO MORE hand lifting and carrying passengers up and down that high staircase.

I know that by getting together and exchanging ideas to plan this form of tourism, good ideas and plans will pop up that will be easy to execute.

Working together is the magic word. We must start thinking in possibilities. No decent entrance is a shop... nail a few planks together

er in a safe way and there you go - instant accessibility. Ask DROB to make easy and simple railings and place them at the water-side, so people can access our blue and clean waters in an instant. The museums are hard to access. Why not create a changing exposition outside and have people in wheelchairs and with walkers enjoy the art.

Maybe you have no idea now, but when push comes to shove, the ideas will flow and prove to be worthy. We can make this happen together.



Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she also used to work as a director at 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.



## DIVE #3 Nuts, Bolts and Bubbles of DCI Part 1: DCS

Decompression illness or DCI is associated with a reduction in the ambient pressure surrounding the body. DCI encompasses two disease processes, decompression sickness (DCS) and arterial gas embolism (AGE). DCS results from bubbles that form in body tissues causing pain or damage to these tissues.

Decompression illness affects scuba divers, aviators, astronauts and compressed-air workers. The primary risk factor for DCI is the reduction in ambient pressure during an

ascent from depth, other risk factors increase your risk. The known risk factors for divers are deep or long dives (inert gas supersaturation), cold water (vascular constriction), heavy exercise at depth (inert gas uptake) and rapid ascents (Boyle's Law – pressure volume relationship). Almost any dive profile can result in DCI, no matter how safe it seems. The risk factors, both known and unknown, can influence the probability of DCI in many ways.

DCS (also called the bends or caisson disease) results from inadequate decompression of inert gas supersaturation (usually Nitrogen). Underwater you are breathing higher partial pressure gases; these gases supersaturate your tissues. As you ascend in the water column, bubbles enlarge. If the bubble is small or located in the skin, joint or lymphatic system, symptoms are mild and not an immediate threat (DCS Type 1). In other cases, the bubble forms in vascular or fatty tissue (brain, spinal cord or lungs), a much more serious injury can occur (DCS Type 2).

As long as the diver remains at pressure, the gas and bubble present no problem. If the pressure is reduced too quickly by rapid ascent, more nitrogen will come out of solution,

just like opening a soda bottle. Bubbles may occur as a result of violating prescribed safe diving limits, but it can also happen when following accepted guidelines.

Bubbles forming in or near joints are the presumed cause of joint pain (the bends). With high levels of bubbles, complex reactions take place in the body. The spinal cord (bilateral symptoms) and brain (often unilateral symptoms) can be affected, causing numbness, paralysis, impaired coordination and disorders of higher cerebral function. If large numbers of bubbles enter the venous bloodstream, congestion can form in the lung and heart and shock can occur. DCS symptoms can be immediate, but often times are present and worsen within minutes to hours after reaching the surface.

The most common manifestations of DCS are joint pain and numbness and/or tingling. The next most common are muscular weakness and inability to empty a full bladder. Severe DCS is easy to identify because the signs and symptoms are apparent and require immediate medical attention. However, most DCS manifests subtly with a minor joint ache or paresthesia (an abnormal burning or tingling sensation) in an extremity or itchy rash.

### DCS Symptoms

- Unusual fatigue, • Skin itch, • Joint pain, • Dizziness or vertigo, • Ear ringing, • Numbness, tingling and/or paralysis, • Shortness of breath, • Blotchy rash, • Muscle weakness or paralysis, • Difficulty urinating, • Confusion, personality changes or bizarre behavior, • Amnesia, • Tremors, • Staggering, • Coughing bloody, frothy sputum, • Unconsciousness or collapse



Dr. George Matook first visited Bonaire in 1979, and now lives here full-time. A certified diver since 17, Dr. Matook has been a Dive Medicine Practitioner in Key Largo. He's a Board Certified

Orthopedic Surgeon who served as a medical doctor in the United States Air Force for eight years. Dr. Matook and two other Recompression Chamber qualified doctors have been hired to reactivate Bonaire's recompression chamber.

# Mariadal jumpstarts with air ambulance Bonaire's leadership in decarbonizing air travel



There is far more to the story for Bonaire than the acquisition of a single airplane. FM was already working on this project during the covid period. It brought WEB and BIA on board because electric aircraft require green power and a charging infrastructure at the airport.

The FM air ambulance project also plugs directly into funding possibilities through the Dutch kingdom action plan to support the development of electric flights between the ABC islands, and into the Dutch Growth Fund.

FM contacted ROA and the MBO technical school in advance to consult on the new education programs that will be needed. Ampaire considers AMTS, Bonaire's aviation technical school, as a key to developing the ground crews and technicians who will be needed. In 2021 AMTS, teamed with FM, won an aviation challenge of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Waterways. Ampaire sees a bright future on the island for trained local technicians and engineers.

FM has been a strong supporter of projects that turn Bonaire's Blue Destination principles into action. It has partnered with STINAPA in adopting electric vehicles for its fleet of homecare vehicles and later this year for other medical professionals. It also worked with STINAPA to set up an innovation drone project to monitor nature protection. (The project is awaiting the passage of a drone law on Bonaire.) *DMR*



Innovators who are creating a commercial role for electrically powered airplanes have been taking a special interest in developing a Caribbean market, and Bonaire has been considered a potential Caribbean leader in the industry. In the Caribbean the downsides and upsides of electrical powered and hybrid powered flight balance out. Many interisland routes are best served by planes flying shorter distances with smaller payloads, especially when they offer substantial fuel and emission savings.

Fundashon Mariadal (FM) may help Bonaire move to the top of the industry's shortlist by contracting for what might be the first hybrid electric air ambulance in the world. FM's new air ambulance would likely be a retrofitted Twin Otter, the same airframe Divi currently flies. It would have two gasoline engines and two electric engines with battery packs, be capable of flying 1,000 nautical miles with a 2,750 payload, and would meet all safety standards. It would be able to carry nine seated passengers, one patient on a stretcher, and a three-person medical crew. Ampaire would supply the aircraft (see sidebar).

## Ampaire will supply hybrid electric planes and infrastructure

This week a delegation from the Ministry of Infrastructure & Waterways and the aviation company Ampaire are visiting Bonaire to confer with many stakeholders regarding the implementation of sustainable electric aircraft on the island.

Ampaire's goal is to create a low-carbon air service infrastructure in the Dutch islands and supply the planes. It is bringing a pragmatic business model: start flying with technology that can put in the air today, on routes that already exist and from airports that can be easily adapted, then advance toward fully electric flight as the technology advances.

Ampaire is starting with existing airframes that are time tested and fully licensed, then creating hybrid aircraft by adding supplementary electric motors and some battery storage. The plane's conventional powerplant can be assisted by the electric motor to provide peak power and offset fuel use during takeoff and the climb to cruise altitude. The electric motor can operate independently of the gas engine and provide glide slope extension in case of a total gas engine failure.

While most charging will occur during ground stops, supplementary charging can be carried out in the air. Emissions and fuel burn can be reduced by 50%, even more in some configurations.

Ampaire hopes that Jetair, EZ air, Divi Divi, Winair will all be flying their hybrid planes. *DMR*



## Come in the afternoon and stay into the evening Nos Zjilea commemorates the abolishment of slavery

In the 19th Century Bonaire was a government plantation. Government slaves worked in the salt pans and would collect their provision at the storehouse, Mangazina di Rei. On July 1 we will remember that slavery was abolished on Bonaire 160 years ago.

On Saturday, June 24, Nos Zjilea will start in the afternoon and will last until the evening. For this special edition we will combine the themes of "Commemorating the abolishment of slavery" with the theme of "Local traditional celebration of the Saint John" to close off the night. Boi Antoin will give a presentation on his recently launched book about the abolishment of slavery that he authored with Cees Luckhardt.

This year the celebration of 'San Juan' falls on the same day as the cultural event of Nos Zjilea. Youngsters in the group Tal-

ento Kultur will take you back through drama and music to illustrate the origin of this celebration.

The cultural market is full of local art and local fresh products such as natural juices, herbal teas, and delicacies. The kitchen serves a wide variety of soups and local Creole dishes, including a delicious grill. All in a cozy atmosphere with live performances by the local band "Grupo Kulturando" and a guest star musician.

Experience 'Nos Zjilea', the monthly cultural event of Bonaire this Saturday, June 24 with a special night edition from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei. It doesn't get more local than this. For more information, please visit Mangazina di Rei's Facebook fan page, [www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei](http://www.facebook.com/mangazinadirei).

*Izain Mercera*

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# Piss and Vinegar

by Gijs Borsten

## Occupation rates dwindle to an alarmingly low level

On June 8, TCB reported (Bonaire.nu) a slight growth in the number of overnight tourists, compared to the last pre-Covid year 2019. 'We' grew, from 12,100, up to 12,609, a 4% increase. Hurray.

But hey: 2019 is four years ago. Why are they comparing four-year-old data to today's numbers? Why did TCB use 2019 as a reference, and left us in the dark on the 2022 data?

The reason for their swindle is pretty clear. Because the May 2023 numbers show a considerable decline compared to more recent, ratified information. Had they used the 2022 figures, we all would have noticed that the number of 'stayovers' is plummeting, into the double digits, even.

And that's not all. The occupancy rates related to the figures show an even more dramatic outcome, being, as we pointed out in a previous P&V, an immediate consequence of the incessant building spree plaguing Bonaire. Let's have a look at the data, and at the real results (TCB, CBS, Europa.eu).

In May 2019, 12,100 stayovers, according TCB, visited Bonaire, at a room availability number of 1,700, resulting in an occupancy rate of 71.2%. On the lower edge of being acceptable, but, by then, in 2019, in a still growing market.

In May 2022, the full first year after Covid, the stay-over count increased to 14,000 (CBS.nl publishes their data sets rounded), a growth of about 15.7%. In the same period however, room availability grew to about 2,500, resulting in a falling occupancy rate (I've talked about the unfolding drama before) of about 56%, about

15% down from the previous year.

And now, in May 2023, the number of visitors apparently 'grew' to a mind boggling 12,609, indeed a 4.2% growth compared to 2019 (and probably a 1267% increase compared to May 1999; to baffle your opponents, make sure you select the set of data that make your results look as impressive as possible). Compared to the 2022 data however, we're looking at a decline of 11.0%, a result about 15% lower than TCB's figures.

As a result of the dwindling numbers of stayover tourists, the occupancy rate looks even more grim. I used the 2022 numbers as a reference, assuming a slight growth in available rooms, to about 3,000 (as compared to 2,800 rooms available during the fall of 2022). In reality this number can be much higher; I don't keep track of the completion of yet another new resort.

Using TCB's and Bonhata's own data, we see the occupancy rates falling from a disappointing 56% in May 2022, to a rather disastrous 42%, way under (35%!) the 77% that is considered appropriate for a healthy turnover.

So, what is happening here? Are we looking at an insidious conspiracy, set up by TCB, by Bonhata, by the Bonaire government and all her related subsections, to make us believe Bonaire's tourism sector is really healthy? NOT emptying like a balloon? Are they trying to lure even more foreign investors into spending their money into costly projects of minor viability?

I believe it's a great accomplishment to make as much money as you can on handing out building permits, and pocketing as much foreign investment money as you can. But what happens when the system finally collapses? Do you really want Bonaire to become an island of ruins? Do you think the investors who were so happy to hand out kickbacks for supporting them in their ventures, still like you when they see their money evaporate because of the sheer absence of tourists to fill their new-built rooms?

I know the Bonairean government isn't the most transparent, the most open in the world. But to sink to a Russian level of misinforming your audience, both residents and investors, to create an alternative truth, in a desperate attempt to be taken seriously as a tourism official, should be way below anybody's standard.

Piss & Vinegar talked about the pointless building of resorts before. We also explained the Dutch market was losing its interest because Bonaire is too far away, too hot and too dead boring, especially for non-divers. As most Dutch don't come to Bonaire to dive, and the island has hardly any freely available beaches to speak of, everybody could have predicted the post-Covid world on the island wouldn't look too prosperous.

In the meantime, tourism in Southern Europe is booming, boasting double digit growth figures (Italy +70.5%, Spain +41.2%, all-time highs for Greece and Portugal). Maybe Bonaire's officials should realize that the island, after being in a unique position of being the only place where the Dutch could spend their vacation during Covid for a while, is back to normal again.

So, stop issuing pointless building permits. Build cheap houses instead. There are hundreds of residents waiting for a decent place to dwell.

And stop the building spree by foreigners for foreigners. Save the reefs. Save the dive operators having a difficult time because of SCTLD. Think of the future. Save Bonaire.

*Gijs, originally from Leiden (NL), has been living on and off on Bonaire for about twenty years. He has no clear focus, and loves to be surprised by actors in politics and administration. Originally into The Fine Arts, then a career in (forensic) accounting, then a PhD in German Philology, now operating rake & shovel at Mangasina The Storehouse.*



## Yoga, wellness week begins



Tara Naruga, co-owner of Bindu Yoga said, "A lot of people are offering wellness. We have a lot of collaborators on the website but there are many more yoga centers on Bonaire...we have 30 people offering not only yoga but workshops, meditation and even how to travel on yoga journeys."

Yoga and Wellness Week is a collaboration between Tourism Corporation Bonaire and Bindu Yoga. The schedule is packed with not only countless choices for physical yoga but classes on creating wellness and spirituality in every phase of one's life.

World renown Ashtanga yogi Laruga Glaser is a special guest to Yoga week. On June 21 the Summer Solstice and International Yoga Day will be celebrated for free at Seru Largu.

The week ends with a Yoga Festival at Te Amo Beach on June 25. A festival ticket is required to take part in the more than 30 classes, health and wellness vendors and treatment tents.

To learn more about Bonaire Yoga and Wellness Week visit TCB's [www.bonaireisland.com/yoga/](http://www.bonaireisland.com/yoga/) website or Bonaire Yoga and Wellness week on Facebook. *Story/Photo Julie Morgan*

Bonaire Yoga and Wellness Week, June 18 – 25, began with a free session of yoga-meditation attracting approximately 45 participants at Wilhelminaplein. After a brief introduction and welcome, the group was led through a series of yoga positions and meditation by yoga instructors from Bindu Yoga and Healing Center.

## Taste of Bonaire Rum Week

The third Taste of Bonaire for 2023 combined all the great elements of the 'Taste' with the closing of Bonaire Rum Week. Bonaire had one last chance to sample the featured rums of the week from local and visiting rum vendors. Wilhelmina Park was filled with Bonaire crafts and food stands that overflowed onto the seaside street. Guests stood in long lines to get a taste of their favorite dishes and drinks and shopped as they enjoyed the music of DJ MARV and FMK (Formashon Musikal Krioyo). Attired in sparkling majorette costumes, the children of Bonaire's Majorette Unity group marched in formation, twirling their batons to a drum beat.

The next Taste of Bonaire is scheduled for August 12.



Enjoying a 'taste' of rum at the Taste of Bonaire are L-R: Leanne Pinkerton, Sophie Simon, Liesbeth Emma with Pilar's Channing Griggs. Photo Julie Morgan

# The History of the House of Orange

History has to be rewritten. Until now, many generations of school children in Motherland were told that the beginnings of the house of Orange laid in the hands, or rather in a different part of his appearance, of a guy named William The Silent, aka William Of Orange (1533 – 1584). He supposedly was, so to say, the forefather of the Dutch Royal Family.

We know better now. Although we can be pretty sure about the dominant color (almost certainly Orange), the identity of the procreator has to be considered unknown. An important discovery has led to the observation that what we currently teach our kids is nothing less than radically wrong. Fake news.

Let me explain what we found out.

On April 27, King's Day, 2023, the House of Orange was discovered in someone's back yard. It consisted of a litter of six, five females and a male. They were, at the time of their discovery, about eight weeks old, obviously victims of parental negligence, in the sense of their parents being nowhere to be found.



Their names were **Beatrix, Maxima, Willem Alexander, Amalia, Laurentien, and Alexia, born on March 2.**

Their arrival at the Animal Shelter caused, not just in circles of Royalty Watchers, but all over the island, some uproar. Never before, even since the humble beginnings of the Shelter in 1993, so many Royals at once knocked at the gates, and the reception was, after some confusion, suitably festive.

During the days after their arrival, all being slightly hung over because of the partying, they were tested and got their shots, and four of them already found a new House. At this very moment (at the wonderful age of twelve weeks), only Amalia and Laurentien are still waiting for a new Royal Furrever Home.

So if you're looking for something to show off, to impress your neighbors shitless? Forget that new car. Just come over and adopt them, during Shelter opening hours!

They all will get their microchip and will be sterilized/neutered in due time, so we're looking at Motherland probably changing from Kingdom into a Republic due to a lack of future offspring. But that's an entirely different story.

*Gijs Borsten*



# STCB uses satellite trackers



During their lifetime, sea turtles swim thousands of kilometers. Adult sea turtles migrate between nesting and foraging grounds. Sea turtles that hatched on Bonaire, return as adults every two to three years to lay their own nests on Bonaire. They will do this over a period of two to four months. After laying their nests for the season, sea turtles will swim up to thousands of kilometers back to their foraging grounds. For a long time, we had no idea where these sea turtles would swim to after the nesting season. This is why STCB (Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire) started placing satellite transmitters on nesting turtles in 2003.

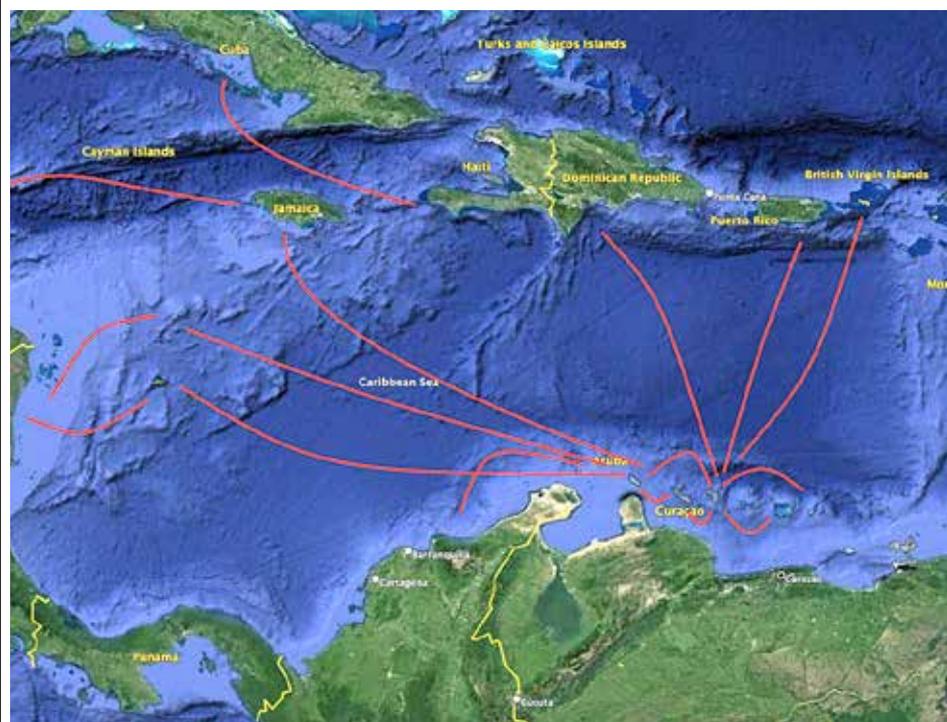
Studying the migration routes of sea turtles is done by placing a small satellite transmitter on the carapace of the sea turtle. Every year, sea turtles come to shore on Bonaire to lay their nests on the beach. They will do this during the night. This is the perfect moment for STCB to place the satellite transmitter. Using epoxy, the transmitter will be attached on the top of the carapace. When the sea turtle comes up to breathe, the satellite transmitter connects with the NOAA satellites. This way, we can follow the location of the sea turtle. There are a total of 26 turtles so far that have been followed by STCB. This year we will place two new satellite transmitters on turtles nesting on Bonaire.

One of the special transmitter stories is the story of 'Bonni'. 'Bonni' is a female green turtle who received a transmitter in September of 2018. 'Bonni' laid five successful nests on Bonaire that year. Normally, sea turtles will rest in the period between nests to save their energy. However, 'Bonni' swam up and down between Bonaire and Las Aves, a group of islands almost 75 kilometers east of Bonaire. 'Bonni' was the first turtle showing this kind of migration behavior. After 'Bonni' completed her nesting season, she swam to Los Roques, where her satellite transmitter stopped working in January of 2019.

So far, we have been able to track Bonaire's sea turtles to the Gulf of Mexico and the coastal waters of Nicaragua, Honduras, Colombia, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Virgin Islands and Venezuela. Each turtle has their own preference for their foraging grounds. This is why it is crucial to not only protect sea turtles locally, but also work together with countries around Bonaire.

Would you like to contribute to our research? You can donate on our website [www.bonaireturtles.org](http://www.bonaireturtles.org) or Adopt-A-Nest by sending an e-mail to [cepa@bonaire-turtles.org](mailto:cepa@bonaire-turtles.org).

*Kaj Schut*



# What's Happening

**Animal Shelter:** Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 2-3:30 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. phone/whatsapp: 701 4989 or 717 4989. Email: [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)

**Arts & Crafts Market in Wilhelmina Plaza.** Weekly schedule can be found at: <https://www.bonaireartsandcraftscruisemarket.com/market-schedule> or <https://www.facebook.com/BonaireArtsandCraftsCruiseMarket/>

**Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei in Rincon:** Tuesday - Friday -10 - 4

**Library:** Mon. 12-5; Tues. to Thurs. 8-5; Fri. 8-4:30; Sat. 8-12. Kaya Gramel 715 5344. Any one can become a member. Free for residents between 0 and 18 years. Adults \$6 a year. Members can borrow ebooks online. [www.onlinebibliotheek.nl](http://www.onlinebibliotheek.nl)

**Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market. Central Kralendijk):** CLOSED.

**Terramar Museum** Mon-Fri 9-2. Kaya J.N.E. Isla Riba 3. Admission \$10. Residents \$5. Tours \$20. Children under 12 free. +599 701 4700  
<https://www.facebook.com/terrarmuseumbonaire/>

**Thrift Store.** At Bonaire Museum, Kaya JC van der Ree 7. Shop & Museum open Wed - Sat. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m Drop off box in front of museum.

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

**Washington Slagbaai Park:** Closed on Mondays Apr. 3 - Nov. 27. Otherwise open daily. 8-5 (entry up to 1 p.m.)

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>From June 17</b>             | <b>Juliette Blanco Art Exhibition</b> Wed. to Sat. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bonaire Museum, Kaya JC van der Ree 7. Juliette began painting at an early age as her parents were patrons of the largest creativity center in the Netherlands. Juliette's 30 paintings express her love for plants, painting and recycling. See page 8   |
| <b>June 19 - June 25</b>        | <b>First Annual Yoga &amp; Wellness Week</b>  |
| <b>June 26 - June 30</b>        | <b>Online &amp; in-person events for 3rd annual Dutch Caribbean Research Week</b> See page 13.  |
| <b>Wednesday, June 21</b>       | <b>Free Sunset yoga on Summer Solstice</b> Seru Langu 5:30 p.m. RSVP preferred: Kelly: 599 7010110 @Fitfor Lifeathletics   Miranda: +1 425 7859808 @samudrayogaflow   |
| <b>June 22 - June 25</b>        | <b>Pride Bonaire.</b><br><b>22</b> Exposition: Nos T'ei, Bo T'ei, Sobremesa, Kas Di Arte<br><b>23</b> Pub quiz Hillside Doors Open 7:30 p.m. Start 8 p.m.<br><b>24</b> Party Happy's Food & Drinks 8 p.m.-1 a.m. \$5 cash only<br><b>25</b> Zuëmbuk Chillings, The Bonairian 2-10 p.m.<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/EQBonaire/">https://www.facebook.com/EQBonaire/</a>   |
| <b>June 22-23; 26-27; 29-30</b> | <b>Kids Free 2-day PSV Football Camps</b><br>Locations: June 22-23 at Rudy Boezem • June 26-27 at ATC • June 29-30 at Elion Flores. Times: Ages 6-10 at 2-4 p.m. Ages 11-15 at 4-6 p.m. See page 15.  |
| <b>Friday, June 23</b>          | <b>Terramar News Cafe at Eden Beach</b> Harvard DNA study on Bonaire's indigenous people. 7-9:30 p.m.<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/terrarmuseumbonaire/">https://www.facebook.com/terrarmuseumbonaire/</a>  |
| <b>Saturday, June 24</b>        | <b>Nos Zjilea Evening Event</b> 3-8 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Abolishment of slavery. St. John celebration. Music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink. See page 6.  |
| <b>Tuesday, July 2</b>          | <b>Full Moon Lagadishi Hike in the Washington Slagbaai National Park.</b> 6 p.m. \$10. Registration required +599-717-8444. Limited spots are available.  |
| <b>Tuesday, July 11</b>         | <b>Molten Glass Workshop Crafting Glass Ornaments with Josie Class limit 8 people.</b> Be guided through the entire process of creating your very own glass art - from choosing your glass, to design, to the fusing in the kiln. \$150 includes tools, materials, snacks, beverages, and your finished pieces. No experience is required. Sign up by sending an email <a href="mailto:moltenwolfglassinc@gmail.com">moltenwolfglassinc@gmail.com</a> |
| <b>Saturday, July 15</b>        | <b>Women's Dive Day</b>   |

| International Flights to Bonaire   |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Amsterdam (AMS)</b>   | KLM Daily flights connecting through Aruba<br>TUI Daily   |
| <b>Atlanta (ATL)</b>   | Delta has a weekly Sat. flight.   |
| <b>Miami (MIA)</b>   | American Airlines. Three weekly flights on Mon. Wed. and Sat.   |
| <b>New York (EWR) &amp; Houston (IAH)</b>  | United. A weekly Sat. flight from both Newark, New Jersey, and Houston, Texas. Return flight on Sunday. |
| See <i>The Reporter's</i> online update pages for TCB's chart of flights to Bonaire. |   |

# Events, Meetings, Sports

**12 steps meeting:** 12 Step Meeting, Wednesdays at Kaya Den Haag 30 in Hato. Meeting starts at 7:15 p.m till 8:30 p.m. Info: [12stepsbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:12stepsbonaire@gmail.com)

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

**Beach Tennis Bonaire** Kaminda Djabou (behind Budget Marine). Open daily until 10 p.m. People can play for free or register for training and tournaments for a fee. Wednesday evenings Apr. 19 - June 14 The Stoked Men and Women Doubles League.

**Bridgeclub Bonaire** organizes a bridge evening Wednesdays 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. All playing levels are welcome. Info: 795-0128 (only whatsapp text messages), [bridgeclubbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeclubbonaire@gmail.com). <https://www.facebook.com/bridgeclubbonaire>

**Cyclovia Kids Street Park** Wilhelminaplein 4 - 7 p.m. Free monthly event. Children of all ages can bike, scooter, skate or skateboard. Expect a bouncy castle, music and a hot dog cart. First Sunday of the month: June 4, July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5

**Pickleball.** Wednesdays & Fridays 6 – 8 p.m. at Jong Bonaire. Come join the fun and see what it is all about. A sport for all ages.



**Echo Conservation Tours** - Weekdays at 8 a.m. or 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. To reserve email at [info@echobonaire.org](mailto:info@echobonaire.org)



**Manta Monday** - Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program. Presentations June 26 at VIP (7:30 p.m.) July 3rd at Divi resort (7:30 p.m.) July 10th - No manta Monday this week. Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program facebook email: [Caribbean.Islands@mantatrust.org](mailto:Caribbean.Islands@mantatrust.org)



**Reef Renewal Bonaire.** Sundays 5:30 p.m. Blennies Restaurant – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Open to everyone. Want to learn about coral reef restoration on Bonaire? Come listen to a staff member, instructor, or volunteer give an informative presentation about Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire and the importance of restoring and protecting Bonaire's coral reefs! Questions? email: [info@reefrenewalbonaire.org](mailto:info@reefrenewalbonaire.org)



**Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB).** Free public presentations at Yellow Submarine, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, at 8 p.m. See facebook.

## Mental health first aid course starts in August

The Mental health first aid course (MHFA) consists of 4 half-days. Participants can join either the Youth or Standard MHFA group. Both groups increase their knowledge of psychological disorders and learn to recognize signs of mental complaints. Students practice starting a conversation with someone exhibiting a mental disorders or confused behavior and learn how to act if he or she is in a crisis.

The course is given in Dutch and Papiamentu. Register before August 15 via link <https://ap.lc/DB6YG> . Info: [Amy.vander.linden@mentalhealthcaribbean.com](mailto:Amy.vander.linden@mentalhealthcaribbean.com)

## You can help keep Bonaire clean

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Saturdays</b>      | <b>One Hour Clean up Power.</b> Weekly coastal clean up every Saturday, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Location given on FB page:<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/">https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/</a>  |
| <b>Sunday, July 9</b> | <b>Clean Coast Bonaire.</b> 4-6 p.m. Boka Onima Beach. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data.<br><a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire">https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire</a> |

## Government dates

Second half of annual road tax due before July 1, 2023.

Personal Income Tax extension from May 15.due July 15.

## Tentative cruise ship schedule

| DATE:           | CRUISE SHIP                           | TIME       | PIER  | CAPACITY |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|------------|-------|----------|
| Wed. June. 21   | CARNIVAL CELEBRATION (LAUNCHING 2022) | 0800-2200  | South | 5282     |
| Wed. June. 28   | CARNIVAL HORIZON                      | 0700-1500  | South | 4683     |
| Thurs. June. 29 | CELEBRITY EQUINOX                     | 0800-1700  | South | 2852     |
| Mon. July. 17   | DISNEY FANTASY                        | 06:30-1500 | South | 4000     |
| Wed. July. 19   | CARNIVAL CELEBRATION (LAUNCHING 2022) | 0800-2200  | South | 5282     |
| Mon. July. 26   | CARNIVAL HORIZON                      | 0700-1500  | South | 4683     |

# Creating optimal health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

## Yoga, from the mat to daily life

Yoga is an ancient practice originating in India that involves physical, mental and spiritual training. It aims to reduce suffering by calming the mind, promoting introspection and freedom from attachment. The ultimate goal is achieving unity. At the end of the 18th century, Swami Vivekananda introduced elements of yoga to the USA and Europe. In the mid-19th century, with the publication of the book *Treatise on Yoga* by N.C. Paul, yoga began to gain the attention of the intellectual public in the western hemisphere.

As a physical practice, there are several types of yoga. Some emphasize strength and endurance, others flexibility, others deepening postures or asanas, others breathing, etc. Nowadays, as yoga is trendy, there are infinite varieties that aim to satisfy the different demands of the market.

But what should be basic in all vari-

ants of yoga are the pillars that define the practice; the focus on breathing and the asanas. Asanas are postures that, although they may seem sometimes static, really aren't. By focusing on the breath, the subtle movement that is intrinsic to life itself becomes evident. By founding the practice on these two pillars: breathing and asanas; concentration, flexibility, and balance are trained. As a collateral effect, self-exploration and self-knowledge are also cultivated if the practice is properly guided.

Focus or concentration is a skill that brings several benefits. Without focus we cannot achieve any goal. In today's world, it is becoming more and more difficult to concentrate. During the yoga session, the instructor brings you back to focus on your breath and posture, and this training will permeate the rest of your life.

Flexibility is a basic requirement for adaptability. The more adaptable an organism is, the better its chances of survival. Adapting has not only allowed us to survive, but also avoid unnecessary suffering increasing the chances of being happy. Flexibility will allow you to switch from survival mode to social mode as needed.

Balance is based on strength. Both are trained in yoga. There are powerful postures that make the muscles work defying gravity. There are also balance poses on feet or on hands that make our nervous system more active strengthening the connections between the eyesight and sense of limb position and movement. Balance is also achieved through breathing techniques that balance the air passages and the activity of the cerebral hemispheres.

All the benefits of the abilities trained during a yoga session are not intended to remain confined to the mat. The final objective should be to practice these skills in life itself. Just as the basketball player practices hoops during training, to bring that skill to the game on the court, the yoga practitioner must keep in mind that the skills practiced during the yoga session are skills for life itself. It is important during practice to always keep this in mind. This becomes a crucial role of the instructor guiding the practice. When guiding a yoga session, it is not only important to correct body postures to avoid injuries and to improve the asanas, but also focus the practice on the specific objectives of the breath and focus on the body postures. While guiding the class

and correcting asanas, the instructor should gently bring the students attention back to the focus on breathing and body posture. This will reinforce neural response pathways that will promote concentration, flexibility and balance. But there is more. During the different postures there is also an internal dialogue that needs to be addressed. This is the path of self-exploration and self-knowledge. What do you say to yourselves during the different situations, easy postures, hard postures, uncomfortable postures, enjoyable postures? What is your own personal way to deal with them? This will be different depending on the day, your physical condition or your mood. As a gentle reminder the yoga instructor just needs to bring you back to what the practice is about, the rest you do yourself.



*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.*

## A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

### Crown of Thorns



plants would go perfectly with this desert weather and I found a few.

My first choice, the crown of thorns plant, Christ thorn or Christ plant is commonly used as an ornamental house plant that grows in warmer climates like Bonaire.

Nowadays you see a lot of it growing in pots and gardens here.

Crown of thorns is so named due to the thorns and deep red bracts referring to the crown made of thorns Jesus wore and his blood shed during his crucifixion. The plant comes in different colors, sizes and produces flowers all year.

There are several varieties, a woody succulent subshrub with spiny stems and the original from Madagascar.

The crown of thorn can be propagated from stem cuttings and prunings.

It needs direct full sun and very little water making it perfect for the extreme conditions of Bonaire. If time is your enemy and you still want some green and lovely flowers around you, this plant fits perfectly in your schedule. It doesn't take up much space on your porch in your garden.

When planting, be careful as the sap is poisonous and can cause irritation to skin and eyes on contact. If ingested, it can cause severe stomach pain, irritation of the throat,

mouth and vomiting. It's very toxic to animals such as cats and dogs, goats and horses.

It can happen that your crown of thorn shows poor flowering due to too much light at NIGHT- these plants needs darkness to initiate flowering. There are some giant crown of thorns series such as "Rosalie", "Vulcano", and "Saturnus" that can go straight into garden soil. There are also dwarf cultivar (varieties) which bloom well in tiny containers.

"Mini Bell" is a dwarf cultivar with a compact growth habit and lots of small red flowers. The more wild types range in colors from cream to various shades of pink and red. A few favorites available are "Jingle Bells" with soft pink bracts mixed with some red and green and "New Year" has butterfly yellow bracts that change to cherry red as they age.

Hybrids tend to need less pruning than the species as they have been bred to be more branched and compact. When propagated from prunings or stem cuttings, dip the cut end in cold water or powdered horticultural charcoal to prevent the milky sap from running excessively. Let cuttings dry for 2 - 3 days before rooting in well-drained soil. If it is too wet, they may rot.

Remove dead leaves or matted flowers during wet periods so that fungal diseases will not develop. Any part that turns brown

should be cut off immediately to prevent the rot. There are a few serious pests: mealy bugs, scale and thrips. Potted plants may need to be trimmed to keep them looking new.

Thailand is an export country of many types of crown of thorn and is considered one of their more important export products. It's said in Thailand, that the number of flowers on crown of thorns foretells the luck of the plant keeper. So, hurry, try your luck with a crown of thorns. Plant a lot and plant them now. Just do it.

*(Sources: www.thesource.com; www.wikipedia.org; www.gardeningknowhow.com)*



*Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, where she 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.*

## Participate in Dutch Caribbean Research Week

Starting on Monday 26 to Friday 30 June 2023, the Dutch Research Council (NWO) will organize the third Caribbean Research Week. Those interested in the sciences in the Caribbean can register for five half-day sessions filled with interesting lectures, panel discussions, workshops, cultural entertainment, and networking opportunities.

The program will take place online, starting at 8 a.m. Bonaire time every day.

A host of themes will be covered: from Economy & Society, Health & Healthcare to Environment & Climate and Culture & Identity. Please check out Terramar's Facebook page for details.

This year's Caribbean Research Week is special because for the first time, in-person events will take place on every island. Terramar Museum will be hosting and coordinat-

ing activities in Bonaire. Live in-person and online events in Bonaire will take place on Wednesday, June 28 from 8 to 11:15 a.m., and will be followed by a networking happy hour from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Terramar Museum. To RSVP for the networking activity, contact Terramar Museum at +599 701 4700 [terrarmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:terrarmuseum@gmail.com) /

All presentations will be streamed online and can be followed on location at Terramar Museum, so you will have the opportunity to listen and learn from research in all other islands.

For further details about the program and how to register, please go to <https://www.nwo.nl/dcrw>

Everyone is welcome to take part, free of charge, all sessions will be held in English.

## SCTLD on Bonaire - What we know so far

On July 22 STINAPA will be updating stakeholders on Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD). To date STINAPA has taken the following measures.

**1. Mandatory Gear Disinfection.** To minimize the spread of SCTLD, all snorkeling and diving gear must be disinfected before and after each dive/snorkel day. All public rinse stations will be added to the current SCTLD map (<https://arcg.is/1eCTD80>) to make it easier for divers and snorkelers on the island.

**2. Access. North Side Access:** North of Karpata to Malmok will remain temporarily non accessible for diving and boats (except for local fishing boats). • **East Coast Access:** The East Coast (from Malmok to Willemstoren) will remain accessible for all users as long as gear is disinfected before entering this area. •

**Klein Bonaire Access:** Klein Bonaire will continue to be open from Monday to Saturday, 7 AM to 2 PM. Sundays, Klein Bonaire will be open from 7 AM to 7 PM as regular, except diving and snorkeling are only allowed until 2 PM. We will reevaluate the situation before July 17th, 2023.

**3. Treatment.** STINAPA is running treatment trials, treating lesions in selected colonies with antibiotics.

**4. Preserving the species.** In July, STINAPA will begin working with Reef Renewal on genetic banking and monitoring spawning to help the corals reproduce.

*For up-to-date information follow STINAPA Bonaire on Facebook*

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# Shelter News

## An urgent message from the Animal Shelter cats and kittens

We are looking for you! Who has a couple of hours on Saturday mornings to help as a volunteer in our cat palace?

Due to the departure of one of our regular caretakers at the end of June, we are looking for someone who wants to come and help take care of us and our cat palace on Saturday mornings. Working hours are from 8 a.m. until about 10 a.m. Duties include scooping litter boxes, sweeping/washing floors, and feeding

and watering us. And of course lots of cuddle time. Instead of a paycheck we can give you huge amounts of kitty love!

Can you join our Saturday cat palace team?

If you are the one we are looking for, please email the humans at [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com) and tell them you are the purr-fect one!

Thank you on behalf of all us cats and kittens!

Jane Disko



## Pets of the Week

Dear people,

My name is Onyx, I'm a lady of about 3 years old.

My past owner did not want me or my mom anymore. They decided to have a different life and we did not fit that life anymore, so we needed to go.

My personality is easy going and I'm a friend to all. I like to go out for walks, playtime is also a lot of fun, but cuddles are my favorite. I like kids of all ages and I'm a very gentle lady. I have been at the shelter for 1.5 years now and I'm still hoping that some day someone will see me and take me home.

I like to be with other dogs and cats are all fine by me.

I really hope to see you soon, and that I do fit in your life.

Story : Sanne Attevelt

Photo : Femke Meester



Onyx



Lucky

Who's going to give lovely Lucky a second chance?

Just look at this beautiful female cat!

This handsome cat is Lucky. When she was a little kitten she was brought into the shelter. She was lucky, after a few weeks she was adopted and everything looked great. Until... the owners left the island and couldn't take sweet Lucky with them. So she came back to the shelter again after almost 1 1/2 years.

And here she is! Our volunteer Polly says Lucky is the most beautiful and talkative cat at the shelter. Look at her face,

look at her eyes, and she has a great personality. She loves to sit on your lap now and then but she's never pushy. She's just a lovely cat that deserves a good home.

Lucky is now 2 years old, is sterilized, tested negative on FIV/L and had all her vaccinations. She's already chipped so she can come with you the moment that you decide that she's your forever sweet-heart.

Monique Degenaar

## Free PSV soccer camps in June

The football club, PSV Eindhoven, Indebon and FFB have worked together to organize several two-day football camps for boys and girls. The camps are for two age groups and will be held in June in four locations on Bonaire.

The children will learn and practice like real pros. Registration is mandatory and for each place and age category, a maximum of 40 children can participate. Children must be present and on time both days.

The Rincon Stadium football camp was held June 19 and 20. Three camps remain:

Thursday and Friday, June 22-23 at Rudy Boezem

Monday and Tuesday, June 26-27 at ATC

Thursday and Friday, June 29-30 at Elion Flores

Times are 2-4 p.m. for children ages 6-10 and 4-6 p.m. for ages 11-15. You can register your child via <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcs2KpwRg4gyMWo6XSqbpXyJWJRpAA0qUi0aD5124SVo1rqw/viewform>

In 2022, PSV and OLB entered into a partnership to stimulate sports entrepreneurship on Bonaire. With this cooperation agreement, PSV has started soccer school activities and will train local trainers. In addition, PSV will share knowledge about startup and scale-up activities.

## Real Madrid clinic returns in August

Real Madrid Foundation Clinic for soccer is returning to Bonaire for the third time. This year's date is August 14 – 18. Registration has begun for boys and girls with or without experience age 7 – 14 years.

The Real Madrid clinic will teach not only the game of soccer but the philosophy and methodology of training combined with values from Foundation Real Madrid. The kids will be divided into three categories: U10, U12 and U14. The maximum capacity of participants for the clinic is 70.

The player who exhibits the Foundation Real Madrid value and ability will win a trip, with all cost covered, to Madrid. That individual will be able to participate in the third edition of the World Challenge Tournament to be celebrated in the Real Madrid Sport City between March 20 to 29, 2024.

Players can pre-register at [info@frmclinicsantilles.com](mailto:info@frmclinicsantilles.com) or WhatsApp +34 677198 395. Cost for the clinic is \$200. For more information visit [www.frmclinicsantilles.com/clinics-locations-bonaire](http://www.frmclinicsantilles.com/clinics-locations-bonaire).

Julie Morgan

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# Junior rangers explore technical diving

STINAPA Bonaire's Junior Rangers explored the world of Technical Diving with TDS (Technical Diving Services) Bonaire on June 10 at Captain Don's Habitat. Visiting tech diver and Junior Ranger volunteer Martin de Weger from the Netherlands and TDS owners Zack Richardson and Lucia Podlipny explained technical diving and other advanced diving applications. The 11 Rangers learned what is possible to do beyond a normal PADI certification: Sidemount diving, Twin-set tanks, staged bottles (tanks), rebreathers, Tri-mix, decompression gases and Diver Propulsion Vehicles (underwater

scooters).

With so much information the Rangers asked a lot of questions: What kind of fish live deep down in the sea?; What are the longest and deepest Tech dives ever done?; How fast do the scooters go and how long does the battery last? And how much does a twin set weigh on your back?

Following the informative class, the Junior Rangers, coordinator Monique Gral and instructors enjoyed a dive or snorkel on the Habitat reef led by Ranger volunteers Scott, Aja, Laurien and Wouter. *Julie Morgan*



Zack Richardson of TDS instructs the Rangers on the specialized gear setup for Technical Diving.

Photo STINAPA

# Divers rid Bonaire's sea of fishing line and broken glass



Three divers worked together to reclaim two full bags of discarded fishing line.

Some 23 divers dedicated to making our reefs a bit safer for sea turtles and other marine life joined Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire's fishing line cleanup on June 16 at the North Pier. A full bucket of fishing line was retrieved from around the pier area along with other debris. The most unusual item was a fake rose.

remove the dump of glass bottles and china found at the north end of the pier on an STCB cleanup in October. This was the fourth attempt at removing the broken glass. This dive yielded a total of 20 kilos (44 lb). To date Dee and other divers have brought up 150 kilos (330.7 lbs) from the glass dump. The glass was lifted from underwater with the help of Bonaire Marine Park Rangers.

Dee Scarr joined the fishing line cleanup dive with two other divers to

*Photo/ story Julie Morgan*



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