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**Pam Teitel, Billy Joyce, Indebon's Mitchell de Palm and crew help assemble the pool dock.**  
 Photo Julie Morgan

## Attention all swimmers - Bonaire has a pool

With no budget for a multi - million dollar municipal pool, one of the best and most economic alternatives to get the people of Bonaire in the swim came to fruition on August 7. Right on schedule, the assembly of a floating pier enclosure for a 25m ocean swimming pool began.

For 15 years, the idea for the pool enclosure has been bubbling in the mind of water sports supporter and owner of Budget Marine, Pam Teitel.

“Nolly Oleano was the first person I talked to who thought it was a super idea. We got together with Indebon and now it’s really a reality after many years,” said Teitel.

Located just steps away from Parke Tului, the ocean pool is Phase 1 of a much bigger project. Phase 2 will bring swimming freedom via a ramp to people wheelchair bound or with reduced mobility. Phase 3 includes a makeover of Parke Tului playground with safer and more child-friendly equipment. And finally Phase 4 will address more parking spaces next to the park for all users of the pool and playground.

As Teitel wrote in the July 26, 2023 issue of The Reporter, “This project is accomplished with the support of Ministerie van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport (VWS) and will be owned and operated by Indebon.”

STINAPA was involved in the many discussions to ensure all procedures were handled within the parameters of marine park regula-

tions in order to protect the marine environment.

The pier itself has been a work in progress with EZ Dock, a part of PlayPower, Inc, the world’s largest playground equipment company from Monett, Missouri. PlayPower outfits parks, schools and even the McDonald’s playgrounds.

Billy Joyce of EZ Dock is on Bonaire to oversee and help with the installation just as he has with 84

docks worldwide.

Joyce said, “Pam and I have been working on the design for the past eight years. Covid caused us to take a little break, but we ramped it up eight months ago and moved forward. We tweaked the design and shipped six weeks ago.”

The dock is made of UV-stabilized plastic rotational molding plastic, the same used in PlayPower’s playground equipment. The

product is made from 90% pre/post-consumer waste recycled rubber and is tough, environmental stress crack-resistant and has been proven to withstand most tropical and low to mid category hurricanes.

“The lifespan is literally unlimited. It will really last forever and can take severe impact from a boat or even a typhoon. I traveled back to check on how one of the docks was doing and I saw that the product

had become a sanctuary for fish. I was shocked at how many fish were attracted,” said Joyce.

With 42 sections the dock is kind of like a giant Lego set. It has dead weight anchoring and two stiff arms made of stainless hot dip galvanized metal that are connected to the dock.

Mitchell de Palm, policy advisor for Indebon was also on hand to assist in moving and assembling the 2 x 3 m sections in the water.

De Palm said about the project, “The primary purpose is for public use. We are counting on the public to use it. FKPD (Fundashon Kuido pa personanan Desabilita) Aksesio Bonaire (Care and Social Assistance), the Barracudas and other swim clubs are just a few of the organizations we expect. But it is available to everyone.”

Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP) rangers assisted in unloading the dock sections into the water for assembly. In the water the rangers positioned the anchoring blocks that will hold the dock in place with lift bags.

Teitel said, “Once the floating pier is installed the design and installation of turning boards and start blocks will begin to mirror as many aspects of a pool as possible.”

The dock will include benches, ladders, a special handicapped ramp and even storage boxes.

The new swimming pier should be finished by August 11.

*Story/photos Julie Morgan*

**See the schematic for the floating dock on page 12.**



**Bonaire kids made the dock their own on the first day of installation as soon as the adults had left. The pool is for everyone!**



## Don't wait to get trained for a Boat Master License



A Boat Master grade 3 license is required to operate any vessel commercially in the BES Islands. Enforcement of the new regulation will begin in only 18 months, on January 1, 2025. Applicants for the Boat Master License must present a Certificate proving they have passed a Dutch Accredited training program. Between now and the enforcement deadline, only a limited number of seats will be available in accredited programs in the BES Islands. People who wait too long will have to find a different line of work for a while.

The course takes six days, includes theoretical and practical exams, and classes are limited to 10 participants. Participants will be tested on their knowledge of Boat Handling, Emergency Situations, Regulations for preventing collision at sea, Seaman-

ship, Passenger Safety, Legal responsibilities towards passengers and crew, Weather, Engineer knowledge, and Prevention of pollution.

As of Jan 1, 2025, all boats carrying paying passengers — dive boats, charter fishing boats, snorkel boats — must have at least one person aboard with a Boat Master 3 license.

For further questions or information, please contact the local Harbourmaster office or the Netherlands Shipping Inspectorate Caribbean Netherlands, [NSICN@RijksdienstCN.com](mailto:NSICN@RijksdienstCN.com). Dutch Accredited training programs are offered by De Ruyter Training and Consultancy, Tel / whatsapp: +5999-462 6722 / Email: [caribbean@drtc.nl](mailto:caribbean@drtc.nl). DMR

## Finance identifies millions in potential savings in the Caribbean

Minister of Finance Kaag has sent the House of Representatives the so-called 'reversal list.' The list, a routine tool for financial management, provides an overview of expenditures that The Hague could possibly cut by changing existing programs. According to the list, the government could save millions of euros annually in implementing the Country Packages of CAS (Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten). Smaller potential savings were identified in the BES Islands (Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba).

The reversal list identifies where costs can be cut. It does not express an opinion on the desirability of the possible cut. But its findings are considered essentially valid and can be used by the parties in political debates.

The Netherlands can save seven million euros annually on programs in Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten through tax reforms that would increase each island's internal revenues. Improved implementation of the Temporary Work Organization (TWO) would also save money. TWO supports and monitors the reforms and measures of the previously agreed country packages. These concern broad improvements of a socio-economic nature, such as the labor market, care, education and safety that the public bodies have agreed to. Because of bottlenecks in the implementation, funds committed to TWO sometimes do not get spent by the intended deadline, for instance. Action could be taken to recover them.

According to Finance, eight million euros per year savings can be made on the deployment of KMar and Customs personnel to the CAS countries. In both 2021 and 2022 there was substantial underspending (ranging from 2.5 to 6.5 million euros) on a total budget of approximately 33 million euros, mainly due to insufficient recruitment of staff.

The Caribbean Coast Guard is consistently underfunded, according to the report. The Netherlands now pays 87.8 percent of the costs, and Curaçao, Aruba and Sint Maarten together pay 12.2 percent. The report suggests the island contribution could be increased to cover the shortfall.

The reversal list proposed only one major savings on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. The Finance Department suggested an income-related health insurance premium could be introduced. Most of us believe we are already paying a health insurance premium. According to the report, however: "The healthcare premiums in the Caribbean Netherlands are collected via the employer. ZJCN therefore has no income from healthcare premiums in the Caribbean Netherlands."

Otherwise only smaller potential savings were found on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. The subsidy on drinking water on the islands could be abolished. The government contribution to the wastewater treatment plant on Bonaire could be phased out, and various savings could be achieved by operational changes to the healthcare system. DMR (*Dossier Kingdom Relations*)

## Bonaire's fire extinguishing water supply being upgraded

All three BES public entities need to make major improvements in their systems for assuring water is readily available for fighting fires, according to the Justice and Security Inspectorate. The Water and Energy Company Bonaire (WEB), the Fire Department (BKCEN) and the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) are discussing the issue and expect to put together a plan by the end of this year.

Bonaire's water supply network includes hydrants intended for fighting fires. During a study conducted in 2021, not all the fire hydrants worked. Some listed hydrants could not be found, and some that did turn up were not on the list. An effort was made earlier this year to account for all the fire hydrants on the island, and to repair those not working. DMR

## Shorthanded pharmacies set vacation hours for August

To free up time for employee vacations, the shorthanded Foundation Mariadal pharmacies have temporarily reduced the hours they are open this month.

From July 31, the hospital botika will be open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, with no break for lunch. The pharmacy in Rincon will be open mornings only, 9:00 to 11:30, Monday through Friday.

On Saturdays emergency prescriptions from the Huisartsenpost (Urgent Care Center) and Emergency Department can be filled between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. at the FM botika. The pharmacy is closed to the public on Sundays and public holidays, but is on standby for the GP and emergency services. DMR

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**Pakus is still OPEN in a downsized version at the old location on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m**



**A Garden? Just Do It!**  
by Angliet, Nature Lover  
*This pretty plant can take over the Island*



**Coralita plant**

I remember our neighbor's yard in Surinam with a fence covered in vines with pink flowers. I liked to pick the flowers to make bouquets for my grandma. I'm talking about the coralita plant or coral vine. It's also known as Queen's wreath, Mexican creeper, Cadena de Amor, Bee bush, San Maguelito Vine.

**A Garden? Just do it!**  
*continued on page 13*

## July's Nos Zjilea "Bonaire has Talent"



(L-R) Author Monica MC Clarinda with Nos Zjilea's Izain Mercera. Photo Julie Morgan

On July 29 the best cultural experience on the island, Mangazina di Rei's Nos Zjilea, featured author Monica MC Clarinda and Rincon's Miss Teen Bonaire.

To mark this memorial year of the abolition of slavery in the Dutch Caribbean and Suriname, Nos Zjilea's Izain Mercera introduced two books by author Monica M.C. Clarinda. Born in Curaçao, Clarinda has lived in Bonaire since 1994. Her colorfully illustrated 'Nona' series of children's books began in 2000 with *Nona ta Konta* (*Nona Tells a Story*). The stories feature the experiences of a young island girl. In one book, *Nona special, Terug in de tijd bek den tempu*, (*Nona travels back in time*), Nona travels back in time via a time ma-

chine to experience Spain taking possession of Bonaire. In *Nona bek den tempu 2*, (*Nona travels back in time 2*) Nona travels in time once again to experience the slave revolt on Curaçao in 1795. Young readers can experience slave history and information about Bonaire through these books. Clarinda has written seven books for children 8-10 years of age in Dutch and Papiamentu.

Bonaire will hold its Miss Teen Bonaire competition on October 7 and Rincon's 15-year-old Andrea Francisca is vying for the title. Francisca is the daughter of a mother from Venezuela and dad from Curaçao, and has five brothers and sisters. If she receives the title, her goal is to

further education about the prevention of breast cancer on Bonaire.

As always Nos Zjilea guests enjoyed the great local food, drinks and craft sales by local artisans. Music was presented by Daairons Entertainment and Karino which brought many to their feet to dance alone or with everyone's favorite cultural dance team Monique and Donny Winklaar.

See, feel and taste the culture of Bonaire at Nos Zjilea, held the last Saturday of every month at Mangazina di Rei in Rincon.

*Story/photos Julie Morgan*



**Andrea Francisca, Rincon's candidate for Miss Teen Bonaire, speaks of her goals.**

*Photo Julie Morgan*

## FOR SALE! Crown Shores 4 Spacious Villa with Ocean Access



- Location: Sabadeco
- Living size: +/- 439 m2 / approx. 4725 sq. ft.
- 5 bedrooms / 3 bathrooms / office / storage



- Pool with sundeck, off street parking
- Spacious front and back porch
- Deeded ocean access



**Asking price \$975,000 US Dollar**

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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.

## Is the OLB collecting a huge hidden tax?

Here's a stunner: "The healthcare premiums in the Caribbean Netherlands are collected via the employer. ZJCN [the health insurance program] therefore has no income from healthcare premiums in the Caribbean Netherlands." That quote appeared in the information released about the Ministry of Finance's latest "reversal list," the routine review of all government programs to locate savings that might be achieved by changing government programs.

Following 10-10-10, the European Netherlands promised that improving health care in the BES was one of two immediate priorities. That promise has been generously fulfilled. Most of us have assumed, apparently incorrectly, that we were paying a share of the bill.

Our "healthcare premiums" amount to a huge amount of money every year. If they're not being paid to ZJCN, where is the money going? *Don M. Ricks*

## eFlight initiatives

Bonaire has previously participated with innovative initiatives and there may be a very exciting one on the horizon. When solar salt production was initiated on the island, it was very innovative for its time. When the decision was made to promote and organize Bonaire to be a SWCUBA diver's paradise, it was also very innovative. Both initiatives have been sustainable and benefited the island to this day. It was exciting to read in July 26 issue of Bonaire Reporter that TUI in collaboration with Dynaf will install 10 electric charging stations. Bonaire should be taking more advantage of solar energy and its unique location to participate in development of electric aircraft initiatives.

The Dutch company, eFlight has plans to establish an electric aircraft flight training facility on Bonaire. This is a golden maybe even platinum opportunity.

There is a record of Bonaire having served as an aviation training facility in the past during World War II that was written about in National Geographic in the 40's. Now Bonaire has an opportunity that it should seize as transition has been initiated to electric powered aircraft. Bonaire should jump at an opportunity to develop and provide a solar

powered hangar facility for an electric aircraft. A charging station could be supplied by a company like BETA Technologies for both aircraft and ground vehicles. With an electric aircraft facility Bonaire might become a first mover in training current pilots in the Caribbean to adapt to new skills and technologies that will be needed for that fast growing segment of electric vertical take off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. The eVTOL industry is growing very quickly with participation of companies. At 2023 Paris Air Show, several announcements were made about fast growth by well known companies and airlines including Boeing, United Airlines, Stelantis, Japan Air Lines, Apple, UPS, to mention some of the big players. Bonaire could benefit by being a first mover taking advantage of ample sun, Caribbean location, and extensive aviation experience.

Hope Bonaire will pursue outstanding opportunity with eFlight.

*Respectfully yours,*  
*Louis F. Dessau MBA, Commissioner*  
*Chair Operations & Facilities Committee, CUB*  
*Jim Hamilton LB Owens Airport, Richland County Airport Commission.*  
<http://www.richlandonline.com/Government/Commissions/Airport-Commission>

## Motorcycle drag strip

Drag strip almost ready for use as reported in the August 6, 2023 Bonaire.nu issue states "Although not everyone is enthusiastic about the construction of the track..."

I am thinking some will get use from this project. I think the motorcycling community could come together to organize future improvement fundraisers at the site. Fund raising to possibly get funds to build bleachers or a grandstand for viewing participants. The future could see floodlights installed for evening events. Making arrangements for a food truck to provide refreshments on site. Make arrangements to have trash

receptacles placed on the site and enlist help in hauling the accumulated trash to legal dump deposit sites.

These goals would not be reached overnight but it would give participants a knowledge that eventually it may become something they can be proud of. With the effort, of motorcycling groups who have waited so long for this to come to pass, this can become a real asset for the island and not a waste of more island monies. Just my thoughts.

*Masha Danki, Earline Wasser*

## Ask Bob

### Bonaire real estate advice



**Hi Bob – Can you tell me about septic tanks? I see that many houses on Bonaire have them. Aren't there public sewers? Thanks, Kurt**

Hi Kurt,

Not a weird question at all, I bet a lot of people wonder about that, so thanks for asking! The Bonaire public sewer system currently serves most of the properties located on the coast between Hato and Punt Vierkant and within about 400 meters of the ocean. In most of the other areas of Bonaire the houses have some type of septic tank.

On Bonaire, the septic tanks that are installed are closed concrete tanks that sit in the ground and do not drain into the ground. These have anywhere from one to four separate chambers, and their size depends on how many bedrooms and bathrooms are in the house. The top of the septic tank is often visible above ground, and in most cases there are PVC

caps that screw off so the tank can be emptied by a service truck with a long hose. The cost is generally \$50 to \$75, depending on the size of the tank and how many chambers you want emptied. If you have a multi-chambered tank, your final chamber may be "gray" water from your sinks and showers that is suitable for connecting to your drip garden watering system, which saves on your water cost and reduces how often your tank needs to be emptied.

If your septic tank is properly sized and not used too much you might only have to pump it out once per year, perhaps less.

There are still some open bottom septic systems (called a beerput) at some homes built in the decades prior to the requirement for new construction to install closed tanks. In some homes it is not obvious how big the tank is, or even where it is located. Be sure to ask your real estate agent where it is if you are not sure when you view a property or when considering a purchase.

All the best, Bob

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**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**

## FLOTSAM and JETSAM continued

### Two turtles tagged and named

Two sea turtles that nested on Bonaire this season can now be tracked by satellite. The Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) recently attached satellite transmitters and identifying numbers to them. The STCB also named them.

Mateo was named in memory of Joshua Mateo Fortes-Jordan, who loved the sea turtles of Bonaire. A green sea turtle with a carapace over a meter wide, Mateo nested on Playa Chikitu. Gabriela, a loggerhead, was found south of the island. Her carapace was just under a meter wide. Their wide ranging journeys around the Caribbean will be recorded. *DMR*

### Crackdown coming on illegal excavation of diabase

Department of Space & Development and Supervision & Enforcement are working to create a new policy and an enforcement plan to counter the illegal excavation of diabase. Digging up diabase in agricultural areas and filling the land with rubble and waste creates various problems, including contamination of the soil and flooding during heavy rainfall. *DMR*

### Mariadal to make its own pharmacist assistants

People trained in pharmacy, like other medical workers, are in short supply worldwide. Fundashon Mariadal plans to start training its own pharmaceutical

assistants next year. It wants to become self-sufficient in staffing its pharmacy. *DMR*

### Ingrid Sealy to head the Shared Service Organisation

Effective November 1st, 2023, Ingrid



Sealy, deputy acting Island Governor of Bonaire, will become head of the Shared Service Organisation Caribbean Netherlands (SSO-SN). SSO-CN covers various business

management components for the RCN organisation such as HR, Finance, Purchasing, Facility Management, Communications and ICT.

Sealy (42) grew up on Bonaire. In the Netherlands, she studied Criminology at the Free University. Love brought her back to Bonaire where she has worked for the past 15 years, especially in the social domain. She has held various management positions, including at Youth Care and Family Guardianship Caribbean Netherlands and the Public Entity of Bonaire and is also familiar with Saba and Sint Eustatius.

Most recently Sealy has been Unit Manager at Immigration and Naturalisation Service Caribbean Netherlands (IND CN) on Bonaire. *DMR*



# POLICE REPORT

## New Deputy Chief of Police / Head of Operations

### Property Crime

**July 22/23.** A green shoulder bag and its contents was taken from the swimming pool at a tourist accommodation on Bulevar Julio A. Abraham between 5 p.m. and 1:30 a.m.

**July 23.** A man, 21, was arrested for possessing a stolen scooter. The owner of the scooter alerted the police when he recognized the parked scooter.

### Arrests

**Aug. 5.** At an event, a man, 31, was arrested at Kaya J.N.E. Crane for disturbing public order and public drunkenness. During his arrest, he also insulted the officers. While police were transporting this suspect, another man tried to interview the suspect with a phone. The interviewer did not respond when he was ordered to move aside. When he was again commanded to stop with a light push, he became aggressive. The officer then pushed him hard, causing the man to fall. A little later, the man, 58, was detained for failure to comply with a police demand.

**Aug. 5.** In the evening at a 'snèk' on Kaya Papa Cornes two men attacked three other men, assaulting two of them with a weapon. The suspects destroyed some parts of the car of one of the victims and ran away. The two victims were taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. Later that evening, the two suspects turned themselves in to the police station. These men aged 22 and 27, were arrested for threats, assault with a weapon and vandalism.

**Aug. 2.** Around 9:15 p.m. a man, 25, was arrested on Kaminda Djabou. The suspect was stopped as he was riding a dirt bike with no helmet, no lights, and no license plate. He did not have a valid driver's license or ID. When asked to tell officers his personal details, he gave false information. Because the identity of the suspect could not be established on site in order to write an official report, he was arrested for violation of the BES Identification Compulsory Act. The dirt bike has been seized for further investigation.

**Aug. 1.** In the evening a young man, 17, was detained. The suspect was riding a scooter without a license plate and did not respond to police demands to stop. After a short pursuit by car and on foot, the suspect was arrested for not complying with police demands and for displaying dangerous driving behaviour. The scooter was confiscated for further investigation.

**July 31.** At approximately 3:20 a.m. a man, 23, was arrested for assault. He hit a man with a beer bottle in a fight at an entertainment venue on Hanchi Amboina. The victim was taken to hospital by ambulance.

**July 30/31.** In the night a man, 23, was arrested at Kaya Neerlandia on suspicion of violating the BES Weapons Act. The firearm was seized for further investigation.

**July 30.** Around 2:30 a.m. when a man, 21, was stopped for reckless driving, police detected an odor resembling hemp. A check found substances resembling narcotics and articles for preparing drugs. The man was arrested under Opium Act BES. The products, articles and car were seized for further investigation.

**July 30.** A man, 44, was arrested in the night for violation of the BES Opium Act. The suspect's car was stopped for a routine check. Substances resembling narcotics were found in the car. The substances as well as the car were seized for further investigation.

vestigation.

**July 29.** A man, 38, was detained at Kaya Soeur Bartola for public intoxication and resisting arrest. The central control room had received a report of a man lying on a floor.

**July 29.** Around 3:15 a.m. a man, 52, was arrested at a house on Kaya Pilon for insulting an official in office and for resisting arrest.

**July 29.** In the morning a man was assaulted with a baseball bat and injured at a house on Kaya Trinitaria. The victim was taken to hospital by ambulance. The baseball bat, a machete and a helmet were confiscated. The suspect, a young man, 17, left after the assault, but was later apprehended at Plenchi Makamba for aggravated assault with a weapon.

**July 24.** A woman, 21, was arrested for assault after assaulting another woman (probably with a knife) and displaying abusive and aggressive behavior towards the patrol officers.

### Driving under the influence

**Aug. 6.** In the night hours a man, 40, was arrested on Kaya Nikiboko North for driving under the influence of alcohol.

**Aug. 4.** Around 10 p.m. a man, 55, was arrested at a 'snèk' on Kaya Gristelchi for threats with a weapon and for driving under the influence of alcohol. He had hit a parked car as he attempted to drive away. When the owner of the hit car confronted him, the suspect threatened the man with a knife.

**July 24.** At approximately 5:30 p.m. a pick-up truck collided with another truck parked under a tree at the intersection of Kaya Nikiboko North and Kaya Sonmontuno. The impact caused the parked pick-up to hit the leg of someone sitting under the tree. The driver of the moving pick-up was detained for driving under the influence and ticketed for failing to show a valid driver's license.

**July 22.** A man, 62, was arrested for driving under the influence and with a revoked driver's license.

**July 22.** Around 2:45 a.m. a man, 28, drove into the fence at Hanchi Amboina and was arrested for driving under the influence. He was found to be illegally staying on the island and was handed over to the KPCN's Aliens Control Department.

**July 22.** A man, 26, was arrested for resisting arrest and for refusing to take a breathalyzer test. The suspect's car was seized.

**July 21.** A man, 45, was arrested at Kaya Amsterdam for driving under the influence. The driver was involved in a two car collision.

### Traffic

**Aug. 5.** In the morning a 'Hit & Run' took place at Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt. Car 1 driving out of a supermarket parking lot hit Car 2 damaging its trunk. Car 1 then drove on.

**Aug. 5.** Around 8:30 p.m. a donkey caused a collision on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot. The car's passenger was taken to hospital by ambulance.

**Aug. 3.** Around 10 a.m. the central control room received a report of a collision on Kaminda Santa Barbara. The driver of a car became unwell behind the wheel, ran off the road and crashed into two parked cars. The patrol immediately started CPR at the scene until the ambulance crew took over. The victim was taken to hospital by ambulance but later died in hospital. The 78-year-old

On August 14, 2023 Mr. Rob Meijer will become New Deputy Chief of Police / Head of Operations Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN).

Mr. Meijer is no stranger to the islands. During his 39-year career on Sint Maarten, he held the position of Project Leader, deputy Head of the RST branch. He then held the position of Head of Investigation / Deputy head of RST for five years and fulfilled the function of Head of Anti-Mining Team, RST/TBO in Curaçao.

Meijer's objectives for Bonaire include working on adequate follow-up and response to rapid developments in society and the associated changing forms of crime that pose challenges for the police. The task of intensifying and guaranteeing cooperation with the other Caribbean police forces, the RST and the National Police is also a goal.

"I am especially about doing it together. Every link in the chain is important

and that is why it is valuable to get input from everyone, that is what I aim for," says Meijer.

Meijer will follow Ronald Zwarter, who returns to the European Netherlands on October 1, 2023 after a period of four years, and will enjoy his well-deserved retirement at the beginning of 2024.



man with initials S.M.K. was from the U.S.

**Aug.3.** At approximately 5 p.m. a car and a moped collided on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot. The road was temporarily closed for the CRS and the ambulance that took the driver of the moped to hospital.

**Aug.3.** A car and a moped collided on Kaya Macario (Cai) Sint Jago. The driver of the moped was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

**Aug. 2.** Around 7 p.m. a driver and passenger fell off a scooter driving on Bulevar E.E.G. Paramedics checked both victims at the scene then took the driver to hospital for medical treatment. The scooter was taken to the police station for safekeeping because the passenger was unable to drive the scooter home. The scooter can be claimed by the driver after presentation of a valid driving license and insurance certificate.

**July 30.** In the night a man, 26, was arrested for reckless driving and attempted assault. His car was impounded. The suspect was 'fevering' on Kaya Neerlandia when he lost control. He drove into the crowd gathered for an event, hit a girl, then crashed into a few parked cars.

**July 24.** On Kaya Grandi a pickup truck did not stop after it drove past a car, hitting the driver's side mirror which fell off.

*If the perpetrator of a 'hit and run' does not report himself within three hours, the victim can report the violation of Article 31 of the Bonaire Road Traffic Ordinance and the police will start an investigation that could lead to criminal consequences.*

**July 23.** In the evening a car overturned on Kaya Korona. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

### Fire

**Aug. 3.** During the night, the driver of the car lost control on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot. The car collided with a lamppost, flipped over and caught fire. Both victims managed to get out of the car in time and were taken to hospital by ambulance for medical check ups. The road was closed so that the fire brigade could extinguish the fire and the car be towed away.

## Talking to the police

## A declaration differs from a report

### What is the difference between a declaration and a report?

When you make a report, you inform the police of a situation.

When you file a declaration, you request criminal prosecution. A criminal offense has been committed and you want something to be done about it.

### Reporting: Where do I report what?

You can make a report via 717 8000, 715 8000, at the counter of a police station or via the police officer on the street. Would you rather remain anonymous? Then use the telephone number 9310.

### How does the anonymous tip line work?

When you call 9310, you get an answering machine that welcomes you and

asks to record your anonymous message. The system then sends an email to a special 'inbox' containing only the recording of your anonymous message. There is no telephone number. Your message will be delivered completely anonymously.

### How do I make a declaration?

A declaration can be made by telephone via 717 8000 or 715 8000, by e-mail [viapolitie@politiecn.com](mailto:viapolitie@politiecn.com) or at the police station. In case of a declaration by telephone or declaration by e-mail, an appointment will be made to come and sign the declaration for further processing. Only declarations are prosecuted criminally

KPCN communications.



# Parrots and People

## Two-Way Feet

by “Mel” McCombie

You’ve probably noticed how parrots can pick up and manipulate food and objects with their feet. Most birds have four toes, and most typically, there are three pointing forward and one pointing back. But parrot feet are different. They have four toes, but two point forward and two point backwards, what scientists called zygodactylic feet (from the ancient Greek “zygo” meaning a pair, and “dactyl” meaning finger). But what’s the benefit of having two-way feet?

Zygodactylic feet are well adapted for climbing, grasping and manipulating (consider that the Latin root of “manipulate” is “manus,” or hand). All parrots have two toes forward and two toes back, and not surprisingly, they are skilled at grasping things with their feet. It’s somewhat analogous to opposable thumbs in humans. There are several other bird species with zygodactylic feet, such as ospreys, owls, and cuckoos—and all excel at grasping tightly to their prey or tree trunks.

Parrot feet allow them to be excellent climbers, aided by their beaks. When you visit Echo and interact with the ambassador parrots there, you will notice how nimbly they climb up and down their aviary enclosures by grasping the wire mesh with their powerful feet and using their beaks as a third “hand” to help pull themselves around. And if you have ever held a parrot on your hand or arm, you know how powerful those feet and claws are.



You might think of parrot feet as avian multitools, veritable Swiss Army knives! Parrots can easily stand on one foot and use the other to grasp food. Sometimes they will hold a piece of food up to the beak and rotate it with their feet, using their muscular tongues to take apart a fruit or nut. In an article in the New York Times (Feb. 10, 2023), cockatoos were documented using tools in their beaks and claws to winkle out treats. Palm cockatoos fashion drumsticks from sticks and seeds, and grasping in their claws, tap out enticing

rhythms to impress potential mates. And there is an entire category of enrichment items for parrots called “foot toys.”

Humans are right or left-handed, and the same with our feet. So are parrots. Generally, parrots are left-footed—more likely to use their right foot for standing and their left for grasping and manipulating things. But just as there are humans who are left-handed (and left-foot dominant, what surfers call “goofy foot”), you will find parrots who are right-footed as well.

Remember in the first “Jurassic Park” movie, in the scene in the resort kitchen when the Velociraptors are hunting? There’s a close up of a Velociraptor drumming its claws, like an impatient or thoughtful human drumming his fingers. I have seen parrots do this as well, tapping their claws on a surface to figure it out. The funniest was when my cockatiel Ducky investigated a glass tabletop, carefully tapping with one foot and then the other; when she decided that indeed, the glass was solid, she scampered across it and nibbled off my lunch plate.

Between their two-way feet, and their powerful beaks (the subject of a future column), parrots have a unique set of tools. Grasping, climbing, and delicate manipulation are all possible with parrot feet. I know I am prejudiced, but I think parrot feet are amazing, another indicator of how special these wonderful birds are.



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

## Aquafest a party for ocean lovers



We’ve all heard about the giant blowout boat parties with countless boats, jet skis, stand-up paddle boards and floats with hundreds of people having fun. Bonaire had its own version on August 5 called AquaFest and due to its success, it won’t be the last.

The event was scheduled to begin at 12 noon, but many of the boats came early to get the best position to tie up on the ropes set up by STINAPA between Karel’s Beach Bar and Bonaire’s north pier.

The idea for the big boat party began last April from a

group of five people: Chris Bernabela, Juliette de Grijze, Angenor Keller, Alvin Hellburg and Max Cicilia. It took about six weeks to get the powers that be on board and secure the correct permits to make it happen. Then the real planning began.

Juliette de Grijze said, “We didn’t have much time to organize. The sponsors wanted to keep it free for the local community and the whole island. But there were costs involved for the permits, to close the road, tents and ropes.

The group met with the harbour master Gunther Flanagan in collaboration with STINAPA to plan the rope tie-ups for the boats to meet marine environmental safety requirements. Any anchoring had to be approved by STINAPA, the Coast Guard and Multidisciplinary Maritime Hub Bonaire. The Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) and fire department were also involved.

**Aquafest**  
**continued on page 13**

*The Bonaire Reporter Aug 9 - Aug 23, 2023*



# Lucia Rodrigues – our newest diving doctor

Bonaire's Recompression Chamber is back in business as of July 1 with the arrival of new director Dr. Lucia Enelda Rodrigues. The Recompression Chamber closed in mid-February following the retirement of Chamber founder Dr. Dick van der Vaart.

Rodrigues is a true diving doctor. She had visited Bonaire many times prior to signing on to head up the Chamber, but not as a doctor, she came for the diving.

"I first came in 2012 and thought it was the best diving ever. I returned three or four more times and then I came to assist with some freedivers," said Rodrigues.

Originally from Brazil, the Chamber's new director has spent her career as a doctor near the water.

She graduated in medicine in 1995 from State University of Londrina, Brazil specializing in infectious disease and intensive care before going into diving medicine.

While diving in Brazil she told a friend, "The next time I come back [to dive] here, I am going to be a dive instructor and he told her, 'No, the next time you come back it will be as a diving doctor'."

She never did become a dive instructor, but she worked for DAN for seven years as a consultant and lectured and trained at the chambers in Brazil on dive medicine. Rodrigues trained at NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) back when they did training. and the U.S. Navy in Seattle. WA and San



Dr. Lucia Enelda Rodrigues Photo Julie Morgan

Antonio, TX. But what she is most proud of was her training at UHMS (Undersea Hyperbaric Medical Society), the primary source of scientific information for

diving and hyperbaric medicine physiology worldwide.

Rodrigues has trained police, members of the U.S. Navy, firefighters, flew helicopters for in water recovery and worked on an oil rig.

Last year, Vice President of Medical Services at DAN Matias Nochetto MD, called and asked if she would like to live on Bonaire because Dr. Van der Vaart had retired.

"I met with Dick and the foundation and they said they were looking at a lot of different people and as a Brazilian it was a little more difficult with the paperwork. I thought they had given the job to someone else. I was in the Amazon jungle and the foundation sent me an email saying, 'We need someone, do you want to come?' That was last spring and I arrived July 1," said Rodrigues.

As director, Rodrigues is the only full-time doctor. She has a team of four part time diving medical doctors who are scheduled in regard to availability: Karen de Boer, Mignon Smit, Mariana Voesten and George Matook.

Assisting the doctors with treatments are experienced Chamber supervisors most of whom have been on the

**Rodrigues, our newest diving doctor,  
continued on page 10**

## Piss and Vinegar by Gijs Borsten It's the language

Last week a group of 'Bursalen', fresh Bonairean graduates, boarded a plane to the Motherland, on their way to institutions of higher education, to prepare themselves for a career in wherever their ambitions lead them. Eager as they are, one thing is for sure: they won't have a start as easy as their Dutch colleagues.

The fact that they had to leave their homes and their families, that they were dragged out of lifelong friendships and recent crushes, out of the relatively simple, uncluttered lives they lived on Bonaire, makes moving to a new country a dramatic experience.

Adding the hormonal disorder in their adolescent brains, their limited knowledge of the language and their unfamiliarity with the often complex Dutch society, might predict some of the problems they'll face in their new lives, reflected in their – generally – limited success.

Numbers listed by Bonaire.nu show that about 40% of the Antillean candidates make it through their first year, and about 20% see their efforts rewarded by a diploma, a result both disappointing and costly. The fact that they do not just move from high school to a different form of education, from classroom education to self-study, but enter a strange new world, can make distracting factors too abundant to make them succeed.

There is, however, some help available, be it on the 'daily life' front only. After their arrival they are being supported by a company helping foreign students to find their way in Motherland, TuranGoeloe. The company provides a kind of first aid to newbies, by explaining a number of basic capabilities, functioning as the ground floor of the 21st century's Maslow's Pyramid. Think of opening a bank account, understanding the intrinsic meaning of a

red traffic light, learning how to use public transportation, attending class even when it rains, things like that.

But the real problems the students will encounter cannot be learned from a third party. The aim of their studies was, after all, not getting a straight A's in catching trains and buses or getting a debit card. The purpose was to learn something, by listening and reading, up to a level considered acceptable by the institution, that, in the end, is supposed to hand them their diploma.

Listening and reading: It's the language that is important, not just as a way to informally communicate, but as a carrier of the information being passed from teacher to student and vice versa. It's an interface that both parties need to control on the same level, in order to be able to transfer the necessary knowledge.

And that's, apparently, where things go wrong. On average, the language skills of Bonairean school kids are admirably extensive. They speak, among them, English, Dutch, Papiamentu and Spanish, regardless of their origins. They understand each other no problem whatsoever, in any language.

On a functional level, however, their fluency in those languages is often insufficient – and I don't just mean the Bonairean kids; the Dutch are equally handicapped.

Where a lack of linguistic competence isn't much of a problem in daily life, it becomes a problem the moment you have to write an essay or a thesis on a more scholarly level, to show whether you understood the things they've been trying to teach you. And it's a deficiency that cannot be easily solved. It takes years to refine those skills.

Speaking and understanding Dutch, a language that is hopelessly complicated and completely illogical, is of imminent importance to succeed in obtaining a degree. The absence of a functional proficiency is a common shortcoming for a lot of people. Illiteracy in the Motherland is growing rapidly (and it's not because of immigration!). One out of six Dutch nationals is functionally illiterate, which means they are not able to understand (or write) a simple text, fill out forms, or read street signs. In total that's about 2.5 million people. They, however, don't ap-

ply for higher education.

So, kids, if you plan to go to college after finishing school, start reading now, daily, in Dutch, and, to be on the safe side, in English as well. Allow yourself a simple start, reading children's books, and advance to texts that are just fun to read. Go read newspapers, proceed to Harry Potter, via Zafon's 'The Shadow of the Wind', to light Dutch literature. And forget the 'Critical Reading' curriculum ('Begrijpend Lezen') they teach you at school as quickly as possible: it's the best way to put you off reading for the rest of your life. Besides, a daily reader turns into a critical reader automatically.

Last week, the story of a very successful Bonairean student, Dylan van Arneman, hit the headlines (WeConnect.nl), who, after getting his Master in Physics and Astronomy at the University of Amsterdam, started, as a PhD candidate, a research project at the Institute for Subatomic Physics.

Although the subject is ridiculously complex, and only a few people will understand what it's all about (I think it's got something to do with things that actually exist, but that you can't see, like the lizards ruling the world, or the little robots in your vaccine). He appears to be brilliant enough to make a solid scientific career in the field. He might serve as an example to future Bonairean students, heading towards a Professorate in a straight line.

Read his story. It's inspiring to all of us.

<https://stichtingweconnect.nl/bonairiaans-talent-dat-alles-wil-weten/>



*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.*



# NOODLES with Zero Calories

## by Virginia Knight

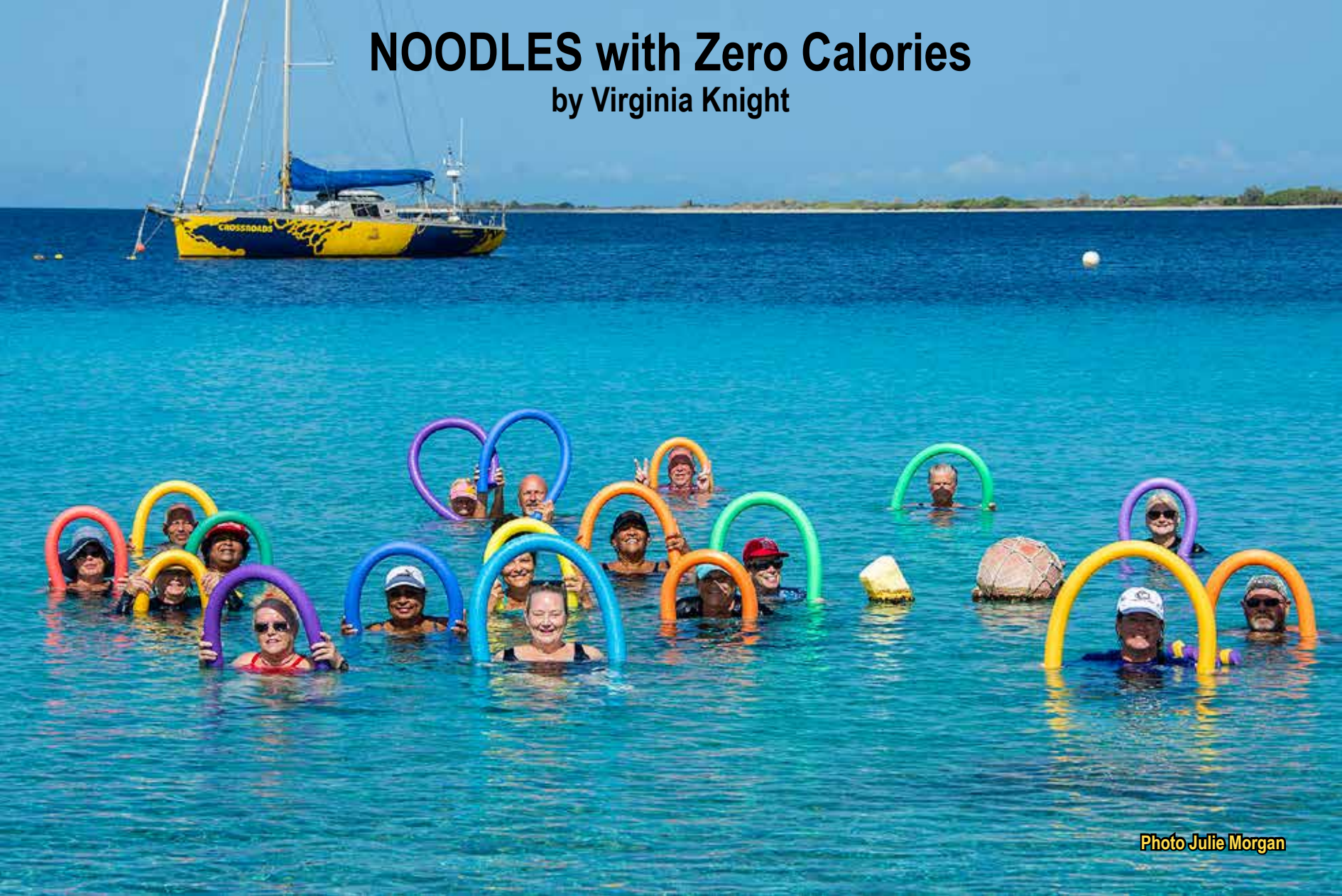


Photo Julie Morgan

In fact you will burn some calories with this fun and free Bonaire noodle exercise group. It meets across from Parke Tului on the waterfront (just north of It Rains Fishes). This ‘anyone is welcome’ group of men and women gather to wield colorful noodles in various guided exercises for a little over an hour.

I tried “noodling” for the first time two weeks ago. Being a bit of a gym rat I wasn’t sure I would get enough bang for the buck (or in this case non-buck), but it is equal to any workout class I’ve done. Besides the benefit of no impact and staying cool through a workout, you will meet new people from different countries and from all walks of life. At least six different languages are represented on most mornings.

This Caribbean noodle exercising program was started over 10 years ago by sailor Willie Haskins who saw the need for other sailors to get moving when they are

on a mooring or at anchor. It has taken off through the Caribbean islands and expanded to land dwellers as well.

The Bonaire group is facilitated by Joan Smit. She began noodling five years ago when she was invited by cruising friends Bobbie and Ronnie Ramos to join the then sizable cruising group moored along Bonaire’s waterfront. Joan has been in Bonaire for seven years and is originally from the Midwestern USA. She does a great job of leading the group through watery jumping jacks, cross country skiing, bicycling, paddling a canoe and ends with gentle stretching exercises.

Greetje Kooistra has helped set up “Bonaire Free Noodlers” Facebook Page with more information.

If you want to try a fun, free and healthy way to beat the heat come give it a try. All you need is a Noodle.

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**Rodrigues,**  
**our newest diving doctor,**  
*continued from page 7*

job for up to 30+ years: Pam Teitel, Malin Kaisjer, Francey Alee, Linda Baker and Frank Elking.

Rodrigues said, “They are very conscientious and believe in the mission of the Chamber. They can’t be replaced.”

While the Chamber was closed, Fundashon Maridal received approximately 60 calls about possible DCS (decompression sickness), but none were confirmed cases. Divers suspecting DCS must first be evaluated at the hospital to determine whether a dive doctor is necessary. Part of the assessment includes: if the diver is over 45, overweight, smokes or has cardiac disease.

Rodrigues explained, “The main reason people call is a cardiac complaint as the first sign is chest pain when they exit the water after diving. People forget that every time you go in the water you are at risk, because you get bubbles. We can’t forget to use the [dive] tables and computers.”

People forget to drink water and become dehydrated. Ninety-five% of divers get DCS because they are dehydrated. On occasion, Rodrigues must make them drink water before treatment.

The Chamber can be used for recompression therapy/hyperbaric medicine for wound management, although it is not being used for these treatments at the moment. Fundashon Mariadol and the Chamber board are currently negotiating on wound therapy. Hyperbaric therapy can treat difficult wounds, carbon monoxide poisoning, radiation burns, diabetes wounds, vasculitis and more. Wound therapy can require up to 30 treatments and is usually covered by insurance. The challenge worldwide is that hyperbaric medicine is not an officially established treatment protocol even though the science is there.

Since reopening in July, the chamber has had 15-20 phone consults and diving sickness exams. Two patients received one treatment each. Typically, Bonaire does 30-50 DCS treatments per year.

Lucia Rodrigues loves Bonaire diving and is in the water whenever she can.

She said, “If I have to be here, I’m here, if not I’m underwater.” *Story/Photo Julie Morgan*

**Century old photo collection returns**



Fundashon Historiko Kultural Bonaeriano (FuHiKu-Bo) recently received a 100+ year old collection of 173 photos taken on Bonaire and 16 documents from the family of Dr. Alfons Gabriel. Gabriel and his wife Agnes lived and worked on Bonaire from 1922 – 1925. He was one of the first land surgeons on Bonaire and worked in the building now known as SKAL (cultural building). Gabriel also wrote a book called *Tschogogo* about the flamingos and other nature on Bonaire.

Gabriel’s grandson Alexander Stagl and his mother Verena Stagl preserved the collection and decided it should remain on Bonaire. Photographer Markus Taurer and wife Heidi were the first to be contacted by the family. As a photographer Taurer realized the value and importance and began the process of contacting the heritage organizations.

Elena Baker Echavarria, mediator at Terramar Museum Bonaire spent the last year ensuring the process went smoothly. The collection will be managed by FuHiKubo.

The entire collection was digitized and is available to view at FuHiKubo. The precious physical photographs and documents are to be stored at Post and Archief and are available for research purposes by contacting fuhikubo@gmail.com.



**Creating optimal health**  
**by Irene da Cunda Costa**

**Pain and suffering**

Pain is inevitable, suffering is an option.

What does this mean?

Pain is part of life, not necessarily a big part of life and definitively “life is not suffering.”

Physical pain is a physical sensation or signal indicating an event within the body. Pain is constructed by the nervous system. This doesn’t mean pain is any less real – it’s just that different brains will react differently to the same stimulus.

Suffering is the interpretation of that pain and involves thoughts, beliefs, or judgments, reflecting the human experience. Physical pain can cause suffering when it is uncontrolled or persists.

Pain can also be emotional, it can be related to the loss of a dear being or the loss of a plan, expectation, status or any kind of loss. Here again, different people react differently to similar painful situations. In a healthy person this pain goes through a grieving process which involves acceptance, learning and recovery. Suffering is the interpretation of pain based on and biased by your

past experiences, future expectations and fears. Suffering comes when we cling to pain and let it permeate our entire life.

Buddha says that suffering is our reaction to pain, and it is the equivalent to being shot by a second arrow. He calls this second arrow suffering. Suffering arises because when we experience pain we typically react by lashing out, at ourselves and others.

In stoic philosophy, emotional suffering is considered to be a part of the lives of those who are unable to handle emotions. Therefore, suffering is preventable because according to stoics, it depends on us alone. They think that emotional suffering is, to a great extent, the result of our inability to see things as they are. Therefore, suffering comes from clinging to what we think it should be. Stoics view events neutrally—that is, they observe only the facts of any given situation, without judgment.

Here is how our inability to see things as they are leads to unnecessary suffering. For example, somebody can suffer because they feel as though they are not being treated as expected by another person (friend, lover). Stoics teach us not to have expectations about how somebody else should treat us and accept that whatever the person is doing is what the person can do without judgment or expectations. Another source of suffering

is when somebody expects another person to behave the way they themselves would behave. Stoics teach us that it’s not realistic to expect the rest of the world to behave like us, and I would add, not only is it not realistic, but it probably would be very boring.

On one hand, by removing expectations, entitlements, sense of having been wronged and finding the positive in the situation, a more accurate approach to reality can be created.

But also remembering that pain is a part of life. So, recognizing it and accepting it is how one conquers grief.

Accept what happened and change your wish that it had not happened. Stoicism calls this the “art of acquiescence”—to accept rather than fight what happens. And the most practiced Stoics take it a step further. Instead of simply accepting what happens, they urge us to actually enjoy what has happened—whatever it is.



*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.*



# Reef Glimpses

by Dee Scarr

## Flounders: the Small, the Medium, the Large

Basic flounder facts: The three types of flounder most common on Bonaire are the peacock flounder, the maculated flounder, and the eyed flounder. Their most conspicuous common traits are that their bodies are flat, and they lie on the bottom. Flounder hatchlings are vertically-oriented, like butterflyfish and surgeonfish. As the flounder baby matures, one eye “migrates” from its side of the body to the same side as the other eye. The pectoral fin on the eyed side of the flounder becomes larger, while the pectoral fin on the no-eye side stays small. And the little fish is re-oriented so that, physiologically, it’s sideways to the bottom.

That’s the most surprising thing about flounders, so one can’t help but wonder: What could be the value to being a sideways fish?

One answer is how flounders hunt. Sometimes they lie on a ripple in the sand, with most of their body hidden behind the ripple but with their periscope eyes looking over it like a couple of snails crawling along the ridge. A little fish or shrimp, down in the valley below the ripple, looks up and recognizes harmless “snails.” Too late to flee, the little critter realizes “not snails, eyes!” and is sucked into the flounder’s sideways expandable mouth. When you see a flounder with a conspicuous belly bump, that’s probably the reason.

Flounders are ideally adapted for this type of ambush predation, the perfect advantage to being sideways.

Flounders are also well-known for matching their colors to their backgrounds – except it turns out that matching their colors to their backgrounds is only part of what peacock flounders do, according to research from a student of Dr. Roger Hansen. She learned that although the flounders matched their backgrounds, they actively chose backgrounds that they were capable of matching!

Think about that the next times you see a flounder. They’re generally on the sand, or maybe the flat surface of a coral rock or even a mooring block. I can’t recall ever seeing a flounder on anything brightly colored, or even a tire. Now we know why: they first choose a landing site they’re capable of matching, and then they land on it. Guaranteed success.

When a flounder moves from one ambush site to another, it generally swims at a leisurely pace, close to the bottom. If you see a flounder behaving differently, especially if its eyed-side pectoral fin is raised, you might be seeing courtship. The male, whose pectoral fin is longer than that of the female, will follow her while displaying his handsome pectoral fin. If she accepts him, they’ll swim upward, parallel to each other, and release sperm and eggs into the water simultaneously.

As with many fishes, flounder parental care is nonexistent. Fertilized eggs drift and hatch, the hatchlings drift, and,



Top photo: This peacock flounder, displaying his blue spots, doesn’t even need to focus both eyes on the camera. His frilled “eyelashes” are visible on the eye to our left.

Bottom photo: Its close-set eyes reveal that this is a maculated flounder. Apparently being sand-colored wasn’t enough camouflage, so this critter has also wriggled itself under actual sand. Its mouth is visible just below the eye to our right. Photos Dee Scarr



finally – just after their sideways change is completed -- settle to the bottom. All three of these flounders are left eye flounders, named because their eyes are on their (physiological) left side and they’re lying on their “right” side.

Our largest, most common, and most well-known flounder is the peacock flounder, who can grow up to 18”. The peacock flounder can give itself beautiful blue markings, and has fleshy protuberances on its eyes that look like eyelashes!

Next in size, up to 10”, is the maculated flounder, whom I almost always see resting on sand. The eyes of maculated flounders are set very close together, much closer together than the eyes of the peacock and eyed flounders. The extra-long pectoral fin of a male maculated flounder, acting like a dorsal fin, is split into two or more strands.

The eyed flounder occasionally reaches as much as 7” in length. It’s only the smallest of these flounders in size, however, not in range. Of these three flounders, most live around south Florida, the Bahamas, the Caribbean and down to Brazil. Only the eyed flounder is found as far north as New York!

For years (yes, those years were before I began to do REEF fish surveys), I identified every flounder I saw as a large peacock flounder, a medium-sized peacock flounder, or a small peacock flounder. Now I know different, and so do you!

*Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She’s written about her undersea experiences in her books, Touch the Sea, The*



*Gentle Sea, and Coral’s Reef (for children); in Dive Training Magazine from 1990 to 2000, with “Coral Glimpses” in the Bonaire Reporter, and now with “Reef Glimpses.” We are delighted to bring “Reef Glimpses” to you free of charge through [touchthesea.com](http://touchthesea.com).*

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# 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:** Tues. - Thurs. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sat. 8 a.m. - noon

**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)

**Marshe di Playa** Local market Sat. 9-1. Kaya Industria, next to Warehouse Supermarket.

**Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market. Central Kralendijk):** While we are still looking for a new permanent location, the Pakus is still OPEN but in a very downsized version at the old location on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**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/>

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

**Washington Slagbaai Park:** Closed on Mondays Apr. 3 - Nov. 27. Otherwise open daily. 8-5 (entry up to 1 p.m.) \$40 (Free with proof of Nature tag)

Wednesday, August 9	<b>Marsche di Rincon local crafts and food</b> held on cruise ship days.
Saturday, August 12	<b>Taste of Bonaire (Summer Edition)</b> 6 - 10 p.m. @ Wilhelmina Park. • Music group JC & Friends • dance performance • presentation Miss Teen Bonaire • DJ Roch. TCB recognizes Special Olympics athletes, Arte di Palabra and baseball team U8 Pony league. Food, culture, local handicrafts. Signature dishes of well-known restaurants offered at special prices.
August 14, 16, 18 Monday: Rincon stadium Wednesday: Elion Flores Friday: A.T.C / AMAS	<b>INDEBON / FBSB 'Back 2 School Bash' FREE.</b> Morning program: 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. 120 kids aged 6 to 14 years can sign up to play Football 5 & Baseball 5. Food and drink provided. Afternoon program: Bouncers and other activities. Sign up at INDEBON office or <a href="https://www.facebook.com/FBSBFacebook">FBSB Facebook</a>
Saturday, August 26	<b>Nos Zjilea Cultural Event</b> 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink.
Sunday, August 27	<b>40th Birthday Celebration Animal Shelter.</b> 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Activities planned for kids under 12.

<b>Tentative cruise ship schedule</b>				
DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Wed. August 9	MARDI GRAS	0700-1600	South	6631
Wed. August 16	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION (LAUNCHING 2022)	0800-2200	South	5282
Wed. August 23	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Thurs. August 24	CARNIVAL EQUINOX	0800-1700	South	2852

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<https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/book-avelo/>

More information about Avelo: <https://diveavelo.com/>

Do you want to get updates? Sign up for our newsletter:

<http://eepurl.com/deugV1>

# 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.

**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: Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5

**Noodling in the sea.** Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 9-10 a. m. across from Parke Tului on the waterfront. See Facebook [Bonaire Free Noodlers](https://www.facebook.com/BonaireFreeNoodlers)

**Pickleball.** Wednesdays & Fridays 6 - 8 p.m. at Jong Bonaire. Come join the fun. 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. 7:30 p.m. August 14 - VIP diving; August 21 - Toucan at Plaza. Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program facebook .Email: [Caribbean.Islands@mantatrust.org](mailto:Caribbean.Islands@mantatrust.org)



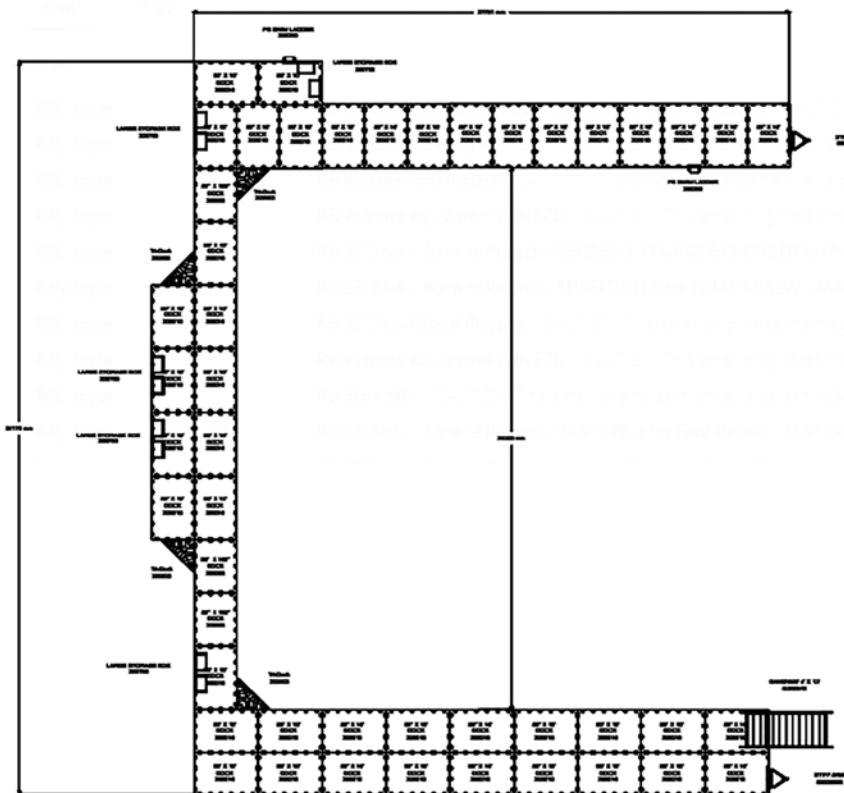
**Reef Renewal Bonaire.** Sundays 5:30 p.m. Blennies Restaurant - Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Open to everyone. Want to learn about coral reef restoration on Bonaire? Come listen to a staff member, instructor, or volunteer give an informative presentation about Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire and the importance 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.

## You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	<b>One Hour Clean up Power.</b> Weekly coastal clean up every Saturday, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Location given on FB page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/">https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/</a>
Saturday, July 29	<b>Selibon bario clean ups.</b> See Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063693935009">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063693935009</a>
Sunday, Aug 13	<b>Clean Coast Bonaire.</b> 4-6 p.m. Piedra Pretu. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. . <a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire">https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire</a>



**Schematic of the floating dock off Parke Tului. See story page 1.**



# A Garden? Just Do It! Get rid of the coral vine

*continued from page 3*

In Dutch the coral vine is called ‘koraalwijnstok’ and the official name is *Antigonon leptopus*. In my childhood it was one of my beloved flowers but I have changed my mind about that. When I went to Statia for the first time I was so happy seeing these pink flowers all over the island. It made me think of Grandma’s fence and my childhood. At first I didn’t know anything about this plant. But in time, I saw how it slowly took over every tree, fence and yard with branches. In my yard on Statia, I could not get rid of it. It popped up everywhere and in a few weeks it took over the yard, killing the other plants, pressing the wire fence down, growing along the wall of the house and onto the roof. I’ve also heard that it is a poisonous plant but others say that it is not.

So I don’t know if I should try it out again (haha). But with its ornamental pink flowers it easily steals one’s heart and people plant it in their yards. It was introduced to the islands around 1940

and took over with its dominant character, killing other plants with its strong vines that can grow up to 15 meters long. There is also a type with white flowers but I don’t see that one much.

Not so long ago an article appeared in Bio News 63 from the Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database about this plant. The report said: It can spread quickly. The plant threatens the biodiversity of the islands. It increases costs of removal efforts. It changes the landscape of an island. It grows fast and its strong vines smother and out compete native vegetation.

Coralita flowers the whole year round. When a hurricane hit Statia, it looked like it was totally destroyed. How surprised I was when I saw it growing again, even faster and more alive and soon its pretty pink flowers were blooming as if it was a pink sheet over a jungle.

It’s funny, while we want to get rid of this plant, its seeds can be bought in oth-

er countries. It’s advertised as a beautiful flowering plant, grows fast and easy, low maintenance and a sun lover. The ads say that the plants are amazingly diverse and come in an incredible assortment of sizes and colors. If you didn’t know better, you would love to have them. But please, don’t buy it, Bonaire is also suffering from this plant. Look around you and you’ll see it everywhere. And don’t have it growing on your house because pests such as termites, ants, rats and mice climb against the strong vines to make nests under your roof. So remove it immediately from your house and from your yard.

As mentioned, this plant grows from seeds which hang for a while on the plant until they are dry. Can you imagine how many seeds come off a plant with so many flowers? This is why this plant can take over a whole island because it spreads by the rainwater all over the place. When I remove them from my yard, I really have to pull very hard because their thick roots (look like small sweet potatoes) are very dense and attach to the soil. Often the vine breaks from the roots and soon you see new sprouts

pop up. So dig the roots out, don’t pull, to be sure you have removed the plant totally.

Now that you have some information about this plant, don’t let its beautiful flowers steal your heart. Because it’s a lover you can hardly get rid of after you realize you’ve made a mistake.

If you already have it in your yard, you have some work to do. Get it out. Just do it now.



*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.*

## Make Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

**All that traffic and no place to go**

In the last month I have had a lot of errands to run and the most important errands were to get proof that I am alive. When you are retired and get paid a pension, you need to prove once or twice a year that you are still alive and send it in. It is called an “Attestatie de Vita”.

It was not so easy this year (and I am not done yet) since I have worked in three different countries.

This year was a surprise. The SVB Bonaire also wanted proof and asked everybody who is getting an income in the form of an AOV to come and show a cedula and answer a few important questions.

Since I have no means of transport, friends offered to take me to the center of beautiful Kralendijk. Once at the huge parking lot in the middle of town, there was absolutely no parking available. Cars were parked on the curb, sidewalk and there were a lot of vehicles double parked. There was one spot open and free: a handicapped parking spot. We cruised to get there and found to our big surprise a car parked right in the entrance of that specific parking spot. No driver to be seen, so what to do? My friend took his cane and decided to walk to the SVB building. Here he found a lady willing to walk all the way to where we sat in the car. She asked us to drive on the curb at the entrance of the building where she could help us better. So we did. We opened the car windows and went through the whole procedure. When we were done she apologized for the chaotic parking and traffic situation. We told her we were very happy about the way she had done her job and thanked her.

This ordeal had taken a lot of time, so we decided to have an early lunch at a nice place and relax. I felt a bit spoiled as

we rode along the boulevard and enjoyed the breath-taking view of the island waterfront. But... when we got to the restaurant we noticed that the sidewalk had been made into a raised terrace with tables and chairs. The restaurant itself was impossible to enter with a steep ramp and a stone staircase. Imagine that, the whole sidewalk had changed into a terrace.

We were really angry and decided to go and have lunch somewhere else.

I just read in the news that we have a new police commander. One of his main plans will be to follow up and respond to rapid developments in society. I would like to suggest that he help us to finally get our handicapped traffic laws in order and updated. With our population of elderly and handicapped people growing by the day we have no where to go with the bad sidewalk situations, no official handicapped parking spaces, parking on side walks, etc.

I really hope that the training for the airport staff is done, so the new Ambu-Lift for handicapped passengers can be implemented. For many people that would mean their Bonaire vacation can start without fear.

*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.*



## Aquafest, continued from page 6



“We wanted to know what was expected from us. If it didn’t go right this time then they wouldn’t approve it again,” said Juliette.

Seventeen plus boats lined up along the ropes and many were turned away due to lack of space. There were even a few boats from Aruba and Curaçao that came over to join the party. Every size, shape and color of inflatable held ocean lovers of every age. They floated vying for space between the boats and the shore. Along the barricaded street, vendors had demos promoting jet skis and marine products. Food booths lined the shore with BBQ, beer, wine, mojitos and of course, lots of water for sale. The stores, restaurants along the waterfront mall had specials running for refreshments and clothing. Floats were available for sale with free air fills so everyone could join the party. MC for the party was Jo Café who reminded everyone over a loudspeaker to drink lots of water to stay hydrated, be courteous and above all, not throw anything into the ocean. Numerous DJ’s played their own style of music that blared over huge speakers to complete the party atmosphere.

Security was provided on both land and

sea by the Coast Guard, Bonaire National Marine Park, Customs, Royal Netherlands Marechaussee and KPCN.

The party was scheduled to end at 7 p.m. but the music was stopped five minutes early due to an incident with an overly zealous drinker. There was one arrest.

Juliette said, “It was a success and we are satisfied. The behavior of the community was really good. We had a lot of compliments and good comments on Facebook and everyone was happy.”

On August 6, the entire area was cleaned on land and below with the help of volunteer divers and for the most part very little trash was recovered.

Aquafest sponsors were: Rocargo, Live 99 FM, Budget Marine, Telbo, Full Power Marine, FX Bonaire, Caribbean Blokken & Klinkers Fabriek, Mac Enterprises, Karel’s Beach Bar, Club Boulevard, Brasa beer, Don Andres, Obersi Group, Kuzeta bv, Julian’s Restaurant, GPS Entertainment, Krus Kora Bonaire and STI-NAPA.

The group organizers hope to return with another Aquafest for Bonaire Regatta 2023 and in January 2024.

*Story / photos Julie Morgan*



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# Shelter News

**REMINDER:** Pakus di Pruga, the Shelter's second hand store, is still open at its original location but at limited capacity. Donations are still being accepted and sales being made. You can visit the Pakus to shop or drop off donations on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kaya Simon Bolivar opposite Brandaris Cafe. Donations can also be dropped off at the Shelter during their opening hours.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Animal Shelter Bonaire celebrates its 40th anniversary on Sunday, August 27th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Shelter grounds. "Forty and looking forward" is our theme with a focus on our children. The day will feature all kinds of activities for children 12 and under plus plenty of food and drink for adults and kids. Stay tuned to the Reporter for more details in next issue.

**SHELTER BOARDING FACILITIES** are booked solid for the summer vacation period. We are also quickly filling up for end of year holiday time. If you need to board your cat or dog during the winter holidays please make a reservation NOW. Email [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com) to make your arrangements.

## Pets of the Week



Tess

a soft coat and is very feminine.

Tess gets along with other cats, but we don't know about dogs. She gets along with small children and teenagers and is just a sweet and happy cat. Until now she's only been inside a house so she's perfect for an apartment.

Tess is 9 months old, sterilized, had all her vaccinations and has tested negative for FIV/Leukemia.

She will be chipped once you decide to take her home with you.

So come and meet this beautiful sweet girl and I'm sure she won't disappoint you!

*Photo/story Monique Degenaar*

### Dear dog lovers,

I would like to introduce you to Kiki (left). She is a very lovely girl about 1.5 years old. Kiki is a very kind, sweet and playful girl. Kiki has a hearing problem but that is not stopping her from being a real sweetheart.

The other cute doggie (right) is Mankey. He is a sweet boy about 2 years old.

Just like Kiki he loves to play and go out for walks and swim. They both love the water.

I know it's probably too much to ask to find them a home together but I am asking anyway as they are best friends.

Mankey is Kiki ears when needed and they really need to stick together. They are a sweet and special couple that will fill your heart and home with so much love.

*Photo/story: Sanne Attevelt*



(L-R) Kiki and Mankey

**If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. Open Monday - Friday 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. nonstop. You can also call 701-4989 or 717-4989 to make an appointment, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, or email [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)**

### This beautiful and sweet lady is called Tess.

She came to the shelter about 5 months ago, together with her brother Toby.

Toby has been adopted so now it's time for Tess to have her own family.

Tess is not only very beautiful but very sweet. She is a brown tabby with red accents. Even the tip of her tail is red! When you enter our cat palace, she will probably be the first one to greet you. Tess loves attention and likes to sit on your lap or just right beside you. She has



'Chase dreams not people' is what former pro baseball player Ruwensley Jose Jesus's sign says. Anyone traveling past Windsock will see this enterprising young man selling water and homemade awa di la munchi. He's chasing his dream to establish a baseball training camp for kids. Photo Julie Morgan

## Curaçao a major human rights violator State Dept. says

The U.S. State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report relegates Curaçao to the lowest class of countries that do not meet the minimum requirements for combating human trafficking, a status it shares with Cambodia, Cuba, Belarus, Afghanistan, Nicaragua and Djibouti. Three international entities have also condemned Curaçao for poor treatment of Venezuelan refugees.

Amnesty International reports that Venezuelans are being detained in appalling conditions and that they are being denied medical care, among other things. Those who do not go behind bars pending deportation risk being exploited by employers or forced into prostitution.

Minister of Justice Shalten Hato denies the accusation. He says the government respects human rights. As evidence, he points out that Human Rights Defense Curaçao (HRDC) has called on the government to sign the simple consent to the Refugee Convention, as more than 150 other countries already have signed over the years. He does not say whether Curaçao has decided to sign yet. *DMR*



## Washikemba clean up

Eight organizations joined forces to clean up Boca Washikemba on July 29. The land based clean up attracted 53 volunteers. They collected a small mountain of all kinds of trash that washed up on the little beach where turtles frequently nest. Getting to the site was not the easiest but *The Reporter* encourages the organizations to make this

a regular clean up site due to the amount of refuse. The clean up was sponsored by Clean Coast Bonaire, Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB), STINAPA Bonaire, One Hour Clean Up Power, A Plastic Free Bonaire and NOBO with help from Selibon N.V., Caribbean Homes + Yachts Bonaire and Dive Friends. *Story/photo Julie Morgan*



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