

Social minimum report sent to political decision makers

The Caribbean Netherlands Social Minimum Commission has submitted its report to Carola Schouten, the Minister for Poverty Policy, Participation and Pensions, and Alexandra van Huffelen, the State Secretary for Kingdom Relations and Digitalisation. The title of the report is: Caribbean Netherlands entitled to a dignified social minimum. The conclusion of the report is: "With a proper budgeting method and a systematic approach per household type, a social minimum can be introduced that will produce results equivalent to those in the European part of the Netherlands." The fate of the social minimum will now be decided by the politicians.

For a substantial portion of the people living in the BES Islands, poverty has long been an everyday reality. The wages on the islands are low, but the costs of basic needs such as housing, transport, food, and clothing are high. The islands have never had an adequate social system like the one in place for decades in the European part of the Netherlands. Both lower wage working people and non-working people face a considerable shortfall each month. The Netherlands has anchored equality as a fundamental legal right for all its residents, and the current coalition clearly intends to meet that obligation for the residents of the Caribbean Netherlands.

According to the report, a single person living in a subsidized rental home in Bonaire needs at least \$1,517 for monthly expenses. A single person now receives \$1,031 in social relief

benefit. The old-age pension for retired people is 1,047 USD. Effective this year, the statutory minimum wage is 1,236 USD. As a supplement, people on low incomes in the Caribbean Netherlands can also obtain an energy allowance equivalent to \$108 per month. Many people who receive assistance have to pay rent in the high priced private rental market. So Bonaire has a lot of catching up to do.

The government will set aside €30 million next year to improve the purchasing power of the residents of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba. Among other things, this money will go towards social benefits increases in the Caribbean Netherlands in 2024. Since the poverty issue in the Caribbean Netherlands primarily affects the working poor, measures must also be taken that will improve their position, such as an increased statutory minimum wage, the reduction of particular costs and the introduction of means-tested allowances

The Commission says that a single resident who has to survive on social assistance must reach the social minimum when income, supplements and provisions are added together. The Commission also believes that work should pay off, so people who are employed at the statutory minimum wage minimum will receive higher incomes than those who survive on social assistance. *DMR*

Time to get flu shots

The annual flu vaccinations will be available beginning on October 16. People from risk groups can contact their GP to make an appointment for the free shot. On Saturday, October 28, the injection can be obtained from their GP without an appointment from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

People over 60, people with a medical condition (such as diabetes, heart, lung or kidney disease) or reduced resistance should be vaccinated because they are at greater health risk if they get the flu. The shot lessens the likelihood of contracting the flu and produces milder symptoms.

Flu spreads in the same way as COVID-19. Therefore, cough and sneeze into your elbow or into a disposable tissue and wash your hands regularly with soap and water. The flu shot only protects against the flu virus. People who have had the flu shot are therefore not protected against other viruses, such as the common cold virus or the coronavirus.

This year, as in the European Netherlands, the pneumococcal vaccination is offered by the general practitioner for people between 60 and 80 years old. The injection reduces the chance that you will become seriously ill and, for example, contract pneumonia. The pneumococcal vaccination can be taken at the same time as the flu shot. *DMR*

Helmond reappointed as kingdom representative



Jan Helmond MPM has been reappointed (subject to royal decree) as Acting Kingdom Representative for the public entities Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, a position he has held since November 2017. The extension will take effect on November 8, 2023.

The appointment is temporary because pending reform legislation may abolish the position. The acting Kingdom Representative is the administrative link between the Netherlands and the public entities. One of his responsibilities in that role is to promote smooth cooperation between the civil servants of the central government working on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba and the island administrations. The acting Kingdom Representative also monitors good governance and adopts the coordination plan for inter-island disasters and crises in the Caribbean Netherlands. *DMR*

OLB thinking about a ferry service again

The public body of Bonaire (OLB) is re-examining whether a ferry between Bonaire and Curaçao is feasible and desirable and is discussing the possibility with various potential providers. It is considering the regulations and requirements that would be required, as well as infrastructure, logistics and financial feasibility. Given Bonaire's total dependence on air travel, ferry service would provide a welcome alternative, especially for people who travel between the islands to visit friends and family members.

DMR Map OLB



The REPORTER

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October

Breast Cancer Month

See page 15

The colors of love mix well with the colors of paint



Photo Julie Morgan

Turn back the clock to 2020 and a night of hot salsa dancing on Bonaire. Boy meets girl. Boy and girl marry. The happy couple starts a painting business. She, Ariane Cloutier Scherders (a French Canadian) paints a beautiful flamingo mural at the island's airport (now the backdrop for many tourist photos), conceives a child and works side by side with her Dutch husband, Bas Scherders. Together they make a home. Bas provides guidance to customers and arranges painting jobs, commercial and residential, for their large crew of painters who not only paint but plaster, install replacement roofs, windows and doors and other carpentry. They called the painting plus business "1000 Kolo di Karibe."

Flash forward to October 8, 2023 and the Grand Opening of their second business! Simply called "The Paint Shop," this brand new painting supply store is located at Kaya Mgr Niewindt #76, in Terra Cora. A huge red flag hangs in front of the store so you can't miss it. They had always preferred the quality of certain Dutch paint and products (Nelf and Woodfield) but they were hard to obtain here on Bonaire. Ariane and Bas decided to expand their painting business to a full retail shop to offer these high quality products directly to everyone on Bonaire.

What's so special about their preferred paint and supplies? A lot. They sell Nelf paint which is manufactured in the mid-

dle of a UNESCO World Heritage location in Holland, home to seals and migrating birds. And the manufacturing method produces zero CO2. The electricity comes from a wind turbine and 1,560 solar panels. Nelf sent its representative, Myron Doktor, all the way from Holland to attend The Paint Shop opening and provide support to Ariane and Bas' green business. Myron pointed out that all Dutch paints are required by law to meet a variety of high environmental and safety standards. These include low VOC

(Volatile Organic Compounds), among other qualities making them user and environmentally friendly paints as well. Colors can be matched to order at The Paint Shop.

To paint you can't forget brushes, tapes, rollers, trays and all the necessary equipment. Enter another long standing Dutch company, Woodfield paint supply

The colors of love and paint,
continued on page 6



The Paint Shop by Kolo di Karibe staff L-R: Roberto, Vantholl, Taylor, Das, Appolon, Bas, Ariane, Sandy Photo Julie Morgan

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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.

Fontein

I am overjoyed that the Government has bought back Fontein. It was my favorite spot on the island until the owners blocked access to it. I can't remember exactly when the owners closed it but when I discovered that I could no longer go to my favorite spot, I was devastated.

I discovered Fontein on my first trip to Bonaire in 1987. I don't recall there being a gate to the property. I do recall that I wandered in, was amazed by the number of trees and how cool it was as compared to the rest of the island. Once I had climbed the steps and found the pools I was in heaven. Then, to find the natural spring; well, I didn't want to leave.

As a visitor I would visit the site on every trip. I told

friends about the place. It became a habit to stop there and have a freshwater shower after coming from Washington Park. I went into the pools even when they were full of leaves and the water was murky. I would hang there looking at the east side sea and think about how Fontein was one of Bonaire's magical places.

When I became a resident in 1995, I went to this special place weekly. I took friends. I even had a birthday party there. And then it happened; there was no access. A locked gate kept me and others out. Initially I thought the lack of access was only temporary and many times I would drive over from Playa thinking I would be able to get in. I finally stopped trying. And now, thanks to our government, I and everyone else will be able to enjoy this magical place. *Ann Joseph*

The BC does not want to negotiate with ASOTEKO

Does a politician's word still have any value? Well, we all know the answer: 'No!'. However, before judging, one should always assume the honesty of people. So ASOTEKO has stated both privately and publicly that it is willing to negotiate with the BC. If a good amicable settlement is possible, then it is better for everyone.

But the BC apparently doesn't want to talk anymore. The BC had invited us, but we no longer receive a response to our emails for a first appointment. That is why ASOTEKO follows its own path again. The Petition to the Island Council to instruct the BC to negotiate will be submitted soon. And we are also working on the lawsuit that will take place at the end of November.

In the meantime, we have the evidence needed in this case. At the end of November, everyone can come to the Courtroom to hear whether the evidence is convincing or not. Everyone knows that sites are almost always allocated without taking the Waiting List into account. The Waitlist is a gigantic fraud. That is a fact of common knowledge. Yet such well-known facts must be proven in a lawsuit. Well, ASOTEKO has that proof now.

It is unfortunate that the public does not yet understand the seriousness of the coming major changes in Land Policy. In the future, no one will be given a site

based on the old rules that have been in force since 1953. In the future, the market price will have to be paid to the BC. And even the rights of those already on the Waitlist will not be respected. This is what the BC's lawyer informed the Court of First Instance.

So don't cry tomorrow when this comes into effect. Don't say you didn't know. And don't blame the Netherlands either. If our own BC and Island Council have a backbone, they can still decide that the new Land Policy will deviate from the decision of the Supreme Court, which even stipulates that leasehold land must be auctioned. If our politicians don't act now, this will happen. And then it's their fault. Don't blame anyone else!

ASOTEKO convenes a final Public Meeting for Saturday, October 21 at 7:00 PM. We ask all those who have brought a Signature List, in which they are asked to instruct the BC to negotiate with ASOTEKO, to hand in their lists to ASOTEKO. The lists will then be submitted to the Island Council and negotiations may still be possible. ASOTEKO remains willing to do so, but we do not beg. If the BC no longer wants to negotiate, they should have at least been polite enough to tell us so. But even that common courtesy is missing.

How does Bonaire think it can continue with such politicians?

ASOTEKO is the Association for Leasehold Issuance without Corruption. Mr. M. Bijkerk

Covid shots

I was disheartened to learn that Bonaire is still making COVID shots available, and worse is frighteningly promoting them including to pregnant women. The shots were never properly tested on pregnant women, and this latest round of COVID shots were only tested on 10 mice!

Covid shots are proving dangerous...particularly to young athletes who are dropping down on sport fields from inflammation of the heart known as myocarditis, and also pericarditis when the tissue surrounding the heart becomes inflamed. Despite government claims

that myocarditis is rare and self healing expert cardiologists say this is a lie. The damage to the heart is generally permanent.

Further, the COVID shots actually increase the likelihood of being hospitalized and even developing a Covid infections. Around the world hospitalizations are way more prevalent among the vaccinated than among the unvaccinated. Further, their main excuse, protecting the elderly, has been discredited.

Laraine Abbey-Katzev RN, MS, CNS (Certified Nutrition Specialist) Member, steering committee: <https://millionsagainstmandates.org/>

Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Question -

Since there is no MLS (multiple listing service) on Bonaire, if I list my house with one real estate agency, will other agencies be able to show and sell it? Thanks, Carl

Hi Carl,

There are two important questions to ask any real estate agency/broker before listing your property for sale on Bonaire.

- Do you permit buyers working with other real estate agencies to view my home? and
- Do you share the sales commission you're charging me if another agency brings the buyer?

Some real estate agencies only sell their own listings to their own clients. This means that if another agency has a potential buyer for your property, some listing agencies may not agree to show the property or may not share the commission you pay. They want a buyer working with another agency to pay a separate commission to the agency the buyer is working with. That makes two commissions for one home, which reduces the price you receive for your home as the buyer has less money for you.

To ensure that all possible buyers see your property, list with an agency that works cooperatively with all other agencies on the island. At RE/MAX, we are happy to work with any real estate agency to sell your home. Our primary goal is to sell your property as soon as possible for the best possible price. That's why we cooperate with other brokers, so your home can be shown and sold to any and all interested buyers.

We also share the selling commission with other agencies if they bring the buyer. This ensures that every possible buyer sees your home, and that they're not penalized with any additional costs if they want to buy your home.

Thank you for asking,

Bob Bartikoski, Re/Max Bonaire Broker/Owner

If you are looking to buy or sell a home on Bonaire, or if you have a real estate question for Bob, email him at info@bonairehomes.com. Bonaire: +599-717-7362. Toll free from US: 1-866-611-7362

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POLICE REPORT

Property Crime

Oct. 5. A man, 52, was arrested for theft. The suspect searched several vehicles parked downtown. The police caught the suspect red-handed when he searched a car. A number of items were found in the car that were probably stolen. The car was seized for further investigation. On Friday, October 6, a theft was reported from the seized vehicle. A bank card and cash were taken.

Oct. 4. Two cases of theft were reported in a company located on Kaya L.D. Gerharts. On September 27 two JBL speakers were stolen. In the night Oct. 3/4, a 32-inch LG Smart TV was stolen.

Oct. 4. A boat named 'Nayi,' registration number B-137, was reported stolen from a marina on Boulevard Julio A. Abraham. On the boat there was a gray painted Yamaha outboard-40 engine and a car battery. Later the boat was found by STINAPA near Klein Bonaire. The engine and battery were not found.

Sept. 30. Between 12 noon and 2 p.m. unknown persons broke into a home located on Lagun Hill and took several items including a black Sony Bluetooth speaker, a Cressi Tokugawa diving wetsuit, a Mares dark green snorkel and mask, a bright yellow-green Suunto Zoop diving watch, white Adidas shoes with dark blue stripes and a belt.

Sept. 25/26. Between 10:15 p.m. on Monday and 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, unknown persons took five black solar Aootek lights that were hanging near the wall of the yard of a home on Kaya Castor

Sept. 22. The central control room received a report about a scooter, probably stolen, that was found in the yard of a house on Kaya Patrushu. The black scooter is without a license plate and has an illegible chassis number. According to the reporter, a person hid the scooter in his yard for three days. The scooter was taken to the police station for further investigation.

Sept. 21/22. A company located on Kaya Saturnus was burgled between Thursday 6 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. Unknown persons destroyed a sliding door to gain entry and took various tools and mobile phones. Stolen, among others were three Makita green hand saws, a Makita green electric drill, a black with red Skil sander, a Samsung black mobile phone, a Samsung green mobile phone, a bag with a small amount of cash, and a WiFi point.

Arrests

Oct. 7. In the afternoon a patrol spotted a car driving at high speed on Kaya Korona. Due to the driver's reckless driving, the patrol had to swerve to avoid a collision. The driver continued to drive at high speed towards the Surnan di Rozendaal roundabout and then onto Kaya Nikiboko Noord. The patrol then chased him due to his reckless driving, but they lost sight of the vehicle. Moments later, police spotted the car traveling in the opposite direction on Kaya Kanari at high speed. The patrol encouraged the driver to stop by flashing lights while an officer stepped out of the police vehicle to signal the driver to stop with his right hand. The driver did not reduce his speed and continued driving towards the police officer. The officer was forced to jump out of the way to prevent the vehicle from hitting him. The suspect continued driving and the patrol lost sight of him again.

The patrol continued to search for the vehicle and found it again near the Kaya Falcon. They give chase. Near Kaya Bari, the suspect almost hit someone walking along the road and continued driving. Near Kaya

Tambú, the suspect hit a car parked along the road and continued to drive. The patrol finally brought the suspect to a stop near Kaya Marimba. The man, 32, was arrested for failure to respond to police demands, an attempt on the life of a civil servant in office and for various traffic violations. The suspect was probably under the influence of narcotics. The car has been seized for further investigation.

Oct. 5. A man, 39, showed a fake passport at a government office on Kaya Neerlandia and was arrested by the police for forgery.

Oct. 4. Man, 47, was arrested for assault. The suspect had previously been involved in a fight at a catering establishment on Kaya Papa Cornes. The man he had injured did not want to report the incident. He was treated on the spot by ambulance personnel.

Oct. 3. Around 2:30 a.m. a car, which was not equipped with a license plate at the front and had a defective light at the rear, was spotted by a patrol on Kaya L.D. Gerharts. When stopped, the driver started to show suspicious behavior. He tried to hide a plastic bag that was in the car with clothing. The bag contained several packages of suspected narcotics. During the officers' search, a quantity of suspected narcotics was found on the driver and a quantity of another suspected narcotic was also found in the vehicle. These were all confiscated. The driver was arrested for violating the BES Opium Act.

Sept. 23. In the afternoon a man, 59, was arrested at Kaya Sonmontuno for assault with a weapon and serious assault. The suspect had hit another man on the head with a concrete block during an argument at a house on Kaya Mandolin. The victim was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment.

Driving under the influence

Between Sept. 24 and Oct. 9 four men were arrested for driving under the influence. Two had been involved in single vehicle accidents.

Oct. 8. Around 1 p.m. the central control room received a report of a collision between two cars at Kaya Korona and Kaya

Dr. Jose G. Hernandez. When the patrol arrived, they found that the driver who allegedly caused the accident had blood-shot eyes, his breath smelled of alcohol and his speech was slurred. During a check of the required documents, it turned out that the driver could not produce a driver's license because it had been confiscated by the police. While officers were dealing with bystanders at the scene, the suspect reversed his car and crashed into a third vehicle. The man, 38, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and for driving with a suspended driver's license.

Traffic

Between September 23 and October 9:

- A car rolled over when driver lost control in a bend on the road to Rincon.

- A car drove away after crashing into a lamppost at Hanchi Amboina. The vehicle was found a little later hidden in the garden of a house on Kaya Vivaldi.

- A driver and his passenger fell from a scooter and suffered minor injuries near Kaya Amsterdam and Kaminda Djabou.

- Two cars collided on Kaya Industria Pariba.

- A car and a pick-up collided on Kaya Internashonal near the roundabout.

- Two cars collided on Kaminda Gurubu.

- Police stopped a minor driving a scooter.

- A driver, traveling northbound on Kaya Korona near the Coromoto church was traveling on a road closed to traffic and struck a concrete block semi-trailer, becoming trapped underneath. Fire personnel removed the victim from the car. He was taken to hospital by ambulance for medical treatment. The victim's situation was worrying.

- After a fight was reported at Kaya Haldu a pickup coming from there crashed into a car and then crashed into the fence of a house on Kaya Korona. The driver was injured and taken by ambulance to hospital for medical treatment. After further investigation, it turned out that a little earlier, the victim and his fellow passenger had fought with another man near a catering establishment. The passenger was not at the scene when the police arrived.

Tickets for traffic violations

Between September 22 and October 4, 70

fines were issued for traffic violations.

Drivers were fined for driving without: a license plate (4), a driver's license (22), insurance (17), a helmet (6), a seat belt (15). Tickets were also issued for: using a telephone behind the wheel (6).

The amount of a fine for the above violations varies between \$30 and \$225.

Public Order

Oct. 8. Around 9:30 a.m. central dispatch received a report that a male lifeless body had been found in Washington Park. The forensic department of the police together with the medical examiner arrived on the scene. The medical examiner officially diagnosed death. KPCN can confirm that these are the physical remains of the man, Rodrigo Thode, who had been missing since September 28.

Oct. 7. The central control room received a report of a fight at the Kaya C.D. Crestian. When the patrol arrived they found a man with a wound to his head after a person assaulted him with a bottle. Paramedics treated the victim at the scene.

Sept. 26. In the morning hours a car without a license plate was spotted on public roads near Kaya Domingo Bernabela. The driver could not show a valid driver's license or valid insurance. Further investigation revealed that the driver had already been fined three times in the past for driving without a driver's license. As a result, the car was seized.

Sept. 25. Around 9:15 p.m., a car snaking across the road was spotted by a patrol on the Kaya Macario (Cai) Sint Jago. The patrol followed him and the driver was commanded to stop on Kaya Nikiboko North. When officers approached the driver, a marijuana-like odor was detected. The passenger stated that he had just finished smoking a joint. The officers immediately proceeded to a check in the context of the BES Opium Act. During the search of the vehicle, a small amount of drug-like herbs (hash) was found in a bag. A flare gun was also found in the vehicle. These were confiscated.

Have you seen or heard anything that could help the police? You can report this via 715 8000 or anonymously via the anonymous tip line, 9310.



Police get more bikes

The bike team of the Dutch Caribbean Police Force has six new bicycles and five freshly certified officers. It now has 14 bicycles and an expanded team of trained specialists. Because of their mobility, bikes can easily navigate through crowds, narrow alleys and streets, and they bring the police into closer contact with the public. DMR Photo KPCN

that sent Luke Verberk from Holland to the opening. Woodfield paint supply has been in business for 50 years, makes beautiful wood handled brushes that are a pleasure to hold and masking tape in many different widths. The quality of the brushes are not the kind you use once and toss out. That in itself helps reduce painting waste. Woodfield is working to reduce its use of plastic packaging by eliminating plastic covers where possible.

Someone told me when I first met Ariane and Bas, “They become friends with everyone they sell paint to or work with.” She was right. After purchasing several gallons of wall sealer from them, I found myself eating a cupcake at their grand opening party and winning a SUP (stand up paddleboard) in the drawing.

As Ariane says, “We work with our hearts”. I guess that’s what happens when you are living happily ever after. Their baby boy coming in December will be named Ocean. To contact 1000 Kolo di Karibe or The Paint Shop call +599 786 1225 / 786 4711 or visit at Kaya Mgr NIewindt 76A.

Ginny Knight



STINAPA eases coral disease restrictions

STINAPA has revised some of the don’t-dive-here restrictions that are intended to stop, or at least delay, the spread of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD).

At every dive site around the island, people are still required to disinfect their dive gear and snorkel gear before entering the water. And the stoplight system is still in force. If a dive in a zone that is designated red is on the day’s dive agenda, it should be visited last.

Diving is still strictly forbidden in the area north of Karpata to Malmok. Snorkeling is allowed if disinfection and stop light rules are observed. STINAPA is happy to announce that no indication of SCTLD has been found in that area.

Klein Bonaire Diving is again accessible. Diving is allowed at Klein Bonaire from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week.

The East Coast (Boka Grandi to Willemstoren) remains accessible for users, subject to disinfection and stoplight rules.

STINAPA says the restricted visiting hours at Klein Bonaire didn’t stop SCTLD from getting there. But the restriction significantly slowed down the spread of the disease and bought time to continue the search for long-term through coral treatment and restoration solutions.

Materials for educating staff and guests can be downloaded (<https://we.tl/t-H7ZxplhOPM>). They include a flyer and videos explaining how to best disinfect gear and use the stoplight system. Rangers will soon distribute new flyers and will hang posters at public locations. STINAPA will organize another public meeting at the end of October to update everyone in English/Papiamentu. *DMR*

Roxanne Francisca now STINAPA’s Senior Conservation Manager



Roxanne Francisca has been promoted to the position of Senior Conservation Manager of STINAPA. She will work with the Conservation Director, Park Managers and their staff to strengthen park operations at the Wash-

ington Slagbaai Park and Bonaire National Marine Park. Francisca will also kick start management of the recently acquired Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku Park.

Francisca joined STINAPA in 2018 as Ecology Advisor to the Nature Unit directly from the University of Amsterdam, where she was a high performer studying for a Masters Degree in Limnology and Oceanography. Born and raised in Curaçao, she studied at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. Afterwards she continued her education at the University of Amsterdam and participated in the Netherlands Initiative on Changing Oceans (NICO) expedition.

During her five years as a marine biologist for STINAPA, Francisca contributed to the establishment of a robust water quality monitoring program for the island, as well as the sargassum monitoring and response plan. More recently she was instrumental in developing and implementing the RESEMBID funded project ‘Lac pa Semper.’ She has also been leading STINAPA’s stony coral tissue loss disease response (SCTLD) and long-term reef restoration efforts.

According to Francisca, “small tropical islands like Bonaire are at the forefront when it comes to climate change impacts. As Bonaire’s population continues to steadily grow, it becomes imperative to secure our natural treasures. Conservation and restoration efforts must adapt to this ‘new normal’ and embrace innovative strategies that ensure the island’s vibrant ecosystems and the crucial services they provide are safeguarded... This [is] for the benefit of current and future generations.” *DMR*



Protect Our Reef

Bonaire is known for its pristine reefs and lively underwater world. Therefore, it is our duty to protect it. Many Caribbean islands and countries have been dealing with a fast-spreading coral ailment for years (SCTLD). Recently it was detected in Bonaire. Follow these 3 simple steps when entering the marine park to help distress our corals and give them a fighting chance!

STEP 1 Disinfect Gear

Thoroughly clean your gear before and after each dive/snorkel day.

Pre Rinse

Rinse in water to remove sediment (dirt, sand)

Disinfect

10% bleach non sensitive gear
7% lysol sensitive gear
Soap extra sensitive gear
Soak 5 min

Rinse

Rinse in freshwater
Let dry completely

SENSITIVE

- Regulator
- Wetsuit
- Booties
- Mask
- Fins
- BCD

EXTRA SENSITIVE

- Dive computers
- Cameras

NON-SENSITIVE

- Weight belts
- Slates



Thank you for helping us protect our reefs!

Rainy season will bring *Aedes aegypti*

The Public Health Department has warned Bonaireans to take measures to protect themselves from the *Aedes aegypti*, also called the dengue mosquito. The females transmit dengue, chikungunya and the Zika virus when they sting people.

This mosquito lives in homes and gardens and lays its eggs in objects that have collected rainwater. The most effective way to prevent dengue, chikungunya and Zika is to remove all places where mosquitoes can breed. Everyone should check regularly and clean up plastic containers, car tires, bottles, and cans in and around the home. Containers or barrels to collect rainwater for plants or animals should be closed with mosquito net.

Direct steps to avoid being bitten by the dengue mosquito should be taken. Clothing that covers the skin should be worn and a strong mosquito repellent (such as DEET) used. Screens and aircos deter mosquitos, as do insecticides sprayed indoors. The mosquito that spreads these diseases is active during the day, particularly in the early morning and afternoon. Therefore, also sleep under a mosquito net during the day. DMR

Use study coming of Cruyff Court recreational facilities in Rincon

A usage study will begin soon in Rincon at the Cruyff Court, the gymnasium, and the playground. The study will determine how many people—especially young people and children—use these areas, how often, and for what purposes. The research results will be used to determine whether changes are needed at the three locations.

PYRO boxes will count how many people enter and exit the court, gym or playground.

The boxes work with radiation, so no photos or videos are taken of users.

Individuals will be interviewed with a questionnaire, as will Representatives of schools and sports organizations that use the court, playground and gymnasium. The interviewers will ask about the activities the facilities are used for. What are the ages of the users, how

many come every day, and what are the peak hours?

The research has been commissioned by Indebon in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS). It will run until February, 2024. DMR

Remains of missing man found in Washington Park

Rodrigo Thode, age 68, went missing from his home in Rincon on September 28th. After an intensive search, his remains were located in Washington Park on October 8.. DMR

New Flamingo baggage conveyor a lemon

Bonaire International Airport (BIA) has had to shut down the new baggage conveyor pending discussions with the supplier about defects that need to be corrected. The conveyor is reported to be noisy and prone to mechanical failures. BIA has taken the conveyor out of service temporarily and has resumed handling luggage the way it did while the conveyor was being installed.

DMR (BESreporter)

Pharmacies speed up customer service

All general practitioners on the island can now send prescriptions electronically to the Fundashon Mariadal pharmacy. Customers can go to the pharmacy the next working day after 3 p.m. and proceed directly to Counter 6 or 7. The prescriptions will be prepared and waiting for them. Customers still have the option of bringing in a paper prescription and waiting for it to be filled. DMR

De Jong-Mercelina appointed Coast Guard Deputy Director



Joëlle de Jong-Mercelina is the new Deputy Director of the Coast Guard (PDKW). De Jong-Mercelina will be responsible for the execution of coast guard tasks and the internal management of the Coast Guard and will have daily leadership over the organization.

De Jong-Mercelina has served as Acting Secretary-General of the Ministry of Justice of Curaçao, has represented Curaçao as a deputy member of the Presidency of the Coast Guard Committee for a long time, and was a lecturer in International Public Law at the University of the Dutch Antilles/Curaçao. She is also a former member of the Volunteer Corps of the Dutch Antilles. DMR

Kiwanis Bonaire has a new board

Kiwanis Club of Kralendijk Bonaire has a new board and is celebrating its fifth anniversary.

Kiwanis Club of Kralendijk Bonaire celebrated the installation of its new board for the year 2023-2024 on Saturday, September 23, with a dinner at Le Jardin (El Jardin del Amor). The club is part of Kiwanis International, a global organization of volunteers committed to making the world a better place, one child and one community at a time.

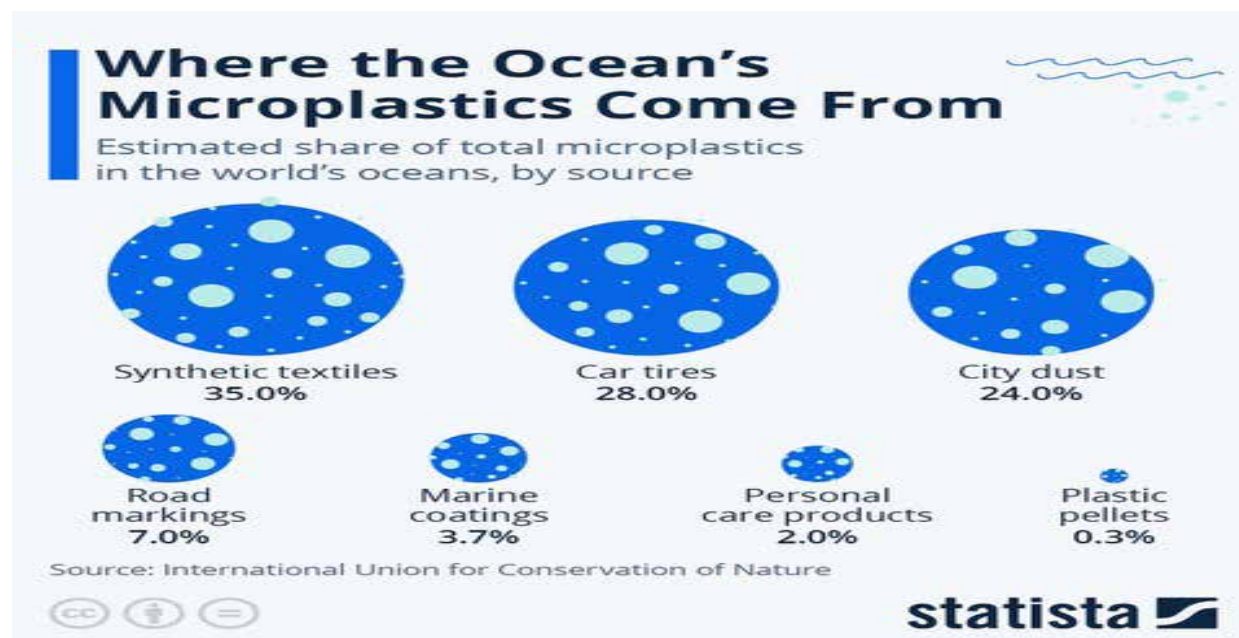
The evening started with the inauguration President Derchlien Dijkhof who looked back on completed projects such as baby packages and K-walk. Dijkhof thanked all members for their efforts and the executive board for their hard work during her chairmanship.

The new board members were then installed by former President Ricard Nicholson. The new board consists of President Mimi Dongen, Secretary Arianne Frans-Tromp, Treasurer Marco van Zuijlichem, Membership Director Lisete Marnes, Community Service Director Alicia Xuan-Krijgsman, Fundraising Director Debby Rauwers, PR Director Michealine Cathlin and SLP Advisor Emily Kocks.

Follow the club on Instagram @KiwanisKralendijk and Facebook to stay informed of its activities!

Kids Need Kiwanis, Kiwanis needs you.

Tire wear particles a significant source of microplastics



The Clean Coast Bonaire October 2023 Newsletter tells us that CCB volunteers are very aware of the way that marine plastic breaks into smaller and smaller pieces to form microplastics. But, it asks, did you know that an estimated six million tonnes of tire wear particles are released globally each year? Particulate matter from tire wear is a significant source of microplastics in oceans, and tire wear in cities could pose up to a four-fold greater risk to the environment than other microplastics, according to the researchers.

REGATTA 2023



Regatta Sunfish sailors: Ton Nuijten (center front); Robbert Verboon (R), and Gilbert Martis (L) ranked first, second, and third in points in the races on October 8.

Photo Julie Morgan

The Bonaire Sailing Regatta is one more item on the list we can attribute to the father of organized Bonaire diving, Captain Don Stewart. The sailing race back in 1968 between Captain Don's sailboat the *Sislin* and his friend Ebo Domacasse's fishing sailboat the *Vilia* for 27 cases of beer is now in its 56th year and how things have changed.

The 56th Bonaire Sailing Regatta, under the management of Aquasports Bo-

naire, began October 6 and will extend through October 14 at two different venues, Lac/Sorobon and Kralendijk.

Day one, October 7 the morning races at Sorobon were canceled due to lightning, thunder and rain but by early afternoon the blue skies, sun and wind arrived for the windsurfers and Sunfish sailors. On Sunday, the sailors got an early start to make up for lost race time lost due to bad weather.

Monday and Tuesday are off days but non-sailing activities will pick up again on Wednesday, October 11 with late yacht registration and captain meetings for yachts and microboats.

On Wednesday night, Regatta 56 has revived the All Nations Parade. Bonaire residents from different countries will be represented carrying their country's flag walking and dancing from Kas di Regatta to a presentation at Wilhelminaplein at 6:45 p.m.

Races resume October 12 – 14 for microboats, sailing windsurfing, foil races and yachts in the bay of Kralendijk.

From October 11 to 14 a main stage has been constructed between Bestuurcollege and Wilhelminaplein with free entertainment for Regatta fans. The music scheduled ranges from DJ's to local bands: October 11 – 13, 6 a.m. – 1:30 and Saturday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and 6–9:30 p.m.

Photos/story Julie Morgan



Schedule of Races

Thursday and Friday

9:30 – 9:50 Yachts Open Class / Cruising 1 / Cruising 2 / Racing 1 / Racing 2 (yachts in five-minute increments between class)

10:00 Microboats at SKAL
10:05 Sunfish A+B
10:10 Windsurfing
10:15 Optimist

2 – 2:20 Yachts Open Class / Cruising 1 / Cruising 2 / Racing 1 / Racing 2
2:30 Sunfish A+B
2:35 Windsurfing
2:45 Optimist

Saturday

10:00 Microboats at SKAL
10:05 Sunfish A+B
10:10 Windsurfing
10:15 Optimist

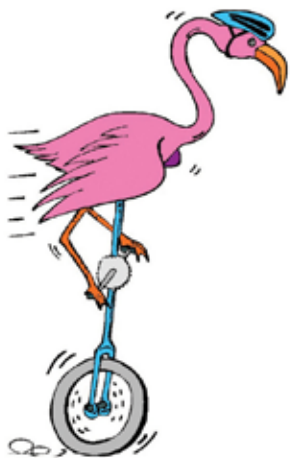
11 – 11:30 Yachts Open Class / Cruising 1 / Cruising 2 / Racing 1 / Racing 2 (yachts in five-minute increment between start)

2:00 Sunfish A
2:05 Windsurfing
2:10 Optimist



STINAPA Bonaire Marine Park rangers put their new boat Reina Karko (Queen Conch) to work over the weekend to monitor and help out at Regatta in Sorobon. The boat was funded through the RESEMBID fund. Photo Julie Morgan

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Spotlight on Local Artists



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Piss and Vinegar

by Gijs Borsten

Bonaire: home or a party island?

During his Dia di Boneiru speech, Island Governor a.i. Oleana expressed his worries on the threatening Benidormization of Bonaire because of the uncontrolled growth of the population. The tranquility of the island is seriously at risk because of the relentless immigration of – mainly - Dutch citizens, coming to Bonaire with no other purpose than, well, coming to Bonaire, behaving the way they think they should behave on a tropical island.

Oleana’s concerns seem fully justified, but, under the present admission policies, there’s not going to change much.

Now, for a better understanding of how a majority of the Dutch are wired, let me explain a couple of things.

The fact that they so easily take over the island, without taking its local culture, its habits or moral structuring in consideration, is something that is deeply embedded in Dutch culture.

The self-opinionated arrogance roots in our colonial past, the Dutch occupying large slabs of foreign land, with the only purpose the cash it could generate, not giving a daisy about the actual owners or their cultural values. This attitude is caused by a Calvinism, inalienable from Dutch culture. Somewhere during the 16th century, in the heart of the Reformation, the conviction has taken root, that they – we - know better how to deal with uncharted or Papist territories than anyone else. When there’s a profit to be made, the land is ours. That’s basically what’s it all about. Compare it to the way Calvinist peasant Breemhaar is trying to exploit Bolivia.

By the way: American Christian Reformed Righteousness is probably just as pedantic as the Dutch variety, the source being the same. Blame the Pilgrims.

Because of this shared heritage Dutch and Americans have lots in common. They take up, for instance, equally large amounts of space in their respective habitats, both spatially and acoustically. Americans on Bonaire, however, are slightly lower key than the Dutch, mainly, I think, because they’re slightly older and are therefore better off moneywise. They don’t have to be noisy to

make their point. Besides, they all live in Sabadeco, far away from all the chattering.

The Dutch are generally younger, either being in a phase of having to show off their successes, or being curling-parented Millennials and Gen-Zs that, judged by their behavior in traffic and their use of various substances, seem to be convinced they can’t die. (Spoiler: they can).

Fast forward to the 21st century.

Imagine a park bench, somewhere in Motherland, with a hundred people sitting on it. It’s a large bench. Now imagine a group of about six people walking over to the bench, asking for a place to sit down for a while. Maybe it’s two refugees, a Syrian and a Yemenite, both fleeing a civil war, a Chinese medical student, a Polish factory worker, a bombed out Ukrainian, and an Italian cook.

The people on the bench start moving around uneasily. Should they squeeze in a bit, or stick together and chase the bunch of misfits away? After a bit of bickering, half of the occupants decide the intended immigrants are welcome to sit down, provided they promise they’ll adapt Dutch societal norms and moral values, respect the culture, and learn the language.

The other half however, without even trying to move, feels the bench is full, and tells the bunch they’d better go screw themselves and go back to wherever they came from. Except maybe for the Italian cook because they like lasagna.

That’s more or less how the dialogue on immigration in Motherland takes place.

Now imagine a park bench, somewhere on Bonaire, with a hundred Bonaireans on it, all Yunan di Tera. It’s an equally large bench as in Motherland.

Imagine a group of twenty-two people walking up to the bench, asking for a place to sit down. It could be two construction workers from Peru or Colombia, a Chinese cook joining his family, a Colombian hooker on a three month’s permit, and eighteen Makambas, of which eleven want to start a successful business, four are pensionados that want to ‘really enjoy’ island life, and three trainees, studying something in hospitality or celebrating their gap year, looking for something to drink/snort/screw while they’re away from home for the first time.

The Bonaireans on the bench start squeezing in a bit, but shortly the fact becomes clear, that however much they compress, there’s no way all of the newcomers will be able to sit down without pushing off seven or ten of the locals.

The seatless Makambas start a deliberation. ‘Okay, now come on guys’, they say to the Bonaireans, ‘you’ve been sitting around here long enough, and look at the mess you made. Why don’t you just go to wherever you came from and let us run the place. What? I can’t hear you. Maybe you should learn the language. Now piss off!’, and they sit down shoving the others off of the bench.

That’s more or less how the dialogue on immigration on Bonaire takes place, and that’s how Bonaire gets wasted. Like a kind of post-colonial takeover.

Considering the examples above, there’s a strange paradox in the way the Dutch are judged by foreign nationals.

Tourists visiting Motherland always boast their friendliness of, their fluency in English, the cleanliness and the degree of organization of the country.

People welcoming the Dutch as tourists, on the contrary, complain about the sheer rudeness of their guests, especially, but not limited to, the younger ones, behaving like hooligans, often drunk and under the influence of every pill or powder they can find, kicking everybody to death getting in their way.

Maybe Makambas living on Bonaire should, for the sake of their reputation, consider the island a bit more like home, and less like a party island.

Is there a politician who can slam a brake or two to prevent Bonaire from becoming a new Ibiza? Or is the financial prospect too rosy to act?



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.

Make Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

Fighting for rights

With the temperature we endure there days it is hard to think straight. The only thing you want to do is to have a huge fan blowing cool air directly on your whole body or when you want to splurge, live in an air-conditioned house 24/7.

We need to have ice cold water available to drink and jump in the pool every now and then. Plus, it would be nice to have a butler serve delicious cold lunches and dinners and change your clothes and bedding every day.

Now... imagine being a person with disabilities and depending on personal help and assistance.

For everything you need, you have to ask for help. If you can talk, it is easy... you just ask and hope that you get what you want. Is there somebody available right away? When you are very thirsty, you need to drink a lot. Is there a choice of drinks? Or do you have to drink whatever is prepared? Can you get to a toilet fast enough or often enough? Do you have to sit in your sweat-soaked clothes very long before you get help to change?

If sitting in a wheelchair, is there a soft and absorbent cushion for you to be comfortable or do you slide all over the chair because of all the perspiration?

How about if you are wearing incontinence material? How often will you get changed? According to the rules of the insurance, one only gets as few packs as they want you to have. If you need more.... what will you do? Buy more? Does your care facility offer you more or are there alternatives?

Are there enough fans available? Are you sitting in the shade or is shade created?

Regatta is on the calendar. Would you like to go? Is there decent transportation? And where will you sit? Is there a shaded tent? Is there accessibility for persons with different disabilities? Will there be huge fans in case the wind is still? Are there enough volunteers?

For those who do not go to Regatta, is there responsible recreation in the garden where you live? A water-hose, sprinkler, buckets full of cool water....

Often big companies sponsor all kinds of facilities. Maybe it is a good idea to ask those companies for help to sponsor groups, individuals and volunteers.

Companies also might help you organize special activities during the Regatta days. Be careful which companies you ask and be very specific about the help you are seeking.

People will always want to help. They just do not know how to help. When you organize everything well (and do not do so by yourself) every participant and volunteer will have a very good time.

After all, Regatta means fun for everybody, not only to the sailors on the water, but also on the shore, boulevard and in town.

And to the organizers of Regatta, I would like to ask to please do your best to make this Regatta as accessible as possible, so that EVERYBODY can have fun.



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.

Third Tourism Summit held



Chris Zweers Photo Julie Morgan

Some 150 people attended Tourism Corporation Bonaire's (TCB) third annual Tourism Summit September 27-28 which was well above the first year's attendance of 50. Held at Courtyard by Marriott, not only were there more local stakeholders but eight international partners attended: ABC Travel Nederland, Bonaire Pros, Caradonna Adventures, Maduro dive, PADI media Group, Reis-media Nederland, TUI Group and West-Jet.

Chris Zweers, TCB's content creator serving as MC, led the crowd through the list of speakers: TCB CEO Miles Mercera, Dr. Robertico Croes architect of Bonaire's Tourism Master Plan 2017-2027, Commissioner of Economic Affairs and Tourism Jolinda Craane, aviation expert Howard Mann and Kia-San Silberie standing in for harbour master Gunther Flanagan.

CEO Miles Mercera opened the summit as keynote speaker. He explained that for the past few decades sustainable tourism has been the goal and that is also what the future is all about, not what TCB

or the government is doing. The journey is where we are going and what the challenges are and how we manage it locally and globally.

Mercera said, "Tourism is the economic driver for our well-being."

He went on to say that some people will argue that tourism means pollution due to ship and air transport. Some people want to limit the amount of tourists. But the island is growing and you can never meet both sides of the story. We have to manage the perceptions, and communication is the issue most of the time.

Mercera said, "Sustainable tourism is everyone's business."

TCB is trying to educate our visitors by promoting the Bonaire Bond to make people a bigger part of what Bonaire is.

Mercera said, "As a visitor and as our friend we ask you to respect our ocean and our culture. Maintain a commitment

Summit, continued on page 16



Tourism Summit attendees received the perfect Bonaire welcome from cultural dancers Donny and Monique Winklaar and the hand organ band. Photo Julie Morgan

September's Taste of Bonaire

Rounding out tourism month was the Taste of Bonaire on September 30.

Guests enjoyed visiting the local food, craft and information booths while the music of DJ Kiart and Ritmiko Timon entertained the crowd.

Many of everyone's favorite food booths served up their own Bonaire 'tastes' and the Lionfish team of chefs and divers was back with a lionfish taco on a tomato shell and a yummy Caribbean salad made with lionfish. Did you know that lionfish can consume 20 fish

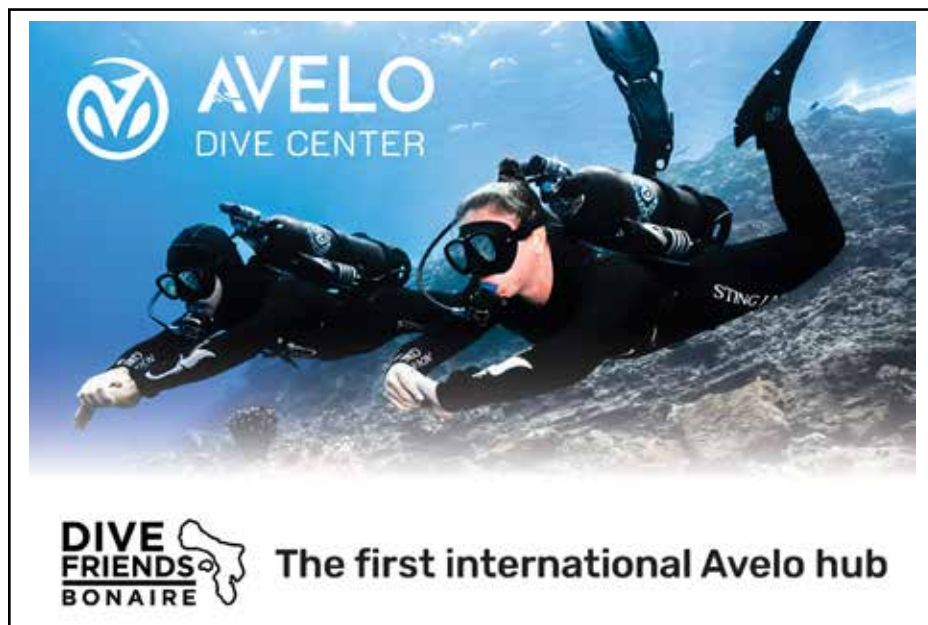
in half an hour? A new addition to the food booths was Deco Torta with some amazing cakes. And a new company called Find-Jobz.com provided information about connecting job seekers with employers.

Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) CEO Miles Mercera spoke about Tourism month and TCB's Scavenger hunt winners received awards. 'Tes a Fes' band and The Boys brass band provided additional music.

Photos / story Julie Morgan



The LIONFISH TEAM: Robert Reindsen, private chef, Chefs on tour Bonaire; Maarten de Graaf, owner Dive Airstation Bonaire; Johan Verbeek & Baukje Wassenaar-Verbeek, owners Private Divers Bonaire; Madelaine van der Vorst, owner Homemade-laine. Healthy & Conscious food



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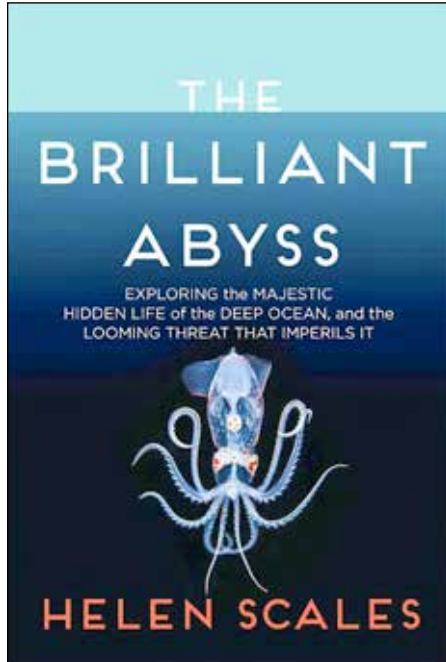
Buckley's Books

by George Buckley

The Brilliant Abyss by Helen Scales

From marine scientist turned author and scientific story teller Helen Scales, comes the *The Brilliant Abyss*. It is an investigation of the cold, low oxygen, deep sea world devoid of sunlight yet lit with bioluminescence, warmed by hot thermal vents and widely populated with a diverse array of sea life like nothing seen in shallow waters.

Scales gives us a closeup tour of the ecology, geology and biodiversity of the undersea mountain ranges, seamounts, plains, canyons, trenches and vent ecosystems found in the depths of the world's oceans and the scientists and oceanographic institutions that study them. We learn about plate tectonics and drifting continents, highly adapted bone eating polychaete worms that feast on 'whale fall' and the formation of nodules of elemental chemicals. And the huge potential for 'Deep Cures' -- biomedical-



ly valuable bioactive compounds from marine life. These are but a few of the mesmerizing revelations that await readers.

From Vampire and Giant squid, thermal vent clams and mussels and the pangolin snail with an iron crusted shell and metal scales on its foot, the mollusks are well represented amongst the myriad

other forms of deep sea life we are introduced to.

Scales surfaces occasionally from the depths for a story about how mankind's polluting ways affect the oceans from their shallowest waters to the abyss and in so doing provides a well documented plea to cease and desist before it is too late.

While technology has made this the 'age of discovery' from the ocean's twilight zone to the abyss, it has also opened the possibilities like never before for exploitation of marine resources such as Cobalt, Copper, Manganese and Nickel found in nodules and depositions as well as numbers of Rare Earth minerals. These are critical resources for modern day electronics, especially batteries. Scales details the devastating potential for sea floor and sea mount mining of these valuable chemicals as we take ecosystem destroying versions of clear cutting and strip mining into the world's oceans in efforts to feed our insatiable demand for cell phones, battery powered vehicles, solar energy equipment and other devices.

Read 'The Brilliant Abyss' with eyes and mind wide open to better understand the dynamism of the depths of the sea and the looming threats to it.

As Natural History author Sy Montgomery says: "Helen Scales blitzes us again and again with the deep sea's staggering strangeness and arresting beauty; Studded with wonder on every page..."



George Buckley has been coming to Bonaire since 1976, working with Captain Don (who called him CLAM for his work with mollusks), Hendrik Wuyts and others on environmental and educational projects and films. He has led over 100 study groups to Bonaire with many of his students returning often. Semiretired from decades of teaching Environmental Management and leading an active graduate program in Sustainability, he now works with many environmental groups and as an environmental consultant.

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Reforesting Klein

It was a beautiful Sunday morning leaving for Klein Bonaire. We three ladies and a gentleman were on our way to plant trees on the little island. Elsmarie Beukenboom, the project leader, would instruct me because it would be my first time participating. We had four baby trees to plant so there was a lot of work to do. On arrival, Artie de Vries disappeared with a huge pair of scissors to trim plants and it looked like everybody knew their job already. Elsmarie asked me to stay with her to support her and see how it goes.

Holes had already been dug and the necessary supplies were laid out: two-liter bottles with water, black dirt, a wheel barrow and garden tools. We planted the four trees, watered the other trees, filled the bottles with water from the Klein Bonaire well and went back and forth watering the plants and refilling the bottles. We also supported the plants with stones because the wind was causing the plants to bow in one direction as they grew.

Elsmarie gave me a short sightseeing tour of the island where the trees had been planted during the last 10 years of the project. The trees are all local, such as wayaca. It's very lush with all the different trees growing in different stages. But the sun is tough there and really has no mercy. After two hours in the beating sun I was totally out of energy. I guess everyone felt the same because we spent the last 40 minutes of the three hours on Little Bonaire in the sea.

This was a volunteer activity high on



my list and it was a great experience. I learned a lot and I was impressed by the beauty of the landscape of Klein Bonaire with its amazing beach and awesome blue clear sea.

Thanks to Elsmarie who set up this project and to the many volunteers that are helping out to make Little Bonaire



become in time beautiful Green Little Bonaire.

By the way, this project fits perfectly within the guidelines of helping to fight the worldwide climate crisis. More trees should be planted. We need more green all over the place to participate in global activities and programs against

global warming. We have big yards, big kunukus, big public places such as schoolyards, government gardens, parks and company gardens. If everyone living on Bonaire would plant at least one tree a year (and please stop talking about the drought, maintenance of one tree does not use mountains of water) it would make a difference in the landscape and will fight Co2.

There is a big choice of local trees to select: fruit trees, flowering trees or small and big trees. Trees that are green all year such as wayaca or trees that drop their leaves for a while like the hoba (yellow mombin). The huge trees that give a lot of shade are the knip, mango, mispel and tamarind tree. The high trees are the coconut and other palm trees or small trees like the papaya, cherry, guayaba and calebas.

Let's all start participating in the world's biggest climate challenge today and start planting trees.

We have to move on in protecting our life, our nature and our planet for the generations after us. If we don't, who will?

Start today, with a Bonaire global project with just one tree. Just do it.



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.

Let's toast to Bonaire's first Wine Week



Bonaire Wine Week organizers raise a glass to a successful week. L-R: Valeska Boom - Bottles Bonaire; Noor Veldkamp - Bottles Bonaire; Max van der Veer - Tip Top Leáñez Bonaire; Soraya Carolus - WTOL Academy; Arnd Chirino - BONHATA; Veroesjka de Windt - BONHATA; Sander Keijers - The Wine Factory; Pepijn van der Linden - WTOL Academy; Ruud Weterings - WTOL Academy and Omar el Hage - BONHATA. Photo Julie Morgan

Wine lovers, often called oenophiles (\ EE-nuh-fyle\), were in heaven September 28 to October 1 with the first ever Bonaire Wine Week. The four day event sponsored by Bonhata (Bonaire Hotel and Tourism Association) began with the end of Tourism Corporation Bonaire's (TCB) Tourism Summit and many of the attendees found it to be the perfect finish.

During the week, oenophiles could sign up for nightly wine tastings (only \$15) at four of Bonaire's major restaurants and four to eight course dinners with wine pairings (\$100) pretty much sold out. The free in-depth Wine Master Class at Courtyard by Marriott for Bonaire's waiters and bartenders was

taught by Netherland's WTOL Academy sommeliers: Soragz Czrolins, Pepijn an der Linder and Ruud Weterings.

Wines for all events were provided and served by representatives of Bonaire's local wine shops: The Wine Factory, Tip Top Leanez and Bottles.

Grand Windsock's Bloom restaurant opened the event with a wine tasting and small snacks around the pool. Bloom's four-course dinner had options for either catch of the day or a tenderloin steak. The dinner was paired with nine different wines.

On the following evening, Chogogo's Bina restaurant presented a four-course

meal with some unusual offerings. Highlights of the dinner included a local Kokoda fish with coconut paprika, habanero and banana di Rifa, a main course of kangaroo loin and an unusual Malbec pear-chocolate whiskey sorbet for dessert. The four courses were paired with seven wines.

The Brass Boer at Delphins Resort opted for a barbeque style meal with eight different courses ranging from ceviche to grilled watermelon to short ribs ending with a rum pineapple on the grill. Eight wine pairings accompanied the meal.

On the final day, wine week organiz-

ers embarked on a three-hour 'test' wine cruise compliment of Epic Tours. According to Bonhata's Omar El Hage the cruise will most likely show up on next year's wine week schedule.

Bonaire Wine Week closed with a wine tasting and some cool jazz at Rum Runners bar at Captain Don's Habitat which was followed by an eight-course dining experience at the restaurant.

Highlights were a Caribbean gazpacho followed by local tuna with mango, avocado and Scotch bonnet peppers, a shrimp bitterbal and a beef Picanha with locally made Rom Rincon. The eight courses were paired with eight different wines.

The four dinner wine pairings spanned wines from Italy, France, California, Argentina, New Zealand, Spain, Chile and Portugal.

Bonaire Wine Week is sure to return next year as it was a definite win for Bonaire's oenophiles, wine shops, restaurants, WTOL and Bonhata. An approximate 120 participants enjoyed the tastings and dinners.

Photos / story Julie Morgan



Bonaire Nightlife selected for showing at SDUFEX



Richard Schwerdfeger

The San Diego UnderSea Film Exhibiton (SDUFEX) began in 2000 and has grown over that time to be considered one of the most prestigious worldwide. On October 6-7, the 24th edition was held and local film maker Richard Schwerdfeger's film *Bonaire Nightlife* was selected as one of the 80 qualified films to be viewed by the audience of more than 500.

I first met Rich and his wife Doreen back in the 90's while shooting a personal video of them on their 35th dive on Bonaire and we were honored with the presence of a whale shark, a first for both of us.

The couple later moved to Bonaire and Rich embarked on fulfilling his dream since the age of 12 - to be an underwater filmmaker.

Rich said, "I learned from ground zero to in six years being selected for screening on the first submission [to SDUFEX]. I say I but Doreen and I did this together.



Doreen does the spotting and is my buddy for most of the dives. I believe we are the first people from Bonaire to ever be selected to be shown at this prestigious event."

Rich and wife Doreen produce 'A Diver's Life' on the YouTube channel.

To learn more about SDUFEX visit Facebook or their website <https://www.sdufex.com> and view the festival films beginning on October 31

Julie Morgan

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

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-noon

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

Marshe di Playa Local market Sat. 9-1. Kaya Industria, by Warehouse Supermarket.

Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market.): Pakus is closed until we build on our new location. We can no longer accept donations because all our containers are full including at the Shelter.

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)

Open now July 2023 - July 2024	Terramar Slavery Exhibition: WE ARE Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
October 6 - 14	Regatta Week. (56th edition). The sailing events take place from October 6 to October 14, 2023, followed by the Festival from October 11 to October 14, 2023. In addition to the sea sailing race, this year's Regatta will also include softball, a Motorcycle Tour, a Bowling Tournament, and a volleyball competition. https://www.facebook.com/bonaireregatta54/ include
October 14 - November 18	Cancer Funds Bonaire photo exhibition. Open to public Mon. to Fri. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; 4 - 8 p.m. Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Location: Kaminda la Union 11. See page 15.
Friday, October 20	Mammography Day. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Fundashon Mariadal. See page 15. Climate Change Workshop Terramar Museum. "The reality and management of climate challenges in the Caribbean: Agenda setting through a Climate Impact Atlas for Bonaire" 5 - 8 p.m.
Sunday, October 29	Duo Xtreme bike race The Elite route is 77 km and the Pro is 55 km. http://www.bonairextreme.com See page 13. Animal Shelter's Halloween fundraiser. At 5 p.m. you can don a costume, get on a stand up paddle board (SUP) at Chachachá beach. See page 19. Classical Music Board Concert in the new Art Center Antriol (SACA). 4:30 - 6 p.m. Pianist Claudia Cassier, saxophonist Alan Bowen and tenor singer Bradly Howard, will present a musical program inspired by Bonaire.

US Consular officer coming to Bonaire

The Consular Officer of the United States Consulate General Curaçao will be in Bonaire for American Citizen Services Friday, October 27 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Location: Trans World Radio Station, 64 Kaya Gob. N. Debrot. Services are by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, email ACSCuracao@state.gov.

Available Services: • U.S. passport applications • Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) applications • Notarizing documents

Fees: Minor passport (under 16 yrs) \$135; Ages 16, 17 and 18 \$165; First time Adult passport \$165; Adult passport renewal \$130; Report of birth abroad \$100; Notary services \$50; Each additional notary signature \$50

Delivery of U.S. Passports and CRBAs: Applicants must arrange delivery of U.S. passports and CRBAs by submitting a pre-paid airway bill for DHL courier service (only) at the time of their appointment.

Visa-Related Services: The Consular Officer will be providing ACS Services only and cannot discuss visas, accept visa applications, or offer visa advice. More about non-immigrant visa applications at the U.S. Consulate General in Curaçao, at <https://cw.usconsulate.gov/visas/>

You can help keep Bonaire clean	
Saturdays	One Hour Clean up Power. Weekly coastal clean up every Saturday, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Location given on FB page: https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/
Sunday, Nov. 12	Clean Coast Bonaire. 4-6 p.m. Piedra Pretu. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire

Events, Meetings, Sports

12 steps 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

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.

Art Gallery Sobremesa Bonaire View or buy art from Bonaire's local artists. Opening hours are Tue-Fri 2 - 5 p.m. and Sat 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Abraham Boulevard 10.

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

Cyclovía 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: Nov. 5


Racing / Fevering. The Onima fever platform is available every Tues. Thurs. Sat. and Sun. 4 - 7 p.m.


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.

Free Tennis Lessons for kids age 6 - 12. Every Saturday. Courts at Eddy's. Email info@bonairetennisassociation.com. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Bonairetennis/> Paul Ruijs +599 782 4569.

 **Echo Conservation Tours** - Weekdays at 8 a.m. or 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. To reserve email at info@echobonaire.org

 **Manta Monday / Tuesday** - Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Presentations. Mon. Oct 16 7:30 p.m. - VIP Diving; Mon. Oct 23 7:30 p.m. - Dive Friends Hamlet Oasis Mon. Oct 30 7:30 p.m. - Divi Resort. Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation Program facebook .Email: 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

 **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.

Are You Interested in Bonaire's Geology?

Everyone who loves Bonaire has questions about the island's geology...How was the island formed and when? What is the actual composition of the island's topographical structures? Is Bonaire a volcanic island?

All your questions will be answered in a three-part fun class on the geology of Bonaire by André Nahr. The class will be held on Tuesday 17, Thursday 19 and Saturday 21 October 2023 at Fundation Mariadal, Kaya L.D.Gerharts #17, across Hotel Central on the road to the big church in town.

Session one and two are scheduled from 7-9 p.m. and session three brings everything together in a fun field trip on Saturday from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The field trip will include visits to several interesting spots on the island to learn and see first hand examples of Bonaire's geology. Comfortable shoes are suggested, but there is no heavy hiking. The class is taught in English.

Cost is \$120.00 p.p. payable in cash at the first session.

Sign up at geology.andrenahr@gmail.com

Hope to see you soon!!

Tentative cruise ship schedule				
DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Wed. October 18	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Thurs. October 19	CELEBRITY EQUINOX	0800-1700	South	2852
	CELEBRITY SUMMIT	0800-1800	North	2450
Sun. October 22	NORWEGIAN JOY	1300-2000	South	3804
Thurs. October 26	ROTTERDAM	0700-2000	South	2668
Sun. October 29	WORLD VOYAGER	0830-2100	North	172
Tues. October 31	WORLD VOYAGER	0830-2200	North	172



Mountain bikers will challenge themselves for the 13th year with the toughest race on Bonaire, the Duo Xtreme on October 29. This mountain bike race proves difficult for even the best of riders and what makes it truly unique is it has to be completed as a 'duo.' The race team's last rider crossing the finish line is the recorded team time.

The race is mainly on dirt roads or goat/donkey paths that are somewhat cleared of cacti and wabis (trees with thick spines). The paths are very narrow and have many bends with occasional steep inclines and declines. The riders are not allowed to receive any outside help. If there is a defect with the bicycle, the riders must solve

it themselves.

The Duo Xtreme has various stations along the way for inspection and distribution of water/sports drinks. During the race, stricter checks are carried out to determine whether the riders can still complete the tour as heat can be a major factor. The race mainly covers the south and center of the island through the natural landscape of Bakuna, Rooi Lamoenchi, Punto Blanku, Washikemba, Lagoen, Bolivia. Mexico and Gurubu and finally the upward climb to Seru Largu.

Riders can choose between two categories, the Elite and the Pro. The Elite route is 77 km and the Pro is 55 km. At the foot of Seru Largu, the Elite first goes through Tras i Montana to Arawak, crosses the island via "Hell" and then returns via Subi Rincon, after which they return to Seru Largu.

The start and finish for both categories are at Karels Beach Bar, the Duo Xtreme's main sponsor.

The athletes are well cared for along the route with cool water and sports drinks stations. Plus the police and Red Cross will be available throughout the route. On return the riders will be served an energizing lunch which is followed by the award ceremony.

Elite riders could win cash and prizes will be awarded to winners in each category. Some winners could receive trophies and everyone will receive a medal and T-shirt as a souvenir.

The Duo Xtreme requires the help of many volunteers to man the water and checkpoints along the way and it can be hard work. If you would like to volunteer or know someone that is interested, please register as people are still needed for the race.

In addition to the main sponsor, Karel's Beach Bar, there are several sub-sponsors including: Sunbelt Realty, De Freewieler. Alcon/Freixenet and GAIA. Other sponsors are Olvoka, Pink Coral iT, El Mundo Bonaire Office Systems and Napa. Body-fit, Timbo/Genkoo and Logistics are providing the water and sports drinks and Rocargo is donating the medals.

More information is available at the Xtreme Sports Bonaire Foundation, www.bonairextreme.com or Facebook and Instagram and at De Freewieler.

Frank Bohm, De Freewieler



Bloozz Funrace course through the backroads of Washikema attracted 34 cyclists on October 1. The heat or tough route proved to be a bit much for 11 riders who failed to finish. First place winner in the Elite race was Tom Homburg with an end time of 1.13.51. Second place went to Sven Peerdeman with 1.17.16. Fun category winners were Mitchel in 54.15 and Dennis in 54.16. For all the riders and times visit *The Reporter* online.

Photo by Arjen van Dorsten

An Invitation for Mammography Day

Are you between 50 and 75 years old and never had your breasts screened? Do you have questions about the screening or would you like to register?

Then come to our Mammography Day on October 20 for more information. Our team is here to help. You can make an appointment or have a mammogram done right away if there are time slots available.

For more information and updates about our Mammography Day, please visit our Facebook page Bevolkingsonderzoek Caribisch Nederland or call/Whatsapp +599 781 0476.

Date: Friday, 20 October: 8 – 2 at Fundashon Mariadal.

Kankerfonds Bonaire cordially invites you to our upcoming photo exhibition

Mi ta bunita

a tribute to the strength and courage of those affected by this disease and those who support them

From October 14th to November 18th, 2023
Monday to Friday: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Saturday and Sunday: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Location: Kaminda la Union 11

We welcome everyone to be a part of this exhibition and join us in experiencing the power of art and community together

Tourism Summit,
continued from page 10

to our island. Elevate values and continue to protect our island for future generations...”

Mercera offered four objectives from the Tourism Master Plan: ‘Expand the benefits for tourism development to a broader segment of the population; Convert Bonaire to a high end destination that consists of at least 30% four star hotels; Cohesive branding strategy to attract more tourists to increase revenue and Elevate the tourist’s experience.

Recalling the Master Plan, Bonaire is either underleveraging the product or the people coming are not the type of guest that we would like to have.

He suggested pushing more to the American market because they stay in hotels and spend at least \$220 per night, whereas other visitors stay in houses at \$98 per person.

Mercera said, “Aruba charges up to \$1600 a night and people are paying. Why can’t that be here?

On the entry tax, the CEO said it is working. In the last year Bonaire has collected more than 10 million dollars.

When Commissioner Craane spoke she agreed that the government was happy as the tax was an additional source of income.

“We encountered some issues as to who was entitled exemption from the fee. A new amendment will be introduced... all students abroad will be exempt, said Craane.

A new stayover rate of \$10 per 24-hour



TCB’s staff - the people behind the Summit. Photo by Roelton Thode Photography

period will be made available between islands like Curaçao to promote island hopping.

According to the master plan, Bonaire is two years away from what was expected in 2017 regarding tourism numbers. The plan set a target of 200,000 visitors per year by 2027 yet the current goal for this year is 170,000.

Mercera said, “Bonaire has grown too fast...This means we are further away from being a high-end destination. We are further away from what we wanted.”

Current tourism problems on Bonaire:

Lack of four-star hotels; rapid growth, but not high value, loss of local support, affordability crisis for locals, fear of loss

of cultural heritage. Cost of living is too high.

Mercera said, “We need a very strong TCB, otherwise nothing will happen. With the Master Plan, we don’t know how much money people spend and where they are coming from. Perhaps we aren’t really getting the right people. Update the Master Plan.”

The statement, “We need to update the Master Plan,” was said at least three times in regard to charter discrepancy, budget distribution and the TCB board.

Mercera said a three-year action plan was necessary: Make TCB a destination marketing and management organization; Update the tourism Master Plan and Resolve supply related challenge, such as

enhancing residents’ backing for tourism development, amending zoning regulations and refining the management of the cruise industry.

Questions and observations from the crowd included:

I’ve noticed a negative experience when some people leave the island. They are saying we are growing too fast, and we are putting too much pressure on our infrastructure. What are we doing about it? How can we make sure our guests experience is on the rise? Local people aren’t happy. Some people want to come in September because it is not as busy. What are we doing about it?

Photos / story Julie Morgan

Creating optimal health
by Irene da Cunda Costa
Listen to the music

Music is so wired in our systems, even in the most primitive structures, that some scientists argue that our connections with music and dance evolved before language.

Babies as young as three months respond to specific types of music following rhythm with their limbs, torso, or head.

Music is a universal language; it can describe emotions with a lot of nuances displaying not only happy or sad but also various degrees. Music can also evoke emotions that give us a sense of empathy for the person playing the music or simply for others in the world and music.

Music comes in through our ears and the nerve cells in the brain and the body become activated in a way that

the whole body becomes an instrument playing that music from within. Music also calls for action in our body, whether we start moving and dancing openly or just the internal cascade of hormones and neurotransmitters. Music can introduce changes in the blood tension and the heart rate. Studies have shown that listening 10 to 30 minutes of your favorite music per day produces significant beneficial shifts in the bodily physiology. Such as a reduction of resting heart rate and increase in the heart rate variability which is a good indicator of adaptability that are beneficial for mental and physical health.

Music can also show intent, as we see in a movie, a low frequency drumming is implying the intent of aggression or raising the expectation that something dangerous is about to happen.

In 1966, Michael Bonshor, who was a PhD in music psychology came up with a kind of a formula to produce rhythms that make people feel happier. To create a happy song he believes the melody should be written in a major key with 137 beats per minute with a verse-chorus-verse-chorus structure and combine predictability with some surprises, like a key change or unexpected

notes. An example of this is James Brown song, “I got you, I feel good”.

More recently, Jacob Jolij, a Dutch neuroscientist, determined the Feel Good Formula. This one includes positive references in the lyrics, a fast tempo of 150 beats per minute and a major third musical key. He created a playlist of happy songs including “Don’t Stop Me Now” (Queen), “Dancing Queen” (ABBA), “Good Vibrations” (Beach Boys), “Uptown Girl” (Billy Joel), “Eye of the Tiger” (Survivor), “I’m a believer” (The Monkeys), “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun” (Cyndi Lauper), “Living on a Prayer” (Bon Jovi), “I will survive” (Gloria Gaynor), “Walking on Sunshine” (Katrina and the Waves)



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.

September's Nos Zjilea - Wonders of the Full Moon



Boy Martinez

Civilizations worldwide have found the full moon a mystery and source of energy and that is certainly true on Bonaire. Nos Zjilea at Mangazina di Rei on September 30 featured “Wonders of the Full Moon”. Several speakers related many of the ideas and myths found

deep in the culture of Bonaire’s people that has evoked the basis for everyday life.

Most months full moon celebrations are held on Bonaire where locals tell stories, recite poems, share food and drink and enjoy the beauty and energy of the moon.

Host of Nos Zjilea Izain Mercera led the crowd through the presentations and translated from Papiamentu to English.

Full moon committee member Ms. Uchi was unable to attend due to health reasons but here are few lines from her poem. A few lines were:

“What a beautiful night it is, nature is a world of fantasy, it fills my heart with joy.”

Jefferson Rosalia gave an animated reading about young children who wanted to have a Christmas tree, but their grandparents were poor and couldn’t buy one. So instead, they went to the mundi and built their own tree. They used coco lishi shells to decorate the tree and the wild cotton that grows on Bonaire was used to give the tree the look of snow on the branches. The donkeys almost destroyed the tree, but the kids scared them away.

Maria Winklaar explained how climate change is affecting Bonaire and there is much more we can do to prevent it.

Some of the myths and ideas passed down through Bonaire culture were explained by Boy Martinez. During a full moon serious fishermen need to remember they won’t catch many fish because the mouth of the fish is soft. Boy warned that when building a post fence, it is best to cut the wood two days before the full moon and let it set for several days to prevent the wood from rotting or getting termites.

Guests at Nos Zjilea enjoyed the music of local band ‘Kulturando’ and ‘Ritmiko Timon’, local crafts for sale and local food and drinks.



Jefferson Rosalia

The next Nos Zjilea is October 28. Come See, Feel & Taste the culture of Bonaire.

For more information visit the Mangazina di Rei Facebook page. *Photos / Story Julie Morgan*

Parrots and People Lovely Plumage!

by “Mel” McCombie

A parrot’s life depends on its feathers. Feathers, like human hair, are made of keratin and are not alive save at the base. Our lives are not in danger from a bad haircut. But for a parrot, feathers are truly a matter of life and death. The lovely plumage we admire is what allows a parrot to fly, escaping predators.

Feathers are diverse, but all have a central shaft (or rachis) and branching barbs, ending in barbules, akin to branches on a plant. Evolution has refined this basic format so that a parrot’s feathers differ according to functions, such as flight or bodily insulation. And imagine if every hair on your head had its own muscle! Every parrot can control the movement of each of its feathers.

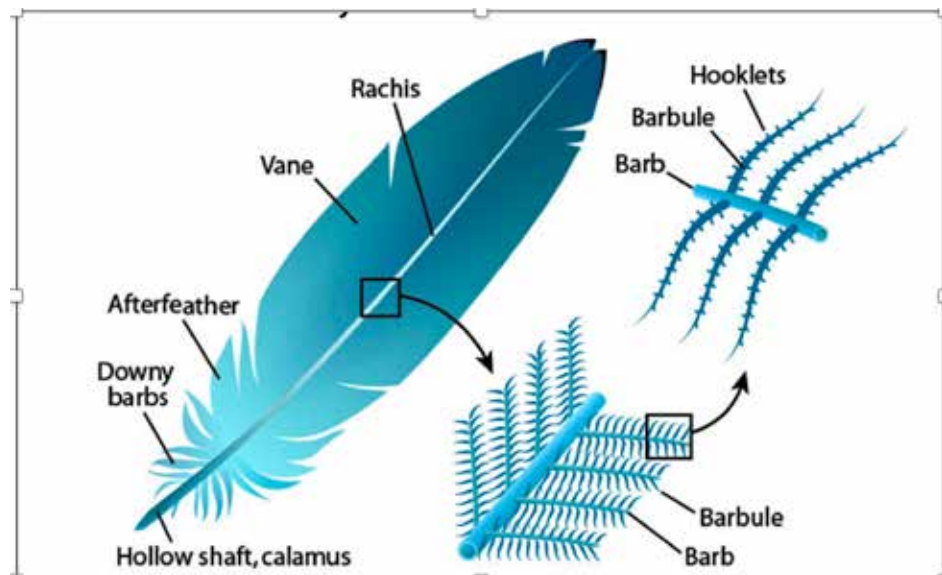
Just as airplane wing designs allow aircraft to lift from the earth by creating a pressure differential between the wing’s upper and lower surfaces, a parrot’s wing is a similar marvel of natural engineering. Wing feathers are specialized for flight. Their leading edges are windproof, with tightly locked barbules that hook together. They are also asymmetric, with a shorter leading edge and wider trailing edge, so that the feathers don’t twist while flying.

When you admire Echo’s ambassador

parrots, you can’t help but note the birds’ overall outline. Much of a parrot’s body is covered in contour feathers, which outline their shape and streamline their bodies. A contour feather has smooth interlocking barbules that create a waterproof surface, often glossy, and vividly colored. On its wings, every parrot has contour feathers that smooth the outer edge and keep the valuable flight feathers protected. Yet the base of contour feathers is a plume of soft, hookless projections that feel soft. This fluffy area is only near the body.

Right next to a parrot’s body are those pillowy hookless barbules that we call down—such as the tiny feathers that might stuff a high-end pillow. Down feathers sit right next to the skin and below the weatherproof contour feathers. They help keep a parrot warm at night and allow air to circulate near the skin. The only time you are likely to see the down feathers on a Lora is during a rain shower, when parrots are likely to spread their feathers open and bathe. They are vulnerable and less able to fly well when their feathers are fully wetted, so when you see a Lora enjoying the rain, spreading its plumage to let it soak in, you are very lucky.

My favorite feathers on a parrot are its



bristle feathers, with a stiff central spine (or rachis) and no barbs. These feathers are only on a parrot’s face, and can give the impression of eyelashes. I always loved seeing my cockatiel’s “eyelashes” in a raking light!

The beauty of parrot feathers has dazzled and captivated humans for millennia. The Inca civilization in particular created glorious garments of feathers carefully sewn onto cloth for very high-status individuals. A number of museums have Meso-American feathered garments in their collections, particularly the Metropolitan Museum in New York City and the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts. I was almost brought to tears by the beauty of ancient Andean feathered garments when I saw them at the Yale University Art Gallery in a special show in 2016. As a parrot-lover, I was distressed at how these

feathers came to be used by humans, as it likely meant the destruction of the bird. As an art historian, I was enchanted. It is possible to hold two conflicting emotions simultaneously.

So, when you admire the beautiful green, red, yellow, and blue plumage of our Loras, you are witnessing a miracle of evolution. If you are lucky enough to find a feather shed by a Lora (more on this in a future column), treasure it. Examine it closely, and you will find natural engineering married to beauty.



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

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BONAIRE

Pets of the Week

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.

To make an appointment, you can also call 701-4989 or 717-4989, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, or email animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com

Liam



Dear Dog People,

My name is Liam. I'm a healthy boy of about five years old.

The big plus about me is that I have lost all my wild hairs, so no going crazy, but I still have plenty of energy to go for a nice walk, swim or just playtime in the yard. If we have a lazy day I'm totally fine with that.

I'm very good with other dogs, male or female, I like them all. Cats are fine, if we can both go our own way.

As for kids, I like kids a lot to play with or just sit side to side, and share some nice treats.

I will be the perfect family dog. I just need a family and for that I need you! Are you the perfect family for me? Then come and visit me. *Sanne Attevelt*

This little male cat is called Tim.

Tim looks like a little kitten but is already 16 months old. He is a cat that will stay as small as he is now.

Tim loves attention from children and adults. He loves to sit on your lap and will curl up in your arms if you let him. He is a real sweetheart.

Tim was found as a young boy about seven weeks old all the way at Playa Frans. The nice gentleman who



Tim

found him brought him to the shelter. Because he was a bit shy in the beginning, he went to a foster who socialized him. And look at him now....he is probably the first one to greet you when you enter the cat palace!

Do you want to meet our little Tim and give him his fureverhome?

Tim is vaccinated, neutered, tested FIV/L negative and will be chipped the moment you say YES to this gorgeous sweet little boy.

Monique Degenaar

Shelter News

Pakus Di Pruga Will Be Back Soon!

Pakus di Pruga, the Animal Shelter Bonaire's second hand market, will be back soon! We have found a centrally-located empty piece of land, and are in the process of planning and constructing our new home.

This will be a big project and we really need some help. If you or anyone you know can lend a hand by providing or donating any of the following labor and/or materials we would love to hear from you. We will need:

LABOR

Concrete worker to make concrete bases (betonnen poeren) for containers

Block layer to build the electric connection box

Installation of concrete pavers

Welder

Carpenters for roof construction and shelves

Electrician to install electricity connection

Install metal roof sheets

Spray painter to paint inside and outside of containers

MATERIALS

Diabaas

Sheets of betonplex (old and new)

Sheets of T-111

Wooden beams 3"x6"

Fencing material

Electrical materials: i.e. cable, tube lights, switches and outlets

If you can contribute your time or any of the materials, please contact Paul Wichers at paulenamina@gmail.com

Of course, if you would like to make a monetary donation to help defray our costs of rebuilding the Pakus, that is also greatly appreciated. You can make donations to:

MCB Bonaire account: Animal Shelter Bonaire Acct.#10237800; Rabobank (Dongen, Netherlands) Stichting Dierenasiel Bonaire Account #NL40RABO0137748744 or via PayPal (log onto our website animalshelterbonaire.com and click the orange "donate" button).

COMING SOON TO A BEACH NEAR YOU.

The Get Wet and Support Animals Halloween Fundraiser



**Join in the Animal Shelter's
Halloween fundraiser
on Tuesday, October 29.**

At 5 p.m. you can don a costume, get on a stand up paddle board (SUP) at Chachachá beach, then drift/paddle to the waterfront to the Something Special dive site. Sundowners and snacks will be waiting there. A costume contest will follow, with prizes for the scariest, most original and wettest participants.

Entry fee \$15 (please bring exact change).

**Reserve your spot by WhatsApp
Kelly 599-701- 0110 or Charley 599-700-2696.**

Rides back to Chachachá beach will be provided.

**Not up for the SUP?
Come cheer us on from the Boulevard
and join in the fun.**



On the steps of Fontein for the celebration are L-R: Judy Diaz (Daughter of Doei & Chana Diaz); Luciana "Chana" Diaz (Wife of Costantino "Doei" Diaz) and Isabel's longtime friend; Elesiër Angel (Granddaughter) and Jermainy Diaz (Granddaughter). Photo Julie Morgan

my feet the plantation with its garden of fruit trees and palms, the aloe fields, the unpaved road from Kralendijk to St. Nicolas and in some distance, the sea – altogether a beautiful picture. The more I looked the better I liked it and the more did I see the possibilities for the three of us to live here and for me to try to make some kind of a living by raising vegetables and selling them in Kralendijk."

The Lieberman family Edgar, Anne and daughter Isa-

bel (Lise) became friends with Augustin and his daughter Luciana who was the same age as Isabel.

Lieberman writes, "...The two girls played together. Both lost their front teeth at the same time."

The girls have remained friends over many years. Lise (Isabel) now lives in Washington D.C. and Luciana (Chana) is still on Bonaire. Granddaughter Julie and Isabel plan to visit Bonaire again in the future.

Julie Morgan

Petals adds to Fontein's Festivities

The grounds of Fontein were decorated with beautiful flowers from Petals (see page 18). This was one very large table ornament.



Photo Julie Morgan



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