



Athlete Roell Scherptong carries the torch to open the games Photo Julie Morgan

First ever Special Olympics Kingdom Games held

Over the weekend Bonaire played host to 100 Special Olympics athletes from neighboring islands Aruba, Curaçao, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten for the first ever Special Olympics Kingdom Games. Bonaire's 26 athletes joined in for the two-day competition in football (soccer), track and field, bocce (bolas), baseball, beach volleyball and swimming. Prior to game day a 'Friends and Family' forum was held to discuss the importance of competitive athletics for the disabled.

Chairman Rolanda Hellburg-Makaai of Special Olympics Bonaire said, "... It is not primarily about the competition, but about exercising together. The Special Olympics Kingdom Games were set up to show that athletes with disabilities are part of society."

On opening day, athletes from all islands gathered at the Municipal Stadium together with Bonaire's drum band. Bonaire athlete Roell Scherptong served as torch bearer with members of Bonaire's law enforcement running escort to a ceremony for the athletes in Wilhelmina Park. The opening of the games was announced by director of Special Olympics International Niell Connegieter along with Special Olympics Bonaire chairman Rolanda Hellburg-Makaai and others.

The games began November 4 and were scheduled to continue with the finals on November 5, but Mother Nature had other ideas. Extreme rainfall fell over the island on Day 2 resulting in cancellation of finals for swimming, baseball and track. Amazingly soccer, beach volleyball and bola competitions were relocated to gymnasiums.

All games were scheduled at individual locations and were underway simultaneously from 3 – 6 p.m. on Saturday and

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Sunday.

Unfortunately, the timing did not allow for spectators to attend more than a couple of sports contests as all contests were at the same time.

Bonaire Special Olympics said they hoped to make some changes in years to come regarding the scheduling so there would be larger crowds to cheer for their favorite athletes at the events.

Organizers and sponsors for the Kingdom Games were Special Olym-

pics Bonaire headed up by Rolanda Hellburg-Makaai, director of Special Olympics International Niell Connegieter, Indebon, Thinc Ahead, Bon Bida, Hôfi Kultural, TCB, and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport.

Overall winners and individuals:

Baseball: Aruba champion wins gold; Curaçao silver

Beach Volleyball: Aruba gold; Curaçao silver

Bocce/Bolas: 1 – Bonaire; 2 – Curaçao; 3 - Saba

Swimming:

Final A Women: 25 m Breaststroke: 1- Deena Francois Aruba; 2 - Soraya Hendricks Bon; 3 - Willemijn Verloop St M.

Final B Women: 1 - Marchantely Anthony Bon; 2 -Vanessa Gijsbertha Cur; 3 - Adnien Avastia Cur

Final A Men: 25m Breaststroke: 1 Michael Alexander St M;

Final B: 1 - Jarelle Brooks Bon; Kendrick Mercera Bon; 3 - Giandrick Mercera Bon

Final A Women: 25m Freestyle: 1 - Deena Francois Aruba; 2 - Soraya Hendricks Bon; 3 Marchantely Anthony Bon

Final A Men 25m Freestyle: 1 - Holdson



Bonaire's Soraya Hendricks takes second in the 25m Breaststroke. Photo Julie Morgan

Special Olympics to page 16
more photos on our FB page

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FOR WHOM?

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New coalition government sworn in



(L-R front row) Dany Crestian (Island Council); Rolanda Hellburg-Makaai (Island Council); Cyrill Vrolijk (Island Council); Nina den Heyer (Deputy Executive Council); Nolly Oleana (Lieutenant Governor); Anjelica Cicilia (Deputy Executive Council); Daisy Coffie (Island Council); Christopher Frans (Island Secretary); Arjen de Wolff (Island Registrar)
(L-R back row) Clark Abraham (Deputy Executive Council); Roderick Groenman (Island Council). Photo OLB

The coalition partners Demokrat, M21 and Vrolijk faction, officially announced which deputies would be installed during the planned meeting of the Island Council on October 24, 2023. The deputies are Mr. Clark Abraham, Mrs. Anjelica Cicilia and Mrs. Nina den Heyer. Clark Abraham and Anjelica Cicilia were sworn in as deputies the same evening. Nina den Heyer was sworn in as deputy October 31, 2023 after completing her current work at OCW.

During its first board meeting the Executive Council (BC) announced the following portfolio distribution :

The Governor:

- Public order and safety • Disaster management • Elections.

Deputy Clark Abraham:

- Directorate of Operations & Support • Supervision & Enforcement Directorate • Animal welfare • Economic affairs including Tourism • Sports policy and affairs.

Deputy Anjelica Cicilia:

- Spatial Planning and Development Directorate.

Deputy Nina den Heyer:

- Directorate of Society and Care. *DMR*

Three new deputies join the Lt. Governor in the Executive Council



Anjelica Cicilia, though born and raised on Bonaire, is not that well known. She is the eldest member of a family who sold fruit and vegetables in their shop La Portuguesa on Kaya Nikiboko South. She studied civil engineering at the University of Curaçao, Urban Planning at the Technical University in Delft, and after a

ten year break obtained an executive MBA in 2014 at the Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University. In 2009 she was chosen as Construction Woman of the Year.



Clark Abraham, party leader of the PDB, is a third generation scion of political family on Bonaire. He and his party won a clear victory in last March's 2023 elections, but the previous 2019 coalition of MPP/UPB forged a 2023 coalition without Abraham. That coalition did not survive a vote of no confidence and Abraham

has now formed a new government.



Nina den Heyer was born in Curaçao. At the age of 19 she left for the Netherlands to study. She attended Leiden University, and in 2013 earned a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Curaçao. On Bonaire she worked from 2005 to 2011 as a policy advisor to the Executive Council (BC)

of the Public Body. In 2011 she became head of the National Caribbean Netherlands Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) unit. She was the big vote-getter for the MPB in the 2019 elections.



Lt. Gov. Nolly Oleana is the chairman of the Executive Council, which is composed of the Governor and the three Island commissioners (now Cicilia, den Heyer and Abraham). He is a member of the latter and, in this council, his vote can be decisive.

DMR (Antilliaans Dagblad)

Parliament votes to ease licensing controls, OLB objects

In an unusual turn of events, the European Netherlands has approved the implementation of reform steps taken by the Bonaire Public Body, but the OLB objects. It says the reform is not yet complete.

Bonaire had agreed to model its development controls on the Netherlands' structure. No longer would development permits be approved behind closed doors. Instead, new constructions would have to meet established, inspected standards. If they did not, enforcement action would be taken.

Parliament has voted to allow Bonaire to implement the development standards it has created. The parliamentary opposition, and Bonaire's OLB, say the job is only half done. The standards are ready, but provision for enforcement is not in place. *DMR*

30,600 population predicted for 2050

According the government's Population Outlook 2050, Bonaire's population on January 1 of this year was 24,100 inhabitants, about 8,500 more than in 2011. The population forecast for 2050 is 30,600. The report declares a caveat, however. Bonaire's population could be as high as 48,800 in 2050, or as low as 23,600. It all depends on how many people are born, die, and settle on the island. *DMR*



The REPORTER

This Issue's Stories

Special Olympics on Bonaire 2023	1
Duo Xtreme 2023 results	3
Nazis on Bonaire	4
Suzy Guy First Team Leader KMar	5
Wageningen at Mangrove Maniacs	6
FuHiKuBo wins PBCCG prize	6
Blue Lagoon	8
Street Art at Sobramesa	8
Classic Concert sold out	9
BLNQ-Trivia contest for kids results	9
Bon Booty donation sports for the elderly	12
Bonaire hams win world-wide	15
Indebon Run, Walk, Ride	17
Reading day needs volunteers	17
RoffaReef is back in place	17
Classical music concert	17
Nos Zijilea (healers)	19
Halloween	20

Our Facebook page and The Reporter's Online Updates bring you news that arrives between issues

Columns

Who's Who in The Reporter	2
Flotsam & Jetsam:	
•Coalition sworn in; New deputies bios; Laws to enforce rules for permits; 2050 population forecast	2
•Two judges; Flooding; Minimum wage / tax change; Money laundering arrest; No Te Amo road closure; ID stolen items & vehicles; Administrative agreement review; Sorobon watch towers	7
Ask Bob (how to buy in a tough market)	4
Police Report	5
Opinions: Phoenix's solution to flooding	5
Optimal Health (Aging)	9
Reef Glimpses (Back from Exile; Sponges)	10
Parrots & People (Lovely Plumage. Part II)	10
Foodies' Dining Guide	11
Garden (Exotic fruits)	12
Accessibility (Aging)	14
Buckley's Books (Life Lessons from the Ocean)	14
Piss & Vinegar (Transparency: A wedding)	15
What's Happening (Events; Cruise ships; Clean ups)	16
Business Directory	18
Pet of the Week (Cat Calypso)	19
Shelter (Pakus new location)	19

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Duo Xtreme attracts 80 cyclists

Eighty mountain bikers showed up for the challenging 14th Annual Bonaire Duo Xtreme on October 29. And the race is a challenge of endurance for even the most determined and experienced mountain bike riders.

Two riders work together as a team taking on the rough trails of Bonaire's back country filled with steep inclines / declines, prickly plants, excessive heat and mud. The Duo's race time is whatever the last team member's time is at the finish. Another part of the challenge comes if a bike fails for some reason. The rider must fix the bike themselves with no outside help. But there is a lot of other kinds help along the trail with the Red Cross, police and volunteers providing water and sports drinks.

This year's Xtreme riders were from Curaçao 14; Aruba - one; St. Maarten - two; Netherlands - three and Bonaire - 60.

The start and finish was at Karel's Beach Bar, the main sponsor for the 2023 Duo Xtreme. At the finish, riders enjoyed a pasta lunch and drinks prior to the award ceremony. Trophies and cash prizes of \$100, \$200 and \$300 for the Elite winners were handed out by De Freewieler's Frank Bohm, one of the race founders and greatest supporters of all things 'mountain bike' on Bonaire. Everyone received a hard-earned med-



Photo Julie Morgan

Riders celebrate with a little champagne

al and t-shirt for their participation. The race has run consecutively since 2008 with a break during 2020 due to the pandemic. Here are the winners:

ELITE (77 km – 47.8 mi)

MEN

First – Tom Homburg and Paul Cremers: 3.09

Second – Robert Patueer and Max Bakker: 3.19

Third – Virgillio Batista and Louis Minne: 3.28

MEN 100+

First – John Roos and Marco Dykerman: 4.02

Second – Domingos de Lina and Eric Grefte: 4.11

Third – Mark Hol and Arnold Koolen: 4.22

WOMEN

First - Jneke Knyp and Jorieke Haarhuis: 5.50

MIX

First – Tamara Brank and Berry Poort: 4.07

DuoXtreme 2023

continued on page 13

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Nazis on Bonaire - Part I



(L) Bernhard and his Nazi brother Aswin in 1966

II.

In May, 1943, when my father was 17 years old, he received a summons, issued by the German Wehrmacht, to report to a local staging office. He, among many others, had to report to the Arbeitseinsatz, to work in a German factory, filling the gaps left by drafted workers. He didn't go. He went into hiding, in a concealed room, in the attic of the house of a grand-aunt somewhere in Rotterdam.

Eighteen months later he was apprehended, during the Rotterdam Razzia, in the early hours of November 10, 1944. He and about 52,000 others from the city were deported to a concentration camp. After four days of walking in the pouring rain they reached their final destination, Kamp Amersfoort (Amersfoort Concentration Camp), where he was incarcerated for an unknown period of time. Luckily, he was never transported to Germany, and came back to Rotterdam unharmed after the German capitulation, in May, 1945.

At 19, he had been either in hiding or in custody for about two years. Eat that, curling-kiddies!

Now why, may you ask, is my family history of any relevance to Bonaire?

There isn't any.

But it explains why I became a historian, and learn how to identify them, to expose them, both the old, and the new Nazis.

Besides, because of the known horrendous consequences of National-Socialism, I tend to disagree with excuses, often expressed during lawsuits prosecuting war criminals, like 'but he was such a nice old man', or 'what's the use of exposing him years after his death'. A Nazi, being part of a murderous regime, deserves exposure.

III.

I think my attitude is shared by many of my fellow countrymen. WWII still plays an important role in the collective memory of the Netherlands, especially by, but not limited to, the Jewish survivors and their descendants.

A Nazi is a Nazi, either becoming a member of the NSDAP out of conviction, stipulating that Jews, Gypsies, or any other non-Aryan individual should be considered Untermenschen and therefore annihilated. Nazis practicing Nazism as a principle, so to say.

Or Nazis becoming a member out of financial or career purposes, like in the case of Bernhard. They're the ones with the elastic principles. They could operate in any regime for their personal gain. Some (former) Nazis could even smoothly switch sides, without ever being held accountable for their kowtowing to a murderous regime, such as good old Americans like Wernher von Braun.

The crux is accountability: did they admit their wrongdoings after the war? Did they show regret? Many did so, often without personal consequences, as long as they didn't commit war crimes. Others didn't. They're the ones needing attention.

To be continued

Gijs Borsten

¹See, among others:

[https://www.historisches-lexikon-bayerns.de/Lexikon/Nationalsozialistisches_Kraftfahrkorps_\(NSKK\).1931-1945](https://www.historisches-lexikon-bayerns.de/Lexikon/Nationalsozialistisches_Kraftfahrkorps_(NSKK).1931-1945)

²Among other sources: <https://historiek.net/prins-bernhard-biografie-koningin-juliana/72609/>

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Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Dear Bob

How can I buy a place when I'm not on the island and they sell so quickly? I used to see homes that stayed on the market for years, now everything I see in my price range (under \$350,000) is sold by the time I come for vacation or I can't get an appointment to see them when I want to. Lynn

Hi Lynn,

Yes, in this price range you are competing with many other buyers. Since we have a limited inventory of properties, this price range sells very quickly, often before it appears in our catalog or online on our website or Facebook.

Here are some tips:

1) Be prepared to act quickly: People will view a home they like and go home to think about it or talk to their accountant and find it sold when they call back two weeks later. Talk to your financial advisor and banker BEFORE your next trip, so that you can make an offer while you are on the island.

2) Make buying a property the purpose of your trip: Don't try to combine a family vacation, dive trip and buying trip all in one week. Be available to see a property any day, at any time. I've had clients turn down a showing because they wanted to dive that morning, and then we were unable to get another appointment because the sellers are working, or the property is rented.

3) Keep in contact with your real estate agent: When a new property comes on the market, I immediately contact my clients who are in that price range. I also ask clients to let me know two weeks in advance of their arrival on the island, so I can block time to work with them.

4) Set up a search on our website: You can go to our website and make a search and then save it. Then our website will automatically send you an email when a new property comes on the market that meets your search criteria.

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



Poster thanks to CleanCoast Bonaire's newsletter

The Bonaire Reporter Nov 8 - Nov 22, 2023, 2023

POLICE REPORT

Property Crime

Nov. 3. During the night a violent theft took place in the parking lot at Plaza Reina Wilhelmina. A man on a bicycle approached the victim and asked for money. When the victim picked up his phone to call police, the suspect grabbed the phone and ran away.

Nov. 5. Around 3 a.m., a man, 52, was arrested for theft in the center area. On Friday, July 14, the suspect took a number of items from a supermarket on Kaya Industria without paying. A patrol recognized and arrested the suspect in connection with this case.

Oct. 23/24. A burglary was reported in a house under construction in Punt Vierkant. Various tools were taken including a yellow/black DeWalt circular saw, a DeWalt Hammerdrill with two yellow/black drills and a yellow/black DeWalt Compound saw.

Oct. 22/23. The right rear tire of a car parked at a house on Kaya Cauca was stolen in the night.

Arrests

Nov. 1. Around 12:10 a.m. a man, 41, was arrested for not complying with police demands and for resisting arrest. During the arrest he resisted violently, causing him to fall to the ground and sustain a head wound. Paramedics treated the suspect at the scene and then took him to the police station.

Oct. 31. Around 11:20 p.m., a man, 27, was arrested at Kaya Paris for assaulting a woman and a boy.

Oct. 29. Around 12 noon, a man, 54, was arrested for assault and assault with a weapon. The suspect had assaulted a man on Kaya J.N.E. Craane abused with a wooden block.

Oct. 29. Around 3:40 a.m. two men, aged 26 and 21, were arrested at a catering facility on Kaminda di Lac. An odor resembling narcotics was detected coming from a car with three occupants by officers who were on the scene for another assistance. The officers immediately proceeded to a check in the context of the BES Opium Act. Two scales, several bags containing suspected narcotics and a quantity of cash were found and seized.

Oct. 21. A man, 40, was arrested at a bar/restaurant on Bulevar Gobernador for assault and vandalism. The suspect had assaulted the employee of the bar/restaurant and destroyed some goods in the restaurant. During the arrest it could be observed that the man was slurring his speech and that his breath smelled of alcohol. Following his search, a small amount of marijuana-like herb was also found in his pocket. This was confiscated.

Driving under the influence

Between Oct. 30 – Nov. 5 five men (aged 23, 53, 73, 21 and 62) were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. All five were involved in collisions, four with other cars, one with a wall, and all five tried to drive away from their accidents. One was so drunk a breath test couldn't be administered. Three couldn't show a driver's license; one couldn't show insurance. One of the drivers was unable to show a driver's license because it had been confiscated by the police last March for driving under the influence.

Traffic & speed control

Between Oct. 23 and Nov. 6, 139 cars were stopped in planned traffic checks on Kaya J.N.E., Kaya Barakuda, Kaya Industria and Kaya Korona. Police also issued fines during routine traffic checks. In total 60 fines were issued. (For driving **without** a valid driver's license 18x; valid insurance 14x; a seat belt on 14x, a license plate 1x, a helmet 3x. Tickets were also issued for holding a phone while driving 3x; for driving on a road that was closed to traffic 2x and for parking incorrectly 5x).

The fines for the above violations varies between \$30 and \$225.

During speed checks on Bulevar EEC and Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas Debrot 50 drivers were checked and two were fined for exceeding the maximum permitted speed in built-up areas (40 km/h) and outside (60 km/h). Speeds measured with a 'laser gun' ranged between 37 and 62 km/h.

Traffic

Nov. 5. Around 3:35 a.m. on Boulevard Gobernador N. Debrot the driver of a flatback pick-up driving from Playa towards Hato drove straight through a bend and crashed into a traffic mirror and then into a wall and a tree on the side of the road. The driver was injured and taken by ambulance to hospital.

Nov. 1. Around 12:30 p.m. a moped driver was stopped on Kaya Kanari because a high-speed "fevering" sound came from the moped and driver was not wearing a helmet. The driver appeared to have all the necessary documents in order. The moped was taken to the police station due to the drivers driving behavior.

Oct. 30. Around 12:30 p.m. on Kaya Korona a driver fell from his motorcycle and was injured. He was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Oct. 29. Around 9 p.m. on E.E.G Bulevar a driver fell from his scooter and suffered minor injuries. The driver was taken to hospital by ambulance.

Oct. 29. Around 5:45 p.m., a car ended up in the mon-

di along Kaminda Onima. The driver stated that he was driving towards Rincon and at some point was overtaken by another car driving at high speed. This caused him to lose control and crash into a wall on the side of the road. The car then ended up in the mondi. The other car drove on. The driver was treated on the spot by ambulance personnel. Because oil had spilled onto the road following the accident, the fire brigade arrived on site to throw sand over it.

Oct. 29. In the early morning a four vehicle collision occurred on Bulevar Miguel A. Pourier. The driver of one of the cars was taken by ambulance to hospital. The road was briefly closed so that CRS and the ambulance could carry out their work in complete safety. The road was later cleared by patrol and fire crews before being reopened to traffic.

Oct. 20. Around 5 p.m. a cyclist and a scooter collided at Kaya Internashonal. The driver of the scooter was injured and was treated on the spot by ambulance personnel. The cyclist was a 13-year-old boy. He was not injured but was shocked. The road was temporarily closed at the T-junction of Kaya Internashonal and Kaya Maximiliana Rosario.

Public Order

Oct. 30. Around 1:30 a.m. the central control room received a report of a fight between two people at a catering facility on Hanchi Amboina. When the patrol arrived, one of the parties had already driven away. Further investigation revealed that two men had an altercation when one of them became aggressive. A number of people decided to throw the aggressive man outside the venue and lock the door. The man standing outside smashed the glass of the door and came back in. Here he started throwing several bottles towards the victim. Then he drove away. A little later a report of a collision was received at the Kaya Papa Cornes. A car crashed into a concrete pole. The driver turned out to be the man who was involved in the altercation at the Hanchi Amboina a little earlier. He was treated on the spot by ambulance personnel.

Oct 24. During a traffic check on Kaya Barakuda, a driver had an expired ID with him. The passenger had no documents at all. These persons were taken to the station for further investigation. The investigation showed that the passenger was on the island illegally. As a result, she was obliged to leave the island the next day, at her own expense. The car was taken into custody until the owner can produce a valid driver's license and valid insurance documents.

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.

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.

Can we implement this on Bonaire?

I've lived in the Phoenix, Arizona (USA) desert valley that experienced a tremendous amount of flooding during monsoon season. A masterplan was finally implemented that has made a tremendous change to the area.

Neighborhoods were developed with water drain catch basins throughout the complex. Two streets would use the same water catch basins. The streets were contoured to drain into these basins.

The larger basins were set up for the neighborhood to use as outdoor recreational areas once the water evaporated. Palapas were built and concrete picnic tables and benches installed. Neighborhood concrete barbecue facilities were installed, and children's birthday parties

were held there. Some featured large jump houses for their entertainment. People could play frisbee games; flag football; portable soccer games; fly model airplanes; corn toss; horseshoes and any number of activities.

Before all the open space is developed on Bonaire, consider this when issuing permits for housing developments. Large business complexes could also implement similar designs on their large acreage. They could rip up the blacktop in one corner of their existing property to dig a water catch depression that rainwater could run into.

Draining the water into the ocean is not the only means available to choose from.

Masha Danki,

Earline Wasser, Kralendijk

Suzy Guy appointed to first team leader for Border Police Tasks



On October 25, Suelaica (Suzy) Guy was promoted to first team leader for Border Police tasks at the Royal Military Police in Bonaire. Guy is the first female Coordinator for Border Police Tasks of KMar in the Caribbean Netherlands.

In this new position Guy will be more involved in the tactical and operational management. She will also be actively involved in coaching and guiding younger colleagues. A long time employee of the Royal Military Police, Guy has a great deal of experience in the various task areas KMar.

Koninklijk Marechaussee Communications

Wageningen featured at Mangrove Maniac update

On a regular basis the Mangrove Maniacs organize evenings with presentations for the public. Updates and information are provided on the current work, students can present their research and visiting scientists are invited to explain their projects on Bonaire when relevant.

Presenting on October 26 were Wageningen University scientists Michel Riksen, Jantiene Baartman and Klaas Metselaar, commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Safety to support OLB in their work ensuring ‘Sustainable Rainwater Management on Bonaire’. In past weeks they were on Bonaire to talk to different stakeholders and present the framework of their activities, data gathering and research. Their visit to Bonaire partially coincided with the visit of KNMI (the Dutch meteorological institute) to Bonaire. This offered an opportunity to support part of the workshop given by ‘Islanders at the Helm’ and KNMI at Terramar. During the workshop, KNMI presented the climate scenarios for the BES islands and stakeholders could indicate which actions were considered high priority by them.

Since rainwater management is also very relevant for the protection of mangroves, we invited the Wageningen scientists to present their work at the public presentations at Eden Beach.

Michel Riksen, the project leader, gave a brief overview of the aim of the project and the activities for the upcoming 3 – 4 years. Together with the local stakeholders and students from Wageningen University they will map the current status of the rainwater management on the island, the main problem areas where floods and erosion causes damage to infrastructure and nature and the existing measures and their status. To get better rainfall and discharge data, the project will install 5 weather stations and equipment to measure the discharge. An inven-



Wageningen University's Sander Mucher places loggers to measure water current. Photo Mangrove Maniacs

tory will be made on what technical measures could be taken and how this could be supported by policy measures.

Klaas Metselaar focused on presenting recent work of students focusing on areas in Kralendijk (Salina di Vlijt, Nikoboko and Tera Cora (Kaya Industria). The students

have been mapping soils and water control structures (dams, culverts and channels) to support OLB in their work on water management.

Jantiene Baartman shared her analysis of data and stressed its importance. She was a part of the weather station installation recording waterflow in roois ending in two important salinjas. Under their guidance, two Wageningen students are starting their internship here: Niels Wijnands and Josca Breeman. Niels will map existing structures for rainwater management in the Lac catchment area while Josca's focus is on erosion and nutrient flows from Saliña di Vlijt onto the reef.

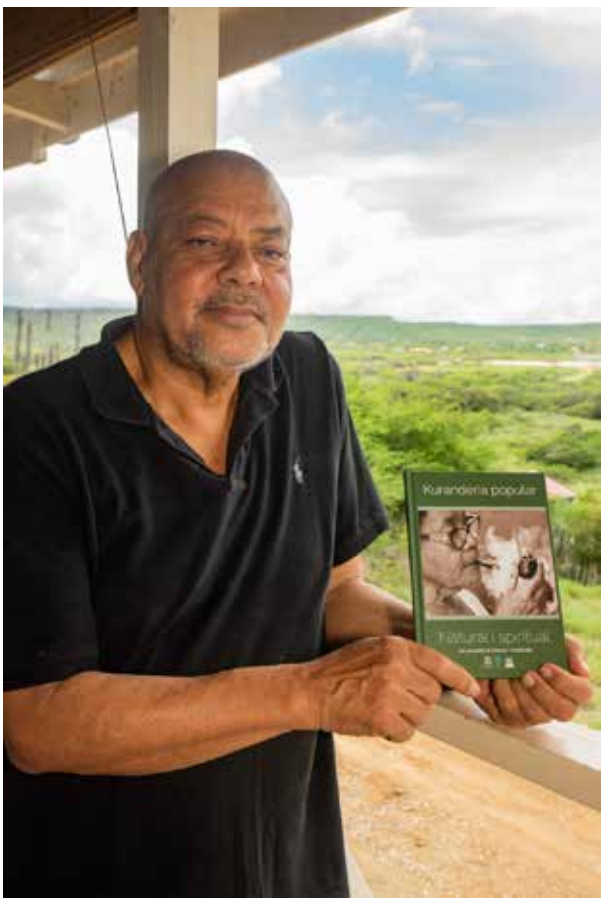
Sander van Lopik of RoffaReefs gave an inspiring talk about fish eggs. A sampling program has been set up to collect fish eggs that will include Lac as well. You will definitely hear more about their work.

Finally a short update on the current mangrove restoration work was given. How many meters of channels have been opened and their status of maintenance. As always growing plants in the nurseries is ongoing in preparation of outplanting along the coast. Science is integrated in our work, always monitoring and measuring. This last quarter we had some nice outreach events with kids, joined STINAPA in a cleanup and presented at the Dutch Caribbean Research Week. The military joined us to boost our progress in the channels.

Sabine Engel



FuHiKiBo receives Prince Bernard Culture Prize



Bòl Antoin, founder of FuHiKuBo accepted the PBCCG culture award.
Boi is shown here at Zos Zjilea holding his new book - a history tracing traditional healing practices on Bonaire.
Photo Julie Morgan

The Prince Bernhard Culture Fund Caribbean (PBC-CG) awarded its 2023 Cultural Prize – Bonaire to Fundashon Históriko Kultural Boneriano – FuHiKuBo.



The culture prize is awarded every two years to each of the six Dutch Caribbean Islands for achievement in the field of history, literature, visual arts, music, theater, arts and cultural education, conservation of monuments, and nature conservation.

On their Facebook page, FuHiKuBo says: “With this award, the PBCCG recognizes the valuable contribution the foundation has made, and continues to make, to document, promote and protect the cultural, natural and historical heritage of Bonaire.”

The PBCCG culture award was awarded by Valeska Richards (treasurer of the PBCCG) to the founder of the foundation, Bòl Antoin, in the presence of Cathelin Broers (director PBC Netherlands), Liliane de Geus (local PBCCG board member in Bonaire), Geer Oskam (Head of communications PBC Netherlands) and the former PBCCG culture prize winner, Foundation Art and Culture Bonaire, represented by Emma Saint Jago.



Designed by Hortance Brouwn, the PBCCG Culture Prize is an egg symbolizing that all art must be born. The outlets represent music and other forms of art; they also form an explosion of art from the egg.
Photo via Saba News

Bonaire now has two judges

Eline Groenendaal has been sworn in as the second of two permanent judges on Bonaire. She will handle criminal cases. She will be assisted by Maritza Valdink and Christopher Frans, who will serve when needed as examining magistrates in criminal cases. A different judge is responsible for civil cases.

DMR (Bonaire.nu).

New minimum wage may force tax change

When the government passed this year's increase in the statutory minimum wage for the Caribbean Netherlands, it intended to increase workers' spending power. In accordance with the Law of Unintended Consequences however, some of the increase will be taxed back into government coffers because the statutory minimum wage is now lower than the tax-free income.

Opposition parties have joined in proposing the tax-free amount be increased to \$20,424, retroactive to January 1. The governing coalition opposes the change. State Secretary Van Rij said the increase in the tax-free threshold would be an "untargeted measure that benefits middle and especially higher incomes." He also pointed out that minimum wage earners in the European Netherlands have to pay income tax, so those in the Caribbean Netherlands should bear the same obligation.

The higher tax-free income threshold would structurally cost the government 4 million euros annually. The authors of the amendment proposed that loss could be covered canceling the tax-free income benefit for expats the European Netherlands."

DMR (Dossier Kingdom Relations)

Downtown Kralendijk flooded again

A heavy dump of rain that is a routine event during Bonaire's rainy season flooded entire downtown Kralendijk Saturday afternoon, October 4. Bonaire's historically ad-hoc drainage system has never been adequate and seems to be losing capacity as development and paving seals off more and more ground absorption and clogs natural drainage channels.

DMR

Illegal dumping continues

The side roads into the natural areas around the island continue to be used as dump sites for garbage, construction materials and garden waste. In a recent case, additional trash was dumped on a location near Kaya Sonmontuno in the Amboina district that had recently been cleaned up.

People who illegally dump trash might be surprised at how often they leave behind identifying evidence that can be traced to them. *DMR*

Administrative agreement with The Hague being renewed

State Secretary for Kingdom Relations Van Huffelen will be in the BES islands to renew the three Administrative Agreements during 12 to 17 November.

The agreements with Saba and St. Eustatius are ready to be signed. Van Huffelen will meet with Bonaire's newly installed Executive Council regarding the island's agreement. *DMR*

Southern island residents can get home after all

On November 6 the OLB confirmed that no roads will be closed when part of Te Amo Beach is used for a wedding on November 23. The government apologized for the wide spread misunderstanding about the road closure and wished the couple joy.

Police rid the island of two cheaters

The Dutch Caribbean Police Force (KPCN) received a report that two men of Italian nationality, 41 and 60, were selling watches and perfumes on the street in Playa. The Police passed on the information to The Royal Military Police (KMar). KMar officers, accompanied by officers from Dutch Caribbean Customs, were waiting October 21 when the men arrived at Bonaire International Airport intending to depart the island.

A search of their clothing and joint luggage turned up approximately \$30,000 and some cheap watches. The men could not convincingly account for the money, so the police arrested them on suspicion of money laundering. Dispensing with formalities, the police confiscated the money and ordered the two men to leave the island. Presumably they told them to never come back too. Compliance is likely.

Further investigation revealed the men had been cheating people on the prices they charged for their shoddy merchandise.

The security services were pleased to announce the enforcement success. They are increasingly focusing on Information Based Action/Police Work (IGO/IGP).

DMR

Do the police have your car?

The Chain Seizure department of the Dutch Caribbean Police Force on Bonaire is organizing a clean-up campaign on Thursday, November 30 and may then be destroying some vehicles in police custody. The KPCN asks anyone whose vehicle has been seized to email viaketenbeslag@politiecn.com or phone during office hours (+599) 715 8087 to make an appointment to the pick up their vehicle.



Do these belong to you?

During the evening hours of Thursday, October 5, police caught a thief red-handed. He was searching through vehicles parked in the downtown area. Several presumably stolen items were recovered and the police are inviting their owners to come claim them. Your flip flops (like the other property) will not be returned unless you can prove they are yours. "

DMR

If you have ever wished you had a bird's eye view of Sorobon, well now you can. A new watchtower that looks out over the Sorobon bay was opened in a small ceremony with STINAPA board members, Lieut Governor Nolly Oleana, Bonaire National Marine Park manager Judith Raming and Coastal Dynamics Jessica Johnson.

The tower is one of two built with financing from RESEMBID (Caribbean OCTs Resilience, Sustainable Energy and Marine Biodiversity Program).

A second tower will soon be erected in the Lac Cai area to provide an amazing view of the sea grass beds and mangroves. Tec Group is in charge of the construction for the project. *JM*



Something new at Blue Lagoon

Elise and husband Jeomar Arrindell are always coming up with something new and innovative in dining. At first there was Sweeti Bakery with the most beautiful pastries and desserts the island of Bonaire has ever seen or tasted. And less than a year ago, Elise fulfilled her dream of the Blue Lagoon Café offering healthy Grab & Go salads, sandwiches, pastas, warm snacks, Sweeti desserts and drinks. But that wasn't enough for the husband-and-wife team. They expanded with specialty holiday buffets. And now after an inspirational culinary internship in Europe, the couple have introduced yet another new concept – Local Lunch.

Jeomar has taken the lead as cook on this with a weekly changing menu of local island favorites with a “modern twist.”



Chef Jeomar and Sweeti Pastry chef Elise
Photo Julie Morgan

Last week my friend Malin Kaisjer and I were lucky enough to try the very first three-course lunch. The menu is designed with a choice of either a soup or salad, three different mains and dessert so we were able to 'taste' a bit of almost everything. The soup was a traditional Bonaire Sopi Piska (fish soup) with a rich fish broth, fresh corn and a homemade Casava chip with pumpkin cream dabs. The salad was truly unique with fresh greens and arugula, grilled pumpkin and roasted goat cheese with a light vinaigrette herb dressing.



Dessert Photo Julie Morgan

Blue lagoon, continued on page 12

Street Styles is now at Sobremesa



L-R: Marzworld Judmar Emerenciana, Mr. Jackson, Taki and Ilanos Photo Julie Morgan

Street Styles, an exhibit by four street and graffiti artists, opened at Karine de Wit's Sobremesa (house of art) on November 25.



BonaLisa by Marzworld (Judmar Emerenciana)
Photo Julie Morgan

A few years ago, Karine headed up the Street Colors project that brought well known street artists from the Netherlands who for the most part used city spaces as their canvas. The result was the transformation of many of Bonaire's blank spaces. The spaces were brought to life with color promoting a new awareness and new love of art in school students.

With Street Styles, Karine has brought the street art inside so visitors can get a close look at the work rather than viewing it while driving down the road.

Each artist has his own approach to street art. All seem to have a bond with spray paint although other media is used in mixed media works. The work for the most part is thought provoking and focuses on what is happening now. Some of the work seems to be quickly executed and of the moment while other pieces look well planned but still fresh.

Local street artists Ilanos, Marzworld (Judmar Emerenciana) and Mr. Jackson came together by using the old

Esmeralda Hotel as their canvas. They invited Taki from Aruba to join them in the show at Sobremesa.

Most visitors will recognize the signature colorful birds around Bonaire by artist **Mr. Jackson**. There are several representations throughout the show.

The BonaLisa and television sets are immediately recognizable as **Marz's** work. His colors are bright -never muddy. His work often mixes classic representations with avant garde street styles. It can evoke sarcasm, humor and questions about our culture.

Taki from Aruba created several new pieces for the show including one of the fisherman Ismael Soliana who he considers an iconic figure of Bonaire. His work can be seen on Diablito skateboards, a business founded in Aruba.



Bonaire's fisherman Ismael Soliana by Taki
Photo Julie Morgan

Ilanos Amsterdam's work is considered the throw-up style. He said he is different than other artists and it doesn't matter that we know who he is as that is part of the secrecy of his art.

On November 14, SGB students are invited to take a free graffiti workshop with the artists and see for themselves what street art is all about.

The Street Styles show consists of 44 pieces and all are for sale. The show will extend till November 25. Sobremesa is located at J.A. Abraham Boulevard 10. 'open Tuesday – Friday 2-5 p.m. and Saturday 11 till 2 p.m.

Visit their website at www.sobremesa-bonaire.com.

Story / photos Julie Morgan

Classical music board sold out - again

Classical Music Board presented their first ever concert Musika den Atardeser, Music at Sunset, at the new Art Center Antritol to a sold out crowd on October 29. Classical pianist Claudia Cassier, saxophonist Alan Bowen and tenor Bradley Howard entertained the crowd of 60 with a program inspired by the beauty of things in our daily life on Bonaire. Each musician shined in solo performances and together as an ensemble on several of the pieces. The three musicians blended beautifully performing selections from Franz Liszt, Franz Schubert, G.F Handel, J.S. Bach, Giulio Caccini, W.A. Mozart, Frederic Chopin, Wim Statius Muller, Richard Strauss, Jules Massenet, Wim Statius Muller and Leonard Bernstein.

Pianist Claudia Cassier has become a favorite at the Classical Music Board concerts. Her ability to shift from performing classical solo pieces to accompanying a vocalist or integrating with other musicians in jazz or other musical genres seems effortless. Cassier's interpretation of Liszt Consolation #3 was moving and the perfect introduction to the concert for music at sunset.

The operatic performances by tenor Bradley Howard were translated in the program into English for the audience. Throughout his career Howard has performed in many operas including Mozart's The Magic Flute and Puccini's La Boheme, but in Bonaire he amazed the crowd with his vocal prowess of Somewhere from Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story.

Many of the pieces were rearranged for the saxophone of Alan Bowen including a piece by Chopin. Traditionally one might think of the saxophone as a part of jazz or pop genres and Bowen, of course, does that too. This performance was so popular an encore perfor-



Claudia Cassier on piano, Bradley Howard, tenor and Alan Bowen saxophonist Photo Julie Morgan

mance has been announced for later this month, but sorry, that one is sold out too. The next Classical Music Board will be a two-hour Christmas/holiday concert at the San Bernardo Church on December 14. The concert will be a collaboration of artists including Cassier, Howard, Bowen and pop and church based choirs along with other musicians. The planning is still underway for this not to be missed holiday concert. For more information send an email to cmbbonaire@gmail.com.

Photo / story Julia Morgan

Primary school kids compete in nature trivia quiz



The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) hosted the annual Big Live Nature Quiz (BLNQ) Kids' edition on November 2, 2023. With 185 teams from 31 schools competing from the six Dutch Caribbean islands, the event brought nature into the classrooms and connected the islands.

The "Galiña" team from Colegio San Hose on Aruba won, securing a thrilling sailing and snorkeling trip around their island. Additionally, each island celebrated its local champions. On Bonaire the winners were the "De zeelieden" team from IKC Kristu Bon Wardador.

The Big Live Nature Quiz- kids edition is a live online nature trivia designed for primary school students in Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, St Eustatius, and St Maarten. The teams were made up of one to four students from primary school grades 5 and 6 (equivalent to group 7 and 8 in the Dutch school system). Quiz questions were made available in four languages: English, Dutch, Papiamentu, and Papiamentu, ensuring inclusivity.

The quiz is a true multi-island team effort: created and supported by the six Dutch Caribbean islands including the nature conservation organizations (parks), primary schools, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV), Dutch Postcode Lottery and Dutch Caribbean TV. You will find more about the 2023 quiz at <https://dcnanature.org/bnlq-kids-2023/>.

On Sunday, November 12 at 6pm, the Big Live Nature Quiz can be watched on Dutch Caribbean TV and via the livestream <http://www.dutchcaribbeantv.com/>.

Photo /story DCNA

Creating optimal health by Irene da Cunda Costa Aging gracefully

In this article I will raise many questions, most of which only we can only answer ourselves. There are no right or wrong responses. Your answers will determine your options and style of handling the passage of time and the inevitable effects of gravity. Is there such a thing as aging gracefully? In this era, like never before, thanks to advances in medicine and cosmetology, we can focus our efforts on maintaining a young body and also a young appearance.

What do we feel when seeing characters from the jet set transformed into true monsters after dozens of surgeries with supposedly the best surgeons? It is assumed that millionaires are not skimping on money when choosing the professionals who care for them. Personally, it makes me sad and scares me. Where is the limit between a small cosmetic retouch and the mad race against getting old?

Being trans-age becomes a possibility thanks to the advances in cosmetic surgery. Could this possibility of being trans-age become a trend or a standard in our society? Trans-age is anyone who tries to live an age different than their biological age, which may be different than their chronological age through artificial means and seeks to appear much younger.

I am going to clarify that there is a difference between chronological age and biological age. There are different indicators that allow the calculation of this discrepancy, and it can go in both directions. Chronological age is simply the time lived since birth. Biological age takes into account the state of the organism and that is dif-

ferent from person to person at the same age. So, one can have a biological age younger or older than one's chronological age.

There are different ways to calculate biological age and there are even numerous online questionnaires, which have a greater or lesser scientific basis. But in summary, biological age depends on what we have done with what we have inherited. It is true there are families with long-lived healthy members. We know that reasonable practice of physical activity, a balanced diet, contact with nature, belonging to a social network and a positive attitude towards life are determining factors in making a positive difference in favor of biological age.

What is reasonable physical activity also deserves clarification, since many high-performance sports generate too much oxidative stress that does not favor biological age. Therefore, reasonable physical activity, like almost everything in life, has an optimal measure. Both a sedentary lifestyle and excessive physical activity can both have negative effects on general health.

So, what are our options to counteract the effects of the passage of time without reaching a delirious denial of it? How far to go? That thin line is different for each person. Peace and acceptance are also part of the process and can be good indicators when facing certain decisions.



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

Reef Glimpses

Back from Exile

by Dee Scarr

My first apartment on Bonaire had the disadvantage of an owner who took my (okay, her) house for herself, every October. So, I've always spent at least one month off-island.

Of the two sites I've dived since I returned this year, the most noticeable differences were in the corals. When I last dived, in July, corals that appeared white were in fact totally denuded stony coral skeletons, victims of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD, spoken as "Skittle-D"). Now, in November, the white corals are not dead, but are "bleached," coral colonies who have expelled their commensal algae, but who still have a decent chance of recovering. My coral colony friend, Tootsie, has bleached and recovered several times over the years.

As I dived, I found myself thinking something I'd never, ever thought before: Look at all those bleached corals! Every one of them has escaped SCTLD! Hooray!

Before reaching the reef on my second dive, I checked out the sponges I had tied onto Karel's pier. They're in very shallow water, some less than six feet (2m), but have done well despite battering waves at every wind reversal and road runoff with every rainstorm. Don't worry about this sketchy description; an upcoming Reef Glimpse will give a more complete report on the Sponge Garden.

The sponges on the reef also looked great, and gave



This boring (not "uninteresting", but which bores into the coral) sponge was dusted after the photo was taken. Photo Dee Scarr

purple, green, yellow, orange, and even pink touches to the reef. Have you ever looked into sponges? Purple sponge tubes host shrimp and gobies, and provide nighttime sanctuary for young squirrelfish, Spanish hogfish, and other small fishes. We aren't the only ones who know about this, but most predators can't get into sponge tubes – which is why the tubes are safe for the little fish. There are always exceptions, of course, and in this case the exceptions are morays and octopuses. We used to see a small spotted moray facing out of a purple tube sponge on every night dive on La Machaca Reef. We always assumed it was waiting to gobble down any little fish checking into the Purple Tube Hotel – but as I write this I wonder if the little guy or gal was him- or herself checked in for the evenings...

The tubes of a sponge formation are its exhaust ports, so every creature in a tube is being washed by a slow current flowing outside the sponges. I've tried to feel this current from many sponges of many different types, and I can't feel a thing. We can see the effects of the current, though, whenever we find a sponge tube "aimed" at a sand bottom: there's a visible hollow where the sponge's exhaust water has blown away some sand.

The sponge with the strongest exhaust current around here is the touch-me-not sponge. Maybe that's why the only fish we see inside it are gobies, looking as if they're swimming a marathon!

The first inkling I had about how sponges function was when I was setting up an underwater Easter egg (not actual eggs, but slightly negatively-buoyant 35mm film* cans) hunt years ago. Whenever I would place an "egg" near a sponge exhaust port, the egg would roll away! It was an enlightening, although frustrating, dive.

We know that sponge communities get their oxygen and food by filtering tiny creatures from sea water, and we know the filtered water leaves through the sponge's largest openings, its exhaust ports. We can conclude that the to-be-filtered water must enter the sponge through the tiny holes on its outside and we'd be correct! Many years ago Canadian filmmaker John Stoneman demonstrated this by squirting some milk into the water near a tube sponge; the milk flowed into the tiny holes on the outside of the tube, and later flowed out through the tube. Very cool, but possibly too foreign for the sponge in continuous doses!

Reef: Back from Exile

continued on page 14

Parrots and People

Lovely Plumage! Part II

by "Mel" McCombie

Imagine if you lost all your hair and regrew it in 10 weeks. That would be strange! Yet once a year, our Loras shed their feathers and regrow them. Why does this happen?

Even the best cared for feathers wear out. They can crimp or break. Since feathers endow parrots with the gift of flight—and the ability to fly from predators—feather health is essential for survival. Losing and regrowing feathers is called a molt, or moult in the British spelling, and is one of the most important times in a parrot's year.

Feathers can't heal themselves; like human hair, the feather is not alive, so it

can't repair itself. A broken feather must be completely replaced. And to keep their plumes in top condition, our Loras and prikichis molt, or shed and regrow their feathers, usually once a year. Molts takes place during times when other big energy demands are fewer, typically when Lora chicks are fledged (like this time of year). There are a number of hormonal and natural stimuli that cause molting to begin, something scientists are still figuring out.

During a molt, the blood supply to a feather's base cuts off, allowing the feather to dry out and drop off. The new feather grows in right behind the dropped feather. Luckily for the Loras, molting is symmetrical—identical feathers on

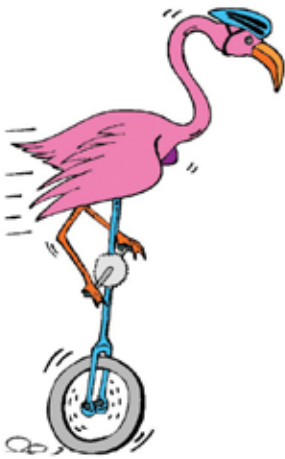


each side of the body drop at the same time. It is essential that parrots remain capable of balanced flight during a molt. The timing of which feathers drop and

Lovely Plumage

continued on page 14

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Breaking a sweat for a good cause



Bon Booty charity event on November 4 took Bonaire by storm. It was all about buying sports equipment and games for the elderly through a donation to the ZW-Group.

Held at Bar P, some 45-fitness loving participants paid \$20 bucks to sweat for that fantastic cause. With a DJ spinning some beats, enthusiastic instructors Lois van Diggele and Christiaan Zweers of Bon Booty pushed everyone to work their glutes, abs and legs like never before. After an intense workout a guided yoga cool-down and stretch was led by local yoga instructor Ladina van Swoll. Drinks were served all around providing a celebratory atmosphere to the presentation of a big check for \$1100 to ZW Groups repre-

sentatives Yuraima Patocino Bodak and Jeanisse Gonzales.

The fitness enthusiasts not only had a good workout, while contributing to a good cause, many also won fantastic prizes in a raffle giveaway.

The Bon Booty event was a blend of fitness, philanthropy and fun. It left everyone energized and ready to make a positive change in the community.

Chris Zweers / Photo Julie Morgan

Photo L-R: Jeanisses Gonzales of ZW Group; Lois van Diggele, Bon Booty; Yuraima Potocino Bodak of ZW Group and Chris Zweers Bon Booty.

Blue Lagoon, *continued from page 8*

For the entrée, Malin chose the Kabritu Stoba (goat) served with a mound of rice, greens and a mango salsa with a bit of pica. She said the stoba had a smokey taste that blended perfectly with the spicy/sweet salsa and rice.

I tried the Piska Freshu, a nice grilled piece of fresh, local barracuda. It was served with a tasty pumpkin polenta or, as known on Bonaire, funchi. Both were perfectly prepared. I especially enjoyed the polenta as the pumpkin gave it a unique taste and consistency. A side of the mango salsa added to the flavor.

Dessert was tiramisu. And anyone who loves Tiramisu, knows that every restaurant has their own version of this favorite Italian dessert and Blue Lagoon was no different. Elise's version was served in a coconut half shell with rum and coffee liquor marinated pineapple and ladyfingers. Yum, it was great, like all her desserts are.

And here's the bad and the good. The bad is Blue Lagoon guests won't see this particular menu this week but the good is, it will be something completely new and different. The Local Lunch menu is \$27.50 but courses may be ordered individually. Local Lunch runs from Tuesday to Saturday and is served from 12 noon to 3 p.m. but all other Blue Lagoon items are available from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Blue Lagoon is located at the Daboussi Center at Bonaire International Airport. Dining at Blue Lagoon is much easier now with free parking at BIA. Guests can show their parking ticket when paying their bill and the amount will be deducted.

To check what's for lunch, visit the Blue Lagoon Facebook page. Guests can dine inside, on the cool patio or take away. +599 701 1317. *Story / photos Julie Morgan*

A Garden? Just Do It!

by Angliet, Nature Lover

Exotic fruits

Not so long ago a friend came to visit with seeds from rare fruits after traveling in the Caribbean. He wanted to plant the seeds here and asked if I knew what they were. Many were fruits from my native country Surinam where almost all fruits from the tropics grow.

Many of the fruit plants already grow here on Bonaire and bear fruit. Having a large variety of fruit grow here is good as they can help provide urban sustainable agriculture development which fights climate crisis and poverty. It limits our use of imported fruits that have pesticides, fights against erosion of Bonairian topsoil and, last but not least, it's so cool to have your own homegrown fruit in your kitchen. The taste is without a doubt always gorgeous because you grew it yourself.

Here are a few of the fruit trees:

Djamboe Semarang, *Syzygium aqueum*, from family Myrtaceae, also known here as the Surinam appel. But in Surinam it's called Cursow apra (apple of Curaçao) and sometimes known as watery rose apple fruit, native to India, but it has spread to many countries in the tropics.

This delicious fruit is in different colours such as reddish - pink, white - pink, white -green and green - pink. The fruit grows on a huge tree which bears a lot of fruit but often takes time to mature. Once you have it on your kunuku or in your big yard you will enjoy fruit at least two times a year. One can get plants by cuttings and seeds.

Medicinal uses include: fever treatment, liver detox, headaches, digestive issues, diabetes, lowers cholesterol, skin conditions and it contains mountains of vitamins, minerals, fiber and liquid.

The taste is sweet sour like an apple and the texture is crunchy. It can be eaten by hand but also as a compote, jam, jelly, pickled, in fresh salads, smoothies and juice.

Djamboe ear, or Java apple, known in Surinam as pommerak, the Latin name is *Eugenia aquea* from the Myrtaceae family. It is native to India but found in all of Southeast Asia, Caribbean and Surinam. This tree, a family of Djam-

boe Semarang, becomes 5 -10 meters in height and needs a lot of space. The fruit is in the shape of a pear. It is sweet - sour with a soft aroma and has purple - reddish to dark - reddish outside and white crunchy meat inside. As with the Djamboe Semarang it can be used in compotes with brown sugar, cinnamon and water.

The tree bears fruit after about six years and the older the tree the more fruit it bears. New trees can be started by cuttings and seeds. The leaves have an essential oil that is good to treat varicose veins and to keep skin young. It is also good for a fever.

Because of its dark reddish skin it is high in antioxidants and full of vitamins and minerals.

It needs to be said that eating too much of these two fruits can lead to anti-constipation.



Left top Makka pruij; Left bottom Pommerak; Right top Ingi bakba; Right bottom Surinam apple.

I have seen both of these trees on Bonaire and Curacao.

My friend planted seeds of these fruit trees but they died due to the drought. These plants need the rainy season with moisture in the air to start their young life.

Ingi bakba as we call it in Surinam is called Gedhang Klutuk in Indonesia. It's a type of bacoba that bears fruit with a reddish skin. In Surinam it grows mostly in the Amazon jungle because it needs a lot of sweet water and moisture in the air. The fruits become big and are very white on the inside and sweet. They are very compact and eating just two gives the stomach a full feeling.

I took some plants from Surinam to Bonaire and a friend succeeded with one plant that produced a lot of baby plants. He didn't know what to do with a bushy yard full of this plant so he cleared out all the plants - what a waste. One neighbor still has the plant but it never bore fruit. I think the soil is too salty for this plant.

Makka pruij is a fruit we see in many yards on Bonaire. It's a kind of plum, sweet - sour and the trees aren't too big. The fruit has a reddish skin with a yellow inside. The fruit is full of antioxidants, vitamin C and way more good stuff. It can be planted by seeds or cuttings and after four years the plant bears fruit. It's also a tropical fruit which came from the Americas but is part of our flora on Bonaire..

So go ahead with all these exotic plants. It's raining a lot giving gardeners a big chance to have great fruits in your garden one day. Just do it now.



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

Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.



First place Elite winner Tom Homburg makes riding through the Duo's wild trails look easy. Photo Arjen van Dorsten

PRO (55 km – 34 mi)

MEN

First – Barry Bakker and Nick Hubert: 2.44
Second – Nick Veenbrink and Dennis van
Brummer: 2.54
Third – Maikos de Lima and Mathys Hage:
3.12

MEN 100+

First – Frank Hubert and Ed de Knecht: 2.53
Second – Henk Oly and Hendrik Wilsoe: 3.54
Third – Guido Kibbelaar and Hendrikus v.d.
Hulst: 4.54

MIX

First – Andrea Magni and Kelly Mettes: 3.40
Second – Eric van Engelen and Barbara v.d. Woude 3.50
Third Vera Toonen and Tom Verbeek 3.55

Bonaire's riders are gearing up for the next Xtreme challenge with the DuoXtreme Curaçao on November 19 of which eight cyclists are set to go. And on December 3, Aruba will hold their version of the Xtreme.

In addition to the main sponsor, Karel's Beach Bar, sub-sponsors included: Sunbelt Realty, De Freewieler, Alcon/Freisetnet and GAIA. Other sponsors were: Olvoka, Pink Coral iT, El Mundo, Bonaire Office Systems, Napa, Body-Fit, Timbo/Genkoo providing water/sports drinks and Rocargo donated the medals.



Muddy trails and flats provided an extra degree of difficulty for the riders
Photo Arien van Dorsten



Lovely Plumage, Part II

continued from page 10

regrow ensures that the bird can continue to fly during a molt—for example, outer primary, or flight, feathers remain while inner ones are growing. A feather is dropped only after its neighbor is partially regrown. Parrots molt wings first, then body, then tail.

New feathers are covered in a keratin sheath which is quite stiff, almost like a quill or nail. These pinfeathers are heavily vascularized, and uncomfortable. As pinfeathers grow out, Loras gently groom each other, carefully nibbling at the keratin sheath to break it apart, particularly on areas the molting bird can't reach, like the back of its head. Grooming affirms bonds between parrots, and though sometimes a Lora will yelp with discomfort as its mate grooms too vigorously, their beaks and prehensile tongues are well adapted to removing the keratin sheath. Companion parrots rely on their humans to help preen their feathers, and

sadly, clumsy human fingers don't do nearly as good a job as a beak.

During a molt, rain feels particularly good. It helps soften the waxy keratin sheath surrounding new feathers. Be on the lookout for Loras and prikichis rubbing against things, preening each other, and relishing a shower—they may be molting.

("Lovely Plumage!" part I appeared in *The Bonaire Reporter*, Oct. 11-25, year 30, issue 20 which is available from the online archives at <https://bonairereporter.com>)

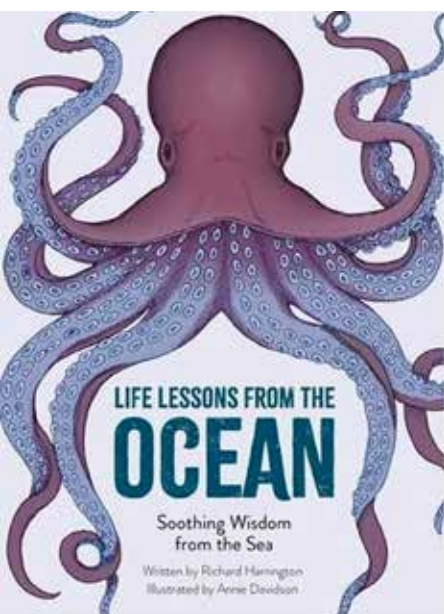


Mel McCombie is a retired professor, and conservation activist, and has lived part-time in Bonaire for 30 years.

Buckley's Books

by George Buckley

Every so often a small gem of a book appears. 'LIFE LESSONS from the OCEAN' by British marine biologist Richard Harrington is such a book.



Harrington takes readers on a global oceanic journey of discovery with an engaging series of short stories about dozens of varieties of marine life and their habitats. Harrington aims to provide 'soothing wisdom from the sea' in his elegant descriptions of the secrets of ocean life and how we can learn essential life lessons in survival from them, such as collaboration, finding your niche to resourcefulness. He delves into the lives of Sea Anemones, Barnacles, Christmas tree worms, Cone snails, Cuttlefish, Deep Sea Vents, Kelp, Octopus, Parrotfish, Quahog clams, Sea grasses, Sea slugs, Sea stars, Sponges and Whales to name a few of the ocean denizens that are in-

troduced in one page stories that feature how the organisms are 'important to the fabric of life in the oceans.' One reviewer noted that 'this book provides lessons for everyone'; several of my students whole heartedly agree.

Each story is illuminated with colorful illustrations of sea life by Australian artist Annie Davidson who expertly captures the character of each organism and habitat.

This is a book for everyone; the pictures will interest all ages as each tells a story and lets your mind capture that creature and its environment. The more you look, the more detail you see. All readers will enjoy the stories. Easy to read yet descriptive and captivating, it will expand readers' knowledge and understanding of the world's oceans, and perhaps spark a deeper interest in learning more about the seas and their creatures.



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.

Reef Glimpses: Back from Exile

continued from page 10

Learning that water flows from the outside of a sponge, through the sponge, and then back out of the sponge through its exhaust ports, makes one important thing very clear: if a sponge's intake ports are clogged, by sand or algae or even a lost t-shirt, the sponge community can't breathe or eat as well as it could if the pores were not clogged.

That's a situation that divers can help to correct by gently fanning the water near a silted sponge, which fans the silt away. (No contact with the sponge is necessary or appropriate.) The key word here is "gently"; vigorous fanning can damage some sponges, especially the smooth brown chicken liver (officially named Variable) Sponge and the pink Lumpy Overgrowing Sponge, which I knew instantly when I heard Julie's name for it, bubble gum sponge. Don't think about chewing it, though. Sponge consumption can be fatal for humans and most other animals.

Not munching on animals underwater is a tiny price to pay for diving on Bonaire.

***A note to all you youngsters:** we used to take photos on stuff called "film," which for most cameras came in cartridges, which came in plastic "cans" about two inches (5 cm) high and half that in diameter. Once the film was processed, the cans were available for reuse. Using them was more practical and less wasteful than using actual eggs, obviously.



Dee has been guiding divers on Bonaire since 1982. She's written about her undersea experiences in her books, *Touch the Sea*, *The Gentle Sea*, and *Coral's Reef* (for children); in *Dive Training Magazine* from 1990 to 2000, with "Coral Glimpses" in the *Bonaire Reporter*, and now with "Reef Glimpses." We are delighted to bring "Reef Glimpses" to you free of charge through touchthesea.com.

Make Bonaire Accessible

by Ria Evers-Dokter

How to choose

Being alone means that you have to do everything by yourself. There is nobody else in the house that will remind you, help you or get mad at you. You alone are responsible for everything.

When you are younger, this does not seem like a huge problem. But when you are elderly, it means a lot more.

Recently an acquaintance started feeling unwell during a group outing, and this started a whole chain of questions and decisions. But there were also uncertainties.

It is very important to always carry your personal information around with you. Because should you faint or not be able to speak anymore, people can always find this info and it could be lifesaving.

Name, age, date of birth is crucial. But also, your ailments, diagnosis and list of medication used is important. And the name and phone number of a contact person is crucial.

So, this got me thinking. Who should be the person to call? A person who can make definite decisions about me. How do I pick this person? And if I pick one, what are the legal consequences?

I know when a foster parent is needed, a list can be produced and foster-care can be arranged for pretty quickly. Is there such a list for the elderly? Is there an organization that takes care for these things?

Should I get a lawyer to have this arranged? Should I write something like a will and put all this in black and white?

Can one ask a friend? Or should you ask a complete stranger?

And I am not speaking about a last will. It might just be a decision to call an ambulance. Or even worse the decision

to have one placed in a home or some kind of care facility.

I feel that the same organization that arranges foster care, should also start delivering these kinds of services to the elderly.

I guess I have a lot of work and planning ahead of me. I am open to serious suggestions, which I will want to share.

But for the time being, I am very thankful that I made it this far. Hofi Kultural provided me a buddy. They also provided me a place I like to go, do some crafting, play and learn music and enjoy the company of many helpful peers. I have found many friends that make me feel welcome and get me to and fro. And I will continue to go there. I am very grateful for that.

Akseso also provided a big group of peers and different activities.

Zorg & Welzijn Group provides transportation to doctors and hospital offices, to treatment and they help me do my shopping and cleaning. When I could not cook, I was provided with meals. They are a wonderful group of people, and it makes me very, very happy that starting in January they will provide social transportation as well.

I am very thankful that we finally have a decent way to get in and out of our aircrafts on the island.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!



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.

Piss and Vinegar

by Gijs Borsten

Bonaire’s Informational Twilight Zone and a Wedding

I. Last week I decided it was time to find out what consequences the sudden (yet not unwelcome) demise of the old UPB/MPB government, would have for the developments plaguing the island.

The only accomplishment of the previous gang existed, as far as I can remember, in the fact that they sold Bonaire’s soul to the devil (locally represented by the TCB), and I was, therefore, extremely curious what improvements the new government had in store for us. Cruise ships, Bolivia, affordable housing, traffic congestion: all problems directly affecting Bonaire’s John Doe. Or Jan Modaal. Modesto Pokoplaka. Otto Normalverbraucher. The problems that can’t wait to be solved.

So, I directed myself to Bonairegov.com, the only place that should contain every bit of information that I needed on the subject, and, lo and behold: I couldn’t find a single thing. Or, to be more precise: Had it not been for Dossierkoninkrijksrelaties.nl, it would have been a hell of a job to acquire the slightest insight into both the regime change and in the plans for the future of the new crew. Right there I found a few snippets of the information I needed, Bonaire’s official website(s) remaining silent on the topic.

My next quest went more or less the same way. With the Dutch press and government sites gradually heating up toward the November 22 General Elections, I started wondering about a number of election-related matters, simple questions, like whether the voting cards would arrive in time (they did), where the polling stations were going to be located, which parties would be involved, and what their ideas concerning the Caribbean Netherlands were going to be. Nothing special.

Again: nada. Bonairegov.com proved not to be much more informative on current affairs than my history books, the most recent general election news listing the 2021 results (that I already knew), and not uttering a single word about the upcoming one. So, I remained pretty much in the dark.

Sharing my bad luck with a friend, he told me, that a lot of OLB information could be found on the OLB Facebook page. Now, Facebook is a medium that I – together with about two thirds of the population – try to avoid. I’m not extremely interested in dancing-cat videos, or in being abused by anonymous retards. I generally prefer contact with friends in a factual way. Over a beer, for example.

But, for research’s sake, I opened the OLB Facebook site, that I, to my surprise, could browse without any barriers. Regrettably, however: although I found a lot of announcements of a more or less informative nature, there was nothing on either the new government and their program, or the upcoming elections.

II. Now why, have I been asking myself, would a government that so highly values transparency be so secretive? Before the 2019 Island Council elections ‘Transparency’ was all over Bonairegov.com, accompanied by all kind of important looking, downloadable reports and documents to prove their dedication. At this very moment Bonairegov only shares innocent matters like cocktail nights for Rijna (who was, as I remember, post-Covid, the opposite of transparent) and Full Moon Nights, things that can easily be published on a medium like Facebook.

At this very moment, the widespread secretiveness in government circles has caused some suspicion among those elements in the Bonairean population that are interested in public performance. In good governance. In not being conned by someone telling cover stories about whatever they want to screw us about.

Do we, in order to effectuate some openness in government reporting, really have to start – helped by a bunch of experts with procedural and intrinsic knowl-

edge, to open a WOB/WOO procedure (the Dutch/BES version of the US Freedom of Information Act) on every government decision or contract that is produced? If that’s the only way to internalize government transparency, I think we should start right away.

Personally, I’d love to dive into the apparent ‘older agreements’ between the Bonaire government and the cruise ship companies, continuously obstructing, like the harbor master stated, the implementation of the ‘one ship per day’-policy. Can’t they show those contracts to us, curious victims of their obese hordes, instead of merely telling us they exist?

In the meantime, let’s give the new government gang the benefit of the doubt, will we? They’re looking at a difficult job.

III. Bonaire’s DRO communicates.

A nice example of the way OLB communicates could be found on Facebook last weekend: the news hit the headlines that, during the evening hours of November 23rd, traffic to and from Belnem will be shut off because of a wedding party at Te Amo Beach. A complete Bario, domicile of thousands – both residents and tourists – would be inaccessible other than by having to take a 10-mile detour.

The reason? A wedding. A bleedin’ wedding!

It’s a good thing a new head of communications is appointed...



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.

Hams broadcasting from Bonaire win world contest

A team of eight American and Canadian amateur radio operators (hams), broadcasting continuously from Bonaire in two-man shifts, won the 48-hour CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest the weekend of October 28-29.

The teams competed with other teams around the world to talk to the greatest number of other ham operators in the most countries using the amateur radio bands (160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meters).

The Bonaire team scored just over 39 million points, very close to a new world record. Second place went to a team from the Cayman Islands and third to a team from Portugal. In the team’s next contest the hams will communicate by morse code instead of voice. That contest is scheduled for November 25 and 26.

The operators and callsigns: Rich Smith (N6KT), Dave Hawes (N3RD), Marty Durham (W1MD), Doug Grant (K1DG), Charlie Carroll (K1XX), Dave Pascoe (KM3T), Gary Caldwell (VA7RR), and Scott Robbins (W4PA).

Walt Rakitsy



(L-R) Scott Robbins (W4PA) and Charlie Carroll (K1XX) as they broadcast from Bonaire in 2022’s Morse code (CW) contest when the team earned second place internationally. Robbins and Carroll operated this year in October as well when the Bonaire-based team took first place. Photo 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 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.
November 9 & 10	Register for the free Kareda di Suít Triathlon November 12. See below and page 17.
Friday, November 10	Online Symposium: Nature-Based Solutions in Ecosystem Restoration. 1:30 - 5 p.m. AST The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) and Fundacion Parke Nacional Aruba (FPNA) cordially invite you to attend for ecosystem restoration in the Dutch Caribbean. Please register your online attendance. https://dcnanature.org/dcna-symposium-2online-attendance/
Sunday, November 12	Kareda di Suít 6:30 a.m. FREE. Register at INDEBON Nov. 9 & 10. See page 17.
Thursday, November 16	National Reading Day. 9 - 9:30 a.m. Volunteers read in Papiamentu to school groups 1 to 4 and in Dutch to groups 5 to 8. More than 100 enthusiastic volunteers needed. See page 17.
Saturday, November 18	Sinterklaas arrives by boat to Bonaire
Sunday, November 26	Sobremesa's fun street art workshop . 4 p.m. Anyone 16+years can try their hand at spray can/graffiti/ street art on an object they would like to decorate.

Special Olympics from page 1

Jean Fort St M; 2 - Michael Alexander St M; 3 - Jadon Jones St M

Final B: 1 - Giandrick Mercera Bon; 2 - Jerone Martis St M; 3 - Gendrick Mercera Bo

Finals for 50 m Freestyle, Breast-stroke for both Women and Men were cancelled due to weather conditions.

Track and Field - Men

Long Jump: 1 - Thairise Ignacio Aruba; 2 - Niurick Penja Aruba; 3 - Lixandro Mauricio Bonaire

100m: 1 - Nirick Penja Aruba; 2 Thairise Ignacio Aruba; 3 Roell Scherptong Bon

Ball throw: 1 - Niurick Penjha Aruba; 2 Lixandro Mauricio Bon; 3 - Thairise Ignacio Aruba

400 m: 1 - Thairise Ignacio; 2 - Niurick Penja; 3 - Roell Scherptong

Track and Field - Women

Long Jump: 1 - Shalima Mathew Bon;

2 - Marchevidenely Hersilia Cur; 3 - Shendra Weber Aruba

Framerunning: 1 - Shendra Wever Aruba; 2 - Shalima Mathew Bon; 3 - Michelli Mathew Bon

Ball throw: 1 - Shalima Mathew Bon; 2 - Michelli Mathew Bon; 3 - Suen-Deline Poulina Cur

400 m: 1 - Shendra Wever Aruba; 2 - Suen-Deline Poulina Cur; 3 - Marchevidenely Hersilia Cur

(At press time we had yet to receive results for the football/soccer.)

Special Olympics Bonaire will hold their own games next year for island athletes. It is expected that the Kingdom Games will be scheduled every other year hosted by participating islands in the Kingdom.

Photos / story Julie Morgan



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. Nov 20 7:30 p.m. at Dive Friends (location to be confirmed) - it will either be Sand Dollar or Hamlet . 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.

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

Tentative cruise ship schedule				
DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Thur. November 9	ROYAL CLIPPER	1300-1900	North	246
Fri. November 10	SEVEN SEAS MARINER	1300-2300	North	730
Mon. November 13	AIDAPERLA	0800-1800	South	3286
Tues. November 14	EURODAM	0730-1700	North	2731
Weds. November 15	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Thurs. November 16	ROTTERDAM	0700-2000	South	2668
Sun. November 19	CELEBRITY BEYOND	0600-1600	South	3260
wed. November 22	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2	1300-2100	North	2076
Fri. November 24	STAR CLIPPER	0800-1700	North	180
Sat. November 25	CLUB MED 2	0800-1800	North	439
Sun. November 26	CELEBRITY EQUINOX	0700-2200	South	2852
Mon. November 27	ROYAL CLIPPER	0800-1500	North	246
	AIDAPERLA	0830-1800	South	3286
Tues. November 28	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Wed. November 29	AIDADIVA	0630-1800	North	2500
Mon. November 30	EXPLORA I	0700-2000	North	922
Fri. December 1	STAR PRIDE	0830-1800	North	312
Fri. December 8	NORWEGIAN PRIMA	0630-1800	South	3099

Do you speak Dutch or Papiamentu?
Wanted: Volunteers for Reading Day 2023!

Again this year, the Reading and Writing Bonaire Foundation is asking for volunteers to read out loud to a class on Thursday, November 16, National Reading Day Bonaire.

Volunteers are asked to read to a class for half an hour, 9 to 9:30 a.m. When you volunteer, you can decide which book or passage you are going to read. (Of course, the book must be suitable for the level of the students.) As in previous years, volunteers will read in Papiamentu to groups 1 to 4 and in Dutch to groups 5 to 8.

Because the readers visit all primary schools from Rincon to Nikiboko at the same time, more than 100 enthusiastic volunteers are needed.

For inexperienced readers, there is a free workshop “Reading Aloud” on Friday, November 10. Writer and teacher Monica Clarinda will give tips on how to captivate students.

More information and registration:
leesenschrijvenbonaire@gmail.com
Darly Janga and Paul Ruijs Tel 599 782 4569
Bonaire Reading and Writing Foundation



Join the Kareda di Suit November 12.



Representatives from Indebon, Extreme MTB and Comcabon display the new shirt that is free to everyone who participates.

With all the special sports events happening this time of year, you may be thinking, “What about me, an average person who likes to run, walk or bike?”

Well, here it is, the Kareda di Suit. Any age can participate, it's FREE and you can win some great prizes! The event is November 12 at 6:30 a.m.

Runners and walkers follow an 8 km (4.9 mi) route while bikers travel 28 or 56 km (17 or 34 mi). The start is at Jossy Ballpark and ends at Ocean Oasis.

Everyone gets a cool shirt (pictured), drinks and food. Volunteers will keep the traffic at bay. So, grab your friends and family and participate in the second annual Kareda di Suit.

Registration is November 9 and 10 at Indebon, the Sports Hall on Kaya Amsterdam from 5:30-8 p.m. The event is sponsored by Indebon, Comcabon and DuoXtreme.

Story/photo Julie Morgan.

INDEBON
Instituto Di Deporte Boneriano

KAREDA DI SUIT

RUN 8KM
WALK 8KM
BIKE 28 & 56KM

DATE: 12 NOVEMBER 2023
TIME: 6:30AM
START: JOSSY BOEKHOUDT
FINISH: OCEAN OASIS

Registration: 9 & 10 November 2023
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RoffaReef returns to Bonaire

RoffaReefs, a fish breeding system project in collaboration with Rotterdam Zoo in the Netherlands, is back in action on Bonaire.

Earlier this year the floating breeding system became detached and was damaged during a storm. Field technician Sander van Lopik, one of the bright minds of the project, recently returned to Bonaire with his crew and colleague Randolph Streng from the zoo. The team rebuilt the system and it is now once again in operation off Bari Reef.

Sander said, “Together with STI-NAPA and Dive Friends we placed it on October 31. The STINAPA rangers are a big help with the project and also

getting samples for our labwork that is being done by colleague Tamara Molendijk. We hope to have more results on egg identification at the beginning of 2024.”

If you would like to learn more about RoffaReefs, a presentation will be held about the project at Delphins on November 10, 7 p.m. Or visit roffareefs.com.

(An article on RoffaReefs appeared earlier in *The Bonaire Reporter*. Find it in our online archives, Mar. 1 - Mar. 15, 2023. Year 30, Issue 5) Julie Morgan

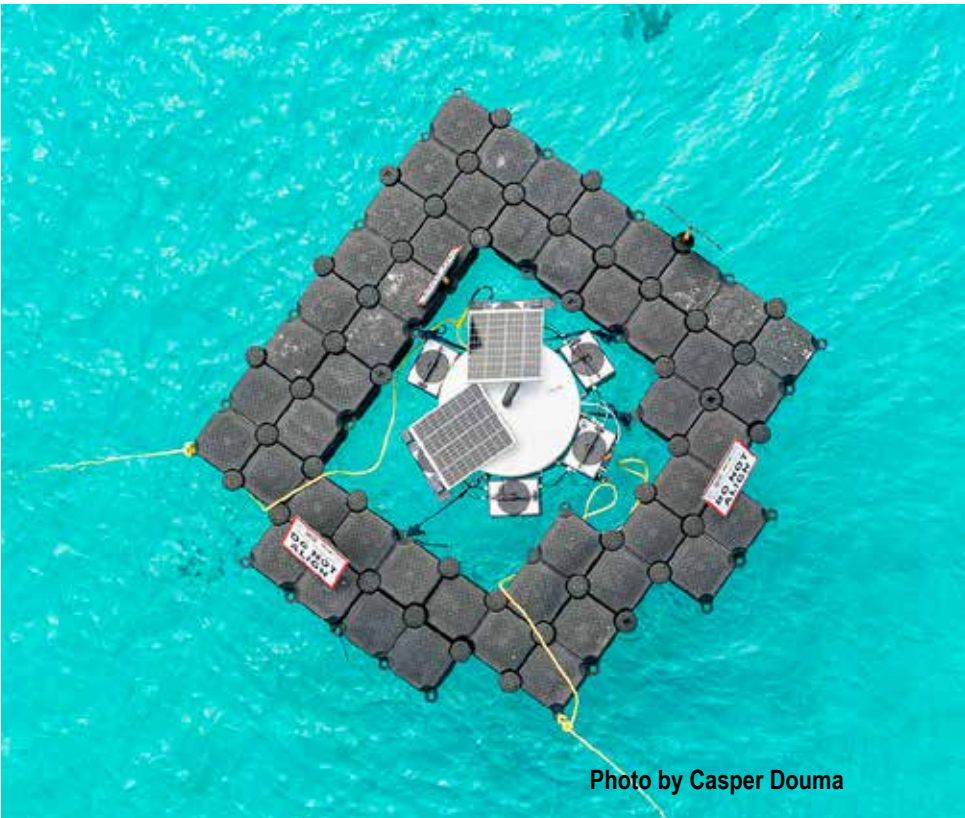


Photo by Casper Douma

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Pet of the Week



Calypso

We are urgently looking for a home for Calypso.

Dear Calypso, a female cat of almost 7 1/2 years is a sweet lady for all people. If you enter the Cat Palace she will be instantly at your side.

She is living with 39 other cats now and that's just too much for her. She can handle one or two cats but would rather be your only cat because she loves attention.

Calypso is talkative and really loves to hug.

Of course, she is sterilized and had her vaccinations. She even has had a rabies vaccination so she can leave the island with you at any moment!

Please, if you have a place in your house and in your heart, come and meet sweet Calypso, you won't regret it!

Monique Degenaar

If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A. Open Monday - Friday 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. nonstop.

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

Shelter News

Pakus Di Pruga Will Rise Again!

Work is under way at the new location for Pakus di Pruga, near Caribbean Laundry (star on map).

Through the generosity of Deco, Stonecrusher and numerous donors things are moving along nicely. We still have a long way to go and are still in need of assistance.

Materials needed include concrete plywood (betonplex) 18mm; lumber: 1x2", 2x3", 3x6" and 3x8"; overhead fluorescent light fixtures. We will also need carpenters once the containers are in place. If you can help with any of these needs please contact Paul Wichers at paule-namina@gmail.com

Of course, monetary donations to help defray the costs of rebuilding are 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).

At this time we cannot predict the date of our reopening. Too many factors like weather, work force, container arrival, etc. will influence the time line. But stay tuned and we will update as soon as we can. *Jane Disko*



Nos Zjilea explores traditional healing

Before the days of modern medicine, traditional or spiritual healing was a part of the Bonaire culture and it is still alive today on the island. October 28's Nos Zjilea at Mangazina di Rei featured several healers who are practicing ideas and treatments from nature that have been passed on for generations.

Izain Mercera, Nos Zjilea host, led the crowd through the presentations engaging the guests and providing English translations to the crowd. Local bands Grupo Melody and Musikal F.M.K. entertained bringing guests to their feet to dance along with cultural dancers Monique and Donny Winklaar. This week the stone oven was fired up. Traditional breadmakers



Mama Raimunda Martis, a traditional healer for more than 50 years

prepared the best bread on the island as you watched and waited. The Mangazina di Rei kitchen offered local foods along with freshly made fruit drinks and other libations to enjoy as you shopped for handmade crafts and art.

Author and historian Boi Antoin of Fuhikubo presented his newest book Kuranderia popular – Natural I spiritual. The book is a historical view of popular healers, doctors and care from the past to present day.

Ernest de Lanoo, of Piskabon explained treatments for pain of men and women's private parts. Ernest warned that certain diets can bring on these pains. Eating red meat is very harmful due to the amount of gas it causes and eating excessive amounts of tuna, a very dense meat is not advised. A treatment of herbs and plants is recommended: Spanish nutmeg, nutmeg, coconut oil heated and rubbed on the body can help relieve these pains.

Mama Raimunda Martis, an elder healer of over 50 years demonstrated the treatment. The herbal treatment must be applied for three days consecutively.

Mavis Abrahams explained a treatment for shingles which is a reactivation of chicken pox that remains in the body. The virus reappears as shingles due to excessive stress. Shingles must be treated inside and outside. She concocted a potion with ink and local plants that are boiled and applied to the shingles. Diet is important for anyone with shingles: no pork, seafood, alcohol, Chinese food, chicken or eggs.

Nos Zjilea is held the last Saturday of every month with different presentations about Bonaire culture, history, art and people. Visit the Mangazina di Rei Facebook page for more information.

See, Feel and Taste the Culture of Bonaire.

Story/photos Julie Morgan



Halloween

Halloween on Bonaire has evolved into a major event for many kids and their parents thanks to a little trick or treat event started with a handful of downtown merchants by Corine Gerharts 26 years ago. The event, by invitation only,

grew this year to 180 trick or treating kids and 100 parents who visited 20 merchants at three appointed times singing a Halloween song requesting 'something sweet.'

The parents and kids anticipate the event planning 'what

they are going to be' months in advance. The merchants seem to love it too, getting into the spirit of the holiday by decorating their businesses and dressing in their own imaginative costumes to hand out treats.

This year's event held Octo-

ber 28 was organized by Corine with some help from Arlene Nagtegall and Michele Knuf. Here is a list of the merchants helping to make Halloween special: Salt Shop, Bougaloe, Bonaire Service Drogist, Tisa, Foxy Flamingo, Rumba Café,

Littman's, Sun Smiles, Buena Vista Optics. Milano, Jewel of Bonaire, Gios, Remax, MG Bonaire, Penny Lane, Heinen delfts Blauw, Reef Shoes, Changes, An's Wanna Haves' and Vilebrequin

Photos / story Julie Morgan



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