

**FREE**

**BONAIRE**  
**The REPORTER**

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Photo Julie Morgan

## Let the holiday begin

Sinterklaas arrived November 23 marking the beginning of the 2024 holiday season in Bonaire. Hundreds of energetic kids, parents and big kids gathered at Wilhelmina Plaza and the north pier to get a glance or, even better, high five the big man in red. For the second year Sinterklaas/ Sint Nicolaas rode in on the beautiful Lady Bellais ship with an entourage of local boats and sunfish. He was accompanied on the boat by a record number of 60 dancing Zwarte Piets (black peters). Sinterklaas was met at the pier by Lt. Governor John Soliano welcoming him to Bonaire.

A golf cart was the Sinterklaas' mode of transport this year to travel from the ship through the admiring crowds to a stage set up for the official ceremony. Sitting from a throne on the stage, Sinterklaas spoke to the crowd and observed the children as he reviewed their names in his big red book. The Zwarte Piets danced, sang and threw candy to the kids.

The Dreamers group headed up by Sandy Balentein organized the event once again and all strive to make it better than the last. From November 23 to December Sinterklaas and the Piets will make appearances at schools and other events across the island.

The holiday season on Bonaire is always full of events but this year's calendar is especially full.

November 30 has a menu of activities that will make it difficult to decide what to do and where to go.

**For licensed lionfish hunters,** a free Lionfish Derby is scheduled at Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP) from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Contact STINAPA for information.)

In the evening beginning at 6 p.m., WSNP is the site of the first ever **Taste of Bonaire** at the park. Visitors can expect great food, crafts and entertainment.

**Moltenwolf Gallery is doing their final Pop-Up Art Gallery** with photographer Heidi Nys at Terramar Plaza from 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Mangazina di Rei's cultural event** Nos Zjilea focus this month is "As di oro a subi

mesa" (Dinner is served). Mini workshops and demonstrations are scheduled along with great local food, crafts and music from Tutti Frutti. 10 a.m – 3 p.m.

**Market and Expo** is in the parking lot of JICN from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. A great opportunity to pick up some holiday gifts. The beautiful handmade products are made by the detainees.

**LVV Open Day Christmas edition** is from 4 - 9 p.m.

**Winterpride at Tera Cora Ranch** promises to be a night filled with fun, music and diversity with drag queens from Curaçao. Begins at 8 p.m. \$10

**Kaminda di Arte (Road of Art)** November 30 -December 1 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. A map will lead you to the studios and galleries of 40 Bonaire artist. Visit [www.sobremesa-bonaire.com](http://www.sobremesa-bonaire.com) to get the map and more information.

**Artistic Journey Exhibit** at Terramar Museum December 6 – February 28. Collaboration of artists Delno Tromp and Gabrielle Wilson.



Zwarte Piets entertain the crowds Photo Julie Morgan

**Let the holiday begin to page 6**

## The Dutch take over Lagun landfill problems



**Acting Kingdom Representative Jan Helmond** has declared an administrative intervention on Bonaire. He announced that he has temporarily taken over, with immediate effect, the Lagun landfill and the waste problem on the island. He has relieved the Executive Council of responsibility for issuing permits, supervision and enforcement at Selibon Lagun.

On November 26 the first steps were announced. The violations with the most urgent risks will be addressed first.

Those are the storage of biomedical waste, the burial of offal, the storage of asbestos-containing material, lack of emission measurements at the incineration plant, and the fencing of the site.

Helmond had informed the governor and deputies of his decision in advance. He had already consulted with Selibon, the Island Council and the action group of residents of the landfill Pro Lagun. The Executive Council informed Helmond of its objections to the move, but he proceeded with the intervention.

“Despite a difference of opinion about the process,” Helmond said, “the cooperation with the employees of Selibon, with the residents of Lagun and surroundings and with the Executive Council and the civil servants is of great importance. We have a common problem and must also solve it together. The various ministries are ready to help with this.”

Predictably, the immediate response on the island is well expressed by a familiar metaphor that describes an unpleasant substance hitting a fan.



**Governor Soliano** issued a defense of the Public Body Bonaire. “I would like to emphasize that the public body of Bonaire and all government bodies stand for a safe community and a healthy living environment for all citizens. We do our best to guarantee this. The public body of Bonaire is also aware of the urgency and necessity to find a solution for the acute problems in the short term.”

He said the “Executive Council has started an emergency process ... that has led to a rigorous measure, namely an ‘intention to impose administrative coercion’ for Selibon on August 29, 2024. It means that Selibon has been given some time to resolve the acute problem.”

Soliano said Selibon has taken the situation seriously, has done everything it can do to comply with the OLB’s request, and the OLB is prepared to carry on from this point. “The process to arrive at an integrated plan has already been initiated. The renowned Dutch company Royal Haskoning is coordinating this.”

Soliano offered other explanations as well. He said ... Helmond’s decision was based on outdated information collected during an inspection that took place from August 27 to 30 of this year. The government’s decision had failed to take into account a statement of the public body of Bonaire’s intentions expressed in a letter of November 13, 2024. The public body of Bonaire also had less than 24 hours to respond to Helmond’s decision.



**Clark Abraham, Deputy**

**Deputy Clark Abraham’s** reactions struck many of the same themes: that the OLB was seriously considering solutions to the Lagun landfill problems and just needed more time to implement them. He also said The Hague was to blame for the OLBs failure to solve the landfill problem because it has never declared the General Administrative Law Act applicable on Bonaire. Therefore the OLB does not have the needed enforcement powers, Abraham says.

**According to the BC**, since its appointment in October 2023, various measures have been taken to tackle the waste problem, such as the appointment of a new director for Selibon, weekly inspections and more intensive cooperation with Dutch authorities. The board emphasizes that further steps are already planned.

**The Executive Council** has announced that it will appeal the decision of the Acting Kingdom Representative to the court.

**The UPB faction** has called on the Acting Kingdom Representative Jan Helmond (wRv) and the Executive Council not to seek confrontation, but to enter into discussions—possibly under the guidance of a mediator. “Public health, nature and the environment do not benefit from administrative displays of power that stand in the way of the constructive cooperation between the State and the Public Body, which is so necessary at this time,” according to a statement from the opposition party.

**The House of Representatives** will debate waste processing on Bonaire before the Christmas recess. The debate was requested by MP Raoul White (GroenLinks-PvdA) with the backing of NSC, D66, CDA, SP, DENK, Party for the Animals, SGP, ChristenUnie and Volt. The ministers were asked to explain by letter in advance of the debate the decision to relieve Selibon and the Executive Council of responsibility for the landfill and to elaborate on the underlying problems.

Meanwhile, back at the dump, an underground fire is still burning, but it is producing only small plumes of smoke and flame. Residents who had to evacuate have been informed it’s safe for them to return. They should, however, first ventilate their houses and thoroughly clean up any smoke or soot.

The Environmental Accident Service (MOD) has collected samples to be analyzed in the Netherlands. The process is expected to take several weeks. *DMR*



**One view of Bonaire’s landfill.** Photo Julie Morgan

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**Island News**  
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The Island's Santa (Raja Daou) Photo Julie Morgan.

## Santa Claus makes more than toys

Bonaire's most famous Santa Claus, (Raja Daou) is ready for the holidays with all 24 variations of his Tekibon cactus liquor. Raja developed Tekibon, short for tequila and Bonaire, in 2006 and it was the first liquor made from cactus on the island.

Raja explained, Tekibon is the best tasting liquor because it is made from cactus, sugar cane juice and 'magic' along with all my positive energy. Tekibon is made with love, not machinery. You have to taste it to tell the difference.

Raja makes and bottles Tekibon on Bonaire in his laboratory. He is always creating something new and is constantly adding to the impressive variety of flavors of the rums, tequilas and liqueurs.

Tekibon produces Gold, Silver, Reposado and Anejado tequilas. A huge selection of rums are available: Rum Punch, Blue Bonaire that Raja says makes you feel like you're flying, Deep Blue rum made for divers, Happy rum, Cinnamon rum, Shjamana rum, Sorobon rum, Black pirate rum, Shamans rum-an aphrodisiac, Hot pepper rum and Shark white rum. The liqueurs are: Tamarind, Pineapple, Passion fruit, Mango, Almond, Ginger, Coconut, Dushi Banana and Blue Bonaire similar to Blue Curaçao but better.

Raja said, "It is a product of my mind. Perhaps others can do it better, but they spend much more to do it."

People have wanted to buy the company or expand the business to the U.S., but Raja likes keeping it simple.

Born in Lebanon, Raja grew up in Venezuela and first ventured across the ocean to Bonaire with a business associate back in 1967. He produced a documentary on Super 8 film about the island called, *Bonaire, Island of the Flamingoes, Sonora en Espanol*.

When his hair and beard turned grey, he became Venezuela's most popular Santa Claus for a variety of ad campaigns including Coca Cola.

Raja moved to Bonaire 25 years ago to live his life with partner and wife Esperanza. For several years he and Esperanza operated The Garden Café, a type of Lebanese vegetarian café that people who were here or visited the island back then still talk about.

"I came here to live, not make money. I don't work but Esperanza does," said Raja with a typical Santa Claus wink.

## Santa makes more than toys continued on page 6



## FOR SALE! Crown Ridge 30 Building Lot Close to the Ocean



- Location: Sabadeco
- Lot size: 776 m2 / 8352 sq.ft.
- Walking distance to dive site Andrea I

- Utilities in place at the paved road
- Zoning Woongebied II
- Additional building restrictions apply



Asking price \$224,900 US Dollar

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# POLICE REPORT

## Property crimes and arrests

**Nov. 25.** A man, 29, was arrested for receiving stolen goods. A patrol driving on Kaya J.N.E. Craane saw a scooter coming in the wrong direction from Kaya Bonaire. The scooter driver ignored the officers flashing lights and shouted commands to stop and continued driving in the wrong direction. The patrol immediately went looking for the scooter and on Kaminda Djabou, the driver brought the scooter to a standstill. The driver presented the officers with an invalid driver's license and could not produce proof of insurance on the spot. The scooter's license plate was forged, the ignition lock had been drilled out and the chassis number was also illegible.

**Nov. 24.** At Te Amo Beach a backpack, which was lying next to a chair, was taken between 3:05 and 3:15 p.m. while the owner was swimming. The bag contained, keys and cash.

**Nov. 24.** Thieves damaged the back of a toilet cubicle at a catering company that is under construction on Kaya Nikiboko Noord and took a black revolving window.

**Nov. 21/22.** A scooter was reported stolen from Kaya L.D. Gerharts. The owner searched the area and found two scooters, probably stolen, in an open area on Kaya General C.M. Piar. He found his scooter under a mattress, and took it away with him. The second scooter had no license plate. The next morning, another scooter was found at the same location. Several parts of this scooter were missing and a bag with diving equipment was lying next to it. The scooters and the associated equipment were confiscated for further investigation.

**Nov. 19.** Around 2:20 a.m. a man, 53, was arrested on Hanchi Amboina for theft and receiving stolen goods. A patrol found a scooter with the engine running and the lights on without a key in the ignition. Shortly afterwards, a man approached the scooter, claiming to be the owner. Police found that the license plate of the scooter had been reported stolen. The man was unable to produce a driver's license and insurance documents. The scooter was confiscated for further investigation.

**Nov. 18.** A blue Kymco Agility scooter was stolen between 7:30 and 11 p.m. while parked along the road in front of a house on Kaya Renata.

**Nov. 17 / 18.** A black Tomos moped, with license plate MF-3061 was stolen while parked, with a lock on the rear wheel, in front of an apartment on Kaya Jean B.F. Vitté between 11:30 p.m. on Sunday and 7:40 a.m. on Monday.

**Nov. 17.** Around 11 p.m. a man, 22, was arrested for receiving stolen goods. He was spotted on a stolen scooter on Kaya Bonaire.

**Nov. 17.** The locks on the back door of the sports hall on Kaya Ramona were forced and various food items were stolen from the storage area used for the Food Bank.

**Nov. 17.** A black Sym scooter, with license plate MF-452 was stolen. The scooter was parked unlocked on the public road while the scooter company was transporting scooters from Kaya Grandi to their warehouse on Kaya Jean B.F. Vitté.

**Nov. 16.** A silver-gray Kymco Agility scooter with license plate MF-3362 was stolen while parked between 12 noon and 10 p.m. at a catering establishment on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot.

**Nov. 16.** A metallic brown Kymco Agility scooter with license plate MF-1639 was stolen between 6:45 and 11 p.m. while parked outside a tourist accommodation on Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot, locked with a steering lock and a chain lock.

**Nov. 15.** Between 8 and 10:15 a.m. the left front light and the front license plate were stolen from a car parked in a parking lot at Kaminda di Lagun.

**Nov. 15.** A patrol driving on Julio A. Abraham Boulevard saw two scooters driving onto the road from a tourist accommodation, one without a license plate. There were two people on both scooters, no one wearing a helmet. The officers turned on their flashing lights to stop the drivers, but the scooter drivers ignored the stop sign and turned left, in the prohibited direction of entry, onto Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund. At one point, two people dropped their scooter and ran away in the direction of Julio A. Abraham Boulevard. The other two people rode away. The scooter left behind had a broken lock and was probably stolen.

**Nov. 14.** A license plate V-7604 that was attached to the front of a rented pick-up parked at Kaya C.E.B. Hellmund was stolen.

**Nov. 13.** A black Kymco Sento scooter with license plate MF-3482 was stolen between 11 p.m. on Tuesday and 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday. The scooter was parked with a steering lock at a house on Kaya Utrecht. The case is being investigated.

**Nov. 10 / 11.** A black rented Biker's Choice Helmet E-bike was stolen while locked in a scooter shed at an apartment

complex on Kaya Proud. It was taken between 3 p.m. on Sunday and 1 p.m. on Monday.

## Shootings and robberies with firearms

**Nov. 24.** Around 7:50 p.m. an armed robbery was reported in a supermarket on Kaya Sonmontuno. Two masked men dressed in black and armed with a firearm entered the supermarket, threatened the staff and asked for money. They took cash from the cash register and fled north on foot.

**Nov. 22 / 23** On Friday 22 a shooting was reported at a catering establishment on Kaya Macario (Cai) Sint Jago in the Wanapa district. A suspect threatened a man with a firearm near his head, after which the suspect shot in the air and ran away. No one was injured. On Saturday 23, the suspect, 19, who was involved in this shooting surrendered at the police station.

**Nov. 22.** Around 11:30 p.m. an armed robbery was reported outside a house on Kaya Deseado. Two masked men dressed in black and armed with a firearm told a 17-year-old boy who was sitting on a scooter under a tree to hand over the scooter. The boy ran into the house. When the owner of the scooter went outside, he was also threatened. The suspects took the scooter, a black Gilera, Runner with license plate MF-3915, in the direction of Kaya Tapajos.

**Nov. 21.** In connection with the recent shooting incidents, detectives of the Caribbean Netherlands Police Force conducted two house searches under the BES Firearms Act. They searched a room of a tourist accommodation on Kaya International and a kunuku located on Nieuw Amsterdam. During the search at the tourist accommodation, the Special Assignments Group (GBO) arrested a 30-year-old man with the initials S.C.W.R. Articles relevant to the investigation were also confiscated. The investigation is in full swing.

**Nov. 18.** Around 1 a.m. shots were reported in Nort Saliña. When the police arrived, shell casings were found.

**Nov. 17.** Around 3 a.m. a shooting near Mamparia Kutu was reported. Patrols found multiple bullet casings from firearms. A house and two cars had bullet perforations. The two cars were seized for further investigation.

**Nov. 11 / 12.** In the early evening hours a suspect in the fatal shooting that took place on Sunday, November 10 surrendered at the police station. He is a 24-year-old man with initials D.D.L. In connection with this shooting, two house searches were carried out in homes in Nort Saliña. Several articles relevant to the investigation were seized. The investigation continues.

## Other Arrests

**Nov. 15.** Around 8:35 a.m. a man, 25, was arrested on Kaya Nikiboko Noord for vandalism and assault. The suspect is said to have vandalized a car and assaulted a woman.

## Traffic accidents / Driving under the influence

*According to the policy 'botsen is blazen' ('to collide is to blow') a breath test is given drivers involved in accidents.*

**Nov.19.** Around 7:50 p.m. a hit & run took place when car that wanted to turn left to enter Kaya Neerlandia from Kaya Korona was hit on the right rear by a dirt bike, which came from the opposite direction. The driver of the car stated that the dirt bike had no lights and that the driver then drove on.

**Nov.18.** Around 9 p.m. a patrol on Kaya Pos di Amor at the intersection with Kaya Patrushi, saw a car recklessly driving at high speed so that several vehicles coming from the opposite direction had to swerve. The patrol car followed the car, flashing its lights and sounding its siren to stop the driver. The driver stopped at a house on Kaya Renata in Antriol, got out of the car and ran away. A number of people arrived at the scene who refused to provide information about the driver and the car. The car was taken to the police station.

**Nov.18.** On Kaminda Gurubu the driver of a car driving towards Playa lost control in a bend so the car ended up in the sewer along the road. The driver and the passenger were checked on the spot by the ambulance personnel.

**Nov.18.** Around 6 a.m. a car crashed into a lamppost on Kaya Korona. When the patrol arrived, no one was on the scene. Witnesses stated that the three occupants of the car in question, all male, removed the license plate from the car after the collision and then left the location on foot.

**Nov.16.** Around 4:15 p.m. a pick-up truck driving towards Playa from the salt pans crashed into a pole on the Bulevar E.E.G. near Punt Vierkant. The female driver of the pick-up truck was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

**Nov.16.** Around 4 p.m. a hit & run occurred on Kaya Grandi, near the intersection with Kaya Aruba. A moped hit a car on its right side, then crashed into the left side of a parked car and drove away.

**Nov.12.** Around 6:45 a.m. a car collided with a cyclist on Kaya International when the cyclist suddenly turned left. The cyclist was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

# Ask Bob

## Bonaire real estate advice



**Hi Bob – I've decided to sell my home in Bonaire, how do I handle lease agreements and security deposits during and after the sale? Steve H.**

Hi Steve – That's a great question.

First things first. It is always important to have a written and signed lease agreement with your tenant, especially if you are thinking about selling your property.

If you are selling a property that is rented out, both you and the buyer are required to honor the terms of the existing lease. So if you have an existing lease with a tenant, you will need to disclose that to the prospective buyer during any negotiations to sell your property. It is also a good idea to inform the tenant that you are selling and ask them to cooperate with the broker showings.

If you do find a buyer for your house, they basically will have the following options:

- Purchase the Property with the tenant and existing lease contract. In this case the original lease remains valid. The deposit amount and your prorated share of the rent is usually settled between the buyer and the seller when the deed is transferred.
- Purchase the Property without tenants and existing lease contracts. If this is the case, you as the seller will need to negotiate with the tenant to arrange a move-out date that respects the legal notice period.

By approaching the sale thoughtfully and respecting the tenant's rights, you can create a positive experience for everyone involved and ensure a successful property transition.

Hope this provides the insight you need, Steve! I'm here if you have more questions.

Regards, *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](mailto:info@bonairehomes.com).**

**Bonaire: +599-717-7362.**

**Toll free from US: 1-866-611-7362**

## Traffic control

**Nov.19.** During an evening traffic check on Kaya Korona, 21 cars were stopped and two drivers received a fine, 1x for driving without valid insurance; and 1x for driving without a valid driver's license.

**Nov.14.** During an evening traffic check on Kaya J.N.E. Craane five vehicles were stopped for a check. All drivers had their necessary documents in order.

## Public Order

**Nov. 17.** In the night two car tires of a pick-up that was parked in front of a house on Kaya Ruth were punctured. A washing machine hose was also cut. The vandalism is being investigated.

**Nov. 12.** Around 2 p.m. a lifeless body was reported on the property of a house on Kaya Nikiboko Noord. The forensic department and the doctor found that the man's injuries from a fall led to his death. He was a 60-year-old man with initials N.M.P. born on September 26, 1964, in Bonaire.

# 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.

## Greenwashed and Gone: How Greenwashing Fuels Tree Extinction

### The Critical Role of Trees

Trees are the lifeblood of our planet. They purify the air, absorb carbon emissions, and provide habitats for countless species of birds, insects, and mammals. Thriving, biodiverse forests are critical in combating climate change and halting biodiversity loss. Solutions addressing one crisis often benefit the other, underscoring the urgency of safeguarding the world's trees. Yet they are disappearing at an alarming rate.

Currently, one-third of the world's tree species face extinction—a profound ecological crisis. Their loss disrupts ecosystems, triggering cascading biodiversity declines, altering global cycles of carbon, water, and nutrients, and threatening the livelihoods of billions of people who rely on trees for food, shelter, and other resources. According to the latest IUCN Red List, the number of imperiled tree species now surpasses all threatened birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians combined. This stark reality was a focal point at COP16, the UN biodiversity summit (oct 2024), which convened to evaluate progress on a landmark rescue plan for nature.

### Trees in Peril

Island trees face particularly acute threats from deforestation, driven by urban development and agriculture, as well as invasive species, and diseases.

Climate change compounds the problem, especially in tropical regions, by accelerating sea-level rise and intensifying storms.

Addressing the threats that trees face, habitat protection and restoration, as well as ex situ conservation through seed banks and botanic garden collections are essential to prevent extinctions on islands and worldwide. Without these measures, trees—and the ecosystems they sustain—will continue to vanish.

### The Bonaire Perspective

On Bonaire, trees are often treated as



expendable, their ecological importance dismissed in favor of development - construction by destruction. Greenery is routinely cleared, leaving land barren and erosion-prone, usually without proper permits or environmental assessments. Weak enforcement of regulations further enables unpermitted deforestation to continue unchecked, reflecting a broader culture of neglect.

The government plays a contradictory role in this crisis. While it contributes to deforestation—such as during the reconstruction of dams, where mature trees, critical for stabilizing soil and providing habitats, were removed without evaluating their ecological or cultural value—it offsets this with limited replanting efforts, such as planting a few trees along the boulevard and Kaya Grandi. These efforts, though positive, fail to compensate for the widespread removal of mature trees. Newly planted saplings take decades to mature and cannot immediately replace the ecological services—such as erosion prevention, habitat provision, and carbon sequestration—offered by established trees.

This duality perpetuates a narrative of greenwashing. By emphasizing replanting while neglecting enforcement and allowing and contributing to deforestation, the government creates an illusion of progress without tackling the underlying causes of tree loss, thereby exacerbating the deterioration of Bonaire's fragile ecosystems.

### The contradictions of Greenwashing

A striking example of greenwashing occurred during the construction of a shopping center on a plot opposite Van der Tweel. The site, which housed trees and shrubs, including the endangered Wayaká tree (*Guaiacum officinale*)—protected locally and listed on the IUCN Red List—was entirely cleared before construction.

Despite this, a local expert falsely praised the project as “a positive first-timer!,” claiming that a Wayaká tree and other vegetation had been preserved. In truth, no trees were saved. This misrepresentation exemplifies how greenwashing deceives the public and undermines genuine conservation efforts.

The government's inconsistent actions—planting trees while allowing and even facilitating deforestation, and failing to address illegal tree cutting—highlight the need for a cohesive and transparent approach to protecting Bonaire's fragile ecosystems.

### The High Stakes of Tree Loss

The loss of trees on Bonaire is more than an aesthetic issue; it represents an ecological crisis with cascading consequences. Without established trees, erosion worsens, biodiversity declines, coral reefs die and the island's resilience to climate change diminishes. Genuine conservation requires not only planting trees but, more importantly, protecting existing ones and reevaluating the balance between development and environmental preservation.

### Remembering Trees

Cutting down a tree is irreversible. Planting a new tree cannot undo the loss of a mature one, which may have taken decades or centuries to grow. The unique role of each tree in its ecosystem—and the years required for it to mature—cannot simply be replaced.

We must remember how trees enrich and support our lives, as they have throughout human history. Yet these values are increasingly at risk. If we fail to consider the consequences of our actions and change our collective behavior towards trees, we risk losing them – and the benefits they provide – forever.

For centuries, trees have supported our survival. Now they depend on us to secure their future. We already know how to conserve trees and protect the natural world they sustain. The time to act is now before mature trees are nothing more than a memory of a lost world.

FSPB

References:

<https://saveplantationbolivia.com/blog/>

## Dance Towards Dawn

Poet Wilco Harbers' popular book *Dansen naar de ochtend*, *Dance Towards the Dawn*, originally released in Dutch in early 2023, is now available in English.

To announce the new publication, Harbers presented the book in an intimate gathering of a living room on November 15.

Under the full moon, the audience enjoyed the moving poems Harbers wrote following the death of his lover and husband. The atmosphere was emotional with the accompanying music of saxophonist Alan Bowen surrounded by the art work of Ang Winkle.

The first copy of the collection was presented to Hospice Kas Flamboyant Bonaire director Danny Rojer and volunteer Filomena de Palm. For more information visit <https://wilco-harbers-poetry.com>

Story / Photo Julie Morgan



## Santa makes more than toys

*continued from page 3*

At 87, he is still working. When the ships are in, you can find Raja and Esperanza at the Cruise Market so you can sample then buy Tekibon for yourself. The liquors are available in 375ml for \$25, 750ml for \$39.50 or a package of three 50ml for \$22. Tekibon is available at Multi-Shop in Hato, Kaya Grandi Souvenir Shop and Tambu.

And look for Santa on Bonaire Shopping Night on December 20.

For more information email Raja at tekibonbonaire.info@gmail.com; visit them on Facebook or call +599-787-7348 or WhatsApp +599-786-2686.

*Story / Photos Julie Morgan*

## Let the holiday begin

*continued from page 1*

**You Got the Power at Social Café** on December 7, 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Get tips for reducing energy consumption and possibly win some prizes.

**Discover the Bay, at Sorobon Beach**, December 7, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. An educational and fun event about coral restoration efforts organized by Reef Renewal Bonaire.

**Christmas Gifts Market** Wilhelmina Plaza December 14.

**Christmas Shopping Night** in downtown Kralendijk is December 20 at 6 p.m. Great deals for last minute shoppers and expect to see Santa Claus for a photo and give him your special wishes for Christmas.

**Kingdom Day**, a legal holiday, is December 15 so many stores will be closed.

**Christmas Day** is December 25 – this is a legal holiday and all stores will be closed so plan ahead. WSNP will be closed.

**Boxing Day** is December 26 – this is a legal holiday and many stores will be closed.

**Christmas Cleanup** is scheduled from 5 p.m. to sunset with a party at Vrijmibo Beach on December 27.

*Julie Morgan*



## Ruby's back

Miss Universe Bonaire, Ruby Pouchet, returned home on November 22 after competing in the 73rd Miss Universe Pageant in Mexico City, Mexico November 16. This was the first time in 25 years Bonaire was represented in the worldwide pageant. Ruby was one of 125 contestants ranging in age from 18 – 40 vying for the title of Miss Universe.

Pageant contestants compete in a swim suit and evening gown competition but they must also be intelligent, well mannered and cultured. Though not a part of the actual judging, each contestant wore attire best representing their country. Ruby wore a marine / nature themed costume for Bonaire which also expressed her association and work with the Bonaire National Marine Park.

She was met at airport by friends, family, Tourism Corporation Bonaire staff and several young Bonaire queens aspiring to follow in Ruby's footsteps.

Thank you, Ruby, for representing Bonaire.

*Story / Photo Julie Morgan*



## Can you help every child on Bonaire have a bright Christmas?

Every year for the past 24 years Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation (BYOF) has made it their quest to brighten the holiday season for the less fortunate children on the island. They call it Pasku Briante or Bright Christmas and they can't do it alone.

The youth of BYOF want to ensure Christmas is a time for joy and happiness if only for a day for all kids on Bonaire.

This Bright Christmas day will begin by picking up children from age 2 –12 at various community centers (sentro di bario) around the island. The kids will enjoy a day filled with fun activities and games led by the BYOF volunteers. They will be entertained with a Christmas themed play, dancing, snacks, drinks, then finally the day ends with gifts for every child.

Your financial support or sponsorship is needed to make this special day happen for the 24th year. Help bring some joy and a Bright Christmas to the less fortunate children of Bonaire. Don't delay, Christmas is less than a month away.

**The bank account details for Pasku Briante are:**

Bank: MCB Bonaire, Kaya Gob. N. Debrot 64  
Account Name: Bonaire Youth Outreach Foundation  
Account Number: 01.0608.909  
SWIFT: MCBKBQBN.

**To make an appointment, ask questions or contribute, contact project manager Angelo Alberto at 787-3407 or email [angelo.mediabonaire@gmail.com](mailto:angelo.mediabonaire@gmail.com). (The Foundation is registered with the Chamber of Commerce and tax department: KVK: 7306 / CRIB:303059849.)**

*Angelo Alberto*

## Make Bonaire Accessible

### Till death do us part

by Ria Evers-Dokter

We all know it; we do not live forever. We read about it, talk about it, go to funerals, attend wakes, even make plans for when our day will come. We buy insurance and maybe even pick a plot...

And yet... when it happens to a friend, a loved one, a colleague, it hits us hard. Then it hits us, we are never really prepared.

I remember the time when I noticed that my husband was getting ready to leave this world behind. The world as it was for him the last ten years was "hell on earth." The wild child could not talk anymore or walk anymore. He was locked in his body and hated it. He worked so hard at physio-therapy and I saw how very hard he fought. But some-

thing died in him, and he stopped fighting so hard. And when he was lying in his bed, he looked up and smiled brightly. When I asked him if he was ready to leave us and go to his mom, dad and other family-members who had already passed away, he smiled brightly. He stopped eating and taking fluids. I laid beside him, held his hand and stayed that way till he was gone, and it was very peaceful.

In a close community like Bonaire, almost everyone knows everyone. And if you do not read it in the paper or hear it on the radio, it will surely be on Facebook.

Often the family asks people to come dressed in a specific color or come in happy colors to the service and almost

everybody complies.

Last week all participants of Hofi Kultural were shocked: three of their companions had passed away. Every one of them participated in their own way.

Amancio Batta was the first to leave us. A well-loved and great teacher and musician.

Sherwin Pinto was a gifted painter. He loved to create huge works of art.

Nicolaas (Buchi) Wanga took part in the mouth-harmonica classes and the Hofi Kultural Buddy Project.

They loved life, were still very active in their own way. I really wish they felt at peace when they passed away and that they had no pain. I also hope that their family members were with them and could say their good-byes.

All three will be sorely missed. As many participants in the Hofi Kultur-

al projects as possible will attend the wakes, funeral or services.

And what does one say, after a loss like this? We all knew them, loved them, appreciated them and we will all miss them. Amancio, Sherwin and Buchi, all three will be remembered fondly, maybe with a smile and a tear. And we will never forget them because we were all part of the big music-loving family of Hofi Kultural. They all made music and art more accessible.



*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.*



L-R: Edwin Domacasse, Chief Ranger Stinapa; Edgar Ortegon, Senior Marine Park Ranger Stinapa; Irving Athonij, Treasurer Piskabon; Marshall Sambo, Ministry of GMN Curaçao; Nancy Persad, Management Assistant Piskabon; Sander van Lopik, RoffaReefs; Lutson Lucas, Chairman FKUP Curaçao; Norvin Allee, Board Member FKUP Curaçao; Ernest de Lanoy, Chairman Piskabon and Franklin Gilbert, Ministry of GMN Curaçao

## Bonaire presents at GCFI 77

The 77th annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI 77) in Guadeloupe, French West Indies was attended by a delegation from Bonaire November 2024. The conference theme was “Marine ecosystems under pressure: reduction, reinforcement and reconciliation to improve human populations quality of life.” Countries throughout the Gulf and Caribbean attended to look at sustainable fisheries in society and innovations in fisheries.

RoffaReefs field technician Sander van Lopik presented at the conference. A joint poster collaboration between Piskabon, STINAPA and RoffaReefs provided the visual for Lopik’s oral presentation on RoffaReefs. (See page 21 of *The Bonaire Reporter’s online version*, <https://bonairereporter.com>)

Lopik explained to the crowd, “RoffaReefs designed a prototype floating fish nursery to breed coral reef fish larvae to strengthen the natural fish population and supplement current coral restoration projects. In addition, research on the spawning behavior of reef fish is another key aspect of RoffaReefs to restore the fish populations by identifying spawning grounds and seasonality in spawning.”

Together with fishermen united by Piskabon, we did a joint workshop on the presence of eggs in their catch. By having a group discussion on when fish were spawning, we could write down which fish were spawning at which time on a calendar. The joint knowledge of fishers is thus turned into applied science. This data can be used to improve the management of Piskabon and the RoffaReefs breeding system. Whether this data is shared with third parties is up to Piskabon, after all it is their knowledge, we were just the lucky ones writing it down.”

During the conference Piskabon introduced RoffaReefs to neighboring Curaçao’s FKUP, (agriculture and fisheries union). This could be important to the future as the neighboring island reefs and livelihoods do not stop at the borders of the Dutch Caribbean islands.

Piskabon chairman, Ernest Martin de Lanoy said, “Bonaire has been participating in the conference for the last six years. Four years ago we did a presentation with STINAPA. We are highly ranked at GCFI, so high they asked if Bonaire could host the conference.”

De Lanoy said Piskabon would consider possibly hosting in 2026.

*Sander van Lopik*

## World Fisheries Day celebrated on Bonaire November 21

Piskabon celebrated World Fisheries Day with a small gathering at their office for members. The event was also informative with a presentation given by RDI (Rijksinspectie Digitale Infrastructuur) about the importance of carrying a VHF to sea for the fishermen’s safety. Together with Piskabon, RDI is committed to achieve the goal to certify all fishermen that are not certified and registered yet. This will be a project for 2025, Piskabon will facilitate the process in achieving this goal for the safety of all her members at sea.

Piskabon also made use of the occasion to give thanks and show appreciation to Judith Raming, former Bonaire National Marine Park Manager (BNMP).

Judith showed her dedication to Piskabon and fisheries on Bonaire during the last four years as BNMP manager. Without her, fisheries on Bonaire and Piskabon wouldn’t be where they are today and we are very grateful and appreciate her enormously. Piskabon chairman Ernest Martin De Lanoy and management assistant Nancy Persad gave Judith a certificate of appreciation and a small gift to show their thanks.

Judith responded saying she will always be there for the Bonaire fishermen and do the best she can to give a helping hand where she can even though she is no longer working as BNMP manager.

At the end of the evening all fishermen in attendance received a small gift, sponsored by STINAPA. The gift included a bucket, rashguard, knife, fishing line and lead for fishing. Piskabon would like to acknowledge the sponsorship of Rocargo Services Bonaire B.V. that contributed to cover the costs of this event.

Sustainable fisheries help protect our marine environment, enhance food security and can contribute to achieving the #GlobalGoals.

Learn more about the importance of sustainably managing the world’s aquatic resources from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): <https://www.fao.org/interactive/state-of-fisheries-aquaculture/en/>

*Nancy Persad*

**FISH ARE FRIENDS**

Sander van Lopik, Danu Hoftijzer  
RoffaReefs



**... AND FOOD**

Piskabon

# Dushi Palace

Last April when four friends got together for a beer, they came up with an idea to open a little diner / bar in Hato. There would be something for everyone. Nothing high end but good local and international food, a nice bar, sports on the television and maybe even karaoke. A happy or dushi place for both locals and tourists and there was nothing like it in the area. Most ideas over drinks are quickly forgotten, but this one wasn't, and the result is the new Dushi Palace at the roundabout in Hato.

The friends: Amaro Gerard, Raquel Maluenga, Rene Hoetjes and Toni Linegar Hoetjes made this idea happen and are now partners. Everyone brought something to the table. Starting last September Amaro literally rebuilt the vacant space into what the partners envisioned. Rene and Toni who are known as the Brasa Beer Boys made the bar experience happen. Rene brought his former experience of managing the biggest night club scene in Curaçao, the Landhuis Brievengat, from 1982 – 2023. Amaro has 27 years in most every aspect of hotel restaurant management and Raquel's restaurant work and cooking brought it all together.

Dushi Palace opened its doors on November 2 and the ideas are being realized. The little diner bar serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. Everything on the menu is homemade in house, with the exception of the locally made pastiches. Diners will find fresh salads, sandwiches, tostis with all fresh ingredients, various burgers including a goat special, Dutch snacks, Krioyo stews, soups, lasagna and desserts. Rotisserie chicken is a specialty of the house and its preparation is a two-day process. There is literally something for everyone.



The Dushi Palace partners: Rene Hoetjes, Toni Linegar Hoetjes, Raquel Maluenga and Amaro Gerard.  
Photo Julie Morgan

Amaro said, "We want to have affordable prices so everyone can afford to come here. Our full bar has special rums, whiskeys, beer and wine with local prices. We want to have a good 'dushi' feeling here."

Happy Hour is every Friday with drink specials on beer and Karaoke on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.

Take away is available by dropping by or calling 717-7722 or WhatsApp +599-784-2038.

Dushi Palace is open Monday – Thursday 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday 7 a.m. – 2 a.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 a.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

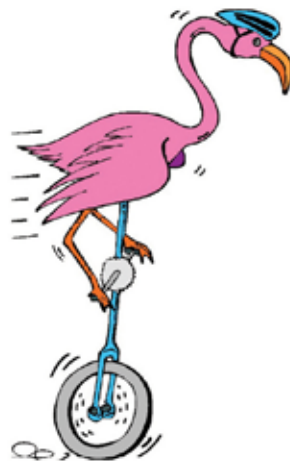
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## Bonaire becoming bigger but less prosperous



**Bad news for Bonaire. Per capita prosperity on Bonaire is declining despite overall economic growth, according to a report, “Earning Capacity Bonaire,” that was prepared by the Economic Bureau. Chairman Mervyn Stegers of the Central Dialogue Bonaire presents the report to deputy Clark Abraham.** Photo via <https://www.centraaldialoogbonaire.com>

According to a study entitled “Earning Capacity of Bonaire,” the appearance of economic growth on the island is a mirage produced solely by immigration. The base economy is stagnating and becoming less productive.

The report, produced by the Economic Bureau Amsterdam (EBA), reveals decreases in labor productivity, self-sufficiency, tourist occupancy rates, and per capita prosperity despite overall economic growth, which is entirely attributed to immigration.

The report recommends the Blue Economy be reinvigorated. The Blue Economy is an economic model

promoted by the previous island government. It focused on the sustainable use of oceans, seas, and coastal areas for economic growth, improving livelihoods, and preserving the health of marine ecosystems. The concept integrates economic development with environmental protection and emphasizes the sustainable management of marine resources.

The report says Bonaire’s earning capacity and the prosperity of citizens could also be improved by regulating population growth, increasing its own food production and controlling the cost of living and of doing business. *DMR*

## Airport to make more parking available

Flamingo Airport plans to provide more parking next year and to crack down on rental companies operating there without authorization on its premises. A spokesperson also pointed out that even drivers making short stops can use the long-term parking area. *DMR*

## The Hague also cutting support for probation services

Despite the loud objections of the opposition parties—“A blunt and stupid cutback” was the expression one used—the PVV, VVD, NSC and BBB coalition has voted to cut The Hague’s appropriation for probation functions in the Caribbean Netherlands (CN). As the ruling coalition, those parties have launched a determined campaign to reduce “subsidies” to the CN. The opposition accuses the government of incorrectly deeming any funds allocated to the CN as “subsidies.” The opposition says the government has an obligation to support mandated functions the CN performs as a municipality of the Netherlands.

The Stichting Reclassering Caribisch Nederland will receive 2.1 million euros this year, but this will be gradually reduced by almost a quarter in the coming years to below 1.6 million in 2029. The budget of the Ministry of Justice and Security amounts to more than 18 billion euros. *DMR*

## More solar, wind, and fuel security coming

ContourGlobal is planning to construct more wind generators at the wind farm located north-east of Rincon. Bonaire Bon Transition (BBT) will be a 50% investor in the wind project and plans to make a 50% investment in a second solar park that will supplement the present solar park at Karpata. BBT has also invited contractors to tender on a new fuels terminal to replace the current outdated one.

The new wind farm is expected to be in service by the end of 2026. Bringing in the huge wind turbines will be a major task in carrying out that project. *DMR*

## Researching family violence in the BES

People from the Dutch islands of Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius told researchers that violence (mainly verbal) is fairly common in families. “The United Nations has told the Netherlands several times that more attention must be paid to this,” says Professor of Children’s Rights, Ton Liefwaard. The research, commissioned by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, means there is now clear information about how common the islands’ residents believe these forms of violence to be.

Physical abuse is less common but concerning nonetheless, particularly in partner relationships. Child maltreatment in the form of verbal abuse or hitting is considered normal by many people and it is a culturally accepted form of discipline. Parenting is often very authoritarian.

However, the researchers did see clear signs that parenting norms are changing and support for non-violent alternatives is increasing, perhaps in response to international treaties on children’s and women’s rights. *DMR (Thanks to Huize Zeezicht for sending us this study from Leiden University.)*

## Airport tax to be reduced

The Dutch Caribbean Cooperation of Airports (DCCA) have agreed on a generally lower, and standard, “airport tax” of \$15 effective January, February on Aruba. Bonaire’s rate is already below that minimum and will not be increased.

The joint decision follows research that showed that lower costs will boost inter-island travel. “Airports connect our islands and bring people closer together,” says DCCA Chairman Jonny Andersen. “By lowering passenger costs, we make travel more accessible and support tourism and the economy in our region.” *DMR*

## Youth working hours to be amended

The House of Representatives is extending the law governing working and rest times to give employed young people in the Caribbean Netherlands the same protections as those in the European Netherlands.

Those who are 16 and 17 will not be allowed to work before 6 a.m. and after 11 p.m. They will be allowed to work where alcohol is served. The Central Dialogue Bonaire requested this exception to encourage employment in the catering industry.

For children aged 15 the current protections will remain in place. They may not work before 7 a.m. or after 7 p.m. They are allowed to work where alcoholic beverages are served only if they are doing an internship as part of formal education. *DMR*

## Onerous 2025 tax changes postponed

An amendment to postpone implementation of Tax Plan 2025 for the Caribbean Netherlands was approved by the House of Representatives by a majority of 89 votes.

The postponement must have greatly relieved the personnel at the Caribbean Netherlands Tax and Customs Administration, who would have had one month (less holidays) to prepare for an influx of new taxpayers. The Tax Plan would have taken effect on January 1, simultaneously with the establishment of the minimum wage. It would have created a new tax threshold that would put the new minimum wage earners on the tax rolls for the first time.

ChristenUnie, GroenLinks and D66, the parties opposing the Tax Plan in parliament, accused Finance Minister Eelco Heinen and the ruling coalition—PVV, VVD, NSC and BBB—of proposing hastily conceived legislation while ignoring valid warnings of unintended consequences expressed by the Public Bodies and other stakeholders in the islands.

Electoral college member and tax expert Jaap Kos declared the postponement a significant political event. “This is a break with the past,” he said, “even if the amendment does not make it. The time that Tax legislation for the Caribbean Netherlands is dealt with as a gavel piece in The Hague is definitely over. With this, members of parliament show that the voice of the people of the Caribbean Netherlands counts fully.” *DMR*

# Culinary team wins again at CHTA

Once again Bonaire's Culinary Team has placed the island on the map as an amazing Caribbean culinary destination. The four-member team returned fully decorated in medals from CHTA (Culinary Hotel & Tourism Association) Taste of the Caribbean in Miami held November 18-20.

The team must adhere to a vigorous schedule with early mornings and late evenings and be fully prepared not only with their skills but even bringing their own dishware, special ingredients and tools. Seven Caribbean chef teams competed: Barbados, Puerto Rico, Turks & Caicos, Saint Lucia, Antigua & Barbuda, US Virgin Islands and Bonaire. The chefs compete as individuals and then as a team within different time constraints depending on their category.

Coach and chef Floris van Loo, owner of Rum Runner's Bar & Restaurant has been involved with the culinary team since 2005, both as a competitor and coach. He has led the Bonaire team for the last 10+ years as coach to big wins and helped establish Bonaire as a culinary Caribbean destination. This year three members of the Bonaire team are all former winners, and they did it again this year under Floris' guidance, experience and team spirit: Rashindra Donge, Elise Weerstand and Kelvin Ventura. The fourth team member, 15-year-old junior chef and first-time competitor Akeesha Cicilia proved her talent with a win.

CHTA judges named Barbados as the Caribbean National Team winner but Bonaire was awarded a Silver medal.

In the Caribbean Chef Competition, the Gold medal went to Bonaire's Rashindra Donge. And if that wasn't enough, she was named Caribbean Chef of the Year for the second time and took another

honor for Best Use of Beef, sponsored by Certified Angus Beef. Rashindra currently works as a chef at the new Krioyo Fusion Restaurant and Cocktail Bar at Parke Isidel.

The Junior Chef Competition, saw Barbados win the Gold, but Bonaire's newbie Akeesha Cicilia won the Silver medal. Akeesha is an intern chef at Sweeti Bakery.

In the Caribbean Pastry Chef Competition, the Gold Medal went to St Lucia, but Bonaire's Elise Weerstand won a well-deserved Silver. Elise is the owner and chef at Sweeti Bakery and Blue Lagoon.

The Caribbean Bartender Competition Gold went to Puerto Rico and Barbados, with Bonaire's Kelvin Ventura winning Bronze. In addition, Kelvin was awarded the Jose Merced-Reyes Spirit of the Competition award. Kelvin is the owner and chef at Umbrella.

CHTA organized the Taste of the Caribbean in 1993 and Bonaire has competed with a culinary team since 1994. Preparation and planning for the competition is arduous. In addition to Floris' expertise, the team receives coaching from culinary chef and former team member Isidoor van Riemsdijk instructor at MBO Culinary School.

This year's Bonaire Culinary Team competition at Taste of the Caribbean was sponsored by: Bonhata, Hang Out Beach Bar, The Cadushy Distillery, Bonaire Heritage Foundation, Rotary Bonaire, Bonaire Culinaire, Rum Runners Bar & Restaurant, Canarbo, Karels Beach Bar, Bon Tapa, Hooked by Sunset, City Shop, Pietersz, Caribbean Bakery Supplies and Chez Nous school/restaurant.

Julie Morgan

Back on Bonaire: L-R: Kelvin Ventura, Akeesha Cicilia, Floris van Loo, Elise Weerstand, Isidoor van Riemsdijk, Rashindra Donge Photo Julie Morgan



Elise's pastry dish: *Under the Tamarind Tree* is concocted of tamarind milk chocolate cream, mango salsa, coconut financier, coffee tamarind marshmallow, tamarind parfait and salty peanut caramel crunchy Photo Julie Morgan



Kelvin's winning drinks: • *Bonaire Roots*: Fresh lime & Aloe juice, egg white, Rom Rincon, Rum Bar, Herba hole flower seeds, sweet pepper syrup, simple syrup  
• *Pumpkin It Up*: Roasted pumpkin puree, leche & coco cream, Espresso, Panela spice syrup, cinnamon-orange infused milk.  
Flavio Maestroni Photography



Akeesha's dish: *"Padushi" style marinated Bacon wrapped Pork sirloin and shrimp prepared in a Rinconairo Sofrito sauce. Funchi Berde, pico di papaya, crème of oven roasted Bata-ta dushi, Caribbean ratatouille, plantain and funghi crisps.* Photo Julie Morgan



Rashindra's winning dish: *Grilled flat iron and Prawn Tartar, served with avocado and sweet potato ginger crème, Curry spiced papaya, Bonairean banana stoba mousseline, sweet and sour okra, topped with a fresh mango salsa. A playa style curry infused sauce and black sea salt tuilles* Flavio Maestroni Photography



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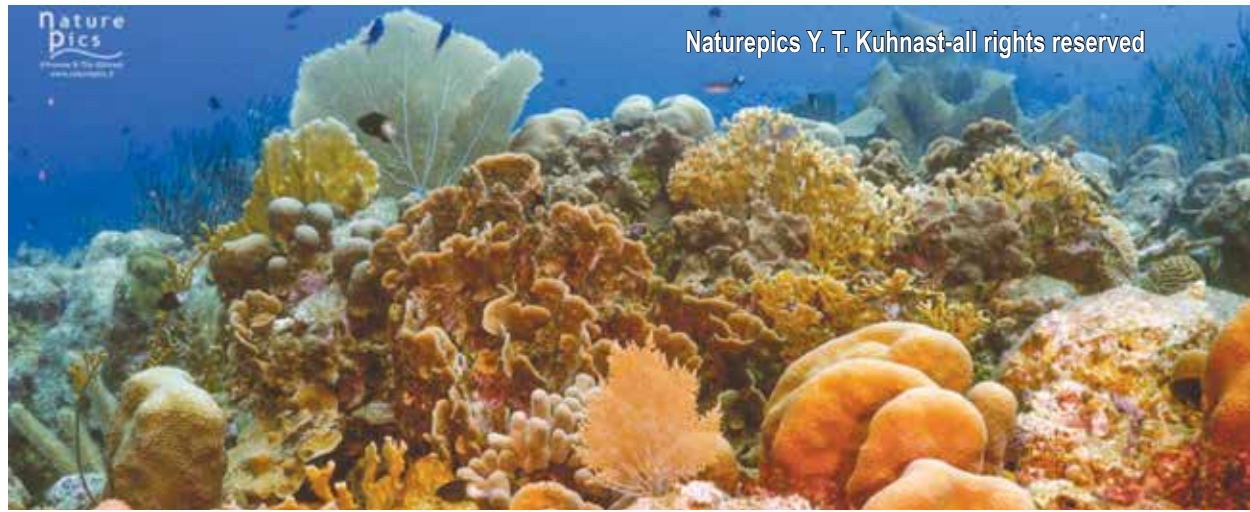
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# New Hope for Caribbean Corals: Meet the Heat-Resistant Recruits

A new study led by SECORE International, with scientists from CARMABI, Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire, University of Amsterdam and other Caribbean organizations, has discovered a remarkable resilience in young corals raised through assisted sexual reproduction. This is big news, especially in a year when the Caribbean suffered one of the most intense coral bleaching events on record.

## Assisted Coral Recruits

What makes these new recruits so tough? Unlike traditional coral restoration methods that involve taking fragments of adult corals (essentially making coral clones), assisted sexual propagation mixes genetic material to create coral offspring with greater adaptability. The study, conducted across the Caribbean in hotspots like Bonaire and Curaçao during the historic 2023 heat-wave, found that these “assisted coral recruits” resisted bleaching much better than their wild relatives. In fact, juvenile corals raised from crossbreeding showed only a 10% bleaching rate, compared to a staggering 60–100% in adult wild corals.



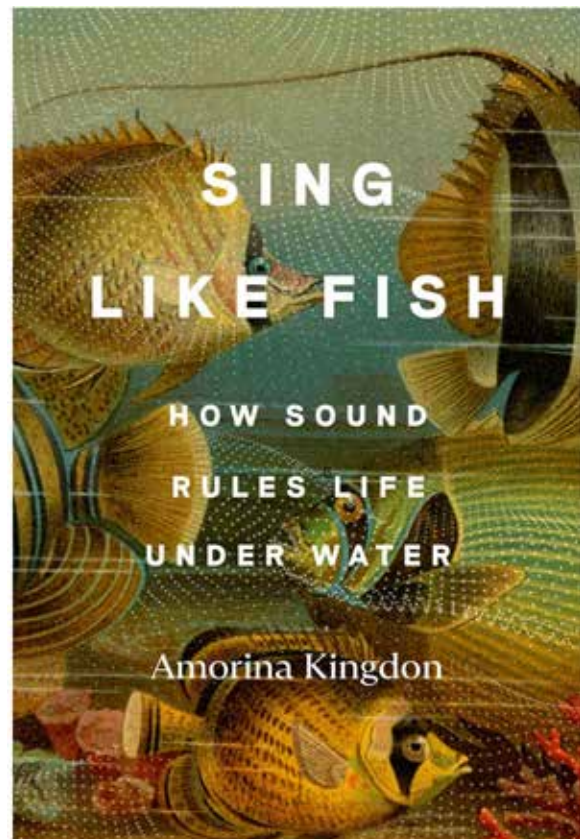
The resilience of the coral recruits in this study is likely due to their young age rather than genetics alone, though increased genetic diversity from breeding may support adaptation over time. Natural recruits of the six species being restored are rare or absent on reefs, mak-

ing restoration efforts crucial to replenishing this resilient but largely missing component of Caribbean coral populations.

See full article at <https://dcanature.org/news/>

## Buckley's Books

by George Buckley



In *Sing like Fish*, Amorina Kingdon reveals how sound rules life underwater in a wide ranging exploration of the underwater soundscape. As we learn that sound travels more than four times faster underwater than above, we begin to understand how critical it is to so many forms of marine life and how they are impacted by anthropogenic noise ie. that which is caused directly or indirectly by humans. Yes, underwater noise pollution is a thing! We also learn that our inability to hear well underwater has hindered our understanding of how sea life hears various sounds. Rather than being a ‘Silent World’ as Jacques Cousteau believed, the oceans are a cacophony of sound. I first became aware of the effects of underwater noise on fish in the 1970’s while diving in Bonaire on the wreck of the *La Machaca*, when the release of air into my Bouy Fenzy inflatable device from its pony bottle created a brief but sharp high pitched whine that startled nearby fish. I noticed that even the fish some yards away moved very quickly seeming to jump underwater. Since then, I have been interested in and followed the topic but never had the time to study it

deeply. I found that *Sing like Fish* documents a wide variety of studies about underwater sound, how sea life is affected by it and even depend upon it for survival. As a valuable adjunct to the stories, we are introduced to researchers from around the world who conducted the studies and developed much of the instrumentation that is utilized.

Beginning with the work of underwater acoustics researcher Kieran Cox of Vancouver’s Bamfield Marine Sciences Center on the sound muffling effects of kelp, Kingdon explains that underwater ‘noise’ is very difficult to measure let alone understand. In recent years, the International Marine Organization (IMO) that sets standards for all things related to ocean going vessels, expanded their efforts to strengthen regulations concerning the creation/release of subsea noise. Similarly, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is working on improving critically needed guidelines about the measurement of underwater noise.

Kingdon then introduces several researchers who study the role of sound as it relates to coral reefs, fish, coral larvae recruitment and larval settlement. We learn about the specialized statocysts and mechanosensory ciliary hairs of invertebrates and their roles in underwater sound reception and response. While it may be hard to see underwater, sea life has evolved a diverse and complex array of ways to hear underwater. Likewise, the study of underwater sound and what we know about it has undergone substantial evolution from what Aristotle, Leonardo Da Vinci and others understood. The US Navy has had a major role in expanding the field of marine acoustics, funding studies through their Office of Naval Research (ONR). Groups like the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) have a long history of exploring oceanic acoustics beginning with studies from their first research vessel, the *Atlantis* and the work of Maurice ‘DOC’ Ewing. Hydrophones and other acoustic devices tapped into the world of underwater sound and research soon led to SONAR, SOFAR and SOSUS, acronyms for oceanographic acoustic instrumentation and programs.

Echolocation became both a research, industry exploration and military tool as well as an explanation for the ability for marine mammals, particularly whales, to find their way and to communicate. Notably, Roger Payne was able to record whale ‘songs,’ documenting their often very long range communication. There are now many such recordings available, but his *Songs of the Humpback Whale* is still a classic. Google it and enjoy the sounds of the deep! Many undersea organisms can identify themselves, prey and predators as they commu-

nicate by submarine sounds. The same research that has developed that understanding has also recognized issues wherein discreet changes can be identified in animals sounds, apparently caused by extraneous, anthropogenic noise. A case study was made of a long running New England Aquarium research program on North Atlantic whales after they documented a significant decline in cortisol stress hormone levels in whales after the 9/11 attacks greatly reduced air and water transport in that region. The ‘whale poop analysis’ studies also showed a return to earlier hormone levels after transport returned to normal levels. (neaq.org )

It is now well documented that the subsea environment has been getting noisier every year. The causes are many; the main sources are from loud and sudden explosive bursts from fossil fuel and mineral explorations, shoreline and other marine construction, military operations and the constant growl of tens of thousands of vessels plying the seas such as fisheries, cruise ships and ocean wide transport vessels that carry some 90% of everything we use in our lives! These environmental impacts are soon to be joined by massive efforts to mine the deep sea for minerals to be used in the ever growing technology and battery industries. The ability to study undersea noise is expanding rapidly, as is the understanding of its deleterious effects on sea life. Today there is much improved understanding of what types of noise cause the most disruption and harm to sea life and the increasing knowledge of how to control, limit and/or reduce it. Research needs to increase and government officials need to be much better informed about the issues. Readers are encouraged to let their voices be heard about subsea noise concerns.

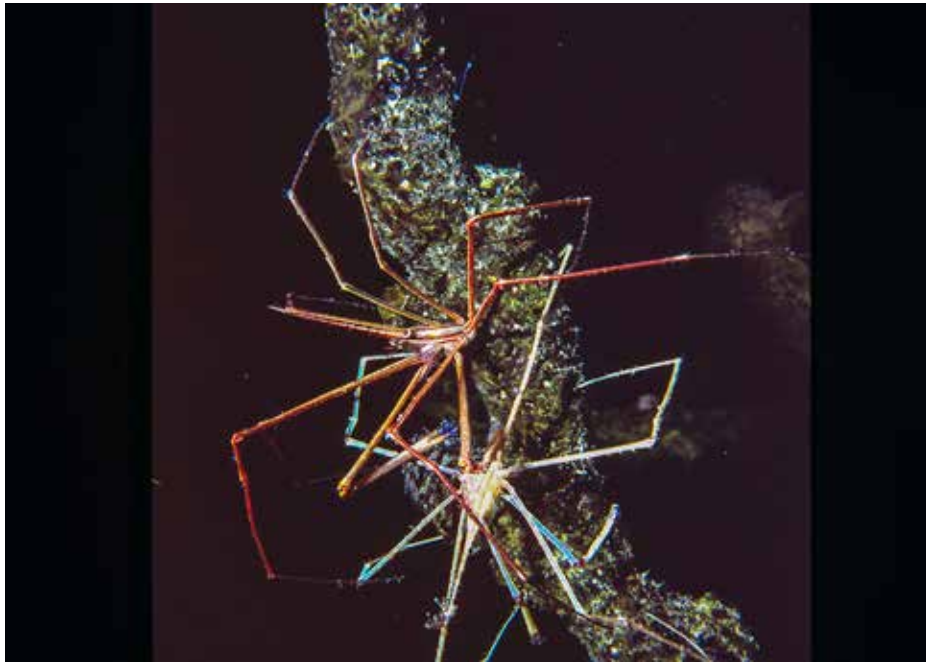
The very well written chapters are accompanied by a comprehensive set of references and a detailed Index, making *Sing like Fish* an excellent book about undersea sound



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 by Dee Scarr

## Arrow Crabs



This arrow crab is bright and shiny in its new shell; its discarded molt hangs beneath it.  
Photo by Dee Scarr

nis (“bristle-horned”), emphasizing its most unusual trait: that its body comes up to a long “snout,” really a point, rather than being rounded like most crabs’ bodies, and that the point bears little bristles. Definitely not a typical crab shape.

The arrow crab’s arrowhead-shaped body only grows to about 2” (5cm), including its relatively long rostrum. It bears thin yellow stripes, which extend onto stalked eyes and onto the spidery

legs, which are almost three times the length of the crab’s body. An arrow crab’s stripes, its unusual eyes, even its skinny purple-tipped claws, were what had fascinated my students. No matter how weird that little eel’s behavior had been, the arrow crab’s appearance was much weirder!

The arrow crab’s small size makes it vulnerable to predators larger than itself,

such as Spanish hogfish or snappers. Thus, arrow crabs spend their daylight hours near the protection of crevices or anemones. One time an especially opportunistic arrow crab joined other cleaners caring for my hand!

At night, arrow crabs forage actively, exploring coral rocks, sponges, and gorgonian corals. They pretty much eat anything, enjoying tiny worms, algae, detritus, and even other crustaceans. They can star in your night dive, but don’t put them in the main spotlight because they’re not fond of bright light.

And, if you want a challenge, try to find the arrow crabs you saw at night, in the daytime.



Dee presented her slide show weekly, at Captain Don’s Habitat, for more than 25 years. Her presentations at diving symposiums worldwide celebrated the underwater natural treasures of Bonaire. Her children’s book, “Coral’s Reef,” is set on Bonaire. Her third book, “The Gentle Sea,” was the first textbook for PADI’s Underwater Naturalist course.

One of my most memorable diving moments came with a group of student divers on the Bahamian island of San Salvador, in 1979. The required parts of the dive were completed and we were looking around an area with little coral and lots of rocks. We’d seen anemones, banded coral shrimp, an arrow crab, and a bristleworm. Then I lifted a rock and revealed a pencil-sized eel. I placed my hand, palm up, next to the little eel, and it swam into my hand! I lifted my hand so the divers could see it better, and it twined all around my fingers, even swimming through a kind of flap in my ring! I placed my hand on the bottom near the rock, and the little eel casually swam away.

I’d never seen an eel like that, and, even a few thousand dives later, I’ve still never seen anything like that behavior again. My adrenaline was surging. As soon as we got out of the water I asked, breathlessly, “Wasn’t that little eel amazing!? Did you see how it --”

“Oh yeah, that was nice. But that spidery thing with the stripes was fantastic!”

And off they went, enthusing about the arrow crab.

Science has named the arrow crab *Stenorhynchus* (“narrow snout”) *seticornis*

Professional nature photographer, Cissy Beasley, documented the rising moon above the Earth’s shadow and amid the Belt of Venus from Rockport, Texas.  
Photo ©Cissy Beasley via <https://ecp.earthsky.org/community-photos/entry/33517/>



See Sky Park, page 15.

**Buena vista**  
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# Reading Day a resounding success

This year too, the Reading and Writing Bonaire foundation - together with the Public Library - organized the National Reading Day on Bonaire. On the last day of Children's Book Week - Friday, November 15, 130 (one hundred and thirty!) volunteers read aloud at primary schools from Rincon to Niki-boko; to the elderly of Cocari, Kas Mimina and Kas di Kuido; and to FKPD in Playa and Rincon.

This year too, volunteers included a large group of students from the MBO. Employees of the police, tax authorities, Telbo, Curoil, MCB and many other companies participated.

The board of the foundation would like to express their gratitude to all volunteers. The success of Reading Day once again demonstrates the social commitment of many companies and individuals on Bonaire.

*News Release  
Foundation Reading and Writing Bonaire*



# A Garden? Just Do It! A crafty Christmas

by Angliet, Nature Lover

There are so many cool ideas to make your own creative Christmas decorations or give old ones a second life. You can recycle stuff you wanted to put in the garbage; use things of nature such as driftwood, little stones, dried calabash, small dried coconuts, dried leaves, pods and dry roots. You can also use wood dust, old pots and cans, rags, paint leftovers and even cement.

With a creative mind and some time you can make your own Christmas gifts. Being busy with this kind of crafting can put you into a happy Christmas mood. Think of who you want to give nicely decorated coconuts and nature stones painted in gold with glitter or dry leaves with red sparkles. Make Christmas decorations for Christmas trees and Christmas cards are such a sweet thing to do.

But before beginning, there is some preparation needed. First is time. Schedule time for all these creativities. Start to collect ideas. Second is find a place or corner to work and put all things you need there so you don't have to clean it up every time when you are busy. Third is to collect stuff. Of course this depends on what you want to do.

For example, if you want to make a painted basket with dry coconuts. You have to collect the coconuts now by looking under the many coconut trees on Bonaire. I always try to find dry coconuts but some are wet from the daily rain. So collect them now. Keep them in a dry spot with sunlight. Turn them every day so the whole coconut gets dry. After two - three weeks you can start painting them. The same goes with leaves and stems. Dry them first on a carton or box. Spray them with silver, gold or red paint.

Stems become beautiful, such as red Bougainvillea sprayed with some gold. Make a bouquet of some decorated stems with dry leaves and dry flowers and it's an immediate eye catcher in a corner or on the table. Think of an office room or a spacious corner with pieces of



**Collect Christmas items to make Christmas decorations**

driftwood, roots, chopped wood, pods, and wood dust but make sure they are dry. In the mondi (forest) one can find a lot of dry roots. But first clean and dry them and make sure there are no woodlice or other bugs. If there are, soak them for a day in some Clorox.

To make things with wood, you need a strong glue. With the wood dust you can make a paste and cover a can or old pot with it. Paint it in gold, silver, green or red and your Christmas plant pot for the Christmas tree is ready. With the dry pods of the flamboyant tree one can make very nice decorations to hang in the Christmas tree, in plants on the porch, in the garden or on the hedge. Small, dry painted roots make cool decorations in the Christmas tree. Toilet paper rolls are also good for Christmas decorations.

Christmas cards are so cool to make yourself. Here are some ideas: Dry leaves on a carton and paint to decorate. Old Christmas cards in a new "jacket." Cut them

up and make cool creative card and dinner plates to decorate the dinner table. Hang them in the Christmas tree or on a long red rope to decorate a room.

Rags are good to wear while busy with painting or in the garden but you can make nice things too. Use an old green blouse to decorate around the pot for a Christmas tree. Cut rags in pieces and make cards or a wall decoration glued on paper. Look for round things and round waste and cover them in the pieces of rags. You can make angels and Christmas balls and hang them on a rope in the living room or on the Christmas tree. Especially when you have a huge tree or a spacious room these kinds of ropes with colorful homemade decorations are so cool and show your creativity.

Give old small tables a face lift by adding a vase with a bouquet of your own homemade Christmas flowers or gold painted coconuts and immediately the room has a Christmas glow.

Needless to say, all these ideas are great for Christmas gifts. Add a plant to your own decorated Christmas pot. A big container filled with silver or red painted Christmas balls, golden coconuts, a rope with angels made from rags, wall decorations made of old Christmas cards or decorations for a garden. So many ideas: decorations for the kitchen, small things to add on a cake or paint jars for your homemade jellies, jams and chutneys from fruit grown in your garden. So, come into the Christmas mood, organize your time and collect all the stuff you need. Start now, Christmas is coming soon.



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

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



# Bonaire's sky park

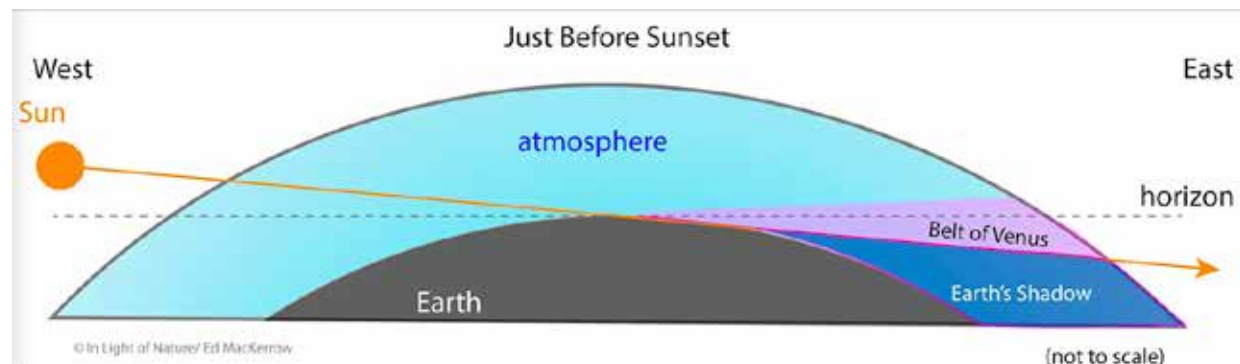
## How to see Earth's shadow at sunrise and sunset

thanks to Deborah Byrd and Kelly Kizer Whitt

See full article at:

<https://earthsky.org/space/when-can-you-see-earths-shadow/>

Thanks also to professional photographer Ed MacKerrow, In Light of Nature, for his schematic shown below.



You don't have to wait for a lunar eclipse to see the Earth's shadow. You can see it twice a day. Look before sunrise and after sunset and look OPPOSITE the sun. You will see a dark band of deep blue-gray along the opposite horizon. That is the Earth's shadow.

The rosy band above the Earth's shadow is the Belt of Venus, named for the Goddess of Love. The Belt of Venus looks pink because, even after sunset, some rays of sunlight are still passing through our atmosphere. An arc in shades of pink is created when they backscatter.

And, just so you'll recognize it more easily, remember that the shadow is curved, in exactly the same way that the whole Earth is curved. Once you spot it, don't go back inside just yet. Wait a while, and watch Earth's shadow ascending or descending at exactly the same rate

that the sun is rising or setting on the opposite horizon.

Like all worlds orbiting a sun, Earth casts a shadow. It extends some 870,000 miles (1.4 million km) into space. Like all shadows, the Earth's shadow is always opposite the sun. And here's a fun thought ... night itself is a shadow. When night falls, you're standing within the shadow of Earth.

In her video posted on earthsky.org, Kelly Kizer Whitt says: "Earth's shadow is BIG. And if you have a wide view, you'll see its curve echos the curve of Earth. Seeing it can take you out of your everyday thoughts...into a wider world."

Return to page 13 to see the colors of the Earth's shadow and Belt of Venus, photographed by Cissy Beasley.

## OLB to issue erfpatches for elderly care project

The OLB intends to grant two leaseholds, or erfpatches, in the Amboina area for development of elderly care facilities called 'Nos Bario.' The leaseholders will be Groep foundation (ZW-Groep) and the Cocari II foundation. They will jointly develop the center. The ZW Group has been commissioned by the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) for its role in the project. The properties include a structure, the 'Magasina di Rei Amboina.'

In 2021 the Supreme Court ruled in the Didam judgment that government agencies cannot sell or lease public lands unless they announce their intentions publicly and invite competitive bidding. The OLB is not expected to receive other applications in this case because only the current candidate can meet the objective, verifiable and reasonable criteria for the issuance of the land with existing buildings. . DMR



## Creating Optimal Health

by Irene da Cunda Costa

### Mind-body integration techniques 101

What do we mean by mind-body integration techniques? Have the body and mind become dis-integrated, separated? The truth is no, they never have, but we humans, particularly Westerners, have built a health paradigm based on the mind-body dichotomy. We inherited this from Descartes, also famous for stating the idea "I think, therefore I am." He considered the mind and body to be two separate realities, which we now know is a mistake.

The resurgence of mind-body integration practices, or their adoption in the Western hemisphere, comes to mitigate the effects of this erroneous belief whose consequences are still with us today.

Mind-body integration techniques are all those different methods or practices through which the awareness of the body is reinforced, reinforcing in turn the awareness of the mind-body connection.

Among them we have:

- Awareness and passive observation of breathing.
- Voluntary modification of breathing, all the techniques of pranayama, breathwork, and others.
- Relaxation techniques, such as Schultz and Jacobson
- Yoga Nidra.
- Transcendental meditation.
- Mindfulness.
- Yoga, Tai Chi, Chi kung, martial arts.

Breathing techniques could be divided into two: those that only bring attention to breathing without changing it and those in which we voluntarily introduce changes to seek some effect (relaxation, autonomic regulation, increased tolerance to CO2, physical performance, alterations of consciousness, etc.)

The best-known relaxation techniques are Schultz' autogenous and Jacobson's progressive. In the first, the person uses self-instructions to induce a state of deep relaxation using sensations like warmth, heaviness and others. The second technique uses the contrast between tension and relaxation in different muscle groups to identify the existence of tension in the body and consequently perceive the difference between tension and relaxation. Both techniques were published in the 1930s.

Yoga Nidra, also called yogic sleep, consists of eight stages: internalization, intention or sankalpa, rotation of consciousness, awareness of breathing, recreation of contrasts, visualization, sankalpa and externalization. The sankalpa is a positive statement about something that the practitioner wants in his/her life.

Transcendental meditation was popularized in the 1960s by Maharishi Mahesh who taught the method to the Beatles. There are four basic elements in this technique. One is the internal repetition of a specific mantra (or sacred sound) while maintaining a passive attitude. Herbert Benson, a cardiologist, used this technique in his studies at Harvard Medical School to generate the relaxation response, he said: "We claim no innovation but simply a scientific validation of age-old wisdom."

More recently, in the 1970s, John Kabat Zinn founded the Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Clinic. The practice of mindfulness can be understood as the non-judgmental acceptance and investigation of present experience, including body sensations, internal mental

states, thoughts, emotions, impulses and memories, to reduce suffering or distress and to increase well-being. There are different ways to practice it, but it basically consists of keeping the attention on the body and the present moment, accepting sensations, thoughts and emotions, recognizing them without judging them and letting them go without clinging to them.

All the practices described here have scientifically proven effects. The intensity of the effects depends on the frequency and duration of their practice. The benefits have to do fundamentally with the activation of the parasympathetic nervous system through the relaxation response, and with the training in focus, attention and presence.

The activation of the parasympathetic counteracts the negative effects of chronic stress, helping to regulate anxiety, reduce depression, improve the quality of sleep, increase the appearance of alpha and theta brain waves that promote well-being and stimulate creativity.

Training focus, attention and presence allows for greater self-knowledge and self-regulation, thus improving life.

Each person can explore from the vast array of practices and choose the one that gives them the best results and adapts best to their routine. Joining a yoga, tai chi, chi kung, karate, or martial arts group can also be a good option to strengthen the marriage between mind and body.



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.

# 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](mailto:12stepsbonaire@gmail.com)

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

**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** <https://www.facebook.com/beachtennisbonaire/>  
<https://beachtennisbonaire.com>

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


**Bonaire by Night** Shopping night every month


**Divers Drink & Dance Yhanni's Arepas.** Wednesdays 5 p.m.


**Diver Safety.** Hosted by Jason Buttenshaw who holds presentations the third Sunday of the month 6:30 p.m. at Sugar Thief, 8 Kaya Inglaterra.


**Paws and Foot Prints bi-weekly dog walking group.** Every other Wednesday 8 a.m. for an hour at Seru Largu. Signup by sending a WhatsApp message to 599-701-4989 no later than 2 p.m. the day before the walk (so we know how many dogs to bring)

**Pickleball.** *Chinese Assoc. Kaminda Sorobon, Blue Building:* Tues. & Thurs 6-8 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. \$1 per hour. Ask for Henk or Richard. *Sports Hall Jorge Nicolaas, Kaya Amsterdam:* Sun. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. \$2 per hour. Ask for Henk or Danny. **Beginners:** *Sports Hall Jorge Nicolaas, Kaya Amsterdam:* Sun. 9 - 10 a.m.. \$2 per hour. Ask for Esther. **Coming soon:** Indoor hall at Jong Bonaire every Wed. and Fri. from 5:30 to 9 p.m. - t recommended for beginners but all welcome to play.

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

 **Manta Monday at 7:30 p.m.** Dec 2 - Divi Resort; Dec 9 - Toucan Diving; Dec 16 - Dive friends at Hamlet Oasis. Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Email: [nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org](mailto:nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org) ; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook..](#)

 **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@reefrenwalbonaire.org](mailto:info@reefrenwalbonaire.org)

 **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB).** Free presentations at Yellow Submarine, every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 8 p.m. See facebook. Would you like to learn everything about what we do in the field during nesting season? Join us in the field! We go to Klein Bonaire Mon., Wed. and Fri. to search for nest activity and we sometimes have a few spots open. Sign up by email: [cepa@bonaireturtles.org](mailto:cepa@bonaireturtles.org).

<b>You can help keep Bonaire clean</b>	
Saturdays	<b>One Hour Cleanup Power.</b> Weekly coastal clean up every Sat., 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Location on FB: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/">https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/</a>
Saturday, Nov. <b>30</b>	<b>Cleanup near old Shrimp Factory on East coast.</b> 9:30 The organization will provide garbage bags, drinks, music and candy for children. Volunteers are asked to bring their own gloves.
Sunday, Dec. <b>1</b>	<b>Fishing line Cleanup Dive.</b> 9 a.m. at Dive Friends Bonaire Dive Inn. Sign up by sending an email to <a href="mailto:cepa@bonaireturtles.org">cepa@bonaireturtles.org</a> . Bring all of your family and friends and join us! (see page 17)
Sunday, Dec. <b>8</b>	<b>Clean Coast Bonaire.</b> 8-10 a.m. Te Amo Beach. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter & data. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire">https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire</a>
Friday, Dec. <b>27</b>	<b>Christmas Cleanup.</b> End of day cleanup 5 - sunset. Followed by a party at Vrijmibo Beach

## Church Services

### Roman Catholic Churches Bonaire

- **Parish La Birgen di Coromoto (ANTRIOL):** Holy Masses: Mon-6:30 a.m.; Tues & Thur -7:30 p.m. Sat-6 p.m. (English) / 7:30 p.m.; Sun-7 a.m. / 10 a.m. / 6 p.m.
- **Parish San Bernardo (PLAYA):** Holy Masses: Mon,Wed,Fri, Sat-7 p.m. Sun-9 a.m. / 7 p.m.
- **Parish Luis Beltran (RINCON):** Holy Masses: Tues,Wed,Thur, Sat-7 p.m. Sun-7 a.m. / 10 a.m.

**International Bible Church of Bonaire (HATO):** Kaya Papago 104. Sun: Worship Service & Children's Church 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Services are conducted in English.

### United Protestant Congregation

- **(KRALENDIJK),** Plaza Wilhelmina: Sun 10 a.m. Services in Dutch
- **(RINCON)** Kaya C. D. Crestian: Sun 8:30 a.m. Services in Papiamentu/Dutch

# What's Happening

**Animal Shelter:** Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. phone/whatsapp: 701 4989 or 717 4989. Email: [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)

**Arts & Crafts Market in Wilhelmina Plaza.** **NEW open Friday 9am till 4pm** as well as for the cruise ships (schedule can be found at: <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](http://www.onlinebibliotheek.nl)

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

**Pakus di Pruga (Animal Shelter flea market. ):** Pakus reopened May 11 at new location Kaya Gilberto F Croes. Located just past Caribbean Laundry. 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Pakus raises funds for the Animal Shelter by selling recycled and affordable clothes, furniture, books, music, housewares and more.

**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/terramarmuseumbonaire/>

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

**Taxi Service Online:** Bonaire-taxi.com is available for bookings. Tourists can easily reserve their taxi via the website or the dedicated app. Phone/whatsapp: +599 786 1786 Website: [www.bonaire-taxi.com](http://www.bonaire-taxi.com)

**Washington Slagbaai Park:** Open Tues. - Sun. 8-5 (entry to 2:30 p.m.) \$40 (Free with Nature tag)

Saturday, Nov. <b>30</b>	<b>Lionfish Derby at Washington Slagbaai National Park</b> 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. Competitors are 15 teams of two hunters and a spotter.  <b>MoltenWolf Glass final Pop-Up Art Gallery with Photographer Heidi Nys</b> 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Kaya J.N.E. Craane, Terramar 8, Kralendijk,  <b>Nos Zjilea Cultural Event</b> 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink.  <b>Taste of Bonaire at the entrance of Washington Slagbaai National Park.</b> Starts at 6 p.m. Food, culture, local handicrafts. Signature dishes of well-known restaurants offered at special prices.  <b>Market and Expo at JICN.</b> 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. In JICN parking lot. a varied selection of beautiful handmade products crafted by the detainees themselves, including furniture, paintings, toys, jewelry, and even plants. Additionally, custom orders are possible: from fences and dog houses to other personalized products.  <b>LWV Open Day - Christmas edition</b> 4 - 10 p.m. Kaminda di Lagun 32. Popular market. Music. Food. And a kids corner.  <b>Winterpride!</b> A night filled with fun, music, and diversity at Tera Kora Ranch. Infused with Christmas spirit, the night features DJ Jewelz, Tyra Talisa, and Derrel and drag queens from Curaçao. \$10. From 8 p.m. (see page 17)
Saturday, Nov. <b>30</b> Sunday, Dec. <b>1</b>	<b>Kaminda di Arte, (Road of Art)</b> 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit 40 participating artists at their own studios and galleries. Updated information and maps will be posted on the Sobremesa website: <a href="http://www.sobremesa-bonaire.com">www.sobremesa-bonaire.com</a> or scan the QR code on the posters and flyers.
Friday, Dec. <b>6</b> to Friday, Feb. <b>28</b>	<b>Artistic Journey Exhibit - Delno Tromp &amp; Gabrielle Wilson</b> Terramar Museum, Kaya Isla Riba 3, Kralendijk
Saturday, Dec. <b>7</b>	<b>Feria di Koriente (Electrical Market) 'You got the power.'</b> Social Café, Kaya Neerlandia. 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Get tips for reducing energy consumption. Free products and a lottery for large prizes. (see page 17)  <b>Discover the Bay, a free educational event for ages 12-20</b> 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sorobon Beach. Organized by Reef Renewal Bonaire, the fun event will teach about coral restoration efforts in Lac Bay. (see page 17)
Saturday, Dec. <b>14</b>	<b>Christmas Gift Market.</b> Wilhelmina Park.
Sunday, Dec. <b>15</b>	<b>Kingdom Day.</b> A legal holiday. Much closes.
Saturday, Dec. <b>20</b>	<b>Christmas Shopping Night.</b> 6-9 p.m. Evening shopping in downtown Bonaire.
Wed. Dec. <b>25</b>	<b>Christmas Day.</b> A legal holiday. Much closes including Washington Slagbaai National Park and supermarkets.
Thursday, Dec. <b>26</b>	<b>Boxing Day.</b> A legal holiday. Much closes.
Thursday, Dec. <b>28</b>	<b>Nos Zjilea Cultural Event</b> 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. Cultural Park Mangazina di Rei, Rincon. Enjoy the music, dancing, crafts, amazing food and drink.
Tuesday, Dec. <b>31</b>	<b>New Year's Eve Fireworks.</b> The Island celebrates with fireworks. Some hotels throw special parties.



## 2024 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE:	CRUISE SHIP	TIME	PIER	CAPACITY
Wed. November 27	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0730-2200	South	4683
Thurs. November 28	CELEBRITY REFLECTION	0600-1800	South	3046
Fri. November 29	SEVEN SEAS SPLENDOR	0630-1500	North	754
Sat. November 30	SIRENA	1200-2200	North	824
Sun. December 1	STAR CLIPPER	0800-1500	North	180
Mon. December 2	EVIRIMA	0700-2300	North	298
Tues. December 3	INSIGNIA	0800-1900	North	702
	AIDALUNA	1000-2200	South	2500
Wed. December 4	ROTTERDAM	0700-2000	South	2668
Thurs. December 5	EVIRIMA	0630-1900	North	298
Fri. December 6	SEABOURN OVATION	0700-2300	North	638
Sat. December 7	AZAMARA JOURNEY	0700-2200	North	694
Sun. December 8	CELEBRITY ECLIPSE	0600-1830	South	3013
Mon. December 9	CELEBRITY BEYOND	0600-1800	South	3260
	ZUIDERDAM	0730-2100	North	2502
Tues. December 10	VISTA	0700-1400	North	1200
	COSTA FORTUNA	0800-1900	South	3470
Wed. December 11	CARNIVAL HORIZON	0700-1500	South	4683
Thurs. December 12	EVIRIMA	0700-2000	North	298
	CELEBRITY REFLECTION	0800-1700	South	3064



Mark your calendars for Discover the Bay, a free educational event for ages 12–20 happening on Saturday, December 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sorobon Beach.

t-shirts, and prizes will make the day even more exciting! Free bus transportation is available to and from the event, so sign up now at [reefnewalbonaire.org/get-involved](https://reefnewalbonaire.org/get-involved) to reserve your spot.

Organized by Reef Renewal Bonaire, the event will teach participants about coral restoration efforts in Lac Bay through fun, hands-on activities, guided snorkeling tours, and quizzes. Free food, exclusive

Spaces are limited—don't miss this unforgettable day in one of Bonaire's most iconic ecosystems!

## Come to the Fair

A 'Feria di Koriente' (Electrical Fair) will be held at Social Café, Kaya Neerlandia, on Saturday, December 7, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

At this market, you can get valuable tips on how to save on electricity. As long as supplies last, you can pick up free products, such as LED lamps or large lamps to protect the house in the evening or timers for electrical appliances. There is also a lottery with attractive prizes. You can win an inverter washing machine with a capacity of 13 kilos, an air conditioner 12,000 BTU double inverter, or a refrigerator that uses little power.

Entrepreneurs with sustainable household products can set up a stand at the market. If you wish a stand, send an email to: [koriente@bonairegov.com](mailto:koriente@bonairegov.com). Emails can be sent until November 29, 2024 at the latest.

Lower income households can apply for a compensation of \$ 1,300 for their electricity bill or Pagabon. Apply for this compensation via [www.bonairegov.com/stroom](https://www.bonairegov.com/stroom).

News release OLB



## When to collect your Health Card

A personal health card from Care and Youth Caribbean Netherlands (ZJCN) is now replacing the paper insurance certificate given previously to Bonaireans for urgent medical emergencies abroad. Please note: the healthcare card is not a travel insurance policy

**Kralendijk: Jong Bonaire, Kaya Libertador Simon Bolivar #16,**

9 a.m. – 12 noon; 1 to 5 p.m. **Birth Year** 1990 or later collect card Nov. 25 until Nov. 30

**Rincon: Cocari, Kaya Rincon #50,** 9 a.m. – 12 noon; 1 to 5 p.m. All ages Dec. 2 until Dec. 7



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# Animal Shelter News

## Have your dog or cat sterilized for free

Do you have a dog or cat that hasn't been sterilized yet? Animal Shelter Bonaire offers a free sterilization program to prevent unwanted litters and control the stray animal population on the island. This program is available to everyone on Bonaire and helps prevent animal suffering while making the island more animal friendly.

By having your pet sterilized, you contribute to improving the welfare of animals on Bonaire and to supporting a sustainable solution to the animal population. The program is free for residents, but to keep it running, we rely on donations. The costs of sterilizations are high, and every contribution – big or small – helps us continue this valuable work.

Make an appointment for your pet's sterilization and help create a more animal friendly Bonaire. Want to learn more or support the program? Visit our website: [animalshelterbonaire.com](http://animalshelterbonaire.com).

*Chantal Hulst*



## Pets of the Week



### Horatio & Humphrey

Hello,

These handsome four month old kittens are brothers Horatio and Humphrey. They have been with us at the Shelter since they were only two weeks old.

The kittens love to play, cuddle and sit on your shoulder. They love each others company very much. We would like to give them a forever home where they can stay together.

Horatio and Humphrey have been vaccinated, castrated and chipped.

Will you be their new owner?

*Photo/story: Bo Attevelt*

*If you would like to meet our cats and dogs, please come to Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A.*

*Open Monday - Friday 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.*

*You can also call 701-4989 or 717-4989 to make an appointment, via whatsapp, facebook messenger, or email [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)*



### Donut

Meet Donut

Hi, I'm Donut, a charming two-year-old dog with scruffy, long hair. I may be small, but my heart is full of love! Although I don't mind other dogs, at home I would be best in a single dog family. I value my quiet moments and time for myself. I'm a true companion, and I'm looking for my forever home. Come meet me soon and see for yourself what a special friend I am!

*Photo/story: Marissa Lamers /*



## Planning for Rincon Day 2025 begins

Cultural Heritage Commission, the organization in charge of organizing the annual Rincon Day celebration, announces that preparations for Rincon Day 2025 have officially begun. The cultural event, which has deep roots in Rincon culture, will continue to unite our community for a month full of tradition, music and folklore.

**Logo and Flag Use:** We would like to draw attention to the fact that all permits previously granted for the use of the Rincon flag and the official "R" logo are canceled at the end of 2024. For the 2025 edition, no new permits will be issued for the use of these symbols. This decision is made to protect the identity of the event and preserve its authenticity.

**Folklore Parade:** All new and existing groups that wish to participate in the Folklore Parade must register their participation by sending an email to [info@diadirincon.org](mailto:info@diadirincon.org). Please register soon, so we can coordinate the information for the parade.

**Want to be part of the festivities?** The Commission invites companies and organizations that wish to be part of Dia di Rincon to contact the Commission. The Commission is organizing a meeting to explain the different ways of participation. Email [info@diadirincon.org](mailto:info@diadirincon.org) to indicate your interest and we will send an invitation to your organization.

**Call to Rincon Residents.** Finally, we make a cordial call to all inhabitants of Rincon. We as a neighborhood are the hosts for the whole world to come celebrate our culture. Support from our neighborhood is essential to ensure that the celebration successfully reflects our cultural pride and unity. Anyone who wants to give their support, in any way, is invited to contact and participate.

*Together we work for  
an unforgettable Rincon Day 2025.*



## Did you pay your Nature Fee?

**All conservation projects, research, education and work we do are made possible by the nature fee you purchase.**

**We are incredibly grateful for your dedication to preserving our nature.**

**Thank you for purchasing your nature fee. Available online at [STINAPAbonaire.org](http://STINAPAbonaire.org)**

# BACALHAU (salted cod)

Chef Corjan Hoogerheide, Lekker Thuis Restaurant



**Ingredients** 1400 g (14 oz) bacalhau (salt cod) • 200 g (1 C) sweet potato, diced • 3 onions, cut into wedges • 5 cloves garlic, minced • 1/2 dl (1.69 oz) olive oil • 1 dl (3.38 oz) cream • 5 eggs • 5 sprigs of parsley, coarsely chopped • 2 spring onions, finely chopped • 2 spring onions • 16 kalamata olives, sliced • Pepper

Soak bacalhau in cold water for 24 hours in refrigerator. Change 4 times. Boil sweet potato cubes and fry until golden brown. Sauté onions and garlic in olive oil without browning. Add soaked bacalhau cut into pieces and heat for 5 minutes. Beat eggs with cream and season with freshly ground pepper. Stir egg mixture into fish mixture and cook slowly until mixture thickens. Mix in baked sweet potato. Fry 2 spring onions until nicely brown. Divide everything over 2 plates and garnish with chopped parsley, olives, finely chopped spring onion and the whole spring onion. Can serve with thin fries chips for a crispy bite.

Each issue Chef Corjan Hoogerheide of Lekker Thuis shares the recipe for one of his personal dishes created from Bonaire's fresh ingredients.



# A Taste of Rosa

Wine, wine and more wine along with some amazing samplings of starters, mains and desserts from Rosa were available at Rosa Café's first Taste of Rosa on November 15.

Some 40 people gathered at the new café to enjoy a little taste of Italy. Rosa Café plans to begin monthly tastings beginning in January.

L-R: manager Andrea Morfino, owner Jason Chapman, director of Giowine Flavio Andreatta and owner of Fantini Wine Group Valentino Sciotti



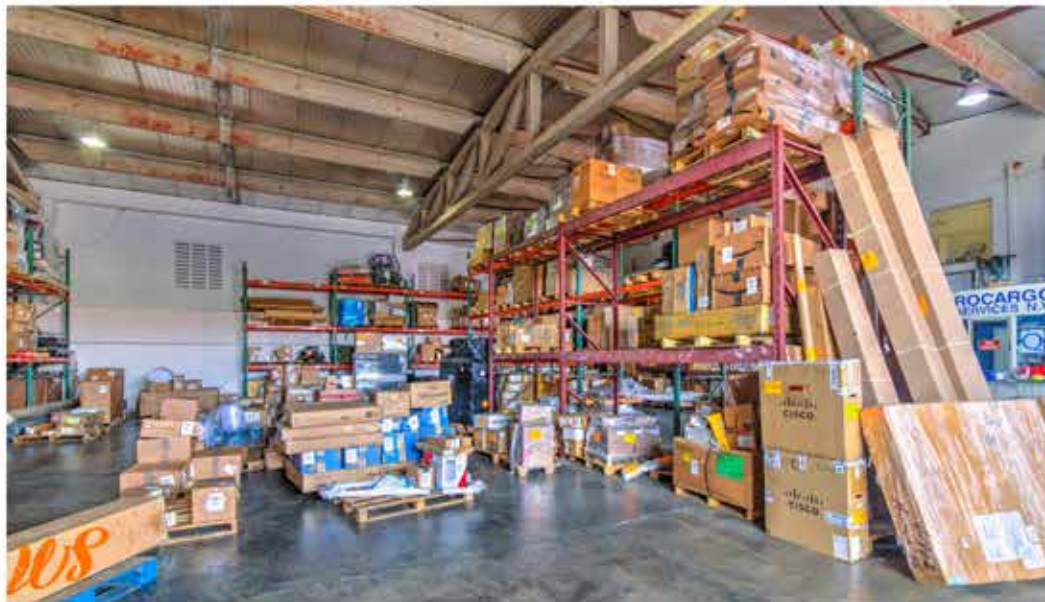
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# FISH ARE FRIENDS

Sander van Lopik, Danu Hoftijzer  
RoffaReefs



# ... AND FOOD

Piskabon



**1 RoffaReefs breeding system**

RoffaReefs developed an innovative prototype of a floating fish nursery to breed coral reef fish larvae. With this floating fish nursery, RoffaReefs aims to strengthen the natural fish populations and supplement current coral restoration projects.

Funded by:

**2 Fish eggs**

In addition, research into the spawning behaviour of reef fish is another key aspect of RoffaReefs. By identifying spawning grounds and understanding seasonality in spawning, RoffaReefs aims to restore the fish populations more efficiently and effectively.

**3 Stewards of the Bonairian Sea**

Which organisations work directly with fish on Bonaire?

Piskabon      STINAPA

We all want the same: a sea full of thriving fish.

**4 Workshop**

Together with fishers united by Piskabon, RoffaReefs held a joint workshop on the presence of eggs in their catch. Through a group discussion on when fish were spawning, we were able to document which fish were spawning and at what time on a calendar. By doing this collaboratively, the knowledge of fishers can be turned into applied science!

**5 Usage of shared knowledge and data**

This data can be used to improve both the management of Piskabon and the effectiveness of the RoffaReefs breeding system. Whether this data is shared with third parties is up to Piskabon. After all, it is their knowledge - we were just the lucky ones writing it down!

