



Pirate Don by Bruce Bowker

## Happy 100th Birthday to Captain Don Stewart

Today, June 25 is the 100th birthday of Captain Don Stewart, the Father of Organized Diving on Bonaire. He sailed into Bonaire back on May 21, 1962 when there were only 4000 people living on Bonaire.

*There were no compressors for filling air tanks because there were no scuba tanks, except for the six Captain Don brought.* (excerpt from *The Adventures of Captain Don*)

Don was a born-again conservationist devoting himself to protecting the island's marine life and all of nature. He was instrumental in banning spear fishing and tropical fish or coral collecting and the diving rule banning gloves. The Captain implemented the first permanent protective mooring systems, named many of the dive sites, was instrumental in creating the Bonaire Marine Park, established the first hotel dedicated to diving, Captain Don's Habitat, and the list goes on.

### Here are some words from people influenced by Don:

"Maybe it was because Don, and his beautiful schooner the Valerie Queen, had previously worked in the movie industry in Hollywood, or maybe he was just born with a streak of wild creativity, but for sure he was one of the most unique and resourceful personalities ever to step into the diving industry or onto the island of Bonaire.

I had been sent to Bonaire by his new business partners in New York, who wanted me to help him manage the new and exciting venture that would become Cap'n Don's Habitat, the first resort hotel owned by a dive shop, called Aquaventure.

Over the ensuing decades, Don's personality drove every decision at Habitat. Behind the scene he was very business oriented and did all he could to be successful. This serious side of his personality was never more obvious than when the topic was the environment. The current Bonaire Marine Park was the original concept he presented to Carl Steensma, an emissary of the Queen of Holland, who visited Bonaire to take Don's concept back for approval.

But exposed to the public's attention, he never gave up his outward appearance and image. He

was a reincarnation of a Hollywood character, a salty buccaneer who found his island and stayed... He was the best showman the diving industry has ever had."

*Frank Fennell (managing director of Econergy LLC, former general manager marketing at Nikon)*

"Don began guiding divers over Bonaire's reefs, first by shore diving and eventually by boat (even Don couldn't figure out a way to get to Klein Bonaire by truck). It didn't take long for the Captain to realize that every time an anchor was used, coral

was damaged.

He solved that problem by creating permanent protective moorings on dive sites. We on Bonaire were the first in the world to protect our coral reefs by placing protective moorings on dive sites.

Thanks to Captain Don, we've had protective moorings on Bonaire's dive sites for about 40 years. Thanks to Don, we don't have to think about what our reefs would look like if boats had been anchoring on them for decades. While coral was being unnecessarily, irreparably, thoughtlessly destroyed on reefs everywhere else, Captain Don Stewart found a way to protect Bonaire's coral without endangering vessels or people. He saved the lives of untold numbers of marine animals, initially here on Bonaire and now all over our planet!

It's an amazing legacy Don left to the world's reefs, and to Bonaire's reefs, and to those of us who love them."

*Dee Scarr (Author and Inaugural member of Women Divers Hall of Fame)*

"In 1973 I took my first adventure to the Caribbean to a little Island that was hardly known at the time, it was Bonaire. Capt'n Don Stewart was set up in the Hotel Bonaire nicely ensconced on a lovely little beach on the hotel property.

Sometime so many years later, I was sitting with Don and we were sipping Appleton Rum, and he told me he wanted to show me something... He wanted to show me where the home for Diving Freedom was going to be. We walked along the coastline from Hotel Bonaire thru the Divi Divi



This week divers hoisted a new extra large dive flag in honor of Don's birthday. In 1984 to Don's specification a bronze plaque was mounted on the flag base that read: *In memory of the underwater pioneers and explorers who have gone before us.* Photo Julie Morgan

Happy 100th Birthday

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### Time running out on Council expansion

The BES Islands badly need to expand the size of their councils. There is general agreement that the island councils do not have enough capacity and expertise to carry out all the work of governing that needs to be done. But first the WolBES legislation needs to be amended, and that probably won't happen in time to allow more candidates to run in the council elections coming up in 2027.

Member of the Senate Robbert Lievens (BoerBurgerBeweging) has proposed that WolBES be amended through emergency legislation if necessary. "The urgency for me is to increase the number of representatives and administrators, otherwise this cannot take effect at the next island council elections. This is for the sake of democratic legitimacy and administrative power."

Amending WolBES has broad support in the Senate's Kingdom Relations Committee. However, observers predict the

committee would not agree to the legislation being amended through emergency legislation.

The need for WolBES (and FinBES) legislation has been discussed for years. After much wrangling, the islands and the government reached a hard-fought compromise in May last year. A month later, the newly appointed State Secretary Zsolt Szabó arbitrarily overrode the agreement despite the objections of the island councils.

The islands and The Hague agree that the island councils and executive boards should be expanded in phases until they reach the size of municipal councils of municipalities in the European Netherlands with comparable populations. But unless an emergency procedure can be enacted, even gradual expansion cannot begin in the island council when elections are held in 2027.

DMR

### Landfill fires to be extinguished

Preparations have begun to extinguish the underground fires that have been burning for years at the Lagun landfill, then to help Selibon develop and carry out a long term management plan for the landfill. The work has been contracted to Afvalzorg, a Dutch company that owns and has been operating their own landfill sites for more than 25 years. They also provide worldwide international consultancy services.

Afvalzorg has located approximately fifteen small fires smoldering underground at the landfill. The company is now working with the fire brigade to develop a plan for putting out the fires safely.

Afvalzorg has assigned an experienced landfill manager to work with Selibon. On Tuesday evening, June 24, the two companies met with local residents to explain the plan, to respond to questions and concerns, and to hear people's suggestions.

OLB has entered into a long-term cooperation agreement with Afvalzorg to ensure their knowledge and experience will continue to be available to Bonaire. The goals are to manage both the Lagun and Morotin landfills sustainably. The Morotin landfill will eventually be closed.

The OLB, which owns Selibon, is fulfilling the Order under Administrative Coercion that was imposed on it because of long-standing violations at the Lagun landfill. DMR

### Minister explains limited implementation capacity in BES

Minister of BZK Judith Uitermark answered 40 questions about the Annual Report Kingdom Relations and the BES Fund when appearing before the House of Representatives Committee for Kingdom Relations.

Several questions were raised about the "limited implementation capacity" in the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom. Increasingly, "limited implementation capacity" is being used to explain why, in the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom, things get done slowly or not at all. Improved financial management or road maintenance are examples often cited as examples.

Uitermark said government entities in the Caribbean often face a shortage of skilled workers. However, "Outdated or inadequate HR [Human Resource] policy at government organizations also plays a role." DMR

### Airport baggage handling improved

Thanks to recent renovations, luggage at Flamingo International Airport (BIA) can now be routed to the baggage scanner from both the check-in area and hold baggage area faster and more accurately. DMR

## Island News to page 7



A delegation of the Dutch Caribbean Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries Alliance (DCALFA) met with Minister Femke Wiersma of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature (LVVN).

Also present was Gerbert van der Wal, member of the management team for European, International and Agro-economic Policy.

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Irene da Cunda Costa's column, *Optimal Health*, will return next issue.

# BSSA team set for Sunfish Worlds.

The sailing club BSSA at Kas di Regatta is developing rapidly and there are a number of specific activities that will be the highlights of this year.

The Sunfish A and B Club Championship series of six sailing days finished last weekend; winner in the A class is Sipke Stapert and winner in the B class is Konstanze Staub.

BSSA will again send a team to the Sunfish World Championships, which will be held in Salinas, Ecuador in December. The team consists of seven sailors; Dedrie Pedersen, Paxienrocque Martis, Ton Nuijten, Johan de Waard, Ramon Martis, George Soliano, and Gilbert Martis.

The World's team still needs shirt sponsors to cover expenses for the championships.

Various fundraisers are being organized such as the Krioyo Lunch on July 5th for which tickets are still available at \$15 presale/\$20 at the venue.



**BSSA's youngest sailor on the team Paxienrocque Martis, will be competing in Sunfish Youth Worlds and the Sunfish Worlds Championship Open category in December.** Photo Julie Morgan.

In August, the 30th anniversary of the club will be celebrated with a varied program of sailing activities, award ceremonies, live music and a BBQ.

For information about lessons, membership and fundraiser tickets: [contact@bonairesailingclub.org](mailto:contact@bonairesailingclub.org) and WA 7955225.

*Elizabeth Vos*

## FOR SALE Affordable Buildings Lots Vista Royal Village



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# POLICE REPORT

You can contact the police via 715 8000, 911 or via the anonymous tip line 9310.

## Searches and arrests for violation of Firearms Act

*Police arrests and searches were made under the BES Firearms Act as part of the investigation into the shooting during the night hours of Sunday, June 8 on Kaya Prinsès Marie. (The first arrest was made Monday, June 9, around 6:30 p.m. when the Special Assignments Group [GBO] took into custody a 20-year-old man with the initials Q.B.d.P. on Kaminda Lac.)*

**June 20.** A young man, 16, with initials G.R.J.C. was arrested at an institute on Bulevar Gobernador Nicolaas De-brot.

**June 19.** In the evening KPCN detectives, together with the Special Assignments Group (GBO), conducted a search of a home in the Mexico district.

**June 19.** Around 5:30 p.m. a man, 21, with the initials H.M.N. was arrested at the airport.

**June 18.** A man, 19, with the initials G.R.O. was arrested at the police station. Searches were carried out in homes on Kaya Tonkawa and Kaya Shawnee.

**June 17.** Around 4 p.m. a young man, 15, with the initials J.J.W. was arrested at a home on Kaya Caribe. The home was searched and relevant items for the investigation were seized.

**June 12.** In the early evening, a man, 23, with the initials J.S.W. was arrested on Kaya Karpitan. The house was searched and several relevant items were seized. A car was also searched. A firearm was found in it. Both the firearm and the vehicle were seized and the suspect, a man, 26, with initials F.G.W. was arrested the following day, June 13, at the police station.

**June 10.** In the afternoon two arrests were made in the Santa Barbara district: a man, 18, with the initials C.C.C.D. and a man, 27, with the initials A.C.W. A house on Kaya Berilo and a house on Kaya Konfo were searched and several relevant items were seized.

## Arrests and searches in risk areas.

**June 20.** During the evening persons and vehicles were checked at various catering establishments. Small quantities of suspected narcotics, a knife and two scissors were seized.

**June 17.** The Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) carried out checks in the vicinity of Kaya Maria C. Hellmund-Boom in collaboration with various security partners from Aruba, Curaçao, plus KMar and JICN. (see photo below)

Around 5 p.m. two men, aged 21 and 18, refused to comply with the request to search their car and were arrested. The car was taken to the police station. In the evening, people were checked on the street, at catering establishments and in vehicles in Noord Saliña, Antriol, Amboina and Nikiboko. In Noord Saliña three men, two 18-year-olds with initials N.M.J.F. and Q.G.W. and a 62-year-old man with

initials G.R.S., were arrested on suspicion of violating the BES Opium Act. Suspected narcotics, cash, weapons and a car were seized.

## Arrests.

**June 22.** In connection with an ongoing investigation into a fight that took place on Kaya Bototé, near the Antonio Trinidad Stadium, a young man, 15, was arrested at the police station for public violence, assault, assault with the use of a weapon and theft with violence.

**June 20.** Around 11 p.m., a man, 32, was arrested at Hanchi Amboina for vandalizing a catering establishment.

## Property crimes

**June 21.** Around 11:25 a.m., a man, 62, was arrested at the Plantage Aruba when he was caught removing sodium plates from a kunuku.

**June 21.** A rear license plate B-6752 was stolen while the car was parked at Kaya Benz.

**June 20.** Unknown persons gained access through a window of a home on Kaya Nikiboko Zuid and took a drill.

**June 19.** At Playa Pal'i Mangel (Donkey's Beach) between 2:45 and 3 p.m. two bags with contents were stolen while the owners were snorkeling.

**June 18.** A white Nissan pick-up truck with license plate V-6604 and equipped with a wooden loading platform was stolen while parked in front of a house on Kaya Breda.

**June 18.** Among other things, a Samsung mobile phone and a black Storck Adrenaline 'mountain bike' were stolen from a home on Kaya Sabana.

**June 18.** Among other things, a Samsung Galaxy mobile phone was stolen from a home on Kaya Krabè.

**June 17.** A dark grey backpack with contents, including a black iPhone 14 was stolen from a vehicle parked at the diving location 'Alice in Wonderland.'

**June 16.** Various belongings including an Armani watch and Apple AirPods were stolen from a vehicle parked at the beach 'Sweet Dreams.'

**June 15.** Two Samsung Galaxy mobile phones were stolen from a vehicle parked at the dive site 'Andrea'.

**June 15.** Tail lights of three Toyota Hilux pick-ups were stolen from vehicles parked at different locations: Kaya Herman J. Pop, Kaya Raymonda (Maritsa) Juan Pedro and Kaya Elvira.

**June 14.** Goods and cash were stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked in front of a house on Kaya Ganimeses.

**June 14.** A crate of beer, a bottle of wine and a pack of cigarettes were stolen from a house on Kaya Den Stashie.

**June 12.** A white/orange/green Batavus bicycle was stolen from the balcony of a house on Kaya Nikiboko Noord.

**June 11.** Money was stolen from a rented pick-up truck while the occupants were taking photos at Altamira Unjo in Rincon.

**June 11.** Various tools were stolen from a home on Kaya Patachi.

**June 10.** A car window was forced and personal belongings taken from a car parked on Kaya Hermes.

**June 10.** A car door was forced and a bag containing a wallet with contents was stolen from a locked car parked on a property at a home on Kaya Hermes.

**June 7.** A blue Red-Line bicycle was stolen from a garden on Kaya Sorsaka.

## Driving under the influence

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

**From June 9 to 20** six drivers (including a scooter driver) were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Police patrols stopped four of the drivers when they saw them swerving dangerously across the road. One driver was in a single vehicle collision. One car was without working tail lights, another didn't have a rear license plate. Police confiscated five driver's licenses. One driver was fined because he was unable to show a valid driver's license.

## Traffic control

**June 22.** During a traffic control at the Rotonde Soerman di Roozendaal 20 vehicles were stopped and checked between 2:15 and 3 a.m. Two tickets were issued for driving without a license and driving without insurance. In addition, several drivers were addressed about the blinding lights of their vehicle, such as high beams and fog lights.

*The amount of a fine for traffic violations varies between \$30 and \$225.*

## Traffic accidents

**June 13.** Around 7:15 A.M. two vehicles collided on Kaya Breda. Since there were two minors in one of the vehicles, they were medically checked by ambulance staff.

**June 10.** Around 12:15 noon two vehicles collided on Kaya Piedra Presioso. Because the road was slippery due to the rain, one vehicle skidded and collided with the other vehicle. The fire brigade removed a driver trapped in the car and he was taken to the hospital by ambulance.

## Fire

**June 18.** Around 2:30 p.m. a fire was reported in a 'mondi' near Kaya Dradu and Kaminda Djabou. The bush contained bicycle parts and other items. The fire brigade managed to extinguish the fire before it spread to an adjacent home. No one was injured.



## Police carry out preventive actions with multiple arrests

The KPCN received support during the preventive action on Tuesday June 17 from the Aruba Police Force (KPA), the Curaçao Police Force (KPC), the Royal Marechaussee (KMar) and the Caribbean Netherlands Judicial Institution (JICN). KPCN expresses its gratitude for this intensive and effective collaboration.

The governor has, after consultation with the chief public prosecutor and the chief of

police, decided to once again designate several areas as safety risk areas. In the designated areas, the public prosecutor has the authority to conduct preventive frisking. Anyone in these areas can be frisked without suspicion. The designation is valid from June 13, 2025 to September 30, 2025. The safety risk areas are: • Part of Playa, • Part of Antriol Pabou, • Antriol Pariba, • Nikiboko, • Part of Nort Saliña, • Part of Tera Kòrà.

# Ask Bob

*Bonaire real estate advice*



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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**

Hi Bob,

I heard you offer property management services. What does this include, and how does it work?

Thanks, Liam

Hi Liam –

Great question!

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## March of Silence

On Thursday afternoon, June 19, many people—all dressed in white and many carrying signs—marched silently together to protest against the recent surge in violence on Bonaire. At the end of last year, Bonaire's first fatal shooting was big news. Never in recent history had anyone been killed here by firearm violence. This month three shootings took place in one weekend, one of them killing Clayshenou Domacassé, a 15 year-old boy.

One of the organizers, Davidlee Winklare, addressed the marchers before they set out, "With a heavy heart, I ask myself: where did it go wrong? Where have we failed as a community? Why so

much violence? Why can't we solve our problems like civilized people? These are the questions I ask myself... No more violence. No more pain. No more lost lives."

After Bonaire's anthem was played, the procession moved through the main street of Kralendijk and then along the seaside boulevard to Parke Isidel.

The organizers were gratified by the huge turnout. Michèle Knuf said, "We just wanted people to show up, and they did." Governor Soliano was among the marchers. He did not want to give a speech. He just wanted to be among the people who demonstrated. *DMR*

## Police swarm island

The Aruba Police Force (KPA) sent reinforcements to Bonaire, as did the Curaçao Police Force (KPC), the Royal Marechaussee (Kmar), and the Judicial Institution Caribbean Netherlands (JICN) following the fatal shooting of a 15 year-old by-stander at a public party place early Sunday morning, June 15.

Houses were searched, cars were stopped on the street, people were frisked without cause in the designated security risk areas. Twelve people were arrested, eight of the arrests directly related to the murder investigation. Firearms were confiscated from six of those jailed. A large contingent of police assured that good order was maintained at the funeral. *DMR*

Those arrested were: O.B.d.P., age 20; C.C.C.D., age 18; A.C.W., age 27; J.S.W., age 23; J.J.W., age 15; G.R.O., age 19; H.M.N., age 21; F.G.W., age 26; G.R.J., age 16; N.M.J.F., age 18; G.R.S., age 62; and Q.G.W. age 18.

# 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.

## Completing Acting Kingdom Representative Jan Helmond's Remembrance Ceremony Speech on May 4th 2025



photo is the date: 21 of January 1971. I am sitting on the left in a chair, on my right is my father sitting in a chair, the lady on my right is Janny van Eeden, her husband Roel van Eeden worked for Ogem, a company that later went bankrupt and "uncle Roel" had to work till his death in Netherlands because he had no retirement. The face of a man on my left with dark black hair I am afraid is Alfredo Flores who had bought the hotel and turned it into a prostitution zone. He brought in hookers from Colombia and Alfredo Flores was taken by the FBI and put in jail in Atlanta for drug trafficking. Alfredo Flores was also in the criminal group that bought Little Bonaire. I was a kid and I saw exactly who his friends were and who enriched themselves through this criminal here on the island. He is the one who brought the first drugs to the island.

In the office of the Divi Divi hotel are pictures on the wall of the wooden cottages in which the wives and children of the German men lived in the camp. You can ask to have a look at them. Bonaire has 26.552 inhabitants on first of January 2025. When I came to Bonaire in 1969 Bonaire had 7.000 inhabitants.

*Thérèse Rosier*

away. People also died in accidents because at night everything was dark so that the Nazi's could not see anything and so some boats bumped into each other and sank.

I came to Bonaire with my parents when I was 13 years old in August 1969. I have a pictures of the Camp. I send a picture of myself age 15 in front of the Barracks in which the Bar of the Zeebad Hotel was located. On the back of the

## STCB removes fishing line on Green turtle day

Sea Turtle Conservation held their monthly fishing line cleanup on Green Turtle Day, June 14 with 32 participants at the South Pier. The divers collected a full bucket of fishing line in just an hour dive along with other debris including sunglasses, plastic forks, cups, metal wire, a small fishing net, a battery and sunhat.

A few divers were treated to a green turtle swimming by to say thanks for the cleanup and even a couple of seahorses living among the debris.

Anyone interested in learning more about STCB can attend their presentation held every second Monday and fourth Wednesday of the month, 8 p.m. at their new location, Kaya Aruba 4E. The office is open Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. if you are interested in learning about volunteering or picking up some great STCB apparel or other goodies. The next cleanup will be announced at a later date. Visit Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire on Facebook.

Julie Morgan Story / Photo



## STCB's work recognized in Dutch press



Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB) made the news in the Dutch newspaper NRC. The article featured Field Coordinator Daan, interns Kiki and Sam, volunteer Nicole and Jolanda and board member Luc.

Kaj Schur said, "What an honor! An

essential part of endangered species conservation is simply to help people to understand the species and their importance, not only to their habitat, but to our lives as well. Articles like these help us to inspire people on our island abroad to care for Bonaire's nature."

If you would like to read the article go to: <https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2025/06/17/nest-voor-nest-waken-natuurbeschermers-op-het-strand-van-bonaire-over-het-voortbestaan-van-de-zeeschildpad-a4897244>



Eddie van Marum

### Van Marum to be our new State Secretary

Eddie van Marum (BoerBurgerBeweging / Farmer-Citizen Movement / BBB) will replace Zsolt Szabó as State Secretary for Kingdom Relations and Digitalization in the Schoof cabinet. As of July 2, 2024, when Van Marum served as State Secretary for Recovery Groningen in the Schoof cabinet he was responsible for addressing the aftermath of earthquakes induced by former gas extraction from the Groningen field.

Van Marum, 57, has a broad background. He has been a pest control expert, a milker/cattle caretaker, a meadow bird coordinator, and a funeral director. Likely he will contribute agricultural experience to Bonaire's efforts to grow more of its own food.

BZK Minister Judith Uitermark is handling the Kingdom Relations portfolio until van Marum's appointment becomes official. *DMR / Photo Martijn Beekman*

### BES utility companies strategize together

The utility companies from the BES islands gathered in mid-June for a series of meetings with the Netherlands Authority for Consumers and Markets (ACM). They primarily talked about regulation and tariff policies for the coming years. They also discussed the growing demand for energy and the necessary investments in infrastructure, the pressures accompanying the energy transition, and their concerns about the reduction of subsidies for consumers.

Representatives from Statia Utility Company N.V. (STUCO), Sint Eustatius; Saba Electric Company, Saba; Contour Global Bonaire (CGB); and Water-en-Energiebedrijf Bonaire (WEB) participated.

Those attending also formed a sense of solidarity and mutual interests. Joanne Nicastia, CFO of WEB., said, "We recognize the value of spending time together to strengthen relationships. By building on shared ideas and experiences, we are working towards a stronger foundation for lasting collaboration."

The utility companies reaffirmed their commitment to continue working together toward sustainable and resilient utility services for all communities in the BES islands. *DMR*

Trees and iguanas and blow holes to a run-down area with little grey shacks. He said I'm going to build the best dive operation in the Caribbean right here. I thought, well the rum has taken hold tonight. But he was a man of vision and huge dreams. In his mind's eye he knew what Habitat was going to be, what it was going to do, what it was going to become... And he did it.....

So now the shore is lined with facility after facility swinging on the coat tails of Captn Don Stewart .... many changes have come, some good some bad.

*Bill Lebarge (One of the first divers to join Don in Bonaire who visits most every year)*

"Through his vision and with the help of many others, Bonaire has served as a model of reef management, conservation, and sustainable development over time.

It is a well-known fact that Captain Don Stewart is the founder of the Dive Tourism Industry in Bonaire. He helped Bonaire emerge as a top-ranking scuba diving and snorkel destination that still continues to this day.

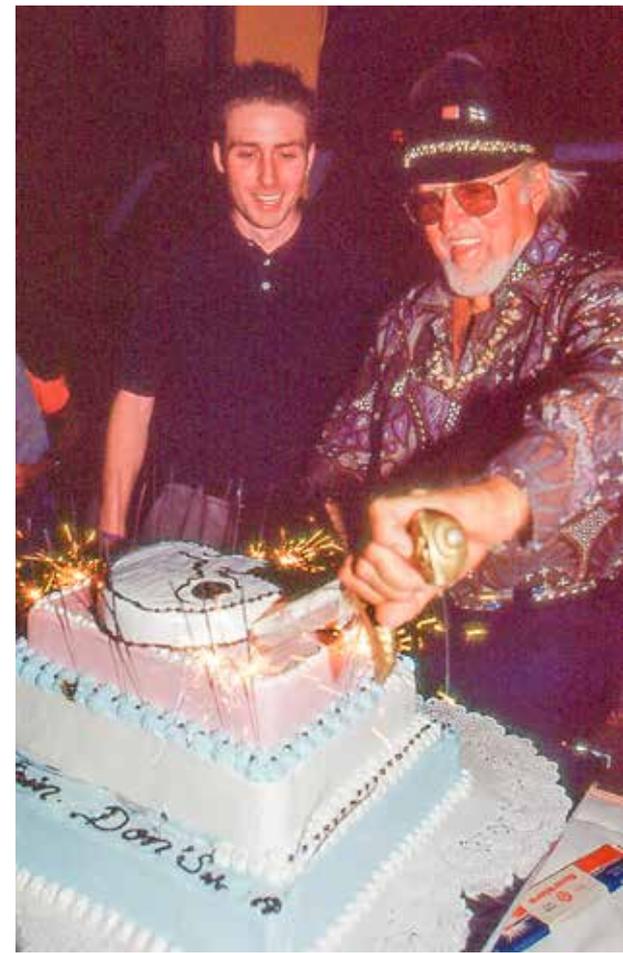
Bonaire to this day continues to benefit from Captain Don's vision that has now become his legacy. That is why I feel he merits; he most certainly deserves something permanent and visual on Bonaire. So ... I ask the question, "Why is there no street or road named for Captain Don? Why is he not remembered, honored, and treasured publicly by the island he loved so much?"

*Ralph Moogie Stewart (musician and Bonaire resident for 30 years who plays weekly at Habitat)*

From May to the end of July Captain Don's Habitat Resort is celebrating 100 Days of Captain Don in honor of Don's 100th birthday. Contact [www.HabitatBonaire.com](http://www.HabitatBonaire.com) and visit them on Facebook.

And in case you didn't know, the amazing Captain Don Stewart was an author. If you want to learn more about the Captain, his books are available at Vista Blue at Habitat.

*Julie Morgan*



Don cutting his birthday cake with Phillippe Couteau Jr at Bonaire Dive Festival *Photo Julie Morgan*



### Inspectors find violations at two supermarkets

Inspectors from the Supervision and Enforcement Directorate of the Public Entity Bonaire have found past-expiration-date food products on the shelves at one supermarket, and improperly labeled food products for sale at a second supermarket.

Expired food products cannot be legally sold, nor can improperly labeled produce. The law requires that all products must be labeled and cannot be relabeled. Labels must be clearly visible, easy to read, and indelible. Food products must be labeled in Dutch, Papiamentu, English, or Spanish. The inspectors confiscated the improperly labeled products. *DMR / Photo Julie Morgan*

## Piskabon marches for slipways

All boat owners and fishers who make daily use of slipways are fed up as there are no appropriate slipways, a situation that is dangerous for people, boats and trailers. After more than one month of

meetings and conversations with the OLB, no definitive answer has been received as to when the government will act.

In a meeting with all boat owners at



The site of the slipway at TeAmo Beach proposed by Piskabon Photo Julie Morgan

Piskabon on June 21, it was decided a manifestation was needed. On June 24 a parade of over 80 trucks, boat trailers and boats met at the Kralendijk stadium and traveled through town to TeAmo Beach. Surrounded by the parade participants at TeAmo, Piskabon president Ernest Martin Delanoy handed over a

petition with 400+ signatures demanding immediate action from the government to Deputy Acting Governor Ingrid Sealy and Deputy Angelica Cicilia.

The government has two days to respond.

*You can read the Piskabon letter to OLB on page 21 of The Reporter's online issue.*



## Pride Week 2025 well attended

**Did you feel the Love last week, June 15 - 22?** The third edition of Bonaire's Pride week was held spreading the theme of Love. Pride Week recognizes those people who identify as LGBTQ+ promoting acceptance, understanding, education and equal rights.

guest speakers Lt. Governor John Soliana and Arthur Sealy, historian, writer and advocate against discrimination of LGBTQ+ groups on the island.

On Monday, Empire Theatre, presented a special showing of the British romantic comedy movie Layla. Some 65 people attended to view the story of a non-binary British Palestinian drag queen who falls in love. Pride Week continued on June 19 with a return to Cuba Compagnie and a Pink Latin night with special guests Curaçao Drag Queens Evanita Cocktail and Ebony Noir.

On Friday, a fun pub quiz on LGBTQ+

On Bonaire, Pride Week is organized by the EQ Foundation of Bonaire, and for the last three years they have ensured the week is full of fun but also hits on the serious problems of the LGBTQ+ community.

Pride Week opened at Cuba Company with over 60 guests in attendance. EQ's Judith Brekelman led the evening introducing



history and trivia was held at Hillside Resort with quizmasters Jude Finies and Philip Bodifee. Twelve groups of two to six participants were put to the test on their knowledge. And the Queens dropped in for a short appearance providing more entertainment.

Saturday, June 21 offered a full schedule but the free windsurf clinic was cancelled due to weather. That left the serious symposium on No more masks, specifically about transgender. Participants offered beautiful personal stories and keynote speaker Raizha Jansen from Aruba told her own story.

In the evening everyone partied and danced until 1 a.m. at Tera Cora Ranch with return performances of the Queens and one King, Jamal le Coq. The final day and event on June 22 gave everyone a chance to wind down and chill after a busy week at Grand Windssock Ocean Club.

For more information about the EQ foundation, visit EQ Bonaire on Facebook or Instagram.

*Story / Photos Julie Morgan*



# International Yoga Day at Seru LARGU

Bonaire joined the world in recognizing International Yoga Day on June 21 by celebrating yoga at Seru LARGU. An earlier drenching rain over Bonaire threatened a possible cancellation but the event went on with 30 die hard yogis led by nine dedicated wellness practitioners.

Before the practice, attendees walked the short loop of Seru LARGU stopping several times for moments to connect to nature. The actual yoga practice was held atop the large cross that overlooks Bonaire.



This was the seventh year Kelly Livingston of Fit for Life has organized the event with other yoga professionals.

Kelly said, “Yoga teaches us that true health goes beyond just the body – it extends to the environment around us... This day reminds us to harmonize our energy with the rhythms of nature, embracing sustainable choices, eco-friendly habits, and a lifestyle that promotes balance for both ourselves and the Earth.”

International Yoga Day wellness studios involved: Joy of Being, Vibra, Zest for Life, Smiling Buddha Yoga Studio, Flowmingo, Body Fit, Thrive and Fit for Life.

*Photos/ Story Julie Morgan*

## Make Bonaire Accessible by Ria Dokter *Routine, a wonderful thing...or is it?*

In our family, routine is something we were all brought up with and it proved to be a wonderful thing. I love routines and always appreciated them a lot because routines succeed when others also rely on them. People come to depend on you because you are always there and always on time.

When you plan well, everything else falls into place. But when the routine is off, unforeseen things happen. And the later it gets, the more things start to go wrong. Or is that only the case when you get older?

Getting older is hard and sometimes not really very nice because often you cannot rely on your body anymore. This means sometimes that you have to change routines suddenly.

It always helps when you make a simple schedule and hang it where you can easily see it. If you always try to stick to that schedule as much as possible, then you will learn that you can make small changes easily if needed.

But often life throws in surprises. There is a lot of

rain falling but I had planned to be picked up to go to a birthday celebration. My clothes are all ready in the bathroom and I'm ready to take a quick shower, because you want to smell good on such an occasion. Suddenly the cats come into the bedroom and demand food. It is not their dinner time yet, but they need comfort now and they are a bit spoiled. I cannot sit on the porch to wait, because it is wet all over and the rain is still falling onto the table.

I am very happy I filled my tote bag with the presents and hung it on the rollator, so I cannot forget those. I switched on the lights, for when I get back later it will be dark.

In the meantime I have installed myself in the living room to do some work. But I hate being inside and the rain also stopped.... should I just go and sit on the porch again? Better not. Finish what I am working on and go outside later.

Calmer now I ponder, I looked very much forward to the birthday party and it is Lucille's birthday. She

used to be my helper and better yet, she was one of the first Bonairean athletes to compete in World Summer Games, when I had just started Special Olympics Bonaire. Lucille was always a good athlete, ready to represent Bonaire as a swimmer.

So today we will celebrate her 59th birthday and I hope there will be a lot of her friends. I had planned to buy some kind of gift with strawberries, because she loves those, but I could not find any.

The rain has stopped, my tote bag is packed, I'm wearing a beautiful dress and I'm ready to go and wish Lucille a very happy birthday. My routine is back to normal again.

Now go, and set up your own routine. It will work.



*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.*

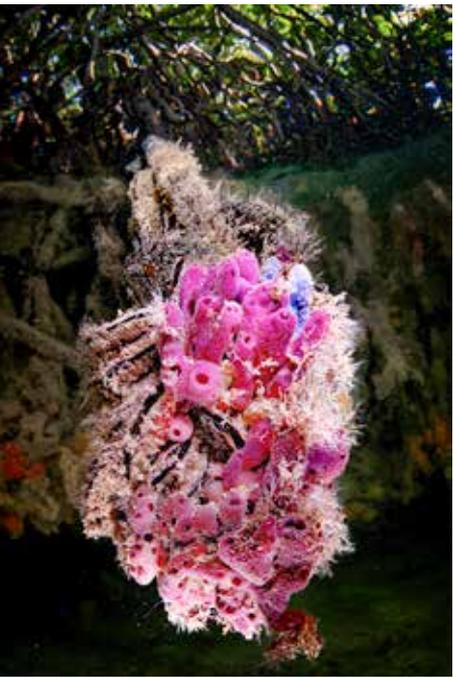
# A new book for your shelves. *Mysteries of Mangroves – Protectors of Blue Carbon*

A new book, *Mysteries of Mangroves – Protectors of Blue Carbon*, offers a fascinating look into one of Bonaire's most valuable yet overlooked ecosystems. Written in clear, accessible language and illustrated with over 100 original photographs taken entirely in Bonaire by professional photographer Lorenzo Mittiga, this publication reveals the extraordinary life hidden beneath the mangrove canopy.

The project began over four years ago for Elisabetta Maccari, diver and ocean lover, and Lorenzo Mittiga, marine biologist and photographer. While snorkeling in Lac Bay they encountered a group of nurse sharks resting beneath the mangrove roots. Surprised by the discovery, they immediately informed Elly Albers, owner of the Mangrove Center and founder of the Bonaire Wild Bird Rehab. That moment sparked a collaboration that grew into years of observation, photo documentation and research culminating in this book.



Gray snapper hunting silver fish. Photo Lorenzo Mittiga



Purple tubular sponges. Photo Lorenzo Mittiga

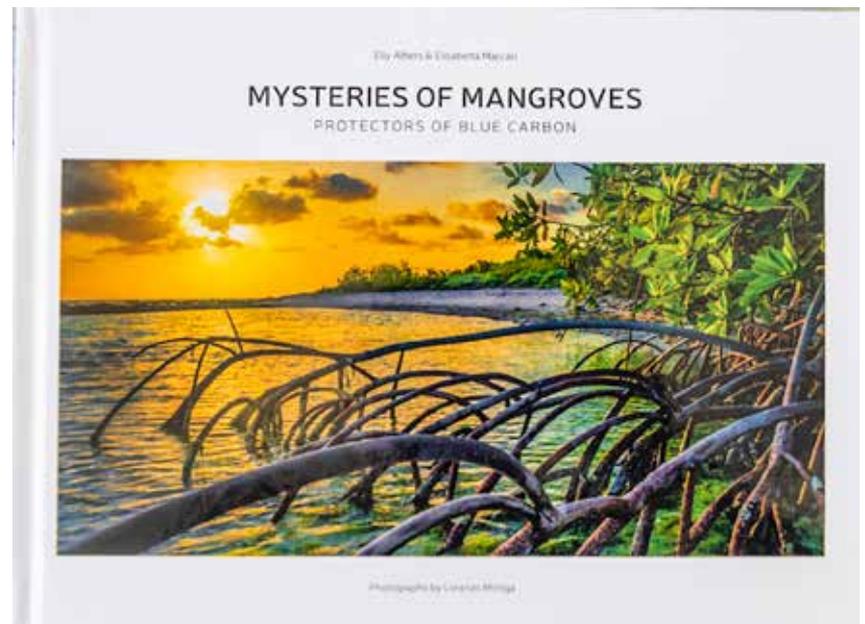
ing academic making it perfect for nature lovers, snorkelers, families, students, and anyone curious about the island's hidden life. Across 26 short chapters, the book explores how mangroves fight climate change through blue carbon storage, protect coastlines, and act as nurseries for reef fish. The images include everything from upside-down jellyfish and feather duster worms to rare fish, birds, algae, and even mangrove corals in their natural habitat.

*Mysteries of Mangroves* also highlights ongoing restoration efforts and cultural traditions tied to these forests, reminding us that mangroves are not only a haven for biodiversity, but also a vital ally in facing climate challenges. The book is already receiving positive feedback from early readers, many of whom say it has changed the way they view and value mangroves.

*Mysteries of Mangroves* is more than a book, it's a visual and educational journey that brings awareness to an ecosystem

that deserves protection. It is available for sale for \$30 at the Mangrove Center Bonaire, directly from Elisabetta Maccari and at select locations. For more

information, or to request a copy, please contact: [info@mangrovecenter.com](mailto:info@mangrovecenter.com) or [betta@web.de](mailto:betta@web.de)



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# Eric Riesch leads Marine Life Class at Buddy Dive

Diver's and snorkelers have been using New World Publications Fish ID books by Paul Humann and Ned Deloach since the early 90's as a kind of fish bible to identify all the critters seen underwater. And in those early years Bonaire was kind of hot spot for fish ID and that is still true today.

For 20+ years Ned and wife Anna, authors and photographers of the books, have visited Bonaire to not only dive, discover new fish and take images but teach a Marine Life Education class at Buddy Dive Resort. After



**Sailfin blennies do a little mating dance to court year round and can be found in the shallows.**

Photo Eric Riesch

Covid the couple turned over the class to Eric Riesch, underwater photographer and managing director of New World Publication.

On Sunday I sat in on Eric's last introductory presentation of the three classes he has led this month. Eric learned from the best, Ned, Anna and Paul and he is carrying on the tradition of how to look, find "stuff" and identify it.

Eric made three points to the crowd saying, "Dive slow, that's not only true to find the little stuff but it also applies to the big stuff. If you go slow, they don't know you're there. Be Observant and Curious and Seek Small. If you find one thing you might find something else right beside it. Big fish are great to see, but if you look small then you might find things you've never seen before."

Day one of Eric's class begins with a basic fish ID of the 20 most common fish on Bonaire's reefs followed by a dive with him to find the fish. Day two is another class with more fish to learn and then a boat dive. Day three is a trip to the mangrove for a snorkel and find some common fish and critters typically found there. Another boat dive on day four to find fish and on the final day a dive to find all different species including invertebrates.

If you are wondering what Eric's 20 most common species on Bonaire's reefs are. Here you go: queen angel, French angel, golden tail eel, green moray, chain moray, viper moray, spotted eel and garden eel. Then two fish Bonaire is famous for, the frogfish and seahorse. Other fish commonly found are the sailfin blenny, pike blenny, peacock flounder, yellowhead jawfish, trunkfish, red spotted hawkfish, orange spotted filefish, white spotted filefish, scrawled filefish and slender filefish.

Eric said, "Finding fish is great, but behavior is what gets most people into it. What is it and what's it doing?"



**Eric Riesch** Photo Julie Morgan

Fish creature behavior is what people get excited about and really enjoy."

The Reef Fish ID books began with Reef Fish of Florida and the Caribbean, and the fourth edition is double the size of the first one. There is also a Reef Creature, Reef Coral, Reef Behavior and books covering the Tropical Pacific, California to Alaska, Baja to Panama and the Galapagos. Every two years, Eric, Ned and Anna revise and reprint the books with new information, species and photos.

Many of the Caribbean based books are available at local dive shops. *Julie Morgan*

# Electric charging now at isidel Beach Park

With its newest addition of an electric car charging station, Isidel Beach Park just keeps getting better and better. Now you can plug into the charger, go for a dive or swim, have lunch or dinner and when you return your vehicle is ready to go with a full charge. And it is four times faster than a regular charger.

Installation of a double charging pole was initiated into service on June 19th in a ribbon cutting service with Antoin Klein of Tui, Urni Rosalia of Dynaf and Adely Jansen of Isidel Beach Park.

This is the third of the 10 promised charging stations by Tui and Dynaf. The first were put into service at Chogogo and they hope to install seven more by the end of the year.

Klein said, "Tui is not only known for flight travel but also on sustainability to make lives richer and investing in the future to make life on Bonaire better..."

The charging unit requires a token to activate the



**The first customers using the charger were Wil and Sue Heemskerk on their VW Bolt.**

**L-R Wil Heemskerk and Urni Rosalia.**

charge but from now to July 7, electric car owners can use the station for free. The user must register with Dynaf and get a QR code on their phone at [info@dynaf.com](mailto:info@dynaf.com).

If organizations or businesses are interested in providing a charging station for their customers or clients, please contact Dynaf or [antoin.klein.hofmeijer@tui.cu](mailto:antoin.klein.hofmeijer@tui.cu)

*Julie Morgan Story / Photos*

# Reef Glimpses by Dee Scarr

## Ya Gotta Be There, Ya Gotta Be Knowledgeable, and Ya Gotta Be Lucky



**Jolthead porgy captures lunch**  
Photos Julie Morgan



not fragile but sturdy -- teeth to be used with the similar teeth in the porgy's upper jaw to crunch crab shells.

And, just like a person using a nutcracker, the porgy sometimes needs to re-position the crab until it finds the best area to apply the force of its jaws and teeth. Having no hands to precisely po-

sition the crab, the porgy makes do with the random results from spitting (the crab out) and sucking (it back in).

And Julie got to see it and now we get to see her photos and the porgy got a meal. No downside except for the crab...

Green and chain morays, who have

shorter, thicker teeth than most other morays, also eat crabs, but their teeth pretty much prevent them from the spit and suck maneuver.

I've seen other fish use the spit and suck maneuver, though: blue tangs and surgeonfish spit and suck jellyfish and comb jellies. Back when we were feeding the fish, spitters and suckers included angelfish, filefish, trunkfish and cowfish. When the food was a whole fish, the spitters and suckers included groupers like coney and graysbys, and even the occasional Goliath grouper (if the food was big enough).

How can we see this behavior under natural conditions?

The most direct way is to wait for a bloom of jellyfish or comb jellies and watch the surgeonfish, blue tangs, and others who nibble on the jellies.

Otherwise, we just have to be in the water. We have to know what to recognize. And we have to be lucky.

Scarr's accomplishments were recognized in 2000 by her inaugural membership in the Women Divers Hall of Fame (along with another Bonaire sea protector, Kalli DeMeyer). Her other honors include Captain Don's Accolade Award, as well as a NOGI Award ("the Emmy of the diving world") in the category of Distinguished Service, and the SeaSpace/PADI Environmental Diver of the Year Award in 1991. Dee was the Beneath the Sea and Boston Sea Rovers Diver of the Year in 1991 and 1993.



## Fried tofu with chili-soy sauce and Caribbean sauerkraut

Chef Corjan Hoogerheide

### Chili-soy sauce. Mix well:

1/2 dl (1.69 oz) sweet chili sauce • 1/2 dl (1.69 oz) soy sauce • 1 tablespoon sesame oil • 1/4 lemon zest

### Caribbean Sauerkraut:

150 g (3/4 C) fresh sauerkraut • 1 dl (1/2 C) wine (white zinfandel), or sweet white wine • Piece of red chili pepper, finely chopped • Piece of fresh ginger root, finely chopped • 50 g (1/4 C) spring onion, finely sliced • 1 clove garlic, finely chopped.  
**Plus:** Mango balls or cubes • Cucumber balls or cubes • Sea bananas (banana di ref)

Cook sauerkraut with all the flavors, season with Bonaire sea salt, freshly ground pepper and add mango, cucumber and sea bananas.



### Tofu:

150 g (5.29 oz) tofu, cut into nice cubes. Deep fry these and season them with the Chili-soy sauce and serve them on the Caribbean sauerkraut, possibly garnish with fried onions or sesame seeds and some more sauce in a bowl.

Each issue Chef Corjan Hoogerheide shares the recipe for a personal dish created from Bonaire's fresh ingredients. Corjan is currently working as a Sous Chef at "The Reef Bar" at Sorobon luxury beach resort Bonaire.



# Indebon holds second Olimpiada Grandinana

Some 250 over 60+ Bonaireans participated in the second ever Olimpiada pa Grandiana (elderly Olympics) on June 14 at the Sports Center. Six groups of smiling, colorfully clad elders represented five barrios and one wellness center competing in seven games from 8 a.m. – to 5 p.m. A large number of younger volunteers were on hand to assist with the games.

Each group was recognized by the color of shirt they wore: Tera Kora - dark green; Nikiboko – light green; Antriol – yellow; Nort’ Salina – pink; Rincon – red and Akseso – blue.

The Olympics began with a breakfast at 8 a.m. followed by four fun and challenging games in the Sports Hall: domino relay, darts, memory game and Bolas. Lunch was served and the games began again with round ball, a large ball game and a running relay. Points were tallied for each game.

The energy and competition of each group was fierce especially in the round ball game where each member of the different teams had to throw a box of balls into a corn hole type board.

After a snack everyone adjourned for the award ceremony in which each participant received a medal awarded by Bonaire’s three executive council deputies: Nina den Heyer, Angelica Cicilia and Clark Abraham and FWNB’s Anne-Marie Mercera. The top three winning groups received a trophy. First place went to Antriol with 31 points, second was Nikiboko with 30 points and Nord’ Salina with 28.

The Olimpiada was dedicated to Tera Kora’s Alexan-



Tera Kora participants playing the round ball game Photo Julie Morgan

der Trinidad for his influence and training his barrios’ members every Tuesday prior to the event.

provided musical entertainment.

Representatives from Aruba and Curaçao joined the Olimpiada to witness the event and plan to bring groups for the 2026 Olimpiada in Bonaire. The Foyan Boys

Olimpiada Grandinana was sponsored by OLB (Public entity Bonaire), Indebon, and FWNB (Fundashon Wegu Number Bonaire).

Julie Morgan



Antriol team receives first place Photo Julie Morgan

The first edition of the writing competition, Kuentaso, proved that Bonaire is bursting with (new) writing talent. The competition focuses on developing stories in Papiamentu for children, and aims to discover, guide and strengthen local storytellers.

A jury selected three strong finalists from the entries: Sharlon Willems, Caroline Celestijn and Cristely Cranston. They received guidance, coaching and workshops for a month. Their aim - to write a unique, adventure story for children between the ages of 6 and 10 in Papiamentu.

After careful consideration, the jury chose Sharlon Willems as the winner. His story stood out because of its imaginative world, compelling structure and strong cultural anchoring. But Caroline Celestijn and Cristely Cranston also made a deep impression. The jury and organization see them as two powerful, new voices in children's literature.

Sharlon Willems now has the opportunity to develop his story into a children's book, in collaboration with editor Delno Tromp, author of, among others, *E kabritu ku djenti'i oro*. The book will be published in October 2025 and distributed as a gift to primary schools on Bo-

naire during Children's Book Week.

The jury consisted of: Jakeema Hernandez – Project leader Biblioteka Publiko Bonaire; Sharité Severina – Policy advisor Education Public Body Bonaire (OLB); Miss Gitta Timp – Teacher; Chafina Bendahman – Founder Publisher Rose Stories; and • Robin Amatmoe-star – Project leader Kuentaso

#### About Kuentaso

Kuentaso was set up as a platform for the discovery, guidance and growth of writing talent on Bonaire. The project offers participants the opportunity to find and make their voice heard in the literary world – with special attention to stories in Papiamentu and the rich cultural context of the island.

The writing competition is an initiative of Stichting Lezen en Schrijven Bonaire, Biblioteka Publiko Bonaire, Letterenfonds, Akademia Papiamentu, Openbaar Lichaam Bonaire (OLB) and Rose Stories.

#### Contact information

For more information about Kuentaso: write to [schrijfwedstrijd@rosetories.nl](mailto:schrijfwedstrijd@rosetories.nl) or visit [www.rosetories.nl/spotlight/nieuws/kuentaso/](http://www.rosetories.nl/spotlight/nieuws/kuentaso/)



### Tec diving offered at VIP

VIP Diving held a grand opening of their latest addition to their business, a Technical Diving school. Tec Instructor Kevin O'Brien proudly explained the new addition has the best filling/blending room for custom gases on the island, CCR and Open Circuit and large individual lockers made for tech gear. They offer a five-day PADI program for entry level up to Tri-mix instructor.

(L-R – Jan van Nieuwamerongen, Maarten van den Hazel, Kevin O'Brien and Jonathan Oosterhof) Photo Julie Morgan

## A Garden? Just Do It!

### *Things to do just before the summer holiday* by Angliet, Nature Lover

Many of us will soon be heading off Island, some for a short time, others for months, and there is a lot of preparation to get ready.

- Did you pay all your bills before leaving? Don't let your gardener find out one day that WEB blocks the excess to water and electricity.

- Clean the yard and the garden. Don't leave open containers, cans, tires, pots, trays around, as anything with standing water is a breeding ground for Dengue mosquitos.

- Also, it's hurricane season so don't leave things in the yard and or on the porch that can be blown around by strong winds leading to dangerous situations and damage.

- Remove dead leaves and heaps of cut grass, trimmed trees and rotten fruit because they are the perfect habitat for rats, mice and bugs.

- Block water pipes in the (kitchen, bathroom, toilet) because if a pipe is damaged during your absence, the water could run into your house. You can also block the main water access on the street so no water will run at all.

- Make sure the garden hose connections to pipes are not leaking.

- Prevent your yard and house well from unwanted visitors.

- Unplug all electricity connections and turn off the gas bottle.

- Before leaving take a last walk through your house and yard with a check list to make sure you have left your place in a good and safe condition.

- If possible lock the gate and always leave house and gate keys house with a trusted person or caretaker.

- Make sure your pets are in good hands.

- Ask your neighbors to look over the fence regularly even if you have a caretaker.

- Explain clearly to your caretaker which plants need extra attention: more or less water, shade if the sun is



too strong for them and what to do with dropped fruits or vegetables that are ready to use.

- Make sure the irrigation system works well and that there is a light on in or around the house at night.

Being well repaired is well done.

We have had some good showers lately, short but heavy ones. This type of shower is best for the garden and plants as they totally penetrate the soil. The plants can feed themselves every time with this healthy liquid and the soil remains moist for awhile. I always have buckets around the house to catch as much rain as possible. Within two days I empty the buckets to prevent the mosquitos from breeding. Even when there is a lot

of rain I still water the plants. I have noticed that even when the top soil is moist, the soil underneath is very dry. By pouring more water on the plants the deep roots can get water. It's extra work but the results are great with your garden becoming green and lush for awhile.

When traveling I'm always aware of the gardens. Lately I was in Medellin, Colombia and it's really awesome green. Being aware of sustainable urban agriculture is important.

The climate there makes things grow easily, but it's up to the people to make urban agriculture work and become an important place in the society. And they do.

There are also many ideas of recycling and re•use. One day I saw a man picking mangos with a self made fruit catcher made of a one liter soda bottle cut in two parts. The end of a long stick was pushed into the small opening of the bottle and the bigger opening was cut like crocodile tooth. The mango hooks in between the tooth, the stem breaks and the mango falls into the bottle. What a smart creative idea. I'm going to make a fruit catcher too just like that one. You too can make one for yourself or as a gift for friends or neighbors, and even take them to the market to share with others. It's a small thing to do but it gives you a big happy smile.

Wishing you a great relaxed summer holiday with a lot of fun and laughter.



*Angliet grew up in the Surinam jungle, moved to the Netherlands as a teen, and trained as a teacher; then in Alternative Healing. Everywhere she has lived, she has planted a garden and grown her own food.*

# 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. 715 5344. Anyone can become a member. Free for residents 0 to 18 years. Adults \$10 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. ):** Kaya Gilberto F Croes, just past Caribbean Laundry. Saturdays 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/>

**SACA Art Center** Free entrance. Kaya Korona 74. During the day the garden is open to the public. **STINAPA headquarters:** Mon-Fri 8-4. +599 717 8444. After hours: +599 777 8444.

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

Saturday, June 28	<p><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. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/mangazinaairei/">https://www.facebook.com/mangazinaairei/</a></p> <p><b>Jam for a Cause – A Night of Music and Giving</b> Jam sessions from 5 p.m., BBQ. from 6 p.m. Dancing from 7 p.m. Donations to Animal Shelter Bonaire, FKPD and Music 4 All. At Valhall Kaya Princes Marie 8. see page 17.</p> <p><b>Classical music in a holiday atmosphere</b> Protestant church Wilhelminaplein 6 - 7 p.m. \$ 20, available Delmar Book Store and Lisa Convenience Store. See page 17</p>
Sunday, June 29	<p><b>KLM Nature Walk &amp; Hike</b> \$15. 5 km Hilltop to Karpata. or 7 km. Hilltop to Bopec See page 17</p> <p>Last day to Register for Pickleball Tournament. See below</p>
Tuesday, July 1	<p><b>Commemoration of the Abolition of Slavery. "Ban Selebra Libertat" – "Let us celebrate freedom."</b> Wilhelmina park 5 - 9 p.m. See page 17.</p>
Sunday, July 6	<p><b>Remax Paradise Homes Pickleball Tournament</b> Important: Registration closes June 29. Contact: Paulo +599 700 0958   Henk +599 780 8540 See page 17</p>
Sunday, August 17	<p><b>Animal Shelter Market</b> Reserve your stall now. See page 19</p>

# Events, Meetings, Sports

**12 steps meeting:** Wednesdays at Kaya Cacique, Centro di bario Nort 'i Saliña, Meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. Info: [12stepsbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:12stepsbonaire@gmail.com)

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

**Beach Tennis Bonaire** Free. Everyone welcome. Sportpark Rudy Boezem. Open 7 a.m.-9 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/beachtennisbonaire/>

**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>

**Consultancy open to all immigrants and/or refugees** every Saturday 4 to 6 p.m. at Bijkerk's law office in Antriol. Call 796 2650 (abog. Bijkerk) or 787 2373 (FUIB - Union of Bonairean Immigrants).

**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.

**Fish ID course. Free.** 7 p.m. at Trans World Radio (TWR) led by Carmen Toanchina. All welcome. Held last Tuesday of the month. Check: <https://www.reef.org/events/month>

**JEU De BOULES CLUB Bonaire.** ALL WELCOME to this very social sport. We play **PETANQUE** (the French version). Wed. & Sun. 2.30-6 p.m. Happy's Food & Drinks (road to Sorobon). We have spare boules (balls) for newcomers. [jeudeboulebonaire@gmail.com](mailto:jeudeboulebonaire@gmail.com) or Peter Overman, 00599 7964037

**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 Lac, Blue Building:** Tues. & Thurs 6-8 p.m. Sat. 3 to 5 p.m. • **Sports Hall Jorge Nicolaas, Kaya Amsterdam:** Sun. 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Members play free, non-members pay \$ 5.00 per person per day.

**Rosicrucian Order, AMORC in Bonaire** Contact Michiel Bijkerk, tel: 796 2650, e-mail: abogado.bijkerk@gmail.com

**Sunfish Race Days:** Barring inclement weather: June 15. Visit BSSA Bonaire Sailing School Association on Facebook.

**Tennis** Eddie's courts. Everyone (18+) is welcome to join. Register with the association: email [info@bonairetennisassociation.com](mailto:info@bonairetennisassociation.com) or app with 599 782 4569. <https://bonairetennisassociation.com/events/> Free Kid's Clinics 8-12 for beginners.

 **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.** June 30 - Beyond the Corals at Bloozz Resort; July 7 - 4 Wheel Diving - Hato. July 14 - Divi Resort Pure Ocean Garden; July 21 - Divi Resort Pure Ocean Garden **Tuesday July 22nd** - Toucan Diving at Plaza Resort Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. Email: [nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org](mailto:nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org) ; [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CaribbeanIslandsMantaConservation)

 **Reef Renewal Bonaire.** Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Open to everyone. Learn about coral reef restoration on Bonaire. Come to an informative presentation on restoring Bonaire's coral reefs. Questions? email: [info@reefrenwalbonaire.org](mailto:info@reefrenwalbonaire.org)

 **Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire (STCB).** Free presentations at Kaya Aruba 4E on 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, 8 p.m. See facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles/> **2025 sea turtle nesting season** May to December. Join a nest monitoring patrol on Klein Bonaire. M, W or F. \$40 donation for adults and \$20 for children under 12 (and residents). <https://www.bonaireturtles.org/wp/nest-monitoring-patrols/>

**Sobremesa Kas di Arte** View or buy art from Bonaire's local artists. Tue-Fri 2 - 5 p.m. Sat 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Abraham Boulevard 10. **For those who love to make art themselves:**

- Every Sat 11 - 2. Open Art Studio. \$5 to use our space and materials but no guidance. 12+
- Every Wed 7 - 9 p.m. Art Club. \$20 for all materials and professional help is available! Work on your own art project (2D). 16+ Whatsapp +599 700 7115 • email: [sobremesabonaire@gmail.com](mailto:sobremesabonaire@gmail.com)

## You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	<p><b>One Hour Cleanup Power.</b> Weekly coastal clean up every Sat. 9 – 10 a.m. Location on FB: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/">https://www.facebook.com/OneHourCleanUpPower/</a></p>
Sunday, July 13	<p><b>Clean Coast Bonaire.</b> 4-6 p.m. Boka Onima. Donate your time. Work as a citizen scientist to collect marine litter &amp; data. <a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire">https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=clean%20coast%20bonaire</a></p>
Saturday, July 26	<p><b>Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends.</b> Check in: 9:30 a.m. Location: South Pier, Dive Inn. Dive Briefing starts 10am. Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. Waiver: <a href="https://waiver.smartwaiver.com/e/eVX96Y4gHrKLTfNqbeWCY/">https://waiver.smartwaiver.com/e/eVX96Y4gHrKLTfNqbeWCY/</a> <a href="https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/">https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/</a></p>

## SEE, FEEL & TASTE THE CULTURE OF BONAIRE

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**Cultural Event** **NOS Zjilea**  
It doesn't get more local than this!

*Theme of the month*  
**"Awa ku broma no sa yobe"**  
*Rain which bluffs does not fall*




**FOOD CORNER**  
Panfelize Catering  
Cindy's Kitchen  
Naida's Kitchen  
MK Soup Corner

**Musical Band**  
#Hashtag Band

**Free Entrance**

**Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at our cultural park on the east side road of the valley of Rincon



# KLM Nature Walk

Date: Sunday, June 29, 2025  
 Start Time: 6:30 a.m. (both routes)  
 Starting Point: Hilltop

Tickets are available for \$15 at Zorg & Welzijn (ZW-Groep) Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 Tickets are also available online.

T-Shirt Pick-Up: June 26–27, 2025 from 3 – 6 p.m. at the ZW-Groep.

### Contact Persons:

Mo-shainy Iltes — Tel: +599 701 5787  
 Laurettie Sint Jago — Tel: +599 701 5769

Don't miss it! The second edition of the Next Step KLM Walk Bonaire promises another unforgettable day of fitness, fun, and natural beauty!

### Two Beautiful Route Options:

#### Route 1 – 5 KM (Hilltop to Karpta):

Perfect for families and casual walkers. Enjoy peaceful trails surrounded by lush vegetation, native plants, and scenic inland views. Along the way, you might spot colorful birds, iguanas, and other local wildlife.

#### Route 2 – 7 KM (Hilltop to Bopec):

A great choice for active hikers. This trail offers rugged paths, coastal views, cactus landscapes, and serene natural beauty that highlights the island's unique environment.



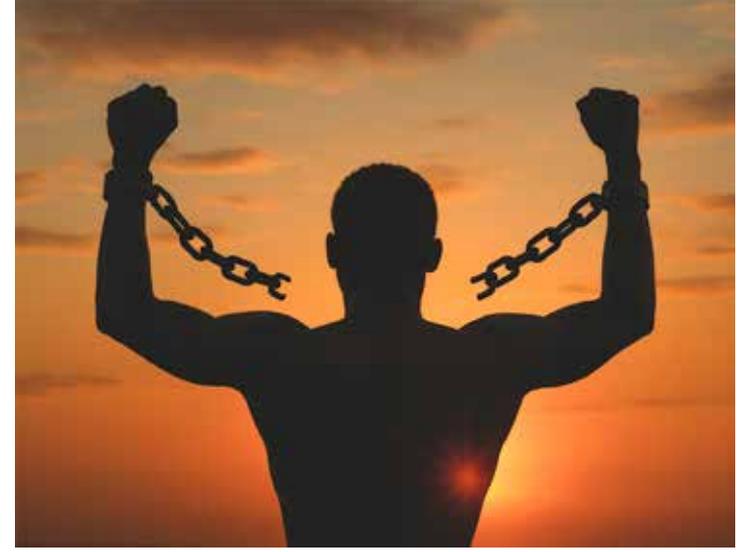
**JULY 6th | SPORHAL**  
**STARTING AT 8 AM**  
**ENTRY FEE: \$15**



With a program provided by Bonaire's own artists, the Classical Music Board Bonaire is organizing a varied musical hour in a holiday atmosphere on Saturday, June 28.

Henk Roozendaal is playing on harmonica, Alex Jeffe on classical guitar, Tiger Frans on saxophone and Rignald Kastaneer on acoustic guitar. Also we can enjoy Floran Damen and Claudia Cassier playing the piano, and other artists. A special music hour in the Protestant church at the Wilhelminaplein from 6 to 7 p.m.

Tickets \$ 20, available at Delmar Book Store and Lisa Convenience Store.



## Commemoration and celebration of the abolition of slavery on July 1

Join us at a special commemoration and celebration of the abolition of slavery at Wilhelminaplein on Tuesday, July 1. The powerful theme of this evening is: "Ban Selebra Libertat – Let us celebrate freedom." Freedom is not something we can take for granted, but the result of struggle, perseverance and sacrifices of people who came before us. That is why it is important to reflect together on the abolition of slavery.

### What is on the program

The celebration will take place between 5 and 9 p.m. so that workers and students can also participate. The program consists of:

- An official welcome with speeches and a wreath laying
- A festive cultural program with music, dance and presentations

Commemorate and connect together. During the evening, we not only reflect on the past, but also on connection, expression and community spirit. We

celebrate who we are and what we have achieved together.

The entire month of July is dedicated to freedom. Various activities are organized in the run-up to July 1, but also afterwards. These are carried out by various organizations within the Bonairean community. The aim of these activities is to stimulate awareness, education and celebration of freedom.

A separate calendar with the full program of the Month of Freedom will be published soon.

The evening is organized by the Working Group Emancipation Day / Commemoration of the Abolition of Slavery, in close cooperation with the Commemoration Committee for the Slavery Past and the NGO platform,

Your presence makes the difference!

Yoga International Press Release



The RCN SW unit offers a school item allowance. You may be eligible with a joint income per month up to \$2,509.64 net - depending on your number of children. Applications can be submitted during extra consultation hours at the office of SW in Playa. For more information, visit [www.rijksdienstcn.com](http://www.rijksdienstcn.com) Or call 715 8851.

## 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: M. W. F. Sat-7 p.m. Sun-9 a.m./7 p.m.
- **Parish Luis Beltran (RINCON):** Holy Masses: Tu. W.Th. 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 in English.

### United Protestant Congregation

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

2025 Cruise Ship Schedule			
DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Wed. June 25	0700-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Sun. June 29	0500-1600	SEVEN SEAS MARINER 730 guests	North
Thurs. July 3	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
Wed. July 9	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Tues. July 15	0800-1600	CARNIVAL VISTA 4683 guests	South
Wed. July 16	0900-2200	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION 6630 guests	South
Thurs. July 17	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
July 23	0630-1500	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. July 31	0700-1800	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS 2417 guests	North
Wed. August 6	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South

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**BONAIRE**  
tandprothetische praktijk




# Pets of the Week

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

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

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



## Tango

### Meet Tango.

Tango is a beautiful orange boy, 11 months old with golden brown eyes and a pink nose.

Tango was brought to us when he was just 2 months old after some people found him all alone on the street. In the beginning he was very afraid, and did not want to be touched. But with a lot of love and patience, he is now a very sweet and affectionate boy. He still does not really like to be picked up, but he loves pets and scratches on his head. Tango is very good with other cats and loves to play. Will you give Tango the home he deserves?

Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt

### Meet Nemo.

Nemo is a cheerful, enthusiastic and grateful dog, around four and half years old. His story began with a mystery as he was literally pulled out of the sea! Someone found him swimming in the water and brought him to the Shelter. That's also how he got his name, because just like the little fish, this Nemo came straight from the ocean.

He's been safe with us ever since, but he's been waiting nearly three years for his forever home. Nemo is always happy to see you, loves attention and cuddles and brightens everyone's day with his joyful energy.

He deserves a home where he can stay forever, with someone who appreciates his happy energy and gives him the love he's been waiting for all this time.

Story / Photo: Marissa Lamers



## Nemo

## Vote for Bonaire and its dive operators in the 2026 Scuba Diving Readers' Choice Awards

Voting is open now through June 30th, 2025

Voting is now open for Scuba Diving magazine's 2026 Readers' Choice Awards—and it is your chance to help shine a spotlight on Bonaire as one of the world's top dive destinations! Bonaire along with a number of on-island dive operators and accommodations have been nominated in various categories.

Support the island by voting for Bonaire in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean categories. Different dive operators and accommodations on the island also have been nominated in the Dive Operators, Dive Resorts, and Favorite Family-Friendly Dive Experience categories.

### Dive Operators category:

Buddy Dive Bonaire • Carib Inn Dive • Dive Center Scuba Do at Chogogo Dive & Beach Resort Bonaire • Dive Friends Bonaire • Divi Dive Bonaire • Great Adventure at Harbour Village • Scuba Elite Bonaire • Toucan Divers at Plaza Beach Resort Bonaire • VIP Diving Bonaire • Wannadive Bonaire at Eden Beach Resort

### Dive Resorts category:

Buddy Dive Resort • Carib Inn Bonaire • Chogogo Dive & Beach Resort Bonaire • Delfins Beach Resort • Divi Flamingo Beach & Dive Resort Bonaire • Grand Windsock Bonaire • Corallium Hotel & Villas Bon-aire • Harbour Village Bonaire • Plaza Beach Resort Bonaire

### Favorite Family-Friendly Dive Experience category:

Buddy Rangers, Buddy Dive Resort Bonaire

Here is the link to vote:

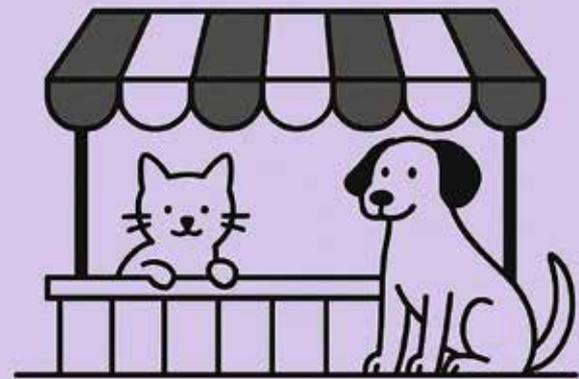
[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RCA2026?global\\_uid=%5bglobal\\_uid\\_value](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RCA2026?global_uid=%5bglobal_uid_value)

Important Voting Guidelines: Only one vote per visitor is allowed. Stuffed ballots will not be counted and could lead to disqualification from future surveys. We ask that you encourage authentic participation only, ballot stuffing not only risks removal, but also undermines the integrity of the awards and the value of being selected by real diver feedback.

Voting ends on June 30th, 2025. The results will be published in the Scuba Diving magazine's annual Readers' Choice Awards issue in November and online at [www.scubadiving.com](http://www.scubadiving.com). TCB news release.

# SAVE THE DATE

AUGUST 17 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM



## MARKET AT ANIMAL SHELTER BONAIRE

RENT A BOOTH – ALL RENTAL FEES GO DIRECTLY TO ANIMAL SHELTER BONARE

Optional: donate a portion of your sales to further support the shelter

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 | 9:00 AM–3:00M  
KAMINDA LAGUN 26A

\*Limited spaces available!

## WORLD OCEAN MONTH - [Protecting our Oceans](#)

Over three decades, endurance swimmer Lewis Pugh pioneered swims in every one of the world's oceans, across the North Pole, in Antarctica, and across a glacial lake on Mt Everest. With each expedition, Lewis saw new evidence of destruction from industrial overfishing, unchecked pollution, and a warming climate.

In 2016, the Lewis Pugh Foundation (LPF) was created to ensure environmental justice for our oceans through the creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). To date, LPF has been instrumental in the protection of 3.5 million km<sup>2</sup> of ocean.

Their site offers both information and free teaching resources:  
<https://lewispughfoundation.org>



## Tales of Angliet - book two is out

Nature lover and Bonaire Reporter columnist Angliet Baidjoe has published *The Story of Tree Kumba*, the second in her series of story books set in Bonaire. Four of her tales have been made into little 10-20-minute cartoons in four languages. Originally shown in the Netherlands, they can still be seen on YouTube. *Kaki the Cactus* can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81QplKWXFu0>

Like the cartoons, Angliet wanted the books to be in four languages so every child could not only read the stories in their own language of Papiamentu, Dutch, English or Spanish but learn others. The production and publishing of Angliet's books are financed by the Nederlands letterenfonds (Dutch Foundation for Literature). The books will be distributed to every school and Bonaire's Public Library. A few books are available for sale at Bruna.



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To: The Public Entity Bonaire  
Attn. Governor J. Soliano  
Kralendijk, June 24, 2025

Subject: Urgency of a properly functioning slipway  
at Te Amo Beach

Dear Governor J. Soliano,

With this letter, the Slipway Commission would like to draw your attention to an urgent and important bottleneck that has a major impact on the users of the slipways on Bonaire, including fishermen, emergency services and other stakeholders.

The lack of a properly functioning slipway seriously hampers the daily activities of fishermen, who depend on direct and safe access to the sea. A reliable slipway is also essential for emergency services - such as the Coast Guard, KPCN, KMAR, Customs and rescue teams - to be able to respond quickly and adequately in emergency situations. In addition, recreational users and tourist providers are also affected by the current poor situation.

The construction and maintenance of a properly functioning slipway will not only improve safety and efficiency, but will also contribute to the economic and social development of Bonaire. It is therefore crucial that decisive action is taken in the short term to structurally solve this problem.

After several letters and contact moments with deputy Mr. Cicilia and employees of the After several letters and contact moments with deputy mr. Cicilia and employees of the Spatial Planning and Development department, we note with disappointment that to date - more than a month later - no concrete answer has been received from the OLB about when the work for a full-fledged slipway can start. This makes the situation untenable.

During the meeting with boat owners on Saturday 21 June, it was unanimously decided that Te Amo Beach is the most suitable location for the construction of a central slipway. All those present, as can be seen from the attached attendance list, agreed to this. At the same time, boat owners from Rincon request that parallel

attention be paid to Playa Frans. These two locations are therefore the highest priority for the boat owners involved.

The Commission urgently requests you to treat this matter with the highest priority and to present a plan of action in the very short term that will lead to a sustainable solution. The necessary nature permits have been available since 2023. We request that you respond to this letter within two working days with a response that includes specific steps and timelines. We are of course prepared to provide further explanation or enter into consultation where necessary.

Thank you in advance for your attention and commitment to this urgent matter. We look forward to your response with interest.

Sincerely,  
On behalf of the Slipways Committee  
B. Leijnse, C. de Jong, L. Frans, R. de Jongh, S. Salas, T. Römer, W. Rudolf