



# BONAIRE The REPORTER

March 25 to April 8, 2026. Year 33, Issue 6

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## Exploring WSNP's Put Bronswinkel and Pos Mangel



Malin Kaijser looks out over Salina di Slagbaai from the watch tower  
Photo Julie Morgan

We have all heard the famous line "Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink" from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's 1798 poem *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. And on Bonaire that is especially true especially if you are visiting Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP).

There is only one place where fresh water can be found naturally year-round in the 5,643 ha (13,944 ac) WSNP and that is Put Bronswinkel. The freshwater spring is named after Mr. Bronswinkel who lived there many years ago. The Put is a large well with a low brick wall at the spring. If you look closely at the back, you can see it hidden behind the growth.

Prehistoric Amerindians lived in the area tending the fruit trees. Local Bonaireans called it Pos Blanda or Burning Pool because it is near Mount Brandaris or Burning Mountain.

Following the Pre-Columbian period there was a large plantation where people lived and worked from the 18th – 20th c. At that time, there was a large 200 m x 200 m (656 ft x 656 ft) garden with fruit and palm trees, papaya, pumpkin, guava, mispel, cucumber, beans and watermelon. The produce was sold and shipped to Curaçao by the brothers Herrera, owners of the plantation. In later years, people from Rincon and Nort' Salina would visit the spring daily to fill up barrels of water for personal use.

The pool itself is covered in algae and there are no fish, but it is home to a number of water insects, tiny daphnids (water fleas) and copepods (crustaceans) which the birds feed.

The true appeal of Put Bronswinkel today is the number of birds attracted to the spring. As Malin Kaijser and I walked the path to the spring we could feel a sort of reverence and calming almost urging us to be quiet. As we stood silently watching we noticed a Crested Cara Cara (Warawara) perched in a tree directly above the pool and a small Tropical Mockingbird (Chuchubi) on a branch close to the water. Other birds you might see are the Yellow Oriole, Yellow shouldered Amazon (Lora), Brown-throated Parakeet, Yellow Warbler, Pearly eyed Thrasher, Scaly-naped Pigeon, Common Ground dove, Black faced Grassquit, White tipped Dove and Bananaquit.

On the path, just before the spring, a small gate opens onto a short trail to a type of picnic area. Here we saw another Cara Cara walking along the ground. At the end of the trail a kind of rock altar stands with a small sign that reads "Feel the sound of nature".

Another site for bird watching is Pos Mangel. On our visit the spring seemed to be nothing more than a mud hole, although there was a goat there trying to satisfy his thirst. STINAPA Head Ranger George "Kultura" Thode told us that when the spring is excavated a small amount, within 15 minutes the water begins to flow. At one time the area was visited for water by as many as 50 people

from Nort' Salina, Montak and Boca Bartol. They would live there for a short time growing and harvesting aloe along with charcoal from trees, white lime from the coral and goats were caught and exported to Curaçao. At that time there was too much food for the mere 5000 people on Bonaire, so it was sold.

The people would eat the iguanas, fish and harvest the goat. Every part of the goat was put to use: they would kill the goat, slit its throat to drain the blood to eat the Sanger Yorki and remove and eat all the organs. The meat itself was salted, boiled and hung to dry in the sun for a year.

A new site for birdwatchers or photographers is the watch tower that overlooks the Salina di Slagbaai. It was built in three days in 2015 by the Dutch Army. The view is amazing looking out on the salina. Off to the left there is what looks like a little island, but it is actually man-made. In the past it was used as a type of relay station for the salt to be shipped out at Slagbaai by ships. Today many flamingos build their nests there.

According to the Avibase, there are over 166 bird species recorded in WSNP and over 210 for all of Bonaire and six are globally threatened.

Washington Slagbaai National Park is open Tuesday – Sunday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information visit [www.stinapa.org](http://www.stinapa.org)

Story / Photos Julie Morgan  
ref: *Field Guide National Park Washington Slagbaai 1982*,  
WSNP George "Kultura" Thode, WSNP



A view of Put Bronswinkel's year-round spring Photo Julie Morgan

**William A. Cecilia, former Island Registrar (Griffier) of the Island Council of the Public Entity Bonaire**

## ENCAPSULATING THE NEWS

Several recent public declarations made regarding island politics

In an open letter addressed to Jan Helmond, acting Kingdom Representative for BES Islands, dated March 19, Willem A. Cecilia issued “an extremely urgent and serious cry for help regarding the current administrative crisis on Bonaire.” He said, “It has now become painfully clear that the current Executive Council is dysfunctional.”

Cecilia cited the continuing inability of the Executive Council to manage and report its finances. He added a further accusation: that even though the new Deputy for Finance, Anthony Weber, is capable, his efforts to bring order to the OLB’s financial reporting are being actively sabotaged by members of the Executive board.

Cecilia urged Helmond to intervene directly in the dysfunctional Executive Council and to mediate the formation of a stable and decisive coalition. He also encouraged the members of the Island Council to work together to create a new coalition themselves.

The full text of Cecilia’s letter appears on Opinions page 5.

**Jan Helmond, acting Kingdom Representative for BES Islands since 2021**

Helmond, who has spent a year trying to work with the Executive Council to fulfill an administrative agreement intended to tackle the critical problems at the Selibon Lagun landfill, announced that the agreement has now expired and produced zero results. He said the Executive Council did perform ‘the bare minimum’ required to avoid a “neglect of duty” ruling. (That included submitting a last-minute ‘Selibon Lagun improvement plan’ at the end of January.) Therefore the government has to deem the year-long administrative agreement fulfilled.

Helmond acknowledged that leaks of toxic substances continue, that waste is not always stored according to the rules, and that the landfill continues to be a health hazard because of smoke and pollution, especially to its neighbors. It seems “inexplicable” to him that there is no legal basis for continuing the work or to replace him with a commissioner with more powers. (Source, *Bonaire.nu*)

## Dutch Cabinet Members

Members of the Cabinet have declared they still have faith in “the good will” of the Executive Council. State Secretaries Annet Bertram (Infrastructure and Water Management) and Eric van der Burg (Kingdom Relations) therefore propose to enter into a new administrative agreement for tackling the waste crisis on Bonaire, one that would commit the Executive Council to a “programmatically approach.” The House has been promised further information regarding the approach no later than the third quarter of 2026. Apparently the residents of the Lagun area, who have been hoping for an immediate closure of the landfill, are going to continue breathing landfill smoke for another six months before the government announces another administrative agreement.

## National Ombudsman Reinier van Zutphen

Thanks to National Ombudsman Reinier van Zutphen, the government of the Netherlands has obliged itself to act in the Lagun Landfill issue in only two weeks rather than six months. Van Zutphen declared the continued waste dumping at Lagun on Bonaire is untenable and that intervention is necessary. He says “I want to emphasize once again that the dumping of waste must be stopped immediately. The administrative agreements that have now been made are unacceptable. They are insufficient to provide effective and sustainable protection for the citizens.”

His declaration received sufficient support during a vote in the House to make it a mandatory act of governance. Within two weeks the ministries have to adopt the Ombudsman’s recommendations, to the extent factually and legally possible, and to inform the House they have done so.

## OLB press release

The Executive Council announced in a press release in February that it had spent three days putting out underground fires at the Lagun Landfill. It also says it regularly inspects the landfill, is monitoring the situation, and is continuing to work with Selibon and the consulting firm Afvalzorg to try to find a structural approach to dealing with the underground fires. *DMR*

## Curoil Bonaire declares fuel terminal renovations completed



Curoil Bonaire announced that 90% of the renovation work on the fuel installations at Hato and the airport would be finished by March 20, leaving mostly testing and certification to be completed before the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate’s April 1 compliance deadline.

The aging storage facilities at the airport and at Hato belong to the government-owned company Oil Trading Bonaire (OTB). Initially an intention to construct a completely new airport fuel terminal was announced, and between 2021 and 2024 the ILT granted a series of temporary nuisance permits that allowed both terminals to keep operating despite misgivings about their safety.

The new terminal was going to be financed and built by the central government-owned Bonaire Bon Transition (BBT). But disagreements and delays blocked progress until the central government and the Public Entity of Bonaire (OLB) jointly agreed that a new fuel terminal could not be built at the Airport before the temporary permits expired. The Executive Council declared it would instead repair the old tanks despite the misgivings of the ILT. But that project never got off the ground either. Eventually the Executive Council decided that if Curoil Bonaire needed safe fuel storage tanks, it should do the work itself. Curoil states that it has invested more six million dollars in the Hato facilities alone in less than a year.

*DMR (Story first appeared in BES-Reporter.com)*

**Island news ...to page 8**

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**Welcome to the Bonaire Reporter's April Fools Day Edition**  
 If you see the fool at the end of a story you've been fooled.  
 The laughs on us!

# Cleaning Today, Protecting Tomorrow

Brian Coffey first came to Bonaire as a visitor. Like many others, he arrived to explore the famous waters of the Marine Park. What he did not expect was how deeply the island would stay with him. Not only because of its nature, but because of the people who care for it.

Brian and his family quickly realized that Bonaire's strength lies in its culture of engagement. A community where volunteers play a central role in protecting both land and sea. It was a culture they wanted to be part of.

Brian now volunteers with Clean Coast Bonaire, an organization focused on beach cleanups that support scientific research. During each cleanup, volunteers not only remove trash from the shoreline, but also record and categorize the waste. This data helps scientists better understand pollution sources and patterns affecting the island.

For Brian, the impact is felt on different levels. There is the immediate result of a cleaner beach, and the longer view, where collected data helps build knowledge over time.

Beyond the cleanups, Brian is also involved in other restoration efforts on the island. He supports reforestation



[naturalesabonaire.com](https://naturalesabonaire.com)
NTBDN
@NaturalesaBonaire

on Klein Bonaire, helps with mangrove channel restoration in Lac Bay, and contributes to trail-building projects with community groups. Work that takes patience, consistency, and time before results become visible.

Brian has visited many islands in the Caribbean, but Bonaire stands out. Not just for its commitment to nature, but for

its people. He believes that without volunteers, many preservation efforts simply would not succeed.

His message is inclusive. Whether you are Bonairean, a resident, or a visitor, there is a place for you to help protect the island. Sometimes it starts with a trash bag. Sometimes with time spent outdoors. All of it matters.

*Nos ta biba di naturalesa.*



- **Location : Lagoen Area**
- **Lot size : 352 m2 / 3788 sq. ft. owned land**
- **Building year : 2025**
- **2 bedrooms / 1 bathroom / laundry room**
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# POLICE REPORT

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

## Property crimes

**Mar. 19.** 2:10 p.m. A man, 28, was arrested at the police station for a theft that took place on October 8, 2025, at a kunuku in Nieuw Amsterdam.

## Arrests

**Mar. 17.** 10 a.m. Police arrested a minor suspect, a young woman at the police station for vandalism. The Caribbean Netherlands Police Force has filed a report of vandalism and has joined the criminal proceedings as an injured party.

**Mar. 17.** KPCN detectives searched a residence on Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt in connection with an investigation into fraud. Two persons have been arrested, a man, 44, and a woman, 18, items relevant to the investigation have been seized.

**Mar. 16.** 9:05 p.m. the police arrested a man, 24, was arrested at a residence in Amboina for assault.

**Mar. 15.** 1:45 p.m. A man, 20, was arrested at the police station for threats and assault.

**Mar. 13.** 10:50 p.m. A man, 31, was arrested on Kaya Embira for assault and threats.

**Mar. 13.** During the evening police conducted a targeted check in connection with possible violations of the Opium Act near a catering establishment on Kaya Monseigneur Nieuwindt. During a patrol, officers had noticed a strong odor of suspected narcotics at the scene. A small quantity of suspected narcotics and a grinder were seized.

## Traffic accidents

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

**Mar. 17.** 5:15 p.m. Two cars collided on Kaya Korona. One of the drivers complained of pain and was taken to the hospital by ambulance for a check-up. The other driver received a fine for driving without valid insurance.

**Mar. 16.** 11:30 a.m. A car rolled over on its side on Kaminda Lac when the driver lost control in a bend. The driver managed to exit the vehicle independently and indicated that he did not require medical assistance.

**Mar. 15.** 5 a.m. A minivan rolled over on its side on Kaya Internashonal when the driver lost control and crashed into a lamppost.

**Mar. 13.** 4:30 p.m. A pickup truck and a scooter collided on Kaya Nikiboko Zuid. The scooter, which was riding on the bicycle path, collided with the pickup truck as it turned to enter a parking lot. Ambulance personnel provided medical treatment to the scooter driver at the scene. The driver of the pickup truck received a fine for driving without a license and without valid insurance. The driver of the scooter received a fine for driving without a valid license.

**Mar. 13.** 7:40 a.m. A car and a motocross bike collided near Kaya Gavilan. The driver of the motocross bike wanted to overtake the car at the moment it turned. The driver of the car was very shaken by the collision, and an ambulance was requested for a medical check-up. The driver of the motocross bike did not require medical assistance but did receive a fine for driving without valid insurance.

**Mar. 12.** 1:05 p.m. A person fell off a scooter and was injured. The scooter, which was riding on the bicycle path, collided with the rear of the car as it turned right to enter a parking space. The ambulance transported the scooter driver to the hospital. The driver of the car received a fine for driving without a license

**Mar. 10.** 8 a.m. At the intersection of Kaya Nikiboko Zuid and Kaya Lisboa a fatbike collided with a car as the car turned to enter Kaya Lisboa. The driver of the fatbike, a minor, was injured and taken to the hospital by ambulance.

## Driving under the influence

*Drivers who register a positive result on a breath test given at their vehicles are arrested and taken to the police station for a breath analysis. Drivers are legally required to submit to a breath test when requested to do so by a police officer.*

**From Mar. 14 to Mar. 20.** Police reported that seven drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

The drivers were tested after: colliding with another car 1x; being stopped for a defective tail light 1x; being stopped for a false license plate 1x; driving into the bushes 1x; driving dangerously 3x. Two driver's licenses were confiscated and driving bans from one- to six-hours were given. Two drivers were driving without a valid driver's license, one with no insurance and two with a false license plate.

**Mar. 20.** 1:55 a.m. A man, 46, was arrested on Kaya J.N.E. Craane. The arrest took place after the police observed a buggy with five people driving on Kaya Grandi, with one of the individuals sitting on the roof of the vehicle. The police pursued the vehicle but were unable to reach it immediately due to other traffic, and the officers saw the person on the roof of the buggy fall onto the road. The police found that the driver of the buggy was under the influence of alcohol, arrested him and confiscated his driver's license.

## Traffic, Parking and Speed Control

*The speed limit is 40 km/h in built-up areas and 60 km/h outside.*

**From Mar. 14 to Mar. 20.** Police conducted traffic controls on Kaya Internashonal, Kaya Amsterdam, Kaya Korona, and Kaminda Tras di Montaña. Police checked 60 vehicles (including scooters and mopeds) and issued 23 fines and two warnings. Violations included driving without valid insurance and/or a license; driving without a front license plate or with a false plate; driving without a seatbelt and holding a phone while driving.

On Kaminda Tras di Montaña one fine was also issued for driving at 90 km/h, while the limit is 60 km/h.

**Mar. 9.** 10 a.m. Police seized the motorcycle of a driver who was fined for the third time for driving without a license.

*The fine for traffic violations ranges from \$30 to \$225.*

## Fire

**Mar. 10.** 3:10 p.m. Smoke was reported in the Punta Blanku area. The smoke was coming from a factory, originating from an electrical installation. A cable between the solar panels and the batteries had caught fire. The power supply was switched off, after which the fire was extinguished.

## Public order

**Mar. 17.** 5:40 pm. A scooter driven by a minor was seized after a brief police chase that ended when the scooter driver fell in a bend on Kaya Erebatu. As a minor he could not hold a driver's license. He was also fined because he had no insurance documents and was driving with a false license plate.

**Mar. 15.** 3:20 a.m. Police filled an official report on a catering establishment in the city center area that was still serving meals to customers in violation of the BES Alcohol and Catering Act.

**The weekend of Mar. 13 – Mar. 16.** The police have received complaints of groups of minors on electric bicycles (fat bikes) driving at excessive speed, causing collisions and running away, driving against the direction of traffic, and through groups of people. Groups also ride in the middle of the road without lights and perform dangerous stunts on public roads. Following reports of disruptive behavior, the police spoke to several young people on fat bikes. Four fat bikes were also seized for further investigation.

**Mar. 13.** Police seized a motorcycle that was causing a noise disturbance in the vicinity of Kaya Grandi. When police arrived at the scene, the driver ignored a police stop sign and drove on. The short chase ended at Kaya Tintorero in Antriol. The driver received multiple fines for not wearing a helmet, and not producing a valid driver's license or proof of insurance.

## Police continue to issue fines for driving without valid license plates

The police have observed a remarkably large number of vehicles on public roads that do not meet the legal requirements for license plates. Cars are driving around with only one attached license plate or with forged plates. The Caribbean Netherlands Police Force (KPCN) emphasizes that legally a vehicle must be equipped with two valid license plates that are clearly visible. Additionally, it is prohibited to obstruct the view of the license plate, for example by using plastic covers that are too dark or by placing the plate behind a tinted window.

Officers fined 180 drivers for driving without a license plate, driving with invalid/falsified plates, or the absence of a plate on the front or rear. In addition police: issued 33 warnings for poorly visible plates or other reasons for non-compliance; seized 24 forged license plates and seized four vehicles seized due to the absence of original, valid plates or other legal violations.

In accordance with the Bonaire Road Traffic Ordinance 2019 (Article 97, paragraph 1), all motor vehicles including golf carts, with the exception of scooters, mopeds, and motorcycles, must be equipped with two valid and clearly visible license plates. One on the front and one on the rear. The exception also applies to quads and vehicles with Z-number plates.

*KPCN release*

# Ask Bob

Bonaire real estate advice



Hi Bob,  
I am thinking about buying/taking over an up and running company on Bonaire or is it better to start my own new business?

Regards, Paul

Hi Paul,

The main advantage of buying an existing business is that everything is already up-and-running. You have a bank account, licenses, maybe a good location, and already customers. This means you can start working and earning money directly, without needing to build everything from scratch.

Especially on a small island like Bonaire, this can be very helpful because getting permits and building a reputation can take time.

Another advantage can be when the business also owns the property where the business is conducted. If you take over the company (shares), you usually do not pay the 5% transfer tax on the property, because you are buying the company that owns the real estate, not the property itself.

The disadvantage is that you can also inherit situations from the past. For example, debts, taxes, or other obligations of the company. Sometimes these are not immediately visible.

So, buying an existing business can be easier and faster, but you need to be careful and do your own due diligence.

This is not legal advice, and everyone's situation is different, so we always recommend consulting your accountant and lawyer anytime you are buying an existing business or starting a new one.

With kind regards, Bob

**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

## The "Invisible" Speed Bump

The Public Entity Bonaire (OLB) has reportedly installed the island's first "psychological speed bumps" on the road near Mikey's; they are painted in 4D hyper-realism to look like deep potholes, causing drivers to brake instinctively despite the road being perfectly flat



# Letters & Opinions

The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the authors and forum participants do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of The Bonaire Reporter.

## OPEN LETTER TO THE KINGDOM REPRESENTATIVE (first reported in Bonaire.nu)

To: the Kingdom Representative for the Public Entities of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba  
T.A.V. by heer J. Helmond  
Subject: Urgent call for intervention on the dysfunction of local government and the sabotage of Mr Weber  
Date: 19 March 2026

Dear Kingdom Representative,  
Through this open letter, I address you with an extremely urgent and serious cry for help regarding the current administrative crisis on Bonaire. The situation within the local government has reached a low point that can no longer be ignored, and the consequences of this pose a direct and serious threat to the well-being of the Bonairean people and the future of our island.

It has now become painfully clear that the current Executive Council is dysfunctional. Recent reports and press releases from the Board of Financial Supervision (Cft) paint a disconcerting picture of the financial and administrative state of the Public Entity Bonaire (OLB). The Cft concludes that the quality, reliability and verifiability of the financial information provided by the OLB is severely substandard, making adequate supervision impossible.

1. There are unexplained deficits, budget overruns that are corrected afterwards in violation of the budget right of the Island Council, and a lack of control over government entities

2. This mismanagement puts the implementation of crucial projects, financed by special grants, in great jeopardy.

What makes this situation even more poignant, however, is the position of Deputy Anthony Weber, who recently took on the Finance portfolio. Initially, there was noticeable progress and clear agreements were made with the Cft to improve financial management.

Until April 3 you can drop off a firearm with the police and walk away with no legal consequences whatsoever.

- You do not need to give your name or address.
- You do not need to show proof of your identity.
- No information about you will be registered.
- You do not have to explain how you obtained the firearm.
- No legal action will be taken against you.

The Safe Surrender campaign kicked off on Monday, March 23. Its sole objective is to help assure we are all safe from firearms that should not exist on the island. This campaign provides people an easy and risk-free opportunity to carry out a good citizenship decision.

After the April 3 deadline expires, the KPCN and the Public Prosecution Service will resume strict enforcement of the laws against illegal firearm possession.

### How to surrender a gun

**Place:** Take the weapon to the old VKB barracks at Boulevard Gobernador N. Debrot. The VKB barracks are beside the Chen Lee Restaurant which is #42 on Gob.n.Debrot.

**Time:** Daily from 2 p.m. to 8p.m. until the program expires on Friday, April 3.

However, after only a few weeks, the Cft now has to conclude that Deputy Weber cannot comply with these agreements. The reason for this is as shocking as it is unacceptable: his own colleagues within the executive council decide differently and thus actively sabotage the course of events.

Reliable sources and recent media reports show that Deputy Weber, despite his efforts to improve the financial situation and meet the requirements of the Cft, is systematically thwarted. There is a strong indication that this obstruction was deliberately orchestrated to portray him in a negative light and make his functioning impossible.

These political games and personal feuds within the Executive Council are unacceptable. While administrators work against each other and agreements have been made with deliberately torpedo regulators, it is the people of Bonaire who pay the heavy price. The quality of financial management has deteriorated drastically, and trust in local government has fallen to zero. The Cft has openly expressed its lack of confidence in the level and quality of the financial management of the OLB. This is a damning judgment that requires immediate action.

Dear Kingdom Representative, enough is enough. The interests of Bonaire and its inhabitants must come first again. We can no longer stand idly by while our island is succumbing to administrative incompetence and political sabotage.

I therefore urge you to intervene immediately. Your intervention is necessary to prevent further damage to Bonaire. Specifically, I ask you to:

1. To intervene directly in the dysfunctional Executive Council to put an end to the sabotage of Deputy Weber and to ensure that the financial management is put in order in accordance with the instructions of the Cft.
2. To initiate a meeting with all political parties on Bonaire. It is crucial that under your leadership and me-

diation a stable and decisive coalition is finally formed, which will protect the general interest of Bonaire and is able to defuse the current crisis.

The people of Bonaire count on your responsibility and decisiveness as a representative of the national government. Don't let our island slide any further. Intervene before the damage is irreparable.

We would like to emphasize that your intervention would no longer be necessary if the council members finally realize the seriousness of the situation. Especially in light of the current unstable geopolitical relations, in which the position of small islands such as Bonaire is extra vulnerable, a special responsibility rests on the shoulders of every representative.

We therefore urge them to take action on their own initiative and without further delay, to put an end to this unacceptable situation and to finally put the interests of the Bonairean people above party political interests.

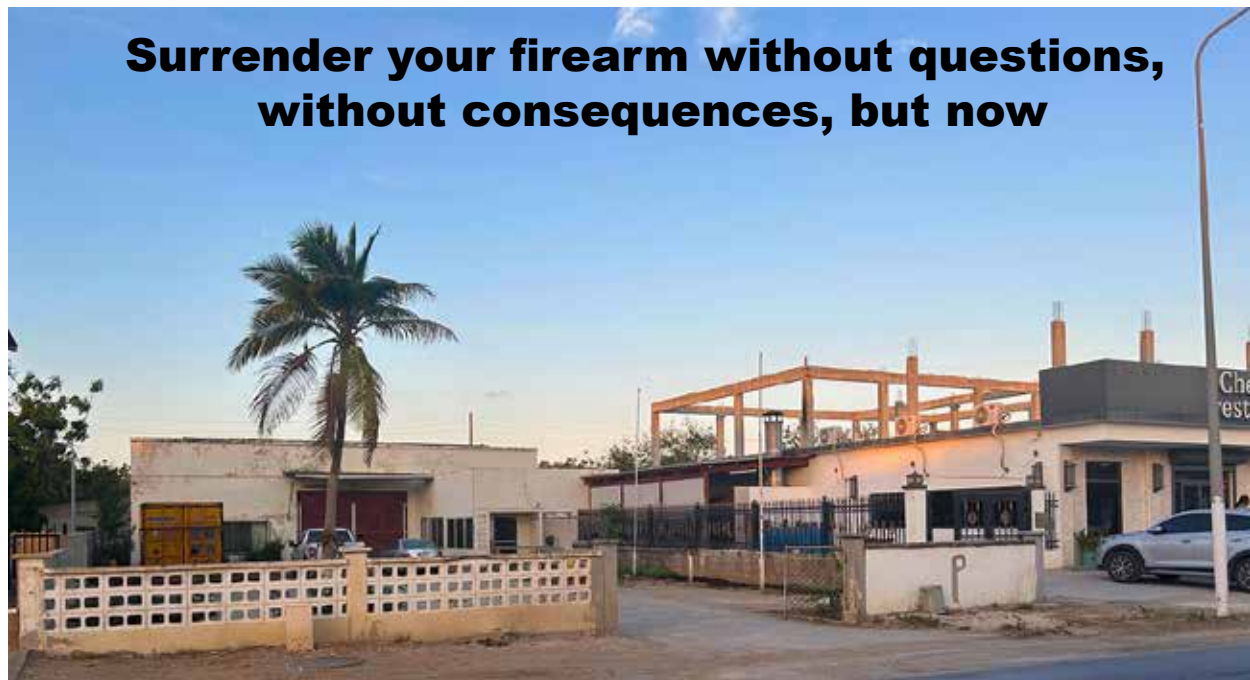
Yours sincerely,  
Willem A. Cecilia  
Seriously concerned citizen of Bonaire

## THE CENTRAL POINT OF THE SANTA CLARA LAND ISSUE

Dear Editor

Sorry I am late on the review of the newest issue but I would be remiss if I didn't point out that I think you have reported the Santa Clara issue incorrectly. I think the issue is the Executive Council voted to buy Abraham property at \$50,000 over listing price when it was not necessary for the government to buy it and the proper procedure would have been to have the whole Island Council approve the sale.

Thanks and best,  
Charles M. Baltayan



### Surrender Instructions:

- Make sure the firearm is unloaded.
- If you are surrendering ammunition, keep it separate from the weapon.
- Transport the firearm in a sturdy bag, sack, or box so other people cannot see it.
- Take the gun directly to the drop-off location without making unnecessary stops.

- Do not handle the firearm in public.
- Follow the exact instructions of the officers present.

The police will transport the firearm safely for you if you want. Call 715 8000 and ask for your local community officer. They will make an appointment to come collect the firearm from you.

DMR, Photo via KPCN

# Canarbo and Funchi - a perfect match

Everyone knows that Canarbo Epicurean Market is the perfect gourmet shop and purveyor on Bonaire for specialized imported food products from Canada, Europe, USA and the Caribbean. Owners Brian Battah and Indira Charles search the planet to offer the best sustainable quality foods for Canarbo. Little did they know they would find a product made right here on Bonaire that would meet their criteria for excellence.

Gielmon "Funchi" Egbreghts' smoked fish is just that product and he has produced this specialty on Bonaire off and on since the late 90's. At one time the smoked fish was in such demand, that it was flown regularly to be sold in the hotels, resorts and restaurants of St. Maartin, Curaçao and Aruba.

This local product made by a local guy is taking flight again and is only available through Canarbo.

Although Funchi was born in Rotterdam, Netherlands, his heart and soul are pure Bonairean. His grandfather was a descendant of freed slaves on Bonaire. After the abolition of slavery, the government gave the freed slaves lease land close to the plantation they were enslaved. In 1938, his grandfather bought the once leased property of his ancestors in Washikemba. This freed slave family was finally working for themselves at their own kunuku and land. During the week, they would work at their kunuku growing vegetables, maize, fruits and tend their 500 goats, 600 sheep and 27 working donkeys. On the weekend his grandparents would head to town to sell their products. Funchi's dad grew up on that kunuku and later traveled the world as a machinist, maintaining and operating the engines on cargo ships.



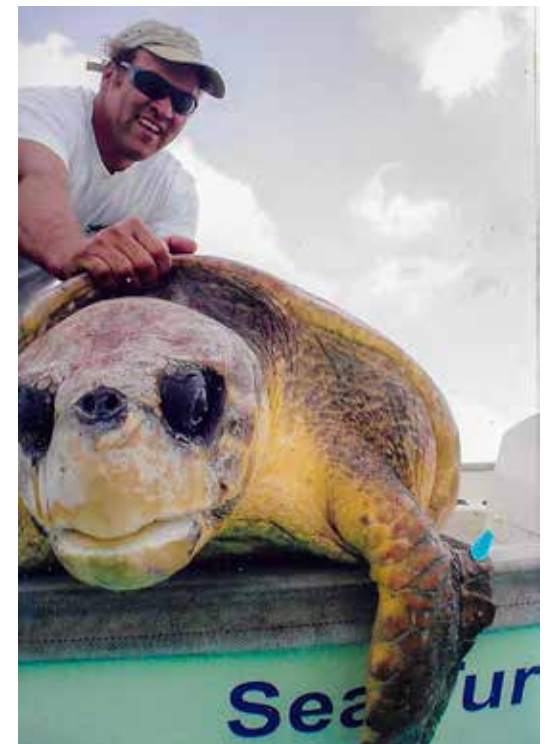
Funchi with the coral rock and stone oven used today.

Photo Julie Morgan

to swim and fish when he liked. Funchi learned to take photos, develop and then sell them to guests at Captain Don's Habitat. He was certified to dive at Sand Dollar Dive & Photo by Andre Nahr and then did his divemaster training at Divi Flamingo Resort where he worked till 1996 under Peter Hughes.

Around the same time, he met Peter Bartuzuk, a sailor from the Isle of Man who would change the course of Funchi's life by teaching him to smoke fish. Together they started a fish company called Sorpresio (surprise). They used the longline fishing technique which resulted in a lot of bycatch that included blue marlin, wahoo and swordfish which they smoked. Their first smoker / oven was made of steel air conditioning piping salvaged from the landfill. The oven fire burned red mangrove driftwood eaten up with termites collected from Lagoon, wood which Funchi admits was probably illegal.

After a few years, Peter moved on and Ann Joseph, a diver Funchi had met while working at Divi, became his partner and Bonaire Smoked Specialties was born. Two new ovens were built, and are still in use today; one made of coral rock for fish and one of lava rock for meat with the fire fueled by mesquite. The business continued until 2010 when Ann decided to retire.



This loggerhead turtle was the biggest turtle Funchi ever caught for tagging when he worked for STCB Funchi Photo Archives

Canarbo & Funchi, to page 23



Funchi and Peter Bartuzuk and the first smoker  
Funchi Photo Archives

"While in harbour in Holland, my dad met my mother. They had eight children together. And in 1959, the whole family came to Bonaire," said Funchi, "We returned to Holland in the 70's, but in 1981, I came back to Bonaire. I was 21 and I could not get Bonaire out of my head. My best time in Holland was when I was asleep, and I would dream of Bonaire. The worst time was when I was awake."

Funchi's mother told him when you make some money with your own job, then you can go back to Bonaire. He flew from Amsterdam to New York, Miami, Curaçao and then Bonaire. Funchi lived with his aunt on the kunuku in Washikemba growing vegetables and fruit. A job was promised to work at Bopec unloading cargo ships, he took it and worked there from 81 - 88. In 1983, while working at Bopec he paid his aunt 100 guilders a month for a piece of the family land. Funchi now had his very own land. He resigned from Bopec to stay home at the kunuku, care for the 300 goats and then head to the ocean



Funchi's kunuku with the original family house on the left and smoke house on right Photo Julie Morgan

# Global Coffee Giant Claims South Pier Real Estate

Tremendous excitement is brewing among the cruise ship crowds following a leaked announcement regarding the island's waterfront development. Recent sightings of green-aproned surveyors near the South Pier have sparked intense speculation among local business owners. Unprecedented in its scale, the proposed "Starbucks Bonaire" flagship store aims to offer a full-service experience directly overlooking the turquoise waters.

Many residents are reportedly divided on the arrival of such a massive corporate entity in our quiet harbor. Plans for the site apparently include a specialized "Dive-Thru" window where boats can pull up for a Macchiato.

Initial reports suggest the building will utilize sustainable local materials, though the signature neon siren logo will be visible from as far as Klein Bonaire. Sourcing for the project is expected to begin this summer, with a grand opening scheduled for later this year.

Groundbreaking technology will supposedly allow the store to run entirely on recycled sea salt energy. Representatives from the Seattle-based company have yet to officially comment, though the high-resolution mockups circulating online leave little to the imagination. Expectations are high that this will per-



manently change the face of Kralendijk's tourism industry. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the public

hearing, which is conveniently scheduled for April 31st. Time will tell if this venti-sized addition to the island is truly

what the community needs.

*BN, Starbucks Release*



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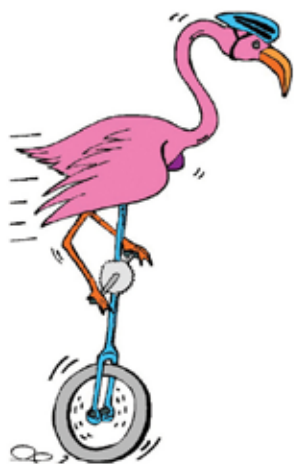
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## Researcher offers new understanding of social connectedness in Kingdom

Prof Dr Francio Guadeloupe, newly named Endowed Professor of Public Anthropology of Kingdom Relations, delivered his inaugural lecture at the University of Amsterdam (UvA) on March 12. An inaugural lecture is a formal event attended by other professors dressed in academic robes. The inaugural lecture served as Professor Guadeloupe's acceptance of his new position as Endowed Professor. The chair is one of two established in 2024 by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK) as a step toward building a stronger knowledge base for policy decisions concerning the six Caribbean islands.

During his inaugural lecture, titled Dutch-Caribbean studies: Anthropological research of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Guadeloupe challenged the notion that separate, indigenous cultures still exist in the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom. His research has revealed patterns of circular migration that intertwine the life cycles of people within the Kingdom. Many people of Caribbean Dutch descent live and study for several years in the Netherlands, return to the islands to work and contribute there, then migrate to the Netherlands again where more professional opportunities exist. Psychologically, this group remains connected to both sides of the ocean, he says. The other way around, there are also people of Dutch descent who move to the islands or stay part of the year; they also call the Caribbean part of the Kingdom their home.

Guadeloupe described a number of research lines he could now pursue that would address the cultural and intellectual transatlantic connectedness and its impact on family ties and romantic relationships. *DMR*

## Igua-No-More

The Department of Agriculture is reportedly distributing "Ig-Away" hats—wide-brimmed sombreros equipped with small, rotating mirrors designed to confuse iguanas into thinking you are a giant, shiny predator from the future.

BN 

## Tourist tax for cruise passengers may be increased

Deputy Anthony Weber is proposing an increase in the current tourist tax from \$10 to \$15 per passenger. According to Weber, such an increase would have little effect on the number of cruise visitors because the tax would be included in the price of the cruise ticket. "If someone pays \$3,000 for a cruise, that person hardly notices when the ticket gets \$5 more expensive," Weber says.

The possible increase is currently being discussed with the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association, the organization that represents many cruise lines in the Caribbean. According to Weber, cruise lines want to know well in advance if the price will be increased so they can set their rates and contracts.

Bonaire expects to collect about five million dollars annually from the increase.

*DMR (first reported in Bonaire.nu)*

## Satellite Reef WiFi

A "leaked" document suggests that the brain coral at Klein Bonaire is being used as a natural fiber-optic booster, providing 10G speeds to divers, though the signal drops if a parrotfish nibbles on the router-polyps.

BN 

## Jumbo frozen green beans recalled

Warehouse is asking customers who purchased Jumbo frozen green beans in recent weeks to return the product to the store for a full refund, no receipt needed. The recall applies to both 400/450-gram and 800-gram packages, including both whole and cut varieties.

While Jumbo says there is no immediate, widespread risk to public health, customers have reported finding dead mice inside the packaging. The contamination is believed to have occurred during automated harvesting or processing. Reports have been received from multiple locations in the Netherlands, including Rotterdam and Limburg. *DMR*

## Ombudsman reports changes needed in medical deployments

National Ombudsman Reinier van Zutphen has proposed a number of reforms in the ways Zorg en Jeugd Caribbean Netherlands (ZJCN) serves people in the Caribbean Netherlands who have to go to another island or country for medical treatment. He blames the fact that ZJCN both sets and implements policies regarding medical care.

Patients reported bottlenecks in the medical deployment processes. Too often they were subject to uncertainties and delays because they were dealing with ZJCN staff who were tasked both with determining whether the patient qualified for deployment and with providing the subsequent services.

In conversations with the National Ombudsman, people who have been involved in a medical deployment reported bottlenecks in the processes. Applications often took a long time. ZJCN staff could be hard to contact and sometimes didn't provide clarity. People who were ill and already stressed could not determine the status of their application or, if it was rejected, why.

The National Ombudsman calls for more personal contact with the people being deployed so their personal situation and individual needs are better taken into account. Employees should also have more leeway to deviate from standard procedures if the situation calls for it. He also says the system must be more receptive to patient complaints and should make people feel it's safe to offer them. *DMR*

## Public Body Bonaire agrees to systemic funding for FuHiKuBo

The government of Bonaire has approved the request from Fundashon Históriko Kultural Boneriano (FuHiKuBo) for systemic funding of the organization's contributions to preserving artifacts and records of the island's history and culture. Founded in 1998 by F.D. 'Bòì' Antoin, FuHiKuBo has been building and curating a unique collection of artifacts, books, historical photos, and audiovisual material that illustrates Bonaire's history.

For years FuHiKuBo has also been documenting Bonaire's oral history through radio and television, including the television program Herensia. UNESCO has recognized FuHiKuBo as a cultural preservation NGO, and UNESCO-Netherlands has listed the Herensia program in its Memory of the World register.

Despite the international recognition FuHiKuBo achieved, the foundation has been insufficiently funded from the beginning. For years Antoin supported FuHiKuBo out of his own pocket. Sponsors and occasional donations contributed, as did Bonaire's Public Body occasionally.

As the collection grew it required more and more care. In 2020 a group of young professionals stepped in as volunteers. They have dedicated themselves to improving the foundation's financial situation and to raising broader awareness of the importance of its work.

Director F.D. 'Bòì' Antoin recently signed a new care contract with the OLB. The foundation expresses its gratitude to the government and hopes that this step marks the beginning of a sustainable future for the preservation of Bonaire's heritage. *DMR*

## Coast Guard cutters to be replaced



The contract has been signed for the construction of three medium-sized patrol vessels to replace *Jaguar*, *Panther*, and *Poema*, the three Coast Guard cutters that have been serving the Caribbean since the 1990s. The new, larger Stan Patrol cutters, 50 meters long, are expected to be operational in early 2029. Equipped with advanced radar, infrared cameras, and other new technologies, they will provide the islands with a new generation of maritime surveillance, investigation, and assistance at sea.

Each ship will also be equipped with a larger, faster interceptor boat that will be more effective, especially in heavier seas, at pursuing the "go-fasts" that smugglers often use to transport drugs in the Caribbean. *DMR*

# RRFB appoints Virdis as Executive Director

The Board of Directors of Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB) is pleased to announce the appointment of Francesca Virdis as Executive Director. A co-founder of the organization and former Managing Director, Virdis returns to guide the foundation's strategic direction as coral reefs face escalating threats worldwide.

As coral reefs in the Caribbean confront intensifying pressures from climate change, disease, coastal development, and water quality impacts, the need for action has never been greater. Over the past decade, RRFB has grown from a small initiative into one of the region's leading coral restoration programs, demonstrating that active restoration can accelerate recovery and strengthen reef resilience.

Virdis played a central role in the creation and development of RRFB. As Managing Director from the organization's start in 2012, she established its network of coral nurseries and outplanting sites, tested and implemented innovative restoration techniques, and built lasting partnerships with local dive shops, volunteers, and collaborators around the Caribbean.

Most recently, Virdis served as Restoration Strategy & Planning Lead at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia, contributing to the development of one of the world's largest coral restoration programs.

"I'm excited to return to Bonaire and build on the strong foundation we've created over the years. The next phase for RRFB is about strengthening global partnerships and collaborations that allow us to scale our impact and continue restoring reefs in a meaningful and lasting way," said Virdis.

In this leadership structure, Ernst Noyons expands his role as Director of Operations, ensuring strong execution across the organization's growing footprint, and in overseeing the implementation of RRFB's restoration programs both in the water and on land via RRFB's Coral Laboratory, currently under construction.

"We are incredibly proud of the meaningful work done to date by RRFB. We also know that we have a tremendous amount more to do, both in the water and on land, to protect and restore the biodiversity of the reefs on Bonaire," said David J. Fishman, President of the Board of Directors of RRFB. "We are very excited to engage Francesca in this new role as she brings her unmatched coral restoration experience and her expert global network back for the benefit of Bonaire. As she will be working closely with Ernst and our senior management team, the Board feels RRFB is now very well positioned to meet the challenges the reefs of Bonaire face now and into the future."

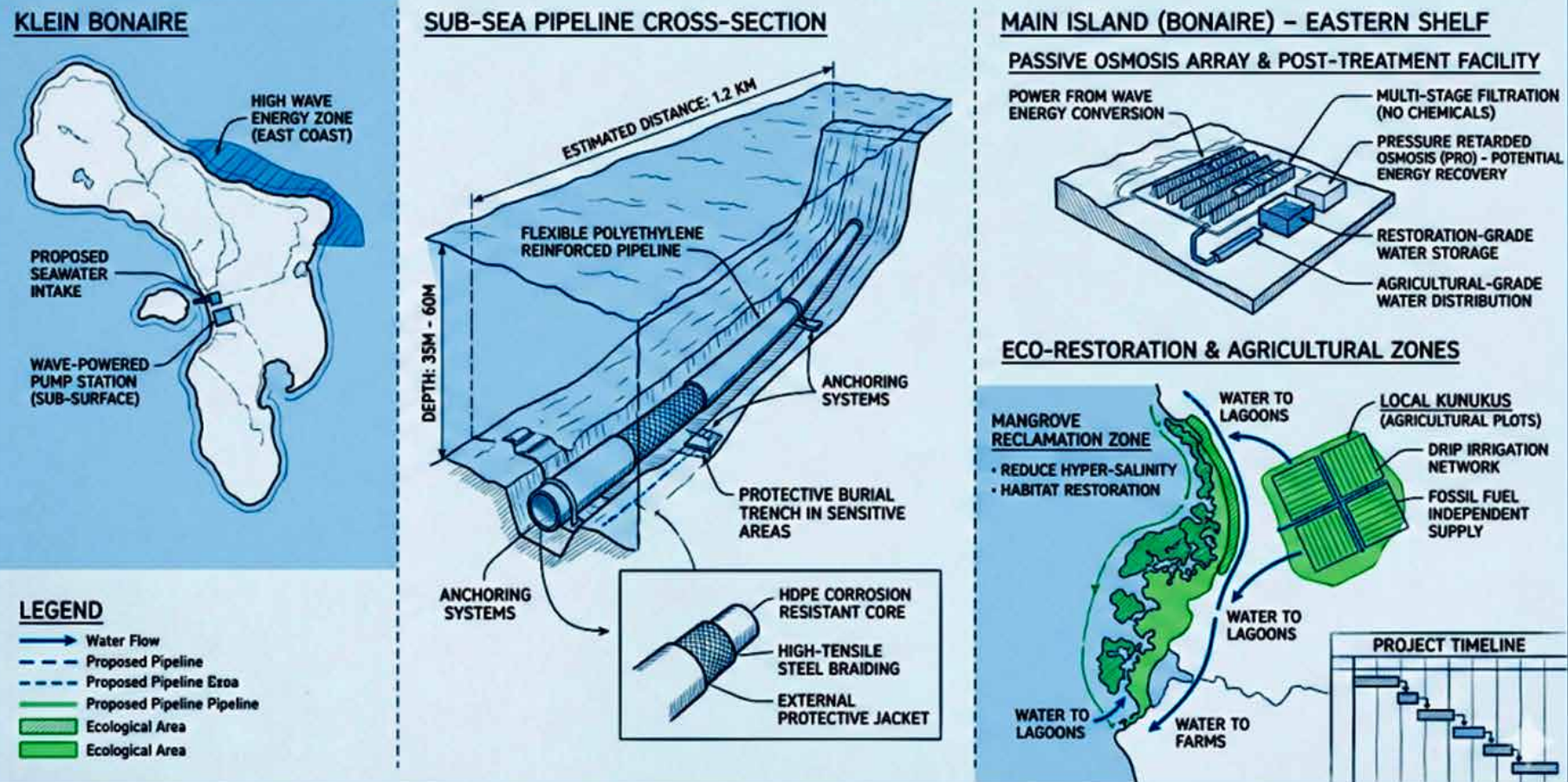
Caitie Reza, RRFB



Francesca Virdis, Executive Director of Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire (RRFB)  
Photo RRFB

## Inter-Island Desalination Ridge & Mangrove Reclamation

### TECHNICAL SCHEMATIC: INTER-ISLAND DESALINATION RIDGE & MANGROVE RECLAMATION (BONAIRE)



A technical schematic for a sub-sea pipeline connecting Klein Bonaire to the main island's eastern shelf.

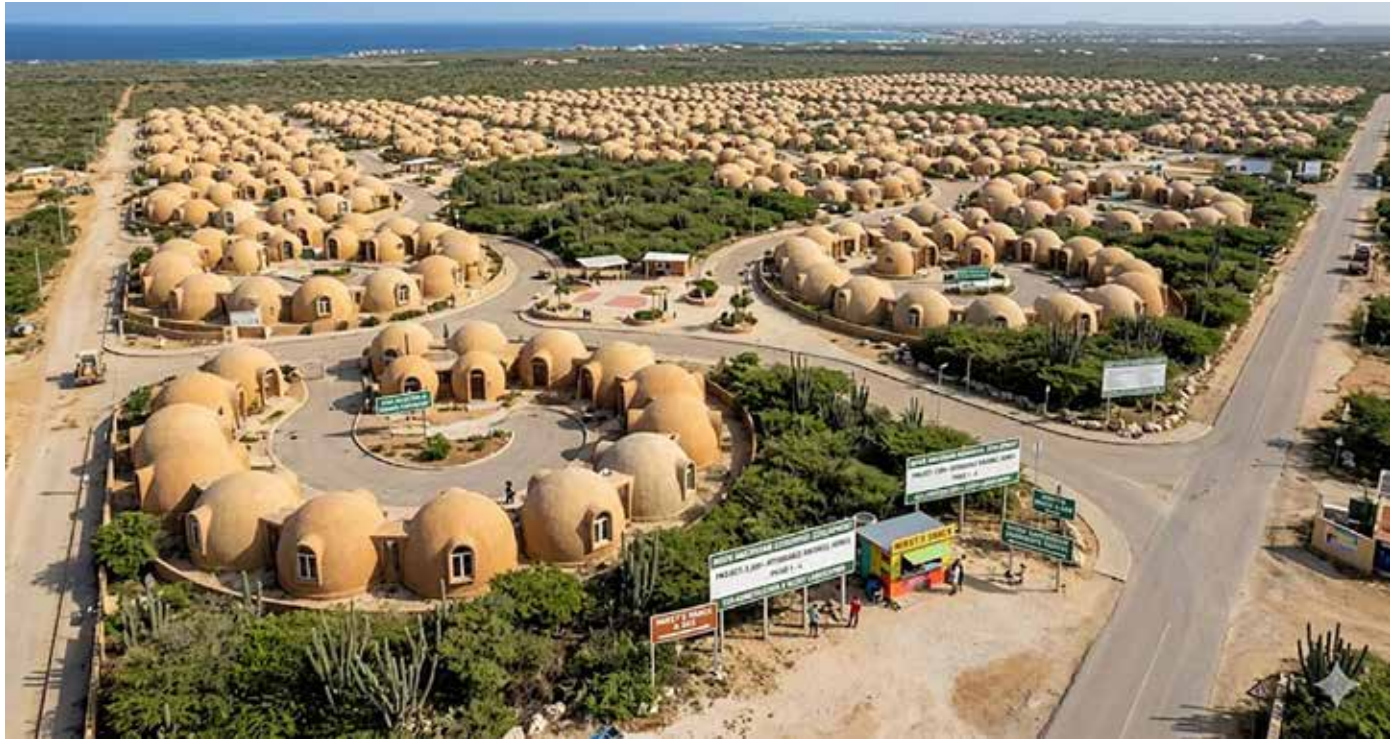
restore hyper-saline lagoons while providing agricultural-grade water to local kunukus without fossil fuel reliance. BN 🐦

The plan features a "Passive Osmosis Array" powered by wave energy, designed to

Happy Easter from the Bonaire Reporter

# The Terra-Print Initiative: Reclaiming The Kunuku

By Elena Solano, Urban Development Correspondent



KRALENDIJK, BONAIRE – In a move that has stunned Caribbean architects and environmentalists alike, a new pilot program has launched in the shadows of the Nieuw Amsterdam hills. The project, officially titled the “Bonaire Earth-Shell Cooperative,” aims to solve the island’s chronic housing shortage using nothing but raw earth, water, and a fleet of hyper-industrial 3D printers.

Modern problems require ancestral solutions, according to the project’s lead engineers. The printers, which resemble skeletal cranes, can extrude a complete, 600-square-foot “Mud-Shell” in under three hours. Astonishingly, the facility claims a capacity of ten homes per day. These structures utilize a proprietary “Slurry-Lock” technique that skips traditional kiln-firing, opting instead for sun-baked structural integrity that honors the island’s historic adobe traditions. Keeping the process sustainable is the primary goal. The material is sourced directly from local construction runoff, turning waste silt into livable walls. Every home is designed to be fully modular. If a family grows, the printer simply returns to “print” an additional bedroom wing directly onto the existing shell.

Admittedly, the technology faces a unique, tropical hurdle: the rainy season. Without a chemical resin binder—which was rejected to keep the project “pure”—a heavy downpour can effectively melt the facade. Maintenance,

however, is viewed as a feature rather than a bug. When a wall begins to slump after a September storm, the “slurry” is simply shoveled back into the printer’s hopper. Essentially, the neighborhood is a living, recycling organism. Residents don’t just live in their homes; they participate in a constant cycle of renewal and re-printing. Rewriting the rules of real estate, the project organizers argue that “permanent” housing is an outdated colonial concept that doesn’t fit the fluid nature of the kunuku. Instead of a thirty-year mortgage, residents sign up for a

“Subscription to Shelter,” which includes unlimited re-prints after weather events. Critics have called the plan “dangerously ephemeral,” but the waitlist for a Mud-Shell already stretches into 2027. As the first ten families moved in this week near Mikey’s Snack, the atmosphere was one of cautious optimism.

Groundwater retention remains the biggest technical challenge for the 3D-nozzles. Researchers are currently experimenting with cactus-juice additives to provide a natural water-resistance to

the exterior. Early tests suggest that the sticky sap of the Kadushi cactus could be the “secret sauce” that keeps these houses standing through a hurricane. All participants agree, however, that the true value is in the cost—nearly zero. Today, as the sun sets over the salt pans, the printers are already humming again, laying down the first layers of tomorrow’s neighborhood, one bucket of mud at a time.

*Schematic UD Corp*



## Sushi Rice and Roll by Chef Corjan Hoogerheide



**Sushi rice:** 250 g (1 1/3 C sushi rice • 125 g (1/2 C) coconut milk • 150 g (2/3 C) water • 3 drops of spika oil • 5 tablespoons sushi vinegar • 2 tablespoons sugar • 2 teaspoons Bonaire sea salt

Wash sushi rice in running cold water until water runs clear and all the starch has been washed away. Bring water with the coconut milk to a boil, then add washed sushi rice and bring back to a boil. Let it simmer gently under a lid for about 14 minutes until the rice is cooked, and let it stand for another 15 minutes under a lid with a dry cloth so that it can absorb the steam. Meanwhile, bring the sushi vinegar, sugar and Bonaire sea salt almost to the boil, let it cool slightly and stir it into the cooked rice, adding a little Spika oil for

a little kick.

**Sushi roll:** 2 nori sheets, cut 2 cm (3/4 in) shorter • Sushi mat • Strong plastic wrap • 4 bars of cheese, Bonaire feta, or just mature or whatever you like • 4 avocado slices • 2 strips of pointed bell pepper • 10 pieces banana di ref • 1 tablespoon caramelized red onion relish (The Island Preserve Company) • Roasted sesame seeds • Toasted coconut flakes • Coffee bean rub, Bonchi Boneiru

Place a piece of plastic wrap on the sushi mat and place the nori sheet on top of it. Spread some sushi rice on the sheet at a thickness of 0.5 cm and sprinkle some sesame seeds and

some crushed coffee bean pieces over it. Turn the nori sheet with rice over and place the banana di ref, avocado, bell pepper, cheese strip and caramelized onion in the middle, across the width. Now roll up the sushi rice sheet tightly and roll into a firm sushi roll. Cut the sushi into slices and place them on a plate. Serve as desired with pickled ginger, soy sauce, wasabi and wasabi mayonnaise. And sprinkle with fried onions for extra crispiness.

*Sushi rice is sticky and naturally holds together well enhancing the flavor of the fish. Basmati is loose and aromatic falls apart and dominates the taste.*

The word sushi comes from Japanese and originally means sour rice. In Papiamentu sushi means “dirty,” “unclean” or “filthy”. It is not a reference to the Japanese dish, but an adjective or noun for dirt. It can cause some confusion that may stem from the ancient history of sushi. Originally, with the dish narezushi, 1000 years ago fish was pickled in rice and salt. It fermented for months and the rice was thrown away and only the fish eaten. Because of this, some people think that sushi has something to do with “waste.”

Each issue Chef Corjan Hoogerheide shares a recipe for a personal dish created from Bonaire’s fresh ingredients. Corjan works as a Sous Chef at “The Reef Bar” at Sorobon luxury beach resort Bonaire.



## The Mud-Shell “Dissolve” Party

To celebrate the new 3D mud houses, the project managers are hosting a “Rain Dance” tonight; the last person whose house is still standing after the water trucks spray the neighborhood wins a lifetime supply of cactus-juice sealant.

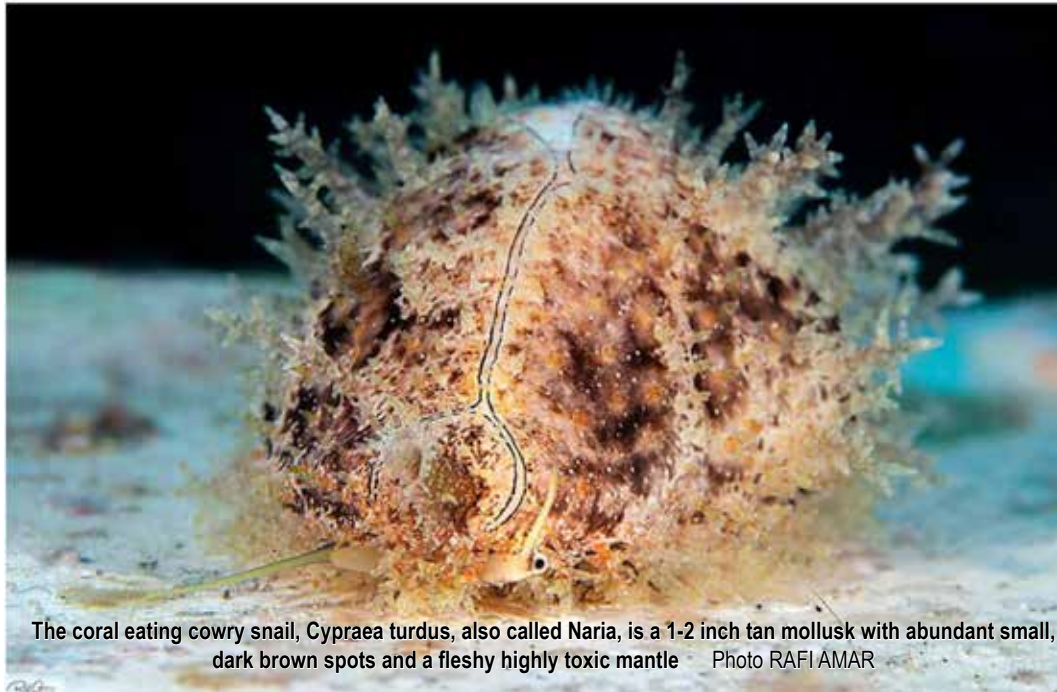


Find TCB’s full February report in our online issue, after page 24

<https://bonairereporter.com>

# Bonaire Invaders! Now It's Snails.....

by George Buckley



The coral eating cowry snail, *Cypraea turdus*, also called *Naria*, is a 1-2 inch tan mollusk with abundant small, dark brown spots and a fleshy highly toxic mantle Photo RAFI AMAR

First came the Lion fish, then the Sargassum seaweed, then the coral killing bacteria and now a new foe has arrived. The coral eating cowry snail, *Cypraea turdus*, also called *Naria*, is a 1-2 inch tan mollusk with abundant small, dark brown spots and a fleshy highly toxic mantle that creates and covers the shell, secreting nacre to make it smooth and making it look very much like a turd at sea. The toxic mantle has thousands of spicules and nematocysts that repel potential predators and threatens anyone who dares pick one up with severe skin inflammation, pruritus and excruciating pain. Using gloves is of little help as the toxic spicules and nematocysts stick to the gloves, staying viable for many days. Remember the tales of the 'sponge bends'?

The *turdus* mollusks threaten world wide seas as they

proliferate quickly, having already spread throughout the Caribbean by laying abundant masses of small whitish eggs that are themselves toxic to anything that eats them. Feeding by means of a rasp-like 'radula', made up of thousands of tiny sharp teeth that are arranged in close set rows and are constantly being replaced by new teeth at the base of the ribbon-like radula, they make quick work of anything made of calcium carbonate which they use to grow their shell.

Found to have already spread widely in Bonaire's shallow turquoise waters, the pretty snail has been carried across the Atlantic ocean as young larvae in ballast water on ships from its native Indian ocean habitats of Sri Lanka and Mozambique. The long distance travelers can stop development of their larvae in the dark,

temperature stable ballast chambers on large ships that use tens of thousands of gallons of water to help keep the ship stable on mid ocean journeys. Once dumped in new warm, sunny waters, the larvae start to grow rapidly becoming pedi-veligers with a small foot and developing shell before settling out of the water column to feast on corals.

Local snails that depend on the algae on living corals for nourishment have no chance against the quick moving predacious invader as it devours coral after coral. Their populations are doomed. The snails have a weakness to the toxins in gorgonian sea fans and quickly die from consuming even a small amount but alas the sea fans that were once common in shallow tropical seas but have been all but extirpated by stronger climate change caused storms and warming seas and increased pollutants and sewage in the water.

A cautionary warning for mankind. 🐌

(For the April Fool issue the above is mostly true save for the coral eating and toxic aspects of the snail.....we do not yet know the true impacts of this recently arrived invasive mollusk//gb.)



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.

## BREAKING:

### Scientists Discover "One Weird Trick" for Eternal Youth — Dermatologists Mildly Annoyed

reported by Irene da Cunda Costa, *Creating Optimal Health*

In what experts are calling "either the greatest breakthrough in human history or a very elaborate misunderstanding," a team of researchers announced yesterday that they have uncovered the long-sought secret to eternal youth. The discovery reportedly occurred not in a high-tech lab, but somewhere between a half-drunk cup of coffee and a forgotten lunch in the office fridge.

The lead researcher explained, with a straight face that appeared suspiciously wrinkle-free, that the "method" is surprisingly simple: drink water, sleep enough, move your body, and mind your business.

The press conference fell silent.

"Wait," one journalist asked, squinting. "That's it?"

"Yes," the researcher replied confidently. "Also, occasionally laugh. Preferably at yourself."

While the scientific community scrambled to process this revelation, social media erupted. Influencers immediately began promoting "hydration routines," complete with designer water bottles retailing at three times the cost of actual groceries. Sleep, once dismissed as laziness, was rebranded as a luxury bio hack. Meanwhile, gyms reported a sudden influx of people cautiously experimenting with what insiders call "walking."

Critics, however, were quick to point out that this "miracle" sounds suspiciously like common sense. One

anonymous expert noted, "We've known this for decades. We just didn't want to hear it because it's not very marketable."

Indeed, the global anti-aging industry, worth billions, has long thrived on our collective fear of wrinkles, gray hairs, and the horrifying possibility of looking like someone who has lived a life. Creams promise to "reverse time." Supplements vow to "restore youth." Apps now remind you not only to drink water, but to feel guilty if you forget.

The irony, of course, is that while we chase youth, we often forget what it's for. Youth, in its essence, is not just smooth skin or fast metabolism — it's curiosity, playfulness, the willingness to try and fail and laugh about it. Yet somewhere along the way, we traded that for serums and stress.

Sociologists observing the phenomenon suggest that our obsession with youth may say less about biology and more about fear, fear of change, irrelevance, and the passage of time. In a world that rewards speed, novelty and appearance, growing older can feel like falling behind. So, we resist. We moisturize. We panic buy collagen.

And yet, perhaps the real "secret" isn't about staying young forever, but about redefining what aging means.

Maybe it's less about erasing years and more about filling them well. After all, laughter lines are just receipts of joy and gray hairs are basically wisdom highlights, though admittedly less trendy on Instagram.

As the press conference concluded, the lead researcher added one final note:

"Oh, and there is one more crucial component to eternal youth," they said.

The room leaned in.

"Don't take everything so seriously."

At that moment, a banner dropped from the ceiling reading: Happy April Fools' Day.

The researchers were unavailable for further comment, reportedly because they had gone home early to get a full night's sleep.



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

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

## Restaurant and Bar



MON-THURS  
8am-3pm  
6 - 10pm  
FRI  
8am-3pm  
6pm - 1am  
SAT  
11 am-3pm  
6pm-1am

International  
Local Food  
Full Bar  
dine-in  
or  
Takeaway

## DUSHI PALACE

599-717-7722 / 599-784-2038  
At the Hato Circle



## Artisan Bakery Bonaire

The Only Sourdough & Plant-Based Bakery of Bonaire

## Bobbejan's

796-4783



BBQ

WEEKENDS & TAKE AWAY ONLY  
FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY 6 - 10 PM



## WINES & MORE

Take out or Dine in

Kaya L.D. Gerharts 10 Unit 1A - +599 785 0724



## RONAIRE RUM RUNNERS

restaurant & cocktailbar

Open 7 Days a Week  
Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner  
Great Custom Made Cocktails  
Spectacular Sea View

Captain Don's Habitat +599-717-8290 x 100



## ROSA

Experience authentic Italian flavors in a cozy atmosphere, open every day for you!

*They come to  
dive and dine.  
Help them find you.*



## Daily Catch FISHERMAN'S MARKET

Mon to Fri: 10.00-19.00  
Sat: 10.00-17.00  
Sundays closed!

For orders call or whatsapp:  
+599 787 1198

For menu visit:  
[www.freshfishbonaire.com](http://www.freshfishbonaire.com)

## Osteria - Patisserie - Aperitivo - Cafe

Open 07:00 - 16:00 Mon - Sun  
Aperitivo from 17:00 on Fri

Family-friendly atmosphere, outdoor seating available

# The library turns one

Bonaire Public Library celebrated their one-year anniversary with a small ceremony on March 21. In one short year the new library has become not only a place to check out books but a comfortable place to learn, study, attend presentations, workshops and discover new ideas.

In this first year the library has received 82,000 visitors and more than 3,700 people signed up for a library card. That is more than 14% of Bonaire's population.

In January this year, the Bonaire Library won the BID Award 2026 for the Most Positive Government Organization of the Netherlands.

In a small anniversary presentation, the head of the Bonaire Library, Jennifer Pocorie-Martis welcomed the crowd and thanked everyone for their support and use of the library. In attendance from the government were commissioner Peter Silberie and director Gerold van Elshuis both of Samenleving en Zorg, Sport, Onderwijs en Cultuur (Society and Care, Sports, Education and Culture). Former deputy Nina den Heyer made an appearance to wish her congratulations as she was instrumental in promoting the new library.

Everyone in attendance of the anniversary received celebratory drinks and cupcakes in honor of the day.

The Bonaire Public Library is just that, a library for the public. Books of all languages are available for the very young to adults of all ages. And there is always something happening, just check the schedule. The uniquely designed kids' areas have the perfect atmosphere to inspire reading and imagination. Art and culture are emphasized in many of the programs for every age.

Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, a gathering is held for anyone over 60 to enjoy a coffee or tea. Locals and visitors are welcome to come and meet new friends or get together with old ones in a relaxed atmosphere. And once a month a program is held by the Makerspace department. Last week the ZW group brought seniors from the Cocari Foundation in Rincon where they discovered the new world of VR glasses, painted in the air with 3D pens and learned a new program with Bee-Bots.

Papiamentu plays an important role in the library with a collaboration between the Papiamentu Academy. The library encourages multilingualism and actively works to develop their staff's knowledge of many languages to assist library visitors.

*Julie Morgan*



First anniversary celebration of the Bonaire Public Library guests were welcomed with a sparkling drink and cupcake by Djana van Breda, communications and marketing and Naomi de Gruij, customer service and librarian. Photo Julie Morgan



Seniors from the Cocari Foundation in Rincon discovered the new world of VR glasses, Photo Judeaniro de Jongh



Seniors catch up during Tuesday's "high tea." Photo Judeaniro de Jongh



For more information about the Bonaire Public Library visit: [www.bibliotheekbonaire.com](http://www.bibliotheekbonaire.com) or on Facebook – [Biblioteka Publika Boneiru](https://www.facebook.com/BibliotekaPublikaBoneiru).

The library is open  
 Mon. 1 – 5 p.m.;  
 Tues. & Thurs. 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.;  
 Weds. & Fri. 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and  
 Sat. 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

# Reef Glimpses by Dee Scarr

## Fish Aliases

This all began as I swam along the sand in about 15' (5m) of water. Ahead of me on the bottom I saw a leafless tree branch with something orangey-brown stuck in the fork. "Trash," I thought, and headed to grab it. At the same time, I realized I'd never seen trash that color, even in all my years of diving beneath the North Pier. And I've still never seen trash that color, because it wasn't trash. It was the hairiest frogfish I'd ever seen, and it was as big as any frogfish I've ever seen on Bonaire, maybe 6" (15 cm) or even longer.

Really nice!

After the dive I reported to Julie that I'd seen a hairy frogfish. She told me it was called a striated frogfish, for the thin stripes it bears.

I thought "hairy frogfish" was a more accurate common name, so I did some research. I saw that the striated frogfish was also called the splitlure frogfish; I'd found splitlure frogfish years ago but didn't remember the hairiness at all.

Then I saw the scientific name for the splitlure frogfish, and it was different from the scientific name for the hairy (okay, Julie, striated) frogfish. And thus began my journey into frogfish scientific names.



The split lure on this black frogfish is easily seen. Photo Julie Morgan

not all striated frogfish are striped.

In addition, not all hairy frogfish are hairy! The hairy frogfish I saw had much longer filaments than the one in the photograph of the 2025 August 6 - 20 edition of *The Bonaire Reporter* (Issue 16).

Since 1872, when the fish we now identify as *Antennarius striatus* was first described, it has had more than 30 different scientific names! Most of them include one or more of the following, and translate to:

*Chironectes tigris*: striped hand-swimmer

*Lophius striatus*: striped with crests (referring to first three dorsal spines)

*Phrynelox tridens*: slanted 3-toothed toad!

So the scientists also had trouble describing this fish – but, sadly for me, not one used any word that means "hairy."

Reading about the name evolution of my hairy discovery, though, I found two other interesting scientific name translations. The first is that of the sargassum-fish, a frogfish who lives in floating sargassum weed, a frogfish I fell in love with at age 9 or so, *Histrio histrio*.

"Histrio" translates to "Actor, one who's on the stage," describing the fish's physical and behavioral ability to mimic sargassum weed.

The other scientific name I like (though I'm not so happy about the fish it describes) is *Pterois volitans*, "winged flyer."

The lionfish.

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.



Frogfish photo from August 6 - 20, 2025 edition of *The Bonaire Reporter*. Photo Julie Morgan

Most scientific naming is done from dead animals; it certainly was 150 years ago. Frogfish now known to be of the same species often have wildly different color variations: for example, our most common frogfish, the longlure frogfish, can be found in yellow, orange, red, green, black, and white. The hairy frogfish doesn't have that much color variation, but the one I saw was a much brighter orange between the brown stripes than any I've seen in photos, and there are totally black variations – so

### Living in the Netherlands? Win a trip for two to Bonaire Living on Bonaire? Win a trip for two to Eindhoven

Bonaire and PSV Eindhoven have renewed their partnership, focusing on sport, community, and the economy, with a special emphasis on women's football and talent development. To celebrate this collaboration, there is a unique giveaway for residents of Bonaire: get a chance to win a trip for two to Eindhoven and experience PSV up close!

Living on Bonaire? Enter now:

<https://bonaireisland.com/nl/van-bonaire-naar-psv-winactie/>

Additionally, PSV fans in the Netherlands can participate in a giveaway to win a trip to Bonaire, including accommodation sponsored by our partner Grand Windsock.

Living in the Netherlands? Enter now:

<https://bonaireisland.com/nl/van-psv-naar-bonaire-winactie/>

Our partners for this giveaway: PSV, OLB, Corendon, and Grand Windsock.

TCB release



# Events, Meetings, Sports

# What's Happening

**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.

**Animal Shelter's 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).

**Apertivo evening from 5 – 8 p.m. Fridays Rosa Cafe.** Stop in for a drink & free Italian appetizers.

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

**Becoming Movement Club** Free monthly event for runners and walkers. Sorobon five-kilometer route Sunday 7.15 a.m. Check [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/becomingmovementclub/).

**Bridgeclub Bonaire** organizes a bridge evening Wed. 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. All levels 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.** Jason Buttenshaw 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 Thursday of the month. Check: <https://www.reef.org/events/month>

**JEU De BOULES CLUB Bonaire.** ALL WELCOME. We play **PETANQUE** (the French version). Wed. & Sun. 2.30-6 p.m. Kunuku Allee, Kaminda Lac 38. We have spare boules (balls) for newcomers. [jeudeboulebonaire@gmail.com](mailto:jeudeboulebonaire@gmail.com) or Peter Overman, 00599 7964037

**Krese Radio program** focusing on the development of Bonaire over the past 70 years.- Last Tuesday of the month, 7 - 8 p.m. on Bon FM 102.7 FM. The program is in Papiamentu; A recap is provided in Dutch and English on <https://www.facebook.com/share/1HPK6Y3Gm/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

**Live Music** Yhannis Arepas (Kaya Neerlandia, behind Budget Marine) Every Sunday 1 - 5 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/yhannisarepas/>

**Museum Night, Terramar museum.** Free access to galleries last Wednesday of the month. From 6 to 8 p.m., visitors are welcomed into a relaxed, friendly atmosphere where they can enjoy the galleries after hours and join a themed workshop (pay what you can).

**Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Bonaire. GET RID OF YOUR DRUG ADDICTION** Monday 19:00-20:00. Kaya Tanki Matrimonio 30. Dutch & Papiamentu. Call Wensley 700 7289 or Remco 784 1782.

**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** Michiel Bijkerk 796 2650, [abogado.bijkerk@gmail.com](mailto:abogado.bijkerk@gmail.com)

**Sunfish Race Days:** Barring inclement weather: BSSA Bonaire Sailing School Association Facebook.

**Tennis** Eddie's courts. Everyone (18+) is welcome. **Free Kid's Clinics at Sentro di Bario Nikiboko Tue & Fri 4-6 p.m. Sentro di Bario Nort'i Saliña, Mon & Thu 4-6 p.m.** Register: email [info@bonairetennisassociation.com](mailto:info@bonairetennisassociation.com) or app 599 782 4569. <https://bonairetennisassociation.com/events/> Mixed competition matches play Saturdays 4 to 10 p.m. on Eddie's courts.



**Manta Monday** Free presentations Nicole Pelletier of the Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation. **Monday = Thursday, March 26 @ Buddy Dive Resort 5:30 p.m. Mondays 7:30 p.m.** Mon. March 30 & Mon. April 6 @ Divi Resort Pure Ocean Garden Mon. April 13 @ Beyond the Corals at Bloozz Resort; Mon. April 20 @ To be confirmed Mon. April 27 & Mon. May 4 @ Divi Resort Pure Ocean Garden. Email: [nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org](mailto:nicole.pelletier@mantatrust.org); [Caribbean Islands Manta Conservation facebook](https://www.facebook.com/caribbeanislandsmantacconservation/)



**Reef Renewal Bonaire.** Mondays 5:30 p.m. Breakfast Area – Buddy Dive Resort. Free. Learn about coral reef restoration. 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. <https://www.facebook.com/bonaireturtles/> Nesting season patrol starts in May. Reserve your spots reserving on: <https://www.bonaireturtles.org/wp/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:**

- Fridays 3 - 5 p.m. After School Art. \$20. Ages 8+. Studio Muzo. Materials included.
- 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)

**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/>

**Each month: Family Saturday,** March 7 Pay a "family" fee of \$10 to enjoy our exhibitions and activities. Family is who you decide; **Kids Workshop** \$10 per child. March 21. 10 - 12 noon. We will be making piggybanks. Register via [terramarmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:terramarmuseum@gmail.com) or phone. **Museum at Night** Free entrance. 5 to 6:30 p.m. to explore and shop; also **Sisterhood Circle** by Vibra Foundation 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 25. Pay what you can. Info. +599 785 4399

**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)

Last day April <b>4</b>	<b>Art Exhibition Dillon Rannou</b> at SACA, Front Gallery, Kaya Korona 74. Open Thurs. Fri. Sat. 2 - 5 p.m. See poster in online <i>Reporter</i> . <b>Art Exhibition Carlos Porras</b> at SACA, Piano Galley, Kaya Korona 74. Open Thurs. Fri. Sat. 2 - 5 p.m. See poster in online <i>Reporter</i> .
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Mar. <b>13</b> - April <b>5</b>	<b>Bonaire International Sports "Week"</b> More than 3 weeks of sports & exercise. See choices also in final pages of online <i>Reporter</i> . Link here: <a href="https://linktr.ee/indebon?utm_source=qr_code">https://linktr.ee/indebon?utm_source=qr_code</a>
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Saturday, March <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.  <b>Hospice Kas Flamboyan Open House</b> 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Address: 11 Kaya Guanare. Guided tours will be offered in small groups.  <b>Dia di Rincon - Sendemecha 2026 (Light the wick)</b> Are you ready to light the wick? We are waiting for you at 5 p.m. E@to raise the flag near church after each corner of Rincon, come out to meet each other in the middle, at the bust of Broertje Janga to light the torch  <b>Tip the Talent - Music &amp; Comedy.</b> 7 p.m. \$10. At Blue Garden. Host: Minim Guests: Heather Fernando & Fernon Frisco
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Sunday, March <b>29</b>	<b>K-Walk -Kiwanis Fundraiser.</b> Start & finish Felt di Snip on the Kaminda Tra'i Montaña. 6 & 10 K routes. \$15.  <b>Animal Shelter Bonaire Easter Market</b> 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. Food, drinks, second-hand items, handmade gifts, Easter decorations, and other fun goodies.  <b>Mangrove Maniac planting.</b> 4 p.m. South of White Slave. After a brief introduction, participants will get to work together. Volunteers are asked to bring their own water shoes, as well as plenty of drinking water and optionally a chair to relax in afterwards. The afternoon will close with a shared drink at sunset.  <b>Concert featuring talented music students from Bonaire: piano, vocals, guitar, and saxophone</b> 5 p.m. at SACA
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Friday, April <b>3</b> - Monday, April <b>6</b>	<b>Good Friday, Easter &amp; Easter Monday</b> Public Holidays. Much is closed.
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April <b>6 to 10</b>	<b>Baseball on the Corals</b>
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Monday, April <b>27</b>	<b>King's Birthday</b> Public Holiday. Much is closed.  <b>Rotary Feria</b> Giant flea market Wilhelmina Park
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Thursday, April <b>30</b>	<b>Rincon Day</b> National holiday. Rincon is wide open. All else is closed. See Facebook: <b>Dia di Rincon Pagina Oficial</b> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/diadirincon">https://www.facebook.com/diadirincon</a>
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## You can help keep Bonaire clean

Saturdays	<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>
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Saturday, March 28 Saturday, April 25	<b>The Beach Boost</b> collects trash washing up on Bonaire's shores in Marine Park the last Saturday of the month. 9:30-10:30 a.m. Join via WhatsApp groups +5997003749, +5997003748.
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Sunday, April 12	<b>Clean Coast Bonaire clean up surveys second Sunday every month.</b> 4-6 p.m. Boka Onima. 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>
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Saturday, April 18	<b>Quarterly Clean up Dive, Dive Friends.</b> Everyone is welcome. If you don't dive, you can snorkel; if you don't snorkel, you can help out on shore. <a href="https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/">https://www.divefriendsbonaire.com/eco-activities/quarterly-clean-up-dives/</a>
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## 2026 Cruise Ship Schedule

DATE	TIME	CRUISE SHIP	PIER
Thurs. March 26	0500-1400	NORWEGIAN SKY 2480 guests	North
Sat. March 28	0800-2300	EXPLORA II 996 guests	North
Mon. March 30	0800-2300	ZUIDERDAM 2502 guests	North
Tues. March 31	0600-1400	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2 2076 guests	North
	0730-2000	LE CHAMPLAIN 184 guests	South
Wed. April 1	0800-2200	CARNIVAL HORIZON 4683 guests	South
Thurs. April 2	0500-1400	NORWEGIAN SKY 2480 guests	South
	0700-1800	SERENADE OF THE SEAS 2500 guests	North
Fri. April 3	0700-1800	BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS 2496 guests	North
Sun. April 5	1200-2000	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2 2076 guests	North
Mon. April 6	0900-1900	REGAL PRINCESS 4250 guests	South
Tues. April 7	0900-2200	CARNIVAL MAGIC 3646 guests	South
Wed. April 8	0630-1800	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE 2886 guests	South
Sat. April 11	0800-1800	GRAND PRINCESS 3006 guests	North

## Funds Available

NEW

The **European Outdoor Conservation Association (EOCA)** is inviting applications from non-profit organizations worldwide for its 2026 Conservation Project Funding Round. The program supports practical conservation initiatives that protect threatened species, restore habitats, and reconnect communities with nature.

The initiative focuses on protecting biodiversity in wild landscapes including forests, wetlands, marine ecosystems, freshwater habitats, and other natural environments.

EOCA provides grants of up to €30,000 to support conservation projects with a duration of up to two years. **The deadline to submit your proposal is March 31st.**

<https://www.eocaconservation.org/our-projects/apply-for-funding/>



### Reading Promotion Scheme.

The Dutch Foundation for Literature supports projects in the field of reading promotion that supplement projects currently existing. Organizations can apply for a subsidy for a diversity of activities for young and old, from reading clubs to digital projects, and from creative writing workshops to performances. Also for new projects that will stimulate reading.

Cultural institutions, organizations or legal entities that are active in the Kingdom of the Netherlands and that produce and/or implement literary-educational activities are eligible to apply. Schools, universities and local government bodies cannot apply for a subsidy under this scheme. The applicant can apply for a minimum of €25,000 and a maximum of €50,000.

**Deadlines for the last funding round of this year:**

- **May 15, 2026** for projects due to start from December 2026 onwards

[https://assets.letterenfonds.prod.verveagency.com/assets/reading-promotion\\_english-2026.pdf](https://assets.letterenfonds.prod.verveagency.com/assets/reading-promotion_english-2026.pdf)

### DCNA's Conservation & Restoration Key Habitats Program

is open for funding applications. If your organization is based on one of the six Dutch Caribbean islands and works on nature conservation or restoration, this is your call. **Submit your project proposal before April 13 to apply.**

The Key Habitats Program funds practical, on-the-ground conservation projects that deliver measurable ecological results. Stand-alone research projects are not eligible.

To apply, your organization must meet at least these three criteria:

- You are a non-profit or for-profit NGO legally registered in the Dutch Caribbean.
- Your project takes place on one or more of the six Dutch Caribbean islands.
- Your project addresses one or both of the 2026 priority strategies: 1. Reduce Free-Roaming Grazer Impacts, and/or 2. Address Climate Change Impacts

How to submit:

<http://dcnanature.org/projects/keyhabitatsprogram/>

### New round of Museum Grants is open.

Museum employees can apply for grants for short-term in-depth scientific research related to the museum or its collection. The results must benefit museum research practice and be recorded in an open access publication. Employees of a museum may act as the main applicant. Each application must involve one researcher affiliated with a research organization as a supervisor of the research.

Budget and deadlines: The total funding ceiling for this Call for proposals is €700,000. A minimum of €10,000 and a maximum of €50,000 in funding can be requested per project. **The deadline for submission is Tuesday 12 May 2026, before 2 p.m. CEST.**

## 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

## DONATE to Rotary's Feria

*Tidying up and helping others*

**New and used items, household goods, tools, toys, art, decorations, kitchen appliances, electronics, etc etc. Donate your items to the Rotary Club and sustain good causes on Bonaire.**

Contact us and we will pick it up. +599 785 0809



## Public Service Announcements

### Two ombudsmen visit March 24 to 28

The National Ombudsman and the Ombudsman for Children is paying a working visit to Bonaire from March 24 to 28. Dutch, Papiament, Spanish or English can be spoken. The remaining consultation hours are:

- **Thurs. Mar. 26** - 2.30 - 5 p.m. Fundashon Cocari Rincon
- **Sat. Mar. 28** - 9 - 11 a.m. Jong Bonaire

### Submitting a complaint or question always possible

Can't make it to the office hours? Questions or complaints can also be submitted in other ways.

At the National Ombudsman:

- By phone via +31 70 356 35 63 (weekdays until 12:00)
- Via WhatsApp to number +31800 33 55 555
- Via the complaint form on our website <https://www.nationaleombudsman.nl/klacht-indienen/uw-klacht>

At the Children's Ombudsman:

- By phone at +31 70 8506 995 (weekdays until 12:00)
- Via WhatsApp to number +310800 - 876 54 32.
- By emailing [ombudswerk@kinderombudsman.nl](mailto:ombudswerk@kinderombudsman.nl)

This information was found at: <https://www.nationaleombudsman.nl/nieuws/nieuwsbericht/2026/de-nationale-ombudsman-en-kinderombudsman-houden-gratis-spreekuren-op>

### Are you heading off island?

If you are planning on traveling from Bonaire to other parts of the world, don't forget to include an appointment with a travel consultant at the public health department, GGD Bonaire. A visit to other countries may pose a risk of infectious diseases that require precautions.

Last year GGD Bonaire reported an outbreak of yellow fever in Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela and other countries in South America. Measles has also been reported in Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Belize, Mexico, the United States and Canada. In February Chikungunya outbreaks were reported in French Guiana, Brazil and Saint Lucia. The mosquito borne disease has also been reported in Cuba, Aruba, Suriname and the European Netherlands. There is no treatment for the disease and it is not life threatening but the joint pain can last a long time.

Precautions should be taken before getting on the plane. The yellow fever vaccine should be taken at least 10 days before departure. A vaccination against measles is advised as the disease caused by a virus is highly contagious.

A consultation with the GGD is free and you receive personal advice about protection against infectious disease and health risks present at your chosen destination. Make an appointment at +599-715-5324.

### Income tax time.

Your 2025 income tax can now be filed either on paper or online. The deadline is May 18, 2026. In the last week of February, the Belastingdienst CN started sending the invitations for filing the return both by post and to your digital mailbox (berichtenboxcn). Belastingdienst Caribisch Nederland encourages everyone to file online via <https://www.mijncn.nl>. See: [English.mijncn.nl/create--activate](https://www.mijncn.nl/create--activate)

### 2024 business survey

In the coming months, Statistics Netherlands (CBS) will contact businesses on the three BES islands to complete the annual business survey for the 2024 reporting year. The survey aims to map economic development on Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba. The results of the survey will be published in the last quarter of 2026.

Statistics Netherlands (CBS) is legally obligated to treat all collected data as strictly confidential. For questions, information, or assistance with completing the survey, please contact the Statistics Netherlands office on Bonaire.

CBS Caribbean Netherlands  
Bulevar Gobernador N. Debrot 67, Unit 9, Kralendijk  
Telephone: +599 717 8676 Email: [economie.cn@cbs.nl](mailto:economie.cn@cbs.nl)

# A Garden? Just Do It! - Syntropic farming - by Angliet, Nature Lover



Fruits that grew by Syntropic farming system. Photo: Angliet

After a while, she planted the veggies: eggplant, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, and various types of beans. None of this went easily. The coconut palms died. The sweet potato and bean plants were eaten. The tomatoes struggled. The eggplant bore very little fruit. She ran into various problems.

There are different soil types on her kunuku. So, before she plants, she needs to dig up that piece of ground to see what kind of soil she has there. Next, she must treat it with compost and animal manure adapted to the pH of her plants. Fresh animal manure is too

acidic for plants and must first be left to sit for a long time or rinsed. This is how it's done: put old manure in a bucket that has small holes and pour water into it. As it drains out it takes the acid with it. Do this several times at different intervals and then let it dry. Then mix it with soil and/or dry leaves). Rabbit manure comes closest to the pH of plants and can be applied fresh to the plants.

In the syntropic method, you learn how to treat the different types of soil to make them fertile. It is about the dosage of nutrients. Dry leaves are of essential importance in syn-

tropic farming and you need a lot of them. You actually have to keep replenishing them because the leaves compost, and then they run out again. And they must be leaves from a safe environment. This means no sprayed leaves or leaves from trees that have grown in contaminated soil because the poison is in the dry leaves and can be then absorbed into your crops.

Nita explained that the hardest part of planting is a very well-known problem, namely lizards, iguanas, rats, birds and also termite infestations. The animals have caused a huge nuisance for which no solution has been found so far. There isn't much you can do either about the fact that it is getting drier and drier, due to no rain. But she won't give up, despite the fact that syntropic farming remains a huge challenge. However, it keeps her healthy and occupied, and she is always very happy with something from her garden.

What perseverance you have, Nita, I admire you. Keep it up.

*Angliet Baidjoe 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.*



## Island Life Is Simple. Your Taxes Can Be Too.

Living in Bonaire should feel easy... clear water, warm evenings, and a slower pace of life. Between US filing requirements and Bonaire's evolving tax rules, it can be difficult to navigate your true tax position. Recent changes mean Bonaire may tax worldwide income, foreign tax credits must be coordinated with US filings, and assessments can arrive years later.

Bernice helps Americans understand their tax exposure now and plan accordingly so your time in Bonaire can stay focused on the things that matter most.

**Bernice Stephens**  
On-Site Tax Advisor  
599-701-2207  
bernice@bnctax.com



# 565 lionfish eliminated from Bonaire's waters



For the first time since 2024, STINAPA Bonaire organized a Lionfish Derby to try and control this invasive species that was first spotted in Bonaire waters in 2009.

The derby held in Washington Slagbaai National Park (WSNP) on March 21 was super popular with Bonaire's licensed lionfish hunters. Spots were available for 15 teams of three, but they filled so quickly STINAPA increased the number to 17 teams and still many were turned away. The two – three person teams of hunters and spotters headed to WSNP to dive and wrangle as many lionfish as possible from 8 a.m. to the 3 p.m. check-in time at the park entrance.

The divers checked in with full coolers of lionfish anxious to see who had captured the most, biggest and smallest of the invasive species. Biologist Paulo Bertuol measured the fish as other STINAPA Bonaire Marine Park employees marked the results on the board. The divers cleaned their catch and snacked on sandwiches, fruit, soft drinks and even a few beers as they awaited the final tally.

Organizer of the derby, Assistant Marine Park Manager Leonel Martijn stood by and offered congratulations to the divers as Paulo, WSNP manager Demis Nicasta and new Marine Park Manager Judith Bakker announced the winners.



License to Kill team of Roland Verbeek and Jerome Spruit with their tiny winning catch. Photo Julie Morgan

A total of 565 lionfish were caught by the divers at various sites throughout the park including Boca Bartol, Playa Benge, Playa Chikitu, Slagbaai and others. As a precaution, the park has been closed to divers since SCTLD (Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease) found its way into Bonaire waters killing the hard coral on the reefs.

The team Dive Air Station, Robert Reindsen, Maarten de Graaf and Toine Smulders, brought in the most lionfish with 106. The smallest lionfish at 8 cm (3.14 in) was captured by the team License to Kill, Jerome Spruit and Roland Verbeek and the largest catch was 40.2 cm (15.82 in) caught by the team Lionfish Busters, Johan Verbeek, Roland van Meerten and Emile Bronkhorst. All winners were awarded a STINAPA or Climate Resilience hat, an acrylic tray embedded with lionfish fins and a day pass to dive in WSNP.

**Lionfish Derby to page 20**

A local fisherman near the Nieuw Amsterdam project claims he has developed a whistle that makes Lionfish swim directly into a cooler, but it only works if you are wearing neon orange fins and humming the Tumba anthem. *BN* 🇩🇪

## Reverse Desalination



Government officials have “leaked” a plan to turn the WEB plant into a “Flavor Station,” where residents can choose to have their tap water taste like Lime Juice on Mondays and Tamarind on Fridays. *BN* 🇩🇪

## The week of April 1



Beginning April 1, 2026, eZone will have an increase in freight charges. There will be a delay in the arrival of your packages for the week of April 1. And during the week of April 1, eZone Bonaire will start charging a storage fee on all packages that haven't been picked up for three days. We hope this doesn't inconvenience you for the week of April 1. *BN* 🇩🇪

## Humpback whales sighted off Bonaire



The morning of Saturday, March 21, Gwen Versteegh, a Bonaire-based marine biologist and CCS team member, received several reports of humpback whales in Bonaire's waters. Within hours, sightings multiplied: residents and visitors across the island were spotting the same animals—a female humpback and her calf, most likely the very same duo seen off Curaçao just the day before.

While Humpbacks are more commonly sighted in the northern Caribbean, Bonaire occasionally has the privilege of a close encounter. The last confirmed sighting near the island's coast was in February 2023. March 2026's visit was particularly special. The mother and calf remained nearshore for several hours, allowing many people to observe them from land.

### Report your sighting

If you spotted the whales or see them in the coming days, please report your sighting to the Caribbean Cetacean Society. Photos and videos are extremely valuable — even a brief clip on your phone could contain the fluke photograph researchers are looking for. Contact CCS via Gwen +599 787 3307.

### Why does a fluke photograph matter?

A whale's fluke is as unique as a human fingerprint. These images allow researchers to identify individual whales over time and to trace their movements across seasons and throughout the Caribbean. Saturday, despite hours of searching, Bonaire's research team was unable to capture a fluke photograph.

*Gwen Versteegh  
(CCS) release*



Johan Verbeek of the Lionfish Busters admires his 40.2 cm catch which was the largest lionfish of the Derby.

Back in 2024, the Lionfish Derby was held in marine park waters outside the park: 508 were caught, 10.1 cm (3.97 in) was the smallest and largest was 40.7 cm. (16 in).

Thank you to everyone for their interests and the actual Lionfish Derby participants. These are the teams that helped eliminate the invasive lionfish this year: Red Devils, Lionfish Busters, Kes si Kes no, Just Keep Swimming, Radlova, The 3 Musketeers, Team Happy, Divefactory Divers, Dive Air Station, ELF Ninjas, De Drietand van Poseidon, G'day mate, Kiloknallers, Reef

Vigilantes, ELF Blasters, Just Missed it and License to Kill.

If you are interested in helping eliminate the lionfish on Bonaire, you must take a local specialty course for certification and register with STINAPA Bonaire to obtain a registered and numbered E.L.F. spear. Unauthorized equipment is illegal. Non-residents with certification must always hunt under supervision with a licensed dive shop like Private Divers, VIP or 4-Wheel Diving.

*Story / photos Julie Morgan*

## No dogs on beaches

### STINAPA POST:

We adore our four-legged friends, yet it's crucial we respect our delicate ecosystems. Please adhere to these guidelines to maintain the beauty of our beaches and protect the wildlife.

**Nesting Area Respect:** No dog walking in sea turtle nesting zones. Fines of up to \$170 may apply.

**Off-Limits Shores:** Dogs are not permitted on these specific beaches. View the map for details.

- Playa Lechi (Sunset Beach)
- Playa Lechi Suit (Boulevard)
- Playa Chachacha
- Playa pal'i mangel (Donkey's Beach)
- Förn'i kalki (Bachelor's Beach)
- From Saliña (salt pier) to Lacre Punt (Willemstoren)
- Sorobon and Cai
- Piedra haltu (Thousand Steps)
- Tolo
- Klein Bonaire

It is permitted to walk dogs between Punt Vierkant and the Salt Pier and between the Willemstoren and Sorobon, but only along the coast.

See a map of the prohibited areas on our extra pages on the online edition of *The Reporter*.

<https://bonairereporter.com>

## Hospice Open House



**Hospice Kas Flamboyan is opening its doors to the** community of Bonaire for their annual Open House on March 28, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. with Lt. Governor John Soliano officiating the opening at 11 a.m.

Visitors will have the opportunity to learn more about the hospice, meet the dedicated team, take a guided tour and experience the peaceful atmosphere.

The building of a fifth room is well underway which visitors can check in to see the progress.

Hospice Kas Flamboyan is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing compassionate care to people in their final stage of life.

## Registration for youth project on the history of slavery is open

In April 2026, the unique youth project *Kibra i Konstrui: Un Biah den mi Rais* will start on Bonaire, as part of the Bonaire Slavery Past Action Agenda. This project focuses on the connection between the history of slavery and the way in which this continues to impact families, upbringing, and the mental health of young people today. Registration is now open. Young people aged 15 to 21 can register via website

<https://kibraikonstrui.my.canva.site/>

# 123 Car Rental Seru Largu Challenge held

Together S.V. Athene Bonaire Youth Athletics and 123 Car Rental devised the 2026 Seru Largu Challenge.



The site of this first ever 123 Car Rental Seru Largu Challenge held on March 15 came about due to a coincidence.

“Because the mountain is just as high as our company name, [123 meters] it was a logical choice for us to come up with a sponsored run,” said Luite Berkenbosch of 123 Car Rental.

The 20 participants began the trek up to Seru Largu and circled around the road of the 123-meter-high peak that overlooks Bonaire. After reaching the top, adults and kids walked 149 times for one and a half hours along the road.

Some \$3000 was realized for S.V. Athene with contributions from the participants and 123 Car Rental. S.V. Athene is a club that supports youth athletics. The funds earned will help enable the youth to participate in international athletic tournaments outside of Bonaire.

*123 Car Rental release & photo*

# Watch the video: How to Care about Bonaire



How to Care about Bonaire <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2GAH4MqjBU>

Bonaire may be a small, climate-vulnerable island off the coast of Venezuela, beloved by divers, but it made international news when judges in The Hague issued their ruling in the Greenpeace Bonaire climate lawsuit. They found that the government of the Netherlands violated the human rights of island residents by not offering the same level of climate protection enjoyed by residents of the European Netherlands. With that, Greenpeace Bonaire set another important legal precedent, along with Urgenda and Milieudefensie. The Poldergeist team is proud to have collaborated with several of the Bonaire plaintiffs in making this video. For more info: <https://www.greenpeace.org/international>.



TCB is proud to announce

## Flamingo Ride-Sharing

A new eco-startup is allegedly testing “Flamingo-Go,” a low-impact transport app where tourists can be ferried across the Pekelmeer by trained flamingos, provided they weigh less than 15kg and don’t mind the pink feathers.

## Salt Pier Snowfall

Cargill has announced that due to a rare atmospheric crystallization event, they will be opening the Salt Pier tomorrow for Bonaire’s first ever “Summer Skiing” event on the white salt mountains.

## The Donkey-Taxi Meter

New regulations purportedly require all roaming donkeys in the Kunuku to be fitted with digital meters; if a donkey walks alongside your car for more than 100 meters, you are legally obligated to pay them three carrots and a head-pat.

BN. 🐰

TCB is in negotiations to purchase the historic Rooi Lamoenchi Kunuku for the purpose of creating a world-class training center. This story explores how a dilapidated plantation could be transformed into the cornerstone of Bonaire’s tourism future. Here’s a glimpse into the vision.



## The Gateway to Kunuku Culture

The first sight of the new Tourism Corporation Bonaire (TCB) training center is a blend of respect for the past and modern innovation. The original landhuis Rooi Lamoenchi (plantation house) has been painstakingly restored and sits at the heart of the site. Surrounding it are new, sustainable learning modules that blend into the desert landscape. It’s not just a school; it’s an experience. The main entrance is now a visitor’s plaza where students and tourists mix, instantly connecting everyone to the Rooi Lamoenchi story.

TCB’s new center will not be defined by concrete walls and fluorescent lights. Instead, “Classrooms in the Scrub” are decentralized learning pods that can be moved and reconfigured. These are

eco-friendly, energy-efficient structures that provide a comfortable, high-tech environment for up to 20 students. Each pod can be customized—one day a specialized culinary lab, the next a digital marketing studio. The walls are designed to fully retract, creating an open-air classroom that feels less like school and more like a retreat.

A major focus of the center is to raise the standard for tour guides on the island. While basic knowledge of flora and fauna is essential, TCB aims for “The Whole Guide.” A key component of this training involves soft skills and emergency scenarios. This diagram illustrates the curriculum, showing how guides are trained to read human group dynamics as well as environmental signs. This

kind of holistic training will ensure that visitors have safer, more engaging, and more meaningful experiences.

The project will include a state-of-the-art “Cactus-to-Cup” culinary and product development lab. Here, students will not only learn modern Caribbean cuisine, but they’ll also research and prototype new Bonairean products, from cadushi cactus-infused spirits to advanced desalination techniques for small-scale irrigation. This isn’t just a kitchen; it’s an innovation hub that could help diversify Bonaire’s economy, turning a unique desert resource into a sustainable export.

BN. *A Future is Now Release*



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## Canarbo and Funchi - a perfect match from page 6



Funchi passed on his knowledge learned from Robert about sea turtles as the field and educational expert. He taught the STCB employees and volunteers how to net, monitor the beaches and tag the turtles.

In October last year, after Brian and Indira had a taste of Funchi's smoked marlin on several occasions, their interest was piqued. Funchi was hoping to restart the business exclusively with Canarbo and a meeting was set.

"We saw what he did... and we showed him who we are. For us quality is everything and when we noticed that Funchi brought that to his products, adding to the fact that all is local, including salt and wood, etc, the decision was easy, right there and then we were very honored to represent him," said Brian.

The collaboration between Funchi and Canarbo is called Washikemba Smoked Specialties, setting the standard for true natural smoking on Bonaire. The smoked fish and meats: salmon, marlin, brisket and duck breast are slow smoked overnight with no seasonings other than salt.

Visit Canarbo at Kaya Industria #23 for Washikemba Smoked Specialties and all their epicurean products. Canarbo is open Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

[www.canarbo.com](http://www.canarbo.com) Julie Morgan



## Pet of the Week

**This is Birkin.** He is a 6 month old ginger and white fur kitty. Birkin was found by a mechanic under the hood of a car when he was a weak and dirty one-month-old kitten. He was taken into foster care, where he met his three foster siblings. With a lot of care and love from his foster mom, Birkin is now a strong, beautiful and confident boy and honors his name! But unfortunately Birkin is the only one his foster siblings not to find his forever home. Who would like to adopt this luxury kitten who we named after the Birkin Bag? Come meet Birkin in Kittykresh! *Story / Photo: Bo Attevelt*

**Animal Shelter Bonaire, Kaminda Lagun 26A.**  
Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Sat. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Call/What's App 701-4989 [animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com](mailto:animalshelterbonaire@gmail.com)

## Make Bonaire Accessible

All those changes ..... by Ria Dokter

Recently a small group of us elderly women were talking about how many things have changed in our lifetime... from the day we started our first job till the day we retired.

And I remember oh so well how I had those talks with Mom. Her world had changed so much already (she was born in 1922!).

I believe she was the first woman who got divorced on the little island we lived on at the time. She loved life so much, but living on this small island kept her "down." She always told me how she had longed for a job away from the island, where you could travel when you wanted, you just had to catch that train...

When she was younger, she traveled sometimes to Germany, where a nephew of ours lived. He had stayed there after the war, was married and happy. So... yes, traveling was what Mom loved.

But all things technical, she hated. Everything else she could see was okay.

The phone was one thing she just loved. She was in Holland and I lived on Curaçao. When you wanted to make a phone call, you had to "order" that at Lands radio. You would get a number and wait for your international call to come through. All conversations one could overhear, because everybody seemed to yell.

Later the home phone was introduced, but Mom was still very sceptical. She preferred to go to the neighbors and make or receive her call there. Everyone in the room heard every word we said, but at first, she did not care. My brother and I decided that she needed a phone of her own, and so, it happened.

During a visit to Holland I stayed at Mom's and suggested that she would make use of a facsimile, a fax! I thought that it would be so easy for her to operate. We sat down and I started to explain how I would write a letter to her, stick that letter in the fax-machine, enter her phone-number and push the start button.

Mom looked hard at me and said, "So, you must think I am an idiot. You write a letter in Curaçao, you put that letter through that "fax thing" of yours, push my phone number and then that letter appears in my living-room, from my phone? Yes!! You really think I am stupid. I laughed so hard, but then I understood that she was right.

All those technical things, machines that took over one's life were scary, because they were hard to understand and to operate.

I wonder how the elderly handle those things nowadays. They all seem to have a cellphone, but do they know how to use them? Do they know how to do internet banking, take a picture? Is there the possibility to learn or teach them? Is there a service being offered? They need to keep up, but do they really? And how?



*Ria Dokter is living happily on Bonaire, where she 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.*



## Mikey's "Air" Pastechi

In a move toward "Extreme Light" dieting, Mikey's Snack is offering a one-day-only "Vacuum Pastechi"—all the golden-brown crust and aroma, but with a center filled with 100% pressurized Caribbean sea breeze.

BN



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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Winter 2025/2026  
starting October 1st

DESTINATION	AIRLINE	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	DETAILS
NEW YORK JFK	jetBlue						✓		Last flight on January 3, 2026
MIAMI	American Airlines	✓		✓		✓	✓*		DAILY Dec. 17, 2025 - Jan. 5, 2026 *Saturdays 2 daily flights (seasonal)
ATLANTA	DELTA			✓*			✓	✓*	*Starting Dec. 20th, seasonal flights
NEW YORK NEWARK	UNITED						✓		Starting Nov. 1st
HOUSTON	UNITED							✓	Arrival on Saturdays
TORONTO	WESTJET			✓					Starting Dec. 9th - Arrivals on Tue.
AMSTERDAM	KLM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓*	*Fri. & Sun. 2 daily flights - Dec.19, 2025 - Mar. 15 2026
AMSTERDAM	TUI	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		Wed   Thu   Fri direct from AMS
AMSTERDAM	corendon.		✓*					✓	*Starting Oct. 14th - till Oct. 8 on Wednesdays
SANTO DOMINGO SDQ	SKYhigh Dominicana					✓			
CURACAO   SINT MAARTEN	WINAIR	✓		✓		✓			Arrivals on Sun   Tue   Thu
CURACAO   ARUBA	DIVIDIVI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CURACAO   ARUBA	ZAir	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Please note this schedule is subject to change without prior notice.

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\*Materials included

Contact via whatsapp : +599 700 7115  
Email: sobremesabonaire@gmail.com

# FUNDRAISING WALKATHON

Walk for a good  
cause.  
Kids need Kiwanis,  
Kiwanis needs you!

**Thank you for  
supporting our  
causes!**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:  
VAN DEN TWEEL  
FEB. 28 & MARCH 7  
FROM 10 AM TO 1 PM**



Walk for a  
good cause

## K-WALK



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF KRALENDIJK, BONAIRE

Stay hydrated!  
Bring your refillable water bottle

REGISTER  
NOW



[forms.gle/aojKsDBkmCkMAu5GA](https://forms.gle/aojKsDBkmCkMAu5GA)

**Sunday  
March 29, 2026  
Warm up at 6:30 AM  
Start and finish at  
Felt di Snip  
\$15 free for kids under 12**

**Includes:  
Kiwanis goodies  
snack at finish  
6 and 10 KM routes**

BO NAIRE

DJADUMINGU

26 APREL 26

21:00 - 03:00



COCARI (PLENCHI CARMEN GOELOE)



KINGS OF KRIYOYO

2 0 2 6

KARCHI TA OPTENIBEL NA

**TCB (TOURISM CORPORATION BONAIRE)**  
**LISA CONVINIENCE STORE**  
**POMPSTATION RINCON**  
**RENDELL +599 795 7959**  
**KEVOECH +599 796 9800**



**KARCHI**

**KARNÉ**

**SOLD OUT**

**CHUBATU BIEU**

**\$25,-**

**NA PORTA SI SOBRA**

*It's in our nature.*



# TIDYING UP AND HELPING OTHERS?

## OPRUIMEN EN HELPEN?

Nieuwe of gebruikte spullen, huisraad, gereedschap, speelgoed, kunst, decoratie, keuken apparaten, elektronica etc etc. **Doneer uw spullen aan de Rotary Club Bonaire en steun daarmee goede doelen op Bonaire.**

*Neem contact met ons op en we halen het op!*

New and used items, household goods, tools, toys, art, decorations, kitchen appliances, electronics, etc etc.

**Donate your items to the Rotary Club and sustain good causes on Bonaire.**

*Contact us and we will pick it up.*

## KAS LIMPIO, YUDA SERKA!

Artíkulonán nobo òf usa, artíkulonán di kas, hèrmèntnan, ko'i hunga, arte, dekorashonnan, aparatonan di kushina, elektróniko, etc **Duna na Rotary Club pa sostene bon causa na Boneiru.**

*Tuma kontakto ku nos i nos ta buské.*



**DIA DI REI - APRIL 27**

**CONTACT US**

For donations & info



+599 785 0809

# BONAIRE MONTHLY TOURISM PERFORMANCE

## FEBRUARY 2026

### THE FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW:

*These data are preliminary figures.*

**NUMBER OF VISITORS BY AIR**  
17,974 **2026**

All non-residents are registered as visitors

**NUMBER OF VISITORS BY AIR**  
17,908 **2025**

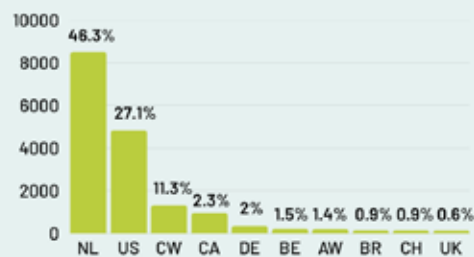
**2026 COMPARED TO 2025**

**0.37%**

Increase in non-resident arrivals



#### COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



#### TOP STATES & REGION

**US** New York, Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and California.

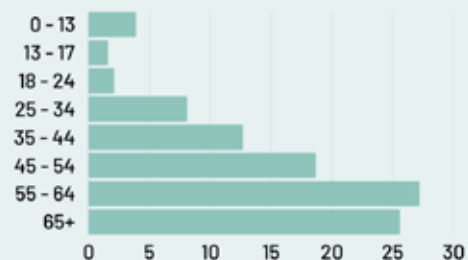
**NL** North Holland, South Holland, North Brabant, Gelderland, and Utrecht.

### DEMOGRAPHICS

#### AGE | DUTCH



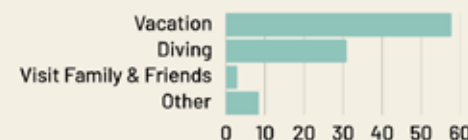
#### AGE | AMERICAN



#### REASON TO VISIT | DUTCH

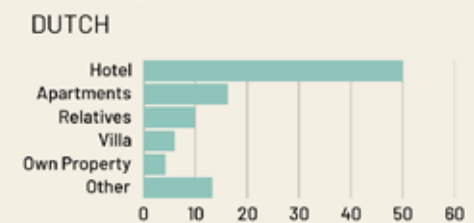


#### REASON TO VISIT | AMERICAN

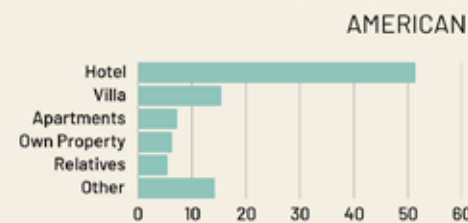


### VISITOR BEHAVIOR

#### ACCOMMODATION TYPE | DUTCH



#### ACCOMMODATION TYPE | AMERICAN



#### LENGTH OF STAY



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- [www.bonaireisland.com](http://www.bonaireisland.com)
- [info@bonaireisland.com](mailto:info@bonaireisland.com)
- [bonaire.portcall.com](http://bonaire.portcall.com)



**SACA**

Stichting Art Center Antriof

# ART NEWS

on view...

IN THE FRONT GALLERY  
14 February - 4 April



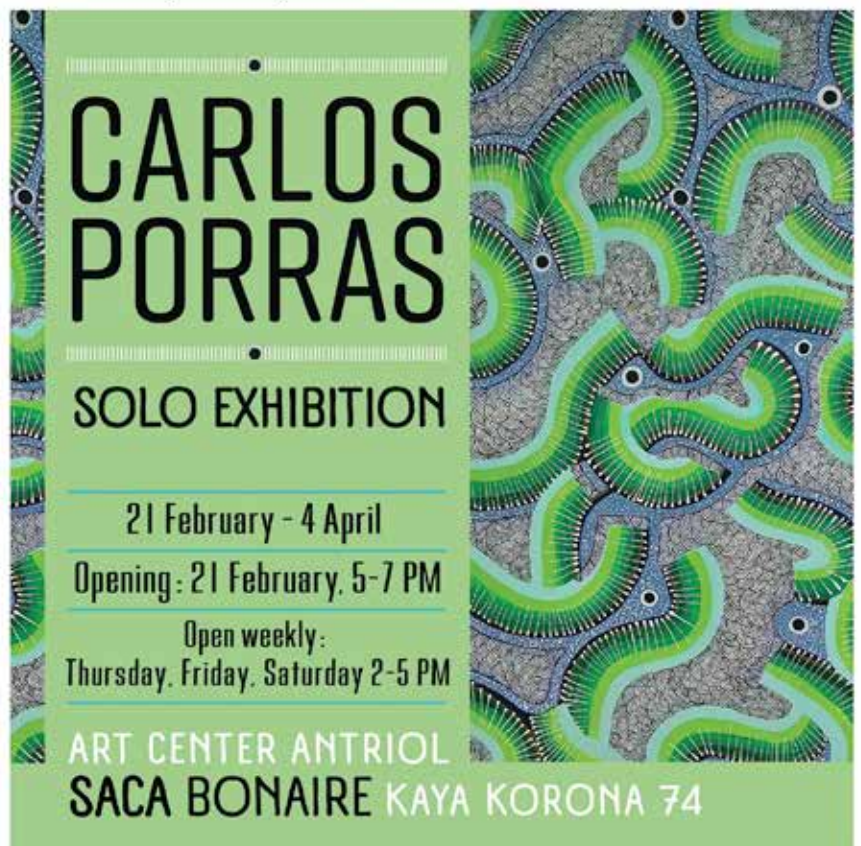
**SACA**

Stichting Art Center Antriof

# ART NEWS

opening soon...

IN THE PIANO GALLERY  
21 February - 4 April  
OPENING: Saturday 21 February 5-7 PM



# No dogs on beaches

## STINAPA POST:

We adore our four-legged friends, yet it's crucial we respect our delicate ecosystems.

Please adhere to these guidelines to maintain the beauty of our beaches and protect the wildlife.

Nesting Area Respect: No dog walking in sea turtle nesting zones. Fines of up to \$170 may apply.

It is permitted to walk dogs between Punt Vierkant and the Salt Pier and between the Willemstoren and Sorobon, but only along the coast.

Off-Limits Shores: Dogs are not permitted on these specific beaches. View the map for details.

- Playa Lechi (Sunset Beach)
- Playa Lechi Suit (Boulevard)
- Playa Chachacha
- Playa pal'i mangel (Donkey's Beach)
- Fòm'i kalki (Bachelor's Beach)
- From Saliña (salt pier) to Lacre Punt (Willemstoren)
- Sorobon and Cai
- Piedra haltu (Thousand Steps)
- Tolo
- Klein Bonaire





# BONAIRE FRIENDS

*CELEBRATING THE BEST PART OF BONAIRE*

DID YOU MAKE A FRIEND DURING YOUR STAY ON BONAIRE?

*SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US*

We're celebrating the wonderful people of Bonaire and want to hear your stories! Have you met a local who made your visit unforgettable, maybe by showing you a hidden gem, helping you try something new, or simply lending a kind hand?

Share your experience and tell us about your Bonaire Friend, they could be recognized with a special prize!



**FILL IT IN HERE!**



[WWW.BONAIREISLAND.COM](http://WWW.BONAIREISLAND.COM)