

Boracay Sun

FREE

APRIL/MAY 2023 • VOL. 21 NO. 134
Established April 2008

BORACAY'S DAILY NEWS
AND Your insider's guide to the New Boracay Island

Check out our new website at boracaysunnews.com

DOWNLOAD NOW!

Discount Coupons
Hotel & Restaurant Bookings
Watersports, Activities,
Information and
much much more!

Tour De Force

Flying High In Boracay At The ICTSI Philippine Kiteboarding Tour Season 8

By Freida Dario-Santiago



This year's PKA Tour competitors harnessing winds along Bulabog Beach at 27 knots

(Photo by Alexandru Baranescu)

Hailed as the “Number One Kiteboarding Beach in Asia,” Boracay Island’s Bulabog Beach shines once more, at the ICTSI (International Container Terminal Services Inc.) Philippine Kiteboarding Tour Season 8, organized by the Philippine Kiteboarding Association (PKA).

The 2.5-kilometer Bulabog Beach has earned the distinction for its flat and shallow reef-protected waters and ample winds, providing the perfect conditions for wind sports such as kiteboarding and windsurfing. A watersports wonderland during the Amihan (northeast monsoon) season, the beach offers an awesome visual feast for spectators and residents.

One of the most highly-anticipated international water sporting events, the ICTSI Philippine Kiteboarding Tour, also referred to as the PKA Tour, is the first major sporting event in Boracay since the two-year pandemic lockdown. Although a

mini bubble event was held last year with only local participants due to international travel restrictions at the time, the last PKA Tour Season 7 was held in 2019 to 2020, with the last stop held in Boracay on the first week of March 2020.

PKA president Jay Ortiz said, “We are excited to bring back the tour after two years of absence due to the global pandemic. Since our Silver Medal win in the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, we have set our eyes on other global events. Our aim is for this tour to again put into track our Olympic Program for training local athletes and talents as Kiteboarding will be a permanent event beginning with the 2024 Paris Olympics.”

Indeed, after a long break, the PKA delivered the most adrenaline-filled competitions to date, starting with a historic competition launch last September at Dolomite Beach, Manila Bay. It was the first time that kiteboarders were seen surfing the waters of Manila Bay.

Culminating on Boracay Island’s shores from March 3 to 5, the exhilarating Boracay leg hosted a record-breaking 135 participants in Boracay alone. International participants came from all over the world, from as far as Hawaii, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Israel, Netherlands, Belgium, France, the UK and Russia.

According to PKA’s tour coordinator and overall event organizer Azenith Resurreccion, “Overall, we had close to 200 participants this season, with participants joining the competitions at every stop. It was great to offer participants and the various host municipalities we’ve been to, the highlights and features that the PKA Tour is known for, and to showcase another successful kitesurfing tour competition to the international audience.”

The wind gods blessed the weekend with 20 to 27 knots of wind and for three days, fans and enthusiasts enjoyed the

spectacular kitesurfing competitions in Freestyle, Hangtime and Racing. It was also wonderful to see all the local kite schools supporting the event in full force, as one big happy wind-swept family. Participating schools included Freestyle Academy Kitesurfing, Windriders Kite School, Timog Kiteboarding, Habagat Kite Center, Kitecenter at Banana Bay, Padayon Kitesurfing Center, Isla Kiteboarding, Reefriders Kite School, GreenYard Kitesurfing Center, Funboard Center Boracay and Hangin Kite Center.

AQUA Boracay, this year’s event venue host, had expressed their commitment to host the event in the coming years. With the support of the Municipality of Malay and Paradise Cable Television Network Inc., the event was broadcast via livestreaming, with international commentators. The tour was also supported by Woo Sports, The Headware,

continued on page 3

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p>PAGE 3</p> <p>THE RACES</p> | <p>PAGE 9</p> <p>ENVIRONMENT NEWS</p> | <p>PAGE 16</p> <p>ISLAND EVENTS</p> | <p>PAGE 17</p> <p>FUN FACTS</p> | <p>PAGE 22</p> <p>ARIA'S BIRTHDAY</p> |
|--|---|---|---|---|

PERCY

“BEST SEAFOOD”
Esquire

STATION 1 BEACHFRONT, SEAWORTHY BORACAY
IN FRONT OF WILLY’S ROCK

the SURRY SIDE CAFE group

Welcome To The New Normal In Philippine Tourism!

The DoT's New Directive Says, It's Time To "Relax!"

There could not have been a better way to welcome the summer season of 2023! The Department of Tourism (DoT) has released Memorandum Circular (MC) 2023-0002 entitled "Relaxation of Health and Safety Protocols for the Operation of Tourism Enterprises" to further ease health and safety guidelines of tourism establishments, in line with promoting the country to foreign travelers.

According to the DoT MC 2023-0002, presenting proof of full vaccination and wearing face masks in tourism enterprises will no longer be required.

The installation of plastic, acrylic barriers, and dividers in designated areas, signages, visual cues, and other installations on mandatory protocols are no longer required as well.

Furthermore, accommodation establishments also no longer need to include the number, nature of work, and length of stay of permitted guests, as well as names of companies or businesses with employees that are booked with the establishment.

Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco said, this is a follow-through of the efforts of the tourism department, which began last year to assist tourism stakeholders by issuing regulations pushing to further open the country to tourism. "This latest issuance on the relaxed health and safety guidelines for tourism establishments reinforces the Department of Tourism's commitment toward addressing the economic hardships of the tourism industry brought about by the lockdowns and restrictions of the pandemic. It sends the important message across that, under the Marcos Administration, our country is open for tourism, and that we are keeping up with global practices on tourism operations that have already opened worldwide," Secretary Frasco said.

In adherence to the country's policy shifts on minimum public health standards, the DoT also announced that it shall no longer issue the PH Safety Seal and WTTC Safe Travels Stamp to tourism enterprises and other national government agencies.



Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia-Frasco

"It sends the important message across that our country is open for tourism, and that we are keeping up with global practices on tourism operations that have already opened up worldwide," Frasco added.

As the **Boracay Sun News (BSN)** team revisits the drawing board and irons out some relaunch kinks, we are thrilled to give our readers a post-pandemic lifestyle community newspaper that is tuned in to the times. This April | May double issue contains just enough summer-related stories to whet your appetites, but do visit our social pages for more up-to-date news and goings-on.

Moreover, if you haven't yet, download the free **Boracay Sun Lifestyle App**, a one-stop app to get you to and around Boracay Island! Be the first to know what's hot & happening on the sultry tropical island, and get VIP access and the best deals from point A to Paradise, all in one app. Lose yourself in paradise, but never get lost! Follow us at @bsnlifestyleapp.

As of press time, the Local Government Unit of Malay is busy finalizing the details for the much-anticipated annual "LoveBoracay" Labor Day weekend (April 29 to May 1) festivities. Tune in to our Facebook page @boracaysunnews for updates.

Last but not least, we would like to



Publisher
Chelsea Ablazo Jeffery

Chief Operations Officer
Claire Ablazo Jeffery

Editorial Directors
Lotie Mercado • Charlie Greene

Editor in Chief
Freida Dario-Santiago

Marketing Director
Abigail Doroga

Social Media Director
Alexandra Heard

Creative Director
Wilbert Lamsden

Administration Director
Ara Mhay Guzman

Contributors
Karen Bermejo • Jun Aguirre
Charlie Greene • Jen Freeman
Rica Velasco • Nikki Alvarez • Armand TJ
Jun Aguirre • Theresa Reyes-Alvarez
Abigail Lei • Pebbles Mendoza

Advertising Enquiries
Abi@boracaysunnews.com
0975 920 5587
Claire@boracaysunnews.com
0917 638 6341

Publishing Company
Jeffery International Media Corp
9th Floor, One Griffingstone Building
Commerce Avenue
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

Boracay Sun News
3rd Floor, SCPA Building
Bantud, Boracay
Tel: (036) 286 2380
info@boracaysunnews.com
www.boracaysunnews.com

Boracay Sun Founder
Victor Jeffery

Boracay Sun News is published monthly and distributed free of charge. The publishers accept no liability for any incorrect spelling or representations of any persons or businesses names or addresses. Nor will liability be accepted for the claims of any advertisers or the content of their advertisements. It is the responsibility of individuals or companies to conduct their own due diligence before purchasing any services or products contained in advertisements or advertorial content. The opinions expressed within are not necessarily the opinions of or agreed with by the editorial board, editors or publishers of Boracay Sun News. However, we agree with their right to freedom of speech and expression. Truth in Journalism.

www.boracaysunnews.com

Boracay Sun News

@boracaysunnews



invite writers and photographers to contribute to the new **BSN**.

Send us a 300-word essay on any of these subjects: Restaurant review, Boracay activity, or personality profile; or a link to a portfolio of your photographs, on our Facebook Messenger @boracaysunnews.

On behalf of the **BSN** family, thank you for all the wonderful well-wishes and support! Send us photos of yourself enjoying your free copy on our Facebook Messenger @boracaysunnews, so we can

share the love in our next issue!
Happy summer lovin' in Boracay, better than ever!

Peace and good vibes,

Editor-In-Chief
@boracaysunnews
@bsnlifestyleapp



(From left) Boracay Sun News, busy beachcombing all over Boracay Island; Joselito Santiago's post on Facebook; Residencia Boracay owner Lynn Rachel Totto with yours truly on her Facebook story; Juan & Bianca Elizalde with their copy at the grand launch of their Jammers Beach Shack

continued from front page

ICT Cloverleaf Trading, and Santa Fe Kiteschool (SFK). Other local sponsors included The Lazy Dog Bed and Breakfast, Lemony Café, Dinibeach Bar & Restaurant and Wind Riders Inn. The evening socials were co-hosted by TV host Marc Nelson, an avid kiteboarder who came to the island just to support the event.

Extreme athletes from all over the world converged for Season 8 of the ICTSI Philippine Kiteboarding Tour 2022 to 2023, which showcased four of the Philippines' top beach destinations to the kitesurfing world, namely Ilocos Norte (October 20 to 23), Sicogon Island in Carles, Iloilo City (January 12 to 15) and Santa Fe, Bantayan, Cebu City (February 10 to 12) and Bulabog Beach, Boracay Island (March 3 to 5).

Ken Nacor, PKA vice president and one of the pioneers of Boracay kiteboarding, who is also one of the front runners of the competition expressed, "Being back to the tour after the pandemic feels very good, seeing old kiteboarders and many new ones who just learned to kiteboard in all our stops really proves the success of our campaign for the sport. We are encouraged to push our young local

athletes to train more and more to master the sport and become the best kiteboarder our country can produce to represent us (again) in the Olympics."

Ortiz, who, together with the PKA officers has been actively campaigning for the foil race team for the Philippines remarked, "The PKA is committed in our thrust in developing our athletes for international competitions, most especially in the Olympics. Our biggest success to date was our silver medal in Kiteboard Twin Tip Race in the last youth Olympics in 2018 with Christian Tio. And now that the Olympics format has changed to foil board racing, we're now giving focus on this new class in our events which we started in Season 7 back in 2019."

PKA

The Philippine Kiteboarding Association (PKA) is the country's premiere kitesurfing organization and is globally recognized by the International Kiteboarding Association (IKA) as a certified kiteboarding institution conducting top-quality, IKA-certified tournaments.

Composed of professional and recreational riders from Manila and Boracay, the PKA was formed in 2013,

with the aim of supporting young Filipino talents and preparing them for international competitions. The founding officers of the organization include Carlo Leongson with Joseph Ryan Consul of Manila Kiteboarding, Ken Nacor, Liezl Tio and Bong Fernando of Boracay and Mark Anthony Alli of Palawan Kiteboarding.

Since then, the PKA has been conducting national kiteboarding tour competitions across the country in some of the best destination spots for the sport, with over 200 participants each year including local and international kiteboarding superstars joining the tours.

One of its founders, current PKA president Jay Ortiz who hails from Manila used to be a windsurfing enthusiast. In 2006 he discovered kiteboarding by joining the long-running wind sports event – the Boracay International Funboard Cup – Boracay's iconic homegrown event, and the Philippines' longest-running and most successful annual international sporting event that ran for 26 years, founded by Nenette and Roby Graf.

Thanks to the Funboard Cup, Ortiz became part of the Boracay kiteboarding community. He then introduced his friends in Manila to the sport and since then, they have been discovering windy

spots all over Luzon. As the community continued to grow, the inception of PKA came about in the hopes of producing top-class athletes, with a sustainable sports development program, while helping to boost the local economy by promoting various destinations to local and international tourists.

For more information about the PKA, visit @PKATourPH on Facebook.

Want to learn to kiteboard in Boracay?

The Boracay Windsports Association (BWA) headed by Nenette Graf is the governing and regulating body of all kiteboarding and windsurfing schools in Bulabog Beach, Boracay Island. BWA is comprised of windsurfing and kitesurfing schools and enthusiasts in Boracay. Visit their Facebook page to learn more.

You may also visit the Facebook page of any of the kitesurfing schools mentioned in this article, to find out more about the lessons offered.

For those who want to try kiteboarding in the months of April and May, simply take a stroll along the Bulabog Beach promenade and inquire directly at the kitesurfing schools, which also offer rentals and accommodations. 🌿



Still Boracay's homegrown champ, Ken Nacor is this season's Twin Tip Race Master overall champion.



Olympic medalist at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics and Boracay's racing champ from the age of 15, Christian Tio, now 22, was this season's overall champion in two categories: Twin Tip Race Men and Freestyle Men.



(Left) Start Boat with race director, Andy Curnow and crew, signaling minutes until race start; (Right) "Finish boat" with marshals taking notes of race finishers



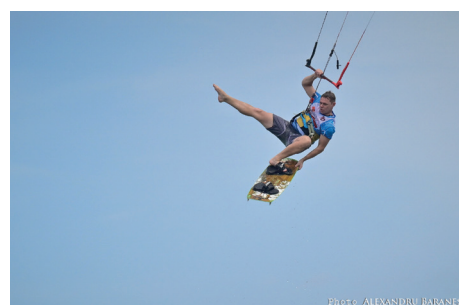
(Left) Freestyle Academy's racers Warner Janoya and Dilbert Bayog go neck and neck; (Right) Someone to watch for in future competitions, Janoya emerges overall second runner-up for Twin Tip Racing Men's category.



Freestyle Competition



(Left) Mariska Wildenberg of the Netherlands, a returning competitor, joined the PKA Tour's three stops alongside her training preparation for the Olympics 2024 qualifying event; (Right) Boracay's Gretchen Dela Cruz doing mid-air "nose grab" is this season's overall first runner-up for Freestyle Women.



(Left) Former Boracay resident Fred Soupart of Belgium performing an aerial "one footer" freestyle trick; (Right) Isabel Venturini of Italy performing a "front roll tail grab" trick which landed her third place in Freestyle women.



continued on page 4

continued from page 3



(Left) Making waves in the competitions and this season's Twin Tip Race Novice Men's category champion, Boracay kiter Ben Field doing the acrobatic "dead man" trick; (Right) Twin Tip Race Master overall champion, Boracay's Ken Nacor doing the "board off" trick.



(Left) Best friends Christian Tio and Warner Janoya showing their own version of a "piggyback" after their head-to-head battle in the Freestyle Men's finals where Tio beat Janoya by about two "unlanded" tricks; (Right) Both homegrown athletes from Bulabog Beach, Tio and Janoya are proving to be top sportsmen, showing the world how it's done!



Freestyle judges (from left): Jack Agrabio, Jay Ortiz, competition director Mars Gersbach and Ryan Cahilig

Sportsmanship At Its Finest



(Left) Isabel Venturini of Italy high fives her contender Cyril Dacudao after their Freestyle match and on the shore; (Right) A high five from Archie Bantang of Hangin Kite Center, one of the best contenders of Freestyle Men's category:



"The Lion King" moment: three year old Radu takes this season's "Cutest Kiter Kid" award (we made this up of course!), photographed by his father Alex

Superb Spectator Sport



Boracay Island residents in full force



Photos by Zander Servando

The Overall Winners

Photos by Zander Servando



Winners all, the awarding ceremonies were held at AQUA Boracay.



Hangtime Competition



Saskia Oswell of Boracay defying gravity in the Hangtime competition



Great hangtime shot by Alexandru Baranescu

Congratulations to the winners of the ICTSI Philippine Kiteboarding Tour Season 8!

Each leg features three main competition disciplines: Race, Hangtime (longest on-air trick) and Freestyle.

The race is further subdivided between Men, Women, Masters Class (40 to 54 years old) and Grand Masters Class (55 years old and above), plus a Novice division for new participants of the sport, while the Freestyle and Hangtime competitions are subdivided to two classes, Men and Women.

With the introduction of the Foil board race, the number of kiteboarding disciplines in this year's PKA Tour has now increased to 11 categories.

Twin Tip Race Novice Women

2nd Runner-up: Anika Shane Diaz Mayot (Cagbalete)
1st Runner-up: Gretchen Dela Cruz (Boracay)
Champion: Cyril Dacudao (Boracay)

Twin Tip Race Novice Men

2nd Runner-up: Junskie Dimamay (Boracay)
1st Runner-up: Rey Sastre (Boracay)
Champion: Ben Field (Boracay)

Twin Tip Race Grand Masters

2nd Runner-up: Eddie Garcia (Puerto Galera)
1st Runner-up: Mariel Candava (Puerto Galera)
Champion: Warren Vance (Ireland)

Twin Tip Race Masters

2nd Runner-Up: Joseph Consul (Manila)
1st Runner-Up: Louie Fernando (Boracay)
Champion: Ken Nacor (Boracay)

Twin Tip Race Women

2nd Runner-Up: Saskia Oswell (Boracay)
1st Runner-up: Mariska Wildenberg (Netherlands)
Champion: Irene Lara (Boracay)

Twin Tip Race Men

2nd Runner-up: Warner Janoya (Boracay)
1st Runner-up: Stefan Vance (Ireland)
Champion: Christian Tio (Boracay)

Hang time Women

2nd Runner-up: Cyril Dacudao (Boracay)
1st Runner-up: Irene Lara (Boracay)
Champion: Gretchen Dela Cruz (Boracay)

Hangtime Men

2nd Runner-up: Ken Nacor (Boracay)
1st Runner-up: Christian Tio (Boracay)
Champion: Stefan Vance (Ireland)

Freestyle Women

2nd Runner-up: Irene Lara (Boracay)
1st Runner-up: Gretchen Dela Cruz (Boracay)
Champion: Mariska Wildenberg (Netherlands)

Freestyle Men

2nd Runner-up: MJ Cahilig (Boracay)
1st Runner-up: Ken Nacor (Boracay)
Champion: Christian Tio (Boracay)

Foil Racing Men

4th Runner-up: Warner Janoya (Boracay)
3rd Runner-up: Somsak Promwaen (Thailand)
2nd Runner-up: John Louie Non (Cagbalete)
1st Runner-up: Christian Tio (Boracay)
Champion: Stefan Vance (Ireland)

RELATED STORIES: BORACAY PEOPLE:

Christian Tio: Filipino Wunderkind in the Kiteboarding World Kitesurfing Diaries: Why I left Manila to pursue my new obsession.

Make your vacation wonderful and experience our Seafood Mukbang Boodle Fight

Boradise Compound, Station 1
Tel: 0969 285 5644

aria

20

Years

Since 2003

"No. 1 Authentic Italian Restaurant on the island of Boracay"

Aria Cucina Italiana

Cafe del Sol
20
ANNIVERSARY

With every sip and every bite, a story unravels. A smile is shared and happiness takes flight. Café del Sol - a Boracay original since 2003- bringing you the very best coffee shop experience on the island.

Beachfront, D'mall of Boracay
 ☎: 777/288-5573
 ☎: 09984828490 / 09260846959

www.cafedelso.com.ph

 cafedelsoiph

HAMA

15

Years

Appetizing sushi and sashimi.
Fresh seafood and meat dishes.
Flavorful Japanese noodles and tempura dishes.
Crispy, healthy salads and grilled yakitori.

AUTHENTIC MODERN AMAZING

D'mall Plaza, D'mall of Boracay
 T: (036) 248-5978

www.hama.com.ph

 hamajapanesecuisine

BORACAY BEACH TRUCK

01

YEAR

Main Entrance, D'Mall of Boracay
 288-6749 OR 0969-1490059
 @boracaybeachtruck

www.delivery.boracaybeachtruck.com.ph

Authentic Italian Ice Cream

Made Fresh Daily

Beside Aria Cucina Italiana
 ☎ 777/288-5573
www.aria.com.ph
 @ariacucinaitaliana

Boracay Community Comes Together To 'Walk For Mental Health'

By Karen Bermejo

In an effort to promote mental health awareness, more than 800 people have walked together on the White Beach of Boracay Island for the first-ever March for Mental Health.

The activity held on March 26 was organized by multi-sectoral groups, including the Philippine Red Cross Boracay-Malay Chapter and the Malay-Boracay Lifeline, in partnership with the Local Government Unit of Malay.

The advocacy walk gathered people from all walks of life including students, parents, business owners, members of civic organizations, artists, community leaders, volunteers, and even tourists, who shared the same vision of bringing awareness why "Mental Health Matters."

Following the parade, a series of activities were held to further educate the participants on mental health. Self-help activities to reduce stress and anxiety, as well as help desks for assessment, referrals and services were provided for the participants.

The activity also raised funds for Malay-Boracay Lifeline initiatives in helping those who are suffering from mental conditions such as depression and anxiety.

Citing the sudden rise of suicide cases, depression, anxiety, and other mental health conditions in the past three years in Malay, particularly at the height of the pandemic, the Malay-Boracay Lifeline group said breaking the stigma will allow more people to seek help.



MARCH FOR MENTAL HEALTH. More than 800 participants join the advocacy walk along the White Beach of Boracay to raise awareness on mental health.



"These individuals suffered in silence, struggled on their own knowing others will take their situation lightly or even make fun of it," they added.

Meanwhile, in her inspirational speech during the event, Dra. Athena Magdamit, Medical Officer 4 and OIC-Medical Health Officer of Malay likewise stressed the importance of seeking help.

She said, "If you are struggling to maintain good mental health, you are

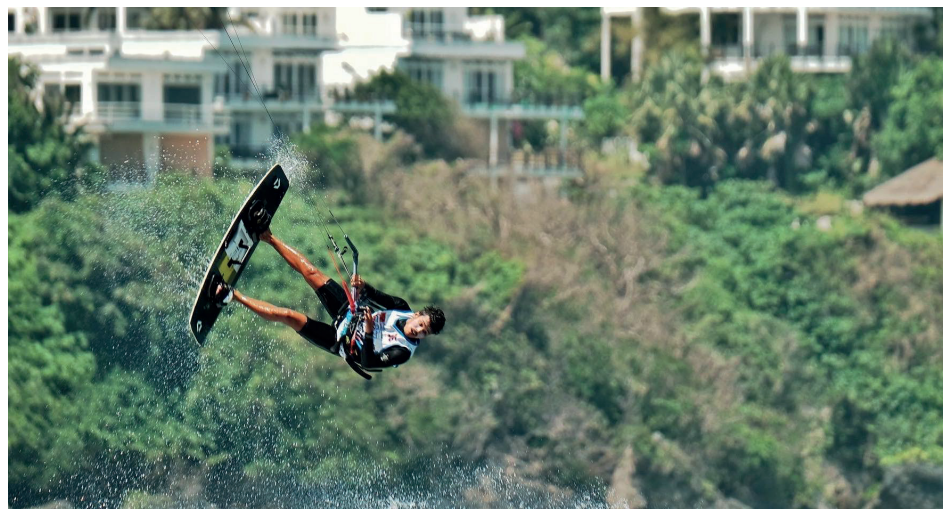
definitely not alone. It's important to know that it is OK to speak up and ask for help if you're suffering from a mental health condition. The benefits of seeking professional help and treatment can make a positive difference in your overall health and quality of life."

The Malay-Boracay Lifeline has a crisis hotline to assist people with mental health concerns. Contact them at 288-9732; 09179815207 (Globe), and 09214510755 (Smart/Sun/TNT). ✨

BORACAY PEOPLE

Christian Tio: Filipino Wunderkind In The Kiteboarding World

(Photo by Zander Servando)



Boracay's pride: Olympic medallist Christian Tio takes home another top spot

By Rica Velasco

Learning how to kite from his professional kiteboarder parents at the young age of seven, 22 year old Boracay native Christian Tio quickly became a prodigy and the pride of the island, winning multiple awards in the sport and making the Philippines a force to be reckoned with in the kiteboarding world.

His most recent win was at the 8TH Season of the ICTSI Philippine Kiteboarding Tour, which had stops around different spots in the Philippines, and culminated the competition in Boracay's very own Bulabog Beach. Christian earned his place in the top spot once again in the overall Twin Tip Race Men's and Freestyle Men's categories, while bagging first runner-up in the Foil Racing Men's and Hangtime Men's Categories.

One of the organizers of the tour points out that Christian never fails to leave spectators in awe with his masterful skills. We caught up with him to find out more about his kiteboarding life:

Boracay Sun News (BSN): What gives you the edge over other competitors?

Christian: I would say I have more experience than others. I've been kiting for almost 15 years and still practicing. In kiteboarding, you never close doors for improvement despite the experience.

BSN: What do you do to train for a competition? Do you have a special diet, exercise regimen, or other disciplines?

Christian: To be honest, I don't have a special diet. I just make sure to eat a balanced meal as much as I can. When the wind is good, I take advantage of it. I basically just kite all day, practice what I plan to execute in the competition, and I

continued on page 15



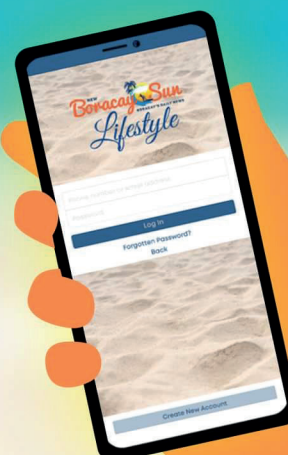
Download Our MOBILE APP



GET IT ON Google Play



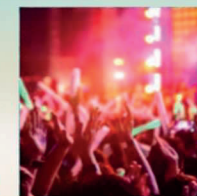
Download on the App Store



FOOD



ACTIVITIES



EVENTS

BORACAY PEOPLE

A Boracay Icon

By Charlie Greene



Island. The exact date in October, owner Jose Carlos Remedios (fondly known as Binggoy) is not exactly sure. He does remember the month and year, but only because, at the time, one of his best friends' wife was expecting twins... So he decided that Halloween would be as good a time as any to celebrate the restaurant's anniversary every year.

Binggoy recalled when he was first constructing the restaurant that he had to pause because Ingoy Zobel asked him to cater for his 50th birthday party. However, the first Dos Mestizos opened on schedule and quickly became an Island favorite.

At a young age, Binggoy had already traveled widely from Manila to Hawaii, Dubai, San Francisco, both for partying and work (mainly to party he recalls). One day when still only 19 years of age, he woke up in Hong Kong and realized he was broke - just a few hundred Hong Kong dollars got him back to Hawaii to work for Philippine Airlines catering division. A later stint in Cebu saw him help run the RT99.5 radio station with his cousin Emilio Tuazon. A lot of this is ancient history, but he recalls those days fondly and recognises now that they made him and Dos Mestizos what they are today - a Boracay success story.

Whilst training with PAL, he studied under famed chef and deli owner (Santis Deli) Werner Berger, and his love for

good food and quality drove him on to success.

Coming from a mestizo family (Spanish, Portuguese and Filipino) of what he calls "cooks", Binggoy recalled that there were no recipe books available to him then, so he simply made dishes from past memories; the "old taste" was what he was looking for. And he found it...

Back 25 years ago, Dos Mestizos was little more than a nippa restaurant, it wasn't even on the famous beach but tucked away along what was then a dirt road. But such was its reputation, that it became known as "the place" for excellent food.

The Covid pandemic forced many changes to both the hospitality industry and Boracay's restaurants. Many had to close and unfortunately failed. But Dos Mestizos transferred to new premises up at Station 1 along the main road. A new restaurant in a new location, but one that still retained its rustic charm, and of course, Binggoy's famous family recipes.

They took their reputation and quality with them, and the "new" Dos Mestizos remains as a true Boracay Icon.

If you haven't done so already - give it a try... 🌴



Macapagal. Marcos. Zobel. Ayala. Kuok. Iconic names indeed. And what do they all have in common - their families have all dined at Boracay's iconic Dos Mestizos restaurant.

Last October saw one of Boracay's best loved restaurants celebrate a whopping 25 years of existence on our

ISLAND EYE Boracay Community

Another awesome day for the Boracay Bocce international tournament at Sundown Bar and Restaurant in Station 3. Tony and Claire A. Cruz had a decisive win over Riccardo Sandano and Delia Werner 21-10.

Congratulations and rest assured everyone had a great fun day again.

Thanks to Finn Ronne for the photo.

Another great day on the beach... 🌴



PAELLA MIXTA!

**SIMPLY THE BEST PAELLA MIXTA!
GOOD FOR 8-10 PEOPLE**

RESERVE NOW!

0939 132 5216

LIKE AND FOLLOW US AT:

jardin.boracay

jardinboracay

JARDIN
MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE



ISLAND NEWS

Opposition to WASEZA Bill Mounts

By Jun N. Aguirre

BORACAY Island, Malay Aklan – Several sectors all over the province of Aklan are mounting up their opposition to the House bill recently filed by Second District Congressman Teodorico Haresco Jr. in Congress.

House Bill 7032 dubbed the West Aklan Special Economic Zone (WASEZA) aims to convert the three Western towns namely Malay, Ibajay and Tangalan into a special economic zone.

After Haresco announced it to the public, it drew several criticisms although mayors from the Western District of Aklan have expressed support for the said bill. Currently, it is now being deliberated in the economic committee in the House of Representatives.

It will still need to have a Senate version and should gain approval before it could be implemented.

One of the sectors that immediately expressed opposition to it was the PIANS-Aklan, a group of ex-seminarians in the province.

“The bill glowingly portrays that in West Aklan, there is ‘developed a vibrant agri-aquaculture and manufacturing industries which produce thousands of goods and services exported (not) only to the nearby provinces, but also to Metro-Manila and abroad.’ Comment: There is no such ‘vibrant’ group of industries. The bill is premised on the assumption of facts not



based on reality,” the statement furnished to Boracay Sun News said.

The proposed WASEZA also does not conform with Sec. 6 of RA 7916 (Creation

of Special Economic Zones), which establishes the criteria for Ecozones.

“Among its provisions, the proposed area of Ecozones must be identified as a growth center by Medium-Term Development Plan or the Regional Development Council (par. a); there must be adequate regional infrastructure (par. b); the proposed area must have a significant incremental advantage over existing economic zones & its potential profitability can be established.”

“Be that as it may, if the proposed area like WASEZA does not meet all the above criteria, it may still be established as an Ecozone, PROVIDED that it shall be WITHOUT financial exposure by the NATIONAL government. However, the WASEZA (which clearly does not meet the regular criteria for Ecozones adverted to above), requires under Sec. 6 of the bill creating WASEZA, a capitalization of 2 billion pesos, the majority of which shall be paid by the NATIONAL government through legislative enactment of Congress as included in the annual General Appropriations Act,” it added.

The Barangay Council of Caticlan has also expressed its opposition to the said bill.

The council has expressed worry about the possible impact of WASEZA on the environment citing that the barangay is a coastal community considered a gateway to Boracay.

“The inclusion of Barangay Caticlan in the Western Aklan Special Economic Zone could have adverse effects on the local government autonomy, environment, community, and infrastructure. It is essential to prioritize sustainable development that benefits both the economy and the well-being of the local population. Thus, we urge the government to reconsider the inclusion of Barangay Caticlan in the (WASEZA) and explore alternative strategies that promote sustainable growth,” the statement reads.

For his part, Haresco said that the WASEZA bill primarily aims to develop only three towns of West Aklan into special economic zones. They were Malay, Tangalan and Ibajay.

“The aim of the bill is to make the three towns a special economic zone. These hopes to reduce prices of gasoline, power,

electricity and other services as value-added tax will be reduced,” Haresco said.

Based on the documents provided by the office of Haresco, there are 28 more house bills passed in the current congress vying to come up with economic zones. Among them were the districts of Marinduque and Surigao among others.

“The bill aims to promote countryside development through the spread and diversification of economic investments currently centered and contained on a number of economic hotspots towards the less-developed yet personally capable areas of West-Aklan. Apart from uplifting the welfare of the rural folk, this measure also aims to decongest and prevent the cramming of people and industries that are both the present economic hotspots in the provinces,” he said.

All of the local chief executives in West Aklan have initially expressed support for the House Bill, though pending resolutions from their respective Sangguniang Bayan.

Nabas Vice Mayor James Solano said he is favorably endorsing it as it would surely bring employment opportunities among their constituents.

“Through the Special Economic Zone, the local body will now have a stronger voice opposing the planned casino in Boracay or anywhere else in the district,” he said.

The WASEZA bill has mentioned the membership of PAGCOR giving impressions that it will pave the way to establish the casino in Boracay.

The economic zone is proposed to be managed by two of the three local Chinese executives involved, a marketing manager, and sub-sectors involving transport and business among others.

In 2021, then-President Rodrigo Duterte announced that he is allowing the operation of a casino in Boracay. The announcement of Duterte however drew backlash among the critics as to the reason why it had not pushed through.

President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. has yet to issue his stand on whether to allow casinos in Boracay or not.

Cedric Sazon, representing Southwest Tours, a major business company, has also expressed support for the said House Bill that may provide more economic opportunities. 🌿

Boracay's Most Adventurous Day

- > Filled with lot's of sea and land activities including :
- > Sail the historic “ Bluewater Tamarind ” Sailing Vessel
- > Pick up at 11:00 am at Nigi Nigi's Nu Noos e Nu Nu Noos, White Beach, for a group chat
- > Island hop to Panay's best equipped adventure park
- > Ride through the lush farm/jungle enjoying great natural views via Philippine traditional tricycle
- > We pay the entrance



- > Offering :
 - Swimming, cliff jumping, canoeing, zip line, sky bike ride, zip splash thrill, kawa hot bath and ATV track
- > You choose and pay for your choice of activities and your choice of your lunch preferences from a wide ranging Filipino menu
- > Return to the Tamarind to sail around Boracay island
- > View the panoramic cliffs of Northern Boracay
- > Return to port along White Beach, while being bathed by the spectacular Boracay sunset
- > Arrive back on shore at 6:30 pm
- > We transfer you back to Nigi's or the hotel of your choice in time for “ Happy Hour ”



Php2, 500 per pax (Adult)
Php1, 250 per pax (Kid ages 11yrs. old below)

Minimum number of guests – 6 pax
Maximum number of guests – 12 pax

CALL
Cipy 09338109054
Rovie 09485060979
Edrin 09176230832



Volunteer for beach cleanup and other environmental activities
(Photo by Denise Tolentino)

ISLAND NEWS

Environment News

Join the world's largest environmental movement by doing your part

**EARTH DAY:
April 22, 2023, Saturday**

By Freida Dario-Santiago

Not to be confused with Earth Hour (which was celebrated on March 25), Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EarthDay.org including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries.

Earthday.Org (EDO), the global organizer of Earth Day and the largest recruiter of environmental movements worldwide, announced the theme for Earth Day 2023 as “Invest in Our Planet.” The theme is focused on engaging governments, institutions, businesses, and the more than 1 billion citizens who participate annually in Earth Day to do their part – “everyone accounted for, everyone accountable.”

“In 2023 we must come together again in partnership for the planet. Businesses, governments, and civil

society are equally responsible for taking action against the climate crisis and lighting the spark to accelerate change toward a green, prosperous, and equitable future. We must join together in our fight for the green revolution, and for the health of future generations. The time is now to Invest in Our Planet,” said Kathleen Rogers, president of Earthday.Org.

Investing in a green economy is the only path to a healthy, prosperous, and equitable future. Human influence is unequivocally to blame for the warming of the planet and the sad truth is some forms of climate disruption will be felt for centuries to come. However, we must collectively push away from the dirty fossil fuel economy and old technologies of centuries past – and redirect attention to creating a 21st-century economy that restores the health of our planet, protects our species, and provides opportunities for all.

Governments around the globe enacted many significant green policy initiatives in 2022. Yet, nearly every country in the world is not on track to meet Greenhouse gas (GHG) neutrality by 2050. It is possible to keep global warming below 1.5C, but immediate and significant action is needed now, and governments can't do it alone.

Unlike previous economic revolutions, this time there are two additional imperatives: saving humanity from the climate crisis and building green economies in every country so that everyone benefits from this green revolution. This can only be done if we invest in our planet's future together.

Governments, businesses, and citizens are essential in harnessing the revolutionary progress needed to save humanity from the climate crisis. Overcoming climate change is within reach if we work together to commit to action and invest in our planet and our collective future.

To learn more about the 2023 theme, visit www.earthday.org/earth-day-2023/.

TOTALLY BANANAS
an Eco-Friendly Café

WIFI PLDT Fibre

OPEN 24/7

Small: totallybananas@gmail.com
Mobile: (+63) 919 832 83 82
Landline: (02) 828 0887
Youtube: Totally Bananas
Instagram: [totallybananasboracay](https://www.instagram.com/totallybananasboracay)
Facebook: [totallybananasboracay](https://www.facebook.com/totallybananasboracay)

STATION 2 BORACAY ISLAND

BE AN ECO-FRIENDLY TOURIST

On April 22, 2023 (Saturday), go online and check for Earth Day activity announcements in your area. But whether there are beach cleanup activities or not, you can do your part by simply taking a stroll down the beach and picking up rubbish. Be sure to dispose of trash in proper segregation receptacles.

And please, do not litter. Eating and drinking alcohol (or carrying glass bottles) is prohibited on the beaches to keep people from littering. Smoke only in designated areas. Cigarette butts are made of a type of plastic (plasticized cellulose acetate) and are not biodegradable. A cigarette butt can take 14 years to break apart, its toxins seeping into the earth, sand and sea. They can poison waterways, including Boracay's rehabilitated inner wetlands.

Boracay's beaches have a strictly enforced smoking ban with steep fines for violators of various beach regulations – definitely a model for other beach destinations. Still, an April 2022 survey by the Gerry Roxas Foundation (GRF) found that an estimated 35,000 cigarette butts are littered every day in Boracay despite the ban, equivalent to about 12.55 million cigarette butts littered per year.

GRF's study confirms reports of the Ocean Conservancy on its annual worldwide beach cleanups, where cigarette butts regularly topped the list of littered items picked up on beaches over 30 years. As early as 2010, the Philippine Department of Environment and Natural Resources (“DENR”), together with the EcoWaste Coalition, a Philippine non-government organization, already sounded the alarm as they highlighted that cigarette butts constituted the second most common form of litter in the Philippines.

Here are some simple ways to be greener while getting the most out of your holiday:

1. Instead of buying bottled water, pack a spill-proof tumbler.
2. Be a responsible guest by conserving water and switching off the TV, AC and lights whenever you leave your hotel room. Another tip is to reuse your hotel bath and beach towels.
3. Plastic bags can take up to 500 years to biodegrade so instead, use a reusable shopping bag (commonly referred to on the island as an “eco-bag”).
4. Nothing beats walking. Not only will you save money, but you'll also have a richer up-close and personal experience that's great for your health.
5. As the adage goes, “Take nothing but pictures (leave the sand and seashells where they belong), leave nothing but footprints (take your trash with you), kill nothing but time (respect natural habitats and interact ethically with animals and marine life)-FVDS. 🌿

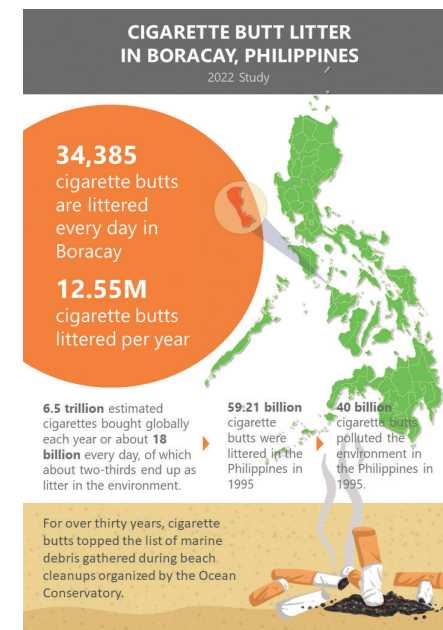


Typical beach litter; Dispose of trash properly



Cigarette butts regularly topped the list of littered items on the beach

Infographic courtesy of the GRF Foundation



PADI
SDI SCUBA DIVING INTERNATIONAL

P25,000 ALL INCLUSIVE FULL GEAR & EQUIPMENT TRAINING MATERIALS DIVE GUIDE FEES COMPREHENSIVE DIVE TRAINING SOUVENIR PHOTOS & VIDEOS

OPEN WATER CERTIFICATION

WHATSAPP/VIBER/TELEGRAM +639672907490



BORACAY PEOPLE

I-Dren Artstrong

By Jen Freeman

It will come as no surprise that those of an artistic and creative persuasion tend to gravitate to Boracay's laid-back shores. And one of the brightest stars in our proverbial sky is none other than Artstrong J. Clarion, also known as I-Dren Artstrong, who migrated from Manila to the island back in 1998.

An accomplished recording artist and music producer, he also lists DJ, composer, sound engineer, song writer, emcee, TV host and music teacher among his many other talents, and is the CEO of Concrete

Jungle Recordings, Boracay.

Growing up, Artstrong was exposed to a wide range of musical influences and cultures from a very young age; his dad rose to fame with the jazz stand-up duo Pat Salem and Dinky Doo Sr back in the early 60s, while his mom made her name with the singing group Tres Dallias.

"I was never forced to learn music and never thought I would end up doing it as a profession, but I guess destiny just aligns the direction of our existence," he recalls.

"My education at a young age was pretty standard, but my creativity, I guess,

exceeds my educational background due to my actually learning the entertainment business growing up."

Certainly it is hard to put a label on Artstrong's versatile creative flair, as his music spans such a wide range of genres, from R&B, hip-hop and rap to reggae, soul funk and jazz.

The winner of several prestigious Awit Awards (the Pinoy equivalent of the Grammys), Artstrong's musical career began in the early 90s when he was still studying. While writing lyrics and teaching street dance and b-boying (breakdancing) by day, he was also playing college cafeteria and emceeing in clubs at night, to earn money and assist with his school expenses.

"I was very persistent in learning too many things, and was passionate in writing lyrics at that time," he remembers, "I was so eager to learn what my future holds."

"I'd been in a rap music group called True AsiatikTribe and met Boom [Dayupay] of Kulay, who had been the instrument for me to learn more in the music business. I had been hangin' out a lot in recording studios and started doing my recordings on my own, and I kept doing the routine of studio, club, school, café, playing music and teaching dance in my busy week's schedule.

Boracay Island had been my sanctuary to rejuvenate [before going] back to Manila again to deal with the entertainment scene.

"Because of me playing college cafeteria I was approached by some of the greatest music enthusiasts at the time and got involved in a band called Third World Project, which was formed along with JR Oca, Allen Umali and Paolo Manuel, playing soul, funk and hip hop."

It was while he was performing back-up vocals and dancing for the soul funk trio Kulay (the first Filipino trio to top the charts in the UK) that Artstrong landed a record deal with Warner Music for his first solo album "It's meant to be like that!"; touted as one of the most eclectic albums released in the Philippines in 2004. He subsequently went on to perform with the band Tropical Depression, and joined the B-Side Irie Sunday Massive movement.

At the 18th annual Awit Awards in 2005, Artstrong was awarded Best Rap, Best Alternative/World Music, Best Jazz and Best Male Performer of the Year (shared with Gary V).

As well as producing music for Filipino artists such as Nina, Kyla, Luke Mejares, Dice & K9 and D-Coy, in 2006 he began working as a composer/musician/arranger for the renowned advertising house Hit Productions, scoring clients such as Nescafe, San Miguel Beer, Mazda, Sky Cable and Citroën.



Alongside writing, recording and producing his own music, making TV appearances, collaborating on Hollywood movie soundtracks and hitting big concert stages, this prolific artist has remained committed to helping other urban artists achieve their passion.

Artstrong cites 'self healing, serenity and music' as the main reasons for his relocation to Boracay back in 1998, although those early years still involved a lot of back and forth to the city.

"My journey was reinforced with the help of our island families," he said.

"I knew the island had more potential to release original music and because I was doing workshops and teaching sound design at a university in Manila, I already knew that there would be a need to produce music for Boracay's musicians in the future.

"I established my home recording studio – that's what I did to help them earn more for their living as artists. They need to sell their music directly to people; all of them learned the way it should be done, and now that they are all widespread all over different countries and regions I am proud of them coz all of them made it! And I am very honored to be the one who helped them during the making of their musical journeys.

And I guess sometimes life is what happens while making plans. I met my wife on the island, and that made us more decided to settle down here."

Of his current projects, he says: "Right now I am working on afrobeat, reggae original music and producing some young upcoming artists from the island to represent globally, and have helped to establish the Boracay Entertainers and Artists Rights Society to align all the entertainers, to have a better direction on their professions."

Catch I-Dren Artstrong performing live at Cha Cha's Bar (Coast, station 2) from Wednesday to Friday, 7pm to 10pm; Afrobeat DJ set at Little Taj (D'Mall, beside Epic) on Sundays, 8pm to 10pm, and Afrobeat Sunset at Hola Chula, Alegria (station 2 beside The District) Mondays from 5pm to 7pm. 🌿



**AMBASSADOR
IN PARADISE**

Truly. Your Home in Paradise

Relax, Unwind, Indulge

Ambassador in Paradise Resort
White Beach, Station 1, Boracay Island, Balabag,
Malay Aklan, Philippines

Website: www.ambassadorinparadise.com
Telephone: (+63) 36 - 288.1541 | (+63) 36 - 288.1542
Mobile Number: (+63) 946 987 4104
Email: info@ambassadorinparadise.com





ISLAND EVENTS

Join Mental Health Advocate Miriam Quiambao-Roberto Organizes a Boracay Fun Run to Help 32 Schools in Malay

By Rica Velasco

Miriam Quiambao, now Mrs. Miriam Roberto has become a household name after winning the first runner-up title at the Miss Universe Pageant in 1999. She has since delved into many significant roles, including being an actress, brand ambassador, inspirational speaker, author, wife, mother and advocate.



Miriam Quiambao-Roberto – from beauty queen to inspirational speaker, and island resident since February 2022

Most recently, she has added being a Boracay resident and president of the Malay General Federated Parent-Teacher Association, to the list.

Her current advocacy is focused on schools in Malay, with the goal of sending 150 students to a "Self-Leadership Workshop," 50 teachers to the "Project Purpose Workshop," and 50 parents to the "Understanding Your Parenting Purpose" by The Ken Blanchard Institute accredited facilitators.

Additionally, her organization also wants to send 32 of each of the school heads in Malay to the "Core Purpose Training the Trainer Workshop," designed by Vicki Jeffs of Day 2 International, a Master in Neuropsychology. Results of completing this workshop include an increase in school attendance and a decrease in dropouts among students,

an increase in grades, and a 100 percent increase in valuing higher education.

The modules cover breaking poverty mindsets, promoting a growth versus a fixed mindset, breaking obstacles, finding creative solutions to problems, teaching empathy and compassion (which is a solution to bullying), living a life of integrity, finding significance in their contribution to society, and leaving a positive legacy. Once the school heads are trained and licensed, they will be able to integrate the modules into the curriculum in elementary, middle and high school students year after year.

To achieve this goal, Miriam has organized the #NotAlone Boracay, a beach Fun Run consisting of the 10K, 5K, 3K and 1K events. It aims to raise awareness about the importance of mental wellness and to encourage people to take care of their mental health. The event will take place on April 29, 2023, on White Beach, as well as parts of Bulabog Beach. The run is open to families, friends and individuals of all ages and fitness levels, making it a fun and inclusive activity for everyone.

By participating in the event, participants will not only be promoting their own mental wellness, but they will also be supporting a cause that is important to communities everywhere.

Through the Fun Run, they aim to raise funds to organize self-leadership conferences for students and purpose-filled workshops for parents and teachers described above. The Fun Run is also a way to develop camaraderie among the over 13,800 enrolled students, their families, teachers and staff of the 16 public and 16 private schools located in the District of Malay.

We asked Miriam for more information on the purpose of the Fun Run as well as the importance of mental health, and she had this to say:

"Student-learners developed a myriad of anxiety and mental health issues coming out of the pandemic. In a University of the Philippines survey released last October 10, 2022, one out of five young Filipinos have considered suicide. In a recent article published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer newspaper last February 1, 2023, a total of 404 young students in various parts of the country took their own lives and 2,147 others attempted suicide during the Academic Year 2021-2022 when most

schools were still shut because of the pandemic.

Boracay Island alone had a record of 60 suicide cases during the pandemic. These are staggering numbers.

One life lost is one too many. We would like to help students by offering workshops that will help them deal with anxiety and equip them with skills to overcome obstacles in their life."

She likewise emphasizes that mental health includes our psychological, emotional and social wellbeing. She adds, "It affects the way we manage stress and handle situations in life as well as affects the way we think, feel and act. It is important to care for our mental health in the same way that we care for our physical health. It is a vital part of our wellbeing. It manifests in our physical health and quality of our relationships, how we care for our family, behave in social situations, and how we function in society."

If you would like to sign up for the fun run and help contribute to this great cause, along with promoting your own mental and physical health, you may sign up via their Facebook page: Run For A Purpose Family Fun Run (NotAlone Beach Run) or via the QR codes on the poster.

NotAlone Boracay, A Beach Fun Run for Mental Wellness

Venue: Boracay Uptown Mall Beachfront, White Beach, Boracay Island

Date: April 29, 2023

Distance: 1km, 3km, 5km, 10km

Assembly Time: 5 a.m.

Gun Start for 10km: 5:30 a.m.



Categories: Student, Open Adult, Elite Adult, Families

Families (2 parents and 2 kids below 12 years old) are welcome to join the family category.

Barkada discount for 10 persons + 1 FREE race kit.

Prizes:

The 3K winner will receive a 3D2N stay at Savoy Hotel with breakfast

The 1K winner will receive a 3D2N stay at Hue Hotel with breakfast. 🌸



LEARN AND ENJOY EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO WITH BORACAY'S NO.1 DIVE SCHOOL! EXPERT TUITION FROM PROFESSIONAL INSTRUCTORS WHO WILL LOOK AFTER YOU ALL THE WAY!

Front Beach Station 1, Boracay Island
Tel. No.: 0995 054 5432
E-mail: info@fisheyedivers.com

Your EXCLUSIVE ALL-IN-ONE STOP in Boracay!

Visit us in Bolabog Back Beach
 We are open
 Tuesdays - Saturdays 8am -10pm
 Sundays - Mondays 8am - 7pm

Mobile: +63928559809
 Email: info@mokshacafe.com

mokshacafeboracay

INDULGE

Jammers Redux

By Freida Dario-Santiago

The Rebirth Of An Old Favorite, With A Punchy Tropical Vibe

On March 12, *Boracay Sun News* was there to witness a historic comeback. No, it was a resurrection.

What was once upon a time the best-loved 24-hour fast food burger joint called Jammers, was reborn as **Jammers Beach Shack**, at the beachfront of D'Mall of Boracay. The transformation gave this legendary favorite a fresh new look, infused with a vibrant menu that breathed new life into the now two-story space.

Jammers has been given new life under the ownership of **Bianca Araneta-Elizalde**, owner of the popular health-focused organic restaurant *The Wholesome Table* which she opened in Manila with her husband Juan, himself a restaurateur (and a co-owner of *Aria Cucina Italiana* right next door). Together they created a unique dining experience and forged a niche in the healthy dining sector, making organic comfort food more mainstream in the Philippines. A leading voice in whole living and sustainable practices, she has earned numerous accolades, including being named one of *Tatler Asia's* "Most Influential F&B Tastemakers in 2021."

For the former model and TV host, starting a business is not just about making money; it's about making a positive impact on people's lives and the planet. And so, she tells us that "sometime last year, when we were presented with the offer of taking over this space, I said, 'Definitely! Let's do it!'"

She adds, "Jammers has been around for so long, even before *Aria*, and has become quite an institution on the island and many of you guys knew them for their beloved burgers, the cheese dogs and more. Our decision to continue the Jammers legacy was a no-brainer on our part, and right off the bat, I said, 'We're going to keep the space, the name and the concept in honor of Miguel, who I'm sure is shining and cracking jokes from up there and is with us today. He was a good friend of my husband Juan and whenever we would come to the island



The iconic Jammers, served up the best greasy burgers, hotdogs and more since 2002, 24/7
(Photo on the left courtesy of *My Boracay Guide*)

before, especially when Juan opened *Aria* and *Café Del Sol*, Miguel would always be there, sharing the funniest stories with us, and he was just such a character that I said, 'Oh it would be a pity to get rid of what he had started, and the brand which he has created.'"

It was a momentous occasion that marked a 20-year milestone from the time it first opened back in December 2002. The grand opening's guest of honor was no other than the original Jammers' co-owner **Jakie**, who graced the occasion, giving Juan and Bianca her full support.

Seated with her amigas, **Jakie** looked pleased as I approached her to ask how she was feeling, to which she confides, "This is exactly what was meant to be. It has come full circle. Juan gave it to us 20 years ago and it goes back to him 20 years later. I could not be happier. I love the place and the food, and I really have a good feeling about it. Miguel would have loved it too." Her husband who was fondly called **Kuya Miguel** by friends (they were married by their daughter **Anaïs** in a private ceremony) had passed away at the age of 77 in November 2017, leaving the love of his life, **Jakie** in charge.

For those of us who have known and loved the original, passing it daily for the past 20 years, and then mourning its closure two years ago due to the hardships brought on by the pandemic lockdown,



A DEFINITE MUST: Stop by the newly-opened Hawaiian-inspired Jammers Beach Shack at the beachfront of D'Mall of Boracay and try their sumptuous beachside menu, with something for everyone.



to see the spanking new Jammers Beach Shack in all its resplendent beauty was a joyful feeling. Although the place looks completely new, somehow, the "old-timers" among us couldn't help but feel nostalgic. Simply holding space here was enough to bring back so many good memories, as we cheerfully clinked our jars of their thirst-quenching Lemongrass Limeaid and Pineapple Coconut Mint Smoothies to welcome the refreshing change.

Hawaiian Dream

For **Jakie's** benefit, Bianca shares a funny story with the grand opening guests, about how she came up with the Hawaiian-inspired concept for Jammers Beach Shack: "I've always known Miguel was from New York, but for some reason, I kept imagining him as a Hawaiian. Maybe it was his vibe, maybe because he was so casual, it was just something about him.

So when I thought of the beach shack concept for Jammers, I told Juan, 'Wasn't he from Hawaii?' And he said, 'No, he's from New York.' Still, we drew inspiration from photos of Hawaii – the gumamela, décor, beach shack – because for some reason I imagined him being in this sort of setting and that's why we decided to make it look this way. So you see, even when we were redecorating this place and thinking of the concept, he was very much with my

husband and I in spirit.

Utterly amused, **Jakie** shares with me later on that **Miguel**, the native New Yorker, indeed loved Hawaii! Apparently, back in 1998, after returning to Boracay from a trip around South America, Miguel said to her, "You know what, I think we should have gone to Hawaii. I love Hawaii, I wanted to go back actually, we should have gone back." He told her this a few times while watching *CSI Hawaii*. So yes, he had a momentary obsession with the Aloha state. "If he could, he would have wanted to have a Jammers in Hawaii! So this brand new Jammers Beach Shack actually hits two birds with one stone: because it looks like Hawaii but it's in Boracay!"

After the program, the first order of the day was to take a quick tour of the two-story restaurant and to take it all in.

Fresh Vibe

A nod to the old Boracay, Bianca wanted the restaurant to have a beach shack vibe, complete with nipa and distressed wood elements.

The moment you step inside, you're greeted with a casual and relaxed atmosphere, which perfectly matches the island's carefree and tropical feel. The second floor is even adorned with a tropical palm tree, adding to the organic and natural ambiance of the restaurant.

Situated right on the beachfront in the bustling heart of D'Mall, it's not hard to see why it stands out and stops people walking along the beachfront pathway in their tracks. With a prime location that offers an unparalleled view of the sunset, as well as a tropical design that pays homage to the old Boracay vibe, this place is brimming with ambiance – something non-negotiable and (to be honest), hard to find among the plethora of dining places on the island.



Soaking up the laid-back beach vibe with the locals (from left): Luigi Barbolla, Julia Lervik, Freida & Mark Santiago, Sarah LaBrooy, Girly Gasser, Jakie, Bianca & Juan Elizalde, Ralph Gasser

The reinvented incarnation is, hands down, an immaculate and refined version of the iconic institution. And the closer you look at the finer details, the deeper one's appreciation for the little touches that tell you one thing: the owners put so much



Juan and Bianca Araneta-Elizalde, the power couple behind Jammers Beach Shack, ribbon-cutting with their daughters during the Grand Opening last March 12



Refurbished, upgraded, refreshed, modernized, revitalized, infused with youth and vitality



(Left) Panoramic views; (Right) Some of the original artwork hangs on the walls, marrying old & new

(Photos by Freida Dario-Santiago)

love into this place.

“A lot of the decor are actually things we found on the beach so it suited the whole look,” Bianca shares. “We wanted to create a space where our customers could kick back and relax while watching the sunset, enjoying good food and drinks.”

The spacious dining areas can seat 32 on the ground floor and can accommodate up to 46 guests on the air-conditioned second floor.

The Dining Experience

The concept of the original Jammers back in 2002, Jakie tells us, was simple. “Juan (whose family owns D’Mall) asked Miguel to do some kind of fast food, and Miguel said, ‘Not a problem, I’m from New York! Meatball Hero, Sloppy Joe, hotdogs, burgers, and that was it!’ And we also won’t forget his famous tagline (or slogan): ‘Meat me at Jammers!’”

Fast-forward 20 years later, Bianca says, “It wasn’t a difficult decision for us. Jammers has made such a great name for itself and we wanted to continue serving the delicious burgers it was known for.” The original Jammers was known for their burgers and chili dogs, which is why

Bianca decided to put them back on the menu and give it their own spin.

“But don’t expect this to just be fast food burgers. No, it’s so much more than that. We use whole foods, we use good ingredients, and we’re not skimping on any of that. Despite it being a burger joint, we are using good quality meats, and homemade fresh bread, we make our sauces in-house, all of that. Not only that, we have a lot of menu offerings that are healthier like fresh juices, fresh smoothies, smoothie bowls, yogurt, homemade granola,” she adds.

Indeed, what we experienced was a mouthful of flavors with every bite, and ticks all the boxes of what you want to experience when you are in Boracay.

At Jammers Beach Shack (JBS), she introduces healthier options to the menu, while still maintaining the delicious burger options everyone loves. The culinary team behind The Wholesome Table developed an island-inspired menu with Hawaiian influences and tropical flavors, “that would be a perfect fit for Boracay’s tropical island vibe,” she says. She adds, “We’ve got an amazing team behind the kitchen and yeah, it’s more than just a pretty place!”

Head Chef Onie Castillo tells us that Jammers Beach Shack’s beach cuisine’s flavors are influenced by the Caribbean, Hawaii, and Latin America. Everything is made from scratch including our buns and patties.”

For him, it’s about bold and balanced flavors and personally recommends the Jamaican Jerk Chicken “which has the right balance of spicy, sour and salty, and it is very friendly to the palette of international travelers and Filipinos because there’s rice, and sweetness from the pineapple.” He also recommends the Chef’s Cubano, “and all the burgers are a must try too,” he adds. We also liked the Carne Asada and the Jammers Poke Bowl. Don’t forget to also try the dairy-free Pineapple Whip soft serve dessert, the perfect way to cap off your meal.

The restaurant is set to offer new items on its menu for the coming summer, with testing already underway. “I’m pretty excited about the new dishes that are going to come out,” Bianca says. “I think a lot of people are going to love them because you can’t find these dishes in other restaurants in Boracay.”

The brand new Jammers Beach Shack is itself an organic happy place, and a masterful and awe-inspiring homage to Kuya Miguel and the spirit of the old Boracay that Jammers had embodied. What more fitting way to end this than with a bit of trivia on how Jammers got its name – and no, it’s not from the famous Bob Marley and the Wailers 1977 hit “Jammin’” – in Jakie’s own words (and thick French accent):

“Not many people know that when Miguel and I were putting up the bar

(back in 2022). And since it was under construction, there was a big tarpaulin. And then suddenly, Anjalie (the 10 year old daughter of good friends Ralph & Girly Gasser) raises the flap to say ‘Hello,’ so I told her that we were looking for a name for this place. She left and did what she had to do, and then on the way back, she pops her head in again and says, ‘What about Jammers? J.A.M. for Jakie, Anaïs and Miguel, and the second M for Midnight?’ And right away Miguel and I said together, PERFECT!”



(Left) Kuya Miguel, the OG behind the original Jammers with his sidekick Midnight (2015); (Right) The Walsdorfs: Jakie, Miguel and Anaïs

Congratulations to Juan, Bianca, and the amazing Jammers Beach Shack team for keeping the legacy alive with this wonderful addition to Boracay’s foodscape!



(Above) The Jammers Beach Shack Boracay team; (Below) Wholeliving Corporation Head Chef Onie Castillo with Bianca Araneta-Elizalde



Operation hours are 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. (Sundays to Thursdays) and 9 a.m. to 4 a.m. (Fridays & Saturdays)

Follow them on Facebook and Instagram: @jammersbeachshack
Hashtags: #werejamming #jammersbeachshack 🌿



Remember these babies? (From left) Jammers XL Bacon Cheese Burger, Jammers Meatball Hero, Jammers Monster Fish Burger (Photos courtesy of Miguel which he supplied to the author almost a decade ago for an article in the old Boracay Sun newspaper)



Must-try (from left): Jamaican Jerk Chicken, O.M.G. Burger, Chili Dog, Milkshake Trio: Vanilla, Chocolate, Strawberry.

BORACAY DIARIES

Kitesurfing Diaries: Why I Left Manila To Pursue My New Obsession

By Nikki Alvarez

I have been living in Boracay on and off for a year now.

In early 2022, as soon as the ban on domestic travel was lifted, our family—my dad, mom, brother Vince and sister Sofia—wasted no time and went on our very first family vacation in full-on revenge travel mode! At the time, I was just a fresh grad from college who still had to pass a licensure board examination.

When we went to visit my Ninong Mark and Tita Freida in their home in Bulabog Beach where I happened to see the kites flying, it was love at first sight! I couldn't keep my eyes from enjoying the sight of colorful kites moving across the sky, and I could feel the dynamic energy of the sport just by watching the riders go by. That was my first peek into the exhilarating sport of kitesurfing.

With three days left on our trip, I enrolled the very next day, for an introduction/beginners' course, and all the while, I kept racking my brain for what to tell my folks because I simply had to come back, and soon!

Upon returning to Manila, I buried my head in reviewing for my board exam and in my business. But constantly at the back of my mind, I was daydreaming of being back in the waters of Bulabog.

The feeling of being in the water and moving at lightning speeds while the wind blows is a sensation that fills you with an adrenaline rush that is hard to put into words. It also leaves all of life's stressors at the shore. And realizing that the vast ocean is my playground gives me so much freedom and excitement.

Kitesurfing is a sport that offers a tremendous sense of personal accomplishment and a feeling of being totally stoked on every level. There is always room for learning and development, so I guess you never really graduate as a student from your kite school. With hundreds of different tricks and techniques, kitesurfing will always keep you on your toes and encourage you to continue pushing yourself.

When I wasn't studying for my board exam or working on my business, I was busy planning my next move, with the goal of fully immersing myself in the kitesurfing culture and community on the best kite beach in Asia.

I wasn't really fooling anyone, so when I asked my parents if they were okay with my plans, they weren't the



Getting her first glimpse of kitesurfing on Bulabog Beach during a family vacation last year (from left): Theresa, Jose, Vince, Nikki and Sofia

least bit surprised, but they needed some convincing ...

For my plan to work, my budget had to work as well. As it turned out, the family-owned compound and resort where my Ninong Mark and Tita Freida lived had a vacant bungalow that was available. Perfect!

Eventually, I was able to reach my kiteboarding goal of riding independently, and even transitioning from left to right and vice versa! It was time to focus on my board exam. So, I went back to Manila, disabled my social media pages, and dove into my studies.

The Civil Engineering licensure exam was held last November. As soon as I handed over my test, I was fully convinced that I didn't pass and I knew that the only thing that could cheer me up was the powdery white sand under my feet, the cool breeze and wind on my face, the scorching sun on my skin and of course, kitesurfing! So, I booked the next flight out, and here I am living the island life of my dreams surrounded by the best community.

Since then, I have been kiting almost every day—getting tips and learning new tricks from kites from around the world that I am constantly meeting in and out of the water. Despite the sunburn, body aches, and sea urchin and jellyfish stings, I always find myself looking forward to my next kite session.

With the tail-end of the Amihan (northeast monsoon) season in full swing, the Philippine Kiteboarding Association hosted the final leg of the 8th season of the ICTSI Philippine Kiteboarding Tour competitions that was held in Bulabog Beach from March 3 to 5. I participated in the hangtime and racing divisions. Though I didn't win (and got myself tangled with other kites, oops!), it was such a great experience going side by side with fellow



After a good day's kite session with Freestyle Academy



Nikki exploring surf-style kiting at Bulabog Beach

(Photo by Myron Evasco)

kites, and watching them go crazy in the air.

It is truly inspiring to witness everyone putting their heart into the sport, and I can't wait to further immerse in this kiting adventure and discover where it takes me.

I guess, what I'm trying to say, without sounding cliché, is that kitesurfing is a sport that provides a unique and fulfilling experience that is hard to replicate elsewhere. This is the reason why it is

so addictive—the personal pride you feel when you successfully execute a new trick is exhilarating. When the wind is good, I can be out in the water for hours on end until the very last drop of my energy is used up. This dedication is fueled by an adventurous spirit I'm sure every kiter possesses. It's definitely a sport that is well worth trying and may become your new passion.

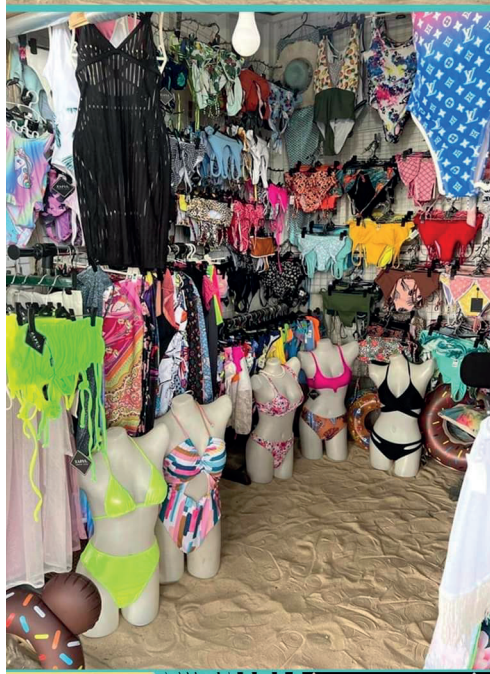
Looking forward to seeing you in the water! 🌿

Editor's note:

Recently certified as a licensed civil engineer, Nikki co-owns and co-manages a thriving organic honey wax business that she founded two years ago, quite accidentally. Having been smitten by Boracay since last year and with time on her hands, her Tita Freida (she happens to be my husband Mark's godchild) invited her to share about her passion for kitesurfing in this month's BSN, which I suspect is the beginning of a promising future in writing (if only for fun) and as a regular contributor. It is, after all, in her blood. Her late grandfather Rodolfo T. Reyes was a veteran and award-winning journalist, and the press secretary to two former Philippine presidents, Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph E. Estrada. His daughter Theresa Reyes-Alvarez (Nikki's mother) likewise contributes in this issue, entitled "Close Encounter." — Freida Dario-Santiago



Nikki and her father Jose during the recently concluded ICTSI Philippine Kiteboarding Tour competitions



White Beach Station 2

THE BEST LITTLE BIKINI SHOP ON WHITE BEACH. COME VISIT US NEXT TO NIGI-NIG FOR ALL YOUR BEACH SWIMWEAR. WE HAVE A GREAT SELECTION ON OFFER.



Nikki's graduation photo from De La Salle University with a degree in Civil Engineering with specialization on Construction technology and management

continued from page 6

consider that as my training.

BSN: Among the awards you've won, which one do you value the most and why?

Christian: Of course, it would be the Silver Medal from the Youth Olympics in 2018. It was one of the biggest events and the first time kiteboarding was featured in the Youth Olympics. Also, it was the first Olympic medal that the Philippines won. It was such an amazing experience.

BSN: What is your favorite thing about kiting? What is the most tricky thing about kiting?

Christian: My favorite thing about kiting is the feeling of flying (not literally). If you asked me what the trickiest thing about kiting was 10 years ago, I would say the progression. It takes a lot of dedication, time, patience and effort.

BSN: What future competitions are you preparing for, and do you see yourself joining?

Christian: I see myself joining international Big Air events and that's what I've been preparing for. I still need a lot of practice for this as well as strong wind conditions.

BSN: Apart from Boracay, where else do you normally kite in the Philippines and around the world? What is your favorite spot among them and why?

Christian: I don't normally kite elsewhere but I've been to lots of places to kite for a short period of time. Boracay has been my playground ever since. Among the other spots I have been to, my favorite is Brazil. The wind is consistent, and most professionals go there to train.

BSN: There are two up and comers in the kiteboarding world now: Ben David Lara Field, and Warner Janoya. What advice can you give them to reach the same heights as you have? What advice

can you give them about the kiteboarding world?

Christian: My advice is to keep putting the hours in. Keep doing what you are doing. When you try to achieve something and fail, it does not stop there. Have the courage and compliment yourself on your improvements.

Rising Stars Ben David Lara Field and Warner Janoya

Ben David Lara Field is a 14 year old Filipino-British national. He trains under John Rey Barrato at Freestyle Academy. Learning to kiteboard at the early age of six, he has only been competing for two years, and yet he has already won first place in the overall Twin Tip Race Novice Men's category while bagging second place in the Boracay leg of the Hangtime category in the most recent PKA Tour event.



Warner Janoya demonstrates his winning Freestyle moves

Warner Janoya is a 21 year old Filipino-German who has been competing for more than seven years all around Asia. In the 8TH Season of the PKA Tour, he won second runner-up for Twin Tip Race Men's and fourth runner-up for Foil Racing

Men's overall categories. For the Boracay leg of the competition, he won third place in the Twin Tip Race Men's category and second place in the Freestyle Men's category.

Having started the sport as children, and with their whole lives ahead of them, it is exciting to see the great heights that these young homegrown Boracay athletes will still achieve in the many years to come. One thing's for sure, they've got the Boracay Island community's full support all the way, and we will be keeping an eye on their promising sporting careers. 🌟



Ben Field wins first place in the overall Twin Tip Race Novice Men's category

Editor's note:

A regular BSN contributor in the past, Rica momentarily moved to Manila to adapt to city life. Missing the beach, the vibe and the island community, she happily returned last year and currently works as an operations manager for a hotel group. Her passions are animal welfare, mental health awareness, the ocean and underwater life, great music, her 14 year old Boracay-born dachshund, and many things Boracay-related. Expect to read more bio pieces about island locals, who give life and character to the island of Boracay, in upcoming issues.

- Freida Dario-Santiago

Jammers
SINCE 2022
BEACH SHACK

BREAKFAST. LUNCH. DINNER.

Home of the best burgers, barbecues, Latin American dishes, seafood platters and all day breakfasts!

BEACHFRONT D'MALL OF BORACAY
+639171452788 / 288-5564
@JAMMERSBEACHSHACK



ISLAND EVENTS

Malay LGU Prepares For This Year's "Love Boracay" Festival

By Jun N. Aguirre

BORACAY Island, Malay Aklan – The local government of Malay, Aklan is currently in the thick of preparations for the anticipated "Love Boracay" Festival that is slated for April 28 to May 1 this year.

Malay Mayor Floribar Bautista said that currently, they are awaiting

confirmations from various Boracay resorts regarding their respective events coinciding with "Love Boracay." Among these is Megaworld Global-Estate Resorts Inc.'s Boracay Newcoast.

"One of our concerns is the funding for the rollout of activities. We need at least Php1.5 million to fund the programs under the LGU side," Bautista told the Boracay Sun News in a phone interview.

Aside from the resorts, the LGU is also coordinating with different

national government agencies such as the Department of Tourism and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the synchronization of the events.

"Some of the details of the events are still being finalized," said Bautista.

For several years, "Love Boracay" (formerly known as La Boracay) was a weeklong celebration that culminated on Labor Day Weekend and in time for the feast of Malay town in honor of St Joseph the worker.

"Among the initial activities planned are forums on the environmental sustainability of Boracay, beach and sea sports among others. We are also reviving the Obreros Festival as part of the 'Love Boracay' series of events," said Bautista.

The Obreros Festival which showcases the living traditions of Malay through street dancing competitions was suspended for the past three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Malay Tourism Office (MTO) recently revealed that it had conducted a Developmental Festival Management at the conference hall of Malay Elementary School to orient choreographers and organizers on the mechanics of the Obreros Festival.

The MTO recently announced that updates will be posted on their official Facebook page as soon as the festival's events are final. 🌸

| LOVE BORACAY 2023 List of Activities April 28 - May 1, 2023 | | |
|---|--|--|
| DATE | ACTIVITY | VENUE |
| April 28, 2023 | 6:00AM - Project Pristine - Clean Up Drive 8:00AM - Opening Program of Love Boracay 2023 (Ati-Atihan vibe) 9:00AM - Parade of Sea and Aqua sports assets Evening - Open Dance Contest | Front Beach D'Mall Boracay Front Beach Lake Town |
| April 29, 2023 | 5:00AM - #NotAlone: Family Fun Run for Mental Wellness 6:00AM - Project Pristine - Clean Up Drive Afternoon - Beach Sports: Volleyball, Soccer, Frisbee Evening - Music And Arts Festival Summer Night Party | Front Beach Front Beach Front Beach Crimson Resort Boracay Boracay New Coast |
| April 30, 2023 | 6:00AM - Project Pristine - Clean Up Drive 8:00AM - Biko Race Afternoon - Beach Sports: Volleyball, Soccer, Frisbee Evening - Summer Night Party | Front Beach Boracay New Coast Front Beach Boracay New Coast |
| May 1, 2023 | 6:00AM - Project Pristine - Clean Up Drive 8:00AM - Paraw Regatta 20th Fiesta De Obreros Colobration Stroot Dancing, Afternoon - 20th Fiesta De Obreros Dance Showdown Evening - Closing Program, Fireworks Display, and Concert | Front Beach Mainland Malay |
| Other activities: Love Boracay Bazaar, Paraw Race, Dragon Boat Race, Porma Balas: Sand Castle Making Competition, Crystal Kayak Photo Contest | | |

KASBAR

We Serve Authentic Moroccan Cuisine

Station 1, Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan
 Contact No.: 09173872241
 Email: kasbarresortboracay@gmail.com

kasbar boracay
 kasbar_boracay



FUN FACTS!

Algae 101

By Freida Dario-Santiago

Boracay's uniquely pristine white sand is often attributed to the green algae that are prolific during the summer season that pulverizes into Boracay's distinctive white sand, having baked under the tropical sun.

Truth be told, it is easy to see why this has been a long-held belief by local island folk (a certainty worthy of respect), because in fact, what makes the sand powdery and soft is its organic component – the coralline algae – not to be mistaken

however with the fibrous green algae where the ultra-fine sand tends to cling.

Boracay's powdery fine sand is also attributed to Parrotfish (Mol-Mol) which are crucial to Boracay's coral reefs and help create our fine white sand. (We'll tell you more about this next issue, stay tuned!)

Boracay's inimitable fine white sand is attributed to many other scientific theories that will continue to be the subject of debate for many generations, but what lingers in our minds is this...

Should we be worried about the prolific green algal bloom that is a seasonal natural occurrence during the summer months?

According to marine biologists, it is harmless and very safe to swim with. In fact, it is nature's way of balancing the ecosystem.

This phenomenon has been observed for decades by local residents that point out that it was so thick back in the 80s when Boracay was untouched by the outside world that they rolled them up literally like carpets.

Due to the calm warm waters and intense light, these green algae consume excess nutrients from the water resulting in their bloom during the hot summer



Seasonal green algae along the shores Boracay's White Beach
(Photo by Jack Jarilla)

months, even serving as a shelter for some juvenile fishes.

For Boracay locals, the recurrent green algae along the shore are simply an indication that the summer season has arrived. ✨



Green algae in the summer of 1984, taken in front of Pearl of the Pacific, Seawind and White House Beach Resort

(Photo courtesy of Leonard Tirol)

BORACAY PEOPLE

My Life As A Singer Songwriter In Boracay

By Armand TJ

I remember the first song I wrote in my life. It was around 2004 and it was about the world famous Boracay Sunset. I was still studying in Manila at that time. I remember writing the song with my keyboards amidst the concrete jungle of the Philippines' capital city. My heart and soul was immediately transported to my paradise island off the North Western tip of Panay Island - Boracay. Reminiscing about it now is giving me chills of how the world-famous Boracay sunset is still as enchanting now as it was two decades ago. It enchanted the backpackers and the natives alike even way before electricity and modern life had reached the island. Way before Instagram. Boracay is timeless.

"Boracay Sunset" was the first track of my first CD Album "Only in Boracay," which was released in 2005. The song recording had piano, saxophone, percussions, guitars, violin, and even featured Boracay's very own Ati choir. It was an adventure bringing these young singers all the way from Boracay to Iloilo, where the recording studio was located. For most of them, it was their first time setting foot outside the island. I was surprised that the nuns who accompanied them allowed this. Perhaps they too wanted an adventure and a break from island life. Or perhaps they knew that we were making history, the first Boracay CD album recording, it had to happen finally.

Life as a singer songwriter on this world famous island can be challenging. The "pros" would definitely be the amount of inspiration to write about. Come on, I'm living in Paradise! Aside from writing about the "Boracay Sunset", I also wrote about the backpackers who experience the island in my song called "21 Day." Or about the fleeting roller coaster ride of falling in love on White Beach with my song "Just Close Your Eyes". The "cons" would definitely not be being part of the music industry. There are no managers, agents, recording labels, or production companies on the island. I have been a



one-man-army when it came to riding out my music career. I'd have to be in Manila if I wanted all that. But no thanks, I choose paradise. Furthermore, there's another factor that Boracay has, which Manila doesn't have - the international audience.

As a performer, I have utterly enjoyed Boracay's international crowd through the years. To connect with them, befriend them, and use the universal language of music to bring everyone together, is beyond amazing. The energies of people from every corner of the globe surrounding me and synergizing with my songs, with Paradise as our backdrop, is pure bliss. It doesn't get any better than this! And it's these international

connections which open doors for me into the global stages out there, inviting me into their homes as well. I am suddenly a friend for life, an instant soulmate. These are very special connections, no matter how hyperspeed they seem to be. Just imagine the millions of souls who pass through Boracay every year.

That's why I was quite devastated when Boracay was closed down during 2018 for six months. It dawned on me that although Boracay island was still paradise, it's not the same without the international souls I share this "paradise experience" with. When my father was still alive, he'd often quote this Tagalog song with the lyrics translating to "What good is Paradise, when it is not shared?." And these lyrics were hitting me hard again during the second island closure due to the global pandemic. Two years without these wonderful encounters was too long.

When you look at old photographs of Boracay during the 80s and 90s, you will see locals and backpackers, all smiles, enjoying these shared special moments in Paradise. For me that's what makes Boracay even more special. Not just the physical aspects of our dreamlike environment, but the memories we make with the people of the world who journey far and wide and finally make their way here. May it be through the Trans-Siberian train from Europe like those two English backpackers I saw in one old Boracay photograph from the 80s, or flying internationally direct to Caticlan with ease like our modern day digital nomads. All these years they come and go, and leave soul prints on our island. How beautiful is that?

In recent years, it's been easier for me as a singer songwriter due to technology. I now don't need to travel the seven hour journey all the way to Iloilo to record at a studio. I know friends with home studios on the island. Back then, there were just a small number of singer/artists on the island, now there's a huge influx of artists from all over the Philippines calling Boracay home. And I love collaborating with them with my music, guesting them in recordings in one of the home studios around the island.

However, with the huge pool of talent on the island, I'm saddened that it seems like I'm the only one singing original songs. And those few island artists with actual original songs still hesitate to perform them publicly. Maybe that's one thing that Boracay needs, a space for

original artists to thrive. We should take pride in representing "Original Pilipino Music" to the thousands of travelers who come to Boracay. To be at the forefront since Boracay is the Philippines' most visited destination, the crown jewel of the Philippine tourism industry.

For those who know me and my music, I am a big supporter of the Philippine tourism industry. I'm probably the singer songwriter with the most songs about the Philippines and our island destinations. How can one not take pride in our islands? But not all my songs are about beaches and travels. Music is my weapon of choice in awakening and sending out a powerful message in regards to global issues. Even though I live in this Boracay "bubble", I am aware and concerned with what's going on around the world. I wrote "West Philippine Sea" to instill the message of safeguarding our islands against a certain country abusing our territories. I wrote "We are Hong Kong" because I was so inspired by the young freedom fighters of Hong Kong fighting for their democracy. And I don't shy away from writing politically charged songs regarding our own leaders. These songs and music videos have gone viral on my social medias, mainly Facebook.

We are all in this together. This Earth is one island, one world. I think that's the biggest message of my music. Writing the "One Island, One World" song which eventually led me to winning a Sony contest flying me from Boracay to Brazil during World Cup 2014, has defined me and my music calling. I've always smiled to myself knowing that I've been performing on the global stage ever since. This island has given me so much, and I do my best in giving back. When I travel the world with my music, performing on various venues and stages across cities and countries, I imagine myself spreading the energies of this tiny paradise island located in the heart of the Philippines.

I am not a one-man-army any more. I have my international connections, the globe-trekkers and free spirit travelers, singing my songs and spreading that same message of unity. An army of soulmates with shared experience of paradise, together we synergize from Boracay to the world. Together, we make history.

One Island, One World, One Love!

—
Facebook.com/armandtjmusic
Instagram.com/armandtj
armandtj.com ✨

ISLAND INFO

Boracay For Newbies

By Abigail Lei

Part 1: Things To Do On A Budget

When one says Boracay, it is almost synonymous with the word 'expensive' because, let's face it: the cost of basic commodities and living is higher than, or at least at par with, that of the metro.

So welcome, newbie! This is my "Boracay for Newbies" especially for you first-timers, or for those who want to take a fresh look at this paradise.

Coming to Boracay, most would feel pressured to take on some activities to complete their stay. Moreso with many coordinators offering you all kinds of watersports every few meters on the stretch along the White Beach. I'm not saying you shouldn't sign up for those, but surely, there are a few things to do and enjoy that don't break the bank.

1. Sunrise at Bulabog Beach

One of the lovely things about the island is that it boasts of being situated right where there is a long shore for both the sunset and the sunrise.

So reserve one morning to wake up early, walk from your accommodation to Bulabog Beach (morning sweatout, check!) and get to see the unobstructed view of the sun rising. Also, new restos have made the east side much more inviting, so you can opt to have your breakfast there, and even watch the kite sessions. Don't forget to take a souvenir photo of the infamous leaning coconut tree while you're at the back beach, too!

2. Choriburger at Willy's Rock, Station 1

A few food stands around station one offer the best-tasting barbecue choices, and for only fifty pesos, you get yourself a grilled chorizo burger, and simply let them know if you want it regular or spicy.

Remember though that food or drink is not allowed right at the beach so just stay close to the food stalls and leave any rubbish in designated bins.

Then enjoy Boracay's landmark, Willy's Rock, silhouetting as the sun goes down.

3. Frisbee or Beach Volley

Farther down Station 3, you might catch some folks in a game of frisbee or beach volley. They are always welcoming joiners, so make friends, get your game on, and get that natural sun-kissed glow, too. Always remember to bring along a water bottle anytime you're at the beach because you never know what challenge comes up next.

4. Visit the Mangroves

Newly constructed and well-lit roads now make more areas accessible. One of those places you may want to visit is the Mangrove area at Sitio Lugutan. It's a very short boardwalk but it's nice to enjoy especially on an early morning or late afternoon walk.

5. NewCoast DIY Tour

Catch a Hop On, Hop Off bus and make it to Savoy at Newcoast then walk your way to the tourist hotspot Lapus-Lapus Keyhole. As opposed to getting a land tour with a per hour rate, going DIY will give you more time to enjoy the place and explore the entire NewCoast, and yes, let's be honest. Take a ton of photos



because the sights are just divine.

Just keep in mind that shuttles may or may not be picking passengers up from Newcoast round-the-clock, so it's wise to time this activity. Or you can choose to charter an e-trike to take you back from there.

6. DIY Land Tour

Rent a bike or e-scooter and visit the island's tourist attractions without leaving any carbon footprint. Keep fitness goals while on a trip!

7. Dragonboat Team Training

They are back in time for the Love Boracay festivities and you will see them training at Station 2 right in front of Moi Raku. Join them in their warmup sessions as it's welcome to everybody, or simply watch as they get ready for some well-missed paddling action!

8. Photo Walk

Walking the entire stretch of the White Beach gives you lots of opportunities, from stills, to portraits, to sceneries, etc. Get a sunset timelapse, or a food photo collage, or even a wide selection of selfies or group photos. Get creative and just snap away on that camera!

So there you have it, just a few of the things I regularly do as an island girl, most of which don't cost a penny, and it's only up to you to commit and show up.

Most of us would want to truly make the best out of every trip or stay, short or long. I say, you don't have to pay a whole lot of moolah to enjoy. At the end of the day, what matters really is how you spend it, and with who. 🌿

ISLAND EYE

Love Boracay

The much awaited biggest event of the year at Boracay Newcoast "Love Boracay The Beach Music Festival" Hosted by Kasbar Boracay and Headrush Events.

Book your tickets now from Ticket Nation and rooms at Savoy Hotel Boracay and Belmont Hotel Boracay and get a discount!

Use this promo code **LOVEBORACAY2023**

This has been long awaited and is sure to be an event to to be missed. 🌿



Boracay Sun Lifestyle

DOWNLOAD NOW!

Discount Coupons
Hotel & Restaurant Bookings
Watersports, Activities,
Information and
much much more!



La Casa De Arte



The artistic 'La Casa De Arte' offers a selection of 1-2 bedrooms, all with very individualistic layouts and individual fully equipped kitchens. Located next to the International School in Cagban. All apartments contain all mod cons plus fast internet. With swimming pool, back-up generator, central entertainment area. Set in landscaped gardens with night security. 30 to 50 thousand pesos per month and your electrical consumption to be paid extra. Cleaning, separate storage areas, child minding and in-house taxi services available.

**Call: Rovie 09495060979
Cipy 09338109054**
Email: info.boracayaccomodations@gmail.com



In Memoriam

Pcga Capt. Jose Dimanlig Villaroman

September 18, 1952 - March 11, 2023
 Age: 70 years old
 Burial: 18th of March 2023, 2 p.m.

MANONG JO of Jopines Store passed away at the age of 70 on March 11, 2023, from colon cancer that metastasized to his brain. A wake was held at their home in Bulabog, and he was laid to rest on the 18th of March, at the Balabag Cemetery, following the mass at the Our Lady of the

Most Holy Rosary Parish Church, Boracay. He is survived by his loving wife "Mommy Pines" and their loving children JP and Pinky.

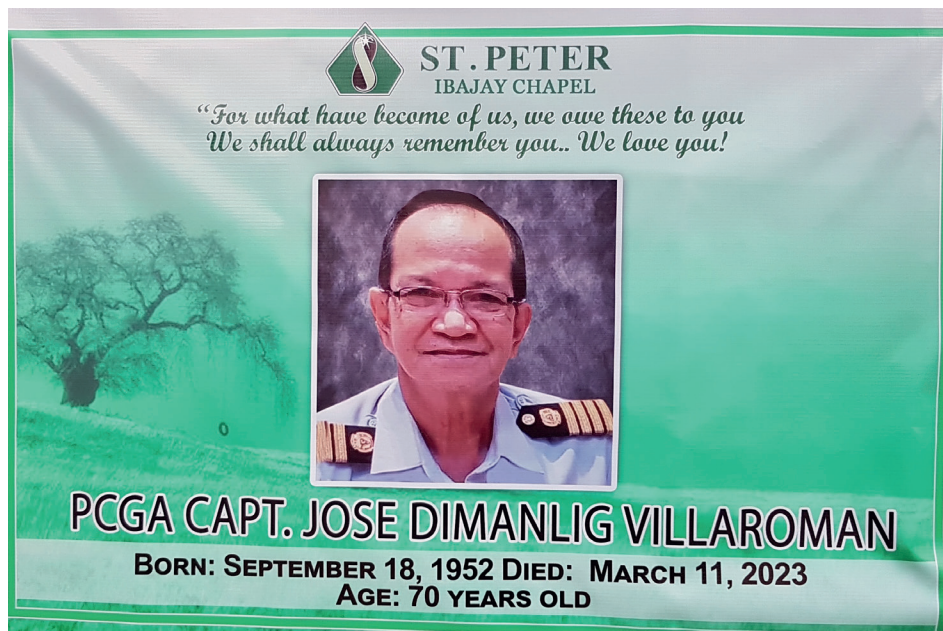
An esteemed captain of The Philippine Coast Guard, he was likewise an active minister for the Holy Rosary Parish Church.

My friends and I (and perhaps the entire island) are familiar with Nong Jo as the permanent fixture at the family-owned general merchandise and hardware store called Jopines (so named as a combination of his name Jo and his wife's name Pines), an island institution that has been serving the community since 1986, that's 37 years, and counting!

Following in his father's footsteps, JP dutifully picked up where his father left off, and literally took his seat at the cashier's table days after his father's sudden passing.

Through the years, my BFF Louise and I had a standard reply to anyone asking where they can find this or that, to which we would answer in unison (and still do), "Jopines!" According to another friend, she overheard someone who, while at the store, asked if they carried bedsheets, to which one of the store ladies replied, "Anong thread count?"

Nong Jo was always eager to help, if only to point you in the right direction within the island community store that has everything, at least anything of



importance that is – from light bulbs and instant noodles to eyelash glue and garden gnomes. So true to their tagline which used to be on their plastic shopping bags, "See Many Things You Need," I strangely still have the photo of their shopping bag on my phone, simply because it cheers me up!

All I know is that if we needed anything, be it a lithium battery or a Halloween costume, Jopines was the first place we'd look, and more often than not, they had what one needed. They also have kitschy gift ideas that no one else but Mommy Pines and Nong Jo thought of (SM, you've got it all, but so does Jopines Store)! During the pandemic, when face masks and face shields became mandatory, we went to Jopines to get some. Let's see, the most recent items I purchased there were a roll of satin gift-wrapping ribbons (they've got an entire cabinet full of every color under the rainbow) and a rhinestone-studded headband (simply because it was so brilliantly placed right next to the hardware store counter).

But truth be told, for many of us who prefer to go to Jopines Store before

checking elsewhere including the hardware shops and department stores at the new shopping malls, the reason is Nong Jo. He had been there for us, the Boracay island community, sitting silently behind the counter, all the time, rain or shine.

Sitting with his old friend Otik Macavinta at the wake in the family home, he tells me that he will never forget Nong Jo's smiling face and that he was actually seeing it very clearly in his mind. He will remember him as: "Always cool, quiet, smiling, and always accommodating."

On behalf of the **Boracay Sun News** and the island community, I would like to offer and express our deepest condolences to the Villaroman family. May the Lord comfort your hearts in this time of sorrow.

Lubos ang aming pakikiramay sa inyong pamilya. Inaalay nain ang kaunting pagpupugay na ito sa alaala ng inyong minamahal.

THANK YOU, PO Nong Jo! May you rest in peace in the loving embrace of our Lord.

– Freida Dario-Santiago



Feature Obituary

Remembering A Hero: Slain Ati Youth Leader Dexter Condez

By Freida Dario-Santiago

Ten years ago, on February 22, 2013, Dexter D. Condez, the 26 year old youth leader and spokesperson for the Boracay Ati Tribal Organization (BATO) and a dear friend to many of us, was murdered in cold blood. He sustained eight gunshot wounds and was dead on arrival at the hospital.

His life of dedication and promise was tragically cut short, while on his way home to the Ati Village after a full day of meetings regarding the several threats to the community from other claimants of the 2.1-hectare property in Barangay Manocmanoc that was awarded by the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) as their ancestral domain on January 21, 2011.

Three months prior, at least 20 security

guards employed by J. King and Sons Co. Inc. (owners of a resort chain) armed with shotguns tore down portions of the perimeter fence put up by the tribe. At the battlefield of these threats was Condez whose murder a short distance from what is now the Boracay Ati Community Village in Sitio Lugutan, was perceived as a clear and shameful act of intimidation and violence against the Ati.

The tragic news sent ripples of grief across the island's shores where he grew up. He is survived by his father Edgar Oczon, mother Madelyn Condez, aunt Evelyn Condez-Supetran, elder brother Pruve, half-sisters Arcy and Kenken. Following a funeral procession from the Ati Village to the Holy Rosary Parish Church which we joined along with the tribes folk and the hundreds of island friends and supporters, his body was laid to rest at the cemetery on Sinagpa Road, Barangay Balabag on March 2, 2013.

A little more than a week after Condez's first death anniversary, Daniel Celestino, a former security guard of Crown Regency was arrested and is still awaiting trial at the Kalibo Regional Trial Court. The guard and his employers have repeatedly denied involvement in the killing of Condez, claiming he was at the hotel premises when it happened. Meanwhile, the Ati continue to seek justice for the senseless killing of Condez.

Dexter will forever be remembered as that bright and shining star whose



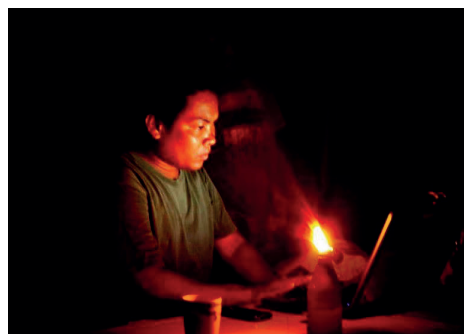
Dexter Condez with his puppy Chupeta

generosity of spirit and kindness radiated and touched so many lives. He dedicated his life to his community as a youth leader, leading by example and bravely facing adversaries with conviction, eloquence, and a brilliant smile.

Ten years later, the alleged gunman is still awaiting trial, and justice has yet to be served. As the legal maxim says, "Justice delayed is justice denied." By remembering Condez's martyrdom, we remember to

honor his heroic sacrifice.

"Go," the Lord said to me, "and lead the people on their way, so that they may enter and possess the land I swore to their ancestors to give them." (Deuteronomy 10:11). "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." (2 Corinthians 4:7-10)



Dexter Condez symbolized the Ati tribe's beacon of hope

ISLAND NEWS

Close Encounters with Boracay's Indigenous People

Text & photos by Theresa Reyes-Alvarez

I've visited Boracay many times, and since the island reopened to domestic tourism early last year, my family and I have been in and out of the island quite a number of times. Just like the tourists that visit this tropical Paradise in the thousands every month, I mostly come here to unwind, to find a respite from the daily grind, and to be in

the moment, appreciating life fully. Providentially, this little island never ceases to amaze, and has never failed me. A staple while in Boracay is to bask in crystal clear waters and to take my 10,000 barefoot steps along the fine powdery white sand that grounds my body and soul. I always look forward to the palette of colors the painter above will exhibit during the golden hours, and I'm always excited to see how big the moon will be during the glorious moonrise over Bulabog Beach.

But a recent discovery made Boracay even more special and worth returning to.

Strolling along the Bulabog area, I stumbled into a bamboo-gated village. My ever-curious self led me to a gem of a discovery. Astonishingly, just a few minutes from the busy beaches is a community of indigenous people. Yes Atis—often referred to as Aeta tribes folk. My little knowledge of the indigenous Ati tribe was limited to hearing of them in history class and with respect to the Ati-atihan festival.

This was my first-ever encounter with an ethnic group. Fifty Ati families all in all, they prefer to be referred to as the Boracay Ati Tribal Organization or BATO, to distinguish them as the island natives and not the vagrant settlers from nearby towns in the mainland of Panay Island.



The author returns for the Feast of the Santo Niño



The author's first encounter with the Ati kids, and "The smiles that keep on giving!"

They looked exotic with all their kinky, rubbery hair, shiny black skin and pearly white teeth. They had the thickest lips with the widest grins. What a beautiful and unforgettable sight!

The Atis are said to be the original inhabitants of Boracay Island. It's sad to realize that gone are the days when these people roamed and enjoyed the island of Boracay freely. The modernization and rise of resorts and commercialism pushed them from one area to another, leaving them with no permanent land to call their own, for many years. Fortunately, the Atis were finally awarded their own piece of land in Bulabog where the present Ati Village is located.

The Atis, I discovered, engage in livelihood projects from time to time which some resorts support but not on a regular basis. Their staple of 3-in-1 coffee keeps their hunger out. The families share one pair of slippers. Whoever has a chore outdoors gets to use the slippers. The adults are very shy and reclusive, but the children are very warm and welcoming. Overall, I found the Atis to be happy and contented nonetheless. I likewise learned that a few have been able to muster the guts to venture out and face up to the challenges of the real world outside of the village, and be successful. But the majority still just want to stay within the confines of their Ati Village.

I could not take my mind off the Atis, especially the children. I vowed to return. And return I did, last January on the Feast of the Santo Niño which is a feast close to their hearts, the Philippine Ati-atihan Festival which is held annually in honor of the Santo Niño in several towns of the province of Aklan.

I brought some friends along, who equally share the love for Indigenous Peoples and for creation. We played games, we brought prizes, and we shared meals. We pooled whatever resources we had and distributed them to all the families.

The time spent with the Boracay Ati community was a privilege. It was pure bliss. It was the most therapeutic activity I ever had on the island. It was healing. It was an encounter with the higher dimension. It brought out the best in me.

Yes, Boracay has the finest sand in the world, and the bluest water. It boasts of the best sunrise and moonrise. But the fact remains that once upon a time, all these



belonged to the Atis.

Now, that the island is once again bustling with events and activities, it would be good to stop to realize that, "Hey, in one corner of the island, there still exist Boracay's beautiful Indigenous People.

An encounter with the Atis is an encounter with creation and its Creator. ✨

**Great Food,
Music and
Ambiance
brought to you
by our
small family.**



hobbittavernboracay
 Contact: (036) 288 6687
 0917 146 6421
 D* Mall Boracay, Station 2

ISLAND EYE
Double Trouble at Nigi Nigis Beach Bar...

The best (not best looking...) two bartenders on Boracay for the last 20 years.

Thanks for all the fun times guys and keep the good work up...

ISLAND EYE

Boracay Community Working Together

An early start at 5:30 in the morning on White Beach saw Kasbar host the "March for Mental Health" awareness parade along the beachfront to Nigi Nigis.

Mental health issues affect so many people and were compounded by Covid lockdowns.

Awareness campaigns like this help lift any stigma surrounding mental health problems and the Red Cross Boracay and LGU joined efforts here to organise this event to help those who so often have to suffer in silence.

A big thanks goes out to Kasbar Erielyn Gaston for hosting the event and to the Red Cross Boracay Rona Liza Inocencio Orada and Elena Tosco Brugger and our LGU Alan Palma Sr. for making it happen, and, of course, to the several hundred people who made the time to attend and support this worthy cause.

Thank you everyone. 🌿



Boracay Sun Lifestyle
BORACAY'S DAILY NEWS

DOWNLOAD NOW!

Discount Coupons
Hotel & Restaurant Bookings
Watersports, Activities,
Information and
much much more!

Available on Google Play and App Store.

ISLAND INFO

Heatstroke Is A Medical Emergency And Could Be Fatal

Here's what to do

By Freida Dario-Santiago

If you've suffered from heat stroke before, you would agree that it is quite terrifying and requires immediate emergency medical intervention.

Heatstroke (also referred to as sunstroke) is defined by the Mayo Clinic as "a condition caused by your body overheating, usually as a result of prolonged exposure to or physical exertion in high temperatures. This most serious form of heat injury, heatstroke, can occur if your body temperature rises to 40 degrees Celsius or higher."

According to the website www.WebMd.com, "Heatstroke results from prolonged exposure to high temperatures – usually in combination with dehydration – which leads to failure of the body's temperature control system."

According to the Department of Health (DOH), heatstroke is the most severe form of heat illness when the body overheats and can't cool down. Top causes include hot and humid weather, vigorous exercise in hot weather, dehydration, and too much direct exposure to the sun. In other words, heatstroke is condition is most common in the summer months, which calls for extra vigilance in keeping yourself well-hydrated and making sure you're not getting too much direct exposure to the sun.

Heatstroke requires emergency treatment. Untreated heatstroke can cause damage to the brain, heart, kidneys and other internal organs. The damage worsens the longer treatment is delayed, increasing your risk of serious complications or death.

Symptoms of heatstroke

The hallmark symptom of heat stroke is a core body temperature above 40 degrees Celsius. But fainting may be the first sign. Other symptoms may include:

- Warm, flushed skin
- Faintness
- Dizziness
- Weakness
- Headache

First Aid

If you suspect that someone has heatstroke, immediately call for medical help or take the person to a hospital. Any delay in seeking medical help can be fatal.

While waiting for help to arrive, the Department of Health advises the following emergency measures:

- Move the person to a shady spot or indoors and have them lie down with their legs elevated. If they're conscious, have them sip cool water
- Remove unnecessary layers of clothing, apply cool water to the skin and fan them
- Apply ice packs to the armpits, wrists, ankles and groin 🌿

HEAT STROKE DOH
EMERGENCY HOTLINE: (02) 711-1001 to 02

Bring to nearest health facility for further management
SOURCE: Philippine Health Advisories 2012
OfficialDOHgov

MEDICAL EMERGENCY HOTLINES

Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO)

(+63 36) 288 1625

Boracay Fire Rescue Ambulance Volunteers (BFRAV) (+63 929) 281 8655 or (+63 36) 288 2338

Ciriaco S. Tirol Hospital (+63 36) 288 3041

Saint Gabriel Medical Center (+63 36) 288 9911

MedExpress Medical Clinic and Diagnostic Center Hotline 116 (from landline)

(+63 918) 9263112 or (+63 36) 288 6357

OTHER EMERGENCY HOTLINES

LIGTAS SEMANA SANTA
HOTLINE NUMBERS

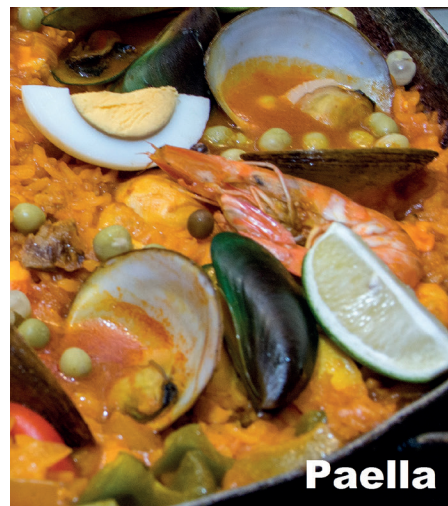
RESCUE
MUNICIPAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL OPERATIONS CENTER
HOTLINE NUMBER
106
MOBILE NUMBER
09198514102 09630359648

SECURITY, PEACE AND ORDER
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
MAIN HQ **288-3066/09636294087**
PCP1 YAPAK **288-4130/09388676792**
PCP2 BALABAG **288-9529/09509303456**
PCP3 MANOCMANOC **288-3425/09388676794**
PCP4 CATTILAN **288-7292/09388676793**
PCP5 FOBLACION **288-8778/09388676757**
2ND AKLAN PMFC **288-7875/09085983811**
AKLAN MARPSTA **09171135459/09994297547**

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE FIRE SUPPRESSION
BFP MAINLAND **288-7830/09203982337** BFP MANOCMANOC **288-4198/09308493001**
BFP BALABAG **09500107215**
WATER RESCUE
PCG MAINLAND **288-7197/09614202756** PCG ISLAND **288-6150/09616537163**

MEDICAL
MUNICIPAL HEALTH OFFICE
MAINLAND **288-8718/09515101713** ISLAND **288-5624**
MALAY MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL **288-8728/09512945402** CIRIACO S. TIROL HOSPITAL **288-3041/09123456789**

TOURIST ASSISTANCE
MUNICIPAL TOURISM OFFICE
288-8827/09274392343/09682431919
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE **288-8855** JETTY PORT **118**



O-Lé
Spanish Tapas Bar & Restaurant
Spanish, Mexican, Cuban Cuisine
D'Mall, Boracay Island & Robinson's Place, Hoilo



" A Treat That YOU Deserve "

D'Mall Boracay Island
Tel No. (036)2885940
Email . stzafir@gmail.com

ISLAND NEWS

Aria's Birthday...



Aria Group owners Paolo and Juan have always been Boracay Island advocates and their devotion to the Island has seen Aria's popularity grow throughout the last 20 years.

Yes. You read that right - Aria turned 20 years old this April 5th.

Their appreciation for the solid customer base, especially through the enforced closure periods, clearly shows in everything that they do. And also their efforts to keep the business going during those times to help keep their staff in employment.

Happy staff ensures happy customers. And six of their staff members have been with them for 20 years, and a lot more for 15 -16 years. Amazing...

And of course, the same applies to their restaurant next door. Cafe del Sol opened at the same time, 20 years ago, and enjoys all the same qualities as Aria.

The management, along with the

staff, have always embraced customer feedback, which in turn enables them to keep improving and trying to do better. In 2016 they took on larger office premises that helped to improve their logistics and systems. And in 2018 when everyone lost their beachfront operations, Aria opened up their second floor dining. Another success...

Foreign customers have always flocked to Aria, and 2019 saw an influx of Asian tourists becoming regular customers. Such is the popularity of this super restaurant.

Success is not easy to find, especially in such a small area that is densely populated with so many restaurants, but Aria maintains that top quality ingredients, prepared and cooked professionally, provides top quality meals.

So, if you are looking for some of the best Italian food on the Island, served by efficient and friendly staff, look no further than this iconic Boracay restaurant.

Happy 20th Birthday... 🌿

ISLAND NEWS

Malay town projects 4.450 m tourists Arrivals in 2032

Text & photo By Jun N. Aguirre

BORACAY Island, Malay Aklan – The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Malay, Aklan is projecting around 4,450,264 tourism arrivals by the year 2032.

In a meeting with the Malay Development Council, the plan aims to expand the tourism lure to mainland Malay to follow the required limit for Boracay-bound tourists. Boracay Island's carrying capacity in the year 2032 is pegged at 2,337,825.

In an earlier interview, Malay Mayor Floribar Bautista said that it is now the target of the local government to expand the Boracay tourism industry to mainland Malay to boost economic opportunities.

According to the Municipal Tourism Office, Malay currently has 392 accommodation establishments with 17,000 rooms.

For expansion, the local government needs at least 144 hectares of high-density rooms (60 rooms per hectare); 287 hectares for medium-density rooms (30 rooms per hectare), and 866 hectares for low-density rooms (ten rooms per hectare).

Among the strategies being developed are the establishment of more tourist accommodation facilities, the development of agricultural and eco-tourism destinations, the implementation of waterfront projects, the construction of a regulated bridge that will connect

the mainland to Boracay Island, provision of housing facilities in the mainland, sufficient infrastructure and transportation facilities, and a review of the island's carrying capacity.

Plans also include a museum that will showcase and highlight the culture and heritage of this town.

Aside from this, the local government also plans to venture into several business opportunities such as the building of its own resort and hotel, a city hospital and a mall.

The coastal town of Malay is also being eyed for sea sports activities such as a banca race and a paraw regatta.

In a related development, provincial board member Nemesio Neron said that he passed a resolution asking both the Bureau of Immigration and the Department of Tourism to establish a Visa Upon Arrival desk, especially for Chinese tourists.

"I learned that the Chinese now are having a hard time getting tourist visas as the process will take weeks. If we have a Visa Upon Arrival Desk, it will make it more convenient for tourists to visit Boracay via the Kalibo International Airport," he said.

It was gathered that the Chinese embassy has committed to providing Boracay with an initial one million tourists in one year once the direct flight coming from China commences.

The Chinese embassy has also committed to developing the agricultural and fish industry of Aklan to ensure food security not only for residents but also for tourists as well. 🌿



lemoni cafe
and restaurant

Serving eclectic, healthy, gourmet cousine, refreshing beverages, desserts to die for and custom design cakes.

Excellent service standards that have successfully catered to thousands of foodies since 2005.

Dmall Square, Boracay Island,
5608 Malay, Aklan
(036) 288 6781
+63 977 857 7155

lemonicafe.boracay

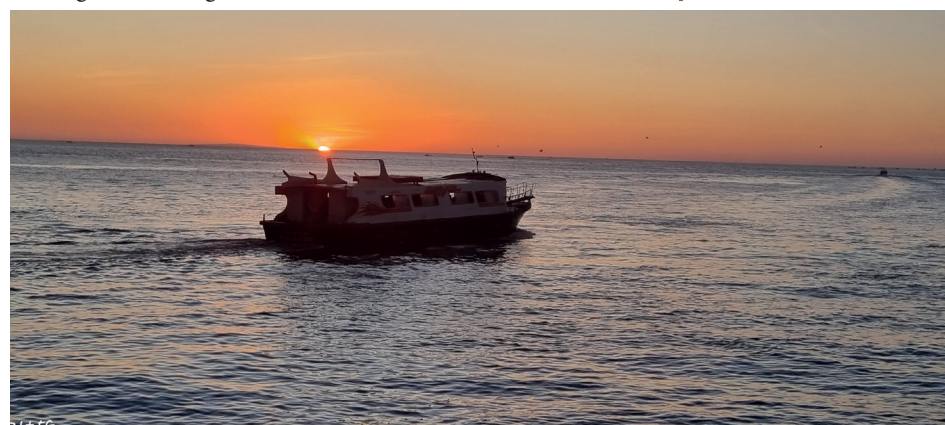


DINIBEACH
Bar & Restaurant

Located at Diniwid beach, it's the perfect place to while away your day on the beach and watch the beautiful Boracay sunset. The famous sunset sessions, features local and International DJ's. Specializing in crafted cocktails, bar chow, soul food, seafood and more. Open daily from 10am til 9pm

Diniwid Beach, Boracay Island,
Malay, Aklan 5608
(036) 288 9710
+63 917 717 1246

dinibeachbar



A boat full of tourists bound for Boracay coming from the Caticlan Jetty Port.

ISLAND EYE Caught on camera! This month's snapshots of sightings that deserve to be acknowledged or called out for action #ItTakesAVillage

Send your snapshots to our Facebook Messenger @ boracaysunnews and include the date and short description.

By Freida Dario-Santiago

THUMBS UP

Earth Hour



On March 25 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., people all over the world joined the annual Earth Hour movement by switching off their lights to give an hour to Mother Earth. Boracay Sun News strolled down White Beach and witnessed Epic Boracay shutting off of their non-essential lights for the #BiggestHourForEarth, providing dinner guests with LED table lamps instead. Good one guys!



Epic Boracay observes Earth Hour along White Beach (Photo by Robert Morado)

Ask yourself if perhaps you and your household can make this sacrifice every now and then, and even go beyond just an hour. It is important to remind ourselves (and our neighbors) to be conscious of climate change and to make an effort to be part of the solution for a greener future, with the smallest act of conservation by switching off lights and air-conditioning, whether at home or at work.

Let there be light!

Residents and visitors staying in Bulabog are grateful that Bulabog Road 1B (from 24/7 Crown Regency to Bulabog Beach) is now illuminated by street lamps.



Photo taken in March 2023 by Freida Dario-Santiago

Also well-lit is the cliffside walkway from Sinagpa, White Beach going towards Diniwid Beach.



Photo taken in March by Jack Jarilla

ISLAND EYE
This Young Man Is Amazing...

“More artistic Grade School students from Boracay European International School had their little poster cards of me signed after the inspirational talk I gave the whole school! They were indeed very happy!”

This photo was taken before the workshop started. Worth Lodriga, the Young Picasso of the Philippines; First and ONLY Child Youth Ambassador of the Philippines; First Asian Cartoon Network Ambassador.

Thanks to the Boracay European International School for bringing him back to Boracay.



Download Our MOBILE APP

Boracay Sun Lifestyle
BORACAY'S DAILY NEWS

FOOD ACTIVITIES EVENTS

Google Play App Store

PARAW WORLD SOUVENIR SHOP BORACAY
Boracay is famous for its Paraws. Take one home with you!
Support Local Craftsmen & Artists!

EST. 2022

Location: Station 2, Main Road, Balabag, Malay, Aklan 5608

Website: parawworld.com

Mobile: +639176171807

Email: info@parawworld.com

INDULGE

By Jen Freeman

Nonie's

One of Boracay's best-loved restaurants, Nonie's came to life in February of 2017, when proprietors (and newlyweds) Patrick and Shria Florencio said goodbye to their fast-paced and demanding corporate lifestyle in Singapore and relocated to the altogether different island of Boracay. Their vision was to create Filipino-inspired dishes that are as fresh and healthy as they are delicious, and at this they have been immensely successful, as Nonie's not only attracts the health-conscious, but has a devoted following of local residents and foodies from all walks of life.

Shria, who hails from New Zealand, with Indian roots, explains "We both knew we'd always wanted to open our own business together by the beach. It was our dream. It also so happened, during the time we were engaged (in 2016), that his mum and dad purchased a condo in Oceanway. We first went to visit them for a holiday and the rest is history. We fell in love with the island, and being a vegetarian I found it hard, at that time, to find many options for me to eat.

And that's where the idea for Nonies was born."

The restaurant – already the proud recipient of a TripAdvisor Travelers Choice Award – is a green and peaceful oasis, away from the hustle and bustle of the main White Beach, and its cool, calm interior seats 40 diners.

"Nonies is a combination of everything we enjoy," Shria continues. "Good, healthy food made from scratch, good coffee and

also a nice hang out spot where we can have long extended brunches (which was actually one of our very first dates – a very extended brunch date that turned into a dinner)."

Patrick grew up in Canada with Filipino parents, and it is his mother Cenona Florencio - or 'Nonie' - after whom the establishment is named, and whose recipes were the inspiration for the restaurant's unique cuisine.

When it comes to the menu, Nonie's utilize locally-sourced and sustainable produce from the Aklan region as much as possible, and all the sauces, breads, marinades and condiments are made in-house, (even the freshly squeezed coconut milk) and are inspired by traditional techniques.

"We would call it inclusive dining," says Shria. "By that I mean, if you are vegan, your friend is gluten-free, your partner is a meat-lover or someone in the group is keto, you can all dine together at Nonie's, knowing that we understand your needs/allergies and everyone will be able to enjoy something on the menu. If we are to talk about how we would define our concept – we like to think of Nonies as a modern take on Filipino food, with a healthy twist, where we still do things the old-fashioned way."

There is a great selection of light and vibrant all-day brunch dishes to choose from, including Chicken Fritata (chicken longganisa and local buffalo cheese fritata with side salad), Pineapple Pandan Pancakes (with braised pineapple, fresh pandan leaves, toasted cashews and dulce de leche sauce) Vegan Kimchi Noodle Soup (home-made kimchi, toasted tofu and rice noodles in a spicy broth) and Vegan Sisig (a twist on a Pinoy classic, with freshly-baked lavosh).

Grain bowls are available in several enticing varieties, such as Tuna Tataki (seared tuna, soft-boiled egg, seasonal



greens and barley grain), Vegan Chorizo (vegan chorizo balls with seasonal greens and sorghum) and Squid Sarsiado (fresh squid cooked in a hearty tomato and egg sauce with onion, leeks and sorghum), as well as tempting smoothie bowls with seasonal fruits.

The flavorful main course options include Bistek Tagalog (braised brisket of beef in bistek sauce with seasonal greens, buffalo cheese and sweet potato mash), Chicken and Pork Adobo (grilled chicken adobo, 72-hour crispy pork belly, soft-boiled egg and Cavite-style adobo sauce, with organic black rice), and Tempeh Kare Kare (homemade tempeh and seasonal greens with a cashew and coconut-milk sauce).

To finish your meal, choose from such delights as the Fresh Buko Tart (coconut

tart topped with coconut cream, raw cacao nibs and candied coconut strips), Mango Sticky Rice (Cebuano-style ginger-lemongrass sticky rice topped with mango), and Flourless Chocolate Cake (with cashew nuts, raw cacao nib praline and a calamansi curd), or opt for a serving of luscious gelato, with flavors inspired by famous Filipino desserts.

Alongside local specialty coffees, juices and innovative cocktails, Nonie's also serve their very own organic Boracay Brew ombucha (made with cold pressed fruits) which comes in four refreshing flavors. 🌿

Address: Station X, The Hue Hotel and Resorts, Main Road, Station 2
Telephone: 0912 3948948
Email: info@nonies.com.ph
Facebook: Nonie's



Our mission is simple:

Provide high-quality meals and a relaxed dining experience. Our culinary inspirations include French and Belgian offerings that you can enjoy with a stunning beach view. Our service is warm and inviting, and our cocktails our second to none.



When you're here, you're home.



Drinks & Menu



Social Media



Reservations



ISLAND NEWS

The Municipality Of Malay Remains Vigilant Against The Oil Spill Threat

By Jun N. Aguirre

Malay, Aklan – The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Malay, Aklan continues to remain vigilant on the oil spill threat coming from nearby Semirara Island in Caluya, Antique.

Galo Ibardolaza of the Aklan Provincial Disaster Risks Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) said they are constantly coordinating with the Maritime Police to monitor any traces of an oil spill slick near Boracay.

"So far, fortunately for us, it is Amihan now and the winds are blowing away from Boracay Island. We are however vigilant against possible threats," he said.

As of press time, residents coming from the barangays of Malay, are constantly making oil spill booms made from bamboo as shields against the entry of oil spills. Some of these spill booms were already placed in areas of Yapak Beach.

In an emergency meeting held on March 6, Malay Mayor Floribar Bautista said he placed the entire Malay on Code Blue alert level. The said meeting was attended by the Malay Disaster Risks Reduction Management Office (MDRRMO), Philippine Coast Guard-Caticlan, Philippine Coast Guard-Auxiliary, the Boracay Fire and Rescue Volunteers Inc., and the Philippine Maritime Police, among others.

The Code Blue alert encourages related government offices to give urgent priority to ensuring prompt actions against the possible drift of oil spills, especially in Boracay. It also urged close monitoring, consolidation of reports, and swift coordination with concerned stakeholders.

"The possibility that the Oriental Mindoro Oil Spill would affect Boracay Island and other areas of Northern Panay is very remote. Thus, all concerned are advised to implement preparedness measures to mitigate the possible effect of this oil leakage," Bautista said.

The mayor has tasked the MDRRMO to take the lead in consolidating reports on the threat of oil spills.

Among the immediate actions that the MDRRMO would undertake soonest was the setting up of the oil spill boom in areas that would largely be hit by the oil spill, raising the operation center for heightened monitoring, regularly conducting monitoring in coastal areas, coordinating with other local government units near Malay on possible oil spill



Residents of barangay Argao, Malay Aklan prepare an oil spill boom made of bamboo as a shield against the possible entry of the oil spill.

(Photo courtesy of Aklan Trekkers)

ISLAND NEWS

Tagay!

Our Way Of Saying "Cheers," Tagay Salutes The Island's Unsung Heroes And Achievements.

Congratulations to the newly elected Board of Directors of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Boracay 2023

Last March 9, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry-Boracay (PCCI-B) announced the newly elected Board of Directors for 2023 to 2024, as follows:

sightings, conducting regular sea patrols and activating Barangay Disaster Risks and Reduction Management Councils for monitoring.

In a statement on their Facebook page, the Malay LGU urged the public to stay vigilant while the town is on heightened alert.

"The Malay LGU is coordinating with the Barangay Disaster Risks Reduction Management Councils and the PCG for monitoring. Based on the prevailing wind directions, we have already identified possible places where we are currently installing oil spill booms in the areas," the statement said.

In a Zoom press conference on March 5, Coast Guard Commander Janseen Benjamin, spokesperson of the Philippine Coast Guard-Western Visayas said that Boracay was still free from the oil spill.

"Caluya Island, which has already been affected by the oil spill, is still 28.62 nautical miles from the coast of Boracay. I am hoping to utilize a helicopter today (March 6) to determine the direction of the oil spill if weather permits," he said.

Currently, Benjamin said that 15 Coast Guard personnel are in the lead in collecting the sludge of oil in Caluya. They are well-trained and have experienced three separate oil spill incidents in the region in the past few years," he added.

Benjamin did say "The possibility of the oil spill reaching Boracay depends on the sudden drift of the winds in the area."

"At present, we still need to determine if the collected sludge in Caluya indeed came from the sunken MS Empress Princess in Oriental Mindoro. Sadly, it will still take us seven days from the date of the specimen transported in Manila to determine the result of the tests," he said. ✨

President: Michael Sweeney
 Vice President: Djila Winebrenner
 Vice President / Corporate Secretary: Mark Santiago
 Director / Treasurer: Elmar Lina
 Director: Russell Cruz
 Director: Patrick Florencio
 On February 8, the PCCI-B board of

directors paid a courtesy call to Malay Municipal Mayor Floribar Bautista to present him with a Certificate of Appreciation and to express their support. More importantly, they emphasized keeping the lines of communication and bridging the gap between our local government and the private sector. ✨



Mayor Floribar Bautista (center) with PCCI-B board of directors (from left): Mark Santiago, Patrick Florencio, Michael Sweeney, former PCCI-B president Wesley van der Voort, Djila Winebrenner and Russell Cruz

THAI BASIL

Fresh, Healthy Thai Food for you to enjoy!

Come to Thai Basil in D'Mall Boracay. Call (0917) 146 6421 for reservations or visit us In Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThaiBasilBoracay

BFRAV

BORACAY FIRE RESCUE AMBULANCE VOLUNTEERS

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

LANDLINE : (036) 288 - 2338

CEL : 0929 - 281 - 8655

CEL : 0998 - 939 - 3356

"PARA SA ISLA, PARA SA BAYAN"

Commissioned by BACM Leonard A. III / PCGA, BFRAV CEO - Infographic by Tony Atkinson BFRAV / Achbar



ISLAND INFO

When Bites Can Kill

By Pebbles Mendoza

Six months ago, I was bitten by a feline while walking along the beach path in Angol. It was dark and unknowingly, I stepped on the tail of the cat. Immediately, the cat bit me as the animal may have been frightened or hurt.

I rushed home and washed the bitten area with flowing water and soap. “The first-aid measure includes immediate and thorough flushing and washing of the wound for a minimum of 15 minutes with soap and water, detergent, povidone iodine or other substances that remove and kill the rabies virus,” states the World Health Organization (WHO) on its website.

Since I know that a bite of a dog or cat is dangerous, I went to a local clinic to get a rabies vaccination the following day.

I was really surprised that there were so many patients there. “It’s always like this,” said Anna, who had her third shot already. “If there are too many, those who would take the first shot had to be vaccinated in the afternoon.”

It seems that people are now aware that the bite of either a dog or cat can kill. A bite, scratch or broken skin licked by a potential rabies carrier should be managed properly. Although it is not an emergency case, it is urgent.

Leading causes of mortality and morbidity in the country, the Department of Health (DOH) still considers it as a significant public health problem because it is one of the most acutely fatal infections.

One of the reasons why rabies is still with us – when it is already eliminated in Singapore, Japan and other highly industrialized countries – is that it is one of the most misunderstood diseases by Filipinos.

“Many people still believe rabies is only transmitted by bites from stray dogs,” says DOH’s coordinator of the rabies control program. “In fact, 88 percent of infections are caused by pet dogs and about two percent by cats.”

A document obtained from the Bureau of Animal Industry cites several other reasons why rabies is still a problem in the country: lack of appreciation by local officials to the rabies program as public health threat leading to poor implementation; ineffective local ordinance in the implementation of the rabies prevention and control program; poor vaccination coverage by the province; numerous stray dogs, poor implementation of stray dogs and no dog pound; lack of funding; and limited, if not lack, of personnel.

Rabies, an acute and deadly viral infection of the brain, is one of the most terrifying diseases known to man. “The incubation period for rabies can be as long as five years, although 95 percent of those infected develop the disease within one year. Once a patient starts to show symptoms, he or she usually dies within 10 days.”

Rabies commonly begins with a short period of depression, restlessness, a general feeling of illness, and a fever. However, in 20 percent of people, rabies starts with paralysis in the lower legs that

moves up through the body.

Restlessness increases, leading to uncontrollable excitement, and saliva production greatly increases. Spasms of the muscles in the throat and voice box occur because rabies affects the area in the brain that controls swallowing and breathing.

The spasms can be excruciatingly painful. A slight breeze or an attempt to drink water can trigger spasms. As such, a person infected with rabies cannot drink. For this reason, the disease is sometimes called hydrophobia (fear of water).

As the disease spreads through the brain, the person becomes more and more confused and very agitated. Eventually, coma and death result. The cause of death can be blockage of airways, seizures, exhaustion, or widespread paralysis.

Anyone who thinks he or she has been exposed to rabies should receive a series of shots to prevent the infection from taking hold.

Dogs and cats are not the only animals that carry the rabies virus. Other animals which can transmit rabies here are bats. Rabies rarely affects rodents (such as mice and rats). Birds and reptiles do not develop rabies.

There are several ways of protecting people from rabies. First is to reduce the risk of exposure. In high-risk areas, people need to avoid contact with wild animals and stray dogs (particularly if they appear in distress or are behaving unusually).

Another is to vaccinate pets and animals which may be carriers of rabies. The most cost-effective strategy for preventing rabies in the Philippines is by eliminating rabies in dogs – which 99 percent of the cases were attributed to – through animal vaccinations. 🌿

PUT YOUR BUSINESS ON THE MAP

Must Visit Places



- B6 Ambassador in Paradise
- C5 Percy
- C5 Ole Tapas Bar
- C5 Cafe del Sol
- C5 Aria Italian
- C5 Hama Japanese
- C5 Aria Gelato
- C5 Boracay Beach Truck
- C5 Hobbit Tavern
- C5 Jeepney Stop
- C5 Lemoni Cafe

- C5 Jammers
- D3 Bistro Des Amis
- B6 Kasbar
- C4 Isla Pollyanna
- C6 Moksha Cafe
- C5 Paraw World
- C5 Jardin
- D2 Casa De Arte
- C5 Totally Bananas
- C6 FishEye Divers
- C5 Thai Basil

* Contact our advertising department for information

Come to Jeepney Stop for the most delectable Filipino food on the island! Try our original Borachon (Boracay style lechon) served everyday, and indulge in our cooling Halo Halo.



JEEPNEY STOP
D'MALL BORACAY
BORACAY MALAY AKLAN



Call 09171466421 or 03622886687 for reservations. We have delivery and takeout!

ISLAND EYE

Boracay Community

Mabuhay. The first Sunday April 2nd Boracay Photographers Association beach clean up started at 6:00 a.m and went all the way from Station 3 along the beachfront and pathway to d*mall.

Many thanks once again to Ernesto Cruz and all the photographers group who took part. 🌿



10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1



NEW Boracay Sun
BORACAY'S MONTHLY NEWS

boracaysunnews.com

Boracay Sun News

@boracaysunnews

Boracay Island

**Hotels & Resorts
Spas, Bars & Restaurants**

We are constantly updating the map. Should you wish to assist by suggesting other names be listed. Please contact info@boracaysunnews.com

A B C D E F



Villa Caemilla
BEACH BOUTIQUE HOTEL

"Your Home Away From Home"

Villa Caemilla Beach Boutique Hotel, located right on the white beach of Boracay Island is known for its excellent and boutique service, handcrafted cocktails and most of all affordable luxury. Book your stay now and experience it for yourself.



agoda
2022
9.1



Booking.com
Traveller Review Awards 2022
9.2



Cocktails & food

Our restaurant is open daily from 7am to 11pm.. Serving international cuisine. Happy hour with a wonderful view daily from 12 noon to 6pm



Events & Weddings

creating a memory that will last a lifetime. From private dinner's to a boutique wedding or a team building event.



Specials

Try out our weekly specials in the restaurant or check out our latest promotion by scanning the link below



For all the Boracay Sun readers, post your best travel picture on social media at Villa Caemilla Beach Boutique Hotel and receive a free handcrafted cocktail, juice or shake

Tag us and use the following hashtags
#villacaemilla #vcexperience



For inquiries or reservations contact us thru the following details

+63 917 526 9449
www.villacaemilla.com

Or scan the QR code for the latest information, menu's and contact information

