

# Shaggers Chronicle

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Monthly

SICYC News Edition 83



## From the President

*Ahoy fellow Shaggers.*

The planning for the SICYC Season of Sail 2021 is well underway and this year is looking like the best SoS ever. The Season will culminate at the Shag Islet Rendezvous on the 26th - 29th August. Planning is underway for that iconic event as well and at the moment there is a possibility Gloucester Resort may not be available to us due to Julie's lease coming to an end. We will keep you posted on that but as Shaggers we will, of course, press on and find a way to stage the Rendezvous no matter what. I have also approached Montes and they are to get back to me to see if they can do anything. Again we will let you know. No matter what (except COVID or some other Act of God) we will be there this year!!

We are also again promoting the Season of Sail as a series of Rendezvous' starting at Pittwater, then places like Lake Macquarie, The Clarence River, Gold Coast, Mackay, Airlie Beach and Shag Islet. See the full list and dates in the article below. By promoting local events more Shaggers can be involved (e.g. those who are not sailing all the way up to the Whitsundays) - some may just attend a local event, or sail in company for a leg or two then return home.

In this edition we also welcome to the Newsletter team Sally Machray (VC Rye, England) who is a retired Journalist with some incredible experience - Sally has helped write a lot of the articles for this newsletter. I'm sure you'll agree her contribution will greatly benefit the newsletter - Thanks Sally!

Also of enormous assistance to SICYC is Boyd Jackson (VC Black Island) who helps with member enquiries, formatting the newsletter, website updates and technical issues and takes a bloody good photo or two as well!

### Committee members for 2021 are as follows:

**Steve Hartley** - President  
**Greg Canning** - Vice President  
**Phil Nyssen** - Treasurer  
**Leanne Hartley** - Secretary  
**Lou Canning** - Committee member  
**Stewart Scarborough** - Committee member  
**Tony Little** - Committee member  
**Vicki Little** - Committee member

Of course Ken and Rhonda are Founding members and are kept up to date with all important SICYC matters and still provide great assistance to the committee and in particular myself as President. Thanks to all the previous committee members who have served as well including Evan Johnstone and James Sturges, and Marianne Ramaar!

All the Committee members are looking forward to seeing you out there at some stage.

The committee would like to thank all our past and ongoing supporters and sponsors - please support them where you can - without them we cannot do what we do!

Fair winds and following seas.

**Steve Hartley**  
Vice Commodore, Pumicestone Passage  
and President, Shag Islet Cruising Yacht Club  
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## Covid Hasn't Won!



Approximately \$8,500 was handed over to the Prostate Council by the SICYC at the end of November - thanks to sponsor Oceanic Marine Risks.

"They normally deal with shipping, but Oceanic has offered a special deal for SICYC members. They are brokers with extensive experience, not only in commercial shipping, but yachting worldwide" Ken Thackery explained. "The SICYC insurance deal is something they set up especially for us."

Each year, Oceanic Marine Risk donates 5% of all SICYC members insurance premiums to add to the other funds raised during the year. "With Covid this year we couldn't have the Rendezvous at Shag Islet and Oceanic are the only active corporate sponsor." Ken said. "They provide a really good service. As brokers they can shop around and find what each boat owner needs. It's worth getting a quote when your boat insurance is due."

The \$8,500 from Oceanic, was handed over to the Prostate Council of Australia at SICYC's annual premier event, held at the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron at the end of November. Although Covid limited numbers to 75 and dancing wasn't allowed, you can't put a good shagger down, and Vice Commodore's used their imagination to dress for 'Christmas'. Guest speaker was the distinguish

ed Professor Judith Clements AC, Director Of the Prostate Council of Australia.



## Season of Sail Contacts

If you're interested in being a part of this exciting 2021 event, get in touch with your local organiser. More contact details will be shared as they are finalised.

Area	Dates	Local Contact Name	Phone	Location of events
Pittwater	15th - 21st May	Leon Wilson	0411 410 874	Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club / Pittwater
Lake Macquarie	23rd May - 26th May	Geoff King	0415 181 290	Lake Macquarie
Clarence River	4th June - 10th June	Glad and Rick	0415 350 974	Various points along the Clarence
Gold Coast	13th June	John Linton	0427 814 553	Broadwater
Moreton Bay	25th - 27th June	Evan Johnstone	0422 433 093	RQ Canaipa
Brisbane	3rd - 4th July	Steve Hartley	0422 627 896	QCYC
Hervey Bay	10th July	Warwick Suttor	0418 426 303	Urangan Harbour
Bundaberg	17th July	TBC		
Gladstone	24th July	TBC		
Capricorn Coast	31st July	TBC		
Mackay	7th / 8th August	Tiana and Gary Fry		
Shag Islet	26th - 29th August	Greg Canning	0430 340 511	Shag Islet and Cape Gloucester
Airlie Beach	4th -5th September	Stewie Scarborough	0468 616 295	Airlie Beach foreshore and Fish D'vine and Coral Sea Marina

## This month's feature Story

*Each month we would like to feature a Vice Commodore's story, so please write in with what you have been up to - a funny sailing moment, impromptu (or planned) meeting of Shaggers, whatever you would like to share.*

### 2020. Oh What A Year!

**by Ronnie Lee**

*Gold Coast Vice Commodore of Salt Water Creek.*

My first planned adventure was to be a sail to Fiji then to scuba dive around the islands for an undefined period of time. A tough gig in anyones language My skipper, Rick had a beautiful big Privilege Catamaran with all the bells and whistles, this vessel has been the favourite out of all the boats I've been crewing and cruising on in the past 5 years. Goodies in the fridges and freezers were easily accessible and with a water maker,



washing machine and dryer what else could a girl want. Rick just wanted crew and needed a dive buddy, I fitted the bill until.....the dreaded Covid hit our shores.

Rick who had bought his boat over from the UK the year before, decided to circumnavigate Australia instead of his Fiji dream. Diving spots were evaluated and the SWAIN REEFS were the places of choice. These reefs are 703km north of Brisbane and covers an area of 0.58 kmSq.

### TRIP 1

Rick still needed a dive buddy so I joined him and another girl who was not a diver but joined us along the way. A few days at Lady Musgrave, and Pancake Creek broke the journey to the reef and gave us a chance to catch up with friends. Left Pancake Creek at 3.15pm on Saturday 20th June sharing 3 hour watches for the journey, we sailed comfortably in 12 knot winds averaging 7 knots under Main Sail and Genoa. Caught a fish but the sharks took it before we got in onboard, the next strike even broke the offshore fishing rod. I had been warned that the sharks are quite vicious around the Swain Reefs and it was sure looking like this could be the case.

My friend made me a shark stick before I left, he cut my broom handle up and rounded an end and secured a lanyard for me.

On Monday we had arrived into beautiful blue clear water with tawny nurse sharks (or that's what Rick told me they were) bigger than me swimming under the boat. I was wanting to check my dive gear so the others stayed onboard and watched me get circled by 2 sharks eyeballing me from 1 metre away. Glad I had my shark stick with me. We scuba dived many of the reefs over the next few weeks some were disappointing with dead coral and not much sea life but the experience was good. On our way back to the mainland Border Security planes would come out of nowhere and fly really low enough to see the boat name, then over the radio would come the call to identify the vessel and our intentions etc. This happened on several occasions, so it's good to know that big brother is patrolling our borders several hundred kilometres off the coast.

All good things have to come to an end and it was time to leave my wonderful new friends at Airlie Beach on the 2/7/2020. I will dream about this beautiful boat forever.

Back to the Gold coast to do a course on Safety and Sea Survival before jumping on another boat early August and heading back to Airlie again.

### TRIP 2

This boat was a mono and very different to my earlier experience. Firstly I noticed that the fire extinguisher was 18 years out of date the life raft was also out of date. I was feeling glad that I had taken my own offshore life jacket with harness and had just completed the sea survival course. My new skipper was in a hurry to get to better weather so we left the Gold coast seaway in huge seas, waves 3 to 3.5m. Again there were 3 of us onboard the skipper and a submariner, we took it in turns to helm as the auto pilot did not hold in these rough seas. We saw heaps of whales enroute and our first destination was Lady Elliott Island 277nm, 2 days and 7 hours travelling around 5 knots grabbing some sleep when possible which wasn't easy in my small wet cabin.

That's another story. We were having 30 kt winds which made for interesting sailing, we had problems with the taco and also the motor was not starting, the boys found a burnt out wire but we motor sailed as the skipper was concerned that we may not be able to start the motor again. Took a day off sailing at Lady Musgrave to fix the instrument problem and to catch up on some sleep, we had problems with the dinghy motor next, the guys thought it could have been water in the fuel. We had other problems with the steering wheel and ipad as well as many other smaller issues, but all I can say is that at least the guys were lovely and I enjoyed the time spent with them.

I was onboard this vessel for a month, we visited the Keppel Islands, Rosslyn bay, Pearl bay, Middle Percy and Hamilton islands plus Woodward and Airlie Beach.

I had heaps of fun with these 2 great guys but I think that this shake down journey was definitely worth doing as the skipper wants to sail to Norway in 2021.

### TRIP 3

I had no sooner returned to the Gold Coast when I got a call from a girlfriend

who's boat was in Airlie Beach, she was wanting crew to help her bring it back to Southport. The boat was a Down Easter 38 cutter rig sloop, how could I say no to that, so I shuffled some appointments around and freed myself up for another adventure.

This was to be my first all girl team and it was interesting the way we were perceived. My lovely skipper was a joy to sail with, she picked the weather windows like a pro and made for a safe a pleasurable sailing month away. We did have a lightning storm around us one night and a boat nearby got struck and had to be hauled out in Rosslyn Bay for assessment and repairs. We ate like Queens and sailed only in good conditions, we met heaps of great people along the way which I'm sure those friendships will continue on into seasons to follow. My month was unfortunately up when we arrived at TinCan Bay and I needed to be home as I was organising the Gold Coast Shaggers xmas weekend away, so sad to leave this lovely lady and her magnificent boat. Hopefully she will invite me to crew again next year.

*Thank you to all the wonderful skippers out there that make the lives of others so enjoyable.*

## Welcome to Pittwater



You're standing on a beach - cold beer in hand, inspired by the smiling face in front of you. Gradually a world of opportunity seems to open up ahead. And the next thing you know, you've entered into the Shaggers vortex: sailing, sundowners and socialising.

Sounds familiar? And that's how the Royal Prince Albert Yacht Club came to extend a week-long invitation to SICYC to enjoy their hospitality in the beautiful Pittwater cruising ground in May this year. (Yes, it would have been last year, but we all know what happened there) and yes, the 'C' word could disrupt life again, but double Vice Commodore Leon Wilson (SICYC & RPAYC) is hopeful nothing will prevent cruising in company around the Pittwater.

May 14th to 21st. Is the first of several destinations up the East Coast in the 'Season of Sail' which culminates in the Rendezvous at Shag Islet in the Whitsundays from August 26th to 29th.

Leon explained cruising is a big part of their club, which has 2000 members. 'We already have a cruising dinner on the first Friday of each month' he said. It had been hoped to combine that dinner with the arrival of the Shaggers visit, but this year Mother's Day is on May 9th. (\*Reminder to all with a mother\*)

So, the welcome at their club house (with 300 berths in the Marina) will be on Friday 14th of May. "That allows Saturday to get to Bobbin Bay in the National Park, a four to five hour sail away, for a BBQ on Sunday. "If people haven't been able to get to the club dinner on Friday, they can drive and join us on Sunday" he said.

After the Sunday BBQ plans are to 'Cruise the Pittwater' with local hosts taking Shaggers to their favourite places. Leon explained how the Royal Prince Albert would do everything they could to fit in with the 'Season of Sail'. "I like the idea of integration between clubs" he said, "People who are taking part in the 'Season of Sail' will have priority during the week.

## Canaipa Christmas





They came in all shapes and sizes - from Justin and Judy's 40' cat 'Hurtle Turtle' to Phil and Deirdre's 20' trailer sailer. A dozen SICYC boats had the rare treat of enjoying the RQ's island base on Russell Island in December. Brainchild of Vice Commodore of Salt Water Creek, Ronnie Lee, a special arrangement was made for Shaggers to celebrate Christmas early at Canaipa Point. Normally reserved exclusively for members of The Queensland Royal Yacht Squadron and the clubs they have reciprocal rights with (e.g. Southport Yacht Club) the island hideaway offered a fantastic venue for the weekend of December 6th / 7th. 2020. From the landing jetty to the manicured lawns, quirky outdoor kitchen, pool and bathroom and laundry facilities, it was an idyllic place to catch up with old, or make new, friends. Russell Island RSL pulled out all the stops when an additional 40+ people added to their Saturday night clientele and all Vice Commodores and guests were treated to their warm hospitality, with a courtesy bus ferrying the revellers there and back. For one of the newest SICYC members, Brian Stokes, it was one of his first social jaunts having acquired his Sun Odyssey 36 'Goondiwindi'. His weekend was only topped by an exceptionally good downwind sail (and impromptu race) back to Hope Island. A big thank you to John McKeown (sailing on Richard's WeeWak) for his generous ferryman duties. Good intentions to row ashore by many flagged as the wind got up. Justin and Judy found the gathering a great opportunity to catch up with so many old friends on their way south. 'It worked out perfectly as we didn't have much time' Justin said. Ken and Rhonda attended the weekend. For me, it was an opportunity to meet Ken and Rhonda, and that vortex opened up! His charisma worked its charms and here I am tapping away to you. Please forgive any inaccuracies - I'm new!

## Prostate Forum for the Clarence

Long-time SICYC Vice Commodore, Glad Smith is launching a new Prostate Forum next month, specifically for partners. Designed to allow a partner to ask all the things they wouldn't talk about in front of their loved one, (or an intimidating consultant), it has its official launch on February 6th at the Maclean Bowls Club. "I'm a person who likes to ask questions" Glad said, "but a timid woman won't ask." So her idea is to spread awareness far and wide. A busy woman, Gladys formerly organised the week long activities for the Clarence River Season of Sail and will be actively involved again this year, although she and Rick will be up the coast in May. It's not until you get chatting to Glad, a former nurse (and deck hand, but that's another story) did I realise quite how much I didn't know about Prostate Cancer. Myth buster #1: Eradicate the image of a doctor pulling on a latex glove. The first step, Glad explains, "is to get a blood test. The PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) gives a personal figure, against which future tests can be compared. I'm urging men in their 20s to go and get tested," a segway into: Myth buster #2: Prostate cancer is not just an older man's problem. "More and more young men are getting it" she said. The Clarence Valley Prostate Cancer Partners Support Forum will meet once every three months in different locations. Everyone is welcome. What became very evident in chatting to this powerhouse, is a lot can be done to reduce suffering through knowledge. 'All too often people are not aware of all the options,' she added. "for example, gel can be used to shield other organs from being damaged by radiation. If you didn't know, you wouldn't think to ask." Amongst the members of the forum are semi-retired doctor, Dr. Robin Mathews and former Director of Nursing at Maclean Hospital, Anne Farrell, who now heads Macleans Community Action Group, Glad reported. Support has come from all around the Valley. The Bowls Club has donated their function room and the Mayor, Jim Simmons and the aboriginal elders will officiate at the opening. Klaus Henderson, organiser of the local support group for men

will be there, along with Jim Lloyd travelling up from Sydney in his capacity as the representative of the Prostate Council of Australia. Glad also has the support of the local media. "What I'd like to do next" she said "is to get to talk to Year 12 students."

***For further information ring or text Gladys Smith on 0415 350 974.***

## The Power of the Burgee



Mason's have handshakes and Shaggers have their burgee. "Don't forget to fly it!" Ken, founder of SICYC says, "And When you are abroad, put your VHF to scan 72 and 16 to contact other Vice Commodores. I've been told of Shaggers connecting in New York, and Canada, after seeing the SICYC burgee flying. It's a sign to other Vice Commodores to say "You are welcome aboard."

The burgee has helped SICYC members share local information, have a few sundowners and cruise in company worldwide. "That's what SICYC is all about, meeting other Vice Commodores" Ken said.

[Click here to get your fresh, new Burgee. Only \\$39!](#)



## Try this quick brain teaser

### Where is this?

1. You are always within a mile or so of shelter when cruising.
2. There are lots of facilities for cruising boats: fuel, docks, water etc..
3. The cruising ground is between five and ten meters deep, so you can anchor almost anywhere.
4. During WWII there was an RAAF base onshore.
5. There is negligible tide.
6. A cruising area larger than Sydney Harbour.
7. You may be here in May!

*Discover more about this amazing cruising ground in next month's newsletter.*

***If you think you know the location, email your answer to [newsletter@sicyc.com.au](mailto:newsletter@sicyc.com.au)***

## SICYC Merchandise

**Looking to be the snappiest dressed Shagger at Sundowners? Here's your chance to do just that while helping a good cause.**

Drop on over to the SICYC online store to freshen up your look.

Click here to shop now: <https://sicyc.com.au/shop/>.

### This month's featured products



### SICYC Burgee

Fly your colours high and let

everybody else on the water know  
you're a proud SICYC Member!

[Shop Burgee](#)



### SICYC Formal Peaked Cap

SICYC Formal Cap; superior quality;  
one size fits all; with SICYC Logo  
embroidery

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### Short Sleeve UV Polo

Sunsafe white with blue trim short  
sleeve Shirt with SICYC Logo  
embroidery on the pocket area.  
Available in both Men's and Women's  
sizes.

[Shop Short Sleeve Polo](#)



### Long Sleeve UV Polo

Sunsafe white with blue trim long  
sleeve Shirt with SICYC Logo  
embroidery on the pocket area.  
Available in both Men's and Women's  
sizes.

[Shop Long Sleeve Polo](#)

*That's it for this month. We look forward to hearing from you with any feedback  
or input you'd like to offer. Happy cruising and stay safe.*

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