

Shaggers Chronicle

Price: Nix

NEWSLETTER@SICYC.COM.AU

Monthly

March 2021 - Edition 84



From the President

Ahoy fellow Shaggers.

The committee is now in full swing organising the 2021 Shag Islet Rendezvous and the Season of Sail. As you can imagine these events take many 100's (if not 1000's) of hours of work to put together. The committee is looking for people to assist so if you or anyone you know has some time to help, we would certainly appreciate your input. SICYC is 100% run by volunteers and we are looking for assistance in many areas but in particular:

- **Admin/Member Services**
- **Event Volunteers for the Shag Islet Rendezvous**
- **Event Volunteers for the Season of Sail**
- **Social Media**

If you just want to help out in general, we would appreciate that as well. You don't need experience for any of these roles - just a commitment to help make the SICYC the best it can be! A lot of the pre-event work can be done online via email etc. If you can help please get in contact via email info@sicyc.com.au

On another note, is very encouraging to see our sponsors coming back to support SICYC again this year and some new sponsors coming on board as well. Please support those who support your club as much as you can. We always say it because it is true - "we could not do all the things we do at SICYC without our valued sponsors"!

And finally, as a result of increased member login and new member challenges, we have recently completed some major website and member database upgrades behind the scenes. We will be sending a separate email very soon to help you if you are having trouble logging in or navigating around the site.

We'll also show you how to update your details (such as email or mobile number) and change your password.

We have also rolled out a Couples Membership which allows those new member couples, sharing the same email address, to join as a couple but still receive all the individual member benefits - proving to be a great success. (Some of you long-time member couples will know the challenges we've had in the past with this shared email issue).

I encourage you to login to the site and see what's changed and upgraded. If you have any issues with logging in, please email membership@sicyc.com.au.

Also with the upgrade now complete we will be adding more exclusive Shaggers branded merchandise, as well as make it easier to order replacement polo's, burgees and VC membership cards.

Fair winds and following seas.

Steve Hartley

Vice Commodore, Pumicestone Passage
and President, Shag Islet Cruising Yacht Club
0422 627 896
info@sicyc.com.au

Season of Sail Contacts & Update

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			Activites planned - watch this space!!
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

Prizing open the oyster

Lake Macquarie is dusting off the bunting and pulling out the dredger.... The season of sail is drawing near!

A notoriously attractive cruising ground, as we learned last month, Lake Macquarie has only one slight sticking point, the bar does silt up. But with the Season of Sail now only two and a half months away, hopes are the Swansea Channel will be dredged to 3 meters (LAT) in March. And, with a dredged channel, the world, or Lake Macquarie is your oyster. Or, if not oyster, something delicious is being planned for the welcome lunch at Club Catalina, Rathmines on Sunday May 23rd.

VC No Particular Harbour, Geoff King, asked that visitors anchor off F Jetty or Styles Point, where there is water and pump out facilities. Working around the present Covid restrictions, Club Catalina can cater for up to 90 people, seated, and the usual sign in with the Service NSW CQR Reader is required. And if those regulations are relaxed in a couple of months, it could be quite a party! They hope to have entertainment, including a band playing in the afternoon.

Locals, onboard and ashore, are keen to welcome people at the rendezvous and go cruising on the Monday and Tuesday. "We'll be sailing to anchorages for lunch and then on to another anchorage for dinner." Geoff said. "Its very informal, go ashore or stay onboard as you want. In past years, we've had 25 to 30 boats, but there may be less this year, because some boats are already in Queensland because of Covid." The land support will drive to the lunch spots with games, such as boule, golf, and other games. BYO lunch, or buy ashore. In the evenings, the plan is to anchor near clubs and pubs. "It really all about the sailing" Geoff said. "If the wind is good, its a fantastic lake to sail on because there's not much fetch." Typically, in May, the winds should be light SE but there are protected anchorages whatever wind direction.

Delay in dredging the Swansea Channel came after the unfortunate death of the sole trader who had the contract to dredge the channel. Now a new contractor is being sought, and Geoff said that the word was that dredging should start in March. "A vessel drawing 1.9 got through the other day on a high tide, but we only have 1.4m at LAT at the moment."

When it is time to head off from Lake Macquarie, numbers should have grown as a few local yachts will be joining the fleet to head off up in company towards the Holy Grail 'Shag Islet'.

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.

Service Paradise

Repair, refit & relax on the Gold Coast.



Wondering where to stop to do maintenance or anti-foul during the Season of Sail? Gold Coast City Marina are pre-empting needs and offering attractive rates

for Shaggers. For a 40' monohull, you can overnight in the Marina for \$46 (using the 10 percent SICYC discount), grab the courtesy car to go and pick up crew or do shopping, and then chill out in the air-conditioned customers lounge to passage plan, watch T.V., access WiFi and make a cuppa. And if you want to leave your boat and have the yard anti-foul her (including prep, paint, application and washdown), they will do it all for a set price of \$2760 (or \$69 per foot).

Manager of the 20 acre business near Coomera, Luke McCaul (VC Gold Coast City Marina) has had a long association with the SICYC. Managing Coral Sea Marina Resort (formerly Abell Point Marina), he got to meet and develop friendships with the Shag Islet Cruising Yacht Club members. By 2015 he was General Manager and along with Paul Darrouzet owner of Coral Sea Marina Resort, they developed a good relationship with the SICYC. "We provided incentives and offers, so became a real hub for the club. All our staff became Vice Commodores. We saw the value of being on the ground".

But with family back on the Gold Coast, when it was time to think of starting a family of his own, Luke moved south and took over running the Gold Coast City Marina. (The name is somewhat of a misperception, as while it sounds like a council run marina by name, it is a family business, started and owned by Pat and Trent Gay.) The business was set up 20 years ago to set out to be a Westfields for boaters. "There was a need to have services in one place. You used to have to drive all over the place to get everything done." In addition to the 200 marina berths, there are 90 boat related businesses on site. "We have three of every type of business, so prices are competitive and you can get everything done on site."



Although it has a reputation of looking after super yachts, small boats are an integral and important part of the whole operation. "We wouldn't survive without the small boat business" Luke said, explaining that small boats provide the yard regular cash flow. Super yachts may be months being fitted out. "If you want you can do work on your own boat (as long as the boat is insured and you adhere to onsite safety) and you can also utilise trades not on site, (after an onsite safety briefing). There is a 50 ton lift which is capable for pulling out boats up to 50' or 60' as well as the larger lifts for vessels over 60ft and catamarans.

Driving around the site, Luke pointed out the keel pit, which could indeed be good if you need to work on your topsides, and don't like heights. "It saves the cost of scaffolding and is safer". We drove on passed the rigger and sail maker, who can do anything from repair to make a whole new set of sails. The huge ABS chandlery on site is another attraction and there's a restaurant if you want to eat out. New additions are the 19m high undercover sheds, which can allow you to re-rig without having to drop the mast. There are even three shipwrights specialising in wooden boats. With 3m clearance at LAT, access shouldn't be a problem. The fuel dock is card activated so open 24/7. Logistically it is well positioned, being two minutes off the highway, close to the railway station at Coomera.

It's a big operation, with 700 people working there a day and Luke's job is to ensure it all runs smoothly and standards are maintained, while keeping the ethos of a family business. "You'll be welcome here. You're going to be looked after like you were family." And that was the impression I got, from driving through the gate, to talking to various people working on site.

Shaggers get a 10% discount on marina berths and boatyard services. Ask when booking.

[Click here to watch a video to discover the GCCM story from Trenton Gay](#)

info@gccm.com.au
+61(0)755025888
www.gccm.com.au

Rendezvous Update



The iconic Shag Islet Rendezvous is well and truly on this year and the theme for this year will be "Rasta Party!" Think Bob Marley, Reggae music, Caribbean island life, red, yellow and green colours, and some unusual herbal smells in the air (SICYC does not condone any illegal activity). I'm sure as happens every year, we will see some outrageous costumes on the night, accompanied by a superb reggae band and perhaps a Caribbean rum or 2?

The Brochure is being prepared now and will be out on email and the Facebook page soon and will have all the details for each day's activities. As an overview the format we all know and love will be closely followed:

Thursday 26th at 4 pm Meet and Greet and new member sign up – wear your SICYC blue polos and wrist band (available on the day) entertainment by a solo artist. Old friendships will be rekindled, and new friends will be made.

Friday 27th 10:00 am the Iconic Shag Islet Rendezvous itself held on the sacred ground of Shag Islet – BYO drinks and food, BBQ available, Coconut Radio live, fly your kites, cutting of the cake, dancing and frivolity. This is the event not to be missed! There is nothing like it anywhere else in the world!

Friday 27th 4:00pm – late (meaning 9 ish) Band and dancing, possibly a quiet drink or 2. (note Blanc sur Blanc is on at Airlie Beach on the 4th Sept this year) – see article below

Saturday 28th 10:00 am Rasta Party mon!! See details above - feeling Erie!!

Sunday 29th 12:00 Midday the Pirates are back arggggh!

- MEMBER PROFILE -

SV 'Shirley Valentine'



"Craig (middle) and friends in the Med on Shirley Valentine



Outside a pharmacy in Turkey!

Remember the film? In 1989 the romantic comedy followed 42 year old housewife, Shirley, escaping to Greece to re-discover her youthful love of life.

So, eleven years ago, when VC Port Atheni, Meganesi Island, Greece, Craig Hardy, commissioned the building of a Bavaria 38' to go and cruise the Mediterranean the choice of the name 'Shirley Valentine' was apt in so many ways. Not only was she sailed in Greece for five years, but she is also now helping Craig to realise a long-held dream - to have his own sailing school. And in doing that Shirley Valentine will introduce people to the mega buzz all Shaggers share, the thrill of sailing.

Not that its been easy! I found Craig down in the bilges one day - marking every single demountable panel with the boat's name, one of the hundreds of requirements to get a yacht in survey to the Royal Yachting Association's (RYA) exacting standards. Every risk assessment imaginable has been carried out, and the stern of the yacht now has a veritable array of lifesaving devices! Every last T has been crossed and I dotted.

The Owner's Version Bavaria is very comfortable; with two large cabins and a very spacious, well-designed head. Launched in February 2010 in Koper, Slovenia, the weather was freezing - literally. "We had snow on the decks the day she was launched" Craig said. "Then we sailed her to Italy for the fit out. There they watched as the QE2 was being fitted out 200 meters away. "She was launched just 18 nautical miles away in Italy, five days before Shirley."

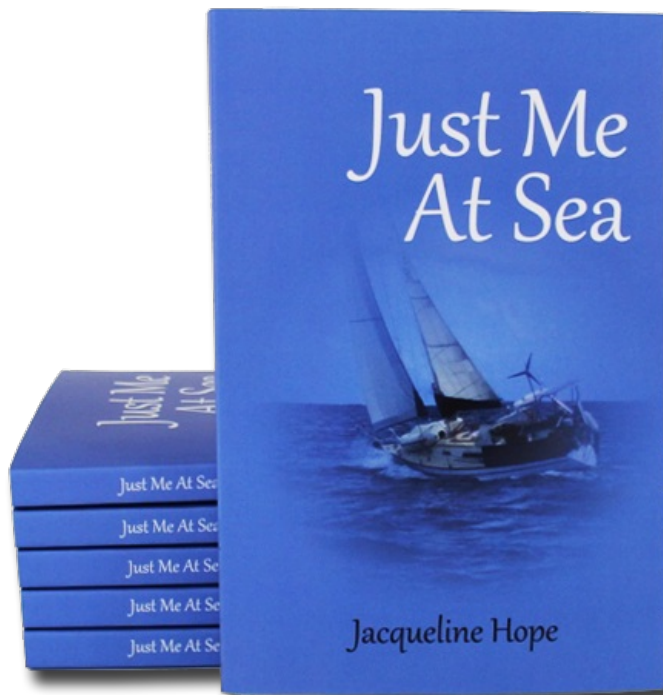
Craig likens the five years aboard in the Mediterranean to living in a museum. "Cruising is a great way to immerse yourself in the local history and culture." Leaving Shirley in Messolongi in Greece at the end of the first season, he came away with fascinating stories of how, in 1826 Turks captured Greeks, cut off their noses and ears and sold them into slavery to Egypt. Poet Lord Byron died there and is regarded as a national hero, not for his poetic prowess, but his funding of mercenaries to fight the Greek enemies. "Cultural differences still make you stop and take a second look." A group of SICYC VCs just happened to be walking down a Turkish street when they came across the blackboard advertising what was for sale in the pharmacy (see pic). As Craig hunted for that picture, scenes most people could only dream about flicked across his monitor. A smiling face on a boat was that of the former body guard to Dodi Fayed. "It was his successor who was in the car with Princess Diana." Extremely social, Craig has lots of stories to tell and a wealth of knowledge to share. He has been an RYA instructor for Sunsail in the Whitsundays since 2015 and has helped several people prepare to go and buy their own cruising boats abroad and is happy to tailor special short courses. "if you haven't done it before, it can be a bit daunting to do a Med mooring (stern to) or untangle an anchor chain with an anchor thief."

When it was time to come home, Shirley Valentine was shipped back to Port Alma, near Gladstone on a ship full of explosives for the Coal Mines. "Picking up the boat was an epic in itself," Craig explained. "Only people with clearance can get into Port Alma because of the explosives, so to collect Shirley we had to get

a launch in Gladstone, zoom up the narrows at 30k to greet the ship before she got to port. That meant climbing a rope ladder all the way up the side of the ship's hull." Here, with my phobia of heights, I feel sick, even when Craig explained the rope ladder did have wooden treads! Once on board it was a mad rush to make sure all the seacocks were open, batteries charge and fingers crossed the engine would start, as they were lowered into the water and let go.

Countless other Shaggers have enjoyed sailing onboard Shirley, both in the Med and up and down the East Coast of Australia. Let's hope she can breed a whole new generation of Vice Commodores who will go on to get their own boats and head for the Mecca in Gloucester Passage, or find a welcoming bar stool in a Hogs Breath, where the turquoise polo shirt is a frequent and welcome sight. The film ends with Shirley, sipping wine by the sea in the sunset, which makes me wonder if she too was a Shagger.

LIMITED RELEASE!
GRAB YOUR COPY NOW!
PRE-LAUNCH RELEASE



One SICYC Member's story of her single-handed circumnavigation.

This recently released, limited availability book is a great read and one SICYC Member's story of her 3 year, single handed circumnavigation of the globe.

Jacqui Hope took off in her small sloop, Shanti, to conquer the circumnavigation and she gives her honest and open view of this epic journey.

We will be doing a full story on Jacqui's exciting and epic adventure in our next newsletter.

LIMITED AVAILABILITY.

SICYC HAVE SECURED JUST A SMALL QUANTITY OF THIS GREAT READ AND WILL BE SOLD ON A FIRST IN, FIRST SERVED BASIS.

Only \$29! +P&H

(That's around a massive 465nm of global sailing adventure for every \$1 spent on this great book)

[Click here to order you copy now!](#)



Sounding a bit fishy...

Mauris commodo massa tortor, u [sit amet.consectetur adipiscing](#) Nunc fermentum neque quam, sodales eleifend elit imperdiet vitae. Aliquam id euismod nulla. Suspendisse imperdiet, sem et sollicitudin egestas, urna nunc auctor massa, vulputate pharetra mi odio nec tortor. Ut ultricies massa viverra quis.



Kevin Collins of Fish D'Vine chills out....fly fishing

Kevin Collins says you have to be a bit of an eccentric to enjoy fly fishing, which is maybe why he is an avid Vice Commodore (VC The Rum Bar). But more than just being an avid follower - he's a major mover and shaker, donating funds to the SICYC by giving free tickets to the annual Blanc Sur Blanc dinner on the beach at Airlie. In 2018 his company Fish D'Vine gave 50 free tickets for the Blanc Sur Blanc to the SICYC realising \$5000, in 2019 it was 100 tickets and this year he's giving 150 free tickets in aid of prostate cancer and donating part of the ticket sales for the Father's Day High Tea. And it's not just the SICYC he supports - community is high on his agenda.

When Cyclone Debbie hit Airlie Beach on March 23rd. 2017, it was the most damaging storm to hit Australia. Fish D'Vine, his fish restaurant, like all other local businesses, was forced to close. "We had heaps of food that was going to waste" he said "so we rallied the staff and gave away 4,500 meals in two days. The cyclone added to our sense of being part of the community." And a similar thing happened when Covid hit, he and his business partner Rebecca Clarke and their staff turned food that could have been binned, into meals for the community.

As a shagger, it comes as no surprise that Kevin lives on his 48' boat in Coral Sea Marina and loves it. "It's a fabulous lifestyle and a wonderful place to live." And when he wants time out from the bustle of the kitchens he heads out to Hill

Inlet and goes fly fishing. “I’ve fished in some of the best fly fishing sites in the world, but Hill Inlet is right up there with the best.”

If fishing is a curious hobby, fly, or bone fishing is way up on the eccentric end of the spectrum. Generally it requires standing in shallow tropical waters for hours, with little chance of catching anything and when you do, you let them go. On his webpage ‘Bait to plate’ Kev compares fly fishing to golf. The same rapped attention, the skill is knowing which iron to use and when. Joy for him is “the simple poetic beauty of fly casting in the salt water tropics.”

And with the poetic also comes the appreciation of the absurd. He’s fished in Belize, Andros Island in the Bahamas, The Garden of Queens in Cuba and on an island between Fiji and Hawaii. The island is spelt Kiritimati, but pronounced Kirismas (Christmas Island). The original inhabitants (of what came to be known as the Gilbert Islands) had no written language. When missionaries arrived they began recording the language, but the typewriter used was missing the letter ‘S’, so ‘Ti’ was used instead, hence the spelling Kiritimati is pronounced ‘Christmas’!

Originally from the Sunshine Coast (or should I say Tiuntihine Coatit) Kev says he grew up with salt water in his veins. His is the Australian story. From being duty manager on South Molle island in 1983, he worked his way up over the next 13 years until he reached the top of the ladder: General Manager on what was then one of the busiest tourist destinations in the Whitsundays. In 2002 he branched out and set up his fish restaurant on the waterfront at Airlie Beach. As the business grew the premises moved and now he and a staff of sixty provided food for 300,000 people a year between Bowen and Mackay, from their commercial kitchen at Jubilee Pocket. Whilst the show piece of his business is the seafood and Rum Bar next to the Airlie Beach Pub, he also caters for day boats, weddings, the Whitehaven Lunch, corporate events and even provides prepackaged meals for people working remotely, doing track work on the islands.

This year the Blanc Sur Blanc dinner is on the Airlie Beach foreshore on Saturday 4th. September and costs \$85 per head, and if bought through Shaggers, the total proceeds go to the Prostate Cancer fund. On Father’s Day, Sunday 5th. Kevin is putting on a Men’s High Tea (2 - 5pm) featuring a jug of beer, meat pies, sausage rolls and chicken wings. \$10 from every ticket sold will go to the SICYC for the PCFA.

When you are next in Airlie Beach .. drop into the Rum Bar/Fish D’vine and thank Kevin and his staff for their support.

Thanks for the memories...

Plenty of more fun ahead of us in 2021. We hope you’re ready for it...
Wrap your laughing gear around these great memories. Seems so long ago.



Member Benefits everywhere!

For discounts offered by SICYC partners, click the link below to see the growing list.

<https://sicyc.com.au/sponsors-benefits/>

Just for fun...

The Escape Hatch

Ever been sitting at anchor in unfavourable weather thinking "I really should take this opportunity to change the engine oil", or "I wonder where all that water is coming in?"...and then deciding to watch a good sailing movie instead? No, me neither, but this month we start a new occasionally regular possibly one-off movie and documentary review column... The Escape Hatch. Each month we'll be asking for your favourite sailing-themed doco or movie and getting a special guest Shagger to review it... or maybe you'd like to write a review yourself?

First around the windward mark, VC Never Never River has reviewed a doco available on Netflix and YouTube called '76 Days Adrift', from the series 'I Shouldn't Be Alive' (season 4 episode 6). It goes a little like this...

Steve Callahan is setting course back to the Caribbean on the return leg of an Atlantic crossing... solo, in a 21ft boat he designed and built himself. 1000 nautical miles out of the Canaries he strikes foul weather and Napoleon Solo's hull is breached – she's submerged within minutes. He makes it into his sub-standard life-raft, which will become his home for the next 76 days, adrift.

There are some nail-biting and 'what else can go wrong now' moments before his life-raft survival even starts – a raft that is reluctant to deploy, then having to return to his sinking boat to find emergency supplies... and it just gets more challenging for Steve from there.

Callahan narrates the key parts of his experience and it is difficult to comprehend that he actually went through it... and lived to talk about it. He spends the first days figuring out how his survival gear works and experimenting with how to capture water, fashion tools to catch food... and contemplating painless ways to die at sea.

A punctured raft, circling sharks... every hour is frightening, tiring and critical. They become days, weeks, months... and nobody even knows he is in trouble. On day 76, as he accepts he is 'done', he notices some rubbish floating by, and then the realisation he must be near land. Steve sees a tiny island on the horizon – and I won't spoil the remaining trials and tribulations, suffice to say he went on to write about his experience – 'Adrift: 76 Days Lost At Sea'. A great read before you watch the doco, or change that engine oil.

4.5 Shags

Results of last month's brain teaser

Last month we ran a quick brain teaser (see below). And we have a winner!!!

The winner was... VC Rathmines who got it was Lake Macquarie in less than 18 minutes from the time the newsletter was posted! (VC Rathmines wins bragging rights for a month)

Also stunningly quick to respond were:

- Trudi Butler
- Steve Lockyer VC Nords Wharf
- John Ellis VC America's Bay
- Juliana Harrison VC Darlingford Waters
- Allan Richards,
- Peter Clark VC Mobbs Bay "just spent a month there with some great cruising friends. Had a blast."
- John Lobel VC Five Dock
- Lynette Hunt VC Spears Point
- Barry Hunt VC Marmong Cove

It was great to get your responses and comments and to know the newsletter is being read and enjoyed. It's YOUR newsletter, so please send in anything you would like to share.

Would you like to come up with a quiz for your favourite cruising ground, or sailing location? Love to hear from you.

Last month's 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!

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



"Salty" SICYC Mascot Boat Sticker

"Salty" SICYC Mascot Boat Sticker (23cm X 18cm)
Full colour and UV resistant

[Buy "Salty" now](#)



Short Sleeve Polo

Sunsafe white with blue trim. Short sleeve Polo with SICYC Logo embroidered on the pocket area. Very snappy looking polo! Available in both Men's and Women's sizes.

[Buy Short Polo now](#)



Long Sleeve Polo

Sunsafe white with blue trim. Very flash, long sleeve Polo with SICYC Logo embroidered on the pocket area. Available in both Men's and Women's sizes.

[Buy a Long Polo now](#)



SICYC Cap

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

[Buy a Cap now](#)



SICYC Burgee

Fly your colours high and let everybody else on the water know you're a proud SICYC Member!

[Buy a Burgee now](#)



Car & Boat Sticker

SICYC car/boat sticker (13cm X 15cm) – excellent quality, shadow cut and easily applied.

[Buy a Sticker now](#)

Correction!

'Apologies for the error in last month's newsletter. No man likes to be told he's smaller than he is, so sincere apologies to Brian Stokes, 'Goondiwindi' is 37' not 36'."

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.

GOT A STORY? EMAIL TO: newsletter@sicyc.com.au

Major Sponsors



Sponsors



Event Partners



This email was sent to {{ contact.EMAIL }}
You received this email because you are registered with SICYC

[Unsubscribe here](#)



© 2021 SICYC

Title