

Shaggers Chronicle

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Monthly

May 2021 - Edition 86



From the President

Ahoy fellow Shaggers!

SICYC Founders Ken and Rhonda Thackeray and myself attended the recent launch of the 2021 Season of Sail at the Royal Prince Alfred Yacht Club and what a great night it was with over 100 guests seated for the dinner! Our MC for the night was the Rear Commodore of RPAYC, David Williams who made everyone feel very welcome. Ken gave a great speech about the history of SICYC which was soaked up by all the guests in attendance which consisted mostly of fellow shaggers and a few of those who weren't became members by the end of the night. Ken noted that he believes the Season of Sail is a big part of the future of SICYC as the members can engage more with each other as the cruising season rolls out, rather than everyone only looking to SICYC for the Shag Islet Rendezvous (which we all love of course!)

Leon Wilson who is the driving force behind the Pittwater event got up on stage with me and we showed some of the new exclusive merchandise available, and we auctioned off a Season of Sail hoodie for a great price and the merchandise was well received. Many thanks to Leon for his tireless efforts in organising a great event for SICYC!

Also in attendance was Peter Haylen, Chair of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (NSW) who thanked SICYC members for their ongoing support of PCFA and noted that the relationship between the 2 organisations is still very strong.

So, The Season of Sail is well underway and we are looking forward to reports from all the destinations up the east coast as the cruisers make their way north!

Shaggers Net 2021 is live!

Shaggers HF radio net (Shaggers net) is now operating (from 17th May 2021):

08:00 EST (22:00 UTC) every morning on 6.516 MHz
Back up is on 8.161 MHz if 6 megs isn't working.

Many thanks to Magnus Eriksson VC New Beach for initiating and hosting the net this year...

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



2021 Season of Sail Update



Party Time is coming...

Lake Macquarie opens up for The Season of Sail By VC Rye UK

<https://sicyc.com.au/season-of-sail/>

The entrance to Lake Macquarie has been dredged and the beautiful sailing ground is now open to welcome visitors for the Season of Sail.

When I last spoke to Geoff King, VC of No Particular Harbour, the fate of the whole event was on a knife edge, as two tragic accidents had delayed the dredging. And with no dredging, Lake Macquarie was pretty well land locked. And further complicating things is confusion of where the responsibility for dredging lies.

But, for the past few weeks, the dredger has been busy and there is presently 2.4m water at low water Swan Bay, with 1.9m near the port (red) marker and 1.6m near the starboard (green marker). Geoff reminds skippers that high tide at Swan Bay is around 2 hrs 30 mins after Swansea Heads. He also advises skippers to watch out for later updates.

The welcome lunch on May 23rd is now fully booked (as COVID restrictions apply). Those attending should anchor near F jetty or at Styles Point. A special menu has been prepared to speed up service and there will be entertainment after the meal.

If you haven't booked, you are still very welcome to join in the cruise around the lake on May 24th and May 25th. Which is for Shaggers and members of the LMYC Cruising division. For further information, contact Geoff King svbluegrass@gmail.com or ring him on 0415181290.



Above: Shaggers enjoying Sunday lunch at Lake Macquarie

Ten local yachts have signed up to join the Lake Cruise on May 24th and 25th. And the LMYC Cruising Division has also been invited to combine their scheduled cruise with the Shaggers. Please contact Geoff and let him know if you plan to join the cruise.

"You may have seen that Lake Macquarie Council are holding an 'Up in the Air' Festival at Rathmines Park on May 23rd. Council has confirmed that 'no roads will be closed' and 'access to Club Catalina (Rathmines Bowling Club) will not be restricted.' Geoff reports. "The last flyover is scheduled for 1200."



Cruise the Clarence Season of Sail Schedule

Moorings contact fellow 'Shagger' Tony Purkiss ph: 0411 057 362.

(Peter Agg Ambassador for Iluka) P: 0419336099, to answer questions for Iluka)

Friday 4th June

Iluka to Harwood (8.5nm approx.)

0930 hrs: 9.30.a.m. Meet at Bundjalung Sports Shop (Earle's) for coffee (near Fisherman's Co-Op) and Welcome to all participants. Welcome pack to those who have not received one.

Rick to go through river trip to Harwood.

This will be daily for river info and anchorages

1230 hrs: 12.30 Harwood Bridge opening -at 12.30pm. (All must be ready to go through)

Harwood to Maclean. (3nm approx.) Pontoon or anchor on west side of river.

1630 hrs: 4.30pm - Official Welcome to the River (wear blue polo's SICYC Shirts) Pontoon area

1730 hrs: 5.30pm Table booked at Maclean Bowling Club

Sat. 5th June

Maclean free day (see info in Welcome packs)

Sun. 6th June

Maclean to Brushgrove (11.3nm approx.) Overnight Pontoon and anchorage

1730 hrs: 5.30pm Brushgrove Hotel \$15+ dinners. Bush Poet, Bill Kearns 6.00pm- Floral shirts.

Mon. 7th June

Brushgrove to Grafton (10.5nm approx.)

Anchor off and explore Grafton. See pamphlets in Welcome Pack

Anchor at night at Corcoran Park (2nm downstream) opposite Elizabeth Island

BBQ facilities, Toilets. Fun Jam session - bring musical instruments or voices.

Tues 8th June

Grafton - Ulmarra (Lunch) then onto Lawrence for Overnight

0730 hrs: Watch iconic Greyhounds and racehorses exercising (rowed out) after sunrise in the river.

Lunch stop at Ulmarra (5.8nm approx.) - food at Servo, pub, pies ice creamery, Book shop, antiques and galleries

1730 hrs: 5.30pm Overnight at Lawrence anchorage (9.5nm approx.)- Floral shirts

Lawrence Tavern \$10 specials. 6.30pm Quiz and puzzle games. Bring thinking caps

Wed 9th June

Lawrence to Harwood (14.9nm approx.)

(stop off for provisions at Maclean if necessary)

1730 hrs: Harwood Hilton 5.30pm -\$15+ meal selection. (Entertainment ??). Floral shirts

Thurs 10th June

Harwood to Yamba (9nm approx.) Overnight

1030 hrs: Harwood bridge opening at 10.30am (all must be ready to go through)

Explore Yamba. Walks, Lighthouse, shops, provisions. Fuel at Yamba Marina 02 66466 9896

1730 hrs: 5.30pm Farewell at Yamba Shores Tavern (SICYC shirts)

***Farewell from the SICYC 'Cruise The Clarence 2021'
and fair sailing to your next destination.***



2021 Season of Sail Dates & 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			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



NEW PRODUCT RELEASE!

2021 Season of Sail Hoodies

Limited edition - grab yours now!



Commemorates the 2021 Season of Sail event!

- Printed both sides with custom 2021 SOS designs.
- Regular fit
- Mid weight, 290 GSM
- 80% cotton 20% polyester anti-pill fleece
- Pullover hood, raglan sleeves, kangaroo pocket, lined hood, tonal drawcord
- Sleeve cuff ribbing, preshrunk to minimise shrinkage
- An excellent, warm and stylish hoodie for winter cruising

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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

The Rainbow Serpent

By VC Rye



Indigenous Australians believe the Rainbow Serpent descended from the stars as the creator of life and protector of the land and its people. She is known by many names and in North Queensland she is “Yaminda” and inhabits the water and reveals herself as a rainbow as she moves across the Earth shaping landscapes. The Ngarru people of the Whitsundays believe those islands were created when Yaminda chose this beautiful stretch of Queensland to lay her eggs, close to the shore.

Carolyn and John Martin bought their sailing catamaran in 2017 from the original owner David Burke (VC Rattlesnake Island) who had been inspired by the magic of the tale to name her after the Rainbow Serpent ‘Yaminda’. It must have been a bit of magic and good luck finding Yaminda, because Carolyn says they had never really thought about owning a sailing boat, rather a caravan for future travels.

Photos above: Carolyn and John with one of the Rainbow Serpent's eggs (Pentecost Island) in the background.



John Martin on Yaminda (note the excellent choice of burgee!)

They live on a 150 acre property at Seaforth, and both enjoy land bound hobbies: John in his men's den shed and Carolyn making glass beads - neither of which transpose to the ocean.

With retirement getting closer on the horizon, they didn't have dreams of abandoning the fishing boat or ski boats, or comforts of home. But then.... was it the advertisement for an 'investment' in Charter or going to their first Rendezvous at Shag Islet in 2016 on their 7.3m power cat “Evelyn Rose” that changed it all?

Excitement is mounting now as they recently delivered Yaminda, their Seawind 1160 Cat, back to the Whitsundays for the very last time. Since new in 2010, the Cat has been in charter with Charter Yachts Australia. Each year, during the 'quiet' season, John (VC Hammer Island) and Carolyn have sailed her home to Mackay to carry out annual maintenance, engine services and a long list of jobs. This year they have done nearly all the work themselves. The next time they board her in December 2021, it will be to start the greatest adventure yet - their sailing retirement.

With plans to take things slow to begin with, they expect to spend time on the East Coast, between Sydney and Lake Macquarie, the Whitsundays and north to Cairns. Gradually they plan to get Yaminda up to spec for blue water sailing, so they can join rallies to the Louisiades, PNG and maybe New Caledonia/Vanuatu. Ultimately, they want to sail to the Kimberley region. “That's what we are really excited about” Carolyn said.

Meanwhile they prepare by watching lots of sailing videos, doing courses and are taking their advanced PADI dive qualifications; the importance of which became apparent when their anchor got caught off Keswick Island once. 'It got wrapped around a bombie and we realised we would have to let the anchor go, but another Shagger friend, Gary Fry, was able to dive down and free it.” Carolyn explained.

"We had a brilliant trip from Mackay Marina to Coral Sea Marina over 4 days in March, for our final delivery trip for Yaminda and we are counting down the days to her retirement in December ☺. Then it is onwards to our nautical adventures ☐. Amazing wildlife sightings this trip - two grofers, a dugong, turtles, a bronze whaler and blacktip reef shark " Carolyn reports on her FB page.

Carolyn, (VC Ladysmith Islet), is soon to retire from Energy Qld (Ergon/Energex), and until recently was also busy writing the Seaforth community newsletter. John and Carolyn also volunteer in the Seaforth District Rural Fire Brigade.

It seems the two have learned the art of chilling, the next challenge: "We need to get better at fishing" says Carolyn. "It's definitely a learning adventure we're going on."

Keen Shaggers, they occasionally catch up with fellow members for the Friday night BBQ in Mackay and enjoy catching up with SICYC Vice Commodores passing through.



2021 Rendezvous Update

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO OUR 'RENDEZVOUS' SPONSORS

Shag Islet Cruising Yacht Club
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RASTA
Party

Shag Islet, Cape Gloucester Resort
Proudly Supporting the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia

YOUR PLANNING LIST FOR RENDEZVOUS 2019:
• Prepare your gear for 'Rio Carnivale'
• Pack your flags, lights and bannan to dress your boat for Day and Night
• Buy a Kite

The iconic Shag Islet Rendezvous is well on 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 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 5pm Gather on the beach in Rasta costume for the group photo immediately followed by the Rasta Party - lets get our Reggae on and feel the vibes!! The Limbo competition that was fiercely fought at the Rio Carnivale party in 2019 will return so limber up shaggers!!

Sunday 29th 12:00 Midday the Pirates are back arggggh!! Be prepared to walk the plank me hearties!

Also, as usual, there will be prizes for the best dressed boat by day and best dressed boat by night, as well as the judging of the Rasta party costumes for best costume male and best costume female and raffles and auctions, merchandise for sale etc. If you've never been to the Rendezvous, you really

need to get there – the first time you will be referred to as a Rendezvous “virgin” and the more experienced shaggers will make you feel very welcome.

- MEMBER PROFILE -

Bob the Dog



Lucky to be alive!

By VC Rye

A (too) close encounter with a sting ray left Bob the Boat Dog on the verge of death. “He’d gone cold and there was blood pumping out of this hole in his chest” VC Yorkie’s Knob, Alan Littlefield recalls with a shudder. “I was miles from any vet on a remote beach in North Queensland.” But, luckily for Bob, Alan remembered his good friend’s daughter was a vet - only she was in Africa! But thanks to modern communication she was able to talk Alan through what needed to be done to save his best buddy’s life from thousands of miles away.

It wasn’t the first dice with death for seven year old Bob, a Shitzu Poodle (Shitpoo). Alan rescued him six years ago. “We are now inseparable until one of us dies” he said. Since then things have been on the up for Bob who likes nothing better than to run up and down a beach chasing fish, even after the close encounter with the stingray.

But, as so many of you who have dogs onboard know, your ‘best pal’ can also be restrictive. Dogs aren’t allowed in National Parks or Yacht Clubs. And it’s vitally important Bob never learns to jump off the boat for a swim. “He’d swim ashore” Alan said, “and up north he wouldn’t last long with the crocs.”

Since Bob adopted Alan six years ago, they have cruised extensively up and down the Queensland Coast. Alan, originally a photocopy salesman from the UK, has been cruising for the past 20 years after an epiphany on Fitzroy Island. “I’d rented the resort for a staff appreciation trip and was lying in the sand looking at the stars and realised my career had cost too much in my personal life.” He retired at 45 and went cruising, supplementing his income by working as a driving instructor for cars and motorbikes. “It’s a great way to earn money when cruising, you can line up lessons for your next port of call.”

Alan discovered sailing in 1989. “I was a keen windsurfer and saw people sailing on Sydney Harbour and decided to buy a Cole 23” “Stepping on board he thought: ‘Christ! How big is this?’ I thought it was the Queen Mary. I put the sails up on Sydney Harbour and thought ‘what can possibly go wrong?’

With a wry smile his advice to those wanting to cruise is “Learn to sail first. You

won't believe how many people spend up to half a million on a boat and don't have the faintest idea what they are doing."

After the Cole 23' Alan tried his hand at building a 30' boat to do the Brisbane to Gladstone Race. "One of my more stupid ideas." He admits. "I'm a copy salesman not a boat builder." As the costs mounted, he stopped counting.

Over the years, and on different boats, he's participated in many races and rallies, including the Louisiades Rally from Cairns to Papua New Guinea (500 nm away) twice; competed three times in Race Weeks in Airlie Beach, Magnetic Island and Port Douglas, competed in the Brisbane Gladstone Race and took part regularly in the Cairns WAGS weekly races.

With his wry British sense of humour Alan recalls discussions on the 'arms debate' held with 'Merkins' (Americans). (As a wordsmith Alan enjoys entering the discussion, noting a 'Merkin' was a pubic wig worn by prostitutes in the 18thC.) So, the debate goes, 'What guns should you have onboard to go cruising?

Alan's reply is in this pic below: A 9mm, two clips and a box of shells.



Now cruising north for the season on his Bavaria 44 'Dreamagic' (someone left out an 'M'), Alan imagines he'll have another five years or so before cruising gets too arduous. Then he and Bob plan to head to Europe. "I'll wear a beret, drink red wine and buy a Porsche for Bob and I to cruise around in."

Meanwhile he shares his love of life on the water with people who want to experience the magic of cruising. A recent companion was a young soldier who was recovering from PTSD after serving in Afghanistan, who has now gone on to buy his own boat. Watching the sun go down, Alan plays Jimmy Buffet songs on his guitar, sips wine and fully appreciates his cruising lifestyle. And Bob, he just grins.



Meet Manta!

A sea-cleaning sailboat that feeds on plastic waste

By Ashwini Sakharkar - April 27, 2021

We have watched the oceans fill with rubbish, now there is something that may be able to reverse some of the damage we have done over the past few years. So heartening, I wanted to share.



Manta is powered by renewable energy. Credit: The SeaCleaners

Each year, an estimated eight million tonnes of plastic end up in the ocean. According to the UN, if nothing is done, there will be more plastic waste than fish in the oceans by 2050.

Tired of hitting these floating objects during his races and seeing heavenly places turn into landfills, a French ocean adventurer Yvan Bourgnon decided to fight against this global scourge. He and his team have designed Manta, a giant, plastic-eating catamaran powered by renewable energy. The sea vessel literally scoops up plastic garbage and converts it into fuel to help power the boat.

Yvan Bourgnon – who has years of experience career racing sailing boats around the world's oceans – is the mastermind behind the venture. A steady increase in encounters with floating fields of garbage in the ocean inspired him to start the SeaCleaners project and build Manta, a 56-meter (184 foot) catamaran powered by a combination of advanced sail technology and electric motors.

The giant sailing boat will be the first of its kind capable of collecting, processing, and recovering large quantities of marine plastic waste. Built from low-carbon steel, the Manta features a custom electric hybrid propulsion system that allows maneuvering at low speed for sensitive operations (such as the entry to and exit from ports), as well as waste collections, which are carried out at 2 or 3 knots. Agile and energy-efficient, the Manta can reach a top speed of over 12 knots.

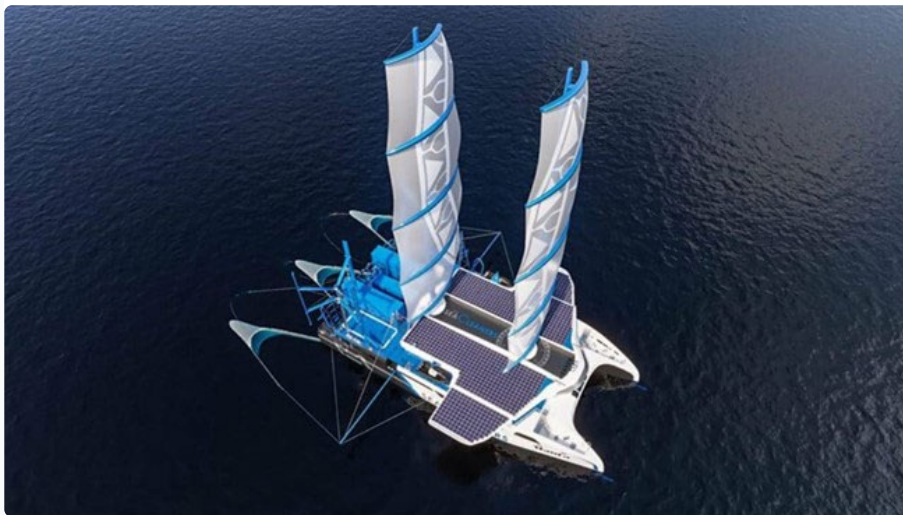
Around 500kW of onboard renewable energy is generated via two wind turbines, 500 square meters of photovoltaic solar panels, two hydro-generators under the boat, and a waste-to-energy conversion unit (WECU). The power supply from renewable energy sources will allow the Manta to operate 75% of the time autonomously, without using fossil fuels, and with minimal environmental footprint.



Meet Manta, a sea-cleaning sailboat that feeds on plastic waste. Credit: The SeaCleaners.

Thanks to a unique combination of collection means, the Manta will be able to pick up both floating macro-waste and smaller debris from 10 millimeters upwards and up to one meter deep. Depending on the density and closeness of the layers of waste, the ship can collect between 1 to 3 tonnes of waste per hour, with the objective of collecting 5 to 10,000 tonnes per year.

The Manta is the first self-sufficient workboat capable of processing 90 to 95% of the collected plastic waste whilst at sea. The waste-collecting conveyors – similar to the Ocean Cleanup project's third-generation Interceptor vessel system – bring the waste on board. A waste sorting unit manually separates the waste according to its type. A waste-to-energy conversion unit then converts the collected waste into electricity through the process of pyrolysis, which, in turn, powers all of the Manta's electrical equipment. This eco-friendly method emits hardly any CO2 or pollutants into the air.



This giant, plastic-eating catamaran can collect between 1 to 3 tonnes of waste per hour. Credit: The SeaCleaners



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Excellent duffel for cruisers!

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- Royal Blue/Black
- All White SICYC Vinyl print
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- Removable, adjustable shoulder strap
- Studded base for durability
- Remember, proceeds go to Prostate research!

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Thanks for the memories...

Plenty of more fun ahead of us in 2021. We hope you're ready for it...

These happy snaps from Shaggers Hervey Bay



Above: Warwick and Judi Suttor with Tiana and Gary Fry from Mackay Shaggers!





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



Just for fun...

The Escape Hatch

By VC Never Never Never

Welcome to 'The Escape Hatch' for May. We have a doozy for you this month – the classic Australian TV series (well, one episode thereof) 'Adventures of the Seaspray'.

Filmed mostly on location around Fiji, 32 episodes were produced (the pilot in 1965) and aired on ABC TV in 1967. Book-ended by the most gorgeous of theme tunes (penned by Eric Gross), the show centres on the adventures of a family sailing the South Pacific aboard an 83-foot schooner called 'Seaspray'.

Yes, they confront all sorts of pirates, lost civilisations, crime and mystery, and always survive for next week's episode! Here's a close-hauled view of the final episode 'Forgotten Island'...

The scenes open with the family bound and gagged on what appears to be a 'lost' island ruled by a (white) King and his mutineer followers. "Death" in paradise is the sentence issued as punishment for following their preposterous way of life! (Can't help thinking of Monty Python's constitutional peasant sketch from Holy Grail).

Cue intro scene under sail where the skipper wrongly decrees there is "no land for miles", snappily followed by a "land ahoy" from the bowsprit. Yep, they've spotted it... the Forgotten Island (and a good thing someone was keeping watch).

There are sword and fist fights between crew and islanders (to the mournful cry of crows and what sound like macaws, no less), ending with the family being

roughly escorted to their schooner where the dreadful deed will be carried out and Seaspray set adrift.

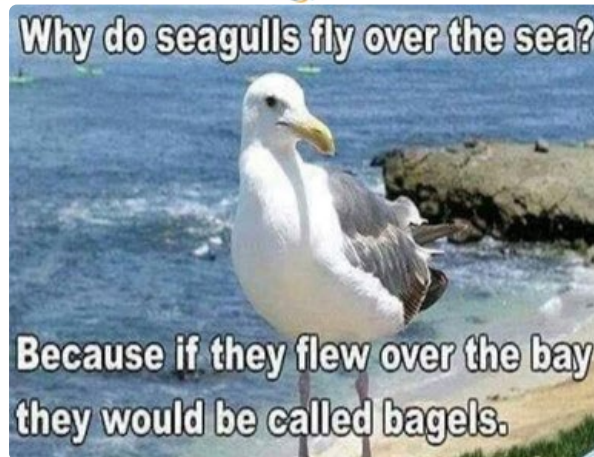
A mutinous compassionate captor companion ordered to carry out the cursed culling has a change of heart and sets the family free, as he returns to shore and laments his own lost life and yearning to live 'another way'.

Our intrepid family hoists the canvass and Seaspray once again carves off into the Pacific – just another day's adventure on the high seas. Let's hope the skipper bothers to look at a chart next time!

Adventures of the Seaspray is hard to find online (this episode is on YouTube), but ask at your local video store (if there is still such a thing). Otherwise, let's start lobbying the tele-Gods to rerun the whole series, 'cause it's a cracker!

4 Shags from us!

Do you have a favourite sailing movie or doco you'd like reviewed, or perhaps you'd like to write a review? Let us know and we'll publish it in the Chronicle.



SICYC Merchandise

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

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"Salty" SICYC Mascot Boat Sticker (23cm X 18cm)



Short Sleeve Polo

Sunsafe white with blue trim. Short sleeve Polo with SICYC Logo embroidered on the pocket area. Very



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

Full colour and UV resistant

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Available in both Men's and Women's sizes.

[Buy Short Polo now](#)

and Women's sizes.

[Buy a Long Polo now](#)



SICYC Cap

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

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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](#)



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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