

FireBug Build-a-Boat Newsletter #23 - July '07

# 'BugNews 23

**"REAL SAILORS BUILD THEIR OWN BOATS!"**



James Anderson in 'HumBug' at Pleasant Point Yacht Club



Cathryn Bridges in 'Fawkes' at Christchurch Yacht Club.

**Good Progress in the Republic of Georgia..**

After finally locating some marine ply, glue etc and making good progress **Irakli writes..** "Hello there Peter! We flipped the boat today.. was lot of fun. Some friends were helping out (with the promise of some bear afterwards:)) and marked this important event in my boat building:)) And wow.. it actually is a boat now, looks beautiful!!:)"



"We unscrewed all the bulkheads and bow/stern from the jig, and made first effort to take it off.. but the hull didnt seem to want to.. but after unscrewing the formers as well, it was fine.."



"We cant bring ourselves to believe that this very boat-like looking thing was actually built by us!.. :)"



"After getting congratulations and drinking some bear on the occasion back in garage contemplating next steps.. "

**Sail Donated to Irakli**

Buying bits for 'Bugs in the Republic of Georgia is very difficult. An Aucklander (anonymously) has said if Irakli can complete the woodwork he'll shout him a sail!" Also he is making wooden spars but rigging, some fittings and good cordage are a problem.. any takers?



Pete talking to Australia live!

**Signs of Life on the ABC and in Australian Schools!**

Well, shiver me timbers, whatever next! When the Australian Broadcasting Corporation announced its current affairs radio program was doing a series on 'Getting new life into Australian Schools' Ross Venner, a 'Bug builder from Sydney couldn't resist tipping them off about FireBug building in schools in NZ. Next thing Pete at FBHQ gets a call from the ABC producer asking for a live interview on Australian Radio, nationwide twice. Someone guessed the audience at 1.2 million! The discussion went for nearly 20 minutes and they were pleased although the interviewee thought he raved on a bit! The Aussies did confess that NZ was way ahead with MoE funding for FireBug building in schools.

**AMATEURS**  
**Vingt ans de réflexion!**

**M**ieux vaut tard que jamais. Le Firebug, petit bolide à destination des jeunes et des adultes désirant se former à la manœuvre du voilier, vient d'être reconnu par la Fédération néo-zélandaise de voile après vingt ans de bouderie à l'égard de cet engin qui cassait l'hégémonie de l'Optimist. Près de 800 exemplaires de ce petit bateau, construit uniquement par des amateurs, parmi lesquels se trouvent Brad Butterworth (Ailinghi), Torben Graef (Luna Rossa) ou Gavin Brady (Oracle), naviguent dans 32 pays à ce jour. Désormais soutenu, ce petit bateau vil devrait accroître son audience. Comptez 1 500 euros pour naviguer sur cette étonnante boîte d'allumettes -home made- (plans 45 euros). E.V. [www.firebug.co.nz](http://www.firebug.co.nz)

Pour changer de l'Optimist, voici le Firebug, petit bolide néo-zélandais, à construire soi-même.

**In France ...**

'Bug Builder Eric Vibart in Paris is also a writer for one of France's biggest boating mags 'Voile et Voiliers'. He enjoyed 'BugNews 22 and came up with this article (above) for the magazine.. parlez vous Francais?



**Pay by Credit Card**

Planpacks, kits, sails etc can now be paid for by credit card or PayPal account on the FireBug website.

**... and in England**

Beki and Tim Flower have built 'Bug # 567 in a picnic tent at the back of their house in East Ogwell Devon.



Benjamin checking the 'Bug for size.



Scale model 'Bug at Glenfield College.

**School Careers Night**

Glenfield College in Auckland held a successful careers night for their senior pupils in June. Glenfield has built a fleet of 4 FireBugs and will soon set up a sailing option for its students. Technology teacher Bruce Charles teamed up with Unitec for the evening with the 'Crusader' model to the fore and all with support from FBHQ.

**FireBugs More & More..**

FireBug plans/registrations have now reached into the 800s in 32 countries.

**800**



## 'Bug for San Francisco Bay..

Richard T Stofer is doing a 'Bug for his grandchildren. An experienced amateur boat builder Richard is doing a top job and has come up with some clever gadgets to make life easier:



The tee square works from the centreline.



The router attachment

**Richard explains** "The T Square has various dimensions annotated for accurate setting out, eg to center the #1 chines from the centerline string. The little planer attachment I built for my trim router - the end cutting bit can be adjusted very close to flush and this makes it ideal for trimming the chines to the transom and the 9mm bottom ply."

## 'Plan B' Sailing at Hallet Cove

Gary Smith with 'Plan B' in South Australia. Sure looks like a nice place and day for a sail Gary!



'Plan B' at Hallet Cove South Australia.

## More 'Bugs at Titahi Bay

Two Unitec built hulls have been purchased by Titahi Bay Sailing Club. The boats will be used mostly by local kids but anyone can have a sail - the more, the merrier. Any other 'Bugs in the area are also welcome! Contact Hugh: 021 396 417.



The keen sailors at Titahi Bay, Wellington.



Cold and grey conditions at the Pleasant Point Yacht Club in Christchurch for the Closing Day races.

## PPYC Report from RO'B

After an average sailing season weather-wise Pleasant Point YC closed the season with five bugs on the start line, see photo above. Several boats are waiting for new owners, as some youngsters have moved into adult classes, or gone to university. With the class now being supported by Yachting New Zealand other clubs are starting to develop fleets and are offering help with major 'Bug events. A new boat being built by Caroline and Bob Frame is going to be a beauty and will be sailed from French Farm Akaroa. A friend of Bob's is hoping to use the jig next.

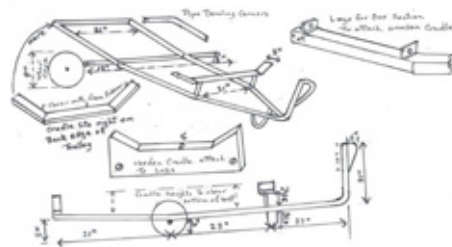
## Stegink Family nearly Finished..

At Tannum Sands the new 'Bug is nearly finished, well.. It will sail alongside their Scruffie Dayboat 'Rosella'.



## Ray's Trolley

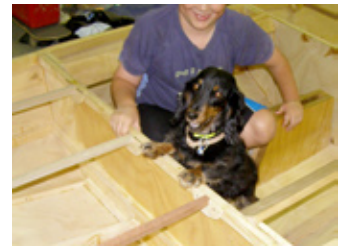
Ray O'Brien in Christchurch has sketched out a beach trolley suitable for the FireBug. A large version of the sketch below is available by email. Ray who has organised numerous club boat builds has also offered to assist any clubs interested in putting together a building scheme. Ray can be contacted at [ravobrien@clear.net.nz](mailto:ravobrien@clear.net.nz)



Ray's 'Bug trolley - larger sketch available by email

## Another Boatbuilding Dog!!

'Bug building by dogs has really taken off. This one belongs to the Mogg family in Glenella QLD.



"A trusty helper and salty old sea dog".

## 'BugBits Sails for FireBugs

'Bug sails are being made by a new sailmaker and will carry the 'BugBits label. All is high quality, still made in NZ and with a full range of colour options. The cut has been fine tuned again.



Sails will now carry a 'BugBits label.

## 'BugNews gets better and better

Thanks to great photos and news from builders, schools and clubs: *Richard T Stofer, Ross Venner, Gary Smith, Irakli Kutsia, Ray O'Brien, Anna Kennedy, Hugh Blank, Cathryn Bridges, Eric Vibart, and the Mogg, Stegink and Flower families. Some have been held over for the next issue.*

Good newsletters require photos and good stories. Please send yours in now!

All Enquiries: Peter Tait FBHQ  
PO Box 47 042 Ponsonby Auckland  
New Zealand Ph/Fx +64 9 360 1076  
email: [pete@firebug.co.nz](mailto:pete@firebug.co.nz)  
website: [www.firebug.co.nz](http://www.firebug.co.nz)

