



Benjamin Flower's new boat in the UK

Real Sailors Build Their Own Boats!!

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"Real Life Skills - Build a Yacht and Learn to Sail!"



Mark Tarter launched in Oregon USA



Launching day celebrations in the Lau Islands, Fiji.

'BugBuild in Fiji's Lau Islands

While on holiday in the Fijian Islands well known Auckland yachting Richard Brown was amazed to realise that there was no sailing going on. Back in NZ he organised some support and went back to the Lau Isles for a great 'BugBuild.

New Page on www.firebug.co.nz

After so many 'BugBuilding successes at clubs and community groups with young people having problems there is now a Community Support Group Page on the FireBug Website.. and more.

FireBug sailing at Concord Ryde

Concord Ryde Sailing Club has over 60 years experience of building, sailing and racing small boats on the Parramatta River. The friendly family club has a small but active group of FireBug enthusiasts and more boats underway.



Two 'Bugs sailing with the Concord Ryde SC.

CRSC is enthusiastic about the new class as it reflects the club's philosophy that sailing should be affordable and fun. The club provides training courses for juniors and adults. 'Bug builders in the Sydney region can get support including the use of a building jig. Contact: Ross - mobile 0418 457 020 Or <http://www.concordrydesailing.org/>

Irakli in Georgia - Are you OK??

Irakli Kutsia the 'Bug builder in the Republic of Georgia is OK! I emailed him and received this response..



Thanks Peter! Me and my family are safe and all right, if its possible to be all right in such situation.. Russian tanks everywhere, thousands are killed or left homeless. Me and my friends are collecting clothes, food, beds and linens to assist those who had to abandon their homes and flee to the capital.. They are living in streets, although we are trying to place all of them under roof (in schools, kindergartens and other public buildings).. What Russia has done to us is really unimaginable in 21st century.. It's like world war movie.. Thanks again for support and hope I'll be able to write about sailing again from more peaceful Georgia!! Regards - Irakli

You can email me for a full copy of the letter - Peter

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A live 'BugBuild with International Paints at the Auckland Boat Show in February

'Bugs Pull Crowds on Paint Stand

The International Paints stand at Auckland's Boat Show this year had a new buzz about it! Roz Wallis and the boys from Rotorua Boys High School have a FireBug building program underway and were keen to give live boat show building a try. The school van arrived with workers and a part finished hull which was finished off over the next few days. Nice job, well done! And just as International Paints (a FireBug Project supporting company since the beginning) had hoped, the workforce drew the crowds and all for a worthy cause.. getting kids afloat.

Then at the Sydney Boat Show..

In August the FireBug RoadShow did a live build at the Sydney Boat Show. The 'workers' were young people from the Forster Neighbourhood Centre, the sponsoring company was once again International Paints who donated the boat to the FNC for their learn to sail fleet. **Full story next issue..**



Happy FNC builders, Sydney Boat Show.

FireBugs More and More..

FireBug plans/registrations have now reached into the 890s in 32 countries.

891

www.firebug.co.nz



FireBug for the Grandkids

Alastair McLeod from Christchurch has been building for his grandchildren in SA and now it's launch day..



The McLeod's 'Gillyweed' launching!

William Park in Sydney Again

William in Hornsby has completed one boat and started on a second so his grandchildren can have races - double the fun!



Bill and the boys at Hornsby.

..and in France

Cedric Pellisier in St Hilaire de Loulay, France is almost sailing and it looks like a nice job! Clotilde (see below) and her older brother Julien took an active part in the building



Clotilde Pellisier sailing without water.

Akita Satoshi in Japan

Akita Satoshi in Kyoto Japan has done a top job on his Bug #840. He has made his own ss fittings, wooden mast, boom and a launching trolley. The sail is from BugBits. I look forward to see some sailing photos..



Beautifully finished Japanese FireBug

Minister of Education Impressed

At the recent new technology block opening at Glenfield College in Auckland the NZ Government Minister of Education the Hon Chris Carter was most impressed with the Firebug and the 'Learning by Doing' successes. The Hon Chris is also Minister for Ethnic Affairs. A meeting has been arranged to discuss things further..



Hon Chris Carter taking a look!

Sprint Racing at PPYC

Catherine Bridges in #126 'Fawkes' leading the sprint race on the Estuary in Christchurch NZ and her computer picture of the family fleet.



Sprint racing in a breeze at PPYC.



Catherine's computer art 'Our Boats'.

'Puddles' is For Sale

The Steve Ashley Family's 'Puddles' is for sale. It's in top condition. Steve is a long term supporter of the FireBug Project, helping with rig design and supplying staysets and cordage. Contact him on 0274 777 969



'Puddles' getting ready for a sail

South Is Champs, Lake Brunner

Alison Rutherford writes: 'A select group of PPYC sailors set off from the parched plains across the mountains to the West Coast where black clouds threatened thunder. After a wet and stormy night in the tent, Saturday was overcast. The PPYC sailors were joined by only 5 others - a pity when you consider the spectacular rain forest setting and mountain backdrop. The wind was light and variable on both days but it was good fun for all.'

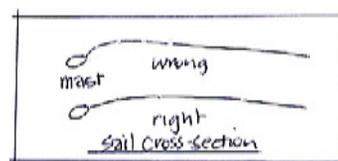
Results: 1st overall, John Spencer Memorial Trophy - Max Rutherford
1st Senior - Arthur Coutts
1st Junior - Max Rutherford
We all enjoyed the traditional West Coast hospitality of the Lake Brunner Club with a substantial barbeque meal on Saturday night and warm scones and jam for both spectators and sailors.



Spectacular backdrop for the SI Champs.

NOTE! Top Batten Issues

The pre-tapered top batten used in FireBug sails have in some cases been over-tapered by the manufacturer. This results in a sail shape which is too concentrated near the mast, see sketch below. The problem can be fixed by taping a stiffening strip over the taper.



Lake Tarawera RSA Going Strong

'Peter, Great to hear from you. Yes, we are still very active with up to 30 trainees. Our firebugs (we have three) are our fundamental training class. Congratulations on the continuing success with the "Bugs". Regards, Ian Thorpe (Lake Tarawera Ratepayer's Sailing Association)'

'BugNews gets better and better

Thanks for great photos and news: Mark Tarter, Ross Venner, Irakli Kutsia, Ray O'Brien, Alastair McLeod, Simon Rutherford, Ian Thorpe, Akita Satoshi, Bill Park, Catherine Bridges, Cedric Pellisier and Richard Brown. Some have been held over for the next issue.

Web - www.firebug.co.nz

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

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