



Ian Craik's 'Jessie C' on the water in Canada.

Real Sailors Build Their Own Boats!!

'BugNews 26

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



Dave Smith - first sail!



The popular live 'BugBuild on the International Paints stand at the 2008 Sydney Boat Show blocked the aisles...

'BugBuild at the Sydney Boat Show

In August 2008 the FireBug RoadShow did a live build at the Sydney Boat Show on the International Paints stand. Preparations included Chris Spooner building a 'Bug' 'shell' up in Gladstone and Pete flying over to help drive it down. The building at the show was completed by four TAFE students, co-ordinated by the Forster Neighbourhood Centre. Approx. 60,000 people attended, often blocking the aisles around the popular stand. The students, totally unfamiliar with boat-building, were faced with a challenge but rose to the occasion and did a great job. International Paints donated the completed FireBug to the FNC for their Learn To Sail program. Many thanks to **International Paints** for their sponsorship of this event.



Lobsang and Troy



Nikki and Kylie

925

FireBug plans/regos have now reached into the 920s in 32 countries.

Forster Neighbourhood Centre

The FNC using specially raised local funding purchased two FireBug kits from FireBug Yachts. The first of these boats was built by a group of six Indigenous students from Great Lakes College, Forster Campus, organised by HomeBase Youth Services with help from Brian Jones. The project was specifically set up to engage young people who are at risk of leaving school early and from all reports the girls did a great job.



Girl Boat Builders - fun times, learning with the FNC!

During the project they developed skills with hand-held tools such as planes, saws, rasps and also power drills. The job gave the girls opportunities for building confidence, respect, perseverance, self-esteem and team work. The boat has traditional designs and is named the 'Winmurra Bug'. Winmurra means girl in local Kattang language. **Sailing photos next issue..**

Well Known Sailor Gets the 'Bug

Well known Auckland solo sailor and musician Andrew Fagan has caught the 'Bug! Andrew and his boys can be seen sailing their three 'Bugs' at every opportunity anywhere between Titirangi and Tutukaka. Andrew and the 18 foot 'Swirly World' (see below) have completed thousands of ocean miles, including a return Tasman crossing and a circumnavigation of New Zealand which included sub-Antarctic Islands 200 miles south of New Zealand.



'Prunes & Custard' at Tutukaka



'Swirly World' Andrew's well travelled 18 foot keelboat.

Australian Wooden Boat Festival..

In February a FireBug was live built at the Australian Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart. What a great show: over 500 wooden boats on display including 7 square riggers, models and two local FireBugs **Full story next issue..**



Tom Stegink from Tannum Sands on the trapeze wire! It's a spinnaker next!

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YACHTING NEW ZEALAND

New Boats and a Stowaway!

New 'Bugs are hitting the water in all parts. Thanks to those who have sent in photos and news..



The Sullivan's 'Gum Leaf', first sail at CRSC



The Pellisier Family afloat in France, classic!



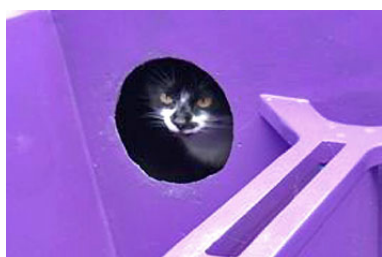
The beautifully finished Dave Smith boat.



Bill Park's second 'Bug' in Hornsby.



The Roberts kids checking the fit. Caloundra.



Tippy the cat stows away on the Fagan boat!



Part of the 14 boat fleet for the South Island Championships held this year at the Pleasant Point Yacht Club

FireBug Racing at Concord Ryde

Concord Ryde Sailing Club issued an invitation to Sydney Firebug sailors and builders to join its active group for an official function on 7th February 2009. The morning was spent getting less experienced sailors and family afloat, some for the first time.



Rigging up at CRSC in Sydney.

And after lunch the 'Bugs returned to the water, not to race but to continue their lessons and to demonstrate their capacity to sail confidently in a wind building up to some 20 kts. One of the key strengths of the Firebug was well displayed - two adults in an 8 footer having a useful sailing lesson!



'White Dwarf' finishing seconds ahead of 'Gum Leaf' after 3 hrs of racing at CRSC.

Firebug racing has now commenced on a regular basis at the club and for the record, in the first official Firebug race at the club, White Dwarf beat Gum Leaf in the club's Marathon by two boat lengths after slightly over three hours. Many thanks to Commodore Chris Gildersleeve and the team from CRSC for a most memorable day.

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South Island Champs at PPYC

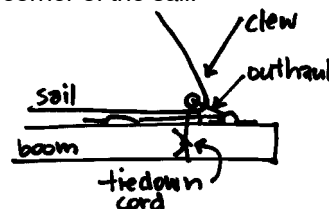
The S.I. Champs returned this year to PPYC the 'home club' for 'Bugs in the South Island. The weekend had fair breezes and was enjoyed by all. There is currently a shortage of 2nd hand boats in Christchurch and rumour has it there might be a club 'BugBuild this winter to boost the fleet, not to mention club memberships. Get in early if you are interested, it will be a lot of fun. The overall winner was Max Rutherford for the 2nd successive year, well done! 1st Max Rutherford 2nd Hannes Hille 3rd Cathryn Bridges 4th Callum Entwistle 5th Chris Booth 6th Lauren Spyker.



Sailors at the PPYC South Island Champs.

Note about Sail Setting

I've noticed that a few sailors aren't using the tiedown on the clew when setting the boat up, see the sketch. This cord takes the weight off the outhaul and keeps things shipshape. For those without a clue, the clew is the outer corner of the sail.



'BugNews gets better and better

Thanks for great photos and news: Dave Smith, Ross Venner, Greg Roberts, Ray O'Brien, Andrew Fagan, Jen and Phill Sullivan, Bill Park, Cedric Pellisier, Ian Craik, Simon Rutherford, Dirk Stegink and Brian Jones. Some have been held over for the next issue.

More at - www.firebug.co.nz

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

