



Capt'n Jim's on the Clyde

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

# 'BugNews 30

The Best Sailors Build Their Own Boats!!



Barry Scott at Carnarvon



FireBugs take their place on the beach at the Carnarvon Yacht Club in tropical Western Australia

### New 'Bug Fleet at Carnarvon WA

The Carnarvon Yacht Club is building 10 or more 'Bugs with club members doing the work and using Development Commission Government funding for six of the boats. After building and launching the 'test' boat Ray Ellis from the club wrote 'G'day Peter, I launched Firebug #1026 today, and I must congratulate you on designing a beautiful little boat, easy to build and it sails very well!' Progress slowed after the town was hit by 'the biggest flood in recorded history' but they are now back on track with four boats afloat and numbers 5 and 6 underway.



Carnarvon Yacht Club fleet - first three boats...



Retired boatbuilder doing a precision job in Russell

### Russell getting a 'Bug fleet

New Zealand's oldest and prettiest seaside town, Russell in the Bay of Islands is the home of the FireBug, #1 having been built there in the 90s. There are now several in the area and there's a good chance of a small fleet getting together at the Russell Boating Club. Local Ivan Manu, retired keelboat builder and school technology teacher, is currently enjoying a 'BugBuild. Ivan has time on his hands so it's a precision job (eg: using a blade for marking out, pencil lines are too fat) and he's giving Pete a few difficult questions regarding dimensional accuracy! 'Ivan please read the bit about fairing up!'

### P Class Clothes Rack!

I spotted this old P Class being used as a clothes horse in a trendy Ponsonby children's clothing shop and thought it very funny! The P is NZs unique race trainer for kids. The boat is expensive and difficult to sail but that's its strength - if you can sail a P well you can sail anything! Race fleets attract a large following of 'P Class Dads' shouting from coach boats.



Handy clothes rack in trendy shop!

### Aerial Launch in Abu Dhabi

Olivier Desport writes.. 'Hi Peter, The Firebug "Passiflore" is finally sailing. The 'launch' from the terrace went very smooth. At the beach the wind had dropped to barely 2-3 knots. But nevertheless, we went sailing with the kids and friends who came along and I was very impressed by the performance in this little wind. And once we touched 6-7 knots wind and the boat accelerated immediately. Thanks for your help, Olivier'



Sliding down the wall!



Good catch by the ground crew.



'Pick meee!' - all want the first sail!



Looking nice but not much 'puff'.

### Poetry from Concord Ryde, Sydney

Squally southerly, spitting, swirling  
Cats crashing, capsizing  
Spirals scattered  
Herons hafted  
All just surviving.  
Through the murk,  
two Firebugs racing,  
competing, boat for boat.  
Finished 24 seconds apart!

Great fun! - Ross Venner

FireBug plans/regos  
have now passed  
1090 in 32 countries!





Nice first sail with the Classic Herreshoffs



Keen crowd at the launch in Boston, Maine.

### First Sail with the Herreshoff Regatta fleet in Maine USA

Chip Terry has enjoyed his build and writes: 'Hi Pete, we had a successful launch today. In Castine, Maine (US). Sailing out around the Herreshoff's that were here last weekend for a big race. Thanks for your help, Chip.'

### Waimakariri Sailing Club Impressed..

The South Island FireBug Champs were run as part of the Waimakariri Regatta this year. The Club Commodore wrote "The Firebug Fleet added huge interest to the regatta. We haven't had a lot of good racing since the EQ's (earthquakes) and it was a morale booster for the Club. All our members were mightily impressed both with the young sailors and with the boat, and the S.I. Championship was a buzz. Thanks for the opportunity to host the event, and for the way the little boats performed. - Gerry".

### SI 'Bug Champ Tom Arthur writes..

Hi Pete, I came across this very interesting Scuttlebutt article and was impressed by the writers views on youth sailing. He makes several points which are very pertinent to our FireBug scene in New Zealand:

1. Our sailors are in FireBugs by their own will.
  2. Our boats are simple & inexpensive.
  3. Our sailors race with some experienced and older sailors.
  4. The fact that FireBugs are not technical is irrelevant.
  5. Coaches and overzealous parents are non-existent in our class.
- Have a read: <http://forum.sailingscuttlebutt.com/cgi-bin/gforum.cgi?post=11887#11887>

Enquiries: Peter Tait FireBug Yachts  
PO Box 47 042 Ponsonby Auckland  
1144 New Zealand Ph +64 9 360 1076  
Email: [pete@firebug.co.nz](mailto:pete@firebug.co.nz)  
Website: [www.firebug.co.nz](http://www.firebug.co.nz)



### Irakli are you OK?

Several people have asked how Irakli in the Republic of Georgia is getting on. Well, he's all good and enjoying sailing on a larger boat on Tbilisi Lake. He writes: 'I try to actively assist the skipper in spreading and managing sails and I also steer most of the time. I was there today and we had pretty tough wind and it was soooo thrilling gliding that boat up and down.. I even managed to go up on the foredeck and remove the jib and place a smaller one in its place all by myself, constantly challenged by the strong wind and sprayed by water.. God, that was so much fun!!! :) Please keep writing, and say hello to everyone out there who is interested in my sailing affairs as you say ;) - Cheers, Irakli.'



Irakli relaxing after a sail on the bigger boat.

### What? - 'Bugs in the Bedroom??

I notice in a recent AABB article a writer suggesting that the FireBug Building Instructions were too comprehensive and that builders would be better off working things out for themselves! Could be right but I'd say it depends on the experience of the builder and with more than a 1000 sets of plans in 32 countries I have only ever had one complaint. It was from a wife who gave her man the planpack as a birthday present and emailed me back: "Thanks Peter, it went well and he loves his planpack! But I'M NOT HAPPY - all he has done in bed lately is read the FireBug Building Instructions!"



Mega 'Ouch!' at PPYC in Christchurch NZ

### Shaken, Shaken again, then Flooded and now Demolished!

Pleasant Point Yacht Club, the main FireBug club in Christchurch NZ has been so badly knocked around by the recent earthquakes that demolition has taken place. It's extremely sad to see such nice, member built clubrooms and facilities going. The club was insured but where to re-build is the problem as the old site has sunk with the shaking.



Dave Gill all rigged up ready for first sail

David Gill, shipwright in Newport NSW has enjoyed the 'BugBuild experience and it looks like an excellent job.



Sussex Inlet Men's Shed boat

'Peter - We at the Sussex Inlet men's shed have now finished and sailed our 'Bug and what a pleasure to our team. In Sussex we do not have a sailing group for small craft so the boat is for sale. Contact John at 0417 367 951. Regards, Rex.'



Lindisfarne Sailing Club Hobart Tasmania

### Lindisfarne Sailing Club Tasmania

The Lindisfarne Sailing Club in Tassie is currently launching into a 15 boat club building program with great support from the local community, including a local school joining in with two boats and sponsorship offers. Most excited is 'An 8 year old young lady who has read Jessica Watson's book and is ready to take on the world.' Isn't that great! More next issue..

### 'BugNews still gets Better & Better!

Thanks for great photos and news: Simon and Alison Rutherford, Chip Terry, Dave Gill, Ray Ellis, Rex & Co at the Sussex Inlet Men's shed, Ross Verner, Tom Arthur, Olivier Desport, Irakli Kutsia, Ivan Mana, Des Clark. Some are held over for the next issue.

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