

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

'BugNews 36



Beat all the other small boats in the bay!

FireBugs are turning up to regattas in larger numbers as clubs and owners recover from the earthquake nightmares in Christchurch, New Zealand.

FireBug Revival in Bashed-Up Christchurch

It's now 4 years since earthquakes wrecked the Pleasant Point Yacht Club. The building suffered major cracking and the ground level in the vicinity dropped a metre meaning the building had to go and a new site was needed. The City Council, keen to see the club back in action have come to the party with part of a reserve and support for re-establishing the infrastructure. FireBug fleets reduced in size as families had other things in mind - where to live, new job, how to survive.. Then two trees blew over on the temporary container 'clubhouse' but now things are looking up with good fleets. The recent Canterbury 'Bug Champs had fifteen entries (half kids, half adults) and great fun was had by all.



Light at the end of the tunnel? The new PPYC site now sports a 'container clubhouse' and plans are underway for a fantastic new sailing complex.

Invite to Australian 'Bug Sailors..

It would be great to have some Australian sailors in Christchurch for a regatta. Think Feb, Mar '16 for family fun sailing in borrowed boats then have a look around the lakes, Queenstown, the rugged West Coast, unbelievable alpine scenery.. There's nothing this good in Oz! It's not far to come.. And KORE are offering 'BugSailing coaching!



Riding a puff on the Estuary, Christchurch.

More from Lisbon - Now it's the Mentally Sick!

Latest news from Portugal - the cerebral palsy sufferers are now helping mental health patients to build FireBugs! More next issue..



Photo: BipZip

Builders take ownership with coloured handprints!

Boys Love Going to School for a Change!

Two 'Bugs have been built at the Pompallier Primary School in Northland NZ. Launching party was at a lake followed by lots of sailing and a BBQ. The boats were very generously 100% funded by two local companies: Mike Lambert Log Transport and Archibald Motors in Kaitaia. The school was delighted and the kids couldn't believe their luck - 'Wowee! We are learning by building a yacht at school!'



Proud boys, a fun day and a BBQ with a Kaitaia Primary School. Teacher - 'It's been life changing for some of these kids!'



New Boats and Launchings etc..
As always there have been a lot of boats launched in NZ and Oz over the summer months..

More Boats from Ivan Manu, Master 'BugBuilder..
Ivan 'I've lost 1mm somewhere' Manu in Russell, Bay of Islands, NZ has built two more immaculate FireBugs for a friend with a lot of grandchildren and no spare time - Norm Sharpe. Unfortunately on the planned launch day, at Ivan's own beach, it was raining hard and blowing 45 knots so the boats went off on a trailer to Auckland's Waiheke Island where they have been enjoyed over the holiday period.



Heavy rain and 45 knots - launch day cancelled.



Better weather on Waiheke Island later in the month!

Pete's New Workshop in Russell
The workshop is now producing FireBug components for 'BugBuilders and can despatch to all corners of the world: mast and boom, deck fittings, rope and cordage, fastenings pack, rudder and centreboard, 'casetop and coamings, and sails in many colours. All is high quality optimised for the FireBug. Details with the plans. Email for prices including delivery by AirPost or courier.



Spars, sails and woodwork in the new workshop in Russell, Bay of Islands NZ.



Angus Tavner in Perth WA. 'GoldBug' is great fun to sail - I've really been enjoying it!



Nice quick four week build by John Franklin in Sydney. The trim is walnut. Centreboard, 'casetop and rudder from FireBug Yachts.



Oliver and Tobin Duggin, Bardwell Valley NSW.



Bill Newton in Wamuran QLD. Bill reckons: 'First voyage Bribie Island, second Sydney Hobart, then circumnavigate the world!'



John Thetford in Whangarei Northland NZ.

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Thumbs Up for FireBug Builder's Enthusiasm and Ingenuity!!
'Bug builders never cease to impress me with original ideas and making the most of things. What about this - Warwick Mowbray from Tamworth NSW suffered a stroke a few years ago and lost the use of one arm. But he wanted to make a boat and successfully built then sailed a FireBug! Fantastic effort! Warwick said with a grin "I had to make up a few brackets to hold things."



Robyn and Warwick Mowbray visiting Pete to say G'Day!



One arm belt sanding and one-and-a-half arm sailing



Robert McLean will be 'BugSailing on this Canadian Lake when the ice thaws!!

More Boats at Concord Ryde..



More'Bugs regularly sailing at Concord Ryde, Sydney.



Iain Duggin's Cake!

Thanks for the Photos!
Simon Rutherford, Ross Venner, Pompallier School, Tom Arthur, Norm Sharpe, John Thetford, Angus Tavner, John Franklin, Iain Duggin, Bill Newton, Robert McLean, Warwick Mowbray and I want a cake like that!

