



# December 2000 FIREBUG NEWS

Newsletter Number 10 - circulation 400



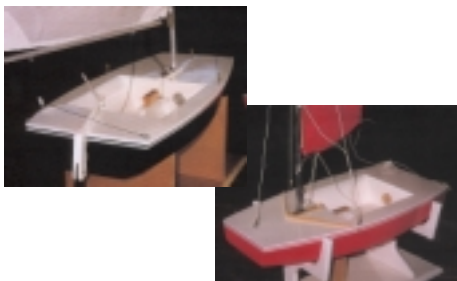
*A few quick prayers on launching day!*

## CATHEDRAL COLLEGE 'BUGS

The team at Cathedral College in Christchurch have thoroughly enjoyed the FB building experience. The first term was spent doing scale models 450 mm long to get the idea, then with help from PPYC's Ray O'Brien 4 full sized boats have been completed. Launching ceremony was by the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch.

## THE MINIBUG

The fleet of models at Cathedral College has also created interest.



Ray was so impressed that he built a mini 'Jitterbug' as well. There is a rumour that someone is planning a radio controlled one! Could this become a new RC class I wonder?



*Ray's one*

## THE MOTORBUG

The Hogg family's 'Flare Go' Has the answer for windless days - an outboard! A bracket attaches to the rudder pintles, the outboard clamps on and away they go!



*'Flare Go' at PCSC*

## ON THE GREAT LAKES

Sally Williams has launched the 'Woodnut' at Tobermory in Canada. After a freezing winter but with the lake now unfrozen Sally has been sailing and thinks her FB is just lovely. There is a lot of interest at the local club and more boats could be underway this winter.



*Sally's 'Woodnut'*

## SUCCESSFUL WINTER SERIES

The Point Chevalier Sailing Club in Auckland conducted a successful series of races over the winter. Fortnightly and with up to 3 races per day it proved to be a perfect opportunity for testing and tuning the FB under race conditions. Twelve boats appeared at different times over the series and a regular fleet has established



*Brett and Chris at Pt Chev Sailing Club*

The FBHQ sailors Brett Elliot and Chris Tait dominated the results, displaying top boat handling skills in conditions up to 30 knots, unreefed. The Firebugs suffered no gear problems, often when other classes were breaking booms and rudders etc. The handling and speed of the FBs attracted rave reviews - one salty dog club member, ie one with plenty of experience commented "It's a terrific little boat, I'm getting one for my family!"

The Pt Chev Sailing Club program for the summer includes both Sunday racing and Friday evening sailing for learners with a BBQ afterwards. Contact either Pete at FBHQ or Colin Jackson at 849 4361 for details. Family memberships at this friendly family club are currently available at a special introductory cost of only \$100.





Mangere College students are pleased with their work

### FBS AT MANGERE COLLEGE

Under the eye of Mr Howard Burnham the boys (what a good looking team!) at Mangere College have produced two immaculate FBs. Howard says "We have really enjoyed this project - the boys have hardly missed a class all year." The boats complete with FBHQ spars, sail, fittings pack with all the options are up for sale, \$1600 ea with the intention of financing next year's program with the proceeds.



Finishing touches

It is likely that the boys will launch their boats with other FBs at the Clarks Beach Yacht Club for trying out. Being extra careful of course not mark them in any way that might make them look secondhand.

### FIREBUGS ON THE BOX

PPYC (again!) has had a promotional ad running on local TV. Firebugs sailing, building and young sailors receiving tuition all featured. Thanks to John Errington for sending up a copy.



### LAKE TARAWERA

The Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association near Rotorua has initiated a program to get some of the local kids afloat. Two Unitec hulls complete with FBHQ kits have been despatched with Now Parcels and launching is a couple of weeks off.



LTRA hulls leaving Unitec

### UNITEC HULLS

There are Unitec hulls still available at cost of materials prices \$480 through FBHQ - freight is not a problem (even to Australia). On-going production in the classroom means a continuing supply but be quick if you want one for this season. The quality is excellent.

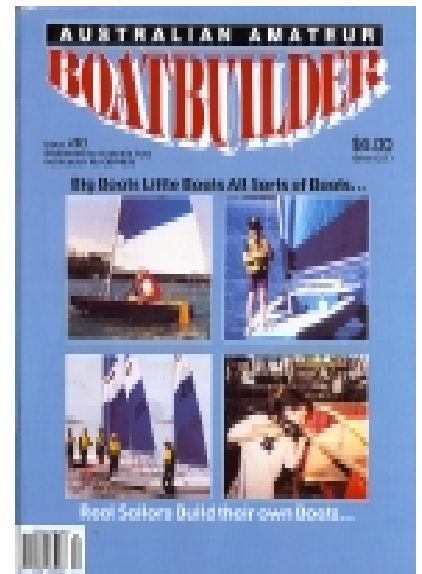
### NOW PARCELS JOIN IN



Send kids yachts around the country? - no problem! Nothing seems to be a problem at Now Parcels. They have been delivering spars (not a simple job at 4.2 m long) around the country for some time and more recently hulls, sails and rudders and centreboards too. Thanks for the friendly support! Why not give them a try with some of your courier work..

### AUSSIES CATCH THE BUG!

The Australian Amateur Boatbuilder magazine is currently running a series of articles on Firebugs. The series commenced with the front cover (below) and a 5 page introduction with colour pics. Then 'How to Build the Hull' including painting and graphics, 'Finishing Off' which includes making rudder centreboard, fittings and spars, and finally 'How to Sail your Firebug'. This includes tips on tuning, racing, windy weather sailing etc.. It is not just a rehash but is freshly written. These mags are obtainable from some shops in NZ but you could subscribe for \$NZ57 or \$NZ15 for the first two issues in the series. A normal personal cheque in NZ \$ will do the trick: The Editor, Australian Amateur Boatbuilder Magazine PO Box 1254 Burleigh Heads QLD 4220 Australia. It's a good read, quarterly.



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### SOME CLUBS NEED NEW LIFE

Clubs who have simply put children in Firebugs and left them to it probably weren't surprised when they ended up with no FBs at all. Just like in other classes learners need some assistance. It is a great little boat but some coaching and support is required to attract a regular fleet. And at only \$1500 a boat it's affordable to greater numbers of new members. Registrations are now over 400 so there are plenty of boats around!

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