



Gareth Asher's 'TigerBug' in Brisbane

'BugNews..18

Dec 2004 Newsletter No 18 FireBug Build-a-Boat
REAL SAILORS BUILD THEIR OWN BOATS!



Liam and Kate at PBBC



The first of Ray's three AABB articles.



David MacDonald in Bundaberg.



Making movies on the beach at midnight

Ray O'Brien & Chris Spooner in the AABB Mag

Is it a takeover? FireBug owners Ray O'Brien and Chris Spooner both have articles in the current issue of The Australian Amateur Boat Builder.



Chris's current project. Does it have a sail?

Ray from Christchurch has over the years either built himself or assisted others to build an amazing 72 boats! Part 1 of 3 articles is in the current issue. Chris Spooner from Gladstone is also a regular writer in the magazine on a range of projects, FireBugs, kayaks and soon the latest craft, see above, I think it's some sort of 'Power Boat' !!

Chainsaw 'Bug in Bundaberg

"Progress with the boat? Well I have decided that my experience in life has ill fitted me for boat building. I am used to working in feet and inches and building cattle yards using chain saw, crosscut, adze, maul and wedges. Rulers and tapes were marked in eighths and it was expected that you be at least this accurate. When you fitted a rail into a scarf on a post if you didn't need a sledge hammer to drive it home then it was sloppy.



No sign of a chainsaw marks!

Now I am working on something a tad larger than a model plane with fine tools and my measuring sticks are marked in mm (tiny ain't they) and it takes a lot for an inexperienced hand to get it right. I have read about near enough is good enough and within 5 mm is OK but this advice is hard to follow after fifty years of trying to be precise with bush timber. Anyway it's my boat and I am going to get it right regardless of how long it takes and so far it is going well. I should have all the stringers on this weekend.

I doubt if you can understand the enjoyment and satisfaction I am getting from this project." - David MacDonald.

If you can Make a Yacht you can Make Almost Anything!

Chris best known as the friendly face from the 'Bug Building Instructions has landed himself with a job in top company in one of New Zealand's most successful industries, making movies.



The boy in the Instructions

After a one month trial, Chris (now aged 20) got the nod for full time employment and endeared himself to his Dad for evermore by saying, "You know Dad if I hadn't learnt how to sail and build yachts, I wouldn't be able to do that job!" Uni is on hold and the big project for this year is the new movie by Peter Jackson 'King Kong'.

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Armchair sailor. "What sort of boat is that?"

Koos in the Netherlands

Koos continues to enjoy his FireBug: "When I'm rigging 'Tuk' 9 out of 10 people ask "What sort of boat is that?" So you can understand rigging takes a long time, as the story must be told!"





Bryce and the boys enjoying boat building at the Seventh Day Adventist High School in South Auckland.

Twenty Schools with 'Bugs'

An increasing number of children in secondary schools are jumping at the chance of learning yacht building. Teachers continue to report instances of boys arriving early for class, working on after school and even weekends. Amazing! Students like the boys above achieve credits into tertiary trade courses and go on to proper jobs unlike many who drop out and take 'jobs with no future' at KFC, MacDonaldis. etc.. Email for advice: Bryce Wastney at SDAHS: bryce@asdah.school.nz

Latest on the Net

The award winning Firebug website now includes more magazine article downloads, more boat and sailor photos (have you sent yours in yet?) and the popular 'Bugs in Schools' pages. Have a look: www.firebug.co.nz



'Bug Free' with patriotic sail graphics.

Australian Boat??

John Hartzenberg in Sydney wanted a sail that was distinctly Australian. With red, white and blue panels (the top panel is red) and FBHQ obliged with a Southern Cross on each side 'Bug Free' looks great! See at right..

'Bugs on Lake Ngaroto too

In the Whitianga-Te Awamutu-Gisborne area there are a large number of FireBugs. Some are sailing at clubs like Omokoroa, Lake Tarawera & Lake Ngaroto (see below) and several schools have fleets which sail in interschool competitions. It would be great to hold a regatta at a central location. Are there any takers for hosting such an event?



'Bugs at Lake Ngaroto Sailing Club.

Australian 'Bug-In' Weekend

There are now enough Australian 'Bugs' to organise some sailing together. Anyone interested should get in touch with pete@firebug.co.nz or Chris: ccsb.spooner@bigpond.com

Only low level sailing skills are required and it'll be fun for sure!



First 'Bug contest in Sydney? John in 'Bug Free' and Hendrik Hasselaar in 'Sardine Can'

Good newsletters require photos & good stories. Please send them in now!

Regatta Dates

The Canterbury Champs venue is Waimakariri Sailing & Power Boat Club. Feb 5 & 6. Briefing Sat 5 at 10am. Race 1 at 11am followed by races 2 & 3 back to back. Sun 6th Race 4 at 12 noon followed by races 5 & 6 back to back. The Waimak River is an ideal venue for small boats with fairly flat water. All the racing is done on an incoming tide which helps negate the river flow. Details: tnt-arthur@xtra.co.nz South Island Champs this year are at the Queen Charlotte Yacht Club March 19-20. For details contact Ian Butcher: soundboatworks@paradise.net.nz



Queen Charlotte Yacht Club.

New to sailing?

Yachts aren't just boats with a sail sticking up as you will know if you have built your own 'Bug. Before you leave the beach it's important to rig the boat and set it up correctly. See the building instructions and or the website for the correct procedure and if still unsure ask for advice from someone who knows. And think safety first - always wear a life jacket, check the weather forecast and if in doubt don't go out.



Early season lineup in Canterbury.

Thanks to Koos Winnips, Ray O'Brien, Chris Spooner, Tom and Thysje Arthur, Bryce Wastney, Gareth Asher, Ian Butcher, Anna Kennedy, David MacDonald, Des Gardener and John Hartzenberg for sending photos and stories, it's appreciated.

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Steve Ashley's
THE RIGGING SHOP



BoatCraft Pacific

