



Nemo at Waiheke Island

REAL SAILORS BUILD THEIR OWN BOATS! 'BugNews..20

FireBug Build-a-Boat Newsletter #20 December '05



Lena's Bug ready to go to Mermaid Beach in QLD.



Top photo - Anna Kennedy

Lake Hood - great small boat venue with 'full tide' all day. Nicky Kennedy shows the way!

New Venue for Canterbury Champs

Anna Kennedy reports in.. *Hi Peter - We had a great day at Lake Hood, the weather was perfect with light winds in the morning and a lot stronger in the afternoon. Five races were sailed with 13 entries and many spectators. Nicky Kennedy was the overall winner in Flamingo. 1st junior: James Kennedy in Hot Buggy, 2nd Michael Collett in Funky Bug, 3rd Andrew Hall in Speedy Bug, Novice: Hannah Hill in Jitterbug* The lake made it a great spectator sport with close-up action and we all had a fun day! Regards, Anna



Heading upwind in the light air race.



Back row: Michael Collett, Andrew Hall, Jessica Hill, Justin Dowell, Michael Power, Liam Paulsen. Middle row: Max Rutherford, Richard Kennedy, Kate Rutherford, Cathryn Bridges, Kate Simpson. Front: Hannah Hill, James Kennedy, Nicky Kennedy

Excerpts from Letters..

FBHQ gets a lot of correspondence often with good humour included. See more on www.firebug.co.nz -

"Hello, Here is Maria. I have the FireBug project to start but now I'm 3 months pregnant! So I'll have to start the boat next summer when I'm back in Brazil. But don't worry I'm still in love with the 'Bugs!'"

Chris - "I arrived at the club as a few Sabots were being rigged up... We soon caught up the Sabots, sailed over and under them and generally blew them away!"

"Have you got any information about sleeping on FireBugs? Obviously the cockpit is too small and would have to be covered with something - centreboard? Floorboard? I've found nothing like the FireBug!" Anthony lives in South America.

Bill Newton's wife - "Can I send the plans back pls? He even reads them in BED!"

Dog rounds up FireBug!!

Look what Dan's dog brought in from the back paddock! No-one knows how it got there or where it came from! It looks beaut Dan, are you taking it up to the South Island Champs?



Dan's Bug down on the farm in Winton



'Thorpie' - first launching in the pool..

'Bugs amongst the Sampans

The Thorburn family in Hong Kong are an offshoot of the multinational 'Bug Group on the Clyde' in Scotland. Cap'n Jim's 'Tiktiki' has sailed on the Clyde, then the Caribbean and now resides in the north of Scotland. 'Thorpie' will no doubt make it back there after at least two launchings in Hong Kong!



..second launching in the harbour.

Ross's 'Spanish Windlass'

"A very happy long weekend of Bug Building! I was right about "Spanish Windlasses" they have brought home the gunwales and chines at the bow perfectly. You can't always get a clamp to apply pressure in precisely the direction you require."



Ross Venner's 'Spanish Windlass' - cords and levers used in lieu of conventional clamps. Cheaper too!



FireBugs More & More..

FireBug registrations have now reached into the 680s in 29 countries.





250 of the FireBug's big sisterships in the Netherlands!!

'Bug Sailors at Major Dutch Regatta

Pete from FBHQ and Koos (well known for 'Bug building in the living room') sailed in an amazing old boat regatta in the Netherlands earlier in the year. Koos is part owner of 'Ouwe Tukker' one of the Dutch traditional 'flat bottom sailing barges' which were the work-horses on the canal and lake systems in the early days but nowadays are mostly pleasure craft. And 'Bugs have flat bottoms so I was invited along to check out the big sister ships! And what an occasion! It was the 50th anniversary of the organisation that keeps the authenticity of the old ships and 250 beautifully prepared boats turned out including the Queen of Holland - yes that's right, she has a lovely flat bottom too!



Pete with Koos and the famous 'Tuk'.

It was a three day Regatta - a day of socialising, a day of parading the boats in front of the Queen and a race day.

Race day was wet and blustery. Koos is a dedicated student of sailboat tuning and theory but hasn't had a lot of experience on the race track so some Kiwi skills were just the trick. The old girl rocketed around the track and collisions aside, it was a beaut day. Thanks Koos for a great experience!

** There's a rumour Koos might turn up for the SI Champs!

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Next - the TinBug!

Arthur Watts from Cromwell is about to start making an aluminium FireBug - whatever next!! He's happiest welding up boats after a career which included pioneering some aluminium boat building techniques but hasn't yet discovered a way to weld plywood. So it has to be alloy! Arthur has worked out the construction and it all looks really good. Light too but don't worry, racers, he is aware of the fact that it can't be a race winner! More next issue..

'Bugs at Lake Ngaroto Sailing Club

Des Gardiner reports: FBs 65, 109, & 628 are now under the care of the Ngaroto SC. Commodore Murray Wall is very keen on junior yachting. The club now has 6 plastic Optis, 3 FB's, 3 420's and the latest are 2 Frostplys bought from Hamilton YC. The Gardiner family donated #65 & 628.



FireBugs on Lake Ngaroto near Te Kuiti.

The Class Rules - Please Read!

The FireBug Class Rules are always available for reference on the FireBug website - www.firebug.co.nz From an early stage the 'Bug has had a fully comprehensive set of rules with the intention to maintain an even standard of performance and \$\$ cost right from boat one. This ensures an even playing field in club racing, maintains resale value for all boats, even non-racing ones, and ensures class longevity.

Just take a look at other classes which have been very popular and have then fallen by the wayside. Take note that in almost every case weak class rules have allowed the class to self destruct.

Tasy Bug

Deb Thompson from Burnie in Tasmania is making good progress.. and this was a few months ago. Are you launched yet Deb?



Deb's 'Bug in Tasmania

Big 'Bug Event in February

Pleasant Point Yacht Club in Christchurch will hold the FireBug South Island Champs in February as part of a major Waitangi Weekend 3 Day Regatta, on the 4, 5, & 6th Feb 2006. The club sees this as a significant opportunity to show off the Bug as an ideal junior dinghy so it would be great to have a big fleet.



FireBugs at the Pleasant Point Yacht Club.

In BugNews 19 an invite was extended to overseas Bug owners and several showed interest but it remains to be seen who turns up. Chris Spooner (Australian 'Bug person) from Queensland is one who has his ticket booked. PPYC is a well organised and friendly family club with nice facilities on a large reserve on the estuary. All types of accom will be available and there is a guarantee of a good time! If you are interested contact FBHQ or PPYC at: simonrutherford@paradise.net.nz

Handy 'Bug Trolley

John Hartzenburg from Sydney demonstrates his 'Bug trolley available very cheap at most hardware stores.



Hand cart good for the Bug.

***Win a Pair of Sailing Gloves!!

No-one won the sailing gloves last issue. The answer was Koos Winnips sailing (trying to sail?) a Moth!

Thanks to: Ray O'Brien, Koos Winnips, Ian Thorpe, Deb Thompson, Arthur Watts, Neil Thornburn, Brad Foster, Des Gardiner, Ross Venner, Simon Rutherford, Jeremy Atkinson, Anna Kennedy and John Hartzenburg for sending photos and news. Others have been held for the next issue.

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