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Nola O'Brien



What a sight! A large fleet of Firebugs sailing at Pleasant Point Yacht Club in Christchurch

First BUG Regatta is a BIG Success!

The Pleasant Point Yacht Club's South Island and Canterbury Provincial Championships, held last month in Christchurch New Zealand, attracted 30 entries. The event was superbly well organised and thoroughly enjoyed by all the contestants, friends and families.



All the skippers

Sponsors and supporters provided a wonderful array of trophies and prizes. TV3 gave national coverage to the event, actually interviewing skippers as they sailed. Susannah's 'Girlz Rulz' looked just great sailing across my TV!

The weekends programme included a Saturday evening barbeque followed by 'A night at the Races' put on by the PPYC Jockey Club and famous bookie 'Flash Harry'. Then socialising and supper. More socialising and the prize giving followed the Sunday races.



Tom & Thysje



No room at some marks!

Top performance of the weekend was by young Thomas Caley from Dunedin with highest points score overall both seniors and juniors.

The Results:

Canturbury Champs

Senior

- 1st Tom Arthur
- 2nd Thysje Arthur
- 3rd Susannah Vesey

Junior

- 1st James Palleson
- 2nd Robbie Stokes
- 3rd Nick Palleson

South Island Champs

Senior

- 1st Tom Arthur
- 2nd Thysje Arthur
- 3rd Susannah Vesey

Junior

- 1st Thomas Caley
- 2nd James Palleson
- 3rd Robbie Stokes

Highest Points Overall: Thomas Caley

Thanks go out to the club, Ray and Nola O'Brien, the regatta committee and all who helped out for putting together such a memorable weekend.



Palleeson Twins, Benny Butcher from Picton, Gordon and Thomas Caley from Dunedin and Nola O'Brien



Registrations Up

Numbers continue to climb and are currently in the 460s.



Ros Gets Scholarship

Ros Exley, Head of Technology at Rangitahi High School in Murupara has landed a prestigious \$6000 Woolf Fisher Scholarship for her contribution to the teaching of technology. Her students have been studying electronics, engineering and you guessed it Firebug building! Nice one Ros. With able support from Kevin three more Firebugs are now underway .



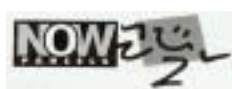
Rigging and sailing the 'Rangitahi Flyer'

Totara School Oamaru

Trailer Sailer owners John Bradfield and Alison Brewster from The Totara School are enjoying the 'Bug building experience. With help from the team of smiling faces (below) they will have three boats complete before long and have plans for evening sailing at the local club.



John, Alison & the Totara School builders!





Photos: Patrick Camilleri

'Bugs on Marsamxetto Harbour Malta
The Vikings Sailing Club's five Firebugs race in a mixed fleet of Mirror dinghies, Lasers and Enterprise 14s. Top sailor Nikki regularly beats the Mirrors and sometimes, rumour has it, even some of the bigger boats! It sure looks like a nice place to sail.



Nikki Sammut in Malta.

'Pirate' Hitches a Ride
Benny Butcher's 'Pirate' regularly gets a tow behind the family keeler on the Marlborough Sounds. Benny's Dad reports no problem towing even in stronger breezes.



'Pirate' tows sweetly in the Sounds

Clarkes Beach Flyer
I spotted this ad in a Clarkes Beach YC Newsletter. **Firebug For Sale: 'Blue Streak' Good fast boat - beat all the Starlings in the Manukau Regatta...**

Please let me know your email address if you have one. Also, good newsletters require photos and good stories - if you have any please send them in now.

'Bug Fever on the Coromandel
The Mercury Bay Area School in Whitianga is in the finishing stages of a fleet of five Firebugs. Woodwork teacher Des Bristow and his Year 12 students are working under the STAR Programme which allows the students to try their chosen tertiary course and obtain credits while still at school and living at home.



Student boatbuilders at Whitianga and Thames (right) Pics: Hauraki Herald

At the Thames High School 16 students from Paeroa, Katikati and Thames Schools as well as some adults are currently completing set of 4 boats. David Mounter from the Unitec School of Boatbuilding and James Bruce, Head of Special Projects at Thames High School, would like to see Thames become a base for boatbuilding courses. The fleet of four boats, in sail away new condition, is for sale at the bargain price of \$7950. Phone James at 07 868 9920 or FBHQ.

Polytech and School Built Hulls
There are also polytech and school built hulls and completed boats available at keen prices - freight is not a problem (even to Australia). The quality is good. Contact FBHQ for details.



BOP Polytech workshop

Winning Website
NetGuide magazine recently gave Firebugs some free promotion by choosing www.firebug.co.nz as the pick of the New Zealand boating sites. The write up starts out - "Now here's a rewarding challenge - build a sailboat.. and finishes "What better way to get into the sport?" I could't have put it better myself! Among the also rans were Rowing NZ, Yachting New Zealand and the NZ Marine Directory.

Firebug Rigs by Airfreight
Spars, sails, rope, cord and deck fittings kits are available in Australia, and also other destinations overseas, direct from FBHQ in Auckland. Delivery is by airfreight to nearest international airport or in some metro areas delivery can be door to door. All is high quality: anodised marine grade, spars, zero stretch cordage, sail (4oz cloth with colour options) by Doyles, RWO blocks etc.. Some fittings are specially made for the Firebug. The price is keen. Contact FBHQ for full details.



USAF Building Bugs
The woodwork skills workshop at a United States Air Force Base in Washington DC is currently building a Firebug to try out and plans to start on a fleet of eight boats shortly. The airbase sailing school will use the boats for the summer learn to sail program on Chesapeake Bay. Full story next issue!

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