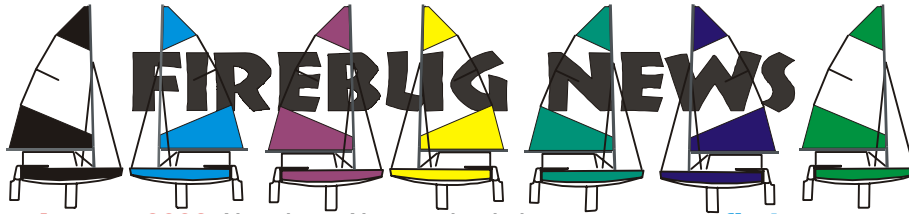




Oliver and Adrian



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Mum's Bug



'Debug' on the Tweed in New South Wales!

Fast 'Bug Camping on the Tweed

Chris Spooner writes: "We took 'Debug' down to the Tweed River, just over the NSW border for a camping trip. There was a Wanderer 10 already on the water - an American plastic traditional looking sailing dinghy - and we sailed circles around it in the light airs. These Firebugs are not slouches! The sandy beach lends itself to sailing far more than the bricked lake at home. I can see us doing more of that sort of thing. The boat raised a lot of interest and I might have to get into the habit of carrying some brochures to give out."

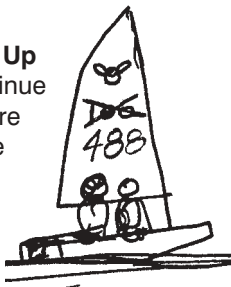
Latest on the Website...

New downloadable information includes the full set of Australian Amateur Boatbuilder Magazine articles which include 'How to Rig and Tune your Firebug' as well as the latest on building and the basics of 'How to Sail'. Have a look:

www.firebug.co.nz

Registrations Up

Numbers continue to climb and are currently in the 490s, in 22 countries.



Firebug in hot water on Lake Tarawera!

Sailing on BOILING Water???

Well perhaps not - that would be a silly thing to do! What would happen if you fell in? Boiled to death!! So, no it look's like its boiling but it isn't really - just warm on a cool morning to result in a steamy sail for these sailors camping at Hot Water Beach on Lake Tarawera near Rotorua in NZ. The Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Assoc. Sail Training Group had a fun camping/sailing weekend on the lake. A letter from Mr Ian Thorpe describes the trip: "At the sail and camp weekend the trainees sailed all our small boats across Lake Tarawera - a distance of some 12 kilometers - escorted by three families in trailer yachts and two in power boats. No sooner had the fleet arrived at Hot Water Beach than the youngsters all wanted to go local sailing - perhaps the chore of the erection of tents helped their decision. It was a grand day and all enjoyed the hot pools and general fun in excellent weather. On the Sunday morning the local sailing resumed in very light airs but in water so warm that boats sailed in and out of mist clouds. The homeward journey in convoy began well but the main body of the lake was devoid of wind and so most boats accepted a tow home."



Hot Water Beach campsite.



Karen's 'Bug with Elyse, Gene and Hailey

Mum's 'Bug Launched at Last

Karen William's boat was launched at Clark's Beach Yacht Club, with a 25 knot south-wester and an outgoing tide. "It was a great ride. Gybing several times around the bottom mark we never capsized. The little craft manoevered well, in the strong breeze and heavy seas. An exhilarating feeling to be sailing a boat I had built myself!"

Mum's Boatbuilding Reflections

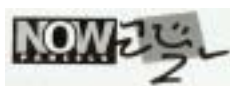
--Racking my brains over how to construct each step then remembering to read the plans for that vital piece of information. A new experience for a draughtsperson and one I have cursed builders for not doing.

--Going on an imaginary expedition around the world with an atlas as our chart, a 4 year old son as Captain and collecting a variety of soft toys for each compartment on the way.

--Multi-tasking to the max. Bake scones, do the washing, complete tech assignment and BUILD A BOAT!!



Firebugs with the Starlings at the Clarks Beach Yacht Club for the Secondary Schools Regatta
Photos: Thanks to Mike Donaldson





Firebugs on NZ's West Coast. Ron, Ray, Thysje & Tom at the Lake Mahinapua Regatta.

Flierbugs on Lake Mahinapua

Five Firebugs race sailed in the local Hokitika Club's annual regatta on NZ's West Coast. Tom Arthur reports: "We sailed 6 shortish races in the regatta, approximately 40 minutes each, and were in a mixed fleet of Starlings, Sunbursts, Optimists and the odd sailing dinghy. I am pleased to report that in each race a 'Bug was first across the line.'"

The lake is a popular tourist stop and while the boats were on the beach a bus load of Japanese turned up and caused great merriment by asking if these were Radio Controlled yachts!! Mahinapua is a lovely place to sail - anyone interested in a freshwater 'bug regatta on the lake next summer should contact Ray Obrien or Tom Arthur.



Leo Braun's boys in Sydney

Leo Afloat in Sydney

Leo Braun and his boys Oliver and Adrian have the first Firebug sailing in Sydney. A reef in the sail for extra stability is a good way to start them off .

BARGAINS!! BARGAINS!!

There are some student built hulls and completed boats available. The quality is mostly excellent. Prices are negotiable, especially for worthy causes. Freight is not a problem, even overseas. Contact FBHQ for details.

Firebug Coaching at PPYC

The Pleasant Point Yacht Club in Christchurch has sailing instruction courses underway. This one is at Lyttleton. The sailors are: left to right - James Grant, John Palleson, Nick Palleson, Steve (Instructor), Mark Anderson, Jonathon Bruce, Joshua Wardell and Cameron Guy.



The A-Team at Lyttleton

'Bugs at the Maritime Museum

The Firebug has found a place at Auckland's Maritime Museum! For a three month period there's a fully rigged Firebug looking great in a display promoting Unitec's Marine Technology Department (School of Boatbuilding).



Firebug at the Museum!

Firebug Rigs by Airfreight

Firebug gear kits are available overseas direct from FBHQ. Delivery is by airfreight to nearest international airport or in some metro areas delivery can be door to door. All is high quality: anodised spars, zero stretch cordage, sail by Doyles, RWO blocks etc.. The price is keen. Contact FBHQ .

Visitor Sails in From the South

Firebug HQ recently enjoyed a visit by Gordon Caley from the Otago Yacht Club in Dunedin. The OYC is to be running the South Island Firebug Champs this summer. Gordon, an experienced offshore sailor and owner of a deep sea 30 footer sailed into Auckland on a large ketch owned by friends. A snap decision whilst enjoying a farewell get together had him join the crew and spend two and a half weeks sailing up the coast. One of those weeks were spent riding out a gale on anchor in Hicks Bay near East Cape. Gordon says, "We're looking forward to having a great weekend with the Firebug Champs during the summer. Date: probably February 15 - 16th. All welcome!



Gordon tries out the chair at the Firebug HQ Nerve Centre (FBHQNC)

Firebug Regatta Dates :

New Zealand

Canterbury Championships at the PPYC in Christchurch: 6,7,8th December 2002.

The club has another great weekend planned for this summer including all types of social activities and a weekend camp at the club for children.

Contact Ray or Nola 03 388 1981

South Island Championship at the Otago Yacht Club in Dunedin: 15-16th February 2003. Gordon: 03 473 8301

Lake Mahinapua: Fresh water sailing on the scenic West Coast - contact Ray O'Brien or Tom Arthur for dates.

Australia: Chris Spooner in Brisbane is planning an Ozzie Firebug Get-together and BBQ on the shores of his local lake. Contact Chris at 07 3822 4621 or email: ccsb.spooner@bigpond.com

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

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