



'Snapper' Munn

FIREBUG NEWS

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'Bob' Barrett

Click on the images if you would like to see them larger.



Firebug Planpacks available NOW! Click for details.

Part of the Gallery Page From the New Firebug Website

Big New Firebug Website!!

At last - a Firebug website! Sixty five pictures and nine pages of information on all aspects of building and sailing Firebugs. The \$2000 site includes something on the designer John Spencer and a gallery page where you can send in a photo of your own boat. Pictures on the page currently number 20 or so with 6 more already lined up to go on. Space is also available for class news, regattas etc.. Future additions include 'How to rig, tune and sail your Firebug' and 'The Basics of How to Sail' complete with sketches etc. Have a look: www.firebug.co.nz and let me know your email address (for future newsletters) and any comments on the infolink on the CONTACT US page.



Muchos gracias fellas!

Cathedral College

This school's very successful foray into the world of yachts and sailing was wound up with the presentation of a scale model Firebug to FBHQ as an appreciation for the help given. Thanks also to Ray O'Brien from PPYC for providing guidance in the workshop.

First Big Regatta next Summer

Pleasant Point Yacht Club in Christchurch are putting on the first big Firebug Regatta ever - The South Island Champs. It's to be a five race series. Enquire for details.



PPYC HQ on the Estuary

25 - 30 entries are expected. Accommodation is available in the PPYC clubhouse for out of towners. Sponsorship is expected from high profile companies. It's planned that there will be lots of socialising and a big prize list. Put it on your calendar now - it will be a fun weekend!

WoodenBoat

THE MAGAZINE FOR WOODENBOAT OWNERS, BUILDERS, AND DESIGNERS

WoodenBoat Magazine in the USA

Mr Carl Cramer publisher of America's WoodenBoat Magazine has purchased a set of Firebug plans thinking that perhaps it would be suitable for the WoodenBoat building classes. Carl, an admirer of John Spencer designs liked the look of the Firebug after reading the series of articles in Australian Amateur Boatbuilder magazine.

Read All About it!

PPYC, Cathedral College, Avondale College, Auckland's Unitec School of Boatbuilding and Otago Yacht Club, have all featured with Firebugs in various newspapers in the last few months. PR experts Pleasant Point Yacht Club on two occasions. First when the fully rigged boats in the Christmas parade couldn't get under a bridge (?) and then again sharing the story of the Cathedral College Firebug fleet launching. The excellent photos showing the Bishop of Christchurch blessing the Firebug fleet on launching day attracted a lot of comment. One person, suspected computer fiddling, said "How did you get the Pope in there?" Some of the December newsletters had a different photo so here's that picture again:

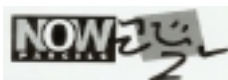
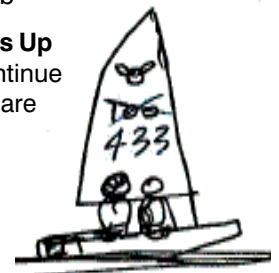


Definitely NOT the Pope!

Avondale College appeared in Auckland's West Weekly - photo and article on pupils enjoying building yachts at school. Otago Yacht Club and Auckland's Unitec School of Boatbuilding in the Otago Daily Times - a large picture showing a container of Unitec hulls being unloaded from the ship 'Spirit of Enterprise' and covering story about OYCs plan for a training fleet of 8 Fireb

Registrations Up

Numbers continue to climb and are currently in the 430s.





Lake Tarawera Kids Ready for a Sail

Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Assn

The Lake Tarawera Ratepayers Association last year purchased two Unitec hulls and FBHQ kits. These boats were completed with volunteer labour and, with the addition of another FB bought second hand have been used by the local kids down at the lake. It's been fun - the picture tells the story.

Firebug Roadshows

The O'Briens and Patersons from PPYC have just returned from a long holiday in Australia. To break the monotony of blue skies and long white sandy beaches they called on yacht clubs spreading the Gospel on Firebugs.



Southport YC liked the idea of a Firebug building programme.

Tom and Thysje Arthur from the Pigeon Bay Club must, after only one season afloat, already have the most travelled Firebug. On the road that is. One trip alone went from Christchurch to Auckland with regular sailing stops and a visit to FBHQ.



Thysje and part of the Interisland Arthur Sailing Circus visiting FBHQ. A Firebug, a 3.7, 2 kayaks and a dog.

MacBug on the Clyde

Jim Colquhoun reports from Scotland: 'Tiktiki' was launched with great ceremony this morning, on a usual West of Scotland sailing day - i.e. heavy rain and no wind!

However, the rain gradually eased off, the sun came out, and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, even if we did get third degree hypothermia.

The event was recorded with several rolls of film, so we will send you one either by email, (if we can figure out how), or by normal methods.



Launching on the Clyde by email

Firebug Rigs in Australia

Spars, sails, rope, cord and deck fittings kits are available in Australia direct from FBHQ in Auckland. All is high quality: anodised marine grade, spars, sail (4oz cloth with colour options) by Doyles, RWO blocks etc.. Some fittings eg masthead, gooseneck, mast washer are specially made for the Firebug. Contact FBHQ for full details. The price is keen.

Ilminster Intermediate Trailer Home

Ilminster Intermediate School in Gisborne has built a trailer home for their Firebug fleet. It's a home for the sailors as well - with the boats out, it converts to a caravan! Would it make it to the PPYC Regatta I wonder?

Otago Yacht Club Fleet

OYC in Dunedin had three Firebugs already but wanted five more for its learn to sail fleet. The Unitec School of Boatbuilding in Auckland helped out with hulls at a friendly price. Local sponsorship and grants are enabling the club to complete the boats. OYC instructor Stacey Hall was delighted to see the hulls arrive in Dunedin on the ship 'Spirit of Enterprise', commenting: "These are the perfect boats for teaching children in!" The fleet will also be used in the Delta Utilities sponsored 'Kids in Boats' program which is in turn part of the Police Drug Abuse Resistance Programme.

Aussies Read about the Bug!

The Australian Amateur Boatbuilder magazine series of articles on Firebugs is now complete. The final article 'How to Sail your Firebug' appeared in issue no 33. This includes tips on tuning, racing, windy weather sailing etc.. and even 'How to Sail'. (This final article will appear soon on the website.) Back issues from: The Editor, Australian Amateur Boatbuilder Magazine PO Box 1254 Burleigh Heads QLD 4220 Australia. It's a good read, quarterly but don't ask me why subs are so expensive in NZ - do they send it around the long way?

Unitec and School Built Hulls

There are Unitec hulls still available at cost of materials prices \$480 (A\$385) through FBHQ - freight is not a problem (even to Australia). On-going production in the classroom means a continuing supply. The quality is excellent. Some schools also have hulls and even some completed boats for sale and at very friendly prices. Contact FBHQ.

Winning Sailors

With no age limits on FB sailors it was interesting to see who was winning races over the summer. Top skippers at the PPYC and also Point Chevalier Sailing Club in Auckland included more than a few mums and dads. After an up and down series PCSC Sec. Pauline Anderson was Summer Series Winner.



Pauline gets advice from Warwick over a cup of tea.



2001 Champ Ron Hitchcock at PPYC

Yachting NZ Coaching Firebugs

Yachting New Zealand's coaching programme in Christchurch has included Firebug sailors for the first time.

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.

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