



Liam Paulson at PPYC

REAL SAILORS BUILD THEIR OWN BOATS! *'BugNews..19*

FireBug Build-a-Boat Newsletter #19 June '05



Hannah Hill (11) proud new owner of the JitterBug



Intermediate school 'Bugs racing in Gisborne.



Launch Day near Mount Isa for Tom Bruce.



Mum and the girls building in Christchurch

Gisborne Schools' 'Bugs

For several years now the Gisborne Intermediate Schools have been getting intensive use from their eight Firebugs. The boats which are used for both learn-to-sail and racing are readily transportable and the fleet has it's own sponsored rescue boat.

The boats are taken to school camps where all children get a ride.



Two girls having a go

The Gisborne 'Battle of the Bays' is an all sport event and the 'Bugs are used for the sailing competition with up to thirty children from ten schools competing. All eight boats are used in the round robin contest with crews changing boats out on the water. There are some top sailors in the region and competition is HOT!



Close finish on windward leeward course

New 'Bug at Alpururulam

"It's ANZAC day this weekend, so what better day for the maiden voyage? Launching took place at Lake Nash on the Georgina River where there's ample water considering we've only had 125mm of rain this year. It is very challenging sailing, as out on the banks the wind's blowing at 15 - 20 knots while down in the river the wind varies in speed and direction and the odd dust devil (mini tornado) comes howling in. The dinghy is very easy and enjoyable to sail." - Tom Bruce



Alpururulam near Mt Isa where Tom lives and works.



David Macdonald (chainsaw builder from the last issue) gets 'Firefly' afloat.



Bryce Hough's grandsons Kris, Callum & Jacob at Chipping Norton Lake, Sydney.

Mum and the Girls Doing a Good Job

Shona Kelly in Christchurch is doing the total job - her own spars and fittings too. She writes: *"Hi Pete, I received the sail and love it and can't wait to get out on the water! Construction has slowed a little with the start of school/ kindy/university etc, but we will get there eventually! Here's a photo of the boat taken 2 months ago. My three helpers are from left Phoebe, Clodagh, Sophie and the boat name is still undecided. Hopefully I'll finish before the weather turns wintery! Many Thanks, Shona"*

Total Immersion Course in Kiwi Ways

Daniel Brooks came to NZ from the UK to learn Kiwi farming skills but after meeting a nice local girl and now building a yacht he's probably here for good but that's OK - you'll do us mate!



Daniel Brooks from down on the farm in Winton Southland NZ

FireBugs More & More..

FireBug registrations have now reached into the 650s in 29 countries.

655





Great sailing in the Marlborough Sounds with Queen Charlotte YC and the South Island Championships 2005.

'05 South Island Champs at Picton

The Queen Charlotte Yacht Club in the Marlborough Sounds hosted the 2005 SI FireBug Champs. Tom Arthur writes.. "It was a fun weekend but numbers were down due to the long distance for most to travel. To get out to the course area we had to sail for about 35-45 minutes out of Picton Harbour into Queen Charlotte Sound and back afterwards, quite a haul. Day one had three back to back races with shifty wind easing throughout the day.



Out amongst the big stuff!

It was quite interesting for us Cantabrians, to be sailing out with the Interisland ferries! Day two started off with a delay until the wind filled in light but steady. The sea was calm, conditions that FireBugs love and the fleet kept fairly close for both races, except for Max, the youngest and smallest who was under orders to sail reefed until he had served his apprenticeship!" Tom's full report on the weekend is on the website.



SI Champs Prize Winners.

Results: 1 Tom Arthur, 2 Michael Collett 3, Ian Butcher 4, A. Coutts 4, Kate Rutherford 5.

'Bugs in South Australia

The popular SA Wooden Boat Festival had some profits to spend from last year and decided to build some Firebugs with local schools. The full story hasn't made it over here yet but Robin Elliott from Boating NZ was over there and sent this photo with the comment that there was HUGE enthusiasm for 'Bugs over there! Great stuff!



Photo: Robin Elliott
FireBugs at the Wooden Boat Festival.

Lake Tarawera Sailing Club

The Lake Tarawera group has had another good season. The "Bugs which make up the core of the fleet never rest on club days. The season was wound up with 30 adults and youngsters going up to Auckland for a sail on the Americas Cup boat NZL 41. Good fun!



FireBugs on Lake Tarawera near Rotorua

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

International Event Next Year

Pleasant Point Yacht Club will hold the FireBug South Island Champs next season as part of a major Waitangi Weekend 3 Day Regatta, on the 4, 5, & 6th Feb 2006. The club see this as a significant opportunity to show off the FireBug as an ideal junior dinghy.



FireBugs at the Pleasant Point Yacht Club.

PPYC, a top family club also extends a big welcome to any 'Bug owners from the North Island or overseas who would like to sail, perhaps as part of a NZ holiday (Christchurch is at the heart of NZ's best 'Lord of the Rings' scenery). A limited number of boats will be available to borrow. The club has nice facilities within a large reserve on the estuary. All types of accommodation will be available and there is a guarantee of a good time! Contact FBHQ or PPYC at: simonrutherford@paradise.net.nz

Canterbury Champs

The Canterbury Champs were sailed on the Waimakariri River at the WSPBC. It was a weeked of nice breezes and close sailing. Results: 1 James Kennedy, 2 Tom Arthur, 3.



Nice sailing in the Canterbury Champs.

***Win a Pair of Sailing Gloves!! What's this extreme craft and who's trying to sail it?? A pair of RWO sailing gloves for the first person with the correct answers. Story next issue..



Thanks to Ray O'Brien, Koos Winnips, Thomas Bruce, Tom and Thysje Arthur, Bryce Hough Rod McCulloch, Gareth Asher, Ian Thorpe, Anna Kennedy, David MacDonald, Viv Butcher and Shona Kelly for sending photos and news.

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