



Deb's 'Lime Spider' afloat - Burnie, Tasmania

'BugNews..21

FireBug Build-a-Boat Newsletter #21 - June '06

"REAL SAILORS BUILD THEIR OWN BOATS!"



Cathryn Bridges looking nice on the Estuary



Alan Bartlett, with helpers, in Mullumbimby.

Plenty of helpers in NSW!

Allan Bartlett in Mullumbimby NSW, says "Due to the labour shortage in Australia I have called on the Grand Kids and neighbours for help!"



Alan Bartlett, with even more helpers.



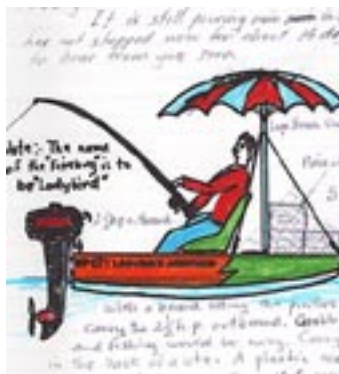
Andrew Martin Tamworth in NSW, launch day. Andrew made up wooden spars.



Dan's Bug - first sail, Lake Whakatipu, Queenstown

Dan's launch day in Queenstown

Back in January Dan and Jo from Winton in Southland launched their new 'Bug (the one the dog rounded up, see last issue) on Lake Whakatipu, Queenstown. The lake with mountain backdrop, made famous by countless TV ads and movies including Lord of the Rings, is more often seen with snow on! Great photo Dan - it really captures the moment and this one now graces the front cover of the 'Bug building instructions!



Terry 'the Tiger' from Darwin

Terry Baxter, retired plumber/boat designer and well known for his 'Blue Orb Specials' ie: galvanised iron clad boats (See AAB issue #53) is underway with two FireBugs. One is for his own use, sailing and crab fishing, the other for his daughter Caroline. Construction is from ply (un-corrugated) and car case timber with epoxy coating. The outboard slips on to the rudder pintles and yes those are crab pots on the foredeck - take care Tiger!



School workshop full of FireBugs in WA

Big 'Bug fleet underway in WA.

John Lally, Dampier Camp School manager writes: "Two resource companies here (Pilbara Iron & North West Shelf Venture) have agreed to fund the building and fitting out of 20 "Firebugs" over the next two years. Karratha High School students will build the boats and the Camp School will run sailing courses. On weekends the Hampton Harbour Sailing Club will conduct races. This is a real community project!"

Mum and the girls launch at PPYC

Shona Kelly, husband Tim and the three girls launched 'Moonbeam' at the PPYC during the summer. About 60 friends enjoyed the occasion not to mention fish and chips and a drink. Shona showed a lot of blokes the way by doing her own metalwork. Nice one!



'Moonbeam' sets sail at PPYC.

Email enquiries from the US..

www.firebug.co.nz gets plenty of email enquiries, especially from the US..

- "Yes hello im a big boned fellow (fat) and was wondering what is the weight limit for the fire bug in lbs thank you for your time."

- "I saw your website and would like to ask your help in figuring out plans to build a small play boat for my son. The little pond we have is small so it must be maximum 5 feet long and around 2 feet wide."

FireBugs More & More..

FireBug registrations have now reached into the 730s in 31 countries.



Good news for Auckland 'Bugs!

At last an Auckland sailing club with some enterprise! Taikata Sailing Club at Te Atatu have built one FireBug and have been helping members acquire secondhand boats. Six boats are now sailing regularly and a learn to sail scheme for kids and adults is underway. Boat lockers are available (if you're quick) which is great - no need for trailers or boat storage problems at home. The Winter Race Series has just finished but the summer is not far off. Interested 'Bug owners contact Anne at 09 832 4094 or FBHQ 09 360 1076 for more information. The club has a 50 year anniversary next year and would like to see a large 'Bug fleet - perhaps we should we make it the North Island Champs?



Nice club buildings.



Top rigging and launching area.

More Tips from Ross Venner

Ross in Sydney has completed all the woodwork and it looks beautiful. Nails through ply squares hold the ply down better and allow nail removal later. The overhang at the gun'l makes carrying easier, offers protection and is a good hand-hold after a capsizing.



Ross's gun'l overhang and ply pieces.

All Enquiries: Peter Tait FBHQ
PO Box 47 042 Ponsonby Auckland
New Zealand Ph/Fx +64 9 360 1076
email: pete@firebug.co.nz
website: www.firebug.co.nz



Some of the FireBugs at PPYC in Christchurch for the South Island Championships.

South Island Champs 2006

The Pleasant Point Yacht Club in Christchurch again did an excellent job of hosting the series. Anna Kennedy sums up - "It was a great weekend on the water; Tom Arthur again dominated with four firsts, one second and one third place over the series. Top junior, James Kennedy took two firsts, two seconds, a third, and a fifth to take second place overall. The Regatta was sailed in variable conditions. On the Saturday the sailors enjoyed light Nor-nor-east conditions for both races. Sunday saw a turn to the South with gusts to 18kts. Several crews retired after capsizing. Overall another great fun weekend with the 'Bugs'"



The fleet ready to go at Pleasant Point Yacht Club



South Island Champs 2006 prize winners:

Line Honours:

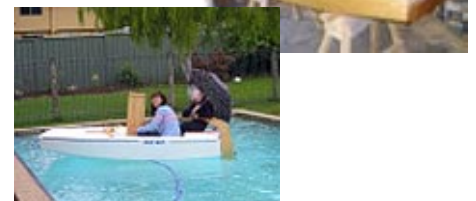
1st Lazy Bug Tom Arthur PBBC
 2nd Hot Buggy James Kennedy PPYC
 3rd Funky Bug Micheal Collett PPYC
 Junior Line Honours:

1st Hot Buggy James Kennedy PPYC
 2nd Funky Bug Micheal Collett PPYC
 3rd Flamingo Richard Kennedy PPYC
 Senior Line Honours:

1st Lazy Bug Tom Arthur PBBC
 2nd Just-in Justin Dowel PPYC
 3rd Strider Ian Butcher Queen Charlotte YC

'BezBug' in QLD quicktime!

Bez Bezuidenhout in Mackay built the 'BezBug' in just 4 weeks! Great job but unfortunately quicker than FBHQ could supply the sail and spars which meant a pool launch without a rig - sorry guys!



And.. another pool launching!

Photos and News: Thanks to: Ray O'Brien, Deb Thompson, Ross Venner, Bez Bezuidenhout, Cliff Elliott, Anna Kennedy, Alan Bartlett, Andrew Martin, Terry Baxter, John Lally and the kids, Cathy Bridges, Dan and Jo, for sending photos and stories. Some have been held for the next issue.

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



Steve Ashley's
THE RIGGING SHOP



BoatCraft Pacific