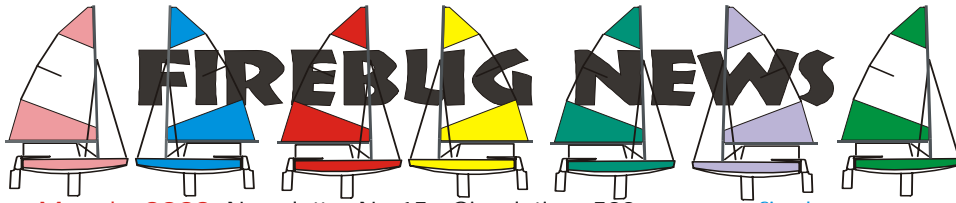




Instruction from Wim



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Ian Davey in Brisbane



The season's biggest get together - South Island Championships Otago Yacht Club Dunedin NZ

South Island Champs

If your name is not Thomas you are wasting your time trying to win this event. Tom Arthur from Pigeon Bay in Canterbury and OYC's own Thomas Caley got away with the silverware once again this year!

The Otago Yacht Club (special thanks to Commodore Gordon Caley) ran a well organised event which from all reports was thoroughly enjoyable. The fleet of 16, Dunedin's largest dinghy fleet for the season, enjoyed nice weather and friendly Otago hospitality.

- First equal: 'Ember' Thomas Caley and 'LazyBug' Tom Arthur
- 3rd: "Sparky" Nick Palleson
- 4th 'LadyBug' Thysje Arthur
- 5th: 'Jitterbug' Ray O'Brien
- 6th: 'Black Magic' Ron Hitchcock
- 7th: 'Y-Not' James Palleson

LazyBug's New Sailor Dog

Tom Arthur is teaching 'Spot' to sail. When he's good enough he's going to have a Firebug of his own!



Sailing lessons for Spot.

More 'Bugs in Brisbane

The Brisbane firebug fleet is expanding rapidly. Chris Spooner now has two boats, two others are also sailing and another two will be soon. Chris is a semi professional boatbuilder and is keen to see the Firebug become established locally. We're looking forward to the Australasian champs!



Bugs on Lake Spooner.

Chris is lucky enough to have a lake where most people have a back fence and enjoys running his own Yacht Club and lakeside DYOD Cafe. Contact him at 07 3822 4621 or ccsb.spooner@bigpond.com



..and down by the Billabong.

More Visitors to FBHQ

FirebugHQ recently enjoyed another visit by Giovanni Toscani from Northern Italy. Giovanni, part way through building a Firebug, managed a detour through Auckland for a quick look at the America's Cup racing on his way home from a business trip to Australia.



Giovanni Toscani at FBHQ

Also in town for a few days was Susannah Vesey from the PPYC in Christchurch. Susannah, in Auckland to check out the Cup, called in to say hello and spent the day with us.



Susannah on the FBHQ Super Yacht

Space is Short in the Netherlands!

Opa's Bug, the Firebug built in the dining room, spent a few weeks on a long summer holiday with the grandchildren last summer.



Launching Opa's Bug

And, believe it or not, the next one over that way is being built in the living room after making all the bits in the bicycle shed! More next issue..





Part of the Friday night fleet at the Canterbury Champs at the Pleasant Point Yacht Club

Canterbury Firebug Championships

Back in December the second Canterbury Firebug Champs were completed although the Sunday races were blown out by a cold southerly. (Ray O'Brien is still trying to warm up!) This year a new Novice division was introduced. The results:
 Novice: 'Flamingo' Nicola Kennedy
 Junior: 'Y-Not James Palleson
 Senior: 'Black Magic Ron Hitchlock
 Overall: 1st 'Sparky' Nicholas Palleson
 2nd 'Y-Not' James Palleson
 3rd 'Black Magic' Ron H.



Sailors enjoyed a fun Regatta

Brendon Almost Afloat

Brendon Willoughby is just days away from launching his 'Hydrobug'. He has been a regular sailor in the PPYC club boats and is really looking forward to sailing his own. It's more fun when you have built it yourself!



Brendon and his Dad Chris putting on the deck.

Firebug Promotions: PPYC at the Palms Mall..

The Pleasant Point Yacht Club in Christchurch has a long history of successful promotion of new classes, building schemes, membership drives etc. Other clubs should note that their shopping mall displays promoting the club and the Firebug have been very successful at boosting membership.



PPYC at the Palms Mall

..and in Brisbane

Chris Spooner jumped at the chance of talking boats for two solid days at the Boating Industry of Australia Sailfest held at the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron, Brisbane.



Firebugs at the B I A Sailfest

Milestone!! 500 Passed!!

Numbers continue to climb and are now over 500 in 22 countries.



Latest on the Website...

There are two new pages on the website: A page for the growing number of builders doing *scale model Firebugs* and a page for *tests and comments* on building and sailing the Firebug.

There are now *two gallery pages* as more and more people send in their photos. And don't forget the downloadable Australian Amateur Boat Builder articles which include 'How to Rig and Tune your Firebug' as well as the latest on building tricks and even the basics of 'How to Sail'.

Have a look! www.firebug.co.nz

Mixed fleets at several clubs

Clubs around the country are enjoying adding a few Firebugs to the mix: Omokoroa on the Tauranga Harbour, Dargaville Sailing Club on the Kaiwi Lakes, Ngaroto Sailing Club near Te Kuiti, Lake Brunner, Pigeon Bay and more..



Firebugs at Omokoroa...



...and on the Kaiwi Lakes

Firebug Rigs and Hulls

Firebug hulls, spars, sails and hardware kits are available in NZ and overseas direct from FBHQ. All is high quality: marine anodised spars, zero stretch cordage, sail by Doyles, RWO blocks etc.. The price is kept due to good support from the companies below. Contact FBHQ .

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

All Enquiries: Peter Tait FBHQ
 PO Box 47 042 Ponsonby
 Auckland New Zealand
 Ph/Fx 09 360 1076
 email: pete@firebug.co.nz
 website: www.firebug.co.nz



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