



Papa and Stella

# "Real Life Skills - Build a Yacht and Learn to Sail!"

# 'BugNews 31

The Best Sailors Build Their Own Boats!!



William S - Bring it on!



Excitement in the air as the new 'Bug fleet gets ready to launch for the very first time at the Lindisfarne Club in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

### New 'Bug Fleet in Hobart, Tasmania

Back in December the Lindisfarne Sailing Club had a mass boat launching party for 11 FireBugs, all of which were built at the club by their owners. Father and son team Des and Brett Clark along with club Commodore Matt Westland organised the build. Promotion to find interested families took place at the local shopping malls with a rigged boat and brochures. The build was great fun with lots of happy young sailors-to-be and the club will benefit enormously from the new family members. Des says: 'I'm getting a real buzz watching the kids sail around the bay. They are a very enthusiastic group and are really enjoying themselves. I can see some future champions here.' High demand for quality family fun says there will be more 'Bugs built this winter.



Becalmed Lindisfarne sailors getting a tow..

### Whatever next - Santa by 'Bug!!

At Lindisfarne last Christmas it was a case of: "Well, shiver me timbers! Santa is sailing around in a FireBug!" I hope he was very careful - living at the North Pole he wouldn't ever have learned to swim!



Sensible Santa has a reef in - maybe can't swim?

### 'Quotes from 'BugFans and Emailers

'We had three adults sailing and racing 'Bugs on Saturday, and as always I came off the water thinking what a clever little boat this is!'  
'My biggest worry - which part makes the best target for smashing a bottle of bubbly!'  
'I have this idea that I'd like to build a boat. I know pretty much nothing about building and even less about boats, is there any chance that I might be able to build a firebug?



The building hall at the Lindisfarne club



Young sailors trying out their boats in light wind

Like Us On **facebook**

**FireBug on Facebook!**

The FireBug web site now has a FaceBook Page. You can put up ideas, comments, photos or any hints and tips. Who's got the best colour scheme or name for their boat?

Fastest, friendliest, best fun?

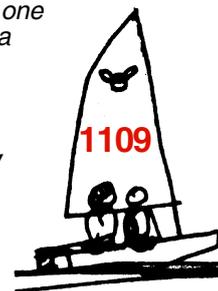
Search 'Firebug Yachts' on Facebook

Design in association with

New frontiers

**Big boat designers catching up?**  
Seahorse Magazine ([www.seahorse-magazine.com](http://www.seahorse-magazine.com)) writer Thomas Tilson writes.. "The Voluminous bow, wide, powerful hull and specific trailoring of hull shape around a shift of axis; design features that are increasingly being used on Mini 6.5s, VO70s and even occasional cruiser racer. If this trend continues, could we one day yet end up with a modern scow shape as the ultimate design solution."

**FireBug plans/ regos have now passed 1100 in 33 countries!**



**Irakli Writing for AABB**

Irakli, the very determined 'BugBuilder in the Republic of Georgia, has written his story of building a 'Bug against the odds and how his sailing career has developed for the Australian Amateur Boat Builder Magazine. His regular reports published in the 'BugNews have created a lot of interest (for example - "I did not have time to sail last summer due to the war with Russia.") and he was delighted at the opportunity to tell his story in print. His payment is going into a 'Visit Oz and NZ Fund'!



Irakli asleep under the starry sky dreaming about being a writer..

**Build a 'Bug then a cruiser..**

John Slevin in Hobart has recently built three FireBugs (and numerous other boats over the years) and is currently working away on a 24 foot 'Senior' class cruiser. Someone else says "Build a 'Bug, then a 40 footer, round up the kids and cruise The Pacific!"



John Slevin has the boat building addiction!

**Laura Reynolds writes:**

Hi Pete, I have finally finished my Bug, there is a photo attached. I've only sailed it the one time as yet but I'll definitely get out again soon. Had very light winds but was impressed how well it went.



Laura's first sail on the Derwent

Enquiries: Peter Tait at FireBug Yachts  
PO Box 47 042 Ponsonby Auckland 1144  
New Zealand Phone +64 9 360 1076  
Email: pete@firebug.co.nz  
www.firebug.co.nz



Chris sorting out a capsized

**Advice on Righting a 'Bug**

Experienced Firebug sailors Hugh Blank, Simon Rutherford and Tom Arthur have some handy hints for righting boats with full buoyancy and self draining cockpits like the FireBug. 'Hi Folks, we have now settled on a righting and re-boarding technique:  
-First check that the mainsheet is free and that the tiller extension is not fouled in any way.  
-Put the centreboard into the fully down position.  
-Swim the boat around so that it is bow-to-wind.  
-Reach up from the water and apply your weight to the very end of the centreboard.  
-Once the boat is upright make sure it is still head-to-wind.  
-With your body at right angles to the gunwale, pull the side of the boat down so that you can reach across to something to pull yourself into the cockpit - it will vary from person-to-person: a rope between the shrouds, toe straps, centrecase, the rope running along the opposite gunwale, etc.  
-With your body positioned on the surface of the water through flotation and kicking, pull yourself into the cockpit as quickly as possible, using the strength in your arms and the thrust from kicking hard.'

Hugh Blank, Titahi Bay B C, Wellington

\*\*See the full article on the website

**Maxed out colours in Carnarvon..**



Carnarvon Y C boats set new standards for colour!



Leg-in-plaster not a problem to 'Bug sailor!

**Leg in plaster - not a problem!**  
A Dad with a broken leg teaching his daughter to sail - now that's dedication!

**Drew Roberts from Bendigo, VIC..**

"Hi Peter, I turned the hull on my firebug last Friday night. I'm rapt with how it is going so far."



Nice job Drew!

**'Happy Feet' almost ready for launch**

Ivan Manu's new 'Bug was inspected at the painting stage a few weeks back by Chris Spooner (inset) from Brisbane and Ray O'Brien from the PPYC. Ray said 'I think it's the best built 'Bug I have ever seen and I've looked at a few!' Ivan lives in the Bay of Islands, NZ with his own sandy beach at the bottom of the garden!



Pete, Chris Ray and Ivan x 2 in Russell



Translation coming...

**'BugNews still gets Better & Better!**

Thanks for the great photos and news: Des Clark, Ray Ellis, Tom Arthur, Hugh Blank, Irakli Kutsia, Ivan Manu, John Slevin, Laura Reynolds, Drew Roberts, Santa Claus. Also Seahorse Magazine for permission to use quote on page 1.

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

