



Snap from Ray O'Brien

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

'BugNews 32

Just look at all these folk having fun!!



Snap from Ray O'Brien



What a sight! Camarvon Yacht Club fleet ready for a sail. There's excitement in the air!!

YWA Rave Review for 'Bugs

The latest Newsletter from Yachting WA gives the FireBugs a rave review:

'The highly successful and ever popular entry level sailing dinghy the Firebug continues to attract sailors. This little boat in it's brilliant colours is by far the boat of choice in the north of the state where junior sailing is going ahead in leaps and bounds..'

Yachting WA's Training Administrator Tony Strickland viewed the training program at Camarvon Yacht Club and received a Certificate along with Ray Ellis and the young sailors!

The Pilbara Camp School fleet gives the 'Bug wide exposure in the region.



Tony, the kids and Ray Ellis (far right) from CYC receive certificates at the presentation evening.

And Japan.. Dear Peter, It was very nice to hear, you also sailed FD Trial for the Tokyo Olympics in 1964. Me too, I also sailed FD Trial for the Games as a helmsman.

I am expecting my Firebug boat to be launched next week and will of course send you her pretty pictures.

Regards, Ken Hashimoto'



Ken's high quality work..

FireBug Yachts move to Russell!

FireBug HQ has moved north from Auckland to Russell in the Bay of Islands. The small town is surrounded by beaches, a paradise for sailing, fishing and boating folk. We are close to the water in an early villa which took two years to renovate but has come out really well! Boat workshop too, big enough for sailboats up to 25 feet.. John Slevin, three times 'Bug builder from Hobart called in at Russell a few weeks ago and had a look around..



John Slevin from Hobart checking out the scaled Cooks 'Endeavour' in the Russell Museum

Lindisfarne Sailing Club News..

The club will have their boats on the water at the Australian Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart in February and also plan to build a 'Bug during the show. Des Clark writes:

The Firebug program has been a heart warming experience for me and the club in general. The children have now adopted the club like a second home and have all become really good mates. They are having a ball and don't want to leave after sailing which is really great! The children have real ownership of their boats and bring their friends to the club to show them off. Really proud of them. Their boats have their own storage shed.

We would like to thank Peter Tait, for assisting us so much with this building programme.

More with photos next issue..

'BugBuilding again at Unitec Marine Technology in Auckland

Unitec, New Zealand's largest boat building school continue to build FireBugs. Top tutor and boat designer in his own right, Chris Lovegrove, says 'The BugBuild is ideal for first year students with the right level of difficulty and plenty of 'bits' for practice.' Hulls to the 'completed woodwork' stage will be available at the end of the year at a keen price. Contact Peter Firebug.



Chris Lovegrove and some of the Unitec Boatbuilding boys

From Tony Adams in NSW

Hi Peter, My wife and I are situated on Taniilba Bay, Port Stephens where there are steady nor easters in season, and hardly a sail in sight. The town has a growing population and families here could do with some Firebugs. There is a catamaran club in the Bay that meets fortnightly but this seems to cater more for the late teens/early 20s age group. So I'll start with one and see where we go from there.

Our shed is 3.3 x 2.7m - so provided that I trim the ends off the stringers, I can shut the shed doors! I'll take a photo or two as I progress, and send one on launch day.

Cheers, Tony.



FireBug plans/ regos have now passed 1130 in 33 countries!



Bug launch in Paradise!



'Tots Benedicto from the island of Romblon in the Philippines writes.. Hi Pete, Here are some pictures of the newly built "Zoombug" (soombag, local word for punch) also on the Firebug facebook page. A friend is making one too and I think a Firebug fleet is beginning to shape-up here in Romblon:) We're thinking of ordering a sail for 775 just so we can see how a proper sail looks like. How much would a sail cost nowadays? Thanks! Tots



Tots and Family enjoying launch day!

Another boat in Western Australia

G'day Peter, Our FireBug is ready for the water! We had it on display over the weekend to 'show it off' and the Education Minister is travelling here on Friday to do the official launch.

Thanks again for your help along the way. Cheers, Cameron Todd, Deputy Principal Kalbarri District High WA



Another nice job in WA

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Concord & Ryde need more boats

There is hot racing going on in Sydney at Concord & Ryde Sailing Club but they would love to have more boats sailing. Ross Venner writes: 'Phil and I continue to duel at CRSC. Our race last Saturday (20th September) was a classic. A South Easter at 14 to 16 knots blowing over a strong ebb tide. To windward, with my new sail, I was able to make gains over Phil, but inevitably, downwind Phil pegged me back in the rough water with wind against the tide. I flattened the sail as much as I could and drove to windward, eventually winning by 40 seconds!'



'White Dwarf' powering to windward in a chop.

Secondhand 'Bugs wanted..

Buyers are searching for preloved FireBugs in Brisbane, contact Chris at 07 3054 2974 and in Sydney, Ross at 0418 457 020

Big Launch Day in Russell..

Ivan Manu's perfect build 'Happy Feet' was launched last week with a sailing writer from the English magazine 'Water Craft' in attendance. Peter Goad and wife Margaret enjoyed the day at Ivan's own beach in the Bay of Islands. It was a top day - we went there in the FireBug mothership, the 'Julius Pleazar' and the 'Bug sailed beautifully. Just a pity Pete left the bubbly back in the fridge!



Nice launch day at Ivan's own beach!

'Bug Launch in Johannesburg!

Mike Harrison from South Africa hadn't built a boat before and couldn't sail so it was all new experiences! After launch day and the first sail he writes..

'Hi Pete, I'm happy to report that 'Bugsy Blue' launched yesterday and sailed beautifully. I'm attaching some photos from the day.

Thanks so much for all the help and advice all along the way.

I'm going to do some more sailing on the weekend and will stay in touch.

Cheers for now, Mike'



Mike and friends having a good day!

Stewart Island School get \$\$\$\$..

Stewart Island to the south of NZ was a stop-over place for the SSANZ Around NZ Two Handed Race earlier in the year. After a very wild ride down the west coast the sailors enjoyed raising \$1000 for the local school's 'BugBuild'.



Half Moon Bay Stewart Island, NZ.



Made the Boat and the Beer!

Allan West from Inverell in NSW celebrating turning his 'Bug over with a beer he made himself! The boat is now ready for launching. More next issue..



Allan West celebrating boat-off-the-jig.

'BugNews still gets Better & Better!

Thanks for the great photos and news: Des Clark, Ray Ellis, Allan West, Cameron Todd, Ross Venner, Peter Goad, Mike Harrison, Tom Arthur, Tots Benedicto, Ken Hashimoto, Chris Lovegrove, Ray O'Brien, Josh Novaweb..

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

