



Carnarvon



Lindisfarne

**Real Life Skills
- Build a Yacht!**

'BugNews 37

**Kids and Adults
Race Together!**



Pilbara Camp School



Pleasant Point YC

FireBugs are turning up to regattas in larger numbers as clubs and owners get the hang of this extremely versatile sailboat which sails well with either kids or adults!

It's 'Bugs for All Ages!

People often ask whether the FireBug is an adult or a kid's boat in club racing. The answer is, **It's both!** The boat is quick, responsive and great fun for all ages. The clever hull shape allows it to cope with a large load. On the race track the younger sailors have a slight weight advantage in light air but in a breeze they have to match their skills against some older, experienced skippers. The challenge then is to beat the oldies and hear the hootin' and hollerin' when they do! The kids benefit enormously from tuning tips and post race talk.

In Sydney.. The CRSC sails the 'Bug with mixed ages as part of its adult afternoon programme. They can't do that with the Optimists which fill with water after a capsize and have to be rescued, while the 'Bugs pop up and continue racing.

In Carnarvon.. The CSC, over in tropical paradise WA, sails a mixed fleet of youngsters and oldies and some boats have two up - either two kids or Dad showing a child how. See far right.. The club also now has junior training funding and more boats are planned in conjunction with local schools.

In Hobart.. At the Lindisfarne Sailing Club youngsters who helped build their own superbly finished boats (see right) love sailing them, not to mention the Club's social program for 'Bug sailors: Pirates Night, Treasure Hunts, Camp Overs with open fire cooking and Twilight Racing, Movie Nights and challenges to other clubs. But kids do grow up and move on. A new-sailor recruitment program combined with a few adults sailing regularly will provide stability and continuity in the fleet. Also there are a lot more 'Bugs around Tasmania - boost the fleet?

In Christchurch.. Since the 90s the Pleasant Point Yacht Club has sailed with about 50/50 young and old and it's been very successful. Race venues include home and away. The 'Bug is easy to transport either with a stack of boats on a trailer or roof rack so regattas away at other clubs or scenic lakeside campgrounds are easy and very popular. And here's a challenge to other clubs - the biggest fleet so far 28 entries!

Let's do some Inter-Club Racing..

Several sailing clubs who do 'Bug racing regularly would like to see some inter-club competition. It's a fun idea and the only issues are distance. Perhaps to get things underway we should look at borrowing boats but use own sails and foils? Who starts the ball rolling? It would be a refreshing style of interclub racing - forget the complexities and dramas of the Olympic classes - what we envisage would be mixed fleets of kids and adults doing the racing, other family members enjoying a holiday, at a nice destination which could be part of a tour - think: NZ South Island, Hobart, Sydney, tropical Carnarvon. All the likely venues are popular tourist centres so that's a great start! Ideas are welcome.. like what about a Sydney Hobart 'Bug Regatta?



Lindisfarne's fantastic launch day.



Carnarvon mixed fleet, some reefed.

FireBug World Record Broken!

Ninety five year old Ron Maskell from Houhora in Northland NZ has built a 'Bug in quick time, to a high standard and it's a world age record. A launch day party is planned at a nearby lake later in the year. Nice job Ron!



Winners in the NZ South Island Champs - a 50/50 mix!



New Boats and Launchings

As always there has been a lot of boat building and launching in NZ, Oz and around the world over the last months.



In Nova Scotia.. Hi Peter, here is a photo of the launching last summer in the Northumberland Strait off the northern shore of Nova Scotia. The water temperature here with the tide coming in over the heated sand is 25-30 C! It was a lovely sunny day and the kids were keen for adventure. An offering of rum over the bow along with a wee dram for Poseidon made for a wonderful beginning! Cheers, David.



In Ontario, Canada.. Hi Peter, here is a picture of the build so far with grandson Nathan and myself. Regards, Bob.



In Ireland near Dublin.. David Yeates in Ireland, near Dublin, doing a tidy job with two young helpers learning fast!



In Hobart.. John Ryan built this little beauty and is keen to sail the boat himself.

'BugPlans are a Popular Gift!

Hi Peter, here is the photo of Steve opening his Chrissie present of the FireBug planpack. Cheers, Nita.



Steve Sambell of Willow Grove VIC opens his Christmas present last year. Wow! That's a good idea!

Wooden Beach Trolley



John Thetford from Whangarei NZ knocked up this beach trailer from scraps - nice job!

I Don't Want it to Finish!

Dear Peter, I am semi retired and building this for my grand children. Just as with a good book, you turn the pages slower towards the end, so as Whim's completion nears my hand slows on the tools. Thank you for your help, David



David's bird mouth mast-erpiece!

Handy Portable Bench



Des Clark's portable workbench from the Lindisfame Sailing Club group build. The top can take a wood vice to make it even better!

Thumbs Up for FireBug Builders' Enthusiasm and Ingenuity!!

In general 'Bug builders never cease to amaze me with original ideas and cool gadgetry. Warwick Mowbray who built a 'Bug with only one arm still takes the prize (see last issue) but look at these good tricks from Dugald McKellar in Brisbane.



Dugald's ingenious workbench with holes enable clamping for all corners!



Clever adjustable height saw stools!



This boat rack is on wheels so it can move the boat outside to free up the space!



The man himself Dugald McKellar with his daughters Slade and Chasely.

Thanks for the Stories and Photos!

Simon Rutherford, Des Clark, David Bruton, Ross Venner, Lynda Maskell, David Yeates jnr, Robert (Bob) McLean, Dugald McKellar, John Ryan, Nita Schultz, Ray Ellis, David Sinclair, John Thetford. Some have been held over for the next issue..

All enquiries: Peter Tait at FireBug Yachts
14 Chapel Street Russell Bay of Islands 0202
New Zealand Phone +64 21 128 5324
pete@firebug.co.nz www.firebug.co.nz

