

Real Life Skills - Build a Yacht! 'BugNews 39 Real Sailors Build their Own Boats!

FireBugs - What it's all about..

The FireBug has always primarily been about 'Build a boat and learn to sail at low cost'. It has been a great success and thousands of people, adults and children alike have had great fun building and sailing, learning and enjoying the beach and all the newly acquired skills. The big bonus is sailing in races and now there are small fleets of self built boats competing in regattas in many countries around the world. Fantastic!

New Boats Around the World.

In Queenstown New Zealand.. Retired British architect Hugh Skinner is building in a lakeside boatshed on Lake Whakatipu, New Zealand's most beautiful lake. Note that there are built in rowlocks and is that an outboard bracket Hugh?



Hugh's workshop-on-the-water. Quick dip to cool down at lunchtime?

In Yass NSW.. Suzanne Pollack is enjoying teaching herself woodwork and is very excited that a boat is coming together in the shed!



Boatbuilder in the making, Suzanne.

In Ontario, Canada.. Robert McLean is doing an immaculate job, the best I have seen for some time! The hull is complete except for final painting. Robert fits his boatbuilding between long holidays away so doesn't expect to be on the water before next northern summer.



Robert doing an immaculate job.



Hobart v Sydney. It was great fun for all, young and old. An amazing new experience for many!

Sydney Hobart Race in FireBugs!

Sydney's Concord Ryde Sailing Club sailed against Hobart's Lindisfarne Club in the first Australian Interclub/Interstate Regatta. The Derwent west of the Tasman Bridge in Hobart is just right for small boat sailing. There was a total of fourteen entries making it Australia's biggest fleet of FireBugs so far. (The current record is 26 at PPYC in Christchurch NZ.) To keep things easy and keep costs down Concord Ryde borrowed local boats for the contest.

Local knowledge combined with excellent sailing skills gave the advantage to the Lindisfarne Sailing Club Sailors and the final results were:

1st Overall, Oli Pritchard, 2nd Max Gluskie from LSC. 3rd Thom Hardman and first adult was Phil Sullivan, both from Sydney.

ALSO - second placed Max Gluskie has been selected to go to Germany to contest the Laser 4.7 radial world championship. He is one of our original Firebug builder/sailors at Lindisfarne. Well done Max!



Happy skippers at Lindisfarne Sailing Club in Hobart Tasmania



Race start with the iconic Tasman Bridge in the background



Adele (Flipper) Aucherlonie recovering from a deliberate cartwheel. 'Did you see that?' Fabo Mt Wellington in the background.

More on page 2..





Luke Franklin sailing at Concord Ryde Sailing Club in Sydney. State of the art boat

New FireBug Website

The Home Website for FireBugs is currently being re-built and will go live in the next few weeks.



The all new 'Bug website lookin' great..

In Japan at the Yokohama Boat Show..

'Dear Peter, I didn't take any photos at the Boat Show. The photos attached are the scene that we are preparing the day before opening. Unfortunately the area was like a hiding place! However I enjoyed to meet many old sailing friends I hadn't seen for a long time. It was a very enjoyable! Best Regards, Satoshi.'

'FIRE UP' - Outstanding RaceBug..

John Franklin's boat was built in just three weeks in a gotta-be-finished-before-Xmas rush a couple of years ago. The beautifully set up and presented boat is pictured above being sailed by John's son Luke at the Sydney club Concord Ryde at Parramatta. The wooden trim is walnut. Nice job!

In China.. Rodney Zhang writes, 'My boat is now stored at a holiday resort in Changchun City. I'll finish my degree of Marine Technology this year at Unitech in Auckland and may go back to China to start my career..'

Sweet lines of the FireBug



Nice lines, no wonder they slip along so fast! Patrick Sullivan in 'Blue Bug' at CRSC.



Rodney's boat under construction.



'Satoshi's FireBug at the Show

In Hopper's Crossing Victoria..

Damian Royes writes - 'My dream retirement plan is to build a yacht big enough to sail from Melbourne to North Queensland, to escape the winters! The 'Bug is the first step in achieving this goal.'

In Ireland.. David Yeates junior's 'BugBuild has suffered a setback with another wee babe in the family taking all the attention. Sonny boy is impatient to get on with the build..

A 'Bug Championship in Oz

After the success of the interclub event hosted by Lindisfarne Sailing Club in competition with Concord Ryde Sailing Club last April, Firebug Dinghies Australia will hold its first open championship at CRSC in Sydney on February 18/19 2017. There will be adult and junior prizes in keeping with club's philosophy of 'Grey Fleet' and 'Green Fleet' and a prize for the best presented boat.

Some boats will be available for loan to overseas/interstate visitors.

Details will be on the Australian website: <http://firebugdinghiesaustralia.weebly.com/>

Psst, would it be too early to put money on New Zealand?



Damien doing a nice tidy job.

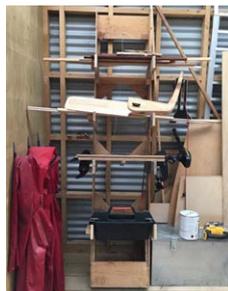


'OK then, I'll finish it myself!'

Thanks for the Stories and Photos!

Des Clark and various LSC members, Hugh Skinner, Ross Venner, Damien Royes, David Yeates, Rodney Zhang, Robert McLean, Suzanne Pollock, Satoshi Akita and Nicole Williams. Some will appear in the next issue..

More Action on the FireBug FaceBook Page Soon..



Building jig shelf!

'Gadget Corner'

Hugh Skinner's photo showing the up-ended building jig being used to store all the parts as things progress!



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