

# Learn Life Skills - Build a Yacht! 'BugNews 42 Real Sailors Build their Own Boats!

## Watch a One Hour 'BugBuild!



Paul Cleaver in Adelaide with the team are well advanced with their boat. **And** you can see it all on YouTube in rapid time-lapse video. It's amazing, all those arm actions, no wonder body parts ache after a while. There are ten videos to date with more to come. It's a hilarious must watch, start with: Part One: <https://youtu.be/lkfnbnUQWLA>

## Koos Winnips RaidExtreme



Well known Dutch 'BugBuilder and Classic Yacht owner Koos Winnips (see Downloads Page on the website) continues his nautical adventures.. And this time with another RaidExtreme event in the lakes and canals of northern Netherlands. It looks like fantastic fun and you can see it and similar adventures on YouTube:<https://youtu.be/zbPWICpW0gQ> and <https://youtu.be/GU6QYOL8vkQ>

Excerpt from the entry list.. *'Some interesting new boats are confirmed, we will have an international meet, with David Valverde of Balogh sail designs especially flying over from the United states, Matthieu and Thomas Bonnier will race their all new Liteboat XP, Hans Arends brings his i550 (with cycle drive) and we will have our Wet Bicycle. Luckily we will still have lots of normal people, with the "Bremers" racing Gargantua, a 12 person canoe weighing in at 2 tonnes, driven by Maori testosterone fuelled muscle men, Bert Schilder on a Nacra 6.0, a Doryplume, goat island skiff, ketch rigged folding canoe..'*

## Classic Rocker by Norbert in Berlin



Norbert's rocking chair.

'BugBuilders often have interesting sidelines generating income.. Norbert in Berlin writes: *'When we are not boat building In our workshop we build classic rocking chairs by hand. It's the artisan craftsman way in which the woods are selected and shaped. We use saws, hand planes and chisels. The chairs are built to order. Depending on wood species and effectuation prices start at 1700€. Please do contact us for a customized offer and a personal rocking chair.'* <https://www.drechsler-norbert-pauli.com/>

## Unique 'Bug Event in Christchurch

Tom Arthur writes, 'Enjoy your sailing more in a 2.4m (8') FireBug! On the 11<sup>th</sup> November we had our local regional Canterbury Championships. **Most of the sailors were adults.** The event was rather unique in that we sailed in a man-made lake in the middle of a housing subdivision! **The lake is 300m wide and 900m long with a tapering canal** like arm extending at right angles from each end. The course was a windward leeward, two triangles and another windward leeward. This took around **25 minutes to complete.** The first 3 races were sailed in a wind of 4 to 8 knots.



Lake Pegasus easy sailing. Duck when you go under the bridge!

After lunch our Race officer Alison Rutherford had come up with a devious one-off course. We started near the middle of the lake, sailed hard on the wind to the northern end then **had to beat up the tapering canal to a mark right at its end where it was only about 9m wide!** As you can imagine there was a fair bit of tight tacking and avoiding of other boats going on. **This is part of what I love about sailing Firebugs, you can take advantage of nearly every shift because they tack so nimbly.** Then we reached the whole length of the lake to the southern canal and on the way had to **sail under a suspension bridge with only 200mm clearance** above our masthead. We cringed waiting for the crash! After repeating more tight manoeuvres up and down the southern canal we reached back to the finish. I managed to pass Paul (25 kg heavier than me) in the first canal but we stayed together for the duration of the race to the finish. **I mention this to point out despite being small boats these little beauties are capable of being competitive in the hands of competent heavier sailors.**

We finished the day off with a further two races on the morning course. After derigging we held our **prizegiving at the lakeside with afternoon tea and lots of cake, biscuits etc. It was another very special FireBug occasion, five races and fabulous fun for young and old!**

We thank our super competent race officer, **Alison Rutherford**, PPYC volunteers who helped on rescue boats and other duties.'

Overall Results: 1st Tom Arthur, 2nd Paul Duder, 3rd Scott Lancaster, 4th and first Junior Alex Humphrey..

Tom Arthur contact: [tom.arthur@orcon.net.nz](mailto:tom.arthur@orcon.net.nz)

## World's Best Paint Job?



PDQ looking very sparkly in Christchurch NZ



Alex Humphrey, sailed what I believe is the Firebug with the world's most spectacular paint job. The panels change colour in different lights, there are metallic finishes, subtle swirls and imitation woodgrain areas, all done to a meticulous glossy finish. I was agog while inspecting it and I challenge Firebug owners around the world to send in photos of anything better! Tom Arthur, contact details above..



## David Hann in Wonga Park VIC



"Hi Pete, It is some time since my last call to you. I love my sail, convey my appreciation to your sailmaker. My boat is almost complete, only a few very minor items to finish. I have enjoyed the build so much I am seriously considering building another so I can easily find someone else to go sailing with. Cheers, David."

'Harlequin' ready to launch (almost).

## 2500k Delivery trip in Canada

Hello Peter, the boat named "Puddle Jumper" by my grandson was finally launched for its maiden voyage on August 4 at White Lake in the interior of British Columbia, Canada. The winds were calm to non-existent for the four days we were at the lake. The photo was taken during the only puff lasting about 3 minutes. This has been the only sail so far but it responds to light air beautifully. There are over 550 wild fires in the province raging with heavy smoke over a good portion of the country. When conditions improve more sailing will follow.

I live in Thunder Bay, Ontario and built the boat here. We packed the boat in the back of the truck and towing our 21' trailer drove over 2,500 km to White Lake to give it as a birthday present for my grandson during a family gathering.

Regards, Bob



'Puddle Jumper' afloat in White Lake, Canada



## Regatta Dates for the South Island

Tom Arthur advises regatta dates: **South Island Championships** at Stewart's Gully Sailing Club March 2-3.

**Lake Mahinapua Regatta** (Inaugural FireBug West Coast Champs) in Westland February 9-10. Camp by the lake! Further info: tom.arthur@orcon.net.nz \*\*Aussie entrants are welcome, borrow a boat!

## Thanks for the Stories and Photos!

Koos Winnips, Ross Venner, David Hann, David Lincolne, Norbert Pauli, Ross Venner, Robert McLean, Alex Humphrey, Tom Arthur, Paul Cleaver, Doug Collins, Bill Barry and some will appear in the next issue.



## 'BugBuild for Boys at Concord Ryde.

Contrary to the exclusive image, dinghy sailing is a low cost sport that is accessible to people of all ages. Look deeper, what are the biggest challenges facing families today? High on the list will inevitably be getting their young people established in their careers. With sailing combined with boatbuilding a young person can write on their CV, 'Sport - sailing, hobby - boatbuilding. I sail the boat I built.' That will get interviews and not only out of curiosity.



To quote a local builder/'Bug sailor' - 'If that lad finishes his boat and wants an apprenticeship, send him to me!' With funding donated through The Australian Sports Foundation Concord Ryde Sailing Club approached local high schools. Young people were invited to complete our Learn to Sail programme and through the winter - build a 'Bug'. Norglass provided \$700 of paint to help with the project.



Contact Ross:  
[Rossvenner667@gmail.com](mailto:Rossvenner667@gmail.com)

## Win-a-Sail Contest

The Win-a-Sail Contest has only one entry. It's well written but it can't be a contest with only one entry! So come on, it's \$500 worth! How you enter.. Write 3-400 words on **'What makes my FireBug so Special!'** Judging will take age into consideration. Email your entry to [pete@firebug.co.nz](mailto:pete@firebug.co.nz) and include a photo of yourself and the boat, partly built is ok.



## Geneva Christian College

The college in Latrobe Tasmania are building two boats and expect to be sailing on their 'own lake' this summer. Furniture maker and long time sailor Michael Thompson is leading the team.



Michael, Zac, Darcy, Elthan and Danny

## Paul Cleaver and the Team



Paul and the Minions. See lead story..

## Bernie Collins in Port Pirie

Bernie disappeared over the horizon without permission before his 'BugBuild got properly underway. Son Doug continued the job and the boat's looking pretty good at this stage. Dad would be delighted!



The Collins Family 'Bug' - perfect!

## Fleet Bigger on the Waimak

Stalena O'Brian loves her new boat. Dad has bought another 'Bug and now they can do match races! The Waimakariri Sailing Club is based near Christchurch NZ.



Stalena in the Dawn Treader

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