

What's Up?

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

Number 101

December 2011



New Zealand Kitefliers Association Inc.

Visit our website at : www.nzka.org.nz

Contents

Presidents Notes	4
Upcoming events	4
Empty spaces in the sky	5
Taupo Home Built Kiteday	5
Pukeora get together	6-7
Dannevirke Lion Kite Day	8
Kite Travels	9
Trade Directory	9
2011 Committee	10
Flying sites/Regional reps	10
Malcolm in Norfolk Islands	12

Photos

Front Cover : Photo of Malcolm Hubbert putting on a display at Ambury

Page 5 Photo of Revele Gillard

Two photos of R McCully's flowform flying at Taupo Photo R McCully

Page 6 and 7 All photos by Diana Hough

Page 6 clockwise from top left :

Anne Whitehead

Jamie Moore

John Whibley

John Mason

Page 7 bottom photos

Ian Russell (left)

Sharon Russell (right)

Page 8 Photos by R Wotton of R van Weers monkeys and angel fish

Photos by P Robinson flying in Nepal

What's Up?

Published by the New Zealand Kitefliers Association.

P.O. Box 56,
Wellington,
New Zealand.

Visit us on the web at:

www.nzka.org.nz

What's Up? Is distributed free to NZKA members

Editor: Peter Whitehead

E-mail:

drachen@paradise.net.nz

Correction note

Last issue we published a list of contact names and phone numbers. Members should be advised that the phone number for Ted and Gretchen Howard should read (03) 548 8707

Presidents Notes

The year rolls on and again it is Christmas. It is amazing how fast the years seem to go now. We published some articles a few years ago about keeping safe in the sun. This has been brought home to me this year with two cataract operations. Some of the need for these can be put down to the fact that I did not always wear sun glasses in my youth, and my kites always seem to fly into the sun. The operations have been very successful and I am now amazed at the things I could not see around me. There is certainly a lot more dust and someone has turned up the brightness of all the computer screens I use. So I am now a firm advocate of sunglasses to keep your eyes safe.

Notes about the AGM and other flying early in the year are on the following pages.

So on behalf of the Committee I wish all the members a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. I hope that we will get to see lots of members at the AGM and other events in the New Year.



Up coming events

Nelson 2012

Nelson Kiteday will be held on Sunday 22nd of January 2012. Leading up to the Sunday will be set up on the field on Friday, and a fish and chips (take away) dinner on Friday night. Saturday will be a test day on the field ending with a Bar-b-que at Ted and Gretchens. Sunday will be the big day with public, kiting events (Rokkaku challenge, alitude sprint etc) and the show kites. As usual there will be camping allowed on the field to help with site security.

2012 NZKA NATIONAL FESTIVAL

The 2012 NZKA national kite festival will be held at Springvale park, Wanganui, at Waitangi Weekend, February 4, 5 and 6.

It's been decided that there won't be an auction this year, owing to a dwindling attendance and the surplus of NZKA funds on hand.

The AGM will be held on Sunday, February 5, at 9.30am. members will be notified of the venue at the festival.

Any inquiries should be directed to Richard Wotton, at rwotton@xtra.co.nz or 06 343 2770.

Chateau at New Year

The Lodge at the Chateau is booked and the golf course is available on New Years day. Make a time of it and head to the Chateau for New Year. Kiteflying from 10.00am onwards on the picturesque golf course leading up to the Chateau. Please contact R McCully for more information and booking if you intend to join in the group dining.

Eltham Kiteday

The Eltham Lions kitefly will be on the Sunday 18 of March 2012 at the farm paddock on Neill Road (just south of Eltham township). From about 10 in the morning till 3 or 4 depending on the wind. This is a great place to fly with a huge open area and a fence to tie off to, and usually steady winds. There is accommodation booked at Stratford Heritage Lodge for the Saturday and Sunday nights on a first come basis. Please contact Anne and Peter Whitehead to reserve your room.

Check on the web site for any other festivals in the next few months. And any updates to information about these festivals.

Empty Spaces in the Sky

Revele Gillard passed away on the 24th November, aged 81, after a long illness. Revele had been a member since 1990, attending kite days and festivals around the North Island until ill health gradually restricted him to only flying at Fergusson Park, Tauranga.

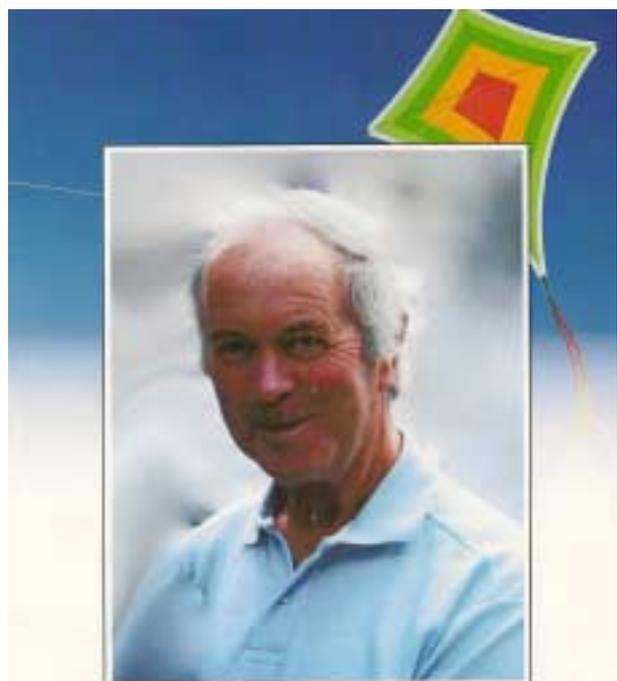
Rosemary and I would go from Rotorua to Fergusson Park to enjoy the nice sea breezes typical of coastal locations and the friendship of fellow fliers. We would start with a quick call to Revele to get a local wind forecast and then let him know our expected arrival time. If Revele's forecast was right we could see his kites long before reaching Fergusson Park.

Revele flew his kites high so as to enjoy the steady sea breezes and avoid the turbulence from the trees around the park. It was nice to see his favourite kites on display at the funeral service.

Revele was a great ambassador for kiting with the public.

Revele was a precise kite maker. His sewing was exact and he used "imitation" carbon fibre – dowel painted black and varnished. His kites included facet and flat kites. Perhaps his signature kite was his "swallow tail", developed from a small paper kite. It is an excellent flier in light winds.

Fellow fliers and friends, Jim and Mary Ayers, Jim and Julian Court, Jamie Moore and Ray and Rosemary McCully attended the funeral.



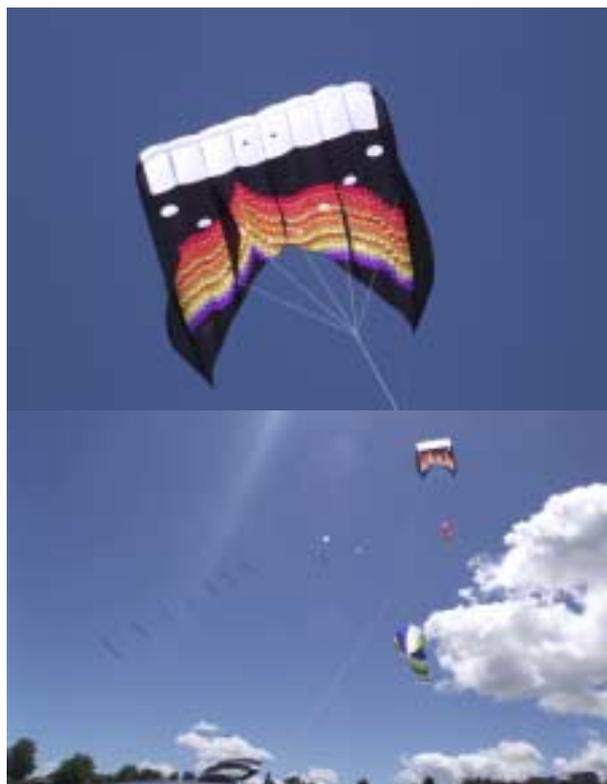
Taupo Home Built Kitefly 2011

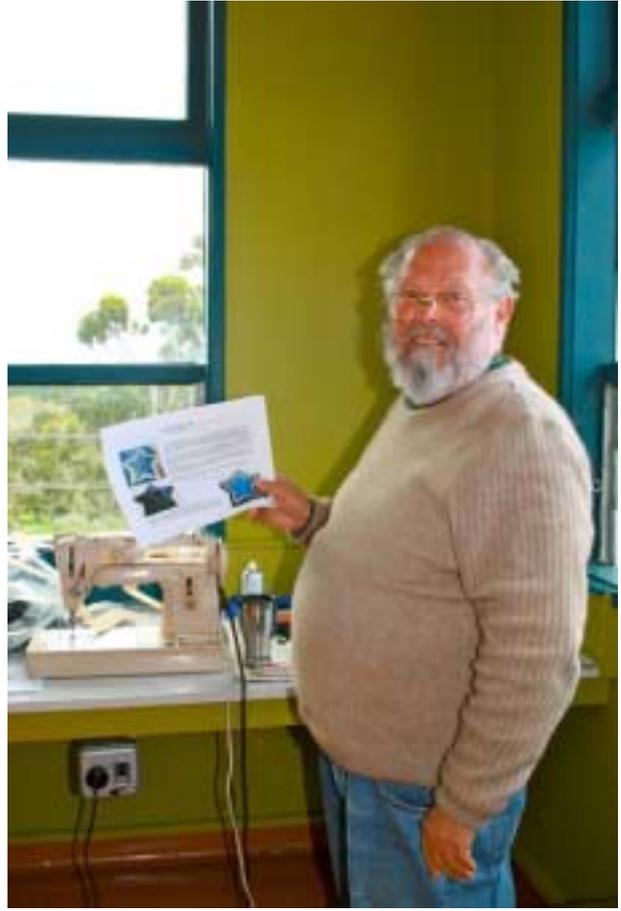
Taupo has the reputation of having very light wind or no wind on kite flying days. We all remember the Taupo AGM held a few years ago when not only did we have no wind, but the hottest day recorded in 50 years. However, it has been noticed that when a certain Whanganui member leaves the field to go home, the breeze comes up! Fortunately/unfortunately this member could not attend the 8 Home Built Kitefly this year resulting in strong winds straight off the lake for both days. Warren Ellery tells me that the wind averaged 50kph so flying was a challenge, but there was little change in speed or direction. It took 5 people to bring down the McCully's flowform at the end of the day.

Despite the local council breaking it's word to advertise the event on the web, paper and radio there was a good turn out of onlookers, some bringing kites. Most of these folk saw Ray and Rosemary McCully's huge Molar Flowform with a large turbine windsock on the line sounding like a power generating windmill. There is no doubt that the general public likes their kites big.

This weekend only attracted 6 NZKA members and it may be held at the wrong time of the year or the wrong venue. I would appreciate your suggestions for next year.

Jim Court







Pukeora – Not the Labour Weekend Kite making Get together

Pukeora was again the venue for our annual kitemaking retreat. It's the perfect spot to get away from it all. Also for boys and their toys - model cars and helicopters, there was the added advantage of large floor spaces for cars and kites

There was much indecision on what to do for the weekend but after several discussions with folk at Ohakea we decided to work on UFO's (unfinished kites).

The weekend was fairly non stressful – most arriving on Friday evening and leaving on Monday with some doing Saturday & Sunday only but all were happy to complete or make substantial progress on their projects. We also had a couple of rugby games to watch as well, so all in all a busy and satisfactory weekend was had by all.



DANNEVIRKE LIONS CLUB KITE FLY

This event in early October was a pretty low-key affair from an NZKA perspective, attended by Sue and Robert van Weers, John Whibley and myself.

I was the first kiter to arrive and the Lions were so pleased to see me that I scored a free hotdog! There's got to be the occasional perk somewhere along the line.

The breeze was almost non-existent at first, and with pine trees at my back it took a bit of coaxing to loft even a light-wind kite. After a while it strengthened enough for Robert to fly his pilot and a string of line laundry for several hours – until the wind dropped and so did the kite. Flying line meeting power line usually isn't good and this was one of those occasions. One of the people manning the gate tried to pull the kite down and somehow managed to pull two power lines together, causing a massive boom and a power cut. Fortunately, the cut only affected one house at the end of the road.

Robert had a young assistant with his kites, Adam Blaesky, from the USA. Adam's father, Brian, and Robert became acquainted through an Internet kite forum, and Adam came here with some friends to see a bit of the World Cup rugby then stayed on after his friends went home.

The Lions were selling little kites for the kids, but in spite of a lot of energy being expended, the very light breeze meant that not many of them flew. However, the little tackers were enjoying themselves, flying or not, so that's the most important thing.

R Wotton.



Kite Travels

In April this year my wife Penny and I travelled to Nepal to do some walking in the Himalayas. As usual I packed a couple of soft kites to travel with me.

We took the early morning plane to a place called Jomsom in the Annapurna area which is about 9,000 ft above sea level. We then had a hair raising jeep ride to old the village of Muktinath which is about 4,000 ft higher up. We clambered up through the thin air to visit an ancient temple. The sky was blue. The breeze was good so, much to the interest of the locals, a kite was unfurled and launched.

The breeze was only a breeze at ground level. At about 100 feet up the kite took off like marlin on a fishing line. Muktinath is at the head of the deepest river valley in the world at 12,000 feet or so below the surrounding mountaintops. The wind blows up the valley and, as the day wears on, increases in strength. That is why the air flights leave early in the morning. After 11.00 am the wind gets too strong for them to take off and land safely.

We flew the kite on the way back down the path to the village with the accompaniment of children, pilgrims and sherpas. There was much interest in holding and, on one occasion, letting go of the string which sent a team of kite chasers away across the scree slopes to catch up with the bouncing reel. The reel eventually got caught up in a piece of scrub but, in the meantime the kite had made the best of its freedom and dragged off most of the line. By the time we had everything back under control the kite was a smallish speck in the distance flying further and higher than it could ever have flown in NZ. A 13,000ft head start will do that.

Once we had persuaded the kite to come back down we adjourned to a village tea house for hot lemon, warm Raksi (the local brandy) and cold beer. We spent the next 10 days trekking back to our starting point at Pokhara. Flying kites at Muktinath remains a highlight.

P. Robinson

Photos on previous page

Trade Directory

Below is a key list of what kite retailers around the country are offering.

Key: SL-Single line, DL-Dual line, C-Custom made kites, Bu-Buggies, F-Fabric, Ka-Kite making accessories, Re-Repairs, Kw-Kite making workshops, D-Demonstrations, BM-Books and Magazines, W-Wind related articles, G-Gift items, O-Other recreational items, MO-Mail order catalogue, KK-Kite kits, Ex-Exhibitions, RL-Reference library.

Kiteworks

111 Symonds St. Auckland.

Phone/Fax (09) 358 0991

Services offered: SL, DL, C, Bu, F, Ka, Re and W.

Raven Kites

1 Victoria Avenue. Wanganui.

Phone (06) 348 5805, Fax (06) 348 5806

Services offered: SL, DL, Bu, C and power kites.

Rainbow Flight Kites

19 North Road, Nelson.

Phone/Fax (03) 548 8707

E-mail: info@kites-rainbowflight.co.nz

Website: www.kites-rainbowflight.co.nz

SL, DL, C, Bu, F, Kw, D, W, O, KK and Ex.

Skylines and Bylines

2 Opawa Road – corner of Opawa,

Wilsons and Shakespeare Roads.

P.O. Box 2194, Christchurch.

Phone (03) 365 3907, Fax (03) 337 2669

Mobile (027) 431 7716

E-mail: julie@kites.co.nz

Services offered: SL, DL, C, F, Ka, Re, BM, W, G, O, Mo, KK, Ex and RL.

2011 Committee

President

Peter Whitehead
59 Makara Road
Karori
Wellington
Ph 04 476 7227
drachen@paradise.net.nz

Secretary/Treasurer

Ray McCully
7 Goodwin Ave
Rotorua
Ph 07 348 3828
mccullyR@xtra.co.nz

Immediate Past President

Geoff Campbell
Computer Valet
1 Victoria St
Wanganui
Ph 06 348 5805
027 4485 360
geoff@comval.co.nz

Committee Members

Ian Russell
Rotowhenua Rd, RD2
Napier
Ph 06 844 0689
flyinthru@slingshot.co.nz

Richard Wotton
44 Wairere Rd
Wanganui
Ph 06 343 2770
rwotton@xtra.co.nz

Anne Whitehead
59 Makara Rd
Karori
Wellington
Ph 04 476 7227
drachen@paradise.net.nz

Warren Ellery
41 Tamatea Rd
Taupo
Ph 07 378 1418
anyupholstery@slingshot.co.nz

Committee Appointments

Membership

Ray McCully
Ph 07 348 3828
rmccullyR@xtra.co.nz

Corporate Goods

Anne Whitehead
Ph 04 476 7227
drachen@paradise.net.nz

Webmaster

Robert Van Weers
85 Pitt Street
Palmerston North
Ph 06 354 5765
webmaster@nzka.org.nz

What's Up Editor

Peter Whitehead
Ph 04 476 7227
drachen@paradise.net.nz

Flying Sites/Regional Reps

Auckland

Bastion Point
Contact : Perrin at Kiteworks
Ph 09 358 0991
kiteworks@xtra.co.nz

Bay of Plenty

Fergusson Park, Tauranga (3rd Sunday)
Lake front by Sound Shell, Rotorua (only when the wind is off the lake) Taharepa Reserve on the lake front at Taupo
Contact : Ray McCully,
Ph 07 348 3828
mccullyR@xtra.co.nz

Christchurch (Last Sunday)

Hansen's Park, Opawa
Contact : Julie Adam,
Ph 03 365 3907
julie@kites.co.nz

Napier/Hastings (2nd Sunday)

Anderson Park, Greenmeadows
Contact : Sharon Russell,
Ph 06 844 0689
rj.russells@paradise.net.nz

Nelson (3rd Sunday) Neale Park

Contact : Ted Howard
Ph 03 548 8707
kitesfun@ihug.co.nz

Wanganui (Every Sunday)

Springvale Park
Contact : Richard Wotton
Ph 06 343 2770
rwotton@xtra.co.nz

Wellington (1st Sunday)

Elsdon Park, Porirua
Contact : Anne and Peter Whitehead
Ph 04 476 7227

