

# WHAT'S UP?

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

Number 102

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New Zealand Kitefliers Association Inc.  
Visit our website at : [www.nzka.org.nz](http://www.nzka.org.nz)



## ***Up Coming Events***

The Blue balls - Kite Buggy racing at Raglan, 2nd and 3rd of June .

Matariki Kite Day - Single line family day 21st July.

Not the Labour Weekend Kitemaking Workshop. See emails from R McCully.

Deadline for articles for the next issue is 1 August 2012.

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## ***What's Up?***

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## ***Membership***

Welcome back to Peter Clark from Auckland who has rejoined the NZKA after a number of years away.

Welcome to new members Marcel Lagrand and Alan Wichman from Hamilton and John Russell from Katikati

This will be the last Whats Up for those few members who have not paid their 2012 subscriptions.

## ***Presidents Words***

Time still rolls on. We have had the AGM and summer. Winter is upon us with cold clear windless days. Wellington has missed a couple of events because of too much wind and rain. And we have also missed some Sunday fly days because of no wind. Perhaps there was wind at the park, but there certainly was none at home.

You will have noticed that the magazine looks a little smaller. The changed size has been done to try and cut printing costs, and to cut postage costs.

There has been a change on the committee this year with Richard Wotton standing down. I expressed thanks to Richard at the AGM, but that was probably not enough, and I would like to reiterate the point here that Richard has been the editor of the magazine for many years and did a sterling job. He has also been a helpful committee member and given freely of his time to help organize Whanganui flying days and the AGM. And also he has been a willing contributor the magazine. We thank him sincerely for all the time he has given us. John Mason is returning to the committee willingly, and again we will welcome his input and words of wisdom.



We expect that the Not the Labour Weekend kite making retreat will happen in early November. Check the web site and next issue for confirmed dates (but keep the first two weekends penciled in for the event). There will also be a change of places for the event as Pukeora is pricing itself off the market. We will still hold the event in the central North Island so it is close to everyone.

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## ***How do you create 'crappy' weather?***

Every first Sunday in December my Johnsonville Lions Club has a kite day. We plan it some months ahead, advertise and hold it the day after our local community Xmas parade. My Lions Club organise that parade also.

For 10 out of the past 11 years we have held a Xmas parade in brilliant weather on the Saturday, but come the kite day ..... probably three out of five are cancelled because of awful weather, most unkind for flying. Three years ago we did have a really great kite day, and every year we hope for another, to no avail.

This last Xmas after we cancelled the day it sort of cleared up in the afternoon and just one flier turned up for a brief fly.

So what to do?? Decided that weather in March is much more settled and our Lions Club would hold a kite day on the first Sunday in March instead of the December event. Organised Lions and BBQ stuff, booked the park and paid \$100 for the key. Organised for the 'Push Play' city council trailer with volunteers and several games for children and picked up their large four wheel trailer on a really fine Friday.

Saturday was not too bad, but come the Sunday ... really strong winds,

had been torrential rain, vehicles not allowed on soggy park, so again it was all cancelled. And the BBQ sausages were refrozen for the next event. Later on Sunday it turned out sort of reasonable, but by then it was too late.

Our new March kite fly day is now 'none for one' in success. But we won't give up trying. Our club has decided that we will plan for and hold (if we are lucky) two community kite days – one the first Sunday in December this year, and one the first Sunday in March next year.

Book your diary now (but only tentatively...) and we will see if we can create another two days of bad weather!

***Stephen Cook***



## ***Kite report from Auckland***

I had a great day with Peter Clark and Malcolm Hubbert at Heron Park on March the 4th.

We entertained the 1000's of children with teddy bear drops and big inflatable kites.

Just as I was pulling the last kite down the wind died and it fell into a tree. I had to cut the bridles off the 2m pilot kite while clinging to the top of the tree but at least I got it back . It has since been repaired and is flying well.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/52938788@N05/sets/72157629572559710/with/7130193265/>

Then on the 11th of March I went to Australia with Craig Hanson to Rosebud near Melbourne and helped to entertain a veritable multitude of families. A beautiful pace and we had nice sunny weather.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/52938788@N05/sets/72157629207609172/>

I had a Kite buggy weekend in the Dunes over Easter with a bunch of the buggy Crew .An incredible landscape to explore with the wind.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/52938788@N05/sets/72157629536521648/>

On the 15th of April another kite day at the lake house in Takapuna on the Rosmini College fields. Not much wind though and a little rain that burnt off in the afternoon.

On Anzac Day Peter Clark and I decided to have a kite fly up at Bastion point. We got his big bowl that he made and it was a hit with all the tourists that get bussed through there.

I had a delta up at about 100m that got cut and ended up floating about 1km down wind. I ended up climbing some trees and with the help of the local neighbourhood kids we got it down. It's always nice to get a wayward kite back in one piece.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/52938788@N05/sets/72157629900531267/>

*Perrin Melchior*

## **Whanganui A.G.M. Kitefly**

We arrived at Whanganui to a windless cold day in February. There were a few people valiantly trying to fly kites, but really not much was happening. We were lucky to have John and Diana on site and were treated to fresh hot scones, fresh from the oven in the 5<sup>th</sup> wheeler. I did see evidence of a few roller kites out that day. John Whibley had been buying small video cameras from Dick Smith (or somewhere) and we decided to try them on the kites. These video cameras are so small that there are only a couple of LEDs to show what is happening, and in the light we could not really work out if the camera was on or not so we did not get everything recorded that we thought we had. Better luck next time.

We had the annual general meeting on the Sunday morning and as the day was not good we ended up spending more time at Geoff's place; tasting member's offerings of home baked food. We headed off to a casual lunch and then some retreated to the motel and some of us went off to the park. Unbelievably in the 2 miles between the motel and the park the wind was quite different. At the park it was just right, at the motel it was non-existent and even after ringing people there was still an air of disbelief. Luckily we have cell phones to communicate.

We ended up having a nice days gentle flying.

*Peter Whitehead*

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## **Dannevirke kite days**

The Lions in Dannevirke have now held two successful kite days. I attended their first one held at the Dannevirke Domain about 18 months ago and had a really great day – a nice steady breeze and lots of happy families.

Last year their kite day was at the A&P showground's and was also reasonably successful, with about 5 or 6 NZKA members attending. Feedback from the Lions was really good, but they considered the area was not the best, and they learnt not to mix a kite day with another unrelated event.

This year they are going back to the Dannevirke Domain in the middle of town, and are planning for the Saturday 6 October. I hope we can support this again. I will be going and look forward to another great day.

*Stephen Cook*

## **KITE POWERED SPEED RECORDS**

On the 6th March 2012 at Ivanpah dry lake, Nevada, Brian Holgate flying a 2.7 PL Vapor and using the PL Speed Buggy set a new outright kite powered speed record of 135.34 km/hr.

Kite boarders have done 114.41 km/hr (peak) and snow kites, 119kph km/hr

Brian had been having a few problems that day- like he forgot his harness, had to borrow one, and a kite, which he wasn't that comfortable with (not having flown it before).

After a brief bit of stand-up flying to make sure everything was basically sound with the kite, lines and harness,

he then set off for a shakedown loop out onto the playa in the buggy- to check out that everything was OK with it also.

On returning to base camp, a check of the GPS's showed he had already beaten the old record of 133.40 km/hr .

This had happened as he was attempting to throw the kite away- while still accelerating., but with the bushes fast approaching.

Naturally, the day then turned a bit celebratory and no further attempts were made- although it was pretty obvious that a few longer runs might have lifted the bar higher..

And then things went a bit dodgy for the next while, with (politely





expressed) disbelief coming in from various sources- basically, I suppose, because it had all seemed too easy (though I'm sure this wasn't the view from where Brian had been sitting!)

Forensic examination of the GPS tracks eventually showed that he had indeed done what he said he'd done.

But this claim has raised all the traditional queries, demands, and other agendas of record setting in general.

It's a swamp that I'm inclined to wade into -even though I do have a vested interest in this one.

In the bad old days before GPS's and other accurate instruments were widely and inexpensively available,

setting wind powered speed records (like the sailing speed records) required fixed courses with a start and a finish, and experts to record the elapsed time for each run, accurately measure the distance, and then convert these data into average speeds.

As the set up to do this requires expensive infrastructure, many volunteer helpers, and (often) paid officials, such records can usually only be challenged once a year for a short period and at a notified location.

Which is not optimal, because weather and course conditions during that week will be rarely if ever optimal.

It is a fairly level playing field though; provided you're persistent, live in the right country, can get the time off to



attend, have enough money to pay for access by way of entry fee or whatever and get lucky with your wind slot.

But even if you can tick all these boxes, it will still always produce records that are less than what is actually achievable.

Because there is always just one course relative to the true wind direction at any moment that will allow maximum speed. Five degrees either way and speed noticeably drops off. Having a fixed course, even if it can be re-aligned from run to run, will not allow competitors to attain their best speeds- except for those legendary “perfect runs” that are about as rare as winning the lottery.

I’m not in any way suggesting that records set under these restrictive conditions are invalid or lacking in value. All credit to those who strive

against these odds and come out on top- sure luck does play a part, but it’s also noticeable that the luck seems to favour the most skilful, especially if they also try hardest for longest.

But I am saying that this record setting game needn’t be such a lottery.

And I am saying that a fundamental function of record setting is as a carrot to improve our equipment and lift people’s skills- and that institutionalised record setting doesn’t do this as well as it could.

We should embrace the democratisation of record setting that has been made possible now by new technology.

The more people who get out there and have a go, the more rapidly kite sport activities will develop- and here is an opportunity to give them opportunity, and status for doing so.



And make no mistake about this, we're in an arms race with every other recreational activity.

Just because kiteboarding has basically won the hearts and minds of those who in a previous generation would have been windsurfing doesn't show that there isn't another activity spluttering around in the shadows that could suddenly find its wings and see us off in turn.

And as for record verification; why do fixed rules and conditions need to be met before a record will be accepted?- Who says?!

The court of public opinion can (and does) make it's judgements without reference to institutional rule books.

If someone claims a new kite speed record- in any category- with just a snapshot of a speed on a single GPS then they probably won't be believed.

If they have three GPS's in the same frame all showing similar numbers, publish the tracks, and video from their helmet cam, and have witnesses who verify the general context, then it's highly unlikely that they won't be believed- almost inconceivable even.

And if some self appointed person or body then comes along and says it doesn't count because of some bureaucratic shortcoming, then it will be that person or body's credibility and reputation that will suffer, not the record claimant's.

Nor does GPS verification have to apply only to peak speeds; the technology is quite capable of capturing speed over straight line distance, if this is what those who are interested are more comfortable with.

*Peter Lynn.*

*Ashburton, March 28th 2012*



## ***Eltham***

Our son Cory had come back to New Zealand after 18 years away and had been down visiting Peter Lynn and my sister and we said you must be back in the North Island for Eltham Kite Festival. Cory managed to get back in time so we set off for Eltham on the Saturday, to visit my parents on the way.

Unknown the Saturday was St Patricks day and the local eatery (Colonel Malones) was populated by a different group of people than usual. There was a little more green in the air than usual. And a few more interesting sites on the streets as well. As usual a good time was had by all who were there.

On to Sunday and the flying. My

memories are that it was a pretty good day. There were some comments about one of my lifter kites being a better stunt kite than a lifter, but we will let that pass. We got a reasonable amount of flying done on the day. And then we all stayed for an extra night at the accommodation. We must be getting old and taking things easy.

I think it was another good day.

*Peter Whitehead*



## ***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**

New Brighton Beach

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

rl.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

### **Wellington (1st Sunday)**

Eldson Park, Porirua

Contact : Anne and Peter

Whitehead

Ph 04 476 7227

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## ***Photo Credits***

Front Cover : The full

Brassington Star kite train. Kites by Ray and Rosemary McCully, Photo by Anne Whitehead

Page 2 : All photos by D. Hough. Clockwise from top left.

Diana Hough's Rollers first flight

Malcolm Hubbert with kite

David Bowie

Ray and Rosemary McCully's latest creation

Page 5 : NZKA Bear. Photo R. McCully

Page 8 – 11 : All photos courtesy of Peter Lynn

Page 12 : Eltham Kiteday by R. McCully

Page 15 : All photos by D. Hough. Clockwise from top left. Anne Whitehead's mockfoil  
Geoff Campbell's Crown Bol  
Malcolm Hubbert's Swallows  
Geoff Campbell's Panda bear



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## **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](mailto:info@kites-rainbowflight.co.nz)  
Website:  
[www.kites-rainbowflight.co.nz](http://www.kites-rainbowflight.co.nz)  
SL, DL, C, Bu, F, Kw, D, W, O, KK and Ex.

## **Skylines and Bylines**

Phone (03) 365 3907  
Mobile (027) 431 7716  
E-mail: [julie@kites.co.nz](mailto:julie@kites.co.nz)  
web site : [www.kites.co.nz](http://www.kites.co.nz)  
Services offered: SL, DL, C, F, Ka, Re, BM, W, G, O, Mo, KK, Ex and RL.