

# WHAZ'S UP?

The Newsletter for Kitefliers Number 103 September 2012



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



## ***Up coming events***

Dannevirke is Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October – mid morning onwards at the Domain in middle of town

Ambury Farm Park kite day 7<sup>th</sup> October

Let's fly a kite at Waihi Beach 7<sup>th</sup> October 10.00 a.m till whenever at Island View reserve, Seaforth Road, Waihi Beach

Annual Kite making Work Shop 10 – 11 Nov Ohakune

Taupo 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November

Flight 4 Life Kite day at Ashburton. 24<sup>th</sup> November

Chateau at Ruapehu 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013

Nelson Summertime Kite Festival.

Neale Park. 18 – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2013  
22<sup>nd</sup> annual event

Brighton Beach 27th January, more info next issue.



Three Googleflex kites joined together. See article on page 9 about the workshop to make these kites.

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Published by the New Zealand Kitefliers Association.

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

Visit us on the web at:

[www.nzka.org.nz](http://www.nzka.org.nz)

What's Up? Is distributed free to NZKA members

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Cover Photo By A Whitehead

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Welcome to Simon and Lyndall Chisnall from Ashburton

## ***Presidents Words***

The kite flying season has begun. Although some would argue it is now not stopping to the same extent during winter, what with Matariki and other events. The year is filling up quickly with festivals that people want to hold so there should be plenty of kite flying to choose from. And as we talk to people there are more people interested in holding events in their neighborhood.

I would like to talk about two kitefliers who have died recently. Charlie Watson : although he was not a member at the time of his death, he had been a member for many years, and a supporter of the NZKA. We are lucky to have a couple of kites that he had made, and the world is a richer place for his innovations.

Jorgen Moller Hansen: was a friend of mine from Denmark. He never made it to New Zealand (he did get to Bondi one year), but was always fun to be around. He originally thought I came from Zeeland in Holland and that I spoke very good English. (He spoke Danish, German, English and some Spanish that I know of) When I informed him that was the only language I spoke he was really taken aback. I think he thought I had misheard the question. Later on we straightened out where I came from and we managed to catch up over the years many times



at festivals around the World. I wish he could have got to New Zealand and more of you met him and his kites.

As usual some people seem to have no idea of the practicalities of holding an event and want to have us fly in the most inhospitable places. One example of this is the old railway land in Palmerston North. This is covered in trees and has roads on both sides.

We have just had the annual day at Wanganui and Ohakea, and this year was beautiful light winds. Compared to some of the years when we have had standard strong Manawatu winds, this was bliss. Talking to the commander of the air cadets at the end of the event, this looks as though it will be an annual event from their point of view from now on.



# Let's Fly A Kite

*"Kite Flying is Fun"*



**Make, Borrow, Buy or Grab a KITE**

FREE Fun Family Outing

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2012**  
10am Onwards




**Island View Reserve**  
Seaforth Road, Waihi Beach

**Contact:** John Russell  
**Email:** [letsflyakite@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:letsflyakite@yahoo.co.nz)  
**Txt/Mob:** 027 281 7629  
**Phone:** 07 549 4209



*The sky is big enough for everyone so 'Let's Fly a Kite!'*

Let's Fly a Kite' is an opportunity for people to fly kites at the same place at the same time.  
The Co-ordinators accept no responsibility for any damage to property or person.

**Flight 4 Life** is a kite day where we are trying to raise money for CANTEEN - supporting kids with cancer.

There will be kites of all shapes and sizes, including animals, sea creatures and other flying objects, some as long as 30 meters.

There will also be the following:

- \* Rokkaku battles (Japanese kite fighting) for the general public to try.

- \* Kite building for kids so that everyone can fly a kite.

So come down for a picnic and make a day of it at Lake Hood.





## *Preserving a Legacy*

Longtime New Zealand kiteflier and power kiter, Charlie Watson succumbed to cancer this month. Fighting to the end, Charlie had started a facebook group, Power Kitters with Cancer, where, as he said, fighters could “brag, and moan and stuff. No commercial side or hidden agenda.” A kite flier for over 45 years, Charlie was the son of another noted Kiwi kiteflier, Logan Fow. Charlie worked to preserve the kites collected by his father, throughout Southeast Asia over forty years ago. He was in the process of donating many of these kites to the Drachen Foundation upon his untimely passing.



Photo by Ted Howard

Charlie was one of nine children and in his adult life he was actively involved in power kiting, specifically kite buggying – developed by countryman Peter Lynn. Charlie authored “The Guide to Western Circuit Hard Core Kite Buggy Riding,” inspiration for buggy freestyling throughout the world. He was co-founder and chief steward of the Western Circuit Kite Buggy Series started in 1995 with the Blue Balls Buggy Bash and the Mighty Muriwai Moose meet. Involved in kite flying with his entire extended family, he could be found just weeks before his death flying one of his own box kites while his daughter land-boarded (with kites) nearby. Although there might not be pages of words to be written about Charlie, it is perhaps an honor within itself. This was a man who just DID things,



Photo by Anne Whitehead

spending his life documenting those efforts and events was not high on his list of things to do.

This is a kiter that experienced all the avenues of kiting. From single line to multiple line stunt kiting and finally to buggying, Charlie did it all. He worked designing kites for festivals and for commercial sale. Items that were sold can be seen at <http://www.gombergkites.com/e-spin.html>.

Perhaps one of the most entertaining contributions he gave to us was his charming and journalistic account of his love of kite buggying for our publication Discourse at the end of the line. Here he candidly writes about his Christmas with Peter Lynn. Possibly better than spending it with Santa.

In the last few months, the Foundation was delighted to have had the opportunity to work with him via email to finalize the gifting of his father's fighter kite collection from the 1970s. Charlie knew and appreciated the gifting, digitizing and posting of this collection, on our web, would preserve his father's collection and his passion for kites. When we started this Drachen "Legacy Project," Charlie did not know he had terminal cancer. Or perhaps he did, and working with us was his way of coming to terms with his own kiting life and times.

Below is an edited "ribbon" of Charlie's emails and his online work with us to get this project completed.

My Father Logan Fow was a renowned kiter who was involved with kites for 45 years until his passing. He spent time in Asia in 1974 and 1978 as well as spending a time on the kite scene in the UK. He co-founded the first Kite club outside the USA to be an affiliate AKA club. He was a great kite maker and amassed an extensive collection. For nearly 20 years his kites were exhibited and demonstrated in galleries, museums and at kite events around New Zealand.

I had time recently to sort through my father's kites. We have found some duplicates and some that I specifically want the foundation to have. I have a double skinned international art shipping box packed with a selection of pieces collected in 1978 from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Burma, Singapore, Hong Kong, Java, Bali and India.

There are several sets of kites I have that I specifically want to be preserved and made available for study by yourself and your affiliates. The Sri Lankan kites and Burmese fighter kites must be very rare in the world.

My father did not buy these kites online. He traveled to the workshops and markets and met the makers and their families.

If you would like these kites I will scan some photos from my father's albums and journal and find some other documentation in publications. Many of the kites have notes written on them by my

father. These notes often contain, date and location of purchase, price and sometimes the name of the builder. I will leave it to your researchers to decipher these as some are easier to read than others. I will include this in the packed box.

My late father is now survived by grand and great grand children. My aim before I pass is to make sure that his legacy is preserved in our family.

Thanks so much for your time.

Charlie Watson

NZ

When Charlie's box arrived at Drachen this spring there were 41 kites, carefully packed and documented – ready for uploading on the DF website. First, however, we needed to photograph each kite, and prepare it for entry into the archive by documenting the dimensions and descriptive text. As often happens at Drachen, fate provided the “help” we needed in the form of 15 year old intern, Lupe Carlos, who was fulfilling a high school project assignment to “shadow” a non-profit for a week. What a fabulous opportunity to take this project, this legacy, and share with Lupe the fabulous history of these kites, the handling of an object, the how-to's of documenting the object, and finally – the satisfaction of “creating” the record of the item for

Charlie and the Logan Fow family. In addition there were photos, notes, and supporting documentation...no simple matter for Charlie to put this all together and certainly a benchmark example of how to properly assemble and pass along historical information and artifacts so that they can, in fact, be preserved.

The kites and photos can now be viewed in the Collection area on our site. Just search for Logan Flow and the collection will come up for viewing.

The life of Charlie Watson will always live on because he was one of the first to realize the magic of the web in preserving and sharing what was done in one's life. As we are able to search for memories of our kiting friends on our web, we realize they aren't as far away from us as we feared when we first heard of their passing.

We can visit Charlie Watson every day. Thank you Charlie.

Article thanks to Drachen Foundation





**Dannevirke** is Saturday 6th October –mid morning onwards at the Domain in middle of town – they have food caravan etc on site and obviously is close to town. I gather last year weather was OK, and the year before by myself was great all day. 10am on

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**Johnsonville** Lions are hoping for fine weather (about two out of five tries!!) on Sunday 2 December 2012 at Alex Moore park. And we will have a ‘lay day’ event proposed – if all works out Sunday March 3rd 2013 at Alex Moore Park – that is National Children’s day so might be an idea to suggest kilters elsewhere do something on that day – there should be local events organised by the Council etc – see [Childrensday.org.nz](http://Childrensday.org.nz)

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**Beach fly at Charlie’s funeral.**

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Not the **Labour Weekend** kite making workshop.

This year we are heading to Ohakune for the weekend of 10/11 November to make kites. We will be staying at the Ruapehu Motel which has good space to sew and also a good area for preparing meals. This will also be a trial run for our New Year kite fly accommodation venue.

Robert van Weers will be teaching the monkey workshop (See image on page 11) and we have the opportunity

to make the googleflex,(see image on page 3) a design from our US member Mike Mosman.

For straight sewing the googleflex looks an easy workshop kite to make. If you choose to have a pattern then you may want to consider some pre planning of your design.

Several attendees are bringing partners who are planning to go walking and biking so if you want a weekend away feel free to join us.

## ***Matariki 2012 – Bastion Point Auckland***

As I planned on being in Auckland on Friday to make a hospital visit it seemed logical to fly kites on Saturday July 21st in front of Orakei Marae. I stayed with Malcolm and Diana on Friday. Malcolm and I had to be at the venue at the uninviting hour of 0830 to set up. By 0830 we had been joined by Perrin, Peter Clark, Craig Hansen and family, Simon and Lyndal Chisnall.

Auckland mid-winter is not coastal sandy soil despite being close to the sea and it is not your free draining volcanic soil I enjoy in Rotorua – it is puggy, sticky poor draining clay which means gumboots are required foot wear for sloshing around in the mud.

There was plenty of wind from the east – in fact, too much for most of my Maori themed kites. Everyone hunted for and found islands of firm ground in amongst the mud. The big kites went up and my smaller strong wind kites found a space in the sky.

This looked like being a great days flying. Then the “fun” began!! The bought kites started to appear on the field followed not long after by a lot of giveaway NZ Post pocket sleds. The sleds would not fly in strong winds unless tails were extended by adding the kite bag. Kites flying poorly meant

that the rest of the day was spent untangling kites from bridles and lines or just watching wrecked kites decorate the bridles of the larger kites.

My stack of 7 stars ended up being tangled and damaged by a stunt kite flier and a sled. Three kites were cut loose and recovered from across the road damaged and in a tangle. The others were tangled with a sled and came down with the front kite’s bridle hooked over the trig station. The high point of the day!

I believe this was the fourth Matariki kite fly – 2009 rained out, 2010 winter kiting heaven, 2011 a mixed bag, and 2012 strong wind and no rain. The public experience has improved as there are now food stalls and some kite and craft stalls. There is certainly nothing special about the event to induce me to make a special trip from Rotorua for just the kite day now that I have my perfect photos from the 2010 event.

R McCully





Kites flying at  
Bastion Point by  
R McCully



Photos sent from John Russell of  
Waihi taken at the Come Fly a Kite  
2011 event.

After a very successful event last year the organisers have announced two activities for October 2012. Lets Make a Kite prior to Sunday 7th October and then Let Fly a Kite on Sunday the 7th of October



Having decided we needed a holiday at the beach we decided to head to Porangahau Beach on the east coast. Pete had visions of kontikis & kites to do some fishing. I had thoughts of some slightly more restful occupations like reading and not much else. Well the Gods heard something because we had a lot of rain! So much that the day we decided to head to Napier we had road closures and diversions in place. The long and the short of it was that we did get some flying done, although not quite what we had planned, as there was rough seas so the fishing rods never left the car!

Kites finally emerged on Thursday. We stopped at the site of the world's longest place name – 'Taumatawhakatangi hangakoauauotamateapokaiwhenuakitanatahu' which translates roughly as "The summit where Tamatea, the man with the big knees, the climber of mountains, the land-swallower who travelled about, played his nose flute to his loved one". At 85 letters, it has been listed in the Guinness World Records as the longest place name in the world.

We managed to get the little light wind Cody flying above the sign. Several photos later we thought we had managed to get something worthwhile.



## ***Flying Sites/Regional Reps***

### **Auckland**

Bastion Point

Contact : Perrin at Kiteworks

Ph 09 358 0991

[kiteworks@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto:mccullyR@xtra.co.nz)

### **Christchurch**

New Brighton Beach

Contact : Julie Adam,

Ph 03 365 3907

[julie@kites.co.nz](mailto:julie@kites.co.nz)

### **Napier/Hastings** (2nd Sunday)

Anderson Park, Greenmeadows

Contact : Sharon Russell,

Ph 06 844 0689

[unigirl@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:unigirl@slingshot.co.nz)

### **Nelson** (3rd Sunday) Neale Park

Contact : Ted Howard

Ph 03 548 8707

[kitesfun@ihug.co.nz](mailto:kitesfun@ihug.co.nz)

### **Wanganui** (Every Sunday)

Springvale Park

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

Elsdon Park, Porirua

Contact : Anne and Peter Whitehead

Ph 04 476 7227

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(Cont. from previous page) We returned to the beach just before dusk and managed to fly a few more kites in a lovely evening breeze. We took too many kites, and it always happens that there are a few hitchhikers.

The Taupo homebuilt kite weekend is on again. This is for smaller kites to be flown at Taharepa Park on the waterfront 17th and 18th November Contact Warren Ellery



## **2012 Committee**

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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-Bug-gies, 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.