

# WHAT'S UP?

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

Number 107

May 2013

The background of the entire page is a photograph of three large, colorful kites flying against a cloudy sky. The kites are primarily blue and white, with some red and black accents. They have long, flowing tails. The sky is a mix of light and dark grey clouds, with some blue visible at the bottom.

New Zealand Kitefliers Association Inc.

Visit our website at : [www.nzka.org.nz](http://www.nzka.org.nz)

Facebook at NZ Kite making and flying



## Photos

Cover photo. Whiteheads flying at Nelson (AW)  
Page 6 : Peter Lynn Horse Kite at Nelson (AW)  
Page 7 : Malcolm's Cat (AW)  
Some of R Brassington's kites (AW)  
Yvonne de Mille flying again  
Page 9 : The escape at Auckland (PM)  
Page 10 : Left top clockwise.  
Brighton Beach (AW)  
Otaki (AW)  
Tauranga (AW)  
R Brassington at Tauranga (AW)  
Otaki (AW)  
Brighton (AW)  
Nelson (AW)  
Page 11 : Top left clockwise  
J Whibley concentrating (RVW)  
Malcolm and Peter (RVW)  
The group (tribe) (RVW)  
Peter and Robert ()  
(AW) Anne Whitehead  
(PM) Perrin Melchior  
(RVW) Robert van Weers

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

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[net.nz](http://net.nz)

Time to write another note for the magazine. As my wife writes elsewhere in this issue we have had some very good flying this year except for Eltham. Starting with The Chateau at New Year where the flying was very good.

This year we went to Nelson and the Saturday was one of the best days in recent history, much like 20 years ago when we could tie big kites to the car and have them flying just apart from another kite. The winds were so steady that I had some kites

up that have never flown for 2 minutes at a time before. Then on to Brighton Beach for the next weekend of kiteflying. It is a while since we have been to Brighton Beach, but it was as good as it gets with wind off the sea and places to park the cars.

The next event was Otaki where we had a great Saturday on the beach, being continually told that the day before had been even better. The Sunday was pretty good if a little windy.

Then on to an aborted event at Eltham. This is the first time in 27 years that we have had to cancel the



event due to weather. The weather got us on two fronts to cause the cancelation. During the summer a drought had affected most of New Zealand and this included the farm we use in Eltham. The paddock had become so dry that it was not usable. We had to swap sites to another park in Eltham, but on the day it was rainy and squally so after a quick flight of two or three kites we called it off and went home.

The AGM fly at Tauranga was again one of the best flies we have had in a while, the wind was nice and consistent

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Sites you may find of interest on the web

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/8160599/Airborne-creatures-survey-beach>

<http://www.youtube..com/watch?v=66dgtl1RbPA>

<http://youtu.be/UX7IEojEh3k>

## Upcoming events

We are waiting for confirmation of Ohakea on the first Sunday in September (Fathers day). If this is on then there will be a fly in Whanganui on the Saturday at Springfield Park

Not the Labour weekend kitemaking retreat at Ohakune. It is proposed that Robert Brassington will come and teach us a number of the kites that he was show casing at Tauranga last Easter. The date set for this is the 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> of November. An expression of interest would be appreciated so that we can get on with planning and Robert can get these cut to your colour specifications. Please contact the Whiteheads on [drachen@internet.co.nz](mailto:drachen@internet.co.nz). Plans are arrival on

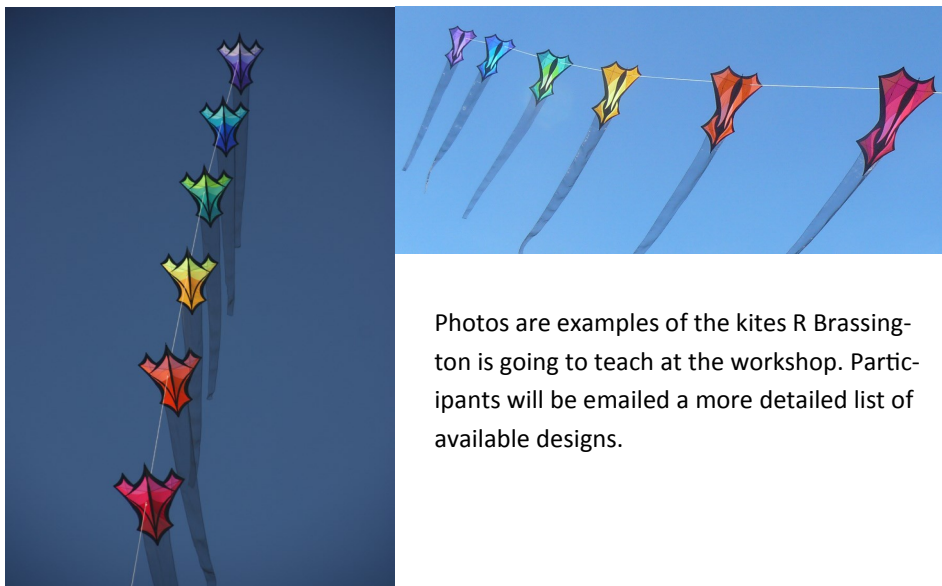
Friday the 8<sup>th</sup>, set up ready for a full week end of sewing and a relaxed departure on the Monday.

Taupo home made kite fly on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of November

Flying on the golf course at the Chateau on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. Staying at Ohakune from the 31<sup>st</sup> of December for a relaxed time.

It is proposed that the AGM will be at Eltham over a long Waitangi weekend of the February 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2014. More details next issue when this has been confirmed with the farmer and the local Lions.

There will be no event at Dannevirke this year as the local Lions want to take this to a bi-annual event.



Photos are examples of the kites R Brassington is going to teach at the workshop. Participants will be emailed a more detailed list of available designs.

## 2013 Kiteflying

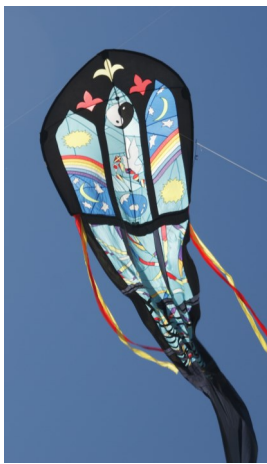
Well for me the year the year started off with great flying at the New Year kite fly at the Chateau. And the wind Gods had been very kind from there on in.

We then headed to Nelson for the annual kite fly there. It was stunning on the Saturday, probably one of the best days kiteflying in a very long time. Everything just stuck to the sky. Sunday was a stiffer breeze but still good. For the first time we decided to go to New Brighton for their kite festival the following weekend. Another perfect day of kite flying!

February was a quieter month for flying but March was busy. The Otaki festival of the Wind was great. We were working on the Friday but Saturday was very memorable for steady sea breezes, Sunday was a bit stronger but still pretty good. Eltham was a wash out! Where we usually fly, the farmer was in drought conditions so the venue had been changed. We tried to fly at the local sports ground complete with grandstand, and with it squally winds and the start of some rain. Both ourselves and the Whibley's decided to try our luck in launching kites but it was pretty much swirling and eddying all over the show, I figured after all the lovely weather we had had that we could give in gracefully.

Easter in Tauranga, and what a great four days it was. Robert Brasington came over to join us from Tasmania and he put on his own festival. We did join him for flying and it really was excellent. Ferguson Park was perfect for the light sea breezes each day and any inclement weather seemed to go round the sides. Ray had organised access to the field but with the great wee fence around the perimeter the majority of us parked along the fence and used that for anchors as well. All in all an excellent weekend in excellent company





## Facebook Pages



For those fliers with an interest in stunt kites there is a facebook page called: Stunt Kite Aotearoa

Perrin Melchoir has set up a page for Auckland fliers called: Auckland Single Line Kites

NZKA has set up an open group and the administrators are Perrin Melchior and Yvonne de Mille. Most of you will have an email by now advising you of the group name which is NZ Kite making and flying

**A**uckland kite report from  
Perrin Melchior  
There were a few kite days  
in April

Peter and Perrin's ANZAC kite day at Bastion was a small affair as Peter Clark was in the middle of finding a place to live, so was unable to attend.

I spent the day flying a few box kites and delta's with Kaiya Watson and Petra Haupt. I really liked Kaiya's ground effect lady bird.

The following Saturday was a big kiteday at Bastion. The local Marae and the Chinese Community put on an amazing cultural event

This was a great day as I got to fly with Ray McCully, Malcolm Hubbert and Peter Clark who all have the most amazing kite collections. We were all allowed to park on the hill so we could anchor our kites properly.

There was a bit of excitement when Peter's 6m pilot parafoil and 15m stingray got a line cut and they floated away down range to Mission bay where the stingray ended up tangled up in a large fur tree with the 6m pilot still flying above.

I ran down wind to rescue the kites by climbing the tree disconnecting the 6m pilot from the stingray pulling the flying kite into the lee of the house next to the tree and letting it collapse to the ground. I then untangled the stingray from the tree and the stingray's tail from the house

which involved a leap from the tree to the roof of the house and back. This was all quite nerve wracking as it was blowing about 20 knots at the time and the tree was about two stories high.

Needless to say Peter was very happy to get all his kites back in one piece. Malcolm also got his picture in the paper holding his 20m Blue Whale. Photos are here

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/52938788@N05/sets/72157633358802549>

Then we had another kite day at Harbour view Park in Te Atatu Peninsular on the Sunday. This was a council kite day with lots of free rides for the kids to play on.

The wind was much lighter this day and Peter Clark, Malcolm Hubbert and Ray McCully put on another incredible display.

A great day to fly kites with a few minor tangles.

Photos are here

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/52938788@N05/sets/72157633358879029>

In other kite news my friend Peter Foulkes (AKA Gannet) has set two kite buggy world records. He has set the 24 hour solo distance record at 704km

Web link

<http://popeyethewelder.com/archives/1346>



And the speed record for a two wheel kite bike at 85kmh

Web link

<http://popeyethewelder.com/archives/1359>

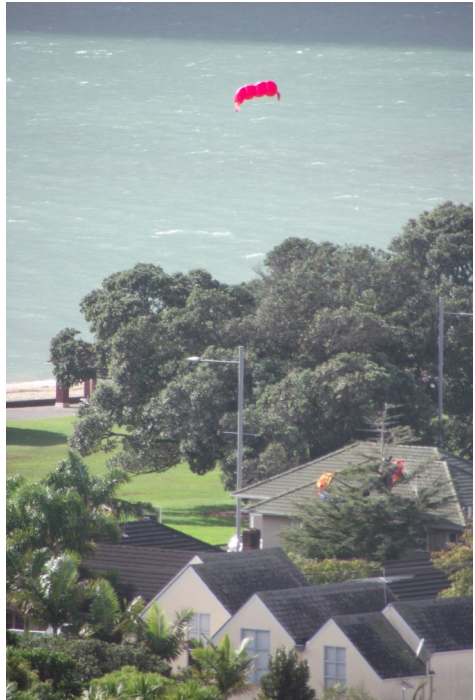
We also have two new kite facebook pages

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/440028902745871/?>

bookmark\_t=grou for single liners and [http://www.facebook.com/pages/Stunt-Kite-](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Stunt-Kite-Aotearoa/13160596702842)

[Aotearoa/13160596702842](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Stunt-Kite-Aotearoa/13160596702842) for stunt kites

Keep it up  
Perrin



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## New Members

In the last 4 months we have had 5 new members join us.

We welcome back Yvonne DeMille from Otaki. Yvonne is a very experienced “art” kite maker.

We welcome Reginald Williams and family from Christchurch and Vicente Reyes from Auckland.

We welcome 2 overseas members:

Robert Brasington from Tasmania who has regularly taught at workshops and attended annual festivals over the years has joined up at least for the next 3 years.

Willy Hendrickson from Puyallup, Washington State, USA. Willy is the

newsletter editor for a small but very active group called the Pierce County Kitefliers Association. If any members would like me to forward the newsletter to them, please let me know.

Currently we have 43 members with 1 having resigned and 4 not renewed their subscription so far. This will be their last What’s Up?



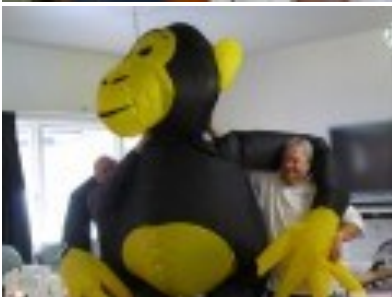
## Monkey Business

The NZKA workshop last November was another great time had by the students. This time around it was one of my well-liked kites, the monkey; the baby monkey to be precise.

To get it all done within a few days was not an easy task but it was done by most participants and that made me feel very good as I must admit, I had my doubts as it is quite a lot of work. Some cheated by starting very early without me but that meant they enjoyed doing it and that is what counts the most. Lots of fun was had and that clearly shows in the

attached images. The socializing aspect meant a lot to me as well and the girls who came just for that purpose did a great job helping us with the catering side of things, we had great tasting food to spur us on. The venue was also a wonderful place to hold the class in, nice accommodation and the room turned into a classroom was big enough for us to do the work, friendly people as well who run the event. I would like to thank all those who participated and according to your comments I am glad you liked it.

Robert van Weers



## **NZKA Easter Festival and AGM - Four great days flying!**

A new venue, Fergusson Park, Tauranga, and good weather gave us one of the best annual festivals for a while. Can you imagine it being so mild at the beginning of April that you could sit outside socialising at 9pm.

Overseas members Robert Brasington (lots of kite trains) and Jeltje Baas (painted cows) added a different dimension to the sky over the weekend.

All attendees except Tauranga locals and our "5 wheeler" member stayed at a motel that was the closest to the field. Within walking distance was a roast buffet meal restaurant that provided a good but inexpensive evening meal on the Saturday and Sunday. A couple of hundred metres along the road in the opposite direction was a selection of cafes for that morning coffee fix.

A sports complex on the field had been hired for the Sunday morning AGM and was available to us all weekend if we needed it at no extra charge. Except for the AGM it went unused due to the great weather.

The Tauranga District Council imposed strict vehicle access conditions in the advent of wet conditions. It was very dry and in the end only 2 vehicles went on the field. Everyone else found it just as convenient to

park alongside the field barriers for the 4 days. The flat grounds meant that movement on the field was not a problem for those with mobility restrictions.

We had 3 days of winds from the NE which meant keeping out of the wind shadow from the trees was a consideration. The Monday saw perfect winds from the W and the sky was full of kites.

A restriction on flying line length of 100m due to Fergusson Park being only slightly off the main flight path the Tauranga Airport had little impact on the kite display and was not a problem for the airport.

The minimal costs of running the festival were met by the NZKA so attendees expenses were only their travel, accommodation and food.

Everyone is hoping for a return trip to Fergusson Park, Tauranga.



## ***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**

Hansen's Park, Opawa

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@paradise.net.nz](mailto:unigirl@paradise.net.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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## **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**

181 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**

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

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