

WHAT'S UP?

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

Number 109

March 2014



New Zealand Kitefliers Association Inc.

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

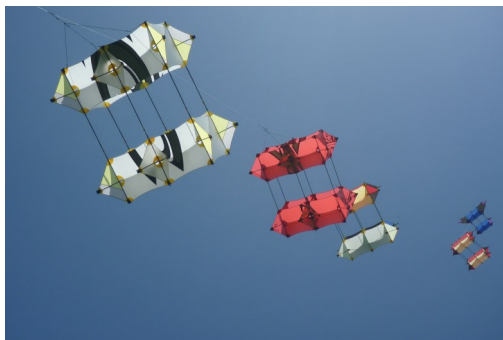
Facebook at NZ Kite making and flying

Auckland kite report from P Melchior

My year started off well with a road trip up to 90 mile beach for my Christmas holiday. I stayed with friends and kited every day. Getting some amazing kitesurfing at Rangiputa and Tokarau. Long kite buggy runs on 90 mile beach and some single line kite aerial video experiments



I then caught up with Peter Clark and grandson Jacob at Bastion Point on a very light wind Sunday morning in January. I did manage to get some kites up eventually.



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Photos

Cover Photo of flying at Otaki Beach by A Whitehead

8 photos on page 2 and 15 that relate to Perrin's words by P Melchior

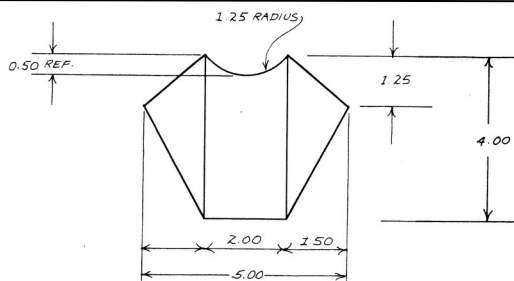
Page 2 Bottom left : McCullys flying at Rotorua. Bottom right goes with the escaped pilot story.

Page 6 Photos of Tony and one of his flow forms A Whitehead

Page 15 bottom. Related to the escaped pilot story

The picture to the right relates to the article about Taupo and the sled kite

By Jim Court



What's Up?

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Rotorua 3015,
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Editor : Peter Whitehead

E-mail : drachen@paradise.net.nz

As I sit here to write this message I can look back over the kite-flies we have attended this year with amazement. So far this year we have had two excellent wind events out of four.

The event at the Chateau was better weather than usual for there. Even saying that does not do the event justice. The social activities around that event are a great way to start the New Year. It's always fun to be there, and the event is now very much part of local festivities for the New Year.

Then we went to Nelson. This was basically two perfect days of flying. Much more like it used to be 10-20 years ago. And I don't think this is seeing the earlier years through rose coloured glasses. There is video to support this contention. The wind direction probably moved about 10 degrees during the day. Just unheard of in recent years. All the kites just got up and flew most of the day. We even had time for some of the flyers to indulge in helicopter training with their radio control units. Some of these helicopters are now being used to get photos of the kites in flight.

Eltham was a bit of a wash out, but having said that most of the countries weather was rubbish that weekend. So we would not had much of an event anywhere that weekend. It can be said that being hosted by the Lions was a joy and that we were well served. The Sunday turned out to be a reasonable fly, and we pulled quite a crowd in from the road.

Otaki was the pick of the bunch. We had two days of spectacular wind and



sun. What a difference a week can make. The weekend before was not good and we await tropical storm Lusi's visit this weekend. We could have got it so wrong. The wind along and across the beach was utterly enjoyable and we personally got to fly some kites that we have not flown for a while. This would have been as good a flying as anywhere in the World.

Some administrative details. We have relinquished the post office box as our address and the contact address for the Association will now be 7 Goodwin Avenue, Rotorua 3015, New Zealand. We are setting up another address to our web site as suggested at the AGM that will be even easier to remember and tell people about. John Mason has stepped down from the committee as he is in travel mode and would be uncontactable for periods these coming years. We thank him for his time and efforts. Malcolm Hubbert has stepped up in John's place. Over due notices will also be in with your magazine if applicable.

Tony Fitchett, 1920–2013 -

A brief appreciation

Tony was not, perhaps, well known to a number of current NZKA members, as it is quite a few years since he was a regular on the kite field. However, he was a prominent member right from the start, and it seems useful to record some detail that isn't well known.

At the outbreak of World War II he was called up from his science degree study at Victoria, and put through a shortened Cadet Officer Training course at Duntroon Military College, Australia. Commissioned into the Royal NZ Signals Corps, he saw service in the Pacific, Italy and (postwar) in Japan. After further study at the Military College of Science, UK he became successively Chief Instructor and then Director, RNZSC. Regimental duty was followed by various liaison posts in London and South East Asia, and appointment as Director of Military Intelligence, RNZ Army. He retired in 1971, in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

After retirement he worked for a number of years in the national office of the Institution of Professional Engineers, and cultivated his interests in classical music, audio, gliding, various service clubs, and kiteflying.

Muriel & I first encountered him in 1976 at a radio station kite day in Wellington, where we both won prizes. Again

next year he was there, and at an event in Lower Hutt where he and Jim Oliver were collecting names of serious kitefliers who would be interested in flying together regularly. So began an informal group of a dozen or so who flew pretty regularly, at various spots around the Hutt Valley.

At that time we mostly had David Pelham's book, one or two subscribed to *Kitelines*, and Jim was in correspondence with some serious kitemakers overseas. It was a time still of paper, sticks, plastic and sticky tape, with occasional excursions into parka nylon or sail loft scraps. Paper kites could be decorated with paint, but stripes were about the limit for making fabric and plastic constructions look better.

So when Bob Maysmor was planning his 1983/84 exhibition on kites in the Pataka museum, there was an existing local group of enthusiasts who could provide kites for display, and who would be keen to take part in the kite day which followed. This is, of course, not to downplay the contributions of Peter Lynn and others from outside the region. And in the discussions that followed, and the formal moves to incorporate what became NZKA, Tony was there. Not many of us remain active of the 8 or 10 signatories to the incorporation document, so Tony's passing makes us hark back to that time.

Tony never particularly sought office in the Association, but if there was work

needing doing, he was always ready, and this was well recognised at our 2004 AGM when he was elected to Life Membership.

On the local scene, for many years he maintained the contacts with local councils that enabled us to have regular monthly flying days, and one could usually see one of his big deltas holding a long streamer tail over the park before anyone else arrived. Pauline was not herself a kitemaker for many years, but was always keen to host us at their home, and she gradually got into making and decorating her own kites.

Tony always retained an affection for kites with sticks, even when moving towards larger kites, so there could be an

element of adventure in launching some of his larger-scale constructions. In later years he also took a keen interest in the developments in airfoil theory for foil-type kites, building a handful of sometimes rather frightening large ones.

As his health failed and he became less able to fly himself, he passed his kites to me for auction at an NZKA annual festival, so Springvale Park saw a day of people trying them out, followed by a very successful auction.

Tony died peacefully on 19 December 2013. And at Eltham this year some Tony kites managed to come out of their bags to fly in memory of a good friend.

D Bowie



Camp Quality 2014— Hastings

Annually NZ Lions support and host Camp Quality –for children (called Campers) aged between about 5 and 14 who have (or are in remission from) life threatening illness – most often cancer. The camp lasts 10 days and enables the children to have activities etc that they might not otherwise have. And also importantly it allows their family a break from caring duties to allow them to have a rest and devote more time to other siblings.

Each Camper is accompanied by a volunteer Companion who ensures the Camper is safe and well, enjoys themselves, and that the Camper is involved as much as they are physically able. Campers range from those who have no apparent symptoms (though lots of beads etc from past treatments) through to being blind, have lost limbs, are undergoing chemo (with related hair loss etc). Camp Quality also has a number of qualified nurses on site, plus a staff of about 15 (usually Lions Club members) to ensure the smooth running of the camp. All helpers are volunteers, and each camp costs about \$140,000 to run. Local Lions Clubs assist on various events.

This year's camp had 70 Campers, plus Companions and other staff, a total of about 200, and was held at Lindes-

farme College that has enough boarders' beds to accommodate everyone. As a kiteflier and Lion I was asked to do a crafty session on making and flying kites.

Thursday 8.30 am I arrived with Sharon and Ian from Napier, to learn I was to give a talk about kites in the Auditorium before making began! So unprepared, with Ian and Sharon we set up a number of kites around the auditorium walls and stage, and I rambled on for a while about history, sizes, costs and safety etc. Judging by questions it was a well-received talk.

Then to the gymnasium with about 120 folks on the floor being helped through the steps of making a small kite – during a short break from constructing and colouring Ian gave a well-received demonstration of indoor no wind sport kite flying – lots of 'oohs' and 'aahs' and deserved applause for him.

This was followed by 100 plus small kites all flying in a single field, with lots of happy children and companions. A brief display of larger kites assisted by Napier kitefliers John and Diane, in very blustery conditions, was also very well received. We all then enjoyed a lunch with the Campers, and learned more about their activities.

I joined the Campers for an evening meal, some art work and then a 'reflections' period when campers and staff reflected on their lives, remem-

bered previous campers and friends who had died during the last year, and thought of those children who would likely not be able enough or still around to attend next year. A quite emotional experience with many tears from campers and companions alike.

Friday involved Sharon, Ian and me travelling to Waimarama Beach for a camp 'beach day'. The wind was too strong along the beach to fly larger kites without proper sand anchors, (heavy driftwood logs were just dragged along!)

so we set up some larger kites in the tree and 'swamp' studded parkland behind. Although not a focus of the Campers day our efforts were appreciated, despite 'kite eating' trees being active, and very tall 'swamp' reeds hiding those who needed to retrieve wayward kites!

All in all an enjoyable, thoughtful and emotional time had by all and my enthusiasm for kite flying, its ability to provide enjoyment to many, and my Lions Clubs involvement in Camp Quality was increased

Stephen Cook



When the email went out for volunteer fliers for Camp Quality 2014, we thought, why not. A day off work making kites and another day off work flying kites on the beach, who could say no to that. With Ian having no real idea what it was about and me (Sharon) having a vague memory of hearing about Hogswort Express in Hastings one year, Camp Quality was an unknown.

January rolled round fast enough and it was time to meet at Lindisfarne College in Hastings. Having driven past the gate every week day for 11 years I had never been inside the gate. What a flash, well laid out school for boys it was (they probably don't realise how cool it is).

Stephen Cook arrived and we were shown into the auditorium where we set up a show and tell of kites, and where Stephen got to answer all types of tricky questions. We moved on through to the gymnasium to make a kite with the promise that it would fly. The hall....., they had to nearly mop the drool off the floor when Ian saw the space for indoor flying!!!! A quick fly from Ian doing 360's in the hall earned Ian a good round of applause.

It was then time for morning tea for all with a quick sprint from us over to the sports field to set up some display kites. From the local Hawkes bay Today newspaper. "Yesterday's windy conditions provided perfect conditions for campers to get the most out of flying the kites they made themselves and others provided by the association". There is a difference of opinion between us who were flying vs the media. Well, actually the general public as we all know re wind – strong north-westerlies with the ground cracked and too hard to anchor to – you be the judge.

Lunch was provided for us where we had a chance to find out more about Camp Quality. Each of the 70 children there have or have had cancer. Ages ranged from 5 to 13 ish. Each camper has a companion with them for the week – like a big brother or sister. A few were lucky enough to have two companions. Some of the companions were previous campers, others grandparents, whilst most had had some relationship to a person that had had cancer in the past. About 20 staff are on site including 4 nurses, photographers, media liaison, health and safety etc. Then there were the 3 bus drivers, employees of the company supplying the buses. All of whom including the companions were volunteers. The cost per camper is around \$2000 for the week, all of which is funded at no cost to the families. Each day is organised down to the last minute. It may sound a bit restrictive but when you realise that medication revolves around meals, and outsiders helping out have



time restrictions and other commitments, no one worries. A daily magazine produced in-house includes photos of what happened the previous day, what is happening that day, with instructions for what you will need for the day's events.

For the following day, we wondered whether the beach fly would happen. The forecast was for a swing to the west in the morning and building – not what we were looking forward to. Arrival at the Waimarama Domain had us wondering where to fly amongst the trees, shrubs, road and swamp. The dried up swamp full of Raupo made an ideal site. Tie line to ute, walk around the swamp with the line, flick line up so it rests over the Raupo, attach kite & launch. The children had the freedom to do what they wanted. A John Whibley plano, a pair of baby flow forms and a couple of Peter Lynn's' baby octopus were launched over time, and I don't think they touched the ground for over five hours. As someone got tired of flying, either a camper, companion or a member of the public was nearby to take over.

At one stage John Mason's ray had floated out down to earth. When Ian relaunched, he looked around at the number of people of all ages, necks craning skyward, as it went up. It showed how much kites are enjoyed by others who are not holding the string. About the time the campers headed away mid-afternoon, we looked out to see John Mason's ray attached to 50m

line and originally northward, landing nicely beside the ute and the lifter drifting down southwest of the ute. Knowing too well the Hawkes Bay winds, a mad dash was made to hogtie the Ray and track down the lifter as the wind did an aggressive 120 degree shift to the west and an instant lift of wind to 25km/h, gusting 40km/h. What perfect timing, otherwise there would have been a lot of sewing being done before John's kite was returned to him.

The few days involved with the campers were a reminder that all kids are kids. That no matter what happens to them, they all want to have fun and they enjoy it more so when adults remember to have fun too. It was nice to fly for others where they could join in with us. So often we get caught up in having a display, or fly for ourselves, that we forget to let others have a go. They may not become members, but isn't it better to have families fly together, than to be an individual behind a computer.

If you have a chance to be involved in Camp Quality, take it up. They are a bunch of children who enjoy life so much, you can't help but want to help them. Sharon Russell



Summer 2014 – Great Winds for Kite Flying if.....

....you are not dependent on one location where only winds from the north to north-east are suitable.

This summer seems to have been very windy most days with all points of the compass covered.

In Rotorua the only steady wind location away from the airport is down at the lakefront when from 2pm onwards a northerly “sea breeze” blows in off the lake between the soundshell and jetty that hosts various tourism ventures. This ideal wind occurs on what the metservice calls hot light wind days. The wind generally starts light and slowly increases towards an average 20km/hr by 4pm which gives you an opportunity to fly different types of kites. Typically the wind does not drop off until well after 6pm.

In the upper North Island most of the northerly weather systems have been accompanied by rain so it has been a long wait to fly kites in Rotorua.

Well, the ideal weather and winds arrived on Saturday 15th February and I resolved to make the most of it for as long as they occurred. I managed to fly kites on: Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday that week. A further 2 days were possible the following week before this summers variable weather and wind resumed.

Even my “ideal” wind still managed to be abnormal.

Twice a nice lake breeze vanished by 3-30pm instead of increasing in strength.

One day at 2-45 I was sitting watching the mirror finish on the lake and hoping the dark line on the other side of the lake was coming my way. 5 minutes later I felt a puff so it was time to launch a light wind delta. The delta was up into a steady light breeze so I laid out line and attached our large flowform (it likes light winds). By the time I came to launch the flowform at 3-05pm the wind had increased to 25km/hr plus – 0 to 25+ in 15 minutes is not playing by the rules!

Past behaviour as far as the weather is concern is definitely getting less and less reliable!!!

PS Two years ago I found out that it is actually illegal to fly at the lakefront as the nearby lake and jetty area is a designated airfield for the floatplanes and helicopters. The pilots who told me this did not want me to stop flying as they knew I only flew when the wind was off the lake and no kites were going to escape towards them.

R McCully



Summertimes Kite Day, held on Saturday 25th January 2014 as part of the Summertimes Festival, was a fabulous day, with lots of people coming along and flying their kites. The wind was a steady easterly, blowing throughout the afternoon and keeping all the kites flying high above the sand dunes.. Thank you to all who came to fly kites, fill up the sky and the beach and make this such a fantastic day.

The KiteShop and Peter Lynn teams were there, as well as Christchurch's Jim Nicholls and thousands of other flyers. The City Council team did a fantastic job organising the day and making sure everyone had a happy day.

Street's, the sponsors, were there with their icecreams, too.

J Adam



The Tail of the Lost Pilot

Peter Clark, had a wonderful display of Show Kites in the air at "Let's Fly a Kite 2013" which was held on Labour Weekend Sunday, at Waihi Beach. Then suddenly the pilot parted company with the line and drifted over the sand dunes and out to sea.

Perrin Melchior and Peter's helper Jacob, gave chase to see if the pilot was retrievable, but it was a long way out.

Peter said, "That was an expensive knot!" and resigned himself to the loss of his favourite pilot kite.

However a Waihi Beach resident, who was overlooking the beach, saw what had happened and a kayak was launched and the pilot was successfully rescued.

On the journey back to shore the kayak caught a wave sideways and the kayak, the

rescuer and the pilot kite were unceremoniously dumped at the feet of Perrin & Jacob.

After many thanks of gratitude to the rescuer, the pilot was securely fastened back onto the line, to dry out and to continue the awesome display of show kites to the watching public.



Flying Sites/Regional Reps

Auckland

Bastion Point

Contact : Perrin at Kiteworks

Ph 09 358 0991

kiteworks@xtra.co.nz

Bay of Plenty

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

Kite Flying every 4th Sunday at Island View Reserve, Waihi Beach –
from 10.30am. Contact John Russell: 07 549 4209

afactor@xtra.co.nz

Christchurch

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

unigirl@slingshot.co.nz

Nelson (3rd Sunday) Neale Park

Contact : Ted Howard

Ph 03 548 8707

kitesfun@ihug.co.nz

Wellington (1st Sunday)

Elsdon Park, Porirua

Contact : Anne and Peter Whitehead

Ph 04 476 7227

The Home Built week-end at Taupo lived up to it's history by being light winds on the Saturday and nothing much on the Sunday. Of all the kites that were flown, only one was "Store Bought" which was very satisfactory. The Rollers seemed To be the most successful closely followed By the Deltas equipt with the tails described in the last "What's Up".

For years I have been making small Sled kites for children. Last winter I wondered if I added wings onto a Sled, whether it would fly in lower winds. This marriage of a Flare Kite with a Sled kite produced a really nice flyer. With the Hornbeam Sled Mark 1 as found in

the book "The Magnificent Book Of Kites" by Maxwell Eden published in 1999 by Konemann of Cologne, we have the advantage of being able to build it any size. Find the proportions below. Because dowel comes in 1.80 m lengths, I make mine with 60cm or 90cm spars

The "wings" are the same as the Sled's keels and sewn on the line of the spars. A strong reinforced hole is made at the base of the keels to take a fibre glass 3mm rod from wing tip to wing tip. Don't make this rod too tight. The other point is make the bridles about 5 times the length of the spars and add a loop tail.

2014 Committee

President

Peter Whitehead
59 Makara Road
Karori

Wellington 6012
Ph 04 476 7227

drachen@paradise.net.nz

Secretary/Treasurer

Ray McCully
7 Goodwin Ave
Rotorua 3015
Ph 07 348 3828

rmccullyR@xtra.co.nz

Immediate Past President

Geoff Campbell
Computer Valet
1 Victoria St
Wanganui 4500
Ph 06 348 5805
027 4485 360

geoff@comval.co.nz

Committee Members

Ian Russell
Rotowhenua Rd, RD2
Napier 4182
Ph 06 844 0689

flyinthru@slingshot.co.nz

Malcolm Hubbert
37 Manurere Rise
RD1 Matakoho 0593
Ph (09) 431 6280
malcolm@kiteflier.co.nz

Anne Whitehead
59 Makara Rd
Karori

Wellington 6012
Ph 04 476 7227

drachen@paradise.net.nz

Warren Ellery
41 Tamatea Rd
Taupo 3330
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 4410
Ph 06 354 5765

webmaster@nzka.org.nz

What's Up Editor

Peter Whitehead
Ph 04 476 7227

drachen@paradise.net.nz

*Welcome to Carl Gillard as a new member
from Dunedin.*

Let's Fly a Kite – 2014"

Labour Weekend Sunday 26 October at
Island View Reserve, Waihi Beach –
from 10am. Contact John Russell: 07
549 4209 or afactor@xtra.co.nz

I then drove down to Eltham for the National NZKA kite festival . The weather was a bit gloomy but the wind was strong and I got to see Robert Van Weers replica of a vintage Rene Lemaire “Biplan” .This box kite has been crafted from wood and canvas so is quite heavy and needs a good wind to stay up. The NZKA eddy arch was cool too .



The Naki Nut Buster was a kite buggy race at Fitsroy beach in New Plymouth .We had a great turn out and great wind both days . I won the race but it was a close one this year. The buggy tag game was a great hit , I loved throwing tennis balls at my friends when they least expected it.



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
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.

Empty Space In The Sky

It is with much sadness and a true feeling of loss that the AKA let you know that they have lost their beloved Richard Dermer.

Richard passed away earlier this evening after a week long stay in the hospital. Richard visited NZ for Napier 1990

Many of you may have known that the life member of the Australian Kite Flyers Society Di Delli Paoli has not been well for some time as she battled with cancer.

Notwithstanding her illness she still took the time to attend last year's Festival of the Winds and more recently hosted kiteflyers at Tathra for a weekend of friendship and flying.

I have been advised by her daughter that Di passed away peacefully in hospital yesterday morning.

Many of you will have met Di in Bondi.