

WHAT'S UP?

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

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New Zealand Kitefliers Association Inc.

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New Members

Jude Shirley Napier
Greg & Linda Whitcombe Auckland
Evan Moore Auckland
Chris & Lynne Wilson Kekerengu SI

What's Up?

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Presidents Words

Well maybe it's the end of winter. But it is still trying hard to snow around the country this weekend. Certainly by the time you read this hopefully it will be a little warmer and we will be really getting ready for Ohakea and Whanganui.

This winter has been another time for hibernation and contemplation. It does seem that the winterless north (Auckland included) was able to put on a decent Matariki event. More later in the magazine. But in terms of other things happening here, there has not been much. But look to the events page to get worked up for a bumper year coming up.

Emails have been flying around in relation to the workshop later in the year. If you have not decided what you are doing this year, you need to get on with it. If you have never been, and want an easy kite to make, sure flyer, then sign up for a Block of Flats Delta.

It is with sad heart that I mention that my father Phil Whitehead has died. An obituary is on the following page.

Also emails have been flying around regarding planning for Napier next year. But see some information in the upcoming events section. Again you probably need to start thinking about booking your accommodation as it's a busy weekend in Napier when we are planning to be there.

On the 17th July 1984 the Association became an incorporated society and the 1st issue of the newsletter was produced in September of 1984. Happy 30th birthday to the Association.



Phil Whitehead 1930 – May 2014

Phil was the third president of the NZKA from 1991 – 1994. During interesting times he guided the association and saw it consolidate and progress the standard of the magazine presentation. He also oversaw AGMs in Lower Hutt(1992), Nelson (1993) and Wigram (1994). And ran a committee mostly based in Auckland at the time.

Phil enjoyed his kiteflying and attended many events in New Zealand and overseas (Tasmania, Bondi and Fano) up until about 5 years ago (But was still a member of the Association at his death).

Phil also attended some of the Labour weekend kitemaking retreats and Pukeora events.

Phil was born in the great depression and would talk of flying homemade kites in the early years of his life. He also built us kids some kites for use on the farms that he worked on. I can well remember trying to fly some of the kites on huge lengths of lines. The kites never actually flew to a great height because the line was too heavy and used to hug the ground for a long way. Still we could tie these off to the fence and leave them there for all day.

Later in life (1978) he saw Rodney Interman flying some interesting kites in Ongley Park (Palmerston North) and asked me to bring him back something

different from the USA. I brought back a set of trilbys (a stunt kite) and he spent many hours flying these at Palmerston North Radio Kite Days.

We spent many hours flying kites in the front paddock at Massey and if we could not get a few cars to stop while we were flying, then we considered we had not done a very good job, and if the shepherds did not mention that they had seen something going on, again we did not think we had done a very good job.

Phil will be remembered for being a helpful, kind and wise man. It has been a pleasure to know you.



Matariki 2014 by Ray McCully

For the McCullys Matariki consisted of two quite different events on successive Saturdays.

On the 19th July we were invited to assist with a kite display for Matariki at Smiths Ave Netball Courts in the one of the poorest areas of Papakura. There were lots of other activities (such as children versus parents at netball, kapa haka, Cook Island and Samoan dancing) going on. As wind permitted we flew 2 or 3 deltas (Matariki, Tongariro and Rona and the Moon) in the limited space available.

Once organized activities were over, about 20 inexpensive kites and lines were given out to the children by the Auckland City Council events people. The kites were ideal for the wind conditions. Limited space and possibly lots of kids running around – time for our kites to be put away.

We then waited for the usual - kids running everywhere at the behest of their parents and children upset at not getting a kite.

We were amazed and felt very humbled to watch and participate in:

- Children sharing kites.
- Children asking us for help to launch and fly the kites.
- Children listening and applying what they were told – only saw one child run with a kite when the wind dropped.
- Children asking for help to untangle lines.

These were the best behaved children we have ever worked with.

Only negative was the Chinese made fishing spools had way too much line. Each time a plane or helicopter from Ardmore passed over we would look up to see at least one person had their kite way above the legal limit.

On the 26th July we again attended the Matariki Manu Aute Kite Day at Orakei Marae in Auckland. The weather was mostly fine and the wind did not start to arrive until midday. The ground was wet and quickly became muddy in high use areas.

The highlight for many was Toothless being flown by Craig Hansen.

Early in the day we flew our large block of flat delta kites as they were suitable for the light and erratic winds that existed until well after midday. The highlight for us was seeing our deltas feature on TV3 news instead of the normal shots of the large inflatable show kites. TV3 must have been there early before most of the show kites were up.

Overall, it was a great day and the organizers are getting better at looking after the fliers, who make the day what it is.

Orakei in July

Matariki occurs at the worst time of year. It is always soggy underfoot, and the weather is a lottery of polar extremes, either a snotty wet gale, or balmy and calm. Although a mild but useful breeze was forecast this year, it failed to show up in the morning. Fortunately, Craig Hansen had phoned me beforehand to enquire if I might have a petrol leaf blower, so I came equipped. It came in handy to inflate our maxi rays, and once inflated, we managed to get them aloft. Quite a few times, the pilots collapsed on the ground, but my ray stayed up the best. Ray McCully was doing great work with his deltas too, including a brand new graphic. BUT by late morning, everything was down on the ground. At which point Craig said "Right, lets blow up Toothless as a ground display". Which is how I came to be holding a dragon by the tail, with blower at full throttle. By the time Toothless was inflated, there were hints of more breeze, and for a while he was crouched on all fours, making tiny

leaps, then longer excursions, and finally low flight. For me Toothless was the star of the day. It's stability, and animation of wings and limbs are delightful. It was also very cool to be involved with a kite which had last flown under Tower Bridge in London.

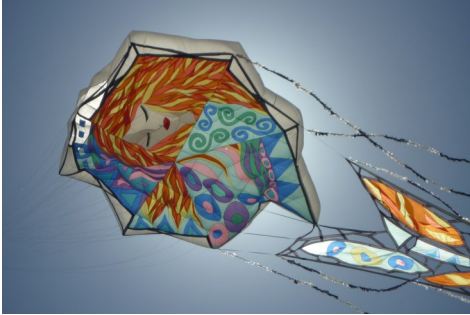
The wind gathered, and stayed with us all afternoon. One gust was enough to shift a few concrete anchor blocks. All in all, it was one of the better Matariki days at Orakei. It was great to see Charlie Watson's kites again, Perrin's growing collection, and Peter Clark's birdman. This is the second time that kilters have come from Sydney. We all finished the day at a long dinner table!

Malcolm Hubbert



Auckland Kite report from Perrin Melchior—August 2014

I attended a wonderful kite day at Otaki that was organized by Yvonne de Mille. Peter Clark, his grandson Jacob and I woke up at 3am and drove through the night to get there in time for the start of the weekend festival. It was a long day but so worth it to fly at such a lovely beach



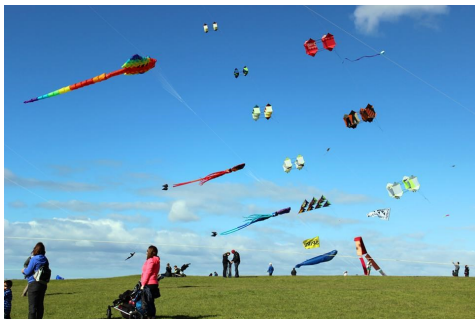
The next event was the 20th Blue Balls Buggy Bash at Port Waikato. This was a crazy weekend of wind from 40 knots the first day to rain and 5 knots for the rest of the meet. No racing took place as the conditions were too unstable.



We had a pre Matariki kite day at Monte Cecilia Park in Auckland. This was a tricky spot surrounded by massive 100 year old trees. We got a few kites up and some of them ended up in the trees. Evan Moore flew the SteinBeisser (Wolf Fish) that I made for him.



The Matariki kite festival at Bastion Point in Auckland was a great success this year as the wind gave us what we needed to put up all our kites. Peter Clark got his birdman kite flying and I got all my boxes airborne. We had kite flyers from Australia and all over New Zealand attend



Events Schedule

6th September Whanganui at Springvale Park.

7th September Ohakea Fathers day kite fly in conjunction with the Air Cadets.

5th October Porangahau School kite day at Chapelwick Coastal Estate in central Hawkes Bay.

26th October Let's fly a kite at Waihi Beach from 10.00am on the beach. This is Labour day weekend.

15th – 16th November Ohakune workshop for making whales or orcas line laundry. For beginners there is the "block of flats" deltas. There will be the usual catering arrangements of a supplied meal with self supplied wine and nibbles for starters.

22nd – 23rd November The Taupo home made kite day at Tarehepa Reservation on the lake front at Taupo. From 10.0am weather permitting.

1st January 2015 Kite fly at the Chateau on the golf course.

16th – 18th January 2015 Nelson summertime kite festival at Neale Park. More information next issue.

Last weekend of January Brighton Beach Contact Julie Adam (0274 317 716) for more information nearer the time. Subject to tides on the beach.

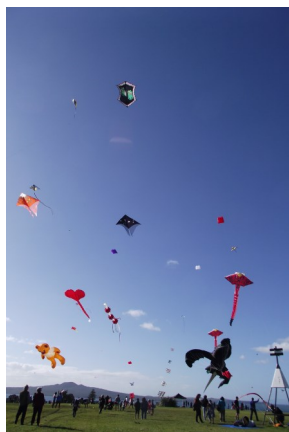
Asburton Flight for Life at lake Hood, Late January early February 2015. See next issue for more information.

Otaki Beach Kite fly 28th February – 2nd March 2015. More information next issue.

Eltham 3rd Sunday in March. More information next issue

Easter 2015 3rd – 6th April 2015 at Napier. More information next issue, but you should have booked accommodation

already



Wind Whispers

Mad Way Mongolia. Craig Hansen of Peter Lynn Kites is planning another buggy adventure. In September they plan to head across Mongolia check out their Facebook Page Mad Way Mongolia. Some of you may remember Mad Way South The Sahara Challenge.

And again Simon Chisnall at Peter Lynn Kites was asked to design Toothless the Dragon for the next How to Train Your Dragon II movie. If you didn't see it as it happened google Toothless and Tower of London Bridge. The whole team did a great job at 5.30am UST to have the bridge raised and fly Toothless majestically through. Hopefully we will have an article in the next What's Up? About this heroic adventure with Toothless.



Toothless (the dragon) taken at Matariki event held at Bastion Point. R McCully





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



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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

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.
