

WHAT'S UP?

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

Number 111

December 2014

New Zealand Kitefliers Association Inc.

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

Facebook at NZ Kite making and flying



Kite making the NZKA Way

In November this year we again met up at Ohakune for another weekend of creating. During the year discussion had covered a range of thoughts and Malcolm Hubbert had suggested Martin Blais kite kits. We then choose the orca and dolphin. With the help of video clips we then went through the process of putting them together. It was a more relaxing weekend as there wasn't

quite the pressure there has sometimes been in prior years. Discussion ensued regarding cutting the noses off, as technically these were windsocks of a kind. It showed the confidence of all the group that they could discuss the pros and cons and how they could adjust and change the nose, if they wanted to. One of newer members Jude Shirley joined us and created a 'Block of Flats' delta with her own design ably helped by McCully.



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What's Up?

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President's Words

As I sit here once again it seems amazing that another year has passed us by. There have been high and low points in the year. And it's time for another magazine. At this time of year it is also to wish each of our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

The start of 2015 is looking very busy. See the web site and later in the magazine for the events diary. The end of the year has had all the usual events for this time of the year. I was very pleased to see a successful event at Ohakune of making orcas and dolphins. I cannot wait to see the pod at the Chateau next year. It was also pleasing to see a new member (Jude) along to make a kite that we all know will fly well (A block of Flats delta). Time is marching on and you need to have made arrangements for accommodation at Napier, although I note that the association seems to be becoming part of the mobile home association. How many more are going to end up with things to park on the field. Maybe there is more tying off points on these than a car and I hate to think how many kites you can bring. What with us buying a smaller car during the year, but it has a tow bar on it.

As the start of the year will be so busy the next magazine will be scheduled for directly after the AGM at Napier. Hopefully lots of photos of new kites specially for Napier. So have your articles for the next magazine ready to hand in at the AGM. All contributions gratefully accepted.



Agenda for 31st Annual General Meeting of NZ Kitefliers Association

The meeting will be held at John Mason's 13 Osier Road, Napier on Friday 3rd April 2015 at 5pm. (Quorum is 20% of 49 = 10)

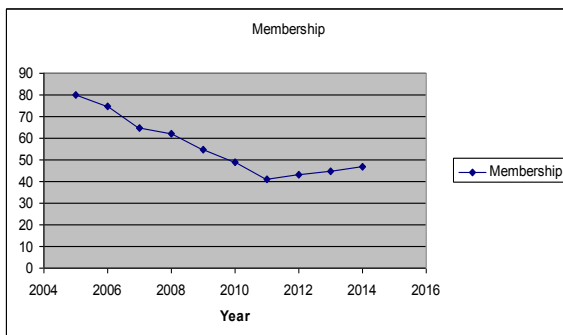
1. Apologies for absence
 2. Greetings to visitors
 3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 30th AGM
 4. Matters arising from the Minutes
 5. President's Report
 6. Financial Report
 7. Appointment of reviewer for end of year accounts
 8. Formal business of which due notice has been given.
 9. Festival 2016 and 2017
 10. Other business.
 11. Election of officers.
 - a. President
 - b. Secretary/Treasurer
 - c. Committee x4
 12. Close meeting
-

Membership Report

After steadily dropping through to 2011 it would appear that membership has stabilised and is now showing a slight rise.

All new members are finding us through the website. It is pleasing to see some of the new members appearing regularly at kite events around the country.

Ray McCully NZKA Secretary



36th Bondi Festival of the Winds 2014

It had been 7 years since we were last at Bondi. Regular attendance stopped when we had found it difficult to justify the increasing accommodation costs.

It was nice to be invited by the Australian Kiteflyers Society (AKS) to attend the 2014 FOTW as guest fliers.

We packed our Maori themed kites and few of the newer light wind kites which we hoped would be suitable for Bondi's fickle winds.



We arrived at Sydney airport Thursday evening to be met by Karen Gerg and Eileen Snee who transported us to the Bondi Hotel. The first thing we noticed was the Bondi Beach-side Inn that was wrapped in building paper in 2007 was now a flash upmarket apartment building. The Bondi Swiss Grand seemed to be getting the same treatment – it was completely gutted and the whole profile was changed by cutting away floor areas on the road frontage.

We met our fellow guest fliers, Ron Bohart and his wife, Emily from Oregon and Trevor Reeves from Melbourne.

Bondi turned on 3 reasonable days of flying which definitely put this visit up with past visits if not the best ever. Friday the wind was off the sea (a rarity during our past visits) and rain threatened but we had a great afternoon's flying. Ron's large appliqué flowforms were amazing and with or without the tails they seemed to be very stable. Trevor decorated the sky with his very clever art work which included a line of fun inflatable line junk.

A definite improvement on the past was that we could leave all our kites in the tents on the beach with a security guard on duty all night. It saved a lot of walking.

Other than knowing we flew kites I cannot seem to remember much about Saturday and I took no photos. In the evening we had a meal at the Pavilion and Ron Bohart gave a presentation on the techniques he uses for appliqué and dyeing fabric to get the shades he requires for the image on the kite. Sharp, pointed scissors are the key according to Ron – yeah right! Not if you are left handed! Sunday, the main public day, was to be an eye opener for us. It was fine and hot with light wind blowing along the beach towards the swimming pool. As is typical for Bondi

the wind strength and direction varied a bit but it still allowed us to keep 3 to 6 kites in the sky most of the time.

By mid afternoon we had the biggest crowd we had ever seen on the beach and the surrounding grassed areas and walkways. Downside was you did not want to be a lady needing to go to the toilet – huge queues all day.

A feature of past FOTW attendances was expat Kiwis making themselves known at the beach boundary and asking about our Maori themed kites. Not a sole approached us this time, as most of the public were Asian or Middle Eastern busily flying their own kites. We were continually watching for kites using nylon line getting in amongst our kites.

As was our normal practice when the Festival finished at 4pm we threw our kites into the bag and headed up to the grassed area to empty out the sand and repack for the trip home. Not this time! There was no space big enough for us, so we went back to the hotel and used their balcony for repacking. There were 100m queues for buses that lasted to well after 5pm and no space in coffee shops or bars – just shows what a nice day and a free event can do after 4 weekends of rain.

On Monday we had a look around Sydney while our bags were whisked out to Karen's place out past the airport. We spent an enjoyable 2 days with Karen and Eileen before flying home on the Wednesday.

R McCully



Two Kite days!

Can Kiting ever be so different over two days!?!?

In early September a phone call, "Can you go to Porangahau in early October" asks Anne, "we can't be there?". "Sure thing" I say then asking "Where's Porangahau??. Well it's just out of Waipukarau on the coast, and a local resident is starting an annual community etc festival and wants some kites, so I agree to go, despite the four hour drive.

In late September an unsolicited email message for me from Levin Police, please contact a certain Constableguilty conscience starts but eventually contact is made – Someone gave your name to Police, can you fly kites in Mid-October at Levin for a Police Community day? Much relieved I say yes.

So to Porangahau. A brief email and Sharon and Ian from Napier agree they might go also. My brother in law Terry is now in Wellington, comes from Waipukarau and has never been to a kite day so there is an opportunity for family bonding – have only known him for 42 years or so and he has never seen my kites.!

The day starts at 10 am, so Terry and I leave Wellington at 5.45 a.m. – we must be mad, and the weather forecast is not too good. Two and a half hours later we are at Dannevirke and I ring Sharon to see what is happening – they are just loading the vehicle, so all looks good except that even in

Dannevirke the wind is quite strong.. We continue across a blustery Takapau Plains – so blustery that a friendly gentleman in a sign written car flashes his red and blue lights at me – a friendly chat, a lightening of the bank balance and we continue more sedately. A visit to the family graves in Waipukarau and then on to Porangahau.

A large paddock is available, the wind is very strong, there are three sides covered in tall trees and much lumpy gusty turbulent STRONG wind. Ian and Sharon arrive. We struggle most of the day – very little is flown, my large spin-sock breaks its lines and floats quickly across the paddock and out of sight – Sharon recovers it – thanks.



Ian and Sharon's monkey keys get really unruly and have to be brought down to



behave! One of their smaller soft kites perches high in a macrocapa tree and Ian has to climb to recover it. One of my bouncing golf umbrella 'bolls' snaps its line, kids kites are bent and broken, though some flying within the garden area do quite well. No sparred kites were tried, and nothing stayed stable anywhere.

Then a small talent quest starts up and folks ignore the struggling kilters, so we quietly pack up to go home. The best parts – brief socialising with fellow kite flyers - people were appreciative of what we did – we had a free home-made venison burger provided for our lunch (mine included several bonus pieces if the brown skin of the onions! –this first community day was a success for them and seeing around my brother in laws home town.

So then to Levin later in October for a Levin Police/community kite day. Robert and Sue from Palmerston North might come, no one else was really available, weather forecast was not too good, but when Police ask, you go! It was for a good cause.

A later start from home with brother in law Terry – about 9.30 a.m. An uneventful drive up with few signs of wind – smoke just drifting and leaves barely moving. Arrive at the park – it is much smaller than anticipated, but there is a Police presence, local radio station, BBQ

etc. But no available toilets. {Spoke to a kindly constable who said that if I really needed to go they would put me in a patrol car and take to their station to use the Police facilities!!! – I never went!]

Robert and Sue arrived just when there was not enough breeze even for my roller! Tim from Foxton came with them. It



was great to catch up, last seen or spoken with them in January 2010 at Nelson!! It was like old home week – really nice. And then there was the kiting or lack of it. My genki eventually went up



and stayed – ‘just’ - most of the day – except for a brief rest with its tails through a tree and the kite about 1 metre away from the tree – Whew.

Robert had a large light air Pilot with a rainbow angel fish that stayed reasonably steady.

And Tim’s big light pilot kite had a rest in the top of a tree, only a small bit of damage as it was rescued with the aid of an old piece of drainpipe brought by a helpful local.

Many children had a great time making and flying (running around with) kites from kits bought from Julie in Christchurch – those not damaged from too much dragging around flew very well – some folks got extra lengths of the kit lines and flew them quite high.

We were interviewed briefly by the local radio station, broadcast around the ground and on air – even brother in law Terry got to say some words!

The fluky very light winds continued and we had to carefully watch as our light wind kites were falling and rising with the uncertain breeze as dark clouds came and went.

And then the rain started, gently at first, just as we thought about lunch – (pizza was on offer from a police community group). But pizza was forgotten about as it rained a bit more and we had to quickly bring down kites and hurriedly pack away damp stuff.

Eventually we got to ask about pizza. Sue and Robert had self-catered, just Terry and I left to have lunch, and they had about 10 boxes of purchased pizza for us!! The local youth and constables ate well, I don’t think any made it back to the Police canteen. And then just as we were leaving the “Black Thunder” radio station car wouldn’t start, could they be jump started please?? “Not by us “ said the Police. Last time someone tried it with a newish patrol car they fried the car electrics, the Police computer, the installed radar speed unit etc. So someone else helped.

All in all those attending had a great time – children and fathers etc played together, the community was happy, and organisers were very happy with our meagre showing. They will do it again, hopefully with a larger park, and with some toilets available!

In the end two very different kite days weather wise, but on both occasions our presence of just two or three fliers meant that people were appreciative, families enjoyed themselves, and we have been asked to return. I ‘enjoyed’ both days, despite being on both the receiving and giving sides of the Police on different days, and Terry says he will come to more kite days with me – it can’t all be bad!

Stephen

Kites in Western Samoa

After flying NZKA Member, brother John Russell's kites, at Lupe, a restaurant on the beach in Western Samoa, Bruce suggested that John should run a Kite Workshop, for pre-school children, at the Village of Poutasi.

John and his wife Pam were visiting Bruce who was in his final 3 months, of 5 years in Western Samoa. Over the past 2.5 years Bruce had started up and managed market gardens in Poutasi to supply lettuces & herbs to the local Resorts & Restaurants.

Question: How can you introduce kiting to pre-school Samoan children, in Samoa?

Answer: Back to basics!

After purchasing some plastic tablecloths & shower curtains and using their natural bamboo John made some small sled kites, which the kids could draw on.

Also as a feature for the day John put together a Poutasi Arch consisting of 26 eddy kites with the words POUTASI printed in the middle.*

On the day, with a far from ideal breeze, the school was introduced to

kiting by John. He had the children draw a picture on the sled kites and then colour-in their pictures.

It was then photos and then outside to let the fun begin with children and Adults who have never before touched or flown a kite.

The children ran, the sleds flew, the Poutasi Arch lifted and John's Legs and small Octopus added to the day.

The following Monday the Samoan Observer ran an article on the successful fly.

* Creating an arch for schools was inspired by Malcolm Hubbert's NZKA Facebook posting.



Kites Make a Show at Waihi Beach

Big kites and small kites took to the sky at the forth annual “Let’s Fly a Kite” at Waihi Beach’s Island View Reserve.

“It was exciting to see more families participate in this year’s kite day,” said the co-ordinator, John Russell. With young and old enjoying the experience.

“Ray & Rosemary McCully, from Rotorua flew their new sperm whale kite and Peter Clark, from Auckland, put up his magnificent show kites. A huge bouncing bol, a prehistoric bird, from Evan More, the Athenree Arch plus a host of other colourful kites helped to created what must be Waihi Beach’s greatest annual visual display,” said John

The blustery wind conditions weren’t ideal for Marcel La Grand to fly his famous Tui Stunt kites but he put on a display firstly with Peter Clark both flying stunt kites in formation then Marcel flew of his two simultaneously, as if they were glued together.

Unfortunately the deteriorating weather and wind downed Peter Clarks show kites and damaged the Athenree Arch, which is fixable, but the crowd enjoyed the kites so much so that everyone left smiling



Up Coming Kite Events

1st January 2015 The Chateau Tongariro on the Golf Course from 10am till 4pm. Annual kite flying event with the Tongariro Natural History Society

16th – 18th January 2015 Neale Park in Nelson. This is on the waterfront coming in to Nelson (from Picton). Arguably some of the best flying in the country, the wind is usually consistently better than average. First event of the South Island kite tour.

19th – 23rd January 2015 Contact Julie Adam for events between Nelson and Brighton Beach. Suggested places are Hanmer Springs, Culverdin, and a couple of vineyards in that area.

24th January 2015 New Brighton Beach kite day. More information on the next page

31st January – 1st February 2015 Flight 4 Life at Lake Hood Ashburton. Part of the South Island Kite tour.

21st – 22nd February 2015 Porirua are hoping to hold a festival in conjunction with a radio station. More information nearer the time via the website (www.nzka.org.nz)

27th February – 1st March 2015 Otaki beach. More information on the inside back page

8th March 2015 Trentham race track. More information on the following page.

22nd March 2015 Eltham. Annual event (possibly now the longest running event in the country) Come and enjoy the flavours of the country just south of Eltham in the farmers paddock. Well sign posted at the event.

Easter 2015 3rd – 6th April 2015 Napier. This time the event will be run at multiple sites to be announced on the day dependant on the wind. There will be a home base at John Mason's garage. There is more information on the Presidents page about the AGM meeting



New Brighton Information

Flying a kite is an exhilarating feeling as you see it take to the sky in a whoosh, and control its dips and dives as it catches the air.

Spectacular kites of all varieties, from beautiful hand-painted tapa cloth to monstrous flying beasts and every shape and size in between, will again flutter and soar over New Brighton Beach on Streets Kite Day, delighting children and adults alike.

Kite makers from around the world travel to attend this impressive event.

Why not try making and decorating your own kite and test it out on the sea breeze or buy one from the KiteShop on the day. Spot prizes will be given to some kite-flying kids.

Even if you don't have a kite to launch, you can watch while enjoying an ice cream or fish and chips on the beach.

New Brighton Silver Band will perform beside the promenade and buskers will entertain in the amphitheater.

Don't forget a hat and sunscreen. Catch a bus to avoid parking hassles.

<http://summertimes.org.nz/event/20240>

If people are travelling to Christchurch for the kite day, please let me know as flying days are also planned from Tuesday 20th as people travel from Nelson to Christchurch to Tuesday 27th. I'm just finalising permissions and will email those who let me know they are coming.

Julie Adam

The Silverstream Lions hold an annual Truck etc Show at Trentham Memorial Park. They get something like 15,000 (!) people through on the day

They would like some kite flying as an additional attraction. Sunday 8 March from early to about 4 pm ish.

They have all of the park and the Trucks are in the main oval area. They will allocate us the whole cricket field in the (?) south western(?) "corner". We are able to take vehicles on the field, and they will have a Lions tent to supply us with coffee etc and lunch also.



Not just Monkey business.

When I was asked to do a workshop for the Bristol Kite Flyers (BKF) lot, I was a bit apprehensive of it due to their reputation. Nothing bad of course just, well a different bunch indeed but let's say no more you get the picture, right?

When I started the communications with a lovely representative of the group, who



thinks I am an Australian citizen, yeah right, I was not aware of what they were after in terms of the project. What were they after I thought? One of my Idol fish perhaps, maybe a Monkey? But low and behold, the communication with the representative guy, who does not even



know where kiwis live, got stranger and stranger, "What if we have various Fish in your class?" he said. Oh no, I thought, here we go. Let's make it difficult shall we? Their reputation is starting to make its notice felt in my books, what else can make it more challenging for me?

Day by day more and more people joined in the game and towards the end there were 3 different fish to be made by that bunch, one was a flaming beauty that needing special attention, and no not a



blond one either. If you think that is not bad at all, well there was also one that wanted a baby Ralph and last but not least someone wanted to make a Monkey. So five various items in one class, yes, I was shocked to say the least. I got started to cut all the panels out and just when I thought I had them all done, "can we please have a red one as well". Will this ever end? I thought.

Anyway once I finally got to the class and met everybody involved, it all changed for me, boy how wrong I was thinking they were a crazy bunch, it turned out



comes to sewing and it made no wrong impressions on anybody, even first timers had a ball and finished their project.

The best part of all was when I found out all of the students had finished their projects , heck some even mysteriously appeared in the New Zealand tent at the kite festival in Dieppe, held in France, a week or so later.

Great stuff people I so look forward seeing you lot again somewhere sometime, someplace. Steady breezes and again thanks for the great time I had before, during and after the event.

Robert van Weers

they were more nuts than I thought!! No, now I am playing with you lot, I had a ball of a time, yes it kept me on my toes but I would like to say that it was one of the best if not the best class I have been honoured to do.

The lunches were looked after very well by the lovely ladies, no dark sauce though, and tea and coffee was available all day long and yes with snacks as well. Lovely home cooking was also a part of it. I was also very impressed with the students themselves, a great variety of experiences made for a great class indeed. From the immaculate stitching to the "that looks about right". We are all differently skilled when it



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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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.

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.

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.



Otaki Kite Festival - February 27th – 1st March

Tony Rice and Robert Brassington

Things are gearing up for the Otaki Kite Festival, February 27th – 1st March 2015, I've just been busy making kites with the local High school kids in their last week of term and in February Robert Brassington and Tony Rice, who are both coming to the festival, will be running workshops in the days leading up to it, Tony with the school children and Robert with adults. If you would like to take part please get in touch with Anne Whitehead who is helping to organise these, only \$10 per head so very accessible. We have had two fabulous festivals so far and we hope to build on that success towards another great event next year. The local circus will be putting on a performance at 4pm Saturday and Sunday again next year which along with other entertainment makes this a very family friendly event. Our little town has such a buzz about it when the festival is on, the locals are very friendly

and welcoming and proud to be hosting the festival. We hope to see you here. There is some help for transport and accommodation costs but we really do need to know numbers so to avoid missing out on this please fill in and return the registration form I have sent you by email.

Just in case you want to make the most of your trip to Otaki there is another festival on the weekend before in Porirua. This from their website :-

FEBRUARY 21-22

Kite Festival: Venue to be confirmed. Family fun event

Saturday afternoon and evening with amazing kites from all over NZ. Bring a picnic or buy dinner there. Experience flying your own kite – children's kites \$10 each. Kites also on display on Sunday.

<http://pcc.govt.nz/News---Events/Events#eventscalendar>

Hope to see you in February, Yvonne (de Mille).