

# WHAT'S UP?

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

Number 112

May 2015

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



# From the 2015 AGM

**Festival & AGM 2016** – Fergusson Park, Tauranga March 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>

**Festival & AGM 2017** – Eltham on Waitangi Weekend to celebrate 30 years of the Eltham Kite Day.

## Other Business

a. The question was asked as to why there was no badge for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AGM & Festival. The meeting was of the view that the style of badge we used in the past is definitely not affordable with the current membership numbers. Anne offered to research the cost and availability of cheaper badge types.

b. After some discussion it was decided that the workshops for the next two years will be:

2015 – bols & balls etc. Details to be confirmed.

2016 – Peter Lynn mini train or combinations there of.

c. David Bowie suggested that the committee consider changing the Rules so as to delete the Past Presidents position and replace it with a committee position. It was originally included for continuity when the whole committee was located in one town or region – this is no longer the case.

d. It was recommended that the committee reassess the content of the Whats Up pages on: Flying Sites, Committee and Trade Directory with a view to creating more space for articles or photos.

## Whats On

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Matariki Kite Day at Fergusson Park, Tauranga from 12 to 4pm.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July Matariki Kite day in front of Orakei Marae, Bastion Point, Auckland from 10am to 4pm.

## NZKA welcomes new members:

Renata Joyner of Paraparaumu

Diane McKinstry of Orewa

Peter Lowen of Motueka

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## Photo Credits

Front cover : Stephen Cooks fancy fish at the Chateau by Anne Whitehead  
Page 4 Photo by Malcolm Hubbert : Photo tied into his article  
Page 5—6 all photos supplied by Stephen Cook  
Photos page 7 -10 all supplied by Malcolm Hubbert  
Page 11 All photos Anne Whitehead : R van Weers Flying fish (top left), scene of Eltham(top right) all others from Nelson.  
Page 12 All photos by Diana Hough taken at Napier AGM fly  
Page 13 Napier potos by Diana Hough and Anne Whitehead  
Page 14 All photos by Anne Whitehead Ashburton above line. Otaki below  
Page 16-18 Photos supplied by Perrin Melchior and Peter Lynn  
Page 19 Photo by Anne Whitehead  
Page 20 Photos by Anne Whitehead at Eltham  
Page 21 Photo by Anne Whitehead at Otaki  
Page 24 All photos by Anne Whitehead at Otaki

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

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## President's words

This year has been full of events, but we are drawing to close for winter. We hope to start the season again in September at Whanganui and Ohakea for the weekend.

It is nice to see that members have risen to the challenge of producing articles about what they have been doing, so here is a bumper issue of photos and words. I have printed more of the pages in colour this time to give full benefit to the photos.

At the AGM we had the usual agenda and action and then when it came time to elect the committee we ended up with more people wanting to be on the committee than are designated spaces so we had a spirited vote to determine who will be the committee members. It has ended up that the members present have stuck with the status quo.

I thanked the committee and other officers of the Association for their work for the last year and want to express this to the whole Association publically. So thanks to the committee and officers for last year's effort. We are about to embark on the maintenance of the Association for another year.

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## My last few months of Kites

(or .. why I do all of this!)

My kiting year started at the Chateau fly-in. My first time there on a kite day, and a very scenic site. I travelled up in the morning from Wellington, and back home at night, but was well satisfied. I had made a 'largish' spiky ball and its first outing was a success – much laughter from a father and young son being rolled over.



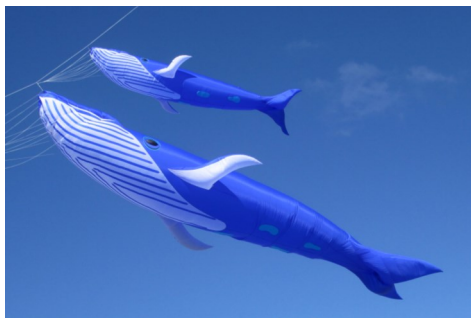
Also enjoyed seeing John Whibley's octopus against Mt Ruapehu. Was also my first



outing of the last workshop orca, so was well pleased. A nice point was flying my Spirit together with Diana's from Napier. A member of the public really enjoyed the sight and took some great photos of the dancing spirits which he later emailed to

me with a really nice note about the enjoyment we all gave to many people.

Then in February I went to a Lions Club training in Napier so could not attend Otaki Festival – hopefully next year... I travelled with a fellow Lion who knew about my kiting interest, but had not seen a kite day or similar –so we stopped in at Otaki. A brilliant sight and Pauline was totally amazed! Never seen anything like it, had no idea of the spectacle or size or range or artistry or, or, or etc.



Was amazing to me to see the impression made by the kites on someone with no background experience. Reminded me that while we may get a bit 'ho-hum' with what we fly, through the eyes of the public it is amazing. Pauline talked about the kites as a first topic of conversation for several days afterwards!

Early March there was a Lions Truck Show at Upper Hutt, and they wanted kites to add to the atmosphere. We were allocated a very large cricket field, but unfortunately surrounded by high trees, so kite flying was practically non-existent. And then the helicopter arrived close by to give rides. Quickly the relocation of helicopter was sorted out, but for the Whibleys, Whiteheads and me the day was a non-event. Many great trucks though and Lions raised just over \$12,000 for the day. Maybe



next year I will go again if we are given a better site.

Then on 15 March was the annual Eltham Kite Day. Left home very early for the four hour trip, and arrived at Eltham to see the big sign saying 'Kite Day Sunday 22 March'. I was a week early!! Fortunately petrol in Whanganui was on a big discount.

So a week later on 22 March with brother in law I again left Wellington very early for the four hour drive. Just the Whiteheads, Whibleys and I were there, but a good display given. A strong



steady breeze that gave great flying and caused a few small problems at times, but was good enough for me to fly a snowflake that had not been in the air for probably five years. People came and



went all day; it was great to catch up with some locals etc. One thing I noticed when overhearing conversations was the many connections being made among local farming folks – it was their day out and they were meeting distant neighbours for the first time etc. A nice and positive side effect of our kiting activities.

In early April I was in Bali with family, and every day saw a kite or several being flown. Of interest was the number of burnt out kite frames caught on power lines around town! Didn't have anything myself to fly and no time to buy and fly.

Then in late April I travelled one evening to a Lions Club in Masterton to do a Lions presentation. A new Lions member was being inducted ... Bill Harris, kiteflier ex Wellington and now with Shona permanently in the Masterton area. Bill was one of the first flyers I met when joining NZKA way back in 1988 at Fielding festival. I had not seen Bill for some years, so was great to catch up through another venue. And 'yes' Bill still has all his kites, and has moved on to flying a powered drone.

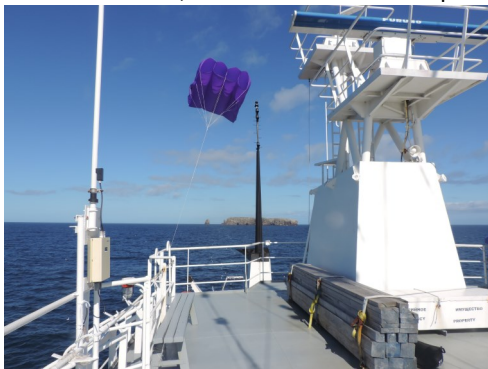
All in all a varied and interesting period for my kiting involvement. It is now almost winter so time to think of what I could make in the long evenings.

Stephen Cook

## Kites at Sea.

Last year, Diana and I took a voyage south from Bluff, to Antipodes, Bounty and Chatham Islands. Of course I took a few kites. On the way south I explored the vessel for a place to fly. Now even a small 2000 tonne ship is an abrupt structure. The bow rises three stories from the water. Behind this, the bridge topsides present a wide flat wall of another 3 stories. Between them on the foredeck are anchor winches, a derrick, cargo hatch, and fo'c'sle access to the galley. Winds rolling over the high gun-whale create a pronounced reverse flow eddy. The afterdeck is packed with liferafts, zodiacs, crane, hatches, funnel, etc. Which leaves the monkey deck above the bridge, effectively a small flat roof on a six storey building surrounded by radio aerials with a mast in the middle, and a radar turret aft. The technology on which depends 80 lives, hundreds of miles into the southern ocean. No Pressure.

And this is where I flew at most of our destinations, because we were not per-



mitted to land on most of these islands. I don't have many pictures because I was too busy keeping a 2m pilot away from unpredictable downdrafts. However, I do have a picture "under pilot" at The Forty Fours, which is the most easterly island of New Zealand.

We explored the island coastlines by zodiac. One day at South East Island (Rangatira) I pulled out a Charlie Watson pop-foil, and in ideal conditions launched it over our skipper's head, to his great surprise and delight. I had another chance to fly from a zodiac at Mangere Island, beside Black Robin wood.



During our first landfall, at Pitt Island on an almost calm day, I climbed up the hill behind Flowerpot Bay, and teased a couple of kites aloft. The next day we were on Chatham, where from a sheep paddock



above the nature reserve, in beautiful breezes flew everything, wished I had brought much more.

No sooner home than I booked two more voyages on the same ship, to other extremities of New Zealand both south and north. My plans included (a) take more kites, and (b) to have another kite for zodiac flying, with increased wind range. I reasoned that a 1m<sup>2</sup> pilot would be suitable. By chance a few months later, someone posted a scaled plan for a 1m pilot in the Kite Flyers facebook group. I made one up, utilising a bag of scraps from Jenny at PLK. Unfortunately the kite was unstable, did not fly. I realised that the scaling was not adjusted for seam allowance, and also the bridles were miles out. I read an article by Peter Lynn about pilot stability, measured one of my 2m pilots, and recalculated the scaling from a published 4m plan. The second pilot flew straight out in 30kph! so I made another one the same. Pretty much used all the orange scrap from the bag. I planned to make another one from new fabric with a kiwi graphic, but it hasn't happened yet, and if it had, would we have heard of OBOTL?

Anyway, at the beginning of the year we set sail again, bound first for The Snares. When our zodiac was about to return to the ship, I pulled out the orange pilot, but the driver objected because of risk of bird strike. The expeditions operate under a licence from DoC who send an officer on board to ensure

compliance. As kite flying was an essential part of my list, I approached the DoC rep about our landing on Auckland / Enderby Island. She referred the matter to the DoC office in Invercargill. After a vigorous up and down exchange between them and the expedition staff, DoC eventually decreed that "the flying of kites is not consistent with ecotourism".

However, DoC have no authority over the sea. At Enderby Island, Don, the expedition leader, took me out in a zodiac, and I flew a 2m pilot, micro ray, and 8m cuttlefish across the bay. They were easy to launch and fly, but wet to retrieve. Back on board the ship, I took them up on the top deck to dry them out. The photo of the cuttlefish gives an idea of the turbulence on deck, and some of the obstacles.



Ironically, when I related this story to Peter Lynn, he told me he used to send kites to Auckland / Enderby. As it was too dangerous for researchers to count the sea lions on foot, aerial photos from the kites were used



for census.



For the rest of the voyage, I referred to the orange pilot as my emergency parka. I may have had several clandestine wardrobe malfunctions out of DoC sight while ashore, but fortunately it had a safety line attached, so it was always secure even in blustery conditions. The wildest wind was on the clifftop above Northwest Bay. And there were flights from zodiacs at both Auckland and Campbell Islands.



Our third voyage was to the Kermadec Islands. We stayed on the ship at L'Esperance rock, Cheeseman and Curtis Islands, as our crew thought there was too much swell for the zodiacs. From the expedition log: *"There was a light breeze; enough for Malcolm to fly his vibrant orange and purple kite from the monkey deck. He carefully controlled it amongst the various aerals, antenna and other nautical structures"*. By now the 1m pilot was known as OBOTL, (orange blot on the landscape) so it was mandatory to record it flying at each location.

I was really looking forward to landing at Raoul Island, as I heard there is an airstrip



at Bells Flat. However, it is a 5km hike from the landfall at Fishing Rock, so before carrying a 10kg kite bag there (and back), I want to be confident of favourable conditions, especially as it is in the lee of prevailing wind. As it turned out, the first day ashore had the only useful breeze. I had not brought the kite bag on this recce, so had only OBOTL and a micro ray to fly at the flagpole, and on the air strip. For days foillowing, there was no wind. Once the daily weather ballon rose dead vertically to about 15,000ft it was so calm.



I used boat speed to fly from the zodiac in Denham Bay, and again by the Meyer Islands. The Meyer Islands are in themselves something of a liferaft for parakeets, which were completely eliminated from Raoul Island by various predators. Since they were eradicated, the parakeets have recolonised so successfully, they are now thick on the ground. We also had some excellent snorkel-

ling around the Meyer Islands.

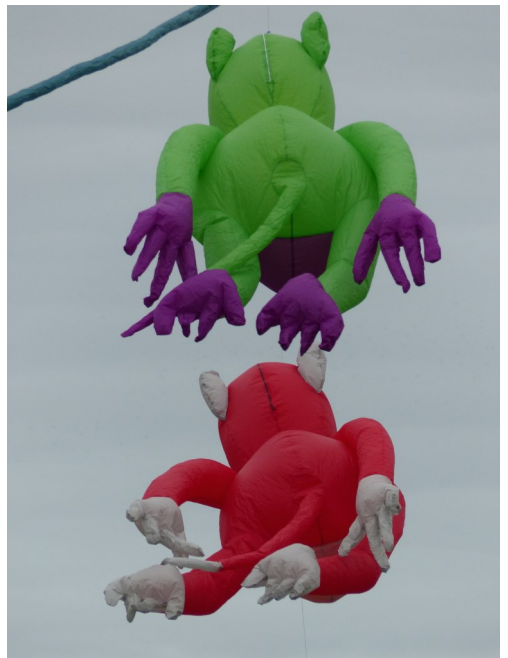
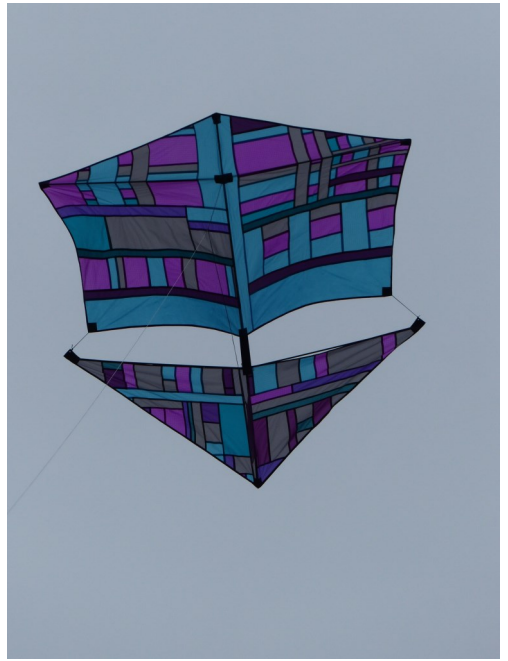
Our ship, at anchor between the Meyers and Raoul, was getting more air than on shore, so I tried launching my micro ray train from the monkey deck. I was using only a 2m pilot, and still managed to get 4 out of 6 rays aloft, but when the breeze softened, there was too much risk of tangling with the mast on top of the funnel. A bit later I tried a 6m pilot with the small whale, with brief success. The whale laying across the deck looked pretty cool.



After 4 days at Raoul, we sailed south. At Macauley Island, the swell again precluded use of the zodiacs, so we circled the islands in the ship, and OBOTL made his last appearance in the Kermadecs. The light sea swell did not diminish the fine weather, and we made such good time on the way home that we stopped off for a day at Greater Mercury Island, east of Coromandel, for one last glorious day "*and one amongst us endeavoured to populate the skies above the island with as many kites as he could carry.*" (expedition log)













## Art-in-the-Air 2015

Every two years Katikati has an Arts Festival.

In 2013 we held the first Art-in-the-Air 2013 where artists use Kite Skins as a medium.

It was a great success and created a lot of interest.

The Art Festival Organisers were so impressed that they had the kites hanging at both the Opening and Awards Ceremonies where they made a great display.

‘Art-in-the-Air’ is organised in conjunction with the Arts Festival Committee and is run prior to (mainly) and during the Katikati Arts Festival in September-October.

The kites were displayed at Hammer Hardware, Katikati – one of the sponsors, as well as being featured at “Let’s Fly a Kite” at Waihi Beach on the Labour Weekend Sunday. They have now been retained for future activities, by the Katikati Arts Festival Committee.

Art-in-the-Air 2015 will be run again prior to and during this year’s Art Festival and an invitation is extended to artists &/or people who could be interested in taking part.

The concept is that the artist decorates a large Kite Skin, which we provide – so, anyone interested in participating should obtain the Conditions of Entry by contacting:

John Russell, Email: [afactor@xtra.co.nz](mailto:afactor@xtra.co.nz) or Tel: (07) 549 4209

. Watch "This Town", Rotorua episode on TV1 sometime in July/August to see what Ray & Rosemary McCully were doing



## Kite Flying Report from Perrin Melchior—May 2015

The Otaki kite festival was another stunning success. Well worth the effort of attending. I flew my white tetrahedral kite that I made from an old Slingshot kitesurfing kite.



This year I was invited to help Simon fly kites for the Thailand Tourism Association, this was an amazing adventure for me. We flew via Sydney to Bangkok and then were driven 6 hours south along the eastern coast of the gulf of Thailand to Pak Nam near Chumphon.

There was a seafood festival on that weekend and we flew “sea creature themed” kites for the crowds of people





We were then driven back to the motel at Bangkok where we got to go shopping and wander about looking at the temples and palaces. The following weekend we were again driven south 3 hours to Cha-Am for the main event, a kite festival with fliers from all around the world. Another beautiful beach with light sea breezes to fly at



I also drove to Napier at Easter for the National NZKA kite day at Anderson Park. Here I flew my new 16 cell tetrahedral kite. The wind was a strong westerly and I broke 3 of my box kites.



Then ANZAC weekend in Rotorua flying at Ngongotaha Domain. A very nice weekend but not much wind. We did eventually get some kites up close to the end of the day.



Welcome to Wakanui Beach; where I go for smooth wind (for the other sort I just walk out the back door) .

I'm now fairly happy with the SSSL 1Skin series (5 cell, 18 bridle, 3sq.m) and they are in production. Tomorrow I'm starting on development of the single skin octopus- about the biggest surprise I've EVER had from a first prototype (like that it flew immediately and I haven't yet had to make any significant changes). This first one



is 1.6m x 8m, flies to 60km/hr at least.

Peter Lynn



## Grizz's words

I have been travelling around a lot this year and since a trip to the Chateau for New Year I have been to Nelson. This was a nice festival and nothing much of interest happened. I then went to Ashburton and had a really nice flight in slightly windy conditions. It was great to be straining on the back of the car, when suddenly the space was invaded by some run away Rokkakus. A green and white one got caught in the line of my neighbour (A Ray belonging to Peter Clarke) who had been a nice friendly neighbour all day. The person trying to retrieve the Rokkaku still thought they were on the fighting field and started jerking the kite line back and forth. Holy crap

the line was cut and away flew my friendly neighbour, Ray and pilot (still lifting the line). It was nice to hear that the Ray and pilot were retrieved without too much of an incident and that a member from long ago (Mark Somerville) was able to help with his van to get the kites.

Next I flew at Otaki, and what a festival that was of smooth winds for days.

I then went to Eltham. What an exciting day that was. Specially at the start of the flight as the wind picked up just as I was launched and I ended up flying a little higher than was intended, but with the help of some of the Lions I came back to a respectable height for a Bear and enjoyed a day in the country. And there was not too much sheep stuff on the ground.

I then ended up at Napier to days of interesting wind. Again I was flying along minding my own business, just having slight relations with a spirit. They are hard to talk to. Suddenly something happened, and it did a runner to the other end of the field and some menacing trees. It was nice to see that the spirit was retrieved with no loss of dignity.



## Kite Flying

We heard there was a fly your kite day at a large National Trust property not far away so off we went. The entrance to Lyme Park is on the A6, reportedly the busiest road in the UK. As we arrive at the gate to make a left turn there are signs up saying "park closed" with a number of people in fluoro jackets trying to keep some order. We stopped to see what the story was. Of course there is no where to pull over so as we talked to the fluoro jacket brigade about how we could get in traffic stopped. The car parks are full and also the paddocks. So where can we park? A shrug of the shoulders was the reply. With a bit of tooting from behind we moved on and took a side street where we managed to park and walk the 1/2 mile back.

The kite flying was on a ridge alongside a keep. Great setting and a nice bit of wind. About now I wish we had bought one or two from home. There were some small para foils for sale so we now have 2 kites on the boat.

John Mason



## ***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**

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)

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

[afactor@xtra.co.nz](mailto:afactor@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@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)

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

Elsdon Park, Porirua

Contact : Anne and Peter Whitehead

Ph 04 476 7227



## **2015 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-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.

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