

WHAT'S UP?

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

Number 115

April 2016



New Zealand Kitefliers Association Inc.

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

Facebook at NZ Kite making and flying

Photos

Front cover Seen at the Chateau fly. A wonderful cloud and sun effect. Dragon belongs to M Hubbert

Page 11 Tauraunga Clockwise from top left

Perrins Box kite, General scene, general scene, whitehead crab and sky, S Cook, P Melchior, P Whitehead relaxing, M Hubbert's cuttle fish train, bowling ball alley

Page 12 Left to right, top to bottom

Line 1. The Chateau fly on 1st January

General scene, the NZKA tube, snow tiger of M Hubbert

Nelson 23rd of January

Space racer by S Chisnell, Dragons by P Lynn, R Brassington train (unknown owner), Whitehead train of kites, Saturday night get together

Page 13 from Otaki Clockwise from top left.

Whitehead snowmen in an unfamiliar location, Yvonne de Mille star, R McCully star train, beach scene, G Campbell bugs invading the beach, competitors in the Rokkaku challenge, two more beach scenes from the large kite area, ray and octopus kites of P Clarke, another train of large kites

Page 14 Eltham Clockwise from top left

S Cook's caterpillar made at the Chateau. M Hubbert's dragon, M Bowie rokkaku flown by M Hubbert, S Cook and brother in law flying, A Whitehead's Brassington train, R McCully's poppies, M Hubbert's ray, R McCully's soldier windsock

Photos by A Whitehead and D Hough

What's Up?

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Presidents Words

The last months have been busy with kiteflying as reported in events following this. It has been a fun time and the flying has been good this year. Perhaps it's El Nino or perhaps it's not El Nino this year, but what ever the flying has been better so far this year I think.

The kite making event at Ohakune was good and useful for members. I have seen the fruits of this on the beach at Otaki and other events already this year. All the bols and balls seem to perform well. We can look forward to much more flying with these over the coming years.

And here is my moan. There is no picture of me because I can not get Publisher to wrap the text around the picture. I am so frustrated. This magazine is later than I had hoped as Bill Gates has been attacking my computer and trying to make it upgrade. It takes an hour and a half to try to upgrade and then thankfully only 10 minutes to put me back to where I was. Computers promised so much and have delivered so little. So there may be issues in the magazine that are not up to standard. If they are instead of complaining why don't you try to do this task (with the help of Bill Gates and Publisher)

The Chateau

New Years Day dawned bright and inviting. Many of us were staying at Ohakune so we travelled the 30 or more kilometres to the Chateau golf course where we fly. The day was a good day of flying and reconnecting with friends from around the country. This was one of the better days, the wind was reasonable, there was no rain and not too much excitement.

We then stayed on at Ohakune and had the not the Labour Weekend kite making retreat. Participants made balls and bols, so there a lot more of these flying recently. I made some snowmen (We were in the mountains) (line junk) which were made up of 3 sizes of balls. I think this was a successful use of time.

Nelson 2016

A lot of people arrived on the Friday before the event so we had fish and chips or other takeaways on the field as we finished putting the field tent up.

Saturday was the normal slow start as people visited their favourite spots in Nelson, ranging from the Saturday market to the WOW museum. The afternoon flying was great as a warm up to the Sunday. We then had a bar-b-que at Teds that night and at some stage

Continued on next page

this developed into a fake snow ball extravaganza to help make some of the American guests not feel so homesick for a cold January.

Sunday was a beautiful day. The wind was kind and predictable, there were no strange wind shifts and there were lots of kites flying. This was the first time that we had seen the new ground object from Peter Lynn Kites. This is a large inflatable train that children can enter and run through, then exit via a valve system. This was well patronised, as was the usual ride on the back of a buggy for a small donation. Simon had his two space rider (with attached alien) there for an outing. There were two dragons making an appearance as well. Both were nice in different ways. There was a white and grey one that was an enhancement of 'the how to train your dragon' and the other was a bright blue from John Tan. This was mistaken for a stegosaurus by many as the wings were so small. And the prize of the day goes to Julie Adam for landing a flow form on the top of one of the large lamp stands. Luckily at the end of the day the truck with the crane on stayed on and was able to lift Bruce's son x up to retrieve the kite. This was a source of interest to us all, well done. A few years ago I made comment to James White that there was a ladder fire engine for sale after he had landed some of his large kites in the trees a few too many times.

Eltham 2016

Eltham this year was held early over Waitangi weekend. I think this worked well for both sides of the event, us as we had a nice warm day with good steady wind, and the Lions in that they got good support from the locals and it worked in well with the farmer in that the ground was still wet. Well not drought as it was one year and we had to try to move location. It rained so much that weekend that the drought broke, so somebody was happy. Back to this year.

The kites flown were as many as usual, and it was great to see some of the members of the public returning to say they were young kids when they remember the pink octopus and other kites from 20 or more years ago. We are connecting with the public and they remember what has been flown here, even if we don't get members.

Otaki 2016

We have just finished the Otaki Kite Festival. The weather (wind wise) was as good as it could get. The wind stayed the same direction for most of the festival so we did not have too many incidents in the display kite area.

Continued on next page

The Saturday was a lot cloudy so some of the photos were not quite as good as they could be, but that did not detract from the event. There was one small rain squall event that cleared the beach of about half the people at one stage, but this was soon filled up again by new visitors. There were a few less kites flown this year as two of the extreme flyers (Malcolm and Robert Brassington) were missing. On the Friday there were some interesting wooden structures on the beach. There had been some sort of competition, but a tractor came along early on the Saturday and moved all the drift wood to the back of the beach.

There was a good spread of different kites flying over the two days. There was a large turnout for the Rokkaku challenge from local businesses and community organisations. Ron from Nelson came up and provided buggy rides across the beach and the Peter Lynn Kites train made another appearance. Simon was commenting that the amount of sand collected might give them an issue with being overweight to fly home. I just dropped them at the airport and left them to it.

This event is growing in size and support from the local community. There was even a free bus from Waikanae to bring people in. And I think that there were more people there this year than ever before. This event is becoming well known now. It is becoming so popular that the people who own the house we rented now want to see the event themselves next year so we are going to have to find another house to rent for next year.

Members from all around the country attended this year including (but not only) from Auckland, Rotorua, Napier, Whanganui, Paraparaumu, Wellington and Nelson. There were some great displays of kites that could fire the public's imagination and wonder. I was interested to see Perrin using his box kites to lift a medium piece of drift wood. I think that impressed the public especially if they were allowed to try and pull on the line or listen to the story about man lifting attempts. Ray was also engaging with lots of the public because of his realistic seagull kites.

Tony Rice from Australia and Mikio Toki from Japan were brought in to be the featured guests. I understand that their workshops went down a treat as we were helping with a work shop run by Mikio here in Karori. It's nice that the Otaki event could do events from Wellington to Palmerston North.



Siblings Explore Vancouver Kiting.

Over 18 months ago the Google search engine was looking up Vancouver, BC, Canada – zoo's & kites.

For 3 weeks Ian & I were

to see what Vancouver was about and where could we find kites and where we could fly.

Our 1st flight was at Point Roberts – a tiny portion of USA south west of Vancouver. Here we walked from suburban Vancouver over the border, got our visitors card & walked from the 49th Parallel to the Northern most point of USA – in an hour with a detour via the west coast. Found their small park & very stony beach to fly Warren's silver fern rev.

The kite shopping started off at Granville Market, Vancouver. Here was the only shop in Vancouver for a population of 2.5million, in half the size of Perrin's shop, and only half the stock was kites, the other half being puppets. Victoria on Vancouver Island was shop number 2, similar size to Perrin's but again kites were only a portion of the business – the other half miniatures.



Shop number 3 was where our fingers did the walking, Vancouver, Washington, USA. Once purchased via the wonderful web the kites travelled from Vancouver (USA) to Long Beach

International Festival where they were passed onto a Seattle flier whom we agreed to pick them up from at a hotel near the bus stop that would take us back to Vancouver (following an over night trip via the Boeing factory where the new Air NZ planes were being assembled & Seattle zoo). Problem was, they were inside the hotel,

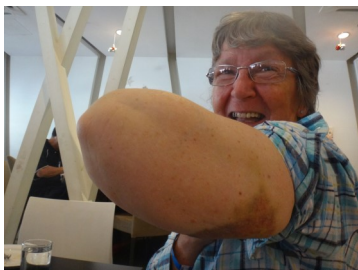


we were outside & we only had a computer for contact with no wifi access ☺. A return trip a few days later & Ian was united with our USA kites.

Finally a breeze turned up in Vancouver (2 days before we left) so we packed up our kiwi made rev kites (thanks Warren) & our new light wind kites (covering both kinds of winds, hedging bets) and headed to the sacred kite field within Vancouver – Vanier Park. There was enough wind for the kiwi revs (& a paraglider) to play with.



Post note: The light wind kites – Zero G from Prism had their first outing at the AGM fly in Tauranga this year – they fly really well in no wind ☺ S Russell



Elwyn been in surgery for 2 days since arriving back in NZ (an OLO Trilibite at Pasir Gudang caught it's tails in various obstructions as it launched, or rather, as it didn't launch-including Elwyn).

And from my evil anchors collection: this was a standard 1cu.m anchor bag. I launched the 50m Serpent, was hanging on to it (just, 30kg?) then released it to the bag when it promptly



pull, but it wasn't, they were rotten.



pull, but it wasn't, they were rotten.

Peter Lynn

What's Up Thoughts?

Well, what a varied time kiteflying brings. After the Ohakune workshop my next outing was a day trip Wellington to Eltham for the Lions 29th (!!) annual kite day. Gentle breezes mainly, and lots of black flies in the farmers field. Highlight for me (if it can be called that) is that the first kite I made – at a Peter Lynn workshop in Wanganui in 1988! – flew high for a long time just tied off to a log. So next time you see a small bright orange delta just sitting in the sky, know that it is almost 30 years old.

Nelson I missed for other commitments, and then I had a 4,800 km motorcycle around the South Island in eight days – no time to enjoy the land and fly a kite. Subsequently I attended the Otaki Beach kite fly. Just amazing, so many kites, so many people, great wind, and for almost the first time I was able to have several kites and line junk up consistently with no problems. Next year I hope to stay locally and attend more than just the weekend days although daily travel to Wellington was not so bad. It was great to catch up with folks I had not seen for a while.

I then attended the Upper Hutt Truck Show where last year we tried and failed to fly anything. This year there was no talk of including kites – I think sensible heads have prevailed as our allocated area of park last year was hopeless. Of note was seeing my dentist's car – a Ferrari! No wonder dental bills are so high.

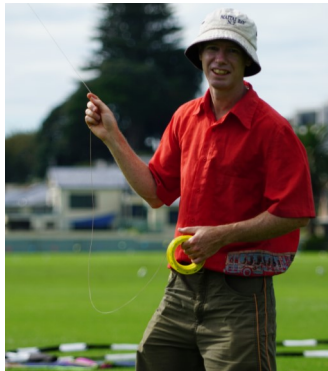
Then on to Tauranga for Easter – what a great flying site on Fergusson Park. Generally steady winds when they eventually arrived, a scenic site and lots of interesting things happening. Many families and dogs (well behaved), boats, jet skis, fishermen – including one fly fisherman in the estuary catching a reasonable sized king fish. Then a pontoon based microlight aircraft complete with a moveable hang glider style wing for control. Imported cost is US\$70,000. A social couple of evenings, an enjoyable AGM sitting outside on the club rooms deck and a fine Thai evening meal the next evening. While only two 'formal' days of flying I did manage to have a relaxing fly on four consecutive days.

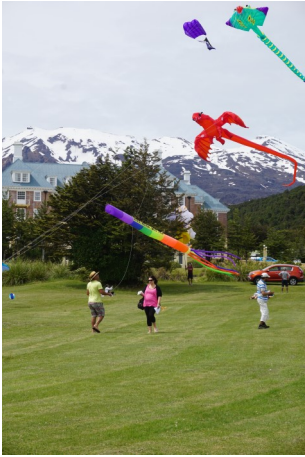
One thing I did do is try my caterpillar/centipede that I finished at the Ohakune workshop. While it is 'OK' it is not a thing of beauty, but does move in the sky. Through Perrin I learned that just because fabric is rip stop it does not mean it is impervious to air. The backs of every leg are very porous, and now the question is....how do I improve it without pulling it all to pieces?

Another learning for me over this period was that even though you brush all the Otaki sand off the outside of kites and balls etc, when you come to re-sew seams etc a pile of sand remains inside the object! Vacuum cleaners are great.

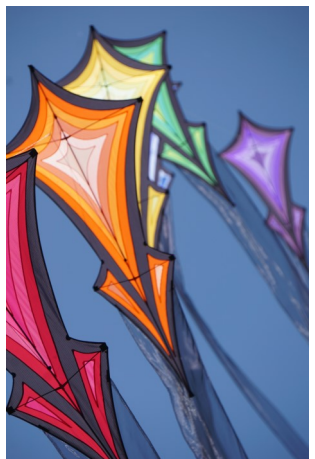
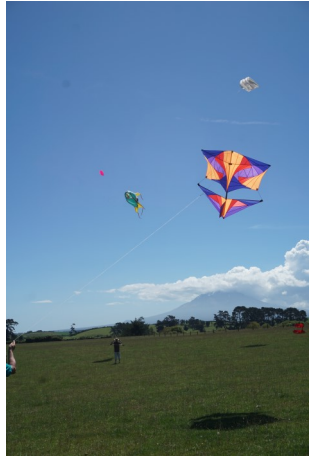
Stephen Cook



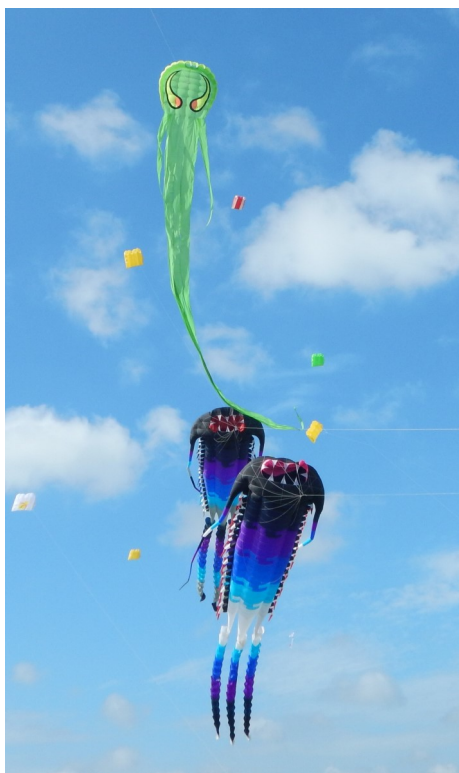








The Malaysia / Thailand festivals have been on my wish list for a while, and this year I got to attend. Fortunately, the extreme boredom of waiting in airports or on buses is now almost forgotten, and positive memories are dominant. Usually our photos show our kites as pretty as can be, but I think a bit of drama now and again is far more interesting. Apparently this year the winds at all three events were as good as they have ever been. These are relatively small festivals—about 120 flyers from 40 different countries, so along with Peter and Elwyn Lynn, NZ took up a lot of air-space.



Pasir Gudang is a small area for so many fliers, leading to many incidents. Peter's pilot was the first to be cut. At least it was easy to retrieve.



When my pilot was cut soon after, it drifted towards the main road, caught in



a tree, frustratingly just out of reach. I hooked it out with a small branch, and walked back across the field just in time to see Peter's single skin serpent drifting over the retail tent village. I found it stashed behind a bush. Not sure if it was for his benefit or the finders, as later in the day, one of Peter's pilots vanished into the tents forever. The wind became strong and gustily unstable. While my stack was on the ground, it got

thrashed between the many concrete block anchors over the field, ripping quite a few of bucket tails on my new ultralight ray, and pulling out the leading bridle of the cuttlefish. My Volkeron tore the centre panel about 2.5m down both sides. Peter sewed it up for me, nice job. Over the 3 events. Peter and Elwyn spent a lot of time sewing repairs on their kites.

When everything is flying nicely, Peter usually decides to put up something experimental, which will sweep the field from side to side and back again. A couple of times, long trains descended on us from upwind. We were very grateful for the team of Uni students to help haul down the stacks to retrieve smaller kites from their bridles, or to sort out bigger tangles.



Finding drinks in an islamic country is a challenge which I am happy to report was successfully managed by the international kitefliers.

After Pasir Gudang, most of us travelled in 3 coaches to Malacca, taking just enough

time to check into our hotel before heading to the kite field. All this area is reclaimed land. The kite festival was on soccer grounds beside a man made beach. The anchors were very poor, just a few small sand bags. Peter commandeered a large lighting column, and I was fortunate to be given the use of a truck. The wind was offshore. Unfortunately several fliers lost their kites to sea because the organisers had not provided a boat. There was to be a dinner at the field, so a few of us left our kites up into the evening. The breeze softened, but held up, and with the big sports lights up, amazing to watch the kites at night.



Next morning, the local newspaper featured a double page spread with several photos of the kiwi kites.

That afternoon, I had just settled in the shade of the truck to start repairing the ray when the driver called out "your kite is in the sea". My pilot had been cut and was now looking more like a bluebottle. When I followed it around the curve of bay , my aim was to keep it in sight in case

a boat turned up. However, as luck would have it, just like a bluebottle, the wind pushed it across the water, and on to the far side of the beach. By the time I arrived, it was laying right at the tide line, and I picked it up without getting my feet wet! Back at the field, when I had re-launched the kites, I resumed my crude repair of the ray, until I had it looking like a primary school sampler! However, it was airworthy again, ready for further adventures!

From Malacca, the coaches took us north to the Thai border, 700km overnight. Lets not think about it! In the morning we arrived at a small village near the border, where we transferred into minivans, which were more suitable for the steep winding road to the border crossing. Then it was only another 40km to Satun.

It was a surprise to find the field, which has hosted this festival for many years, is dotted about with trees - in shifting wind conditions, impossible to avoid from any anchor point. Inevitably, the ray tackled the first one head on, to be rescued by a local man with a chainsaw! The ray gained a small rip near the leading edge, but was still airworthy enough to follow a wind shift into a completely different tree. I think the kite has some lizard blood, because it shed the tip of its tail to escape.

The last day the wind was quite soft, and when you thought it was filling in, would drop off, and then come from another direction. Peter's O/L trilobite descended gracefully over the delegates tents. It just ran out of puff!



A large Thai team took over the road which passes behind the kitefield. They attempted to launch a very large framed traditional Thai snake kite. The 1000m long tail is kept in a pallet-bin. The first launch failed because the tail was not attached to the head. The second attempt also failed as the launch was cross-wind. They left it where it lay.



We spent the next day in kayaks on a river, followed by a final dinner. I learned lots from all of this, and in spite of the damage incurred, and occasional tedium, I am keen to do it again next year.

M Hubbert

2016 Committee

At the 2016 AGM the following committee were elected:

President: Peter Whitehead

Secretary/Treasurer: Ray McCully

Committee: Warren Ellery, Ian Russell, Malcolm Hubbert, Anne Whitehead and Perrin Melchior.

2017 Annual Festival & AGM - At Eltham over Waitangi Weekend. This is also the 30th anniversary of the Eltham Kite Day.

2018 Annual Festival & AGM - Auckland members are exploring the possibility of using Ambury Farm (Regional Park) on the harbour side of Mangere Mountain.

2016 Annual Festival at Fergusson Park, Tauranga

The weekend was not as good as 2013 due to the weather impacting on our flying activity. Heavy rain on the Wednesday lead to the council withdrawing our vehicle access permit which made anchoring large kites a bit more challenging.

On 3 out of the 4 days the wind was light and variable direction until at least 1pm or later. Once the wind did kick in we all had good flying.

The NZKA had not publicised the festival locally as we did not want to submit a traffic management plan for Fergusson Park. As the park only has one entrance/exit we could have been up for expensive traffic control measures. However, the council did list it as a weekend event and the local paper gave us a one page photo spread and a short article.

The members who attended all had a wonderful weekend of kite flying and socialising.

Did the 2015/16 El Nino Weather Affect Your Kite Flying?

Most summers in Rotorua are characterised by a certain weather pattern that Rosemary and I count on for our kite flying at the lakefront.

Warm, fine days with little or light winds forecast invariably meant that between 2 & 3pm a northerly breeze would develop off the lake. It is perfect for kite flying as it has little disturbance due passing through the gap between the sound shell and the tourist floatplanes.

This summer the northerly lake breeze rarely developed and if it did develop it never lasted more than hour before swinging back to the NW or even more unusually moving to a NE. As the photo shows, we can fly in a north easterly but the available space is reduced.

In Rotorua, we will be looking forward to next summer, without an El Nino!

R McCully

Matariki Tauranga 2016

Tauranga City Library is holding the 2nd Matariki Family Kite Day, at Fergusson Park, Tauranga, on Sunday 3rd July.

This year Schools & Kindys and the public at large are being involved with an emphasis on the magic world of kiting - where the old mix with the new.



NZKA members are invited to fly at one of New Zealand's top flying fields – Fergusson Park, Tauranga.

J Russell

Up coming Events

Matariki at Orakei Marae at 59B Kitemoana Street Auckland June 25th or rain day will be June 26th.

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
raymccully@gmail.com

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.

Kiteworks

181 Symonds St. Auckland.
Phone/Fax (09) 358 0991
Services offered: SL, DL, C, Bu, F, Ka, Re and W.

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.

Kite Flying Report from Perrin Melchior – March 2016

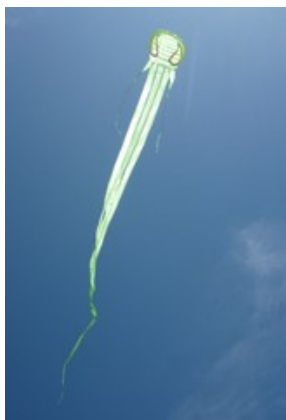
In October 2015 I travelled up to Bayllys Beach and spent 4 days exploring the sand dunes of the north head of the Kiapara harbour in my kite buggy. This is the new location for my annual “Moose Meet”

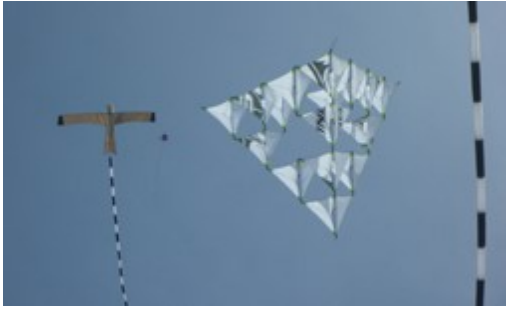


I flew kites with Peter Clark and Malcolm Hubbard in December 2015 for the Fletchers Christmas Party at Ambury Farm in Auckland. This was a fun day with great weather.



In January 2016 I flew down to Nelson for the 25th Rainbow Flight Kite Festival with Peter Clark. We had Two days of perfect flying weather and got to see some of Peter Lynn’s new single skin show kites.





In February 2016 Peter, Evan and I flew at the new Hobsonville housing development .The wind this day was a bit crazy with wild thermals that got a bit much for the maxi heart. I had a close call and had to let the line go as it was going to lift me way up into the air.



Then in late February 2016 a road trip to Fitzroy beach in New Plymouth for a kite buggy meet . I also checked out the Len Lie Gallery – Amazing.



And in March 2016 an all night drive to the Otaki kite Festival which was another stunning success.

