

WHAT'S UP?

A man wearing a red long-sleeved shirt, a grey vest, and a black cap is standing on a dark, pebbly beach. He is holding a kite string that goes up to a large red kite with yellow Chinese characters. The sky is filled with many other kites of various shapes and colors, including a large circular one. In the background, there are some buildings and trees on a grassy dune under a cloudy sky.

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

Number 117

April 2017

New Zealand Kitefliers Association Inc.

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

Facebook at NZ Kite making and flying

Photo Credits

Front Cover of Mr Bob (Maysmor) at Otaki by P Whitehead

Page 7 Amethyst kite (by Alison Staines) and article by J Russell

Page 8 Photos and Article by Malcolm Hubbert

Page 10 Photos of Eltham AGM by C Baron and A Whitehead

Page 11 Top four photos of Ohakune Labour Weekend workshop. Next of Napiers Ball day. Bottom two of flying on 31st December at Ohakune By A Whitehead

Page 12 – 13 Photos by Perrin Melchior

Page 14 Space Racer, Pig and Dragon (by S Chisnell) at Nelson. Cody (by J Whibley) Flags (by L Sanders) Wind Pointers and Enigma Box (by P Whitehead) at Otaki. Photos by A and P Whitehead

Page 15 Photo of Applique Delta (by Jude Shirley)

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I hope that this has been worth waiting for.

What's Up?

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A revisit to Eltham

I first got initiated into kite flying on a sheep paddock outside of Eltham as an American teenage exchange student in 1991; Peter and Anne Whitehead were the conduits. From first dodging sheep patties trying to get the stunt kites to fly, to flying kites over the Missouri



River back in my home state of North Dakota, to flying kites over the Niagara Falls in up-state New York and over the Italian beaches in Cervia, to the kite flying support on Long Beach in Washington state, to kite skiing on winter snows and kite bugging in the Wyoming summers. Now, in my early 40's, with great pleasure I returned back to Eltham and the 30th Lion Club's Kite Day.

I can't say that I turned into a mover or maker in the kite world but I have always been supporting and promoting the sport as it has continued to be part of me and my entire family's life. My father started to make really good stunt kites and incorporated kite making projects into his high school art classes, my brother taking up kite skiing & bugging in Wyoming, our family vacations often timed in conjunction with a kite festival somewhere on the planet, and best of all: the dear friendships we have made across the planet with people from all walks and professions in life with one thing in common: wanting to put something up in the sky, hang around and enjoying the sights.

I blame my host parents and the Eltham Lion Club's Kite Day for all of that.

It was a great to see the Eltham Lion Club's Kite Day tradition holding strong with the continued support from the Turner family (providing the paddock venue with the Taranaki view), to the Eltham Lions Club (providing the promotion, organizational and infrastructure support) and New Zealand Kite Flyers Association (providing promotion and the kite fliers) and of course the support from the local community that all attended.

Thank you, I'll be back.

Cory Baron

If you wish to see a local report and pictures from the Johnsonville fly in Feburary then follow this link. Go to page 12 of the link to see the results

<https://issuu.com/the.star/docs/217032ih?mode=embed&layout=http%3A%2F%2Fskin.issuu.com%2Fv%2Fflight%2Flayout.xml&backgroundColor=010101>

A History of kites in Otaki

Moy Chin Poy with a 9m-long dragon kite he created. His grandson, David holds the tail. (Photo from original newspaper article, original unavailable.) *Photo: Golden Coast News Shopper, 19 May 1971*



Way back in the early days of my personal kite history I remember people telling me about the Kite Man of Otaki. At the time I had no idea where Otaki was and as I lived in the South Island didn't really come across it. Now of course I'm wishing I had made a bit more of an effort to meet Moy Chin Poy and learn his story. So kites have a long association with Otaki and it's nice to add to that legacy with our annual festival.

It occurred to me recently that some of you may own a Moy Chin Kite and if so perhaps, if you were happy to lend your kite we could put on an exhibition of his work around next year's festival. Did any of you meet him? Do you know what he was making? Was it only Chinese style kites? I'd love to hear from you if you have any information at all. Please email me ydemille@gmail.com

Please see the article below re-printed courtesy of Ian Carsen - Otaki Street Scene Magazine

The fabulous Chinese kite maker

Long before the success of the international Otaki Kite Festival, one Chinese market gardener was creating and selling his own fantastical kites.

Moy Chin Poy had learned to make kites as a boy in China, and had retained the interest sometimes at the cost of his garden business. In 1971 he retired aged 77 after 48 years as a market gardener in New Zealand, mostly in Otaki. His kites were

sold from a roadside stall outside the family home on the highway just south of Otaki Railway (near Sue Avenue today), competing with the vegetables his son Ron Moy was also trying to sell.

A May 1971 edition of the Golden Coast News Shopper wrote about Chin Poy, saying he had created many kites, but his favourite was a 9m-long dragon. Its lift into the air made it a kite not for youngsters.

"I play with this one myself," he told the Shopper. As he demonstrated, it flew into the sky and he had the delight of a craftsman well pleased with his work.

His dragon was not a fearsome creature, the paper said. With its 3m body segments undulating gracefully in the gentle breeze, it looked more like a friendly, legless centipede. There was no effort needed to launch it.

A satisfactory length of string was paid out across the newly hoed gardens, the dragon's sections were unfolded, and as the head was lifted to arm's length, the light breeze took it and carried it as high as the string would allow.

Pulling it in again was like trying to land a 25kg groper in a heavy sea. In a high wind it was feasible that the flyer could become airborne by the pull of the kite.

Chin Poy had made two dragon kites – the one he demonstrated and another which was given to the Auckland Museum by the Chinese Embassy. It took him a full week to make the museum kite and he considered the \$30 paid at the time cheap for the work. He didn't count the cost of materials, which were largely plastic and bamboo.

A good kite must be well balanced, he said. The tail was a European trick to achieve balance in a kite that has been made too long or too short.

Chin Poy also made kites that resembled butterflies, birds and fish. They cost up to \$5.

In one shape he combined his two hobbies – fishing and kitemaking. It could carry a line bearing six hooks and a sinker out to sea.

He rediscovered his kite-making skills when his grandson, David, asked him to make a kite. He found pleasure in designing the colourful birds and fish. When he had a good stock of kites, a "For sale" notice would go out to the roadside stall, attracting plenty of customers. Sometimes at weekends, a queue would build up on the road outside as families pulled up to look at the kites.

They were even featured on television and in a national magazine, leading to plenty of orders.

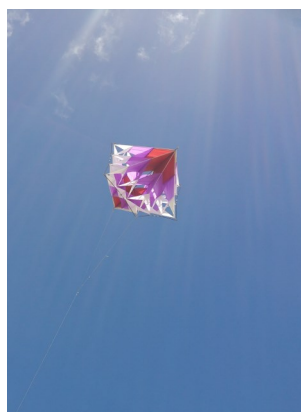
Asked about his philosophy on life, he quoted an old Chinese proverb: “If you sit down, you get rusty.” While Chin Poy remained busy, he never wanted to be rushed, taking orders only as long as he could fill them.

The Amethyst kite

Facet kites were developed at the end of the '70s early '80s with unique and beautiful designs being built.

Past NZKA member Alison Stanes built the Amethyst Kite based on the design of the Starflake.

Today NZKA member John Russell is the proud owner of the Alison's Amethyst Kite and was recently seen flying it at Snells Beach, out from Warkworth.



Flying with Malcolm

It was very useful to spend time with Peter Lynn at the recent festivals in Pasir Gudang and Satun, for both advice and practice flying the new 1skin pilots and octopus. These are quite technical kites to fly, because some adjustments are required for differing wind ranges. Once they are set up, they perform very well, plenty of pull, at a high angle. Also, because of low winds in the mornings, I spent more time flying kites by hand than I have for years, so that was a fun bonus.

While there, Peter developed shingles, so I spent a lot of time helping Elwyn with Peter's, as well as my own kites.

The winds at Pasir Gudang are quite variable, and kites in trees are not uncommon. Although I caught a tree and a tent pole, I escaped serious engagement, unlike others. Last year three of my kites were significantly damaged by the concrete blocks used for kite anchors all over the field, but none this year.

In Satun, my pilot line was severed by nylon (looked like a hot knife cut), and the 1skin sailed across the kite field, across the main road (and Thai power lines) and then another 300m into the back yard of a cannery. I recovered it intact. However Peter had a flying line break, setting loose his pilot and two 1skin octopus in the same direction, but with more height and range, eventually getting treed in a swamp. Peter was in no state to pursue; and Volker arrived at the scene to discover the army cadets were vigorously cutting all the bridles to recover the kites. Some of the tentacles were also cut off, so the "recovery" was of negative benefit.

At Satun, the bigger kites get to fly at the end of the field where there are still a few trees, and as the wind swings around quite a lot, it is a challenge to arrange line lengths so that kites are mostly out of trouble. We still had some good flying, and the wind stayed up for the night fly. One afternoon there was a large whirlwind that slowly crossed the field, carrying kites in a broad circle, so that my ray landed gently on its own anchor.

Malcolm Hubbert



Hawkes Bay Flying.

Well, as usual we appear to fly more outside of HB than locally but that has changed a little bit this season.

We borrowed the Taupo homemade fly in November & bought it Napier this year. Due to the change of season's that was a very strong nor-westerly weekend. We tested some anchor bags & even with about 70kg of water & building stuff they were sliding down Anderson Park. Our next fly was at Eltham & my boss who hails from New Plymouth doesn't believe we saw the mountain from the time we arrived on Friday until we left on Sunday. Lighter breezes for once, meant that we didn't fly our bears & bolls. We were able to bring out our Brassington workshop kites & other sparred kites & young George learned to fly a two liner very quickly. A Granddad also gave 2 line flying a go - just what kite flying should be about - giving it a go.

March 5th was Children's Day & our local radio station the Breeze held a kite fly at Perfume Point in conjunction with advertising Mary Poppins, our local operatic show. Everyone was encouraged to come down for a couple of hours & "Go fly a kite". Mr Banks turned up & his kite flew very well.

For the first time in our flying history Ian was able to sit on a chair, have a Brassington kite in each hand, and between his knees - Diana Hough's Spirit kite. All flew together with no tangles. We also had another 4 kites up, all anchored close together. The sea breeze was just perfect.

S. Russell

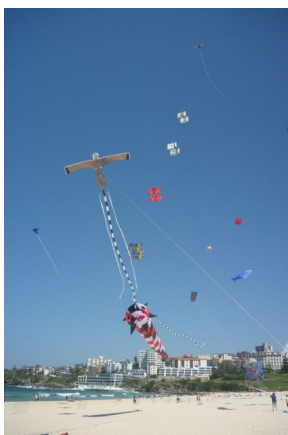
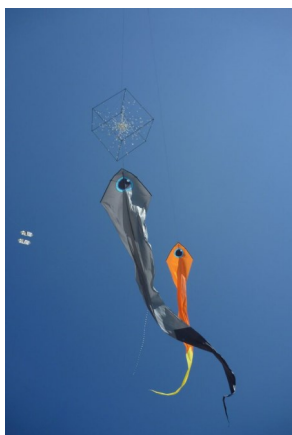


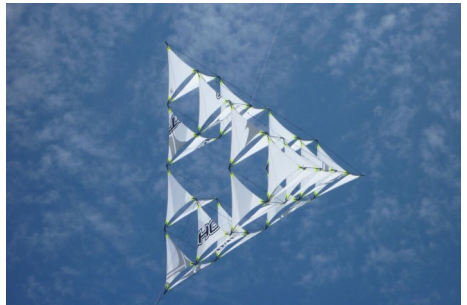
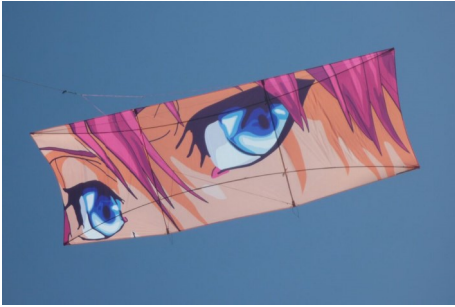




Kiteworks Flying Report from Perrin Melchior

I got to attend the Bondi Beach Kite festival in 2016, where we had all strengths of wind from every direction. I flew with kite people from all over the world and enjoyed the local hospitality.







Challenge/Invitation to New Kite Makers

Our last workshop, which I am expecting to be reported elsewhere in the magazine, was enjoyed by all.

The work was mainly sewing straight lines. In the case of the Edo, we learned how it's done from "the master" Perrin.

What a pity we were not able to share this workshop with new members as the heart and edo kites would have been ideal.

Often, our workshops offer a kite that a new person would find a little too challenging. If that is the case and you would like to join us, we can offer you a different kite and guide you through the steps (Jude Shirley made a beautiful applique delta a couple of years ago).

The workshops are not just about kite making. They present an opportunity to socialise and swap ideas.

For the past several years our workshop has been at Ohakune's Ruapehu Mountain Lodge. We each organise our accommodation directly with the lodge, and use their facilities to share catering and make kites. There are always one or two non-kite makers, who read, sketch, or explore bush walks – there are also good cycle tracks and quiet roads.

Keep an eye out for the workshop later this year. There will be notices on www.nzka.org.nz and in the next magazine.

We would love to see you there.

Rosemary McCully



Matariki Kite Day – Tauranga

The Tauranga City Libraries in conjunction with NZKA are holding our annual Matariki Kite Day on Sunday 4th June 2017.

Last year's Matariki Kite Day had a good turnout of NZKA members and other kite flyers but was beyond everyone's expectations with triple the previous year's crowd of watchers. Unfortunately the breeze was poor, but everyone was happy! This year's details are:

Sunday 4th June 2017 – (rain-day on Monday 5th)

Fergusson Park,

Matua,

Tauranga

Note: NZKA Members from 9.30am with members of the public being invited to participate from 12 noon till 4pm.

For further information or if you intend to participate, please contact me by email or by phone.

John Russell (NZKA)

Phone: 07 549 42089

Email: afactor@xtra.co.nz

At Eltham, it was discussed on what we can do to add to the magazine & it was suggested we revisit having a profile on our fliers. My suggestion was email a few members with a few questions which they could quickly reply to. So here's some words about Sharon Russell

1st Kite - My first remembered intro to kites was going to a holiday program at our Museum & making a ripstop sail cloth diamond - about 1m with dowel frame. I still have it.

How long flying - Flying kites more regularly happened once Ian (my brother) got interested in them after the big international at Napier. The next purchased kite was a 2 liner - a piko. As I found out since, the smaller the 2 liner, the stronger the wind it needs & faster it goes - baptism by wind.

What do you enjoy - I still enjoy flying 2 liners, especially with tail. I'm learning to fly four - power & rev - still working on that.

Favourite field - possibly Taupo on the waterfront as you have a good view while you are flying. Also Perfume Point in Napier after the "Go fly a kite" Sunday

Website/Maker - I enjoy Robert Brassington's kites - the colours, the designs. We bought our 1st of his at the Bondi Festival, sight unseen.

Make/Buy - last one's added to the bag were the hearts & Edo's at the last workshop. The hearts are very popular & maybe this winter we will sew up the spares & have a set of 5.

Introduce yourself to others members of the NZKA

Greetings from Dunedin. My name is Carl Gillard. My wife and three children moved to Dunedin from Tauranga at the end of 1999 and we live in an old Victorian Villa built by my wife's Great grandfather in 1898. I believe I maybe the most southern NZKA member which has few advantages. Until recent years kite flying was a rather lonely affair and travel expenses made joining with North Island fliers prohibitive so with busy work and family life my membership lapsed for a number of years. Now in my late fifties due to health reasons I work part time and have rekindled my interest again in flying.

How long have you been flying kites? And what got you into flying?

I have been flying kites since the late eighties and soon after joined the NZKA. I don't remember what first sparked my interest other than I became aware of some of the exiting new crafted kites made of fiberglass and rip-stop which a number of international and New Zealand kite makers were selling. I think I may have got to see an early catalog from "Into the Wind". What truly ignited my excitement for kites was the attending of New Zealand's first International festival at Napier in February 1990 and seeing the awesome creations of kite-makers like George Peters, Martin Lester, Joel Scholz and our own Peter Lynn. I remember I had taken a few kites to fly but felt rather intimidated by seeing for the first time some of the giant creations. I spent most of the time using up rolls of film. Photo development was expensive back then. In the days after I sent off my postal order to Joel Scholz in the USA at "Sky Delight Kites" and awaited months for the arrival of my Butterfighter and Parrot kite, hand signed and numbered.

What was your first kite and did you make or buy it?

I am a flyer and not a maker. I have always wished to make some kites but haven't as yet. The first kite I remember purchasing was from the talented New Zealand kite-makers, Yvonne de Mille and Des Pitfield at "Seagull Kites", Woodend Christchurch. It was a Flare Kite which 25 years later I still occasionally fly.

What do you enjoy flying now?

I am very fortunate to have inherited a collection of kites sewn by my late father Revele Gillard. My father attended with me the second International festival at Napier in 1995 and he too caught the kiting bug. With his talent for sewing he spent some twenty years making a wide selection of single line and soft kites. He was a respected member of the NZKA. His signature kite was the Swallow Tail Delta.

I continue to fly his kites along with a mix of recent Chinese soft kites. I do have a few two line stunt kites but I rarely fly them preferring the single line.

Your favourite place to fly?

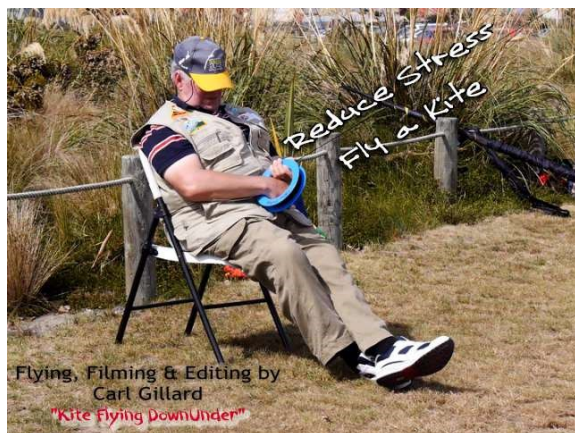
North Island: Fergusson Park, Tauranga. South Island: My local flying field is Kettle Park on the ocean front at St Clair, Dunedin but my favourite location is the beautiful Caroline Bay, in Timaru. The ocean to your back and a big blue sky to your front with a large (dog free) grass field and even some tie off railings. With a gentle easterly breeze it's just about perfect.

Do you have a website, kitemaker or designer, or kite book that you find inspirational

Been rather isolated from fellow kite flyers I attribute my rekindled interest in flying to the Internet and particularly "You Tube". Some three years ago I came across the web site and You Tube channel of the enthusiastic flyer, Jim Nicholls of Christchurch. His excellent kite reviews and professionally videoed kiting experiences inspired me to fly more regularly and to also create my own Kiting channel that can be found on You Tube at "Kiteflying DownUnder" The Internet has become a great way for flyers who are separated by distance to again share their experiences both locally and internationally to a like-minded community. On occasions Jim and I try to meet up at our mid-way point of Timaru. My favourite book that almost inspired me to make a kite was "Kites for Kiwis" by Colin McGeorge. I was pleased to meet Colin who still flies his kites occasionally at New Brighton beach Christchurch.

If you make or buy kites, what is the last one you added to your kite bag?

One of the best value large soft kites available from Weifang Kaixwan Kite Manufacture at Aliexpress (Online store) is the Trilobite 10sq/m. This kite is so easy to fly and will always gather an audience.



Yet again the ups and downs of kiting.

Some years ago I wrote an item for What's Up about the ups and downs of kiting and missed opportunities.

Lately I have missed some opportunities to get out and fly, but have taken some others.

The first was the New Year's Day at the Chateau.

I was able to drive up for the day from Wellington – about four hours of driving. An early start in reasonable weather which progressively deteriorated as I drove north. Never mind I thought – the views at the Chateau are great. We never saw the views – the cloud was low, it was raining, visibility was very limited. But we all had a great coffee in the local café. I drove back to Wellington knowing that next time would be better.

Then in early January a family long weekend at Raumati – 'Ah a nice big beach to fly on I thought'. But where we were there was very limited beach. However the two 'heart kites' from our latest workshop flew nicely for a while and I was satisfied.

At the end of January I had organised a family picnic kite day in Johnsonville through my Lions Club. Not a great place to fly – turbulent, gusty, and unpredictable. I should have known better after previous experiences ... but this time it was late January rather than our previous years' early December attempts. Other NZKA members turned up - Whiteheads, Whibleys, Bowies and Jenny Cook from Ashburton. There were cheap kites for sale, the Saudi Arabian embassy staff turned up for a staff picnic, and lots of people came and went while the wind got stronger and gustier. By early afternoon small kites were breaking and it was too dangerous to fly much, so we cancelled early. However the public there thought it was great. There was a full page positive photo essay in the local paper of happy families, and I am being asked when we will do it again! Maybe mid-February next year will be better – watch this space.

And then there was our 30th anniversary fly at Eltham BRILLIANT! Great weather and breeze/wind. Great food and catering. Great friendships and an excellent kiting weekend. I was almost the last to leave the field on the Monday – just three vehicles left in the paddock and fortunately I was not not the last as my car battery had died. A jump start required courtesy of the McCully's and I didn't turn the engine off until I hit Wellington. Whew, imagine being alone in a paddock with a flat battery. Though I could have flown some more had I needed to wait for help.

And then late in March the Otaki festival. Again I drove up and down from Wellington each day – the new expressway saves a good 10 minutes each way. A well organised event from my perspective, enough room to fly and on the Saturday a great steady breeze along the beach enabling the public to be reasonably close to the display kites flying. Sunday was a different story with essentially no air movement nearly all day and the only display was of sad heaps of fabric on the ground.

Highlight for me was the large number of people fascinated by the workshop heart kites I had flying. Each time I looked one or two people were taking photographs. Almost the low light was my high flying roller – safely tied off - suddenly being swamped in the middle of the business house Rokkaku challenge. It continued sitting nicely in the sky while the Rokkaku eventually hit the ground. After untangling and reeling in my roller I was pleased that the line had no nicks or rough areas on it.

Roll on Roller fights next year.

All in all the last few months have been interesting. With Rosemary my wife of 45 years passing away in early March I want to thank NZKA members for your thoughts and comments – it's nice to be among friends. And flying kites helped somewhat in moving me to a happier place

Stephen Cook



Carl Gillard photos of the Trilobyte (left) and Swallow Deltas made by the late Revele Gillard



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)

Eldson Park, Porirua

Contact : Anne and Peter Whitehead

Ph 04 476 7227

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.

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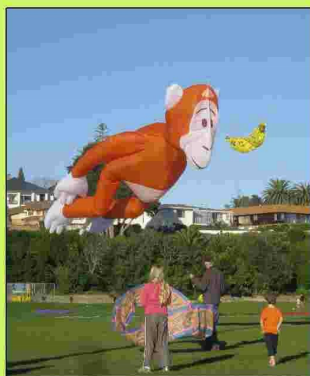
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Matariki Kite Day

*Join-in
or Watch the
Fabulous Kite Display*

**Sunday
4th June
11.58am to 4pm**



**Fergusson Park
Matua, Tauranga**

Organised by: Tauranga City Libraries
Contact: Bernie Johnson
07 577 7177

