

# WHAT'S UP?

## THE NEWSLETTER FOR KITEFLIERS

Hello again and welcome to all our new members (List Enclosed). We are now corresponding with several overseas kite associations including the Australian Kite Association and the Kite Society in England. In a recent Australian newsletter Helen Bushell wrote: "These New Zealanders are big men with big kites, imaginative and fun loving - see you in the sky NZ". A friendly compliment I hope we can all live up to. Hope to see you in the sky too Aussies! For those of you who subscribe to 'Kitelines' magazine lookout for an article about our association and other pieces on kiteing in NZ. For those of you who don't subscribe - think about it. Kitelines, issued quarterly is the international magazine for kitefliers. Details and address in our last two newsletters.

Thanks to all of you who responded to my plea for contribution's and once again, please keep them coming. Now you have a list of kite books (in this issue) try some new designs and send us your favourite kite plan with comments on why you like it.

Designs for T.Shirts have been decided and a trial T.Shirt is about to be printed. Probably at \$10 each for a 2 print design, details will be in our next newsletter.

Our National Kite Festival has come and gone. (report inside) Greatly enjoyed by all who attended. A group photo was taken and we hope to publish this in our next newsletter. Pity it couldn't be in colour! The line up of kites and people was magnificent. Next year the event will be held in Napier at Easter weekend. Make a note and plan to be there. It's well worth the effort. More details in future newsletters as accomodation bookings may need to be considered.

Check the list of coming kite days and mark them in your diary - Hope to see you at one of them.

Fly high

*Bob Maysman.*



Published Quarterly by the New Zealand Kitefliers Association (Inc.)

No. 3 March

1985

c/ 9 Kenef Road Paremata



## JAPANESE Kitemakers to visit New Zealand

The Japan Cultural and Information Centre in Wellington has informed us that two Japanese "expert kitemakers" will be visiting NZ in March. The tour has been arranged by the Japan Foundation.

Kitemaking demonstrations have been arranged in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. It is also hoped to hold a small 'kite fly' during the visitors' stay in each centre. The dates of their visit are below:-

Auckland 15th - 18th March.  
Contact Suzanne Speer for details.

Wellington Tuesday 19th March  
7.30pm Demonstration at Japan Information Centre, Customhouse Quay. Kite fly Wednesday 20th March 4.00pm at Chartwell School grounds.

Christchurch 21st - 24th March.  
Contact Des Pitfield or Peter Lynn for details.

Information regarding the above is also available from the Japan Information Offices in each centre.

## Sport & Rec. Grant

As announced in the last newsletter our Association received a \$150 grant from the Ministry of Sport and Recreation (Internal Affairs). The grant was to help meet establishment costs of setting up the Association and has been written off against the following: Envelopes, paper, Account Books, assort. stationery, Incorporated Society Fee, Promotional letters and advertising Costs, postage and photocopying costs. An application for a grant will probably be made again this year.



### Member's Profile

Ken Anderson - Christchurch  
I'm a single psychiatric nurse, enjoy fishing, jogging, and have had an interest in kites since childhood. I admire the delicate and highly decorated Japanese kites, also the Scott Sled for its simplicity to make, and its flight stability.

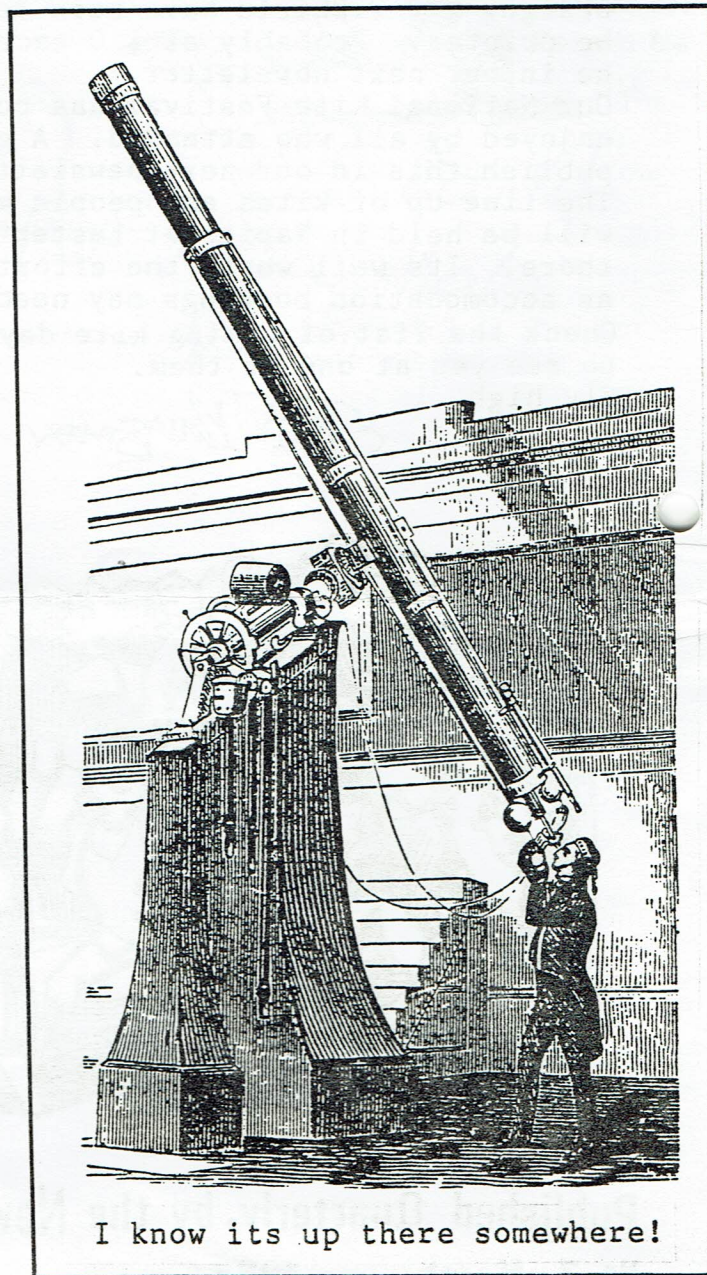
## KITE SCARE!

From America - "Hey farmers - you say the birds are eating your crops? Go fly a kite".

150 farmers have tried the kites with hawks painted on - and they agree the kites do fool the birds. The kite is buoyed by a helium balloon.

From Australia -The "Dunford Birdscarer Kite Mark III" has stormed the country as a bird scaring device. It is said to protect a field of about 20 acres from unwanted birds. Farmers say the kite stays up for 3 or 4 days at a height of about 60 metres. People are buying the kite as a good reliable fun thing as well, despite the \$75 price tag.

From New Zealand -Full article in next newsletter!



I know its up there somewhere!





Mike Hunter, Pokeno.

Here is a brief run down of my life to date although there are so many details I shall have to leave out as it would take too long for me to relate them, but I trust the following will be of some assistance. Born London 1910 and after one year we moved to Canada for about 12/14 years. Then to Ireland for one year, Isle of Man for six months, then France for one year. I then joined the Grenadier Guards for 12 years and carried out duties on Buckingham Palace, St James Palace, Windsor Castle, Tower of London, Bank of England and various other places too numerous to mention. Served on many Guards of Honour such as opening of Parliament, Royal Levies etc. and also Trooped the colour many times on Horseguards Parade, Whitehall. Served as Kings Orderly for six months, this was a special assignment in Buckingham Palace where I did everything but sleep.

I met the King many times when walking through the palace passages and he would always greet me with a cheery "Good Morning" or whatever. I was selected for this position for my personality, build and smartness. I was also the Physical Education Instructor to my Battalion and later took over the Sports administration. I also served for one year at the overseas foreign station in Khartoum in the Sudan.

After leaving the Guards I was employed by one of the many holiday camps in Great Britain as Sports Manager, after which I worked for the London Council of Recreative Physical Education and organised a Play Leadership scheme where I personally took the part of the first Play leader where I was allotted a public park for the use of school children only during their long summer vacation. I had about 600 children a day to look after on my own. I had no problems as I made them understand who was the boss right from the start.

I then went to Western Australia and obtained a position as boundary rider for a large cattle station in the north west of the state looking after the fences on about 3-4 million acres. This was done on horse back and sometimes I had the help of an Aboriginal stockman.

I then went to England to join the Palestine Police Force in 1938 and stayed there until the end of the war. So much happened during my period in the Middle East that it would take ages to put on paper. I then returned to London and became the Assistant General Manager to the Nation Liberal Club in Whitehall, it was the second largest mens club in London. I then went back to Perth and worked for a mining company. Sorry I served in the Australian Forces in Fremantle as Squadron Sergeant Major for five years, this was a water transport unit of the Royal Australian Engineers.

Going back to Palestine, I was blown up about seven times and shot four of five times and at one time captured by the jewish rebel gang who shot both my hands.

When I was working for the mining company I had a side business which was a restaurant which I worked up then sold and bought a painting contracting business from a friend who was retiring. This was run into the ground by the Dutch foreman I had running it for me when I was on a six months tour of Europe. I also lost a great deal of cash in one of Australia's biggest investment company collapse. This together with the loss of the business and also domestic problems, made me sell up and go to live in Sydney with some friends. I could not stand the rat race so to speak and came to live in NZ in 1962.

I worked for the NZ Herald for three months then Mason & Porters the lawn mower people. From there I went to the Airport when it first opened as Traffic Security Officer and then to Pacific Steel Ltd where I worked in the office and ran the Technical Library.

I retired seven years ago and have lived on my 3 1/2 acres where I have planted about 3,000 trees and shrubs.

I have also had many trips overseas since then touring Europe, England, Canada and the US twice, visits to Hong Kong, Malaysia and mostly all Asia.

My interest in kites dates from about 1936 when I used to fly kites for an uncle of mine who manufactured them and also supplied the British Navy with kites particularly for submarines, I think they were used for radio work.

One kite in particular that I flew had 15 other kites on the same line, I did have a picture of this but it was stolen from me. I have another one of myself flying this double box kite and if I can find the negative I will have a copy made and sent.

Well, I think I have given you a good rundown of myself although there are many things in between that crop up and I feel that you would not be interested, but I'm sure this will do for a start.

What a lifetime of experiences! Thanks for sharing it all with us Mike.



# Kites for Antartica !

Peter Lynn of Ashburton has recently won a contract to supply kites to an Australian Antarctic expedition. The kites will be used to lift cameras and radio control equipment to take photographs in the Commonwealth Bay area of Antarctica, where the average wind speed is 69 Km, per hour. The three metre winged box kites (Lynn Tri-d) are capable of lifting 30 - 40 kg in a strong wind.

Peter's kites have also been used by the D.S.I.R. for lifting insect catching screens for aphid research.

His latest request has come from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries who want to take 'aerial photos' from a kite, to establish the numbers of sealion pups being born on an inaccessible beach on the Auckland Islands.

A specially designed adjustable camera mount is fitted under the kite. The camera shutter is usually activated using a radio controlled mechanism.

## WHAT'S UP - BACK ISSUES

Some new members are asking for back issues of 'Whats Up' i.e. number one. As our financial year starts on the 1st October, any of you who have joined since then can obtain a copy of No.1. Newsletter by sending \$1.00. The 100 copies printed ran out long ago and will need to be reprinted once the demand has been established.

Any person joining the Assoc. during the year will receive the 4 newsletters published during that financial year.

Founding members who joined before October received No.1. Newsletter free.

## Kite Day Report

Neil Crosbie reports on a kite day held at Hogben School in Christchurch late last year.

Being a senior staff member of a boarding school for boys age 9-16 years provides me with plenty of opportunities to play with kites. For this reason easy made and easy to fly kites are a must. Peter Lynn's plastic 'Nagasaki' kite on the Spot On show has been a boom. I must have made hundreds.

I use 5mm cane, it is cheap, very flexible and makes the bridle point less critical.

Well, following several weeks of good weather (Christchurch North Westers) the head teacher decided to organise a Hangi and Kite day. So for days before everyone was into kite making. Many of the staff having little or no experience in the fine art, were raiding the libraries for books, begging borrowing or stealing materials to keep 'their' boys happy.

On the day the wind was a little strong and the direction could have been kinder. (The flight path for most of the kites was over the school swimming pool). No prizes given for guessing where many kites ended that day.

For a bit of excitement I made a two metre high black polythene sled which proved very popular with the older boys. Finding cord strong enough to hold it was the big problem.

As luck would have it at about this time contact was made with Des Pitfield who makes and sells excellent fabric kites. His presence along with some of his splendend delta wings and box kites, which also went for a swim, made the day a great success.



# gossip

## from Here & There

Late last year Des Pitfield (Seagull Kite Co-Op) of Christchurch took a stall at the Canterbury A&P Show.

Following a mad production rush, Des filled a large tent with his attractive and highly colourful deltas together with other kites. Among the many visitors to his tent was a keen fisherman who used a 6 foot sled to carry his line up to a kilometre off shore, controlling the depth of the line by a system of floats and weights.

Another visitor was an elderly woman who stood looking at the kites for a few moments then said "they look very pretty, what are they?" After Des explained what they were the lady commented ..... "Well I never, I thought they only had kites in Japan and China." She had never seen a kite being flown in all her life in NZ, so Des put one in the air, with the woman staying to watch it for over half an hour.

Following a very successful few days, towards the end of the show the tent was broken into and a number of kites stolen, thus destroying the chance of any profit.

Despite this, Des feels the event was very worthwhile - Good advertising for kiteflying and a great experience for himself.

---

Gerry Smith and Logan Fow recently helped out the Tauranga YMCA with their Kite Workshop and flying day. Gerry tells us it was a great success with about 40-50 children taking part.

---

Helen Bushell of the Australian Kite Assoc. tells us of a recent Australian Opera entitled 'Fly'. It concerns events in the life of Laurence Hargreave, aviation pioneer and designer of many experimental kites including of course the Hargreave Box Kite. So C'mon Kiwis, design an exciting new kite and maybe you will be immortalised in an Opera libretto.

Recently read of a chap in Europe named Roberto Bocchini who with 15 helpers is building a 2 kilometre centipede. They have built the first 300 metres and are presently testing the organisation and the flying problems.

---

The December '84 issue of "Pacific Friend" magazine has a 9 page article on Japanese Kites - check your local library.

---

In early February, Bob Maysmor talked to a group of over 100 people at the Japan New Zealand Friendship Society. The subject - Kites of course! The talk, illustrated by colour slides followed the history, development and many uses of kites throughout the world. The evening was rounded off by the screening of the film 'Kites of Japan'. This film was specially brought to NZ from Australia for our Annual Kite Festival and AGM held in January.

---

Gerry Smith tells us he had a disastrous day at the Putaruru Crafts Festival and Kite day held late last year.

Having successfully put a train of 3 sleds in the air and tied them off, Gerry was attending to someone else's kite when he heard a line rushing through the air followed by the reel. The reel eventually snagged itself in branches at the top of a tall pine tree holding the kites high above the forest.

Gerry tried using another kite to get them down and ended up losing that one as well. Four in one day, plus a reel.

Moral of the story - check your knots!

---

## Quotable Quote

"May the height of your expectations, not be greater than your ability to hang on"  
JAMES WHITE, NAPIER.



## MATERIALS - Sources & Information.



Probably the most common type of kite frame or spar is dowelling. Dowel in New Zealand is usually beech wood and is available at most timber and hardware stores. When buying dowel look for knots which could make a weak point in your frame. When using dowel for a span of over 1.2 metres it should be sleeved at the centre with a piece of alloy tubing about 150mm long, in order to distribute the stress more evenly.

Oregon, cedar, Hickory and spruce can also be used in sawn lengths. Saw strips of these woods non square. This will give you a flexible side and a stiff side. Remember accuracy in all aspects of frame making is important.

Bamboo available in NZ is very different to that found in the Orient. The walls are thin, the knuckles too close together, however bamboo available from garden centres can be split with a sharp knife and trimmed with a small plane to any size required. Large bamboo can be bought from Oriental commodity shops or from Isaachsen & Co, West Coast Road, R.D. Oratia, Auckland 7.

Matchstick Bamboo can be used for small lightweight kites and is readily available in the form of shade curtains. One curtain will provide enough pieces for a whole school!

Cane available from craft and hobby shops, comes in various sizes and can also be used for small lightweight kites.

Balsa Wood, although super light, is usually too brittle to use in kite making.

Aluminium tube has to some degree been superseded by fibreglass rod and tube, but it still has its place for various fittings, joining sleeves etc, or for large kites where the weight factor is not so important. Alloy tube and rod is available in most centres from companys such as Metal Imports and Metal Alloys Ltd. Check the Yellow Pages. Recently fibreglass (Glass reinforced plastic) has become more commercially available. It's main benefit is its extreme strength to weight factor. The main disadvantage is its cost and to some degree availability in small quantities. Fibreglass rods are ideal where curved spars under stress are required e.g. snake kites. Fibreglass rods and tubes have many applications for kite spars. For Fibreglass Tubes write to Wells Ferris Ltd, Tarawera Road, Rotorua. Give details of size, length and strength factor required and ask for prices before ordering!

For Fibreglass Rod write to Graycol Enterprises, Wickham Street, Bromley, Christchurch. They may only be interested in large orders so for short lengths - 1 metre long contact Peter Lynn Ltd, 105 Alford Forest Road, Ashburton.

Minimum order 10 pieces

3.mm diameter .60c per piece - 4.5mm .75 c per piece

3.5mm .70c per piece - 6.mm .90 c per piece

Joiners for Rod (specify diameter) 30cents each.

## 'SPOT ON' Goes to Singapore Kite Festival

Television New Zealand sent a 'Spot On' camera crew to Singapore in January of this year to film the 1985 Singapore International Kite Festival.

Peter Lynn, who has attended the Singapore Festival in recent years, arranged through the Singapore Tourist Promotion Board (who run the festival) for the camera crew to film the event which takes place over a week long period.

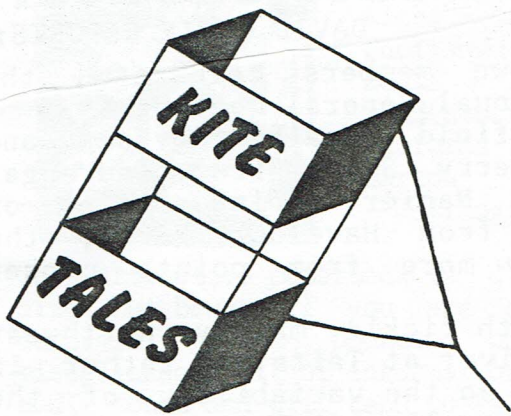
Peter, together with Clyde Cook of Ashburton (both NZKFA members) put on an impressive display of 'manlifting' using Peters TRI-D kites. The 'Spot On' programme will probably be screened sometime in April, so watch out for it. The programme will be recorded on our association video cassette and this, together with all other TV programmes on kites will be shown at our next Annual Kite Festival and A.G.M. to be held at Napier, Easter Weekend 1986.

This large sign at Buenos Aires airport, Argentina, reads 'NO KITEFLYING' and is believed to be the only sign in the world banning kiteflying.

Do YOU know of any others?







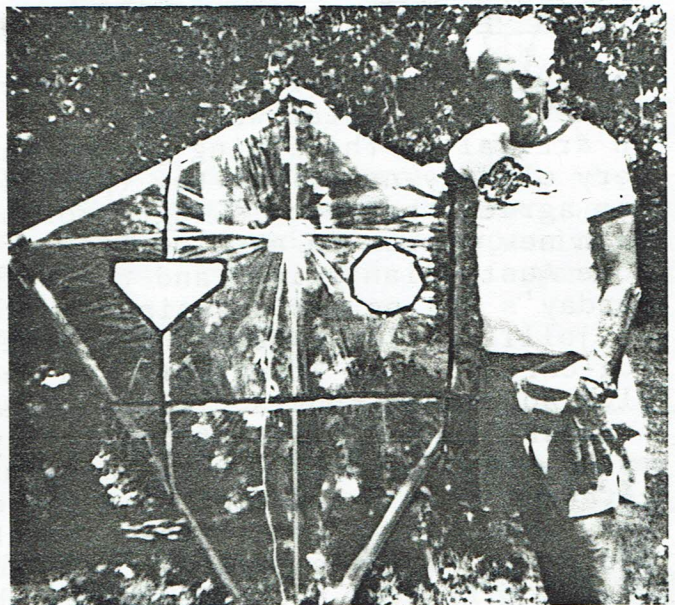
Gerry Smith of Tauranga tells us why he wont be flying kites on Good Friday again.

I am a committed Christian and Good Friday should have some significance in my life, but on this particular Good Friday I wanted to fly a big purple delta of which I was very proud. My first effort in large kite making on my own. Quite a big task I can assure you. The kite was a triangular shape 11' x 11' so delta wise it was 22' x 11' using aluminium for framing.

So off I went to a park on the coast here in Tauranga, expecting a nice bit of a fly, there being a moderate S.E. wind of about 10 knots, just ideal for a delta.

I flew her up to about 350 feet and left it at that. A little later a small boy joined me with a nice new classic diamond so I was pleased to have his company. Suddenly some freak gusts of wind sent his kite spinning around my line about halfway up. This meant I had to haul down the delta to cut his Diamond free, which I did without delay.

Up till this occasion I had used nylon fishing line of good breaking strength but to my sorrow I must have nicked my line with my very sharp pocket knife and with the delta still in the air about 50 feet the line went "ping" and onward and upward went the delta. It rose to about 500', flew headfirst with the southerly behind it out over the Tauranga harbour and airport, over Mt Maunganui then out to the open sea. Oh Dear! I guess I got a bit worried. This must create an aviation hazard. I got in my car to get in touch with the Tauranga Airport and the Police, who immediatly set things in motion, but after an air and land search no sign of it was to be seen.



"Gerry Smith with one of his large diamond kites."

I'll never know what actually happened to the kite other than it was seen and reported by some fishing boats well out in the Bay of Plenty looking as if it was on its way to Norfolk Island.

I'm aware that a delta will stay in the air free flying for as long as conditions exist that suit it, so who knows what happened? It could have run out of breeze or filled up the sails with rain - that would bring it down. I drove home quite crest fallen and sorrowful.

A wee small voice said...."You know it is Good Friday isn't it". So never on a Good Friday are the words to my Kite song.

P.S. The small boy burst into tears at the sight of my kite disappearing in front of his eyes - he couldn't see the big "boy" through his teardrops....was he in tears too?

# NO REMONTAR BARRILETES

Attenta contra a geguridad del vuelo



# Kite Day Report

# National Kite Festival

DAVID BOWIE REPORTS:

A fair turnout of Wellington and out-of-town members celebrated the Association's first national fly-in and Annual General Meeting.

Among those from out of town were: Des Pitfield, Heather Dyksma and Phillip McConnachie from Christchurch; Gerry Smith from Tauranga; Judith Southerwood and Ric Phillips from Napier, joined later on Saturday by the Whites; the Wakefields from Havelock North; the Intermans from Palmerston North, plus a few more from points closer to, but still not quite in Wellington.

Saturday provided blue sky plus clouds, with fickle, mainly northwest wind. The site, on the bank of the Hutt river at Taita, is rather in the wind shadow of the Western Hutt hills, so the variability of the wind was accentuated. It was a day for actually flying your kite, rather than putting it up and tethering it, and most people found themselves at times hauling in scores of metres of line in an effort to keep a kite up. And it was not unusual to see two people standing quite close together, but with their lines going out at right angles! After a very pleasant afternoon's flying, most moved to the Belmont Hall for takeaways and cold liquids on the porch and under the trees. The first Annual Meeting followed.

Major points discussed:

What's Up uses virtually all our subscription income; new subscription rates will be \$10 for individuals and families and \$5 for students.

Next year's major fly-in and AGM will be (subject to confirmation) at Napier, over Easter Weekend.

On arrival at the flying ground each member had been labelled with a very clearly-named ear-tag (pinned, however, on other prominences); it was agreed that such a tag incorporating the logo should be sent to each new member on enrolment.

Some Australian slides and two films were followed by supper.

Sunday's kiting was associated with a Lower Hutt "Valley Summer" day of jollification on the riverbank - donkey rides, bands, clowns, dog-carts. Some kite field (on the edge of the other activities), plus adjoining sports fields. Clear sky again, hot sun, a steady southerly. Not a lot of public flying, though many wandered over to watch, and the City Council organisers were warm in their thanks afterwards to the extent of a \$50 donation to the Assoc.

Very good flying conditions. Notable were Phillip McConnachie's flare and Brian Ramage's parafoil out all afternoon on very long lines (Brian collected a ticket for his haste in coming over again from Greytown, with the family, on Sunday). The assortment of Peter Lynn beasts flown by the Napier gang caught the eye (and a few smaller kites). Bob's big tetra demolished itself on takeoff, but rose again, phoenix-like, a quarter of its original size. As the ground cleared, Ric tried some agricultural work with 12 stacked Edwards stunts, and the Bowie Cody made another escape bid, this time in tow behind a passing car.

In summary - a really good weekend: exciting flying in two quite different conditions, lots of good company, and a very pleasant evening in the middle.

And just wait till you see the group photos!

## Hauraki Kite Day ~ a non event!

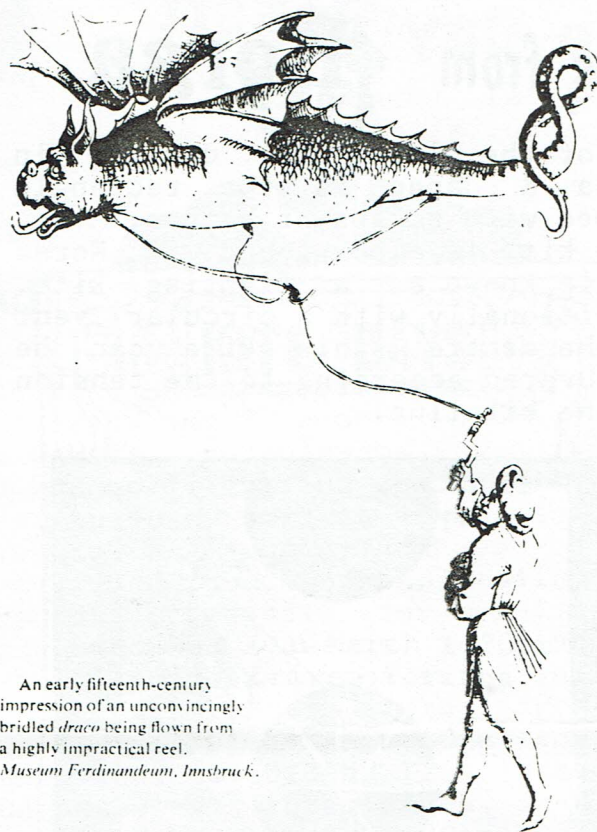
Unbeknown to a group of long distance travellers the 1985 Hauraki Kite day was cancelled the night before the event. The actual day turned out to be fine and sunny with a large gathering of people turning out to the Auckland Domain venue. About 35 kites or so tried to climb into the sky but an almost non-existent breeze frustrated all but the keenest. Peter Lynn and Clyde Cook from Ashburton, James & Judy White from Napier, Logan Fow from Hamilton and Alison & Bob Maysmor all travelled many miles to the 'non event'. Lots of talking with ideas being flown around despite the lack of wind (or maybe because of it!)

Hauraki Kite Day is now to be held Sunday 17th March





The Penguin Book Of  
Kites - David Pelham  
Published by Penguin  
Books  
1983(Reprinted)  
Reviewed by Julia  
Barton  
- Wellington



An early fifteenth-century  
impression of an unconvincingly  
bridled *draco* being flown from  
a highly impractical reel.  
Museum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck.

This attractive paperback is of a handy size, but beware if you are opening it carelessly to pounce upon some miscellaneous bit of information - it is badly bound and will tend to fall apart.

This is my only complaint about the Penguin Book of Kites. It is in two sections, the first being a lavishly illustrated and very entertaining history of success, failure and experiment in kitemaking - We see kitemaking as the serious craft it is, in both Eastern and Western cultures.

The second section deals fully and diagrammatically with numerous kite designs and practical hints of knotmaking, materials to use and the science of aerodynamics.

You will find almost all the information you need including the correct angle of the kite's bridle (P.133). The measurements in the diagrams would be more easily enlarged with the use of a pair of dividers which I found to be expensive but probably, with the wealth of information you get here, well worth the expense of twenty dollars.

I think this should be a standard text for all kite enthusiasts.

---

Books Known To Be Available In NZ  
Ask your local bookseller

Penguin Book Of Kites - David Pelham Penguin  
The Art of The Japanese Kite - Tal Streeter Weatherhill  
Kites - Didier Carpentier & Joel Bachelet E.P.Publishing  
Kites To Make & Fly - Jack Newnham Penquin  
25 Kites That Fly - Leslie Hunt Dover  
Making & Flying Kites - Jack Kine Argus Books  
Kites To Make & Fly - David Pelham Collins

Books Still In Print

Kites - Making & Flying - Ambrose Lloyd Murray  
Kites - An Historical Survey - Hart Appel  
Kites & Other Wind Machines - Thiedbault Stirling  
Chinese Kites: How to Make & Fly Them - Jue Tuttle  
Kites - Science & the Wonder - Ito & Komura Japan Pub.  
Kites Aussie Style - Wayne Hosking

Other Books Available Through Your Library (Request Service)

Kites - Ron Moulton  
The Complete Beginners Guide to Making & Flying Kites - Edward Dolan  
Kites For All Seasons - George Weston  
Fun With Kites - John Dyson  
Kite Craft - The History of Kiteflying - Lee Scott Newman  
The Complete Book of Kites & Kiteflying - Will Yolen  
Kites - Wyatt Brummitt  
Come Fly A Kite - Dinesh Bahadur  
Kites - Sculpting The Sky - Tsutomu Hiroi  
World On A String - Jane Yolen

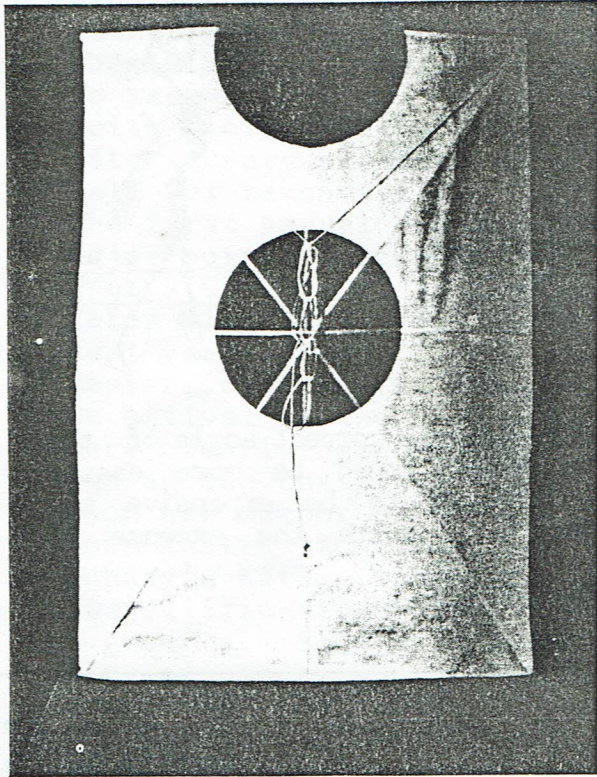
These are just a selection of books written about kites and Kitemaking.

books  
books  
books  
books  
books  
books  
books



# kites from **Korea**

One of the oldest kite designs in China & Japan is the rectangle framed with strips of bamboo. This kite is also found in Korea and is known as a fighting kite. Traditionally with a circular vent in the centre, this kite can be manouvered according to the tension on the kiteline.



Contests are held in which the kites, whose lines are covered with powdered glass, attempt to cut each others lines.

In the new year it is the custom in Korea to write the name and birthday of each male child on the surface of a kite. When the kite is high in the sky the line is cut, thus allowing the kite to drift away, taking any bad luck or evil spirits with it. If found, it is considered bad luck to pick such a kite up.

## kite poem

MY KITE

I tossed my kite into the sky;  
It fluttered happily and seemed to sigh.  
I tugged it gently - let out some string,  
And moments later, it began to sing.

Poem by Bernice B. Turner

# KITES FOR SALE

These two Christchurch shops usually have kites in stock:

John Bull Cycles,  
Manchester Street,  
Christchurch.

Thyme Cottage,  
Colombo Street,  
Christchurch.

Also:  
Child Space,  
CML Building,  
Victoria Street,  
Wellington.

'Ad Astra'  
Cobham Court  
Porirua  
A good selection.

## KITE STAMP

This stamp from China was issued in 1963. It is one of a series of 12 stamps depicting various children's activities.



## Handy Hints

Before sewing together two pieces of Nylon place one piece on top of the other with the edges to be sewn together, then using a straight edge and sail cutter - a soldering iron will do, trim a couple of millimetres off the edge. The two pieces of nylon will "weld" together.

This join is quite strong and can survive a bit of handling and makes sewing much easier. It also gives perfectly matched seams but the "weld" is not strong enough on its own.

It is best to use a metal straight edge as the nylon could stick to anything else as it melts.

You can also 'spot' weld by dabbing the two layers of nylon with the soldering iron - this can leave a small hole but don't worry - it won't tear.



# SAFETY FIRST!

A year or so ago a class of school children were flying kites in farmland behind their school at Korakonui (near Te Awamutu). During a sudden gust of wind one boy let his string go and in doing so, probably saved his life.

The string wrapped itself around some power lines causing a spectacular "fireworks" display and blacking out Te Awamutu and a large part of the surrounding district for several hours.

The reason for this somewhat dramatic incident was that the boy was using a type of line used by farmers for electric fences, - yes, it had three strands of wire woven into the nylon line!

Not only can the above occur, but static electricity in the air, especially when a storm is approaching, can use the line as a conductor to the ground, or - to the person holding the line.

---

REMEMBER! NEVER USE WIRE OR ANY LINE WITH WIRE WOVEN INTO IT, AS A KITE LINE.

---

Sometime ago while test flying a production Kite, Peter Lynn suddenly found the line broken. The kite, trailing a length of line, somehow wrapped itself around some nearby high tension power lines causing the total blackout of Ashburton. Trouble was, live coverage of an All Black Rugby test was about to start.

Peter owned up several weeks later when addressing a local service club. He tells us he hasn't been asked back since then!

---

REMEMBER! DONT FLY NEAR OVERHEAD POWER LINES.

## Question

How can I brighten up my child's bedroom without actually painting it?

## Answer

Hang brightly coloured kites from the ceiling.



## KITE DAYS

Pukerua Bay School Gala  
Sat. 9th March 1.00pm  
Only a small field available

Sunday 10th March 1.30pm  
Wineera Drive, Porirua

Sat. 16th March 2.00pm  
Bushy Park, Wanganui

Sun. 24th March 1.30pm  
Anderson Park, Napier

Radio Hauraki Kite Day  
11.00am The Domain  
Auckland  
Sun. 17th March 1985

Radio 2XS  
Palmerston North  
Ongley Park, Park Road,  
Easter Monday 1.30pm.

*"Monday if wet."*



## Member's Profile

Brian Henskie - Johnsonville.

I'm just a lad of 40 years who likes kites! I'm married with two sons. I work for the NZPO as an engineer in the Chief Office in Wellington. My interests other than kites, include scouts (assist. Scout Leader), Civil Defence, keeping my car on the road etc. I've had a working interest in kites for about 4 years, making them from published designs and flying them whenever the winds of Wellington allow.

**YET AGAIN**

Special thanks to Shona Harris for typing this newsletter.