

WHAT'S UP?

THE NEWSLETTER FOR KITEFLIERS

One Hundred Members! Yes, in just over a year our membership has grown to 100. According to a recently published list in 'Kitelines' magazine this would make us about the 12th largest Kite Association in the world, and at the current rate surely the fastest growing one. To our new members a warm welcome. We hope you will find new friends, new information and an awareness that it's not only 'kids' that fly kites.

To help spread the administration workload, David Bowie has offered to be our membership secretary and to make it a real family affair his wife Muriel is now handling sales of Association 'corporate' goods. Details of badges, car stickers etc are enclosed. Thanks to Rodney Inteman for the design work involved and to the Bowies for helping out.

Also in this issue is a list of kites made by Des Pitfield of the Seagull Kite CoOp. In future newsletters we will be running a series of articles about New Zealand's full time kitemakers. I believe we should support our kitemakers for they are helping in a big way to promote kiteflying in NZ. So maybe for that next birthday present for a relation - (young or old) or just as a treat for yourself - 'buy local' and help people like Des to establish themselves not only in New Zealand but on the overseas market as well.

Once again I must ask for contributions for the newsletter. Let's have some more book reviews, safety hints, ideas on construction, any 'kite' newspaper cuttings, etc. Send in photos of your favourite kite with a description of how it flies. If we get a good response, one kite will be featured in each future newsletter.

With the winter months ahead, the opportunity to build a new kite arises. For those of you who haven't ever made a kite now is your chance. Visit your library for a kite book, or even try the delta design in this newsletter. For experienced kite makers - experiment!

Very few kitedays have featured 'dropniks' or similar paraphernalia. Parachutes, message carriers, release mechanisms, etc are all good fun and make good viewing. Give it a go.

Fly high
Bob Maysmor

Bob Maysmor



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c/ 9 Kenef Road Paremata

DEAR WHAT'S UP



Member's
Profile

We take great pleasure to introduce ourselves as manufacturers and exporters of Flying Kites and accessories for the last 18 years. We export orders execute promptly with quality. We have awarded by the Govt. of India and our products are popular in USA, Canada, UK and UAE.

We would like to introduce our name in your kite club and refer to interested buyers. On hearing from them we shall send photographs, samples and Price Lists etc. for their information.

Kindly send us the Importers addresses directly to us.

We have every hope you will co-operate with us and give us an opportunity to introduce products in your country.

Thanking you and looking forward to hear very soon.

Very truly yours.

SALEEM & CO, P.O.Box 4, Rampur
244901
INDIA

Association's first national fly-in:

I would like to thank the Association for the excellent weekend. I enjoyed it immensely and thought it was well worth the time and effort. Actually I think the time was too short, if anything I could have stayed up there a week and still not had enough time.

Phillip McConnachie.

Would anyone happen to have a plan for the Cody War Kite? I have made the version in the 'Penguin Book of Kites' but would like to try and construct the original version which Cody used for his patent drawings (P.52. Penguin) It has an extra wing on the top and wider wings on each side.

Also I'm keen on constructing a kite that will fly in a gale force wind without diving into the ground - any ideas?

David Belcher - Timaru.

If anyone can supply the plan please send it to us to include in a future newsletter. Ed.

Clarrie Croft - Hamilton

I started making kites seriously in Upper Hutt from the early 1960's. Joined American Kitefliers Assoc. 1969. Formed Waikato Kite Club with Logan Fow in 1972 with a display at the Lions Hobbies Exhibition held at the Claudelands Showground Building. Most of my flying is done in Hillcrest School grounds next to my property.

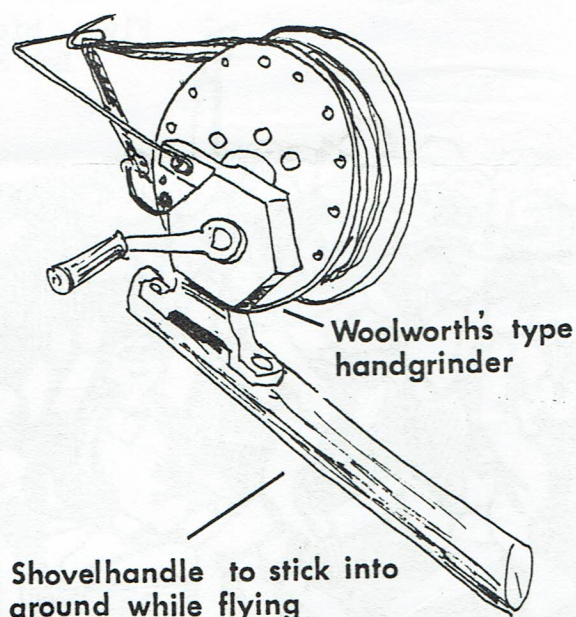
2 Lines = 1

John Beresford of South Brighton, Christchurch tells us of his system for stunt kite line(s)

*We live by Brighton Beach so we've plenty of strong easterlys to fly stunt kites above the dunes, one's ankles often becoming emersed in cold salt water in the process.

We use one continuous line passing it around the waist (you can give your hands and arms a rest!) using your body to take some of the pull, and there's plenty. The lines are wound up along the ground so you can use a geared up winder to speed up the process.

Geared winch to
store stunt kite lines



Woolworth's type
handgrinder

Shovelhandle to stick into
ground while flying

By keeping moderate tension on the line, the winder can be swung from side to side while winding. This will lay the line onto the drum evenly, otherwise the tension on the line can bend the wire guide?

BIRDS OF A FEATHER SCARE TOGETHER

A Wellington based market research company recently took a survey of 1,500 farmers throughout New Zealand. The aim was to establish how much damage to crops was being caused by birds. The resulting figure was a staggering \$3 MILLION a year.

The Auckland Acclimatisation Society have tested various bird scaring devices. Among them, a clear polythene kite with a hawk painted on it, a polystyrene shaped dog which contains a tape recorder emitting barking sounds and a plastic bottle contraption that spins in the wind and gives off a whirring sound.

Since those experiments a properly designed bird scaring kite has come on to the local market. 'What's Up' recently spoke to Sam Cranfield of the Cranfield Trading Co Ltd, the importers of these kites.

Sam Cranfield heard about the kites from an agricultural journalist and so when he was in Britain last year he visited the Cochrane brothers who manufacture the kites under licence from Don Dunford the designer.

The Dunford Birdscarer Kite is made of spinnaker nylon, fibreglass and alloy rod. Also known as the 'Dunford Twin Keel Delta', the kite has two keels that have been designed to look like a threatening hawk's legs. They also provide extra stability and maintenance of direction.



Sam Cranfield with the Dunford Bird Scarer.

It is designed to stay in the air in winds as low as 4 knots. Excess material on its main sails cause a flapping and rustling movement that together with its shape, act as a strong deterrent to birds attacking crops. One kite is reported to protect 5 acres but it has been known to effectively cover up to 20 acres.

The 1.7 metre wingspan kites come in a wide range of different colours, stripes and patterns and are equipped with a drogue and 80 metres of line. They weigh just 350 grammes. Success and/or satisfaction is rated around 60-70%.

The kites have been sold to vineyards, berryfruit farmers and wheat and barley farmers from Invercargill to Kaitia. There have been problems with the kites being flown too close to airports especially in areas like Blenheim and Gisborne where vineyards virtually line the airport boundaries.

In the last 5 months over 500 of these kites have been sold in New Zealand.

And the price ? \$79.50 (including postage and packaging).

If you are interested write to CRANFIELD TRADING CO LTD. P.O.BOX 17232, WELLINGTON.

Quotable Quote

"Kitefliers are people who look up and see everything around them."
Robert Ingraham

kite poem

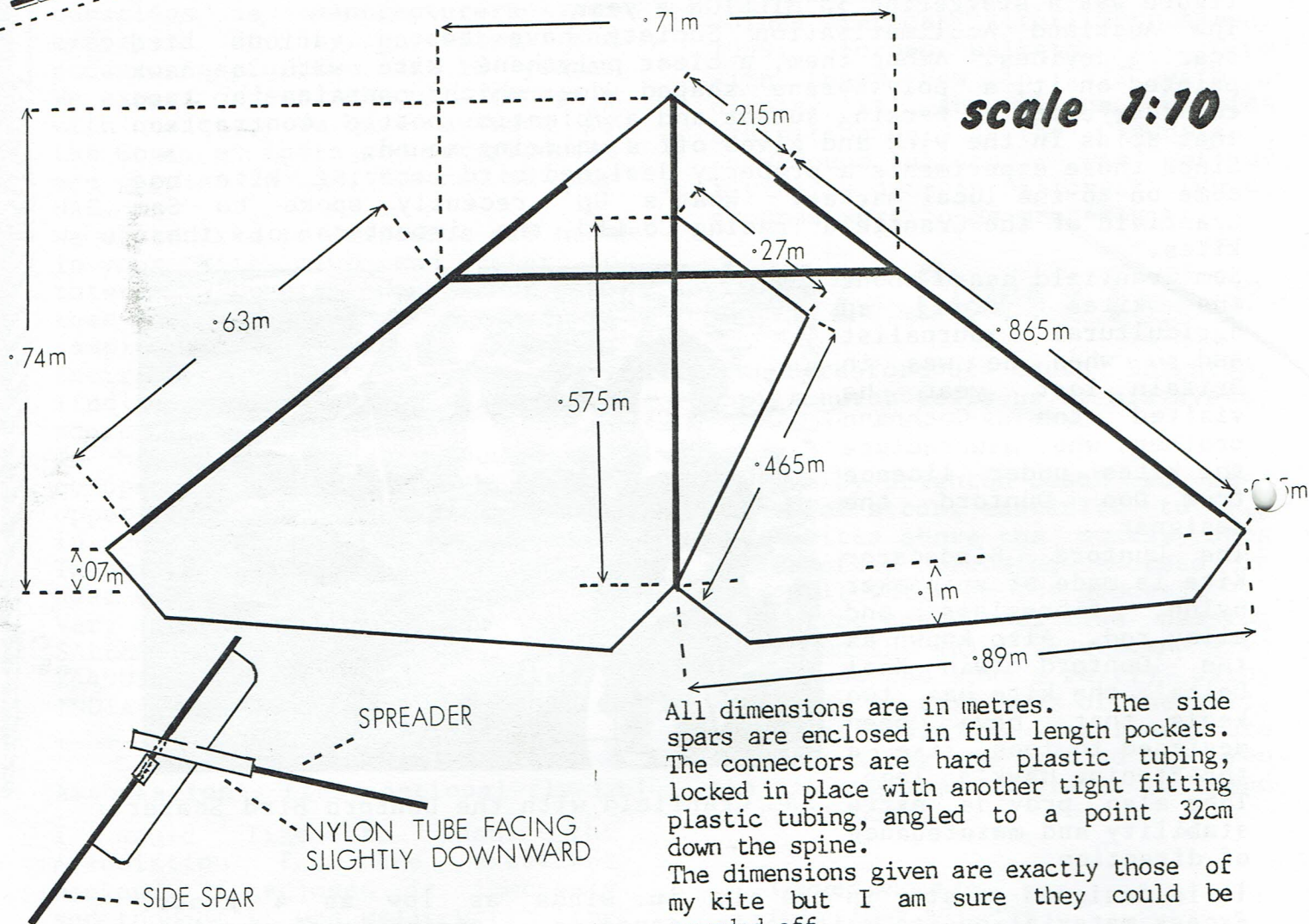
K is for kite
A really high flyer
If you let out more string
It may climb even higher.

Poem by Bernice B.Turner

KITE PLAN

'THE EVERYWIND' DELTA

by PHILLIP McCONNACHIE



'It's just kite-flying' by O'Flynn, PM avers

By political reporter
BRIAN WOODLEY

The Prime Minister, Mr Lange, rose to the defence of his cabinet colleague, Mr Frank O'Flynn, yesterday, he alleged differences

at odds were not matters of policy, but matters of Mr O'Flynn "flying kites."

Asked if he enjoyed shooting down the kites flown by his own ministers, Mr Lange said it was the shooting season.

new style to the portfolio.

"In other countries, ministers are allowed to think. In this country — we do, but we usually express those thoughts as they reflect policy," Mr Lange said.

and that is really something of an achievement, considering the range of people with whom he has been meeting."

said if he

This headline recently appeared in Wellington's 'Evening Post'. We have sent a membership application form together with a car sticker to the Prime Minister asking him to present Mr O'Flynn with it on our behalf.

We suggested that there may be more than one politician in the House interested in "Kiteflying" and pointed out that receiving our newsletter could be beneficial to Members of Parliament as it contains information on 'How to better your kiteflying', 'How to avoid tangles' and 'How to rescue a 'kite' that has gone out of control' etc.

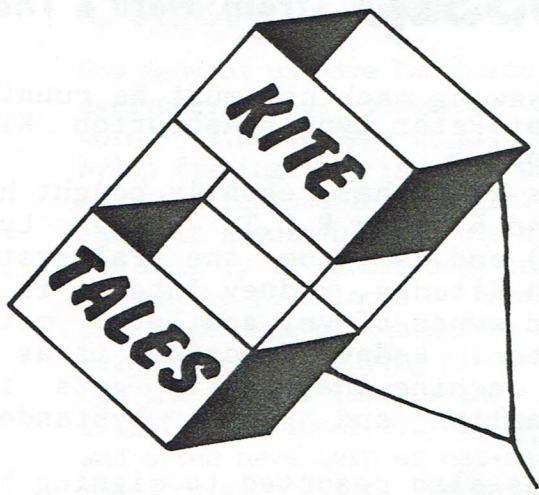
We are now expecting a sudden rush of new members

In the meantime lets go kiteflying!

A KITE IN THE SKY IS BETTER THAN TWO IN A TREE

By James White of Napier

Part One



It was a hot Sunday afternoon. The wind was orchestrating the trees in a litany of anaerobics (a sort of new branch of jazzercise!) My kite flying team gathered at our favourite spot at the lagoon, where we had conducted the world's first under water kite launch some months back.

A debate started about whether we should fly the Gentle Giant (that's the 7 metre Peter Lynn special.)

As we stood, with a glass of wine in our hands, we leaned heavily into the wind and watched the suppleness of the trees bending over backwards to please the whims of the wind as it was gushing around with an exuberance which was causing us concern.

Noticing this concern, the wind whipped down and deliberately sent our open wine bottles sprawling over the grass, giving the local worms a champagne bath and a taste of life above in the decadent society.

As the team scampered around, each with an ingenious way of scooping or sucking the wine out of the ground, I was given a definite NO, NO. A large 'thumbs DOWN' on launching in such conditions. With only a few drops of wine left and a large patch of wet grass (the mowing sort) something had to be done to make the afternoon exciting.

Out came our Peter Lynn 3 metre box. The enthusiasm of this honey of a kite is almost overwhelming. It wants to fly from the moment one starts to assemble it. In fact, it took 3 1/2 strong people to hold the mad, flapping rip-stop nylon shape down long enough to get all the stays and bridle in place. Then away it went. 100 metres of 160kg breaking strain nylon cord out in just under 7 seconds, then a further 100 metres and the kite, the cord and our arms were straining. The cord was screaming with the magnificent high pitched whine that had every dog for miles around yapping their heads off and dozens more pounding down on us to suss out for themselves the vibrating scream that was blowing their little minds.

We really had a battle on our hands.

Be sure not to miss the next enthralling episode of this exciting kiting adventure. Part two - next newsletter.

a Passage from India

Below is printed a letter sent to one of our members who inadvertantly had failed to reply to an earlier letter received from a kiteflier in India.

Dear Friend,

I am sending herewith a carbon-copy of my last letter and this is for your kind information that no answer from your side had been received by me till now. What is the reasons Are you stout and healthy? I am very anxious for your health.

Secondly I thought that my last letter - whose copy is attached herewith, was too much long due to which you did not tried to answer it. Dear penpal just think, the long letters becomes automatically short if we try to satisfy each other. So I again request to your kind honour to answer all that questions which had already been asked by me in my attached letter.

Rest only after hearing from you.

Waiting for an exiting answer;

Sincerely Yours.

Amusing maybe, but please make an effort to reply to any correspondence from other kilters, especially those overseas.

Kitelines

quarterly journal of the worldwide kite community

Kitelines is the international magazine for the world's kiting community.

This award winning magazine brings you the latest in plans, techniques, kites, and kite books. Profiles of kiting personalities, feature articles and marvellous advertisements fill the pages.

'Kitelines' brings us the hum, the music of the line.
It's our magazine.
Tal Streeter.

And the next issue, we are told, will feature the N.Z.K.A!

1 year (4 issues)

US\$11.50 Surface mail

US\$19.50 Airmail

Kitelines, 7106 Campfield Road,
Baltimore, Maryland 21207, USA>

What a line up!

ANNUAL KITE DAY 1985

colour prints size 250mm x

85mm - \$3.50 each

orders: Muriel Bowie

(APOLOGIES FOR POOR PHOTO QUALITY)

gossip from Here & There

The sewing machines must be running hot at Peter Lynn's Ashburton Kite Factory.

James White has recently bought his second 6 metre P.L.T. (Peter Lynn TriD) and as from the Palmerston North Kiteday, Rodney Inteman is a proud owner of yet another 6 metre monster. Rodney describes it as "a mean machine that really gets the adrenalin and the bystanders goin'".

He has also resorted to signing his letters as 'Intrepid Inteman - P.L.T. fanatic', but goes on to clarify P.L.T. as "Pink Lace Tights"!

Careful Rodney - you will become known as the kinky kiter.

With all these biggies around we really are going to need larger kite flying fields.

* * * * *

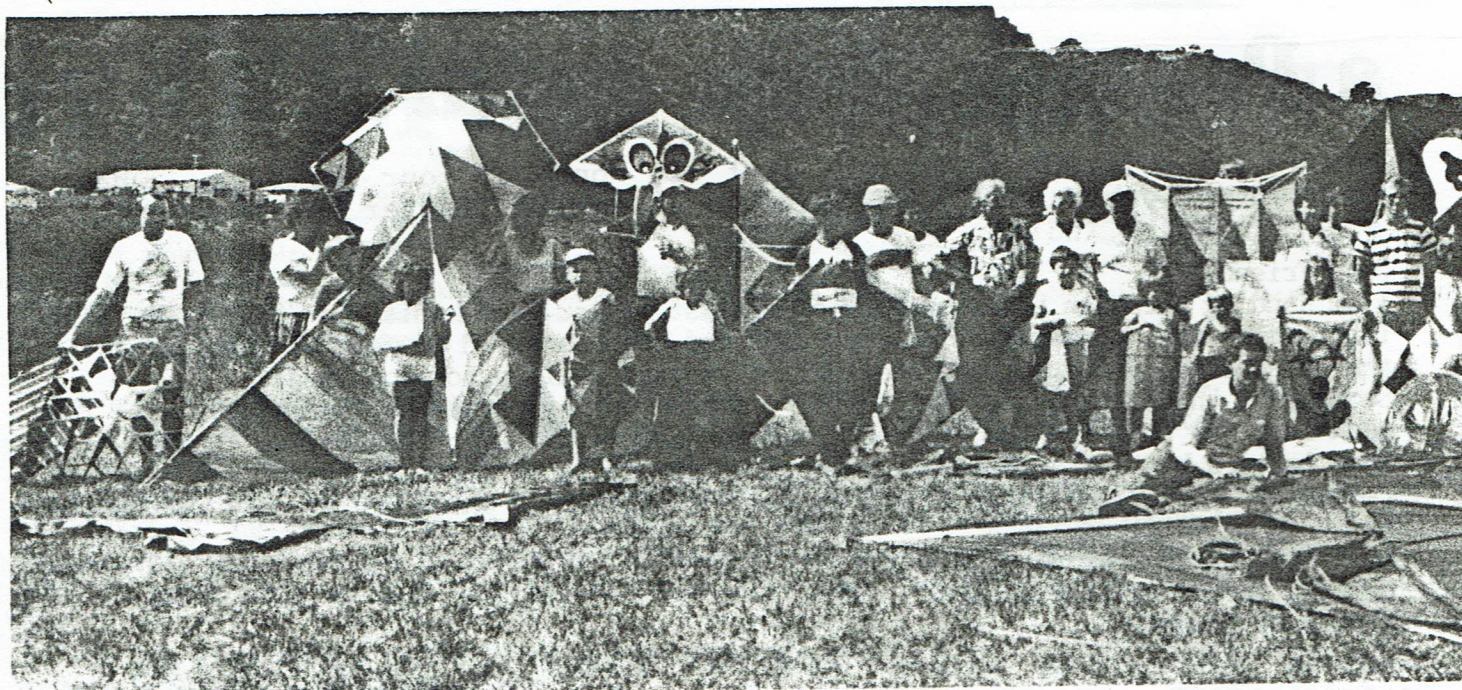
Herman Van den Broek and Pieter Kuil of Holland recently flew a Thai serpent kite with a tail length of 650 metres, for nearly 23 minutes. A new record for the world's longest kite.

* * * * *

A monthly casual kitefly is to be established in Christchurch. Des Pitfield would like to hear from local members with ideas on locations and suitable days.

Please ring Des at 50637 (day) or call or write to 116 Lichfield Street.

Don't forget! Ring Des tomorrow



Safety First Handy Hints

How many of us have had burns and cuts to our hands from kite lines? Probably everyone. These wounds are caused by two main factors. 1.No protective glove was worn. 2.Wrong type of kiteline used.

Nylon fishing line is often used by beginners for kites because of its relative low cost and reasonable strength. This line should not be used. The stretch factor makes it unsuitable for use as a kite line but a more dangerous aspect of nylon is its ability to render deep cuts to the skin when under tension.

Anyone who flies large or hard pulling kites should always wear gloves. The gloves should be made of leather as cotton, wool and vinyl do not offer enough protection.

Suggestions for buying gloves: 1.Gardening gloves of soft leather - cut the ends off the fingers (except the forefinger). This enables you to tie knots etc.

2.Visit your local bicycle shop. Cyclists gloves are fingerless, have padded palms and often have mesh or net backs to keep your hands cool. Velcro or strap closings make for a good fit. Be careful though, in some brands the fingers are cut too short. 3.Try the nearest 'yachties' supply shop or marine supplies store.

Yachtsmen also wear a suitable glove for kiteflying.

These gloves are not cheap, but remember, SAFETY FIRST. Don't use nylon line, always wear gloves when flying large kites.

Please send in your ideas for Safer Kiting.

JAPANESE Kite-masters visit New Zealand

Tony Fitchett reports on the Wellington visit.

Japanese kites make a feature of artistic decoration including stylised faces from classical stage characters, and this was the special skill of Toranosuke Watanabe. He sat comfortably on the floor, and with the aid of an interpreter explained the processes involved in completing a decoration. Bold colours, broad brush strokes, an overlaying of tints, and the faces emerged looking suitably fierce and dramatic.

His companion, Kazuo Tamura, was a builder of kites, and spent a lot of time adjusting the multiple bridles of a big rectangular O'dako. This had already been painted up, and was ready to fly the next day. We spent quite a time inspecting the bamboo framing - it looked so flexible compared with what we might use locally for such a large area, and yet it had been found suitable for use in all sorts of winds.

Later that evening, after an exchange of good wishes, Bob Maysmor delighted our Japanese friends with some gifts including by way of a special touch a hastily constructed facsimile of one example of a Maori kite known to exist.

The next day was kiteflying at Chartwell school. It was a roaring southerly and stuff was being tossed everywhere. The big brightly coloured O'dako was finally launched, and looked fine. The strong winds caused it no problems, but some bridling adjustment was called for.

It was a good visit, and we look forward to a similar occasion.



Kite Day Report

Hamilton Kite Day

The Hamilton Kite day, held on Innes Common, 20th January was by all accounts a great success. Held in conjunction with a Kite Exhibition at the Waikato Museum of Art and History and the Hamilton City Summer recreation programme, the kite day was organised as usual by Logan Fow and the Waikato Kitefliers Club, and the NZ China Friendship Society. Logan, together with his crew ran a series of kite workshops at the museum and various other locations, with the total number of kites made being about 2,000.

Even city councillors were hauled in to help with the Kite Workshops.

The Kite day itself, with steady breezes blowing attracted up to 150 kites and several thousand people coming and going throughout the entire day.

Picnic baskets, bar-b-ques under the trees, sun umbrellas and lots of people. An excellent day, which combined with the workshops and museum exhibition probably attracted a total of well over 5,000 people.

Kite Day Report

HAGLEY PARK

There were always a couple of giant kites up ... or coming down! It seemed as if Peter Lynn's insect kite was "in Season" as it attracted just about every other kite during the day, and every half hour or so dived exhausted to the ground where dozens of 'drones' helped it upright and forced it back into the skies.

Groups of friends and family sat around on blankets eating, drinking and talking of anything but kites. Constantly walking across these "support teams" were the spectators who when looking up trod on people and kites and when looking down at the kites on the ground walked unerringly into kite lines.

Towards the end of the day a group of esteemed kitefliers were sitting talking of the days events, (their kites being flown by volunteers or pressganged relatives and friends) telling of line burns sunburned noses, split lips and wasp stings, and recalling Phillip's 7m flare viciously cutting Peter's 5m flare out of the sky letting it drift out of Hagley Park, and about two miles down Riccarton Road. Recollections of the spontaneous applause for James White's acrobatic antics.

Seven hours of flying - A great day.

Kite Day Report

PUKERUA BAY SCHOOL

Report on Kite Workshop And Kite Day at Pukerua Bay School - Reported by Aroha Wigram - Std. 4

Men from the Porirua Summer City programme came to Pukerua Bay School to help us make kites for Gala Day. We made them from plastic and we all put tails on them.

My kite got in a tangle with everyone's string. The hall was a mess when we had finished. Everyone went outside for a trial flight before we went back to class to paint them. On my kite I put one cloud, a sun and rain coming down from the cloud.

That night was very windy and lots of people couldn't resist flying their kites. It was funny to see all the kites tangled in trees and power lines the next day.

On Gala Day some people brought the kites that had survived along to fly. Mr Maysmor very kindly came along and flew some of his huge kites as well.

The Kite/Gala day was most spectacular and we made lots of money as well.

MATERIALS - Sources & Information.



If you are a reader of American Kite magazines/newsletters you would have probably noticed that they have recently gone overboard about a wonderful new kiteline material called Kevlar, especially for stunt kite control lines.

Whilst listening to the radio the other day there was an article about Kevlar. So here are some of the facts. It was invented in 1965 by a team lead by a woman research laboratory in Wilmington, Delaware, USA. The name Kevlar is a trade mark of Dupont and was invented by a computer. The name itself has no meaning in any language and is pronouncable in all languages where the sale of Kevlar is important.

It is a hydro-carbon based on oil/gas derivatives, has a long chain polymer structure, is five times stronger than steel for the same weight of material and it has almost no elongation of any kind. It is used in rubber to make tyres and in ropes and cables. In its woven fabric form it is used to make bullet proof vests, and it is also incorporated into plastic for use in the aerospace industry.

One of the future applications for Kevlar could be a sky hook - a line connecting a geostationary satellite to the earth and allowing electricity to flow down it. Kevlar is the only material which would not break under its own weight. If you should wish to buy Kevlar it is available in filament form from Dupont. Prices range from twelve dollars a kilo to fifty five dollars a kilo for very fine filament.

This article is reprinted without permission but with gracious thanks to the 'Kitefliers Occasional Newsletter' published by The Kite Society, England. October 1984.

It is unlikely Kevlar is available in NZ but if anyone knows of a source please let us know. It has been suggested Kevlar deteriorates on exposure to sun. It also has a tendency to cut other lines that cross it so be warned!

Kite Day Report

Palmerston 'No Wind' North

Two previous days of great kiteflying weather, preceded the Sunday dawn over Ongley Park, Palmerston North - brilliantly fine, no clouds and (you guessed it)..... "no wind".

Preceded by (not to be repeated) sky divers and 'ground-launched' hang glider displays, around a thousand on-lookers and their families watched the many kite fliers attempt to secure prizes in six events ... "highest kite" (civil aviation approval to 1000' wasn't tested on the day), "largest kite", "smallest kite", "most unusual", "best made" and "longest tail".

Fluctuating winds of 3-4 knots tested all - The James White team, Ian Johnson, Tony Fitchett, Harry Luyk and Wayne Green from Wellington, and Tom Corbett and Sue Rankin flew from Ashburton to fly Peter Lynn's "biggies".

After the mad scramble to get individual kites into the air for judging - NZKA members and supporters showed their expertise and dominance by taking the majority of the prizes - Tom Corbett "largest" (6m PLT Box) and "most unusual" (Peter Lynn 'Dragon Fly'), Harry Luyk "highest", and Rodney Inteman "longest tail" (800') - local entries secured "best Made" and "smallest" kites.

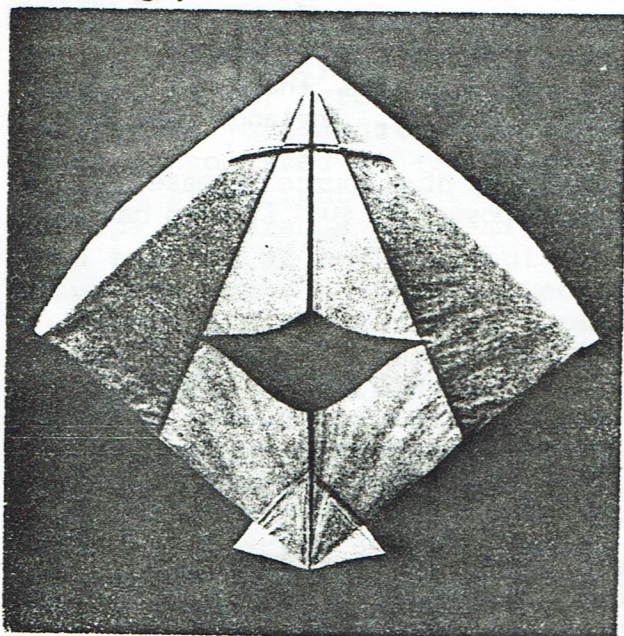
Now for the first time, Palmerstonians saw New Zealand's biggest kites - close up - and (briefly) in flight. Towards the end of the day (as usually happens) the crowd had gone, the wind "picked up" and the sky simultaneously filled with two 6m PLT boxes side by side, Peter Lynn's 10m Singapore Delta, along with his exquisite Dragon Fly - a lasting impression of a memorable day.

PS: Is there any truth in the rumour that Tony Fitchett lost a delta while tying two flight lines together in an attempt to secure "high est kite"?

kites from India

Bearing a close resemblance to the Japanese Nagasaki Hata fighter, the Indian fighter kite differs mainly by the inclusion of a support fin at the tail, and also by its unsupported leading edges.

The Indian fighter is extremely light, made of tissue glued to a finely made frame of bamboo and weighing less than an ounce, it can fly in almost no wind at all. It is one of the fastest moving kites and is able to reverse direction, dive to the ground, and soar high into the sky, simply by changing the tension on the line. The tension on the kite line controls the bow of the kite's plane allowing it to climb or fall accordingly.



The Indian fighter's kite line is coated with powdered glass with the object of cutting any opponent's line. The fast moving fighters make any contest an exciting spectacle to watch.

Other kites flown in India are the Tukkal, the design of which is now over 700 years old and the Indian star kite, traditionally flown at festivals during the spring.

WEIFANG·this year & next.

A special 'China' supplement giving an account of the recent trip to the Weifang Kite Festival by 6 of our members will be included in our next newsletter. The Association has an invitation for next years festival so start saving! Details next newsletter.

the Dutch Connection...

In a previous issue of "Whats Up" we informed you about contacts with other Kitefliers Associations. Although there is no association in the Netherlands, kitefliers there keep in touch through "Vlieger" a magazine put out by Harm Van Veen. It is a very well presented magazine put out every two months and contains information and good articles about kiteflying and kites in Holland.

Harry Luyk our treasurer is currently exchanging our newsletters with Harm Van Veen, who is also author of the book "Vliegers zelf maken" (Make Your own kites)

Harry will be giving us plans, tips and other worthwhile information from that part of the world for inclusion in future "Whats Up's".

remember!

Easter Weekend 1986

National Kite Day - Easter Saturday.

Napier Festival of the Winds - Easter Sunday

2XS Kiteday Palmerston North - Easter Monday

*Kiteflying is peaceful,
relaxing*

Kite ruckus

NEW DELHI, Jan 16. — Disputes over kite-flying during the Hindu Spring Festival have led to a 20-hour curfew being imposed on part of the western Indian city of Ahmedabad. The Press Trust of India said two people were injured when police opened fire and threw tear-gas grenades at groups of people on rooftops throwing stones at each other in Dariapur district because of kite-flying quarrels. — NZPA-Reuter.

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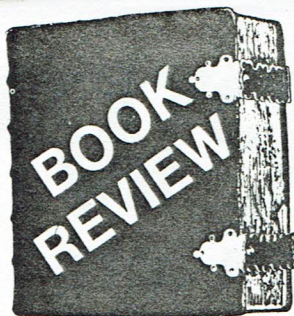
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KITES by Didier
Carpentier and
Joel Bachelet
Published by -
E.P. Publishing Ltd
1981 - Reviewed by -
Julia Barton - Wgtm

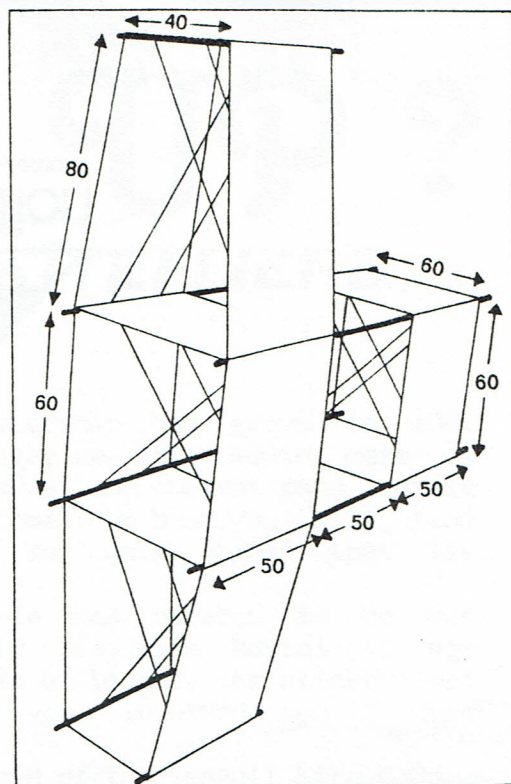
Starting with a brief history of kites, this paperback goes on to describe various types of kites, faults, causes and remedies (extremely useful!) tools and materials you will need, and a good selection of kites to make, some of them very unusual.

The colour photography is good and clear. Its only shortcoming is a lack of the actual patterns which would be handy for beginners - however, you should be able to make most of the kites in the book with some advice and/or trial and error.

And that's the good thing about this book - you are made to feel you can try anything!

It costs around \$8.

Thanks Julia - Come on people how about some more book reviews.



The 'Pomoserf' - one of the few Kite plans included.

A BIASED POINT OF VIEW

Comments from Phillip McConnachie, Christchurch.

I think some hints on bias need to be mentioned in the newsletter as I noticed this to be a problem with quite a few kites.

It is critical to get leading edges on the bias of the material, this serves the purpose of getting the wings taut (it is mainly the problem with wings, as the body is normally cut right)

Many kites, have the wing sections cut against the bias, leaving the leading and trailing edges loose. This causes the kite to 'hang' over to one side or the other and also has a drastic effect on performance. As a rule I try to keep my wing sections right-angled thus having all edges on the bias while still only having it made in one piece.

Fibreglass also has a bias to a certain extent and I always check this before 'sticking' my kites. Fibreglass under tension in the sun (this does not have to be bright sunlight) causes the rod to become brittle and snap.

Another material which is also handy for kitemakers is Nylon Tubing which is used for hydraulics and can be found at any company in the field. I use it for terminations and connectors



Oh Dear! It must be winter. We have no information on any kitedays for the rest of the year. Details of known dates for next summer will be published in our next newsletter.

Let me have your dates and details as soon as they are available.

Definition of a kiteday:

Symphony of Wind Instruments.