



# WHATS UP ?

THE NEWSLETTER FOR KITEFLIERS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

Well here it is! The new look "Whats Up?" I hope you all like it and will contribute lots of articles to help fill the extra two pages. With the increase in membership fees this year we can now consider including more photographs in the newsletter so get those cameras clicking and send in your photos - (preferably B&W) The response for renewal of membership fees has been excellent, however there are still some of you who have yet to respond. The long awaited "China" supplement (with full colour photos!) has now been sent to all financial members. As only 100 copies were printed the few left will be sent to members as their fees are paid. A reminder also that no further newsletters will be sent to non financial members.

As announced in our last issue we are now holding stocks of "Kitelines" magazine for sale at \$7 inc. postage. Only 1 or 2 left but more will be ordered if demand warrants. We are in regular correspondence with the "Kitelines" team who send greetings to you all.

By now, everyone except our recent new members should have received an Association name tag to wear at kitedays. If you haven't please let us know. (Beware of imposters - see story inside.)

1 or 2 people have informed us of the non arrival of the last issue of "Whats Up". Please let us know if this happens to you. Our system guarantees postage but then its over to the Post Office. Remember to send us any change of address.

Finally a special thankyou to Gerry Barton, Conservator at the Auckland Institute & Museum who wrote the Manu Aute article specially for us. We hope to bring you many more articles on Maori Kites in future issues.

Take care on the roads and in the skies this summer,  
Fly High.

*Bob Maysman*

P.S. A big thankyou to Rodney Inteman for layout and artwork on this cover, and on our new letterhead and envelope.

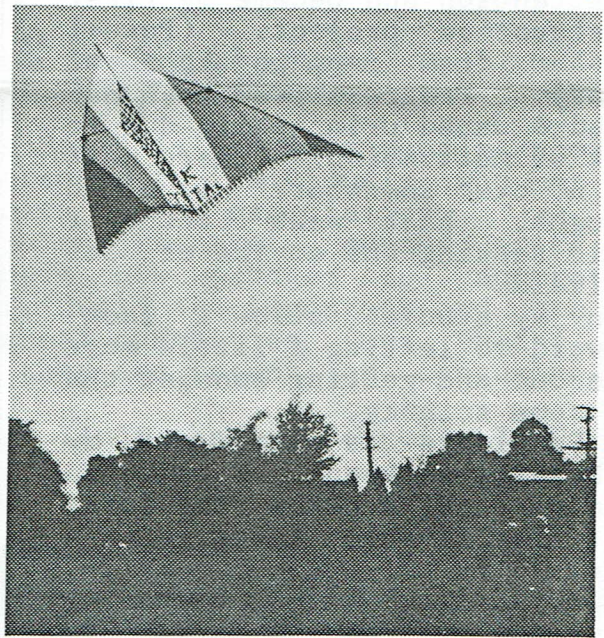


# FEATURE KITE Gerry Smith Tauranga

Just thought I'd tell you about the big Delta I built 6 or so years back. I'm very proud of it as I had only just started kite making and kiting. Up till this period I had played with making simple stuff. Sleds, small Boxes and Diamonds. So I did not have much experience when coming to put together a large delta where accuracy and balance are most important. However, I gave it a go, also aware that a New York enthusiast had built a 30ft one and flown it at a Central Park Show.

The show was something associated with Dill Pickles as he had a Dill painted on the kite sails. So on seeing this I decided to make a similar kite only increase the area to 32ft when spread fully. I might add all materials were very much cheaper then, so it cost around \$50 to complete, having my sewing down for me free by my wife.

After deciding on my colour scheme I set off to purchase 6 lengths each 17ft long, parka nylon 5ft 6ins wide. I then had them sewn together giving me a rectangle 33 by 17ft. This allowed for pockets for the side rods and also a pocket for the centre plus enough after cutting to shape for a large bridle. Also a serrated apron at the base. This looked quite neat and also had a steadying effect on the whole kite. Being so large I had to arrange to do the cutting into shape in the local college gym where I was able to pin the whole thing down to an exact line pattern on the floor. Now having the correct shape, pockets for both side rods and the centre rod had to be formed, no problem there. The kite is framed with aluminium tube 18ft x 7/8ins for side, 16ft x 1 1/4ins for centre. Spreader bar is 17ft x 7/8ins. Extra thickness for strain and stress which is quite considerable when aloft. That was the easy part done. Now the sewing in of the large bridle, plus getting side rods in perfect balance. The whole thing had to be just right to get it to fly at the correct angle and for a newcomer this was no mean feat. I set the whole kite up as if ready to fly. Hung it from the bridle point, onto a large pine branch and proceeded to do my balancing and fine tuning. At this stage the bridle and all the rods were held in place with safety pins. (large ones) so when I felt it was right I marked the spots required and then I rushed home to have it sewn. The cross bar is held to the kite by a pair of aluminium round clamps shaped to fit over the side rods. The cross bar was then fastened together with wing nuts. A very satisfactory system for larger deltas. Finally came the moment of truth, as so many who had seen it in the making vowed it would never leave the ground. I have a small park at the rear of my house so I decided to start the circus from there. With the help of a neighbour we introduced the delta to the air. A bit of a hassle at first but a little increase in breeze also a little twiggling of things in general then off and up she went to shouts of glee and I guess boyish excitement. Little was I aware that another neighbour took a movie film of our antics, it's proof of a big effort on a big kite. I have since built 2 or 3 smaller sized deltas (22ft spread) having a good success with each one. The story is never fly kites on Good Friday, the moral is you'll lose them like I did.







Robin Smith -  
CHRISTCHURCH

Currently my working hours are consumed by study towards the Lincoln College Diploma in Parks and recreation Management. With one and a half years down and the same to go before completion I

find little time for building kites but flying provides a welcome break to the routine.

My adult interest in kites was rekindled about nine years ago by a fellow worker and avid kite enthusiast. Stunt kites caught my attention and became my first construction project. (Powell stunter from Penguin book of kites). Progress from then has waxed & waned principally due to lack of motivation - "there must be a club somewhere" I often thought. Last week I found it while seeking the advice of Des Pitfield.

When my studies allow I look forward to letting a little more line out and getting amongst the art come science.

My knowledge is slim, but my enthusiasm is keen. I have no favourite kite nor a favourite spot for flying, that's yet to come.

I must shamefully admit to being only an observer at kite days held in Hagley Park, Christchurch. I intend to remedy that in the future. So with only a couple of box kites, a stunter or two, a large delta and assorted lines, winders and materials under my bed my real kite flying days are still before me. Hereto a wind that blows good.!

This space is reserved for YOUR contribution. The two extra pages in "Whats Up" need filling so send in your photographs (black & white please) stories, reports, anything.....please.



**KITE AERIAL  
PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Worldwide Association**

Association Mondiale de  
Photographie par Cerf-Volant

An invitation has been received for any of our members interested in kite Aerial photography to join a newly formed International Association based in Belgium. The group will publish a quarterly newsletter giving information on suitable types of kites, photo techniques, 'tricks and short cuts', questions and answers and of course a regular publication of photographs taken from a kite.

Anyone interested in joining should write to:

Michel Dusariez,  
Avenue Capitane Piret 14  
1150 Brussels,  
Belgium.

## Quotable Quote

"Come kiteflying and unwind with us" James White

Evelyn Kelly - ARAMOHU - Wanganui

I made my first kites early in 1984 at a workshop at Lincoln college presided by Peter Lynn (who else?). My very large delta flies beautifully: my grown-up family are very keen too, and have made and acquired several sorts of kites. At a kite day to help celebrate the opening of a new reserve in Wanganui in 1983 my orange delta, my sons Korean fighter kite, glue still damp! and his girl-friends purchased butterfly carried off all the prizes! (Incidentally, the awarding of prizes wasn't a good idea I thought. Its good just to get together and fly kites). I'm a self employed potter, and reward myself when I've worked hard by taking a kite up the hill behind my home, wind and weather permitting. Roll on spring.



# Halley's Comet ~ it is really a kite!

March and April of next year will bring to our skys that runaway serpent kite, otherwise known as Halley's comet. The fact that this comet is actually a kite was recently revealed by the discovery of a diary written by an early kiter named M.T. Spool. Mr Spool's diary tells us that while attempting an all time height record the kite line was ripped from his hands and drawn into space by cosmic drag. (Not related to Fiscal drag?) Made of indestructable 'Ralym' material the kite positively glows as it flys around the earth's atmosphere from time to time.

To commemorate the forthcoming sighting of M.T. Spools' kite Ian Johnson of Wellington has suggested we have a day of celebration flying comet kites, satellites, star and moon kites etc. Messenger satellites sent up kitelines are another idea. Don't just think about this folks. Set a date. Inform the media and have a real fun day!

## WARNING ! Beware of imposters.

We have had several reports from the South Island from people who have seen our membership name tags attached to individuals who at first glance would seem not to be members of our association.

We tried to contact these people who unfortunately seemed quite bullish in their response. We have now managed to aquire photographic evidence that these individuals are imposters and are capable of devouring kite line in great quantities (see photo). Evidence received also suggests that they are intent on consuming any kites that they come across.

(They must have good tastes though. Isn't that a Seagull Co-Op delta?)

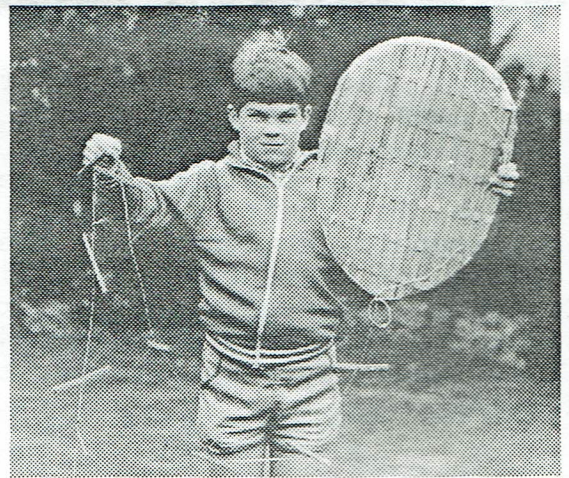
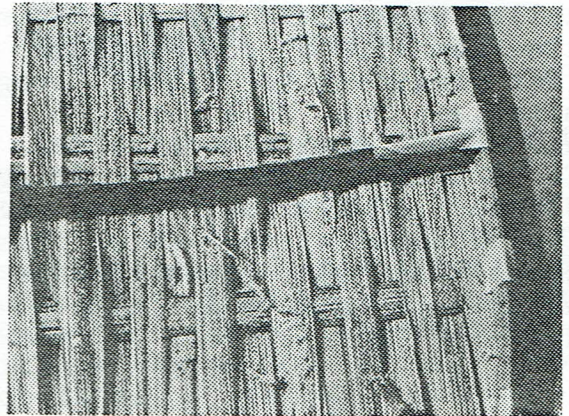




# RAUPO & FLAX.

Tony & Vivienne Mander of Christchurch report.

Earlier this year our son Stephen had to make a kite as part of a Maoritanga badge for Cubs. Most seemed to simply make an ordinary diamond kite and decorate it with a Maori motif. Hardly a Maori Kite! Various references were rather vague as to details of kites the early Maoris used and described them as being lozenge types. We decided that a kite of any shape using non-manufactured natural materials would be O.K. We used dead raupo leaves (difficult to find locally as it all seems to grow under signs which say that all plants, etc are protected in that area!) and flax sticks. The raupo leaves were split and woven - a task Stephen managed quite well - and glued with PVA to reduce air flow through it. (I know, we should have used a natural resin!) Masking tape attached it to the frame, although it could have been bound with flax. The tail was flax. It flew quite well, but due to the inefficient covering and relatively high weight, it needed a stiff breeze.



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## Kauangaroa kite at Museum.

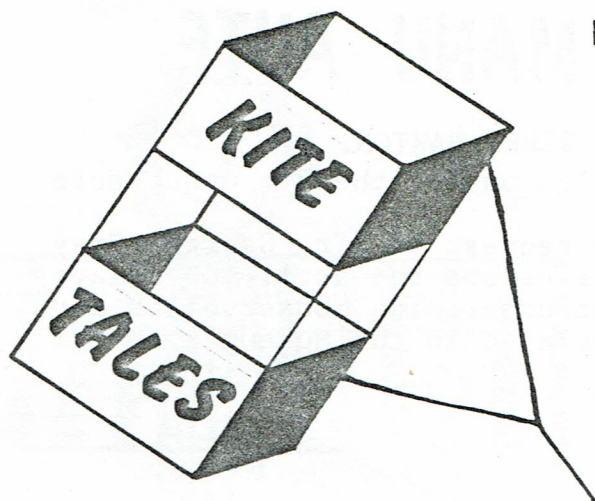
Bruce McDonell, Education Officer at the Wanganui Museum tells us of recent kite exhibition.

During September - November we have been displaying an exhibition of kites, featuring the history, uses and cultural development of kites around the world. The bulk of the display came from Porirua Museum, who had thoroughly researched the topic and presented the information on attractive cards. For about 1 month we displayed kites owned by Mr Rodney Inteman from Palmerston North. These proved to be an exciting and colourful addition to our Museum, and the display attracted many schools and general public. Local kites were featured for the latter half of the display including one massive 'bag' styled example produced by the pupils of Kauangaroa school, about 50 kms from Wanganui - the teacher assured us that the kite did 'float'.

On Sunday November 3 a few brave enthusiasts flew several types of kites at Castlecliff beach until the wind died at 3 pm. However many primary schools have had their own successful flying days, often concluding a unit of work on flight.

Several people have enquired about the NZ Kitefliers Association, and we have been pleased to supply them with the relevant information. Hopefully we can repeat the display perhaps in a couple of years, at which time a kitemaking workshop should be encouraged.





BY DONALD WALKER - NAPIER

I first became interest in kite flying in Gisborne some 20 years ago. Malcolm, the boy next door, gave me a good excuse to build and fly. He may get a turn at flying - who knows?

The design I obtained from a Bancroft publication entitled "Make your own kite", and the one we chose was described as a conventional kite. It was made up from pinus spars, string and plastic sheet. Flying it at the start was a bit dodgy but with the

addition of a pair of Malcom's mother's old pantyhose for a tail, it flew magnificently.

Some 20 years on - at 68 years of age, I have again been bitten by the bug. I have made three kites - one for myself, one for my wife, Jo, and another for a friend. They all fly well in a moderate breeze.

My wife and I were flying at one of the local parks recently in a steady breeze and both our Conynes were ascending at a gentle pace. Jo was unprepared for the tug as the kite reached the end of the line. The reel shot out of her hand and started to trundle off down the park. I was fully occupied in hanging on to my own kite and therefore called to Jo to run after the reel. It so happens my wife is no athlete and the reel was going away from her at a rate of knots. I began having visions of the reel being trailed across the road, at the end of the park, up and over the power lines and the whole city being without power.

However, there were some small boys playing in the park on their BMX bikes and they were quick to size up the situation. Off they went, flat tack across the park after the reel, with a stray dog joining in the excitement. The dog got mixed up with two of the riders and they came off their bikes and were out of the race. That left one lone rider still going strong. He levelled with the reel almost at the end of the park, threw down his bike and dived onto the reel. A good save. The kite appeared to enjoy its few moments of freedom as it sailed untethered through the air - and maybe a little sorry at being brought back to earth.

## BEWARE & take care this summer.

On July 26th 1977 a tragedy occurred in the foothills of Santa Barbara, California. Considering the equitable risk of a similar disaster occurring in New Zealand the tragedy is recounted in the hope it will emphasise the need for an awareness of environment in which you choose to fly your kite.

A large homemade box kite was being flown in a wind exceeding 20 knots when a gust wrenched the large kite spool from the flier and carried it through the air until it caught on a telephone line suspended just below high tension power lines. The kiteline then dragged against the power lines causing the 16,000 volt line to arc with an adjacent tension line.

A resulting shower of hot metal sparks fell to the ground and started a brush fire. This fire eventually destroyed over 230 homes and damaged many others. The estimate of damage was a quarter of a billion dollars. The fact that no lives were lost is amazing, but the grief and despair that would have followed such a fire would be immeasurable.

With summer on its way and the promise of long dry periods lets ensure that those pylons carrying high tension wires that criss cross many areas of our country are well and truly distant from any kite flying scene.

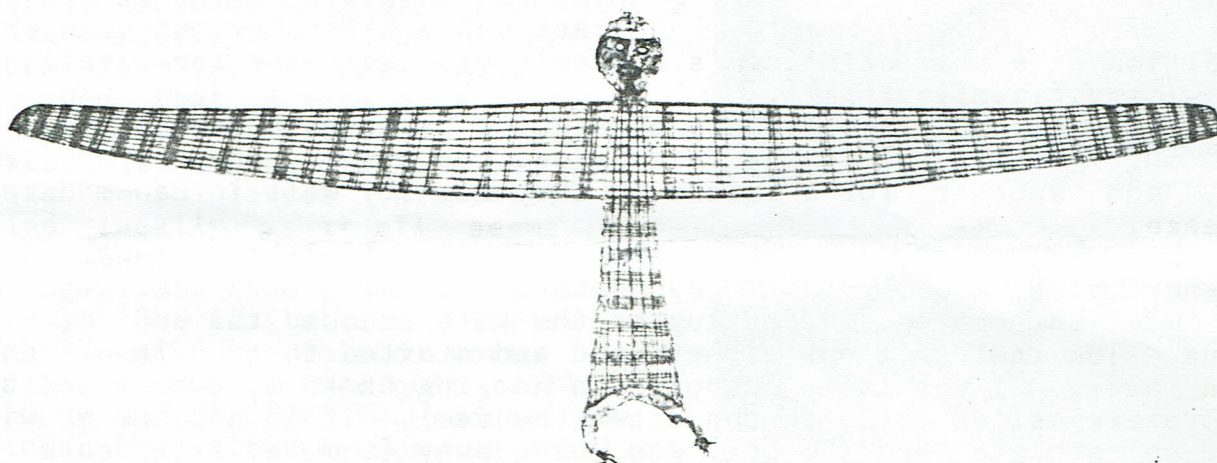


# The Auckland Museum MANU AUTE

AN ACCOUNT OF ITS RESTORATION - BY GERRY BARTON.

Auckland Museum has in its collection one of the two manu aute Maori kites remaining in existence.

Constructed in the mid 1880's at the request of Sir George Grey who wanted an example of such a kite before the skill to create them was lost, the kite is at present undergoing conservation and restoration work in order to be displayed in the Museum's Maori gallery.



The Auckland Museum manu aute in 1985 showing a century of deterioration.

A comparison of photographs taken nearly a century apart illustrates how the kite has deteriorated since its construction. Because the kite was made in the late nineteenth century European as well as Maori materials were available for its fabrication. The kite is a wonderful combination of traditional materials such as raupo, flax, supplejack and beaten bark cloth used in conjunction with cotton fabric, newspaper, and wool.

The kite has a wingspan of 3.53 metres and a body length (from top of head to claws) of 1.27 metres and consists of two components: the mask, and the body and wings. The body and wings are comprised of a frame of thin manuka or kanuka twigs and sticks lashed together with flax cord and covered from behind first with raupo leaves and, over them, a cotton textile. Along either side of the body is a plait of red, yellow and blue wool and the feet, made from bunches of twigs, are wrapped in red wool.

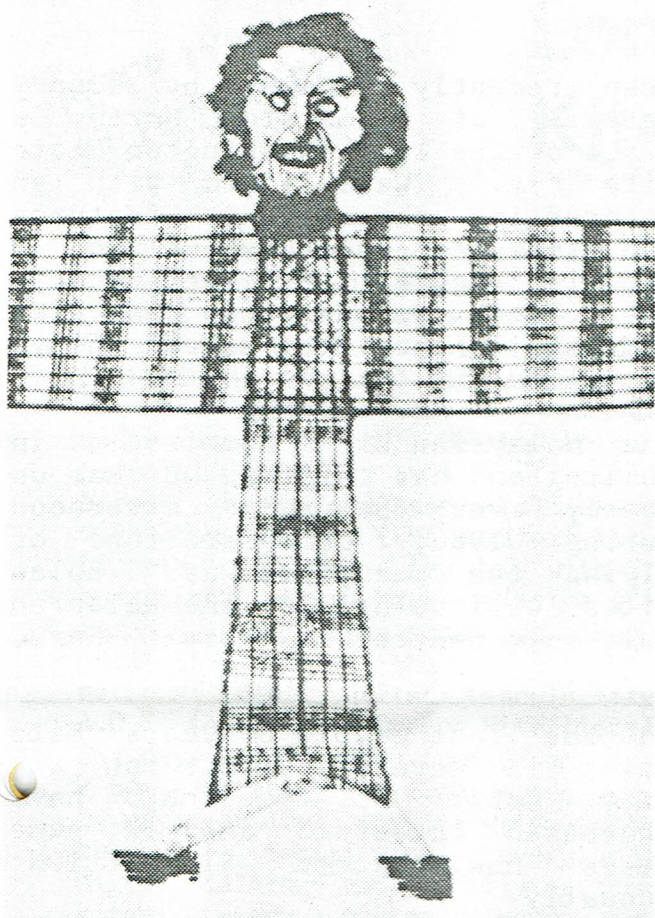
The face is an extremely rare example of Maori mask making. Built up from a frame of split supplejack and successive layers consist of newsprint pages from the nineteenth century government gazette "Ko Te Kahiti O Niu Tireni", wads of cotton wool for areas of high relief, beaten bark cloth and linen textile upon which was painted the moko. The eyes are paua shell. Much of the facial detail has now vanished. The 4 pointed teeth, the entire moko painted surface, and the hair of feathers with their quills split have all gone with the passing of time.

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## HOSPITAL RESIDENTS STUNNED BY KITES

On Sunday 29 September, about 15 members from the NZ Kitefliers Assn came to Porirua Hospital and flew their kites from 1pm till 4.30pm. Several kite workshops had been held in the hospital so a few residents turned up to fly their kites and watch the spectacular kites of the Assn members. Unfortunately it was too windy for clever flying and not many residents came out onto the field, but I have it on good authority that a lot of residents were watching the afternoons' »





Details of the manu aute c.1890

The conservation work at present being undertaken relates to stabilizing degraded areas of the kite, and restoring the face to something more like its original appearance. Parts which have particularly deteriorated are the feet and legs which as well as being mis-aligned have their cotton covering in tatters, and the forehead of the mask where the newsprint and beaten bark cloth have deteriorated to a point where they have little strength, and where a number of supplejack struts have been broken. Because of the brittle and fragile nature of these old materials all repairs are very painstaking and involve the use of specialized glues and mending

tissues. These are selected for their chemical stability which means they will not introduce new problems into the fabric of the kite as they themselves age; for example releasing acids into the original, now delicate components of the kite. The kite is expected to be on display for the first time in nearly twenty years in 1987 when the re-design of the Maori exhibition areas is completed.



Fig 3. A detail of the mask. The layers making up the face are, at the surface, beaten bark cloth and underneath, newsprint. At the cheek bones and chin black dyed cotton wool pads out the contours of the face. Supporting these materials is a framework of split supplejack.

» proceedings from the relative comfort of the nearby wards. From a personal point of view I regard the afternoon as a success -the kite flyers were able to fly their kites and the residents were able to watch, with some of them able to fly their own kites. But what made the afternoon successful was that the Assn members made themselves available to the residents for chats about kite flying or any subject that cropped up. Some Assn members let several of the residents fly their own kites. It is this aspect of the afternoon that is of credit to the people who attended. On behalf of the residents and the Recreation Department at Porirua Hospital please accept this as our thankyou to the Assn members who came out. We hope to have another afternoon set aside in the new year.  
Brendan Egan - Recreation Officer.



# gossip

## from Here & There

Peter Lynn popped over to Aussie at the end of September for the 'Festival of the Winds' at Bondi Beach, Sydney. Threatening Thunder, rain and little wind made it less than successful however meeting old friends such as Helen Bushell from Melbourne made it worthwhile.

The Tasmanian Government recently flew kitemaker David Chandler up to Sydney for the Bondi 'Festival of the Winds'. The reason - just to fly the Tasmanian flag (kite). I wonder when the NZ Government will catch on?

I realise its a bit late but No.16 of Australia's SIMPLY LIVING magazine (1981) has an interesting article entitled 'SKY WARS'. It tells the story of the Hamamatsu kite festival and is well illustrated with superb colour photos. Also watch out for the September 1985 issue of 'OMNI' magazine due out in NZ in Jan/Feb 1986. Another kite article.

The Hong Kong Kite Association has decided to hold an International Kite Festival on an annual basis. This year's festival, the first, is from 5th - 10th December. Although the invitation arrived too late to pass on to you it is hoped the invitation will be extended in future years. Food, accommodation and sightseeing is all provided free with only airfares from NZ and pocket money payable by those wishing to attend.

A move is underway to establish Olympic Games for kites in Zandvoort, Holland. Zandvoort, a beach town, offers an open beach 9 km long, sanddunes and a racing track, as good venues for kiteflying. 50 hotels and Boarding houses, good road and rail access and close proximity to Amsterdam, make the location ideal - the games are planned for 1992, the same year the world olympics will be held in Holland. (But oh so far away for us kiwis).

Seen recently in Hawaii by Rodney Inteman of Palmerston North, a video of the 1985 'Washington State Kite Fly.' Well filmed with an interesting narrative it features non other than Peter Lynn flying 3 of his 'biggies'. Rodney reports that Peter was wearing his NZKA nametag in the video - Good on ya Peter!

The Malaysian High Commission in Wellington has informed us that on nearly every Saturday afternoon during 1986, demonstrations of flying the beautiful Wau Bulan Kites will be held at the Kelantan Cultural Centre in Kota Bharu, Malaysia. So close and yet so far!

In the last couple of years Kite sales in several outlets on the West Coast of America have increased threefold and in some cases now exceed \$1 MILLION annually.

As part of the 'Summer School of the Arts' at Wanganui Regional Community College, Peter Lynn will be tutoring a class in kitemaking. Thursday 9th January - Sunday 12th January 1986. Fee \$44 and \$8 registration. Write to BOX 7040, Wanganui for details.

Radio Avon recently commissioned Des Pitfield to make a 3.5 x 1.8 metre delta with their logo emblazoned on it. It seems to have convinced the Radio Station of the worth of kite days. Many more are planned for the future.

Helen Bushell, Australia's number one kitelady suggests that skiers and trampers should always carry a pack away kite - (they will cram into a sardine tin) when they get lost or injured the kite could be flown as a marker beacon to attract rescuers.

Gerry Smith has finished his last kite workshop for the year. He has been active in about 5 Tauranga primary schools teaching kitemaking and flying skills to hundreds of children.



PETER LYNN  
TELLS US ABOUT

# Longbeach International Kite Festival Aug. 1985

The best kite flying venue in the World, with wind so smooth the kites appeared as though painted in the sky. A beach 25 miles by 1/2 mile uninterrupted and a town council 150% behind kite flying. This is the Longbeach in Washington State not the Californian version. A town of around 3,000 people with an octagenarian mayor (Fred Rutherford) renowned for having sacked his entire police department (well, 9 out of 11, the other two were away that day) over an argument about their zealous use of radar speed traps. He had to call in the state police when they wouldn't leave peacefully. After this Fred reputedly strapped on his .45 and patrolled the streets alone, keeping the peace until new staff could be installed. I had spent two days with Doug Hagaman (the parafoil maker) at Agate Beach on the Oregon coast then up to Lincoln city for a few days with Steve and Sandy Lamb at "Catch the Wind" what an operation! They have fulltime staff putting on a daily kite show over at their beach. - 90' spin socks and other huge sky garbage objects lofted by ex sky-diving parafoils. Catch the wind achieves sales sufficient to make a yearly dent in NZ's national debt. After Lincoln city, over night with the Larry's and Davis's at A.O.K. (Associated Oregon Kitefliers), Portland, then up to Longbeach.

Six days on the beach from 9 am - 6pm, no rain, one light wind, 5 days at 10-15 mph - bliss, heaven! Socialising every night, talking and or flying kites every waking hour, dreaming kites the rest of the time. I flew the bird of paradise (9.5 delta) High Aspect Ratio Delta (8.5m) 8.5m Dragon fly, a 6m PLT Box and the 15m centipede all that time with only one tangle! (a trio of ghost stunters) and no "incidents". Americans are the most professional makers and fliers, they have good stuff, they fly it well and they are nicely balanced between the social, competitive, aesthetic and physical aspects of our obsession. Thousands of friendly people, a truly great place to fly and a festival running for long enough to offset an occasional off day and make the effort of long

distance travel really worthwhile. In addition to US kitefliers there were teams from Canada, Singapore and (of course) a team of one from NZ. Kites that particularly impressed: Doug Hagaman's parafoils, Dragon Master's Singapore Dragon, and especially Don Taber's display of Synchronised flying with 3 Hawaiian 16's - Truly mind blowing. I sold my dragonfly and the centipede, took some other large kite orders and after the festival of the winds in Australia was reduced to one show kite, a 6m, 6 year old flare. After Longbeach, up to Seattle for a few days with Dave and Dorothea Checkley and some flying with the Seattle Group. Dave and Dorothea truly deserve the credit for a large measure of where kiting is today. 20 years unstinting inputs, promotionally in the industry, organisationally and most recently thru generating international exchanges. I salute them, they are giants. Now back home, sunburnt, aching in every limb but revitalised and building furiously, swearing never to go away from home again - until next time!



This 6 metre TRI.D was made for the Singapore Kite Association by Peter Lynn in 1984. It depicts a legendary figure in Chinese mythology and was taken to the Long Beach Festival by the Singapore team.



# KITE PLAN

HARRY LUYK GIVES US THIS PLAN  
FROM HARM VAN VEEN IN HOLLAND

This is a kite suitable for light to moderate (beaufort 5) winds. A short tail or drogue is useful, but not really necessary.

The kite can also be controlled by 2 lines and is then flown without tail or drogue. The kite adapts itself to the wind, but does not tend to float as a delta kite.

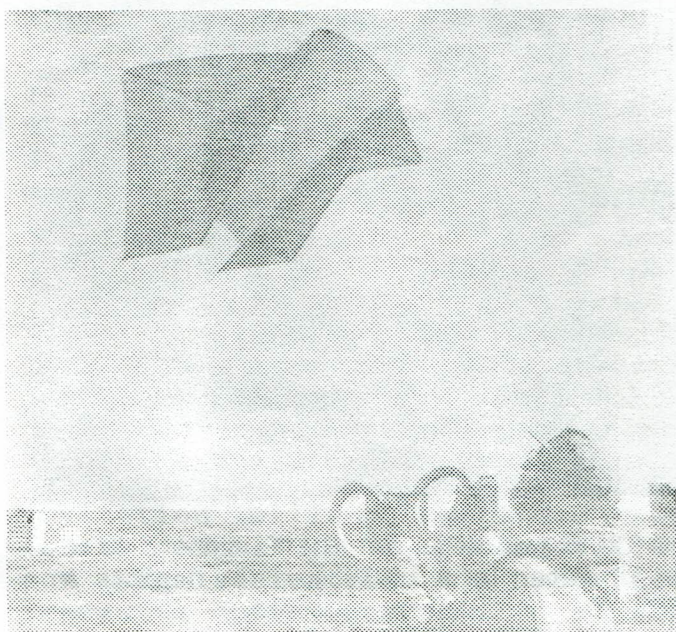
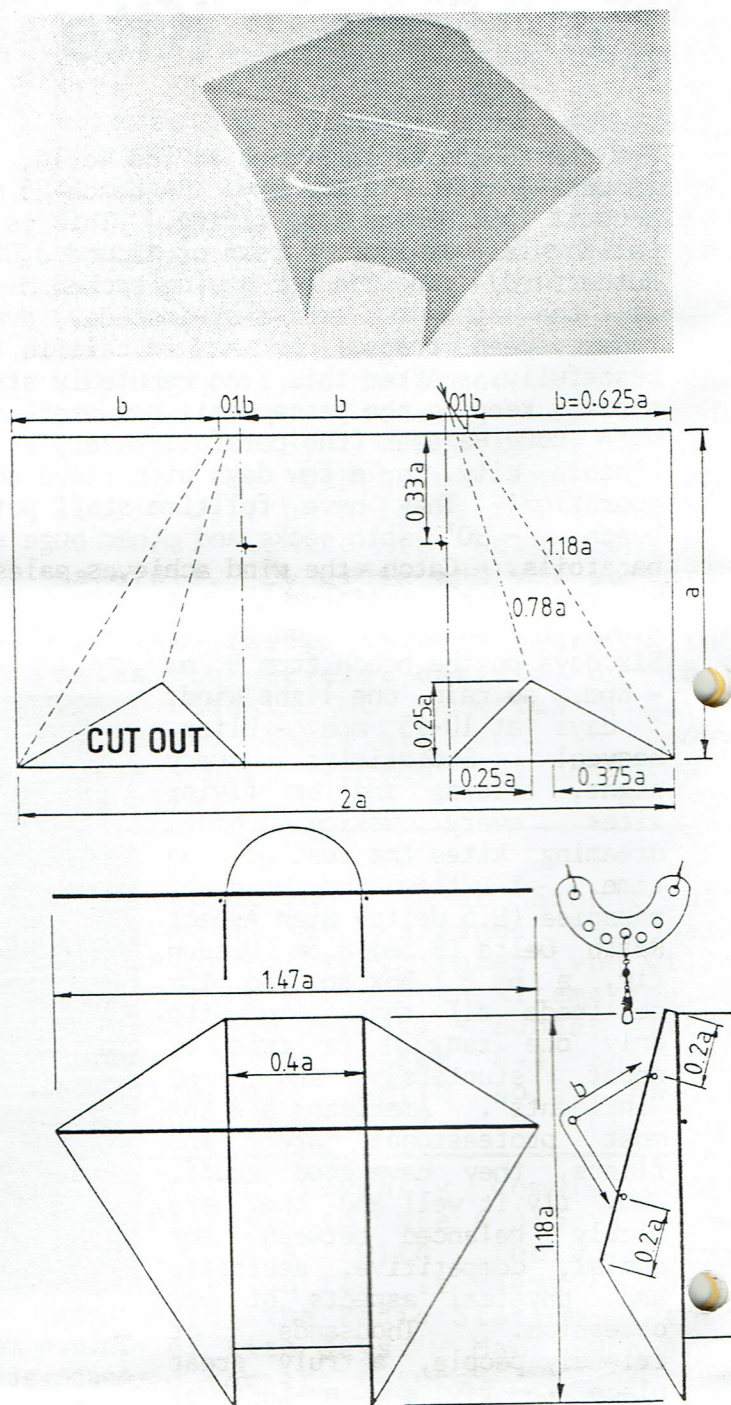
The dimensions are given as "a" and "b". As a guide "a" is normally between 60 and 120cm

As material one can chose from polythene, tyvek or nylon.

The spreader has no dihedral, but should bend backwards under windpressure, you can use dowel or fibre glass rod.

Between the two spines there is a rope, limiting the spread to  $0.4a$ .

There are two holes in the cover to allow the spreader to stick through at 33% from the leading edge.



## Ding Dong Avon kite day !

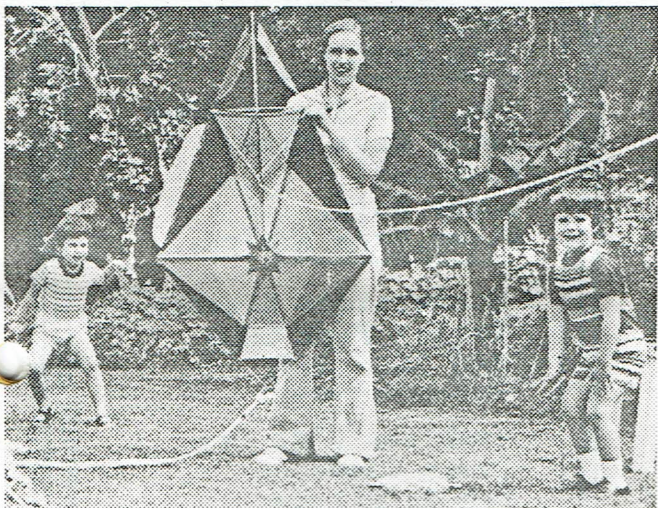
The Radio Avon Kite day early in September got off to a great start. 'On Air' interviews with Des Pitfield, give away kite kits, and Peter Lynn's monster centipede all contributed to a successful day. From a non existent westerly to a fresh easterly the wind picked up and provided lift for over 100 kites that included innumerable sleds and deltas, Cody's, compound box kites, standard box kites, Conyne, parafoils, flares and a Prof.Waldorf. Phillip McConnachie flew his Red and Black monster flare (which apparently took a liking to a bystander's trousers!). Other NZKA members present included John Beresford, Ken Anderson and Christine Batt who is now back in Christchurch.



# kites from Bermuda

Springtime in Bermuda is the most popular time for flying kites, with Good Friday being something of an annual kite festival.

The origins of flying kites on Good Friday is somewhat obscure however it has been suggested that a minister once used a kite fly as an attraction to bring his parishioners together on Good Friday.



One of the most popular designs made in Bermuda is the Headstick or three stick kite. This kite has a 'tongue' under the kite that makes a loud bussing sound. Other types include the round kite (octagonal) and a variation adapted to make a star shape. These kites are usually covered in many small pieces of brightly coloured tissue paper. The fish kite, so named by its shape, is a strong kite capable of flying to great heights.



Kites, the science and the Wonder.  
Published by: Japan Publications  
April 1983 ISBN8-87040-526-8

Reviewed by Harry Luyk, Lower Hutt.

There are very few or no books around that tell you a lot about kite theory apart from how lift is generated, so I was very glad when I could lay me hands on a copy of this book. It tells you almost everything about stability, nosediving, spinning and other things that worry alot of people when they are flying kites.

For some of us it might be a bit complex to understand, but when you read it carefully a couple of times one should be able to understand. If you are looking for a lot of different designs this book may not be what you want, although there are quite a few bird and butterfly orientated plans.

Although the book is not cheap (NZ\$35.00) I can certainly recommend it, especially when you are going to design your own kites because I am sure it will save you at least a couple of failures!

# More on bird scarers .....

New Scientist 15 August 1985

## More kites, less damage

**Y**IELDS of cabbage, peas and cereals could be much higher in the future—thanks to kites. Flying kites above fields is proving a surprisingly effective way of scaring wood pigeons, one of the most destructive agricultural pests.

Shooting pigeons is costly and labour intensive, while netting crops is feasible only for small areas. Scaring techniques range from the age-old scarecrow (which can still be effective if properly designed) to propane-fuelled gas bangers and model pigeons with outspread wings mimicking alarm. But none reliably reduce damage.

Trials of kites have proved more successful than anyone dared imagine. Only 17 per cent of cabbage plants were damaged when a red, two-metre span kite was flown above the field compared with 80 per cent damaged when a gas banger and scarecrows were used. Without any type of crops protection, 30 per cent of cabbages were damaged by pecking each week compared with only 3 per cent with a kite in the air.

Flying kites may scare pigeons because they resemble a bird of prey. One of their notable advantages is that, unlike gas bangers and most other scarers, pigeons do not get used to them, probably because they move about in any wind.

What happens when the wind drops? Luckily, pigeons cause most damage in late winter and early spring when the air is rarely completely still. □

## old Chinese proverb.

If you hear you forget, if you see, your remember; if you touch, you understand.

So for those who have never held a kiteline.....



# DOWN SOUTH FROM DES PITFIELD

Sunday October 13th was a memorable day on a couple of counts, firstly Bob Maysmor was visiting Christchurch to do a bit - of kiteflying, and also attending a conference, but as luck would have it he picked the wrong day for the kiteflying. Saturday was perfect but Sunday 11am was chosen as the time to meet at Waikuku Beach, but by 10am a southerly gale was blowing. A few Good hardy souls braved the wind and as the first kites were buffeted upwards the rain came down.

The 8 people on the beach gave up and went to Heather Dyksmas and Des Pitfields house for lunch, where a record was set, 10 people in the house at one time (its a very very small house!) then word came (via telephone) that Peter Lynn and daughter Sara, and flying partner Clyde were coming up from Ashburton. Another surprise visitor was Peter Whitehead of Wellington who had been to Ashburton to collect his new 6 metre Tri-D.

Tony & Vivienne Mander & family braved the weather and drove out from Christchurch to join in the kiteflying.

Peter Whitehead was keen to test his new Tri-D and persuded us to come and watch.

Bob flew his 'sun' rainbow kite and managed to experty land it upside down right through the middle of a tree. Peter Whiteheads new tri-d took to the air, Phillip McConnachie flew his large 7 metre chequered flare, but the kite finally met its match. The Southerly proved to much, the kite was anchored to a strong post, but as the kite climbed into the wind it started to weave and then literally blew apart, spars scattered across the sky (photos next issue).

Back to a cup of tea and sandwiches and the inevitable talk of kites, and speculation as to whether Phillips flare will ever been seen again in the skys of New Zealand.

A thought from Margaret Greger, author of "Kites for everyone" "Kitemakers should view a polythene bag as Michaelangelo would view a block of marble.



## KITE DAYS

Sat.4th January  
Summer City,  
McCallister Park,  
WELLINGTON.

Sun.26th Jan. 1.00pm  
Early Days Kite  
Festival  
Lower Hutt.  
River Bank Avalon.

Summertimes Kiteday  
Hagley Park CHCH  
Sun 26th Jan.

Hamilton Kite Day,  
Innes Common -  
Feb 1. Kitters  
Feb 2. Public kite day  
If wet - following  
weekend.

Radio Hauraki,  
Sun 9th Feb.  
Auckland Domain

Sat.15th Feb. 1.00pm  
Bishop Park,  
EASTBOURNE.

Sun.16th Feb. 12.00  
Country Fayre Kite  
Day,  
OHARIU VALLEY. Wellington

The Big One !  
Hagley Park Chch.  
Sunday 16th Feb.

Bason Reserve,  
Wanganui.  
Westmere - 1.30pm  
Sun 23rd Feb.

Flight Day,  
Fraser Park, Lower  
Hutt. Sun 23rd Feb.

Sun.2nd March  
Porirua -Radio Windy,  
Wineera Drive,  
PORIRUA.