

What's Up?

September 2001

A newsletter for kitefliers

Number 69



NEW ZEALAND KITEFLIERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

visit our website at www.nzka.org.nz

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

This magnificent kite from Belgium was photographed by Anne Whitehead at the Washington State International Kite Festival at Long Beach in August

From the archives . . .

What's Up? #1, September 1984

Tragedy

Some of you will no doubt have heard of the tragic accident that occurred on September 24 last year — "the worst thing that ever happened in kiting." These were the words of Domina Jalbert, 79-year-old inventor of the parafoil, when told of the death of Steve Eideken during a record-breaking attempt for the world's largest kite. In September last year the Edmonds Community College gathered at Long Beach, Washington, with their 14,260 sq.ft parafoil, hoping to bring back to the USA the "world's largest kite" record, at the time held by the Dutch.

After many unsuccessful attempts to raise the monster parafoil, a sudden breeze at the end of the day lifted the kite. Tragically, Steve Eideken, in charge of the launching, was caught in some of the 108 bridle ropes and went up with it. He eventually freed his feet and hung by his hands for some time, then lost his grip and fell almost 300 feet to his death.

Eideken, a 30-year-old aerodynamics expert, had his own kite business, The Rainbow Kite Company.

ISSUE #2, December 1984

"Kiteflying is cheap [!!! — Ed.], quiet, graceful, challenging and calming. It's a way to vicariously fly — soar. We all need to soar occasionally, for the world's humdrum can get us down otherwise." — US Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder.

ISSUE #3, March, 1985

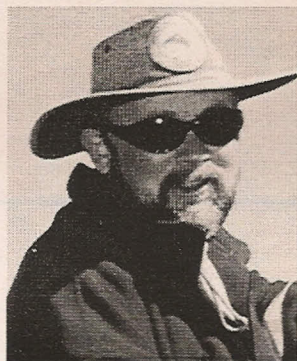
Kites for Antarctica

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 69km/h. The three-metre winged box kites (Lynn Tri-D) are capable of lifting 30-40kg in a strong wind.

Peter's kites have also been used by the DSIR for lifting insect-catching screens for aphid research.

His latest request has come from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, which wants to take aerial photos from a kite, to establish the numbers of sealion pups being born on an inaccessible beach in 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.



Whitehead's Words

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

AFTER BEING EDITOR and assistant to the editor for quite a few issues we have decided it is time to pass the job on. We are some of the reason that this issue is late, as we have been away at another kite festival, and did not get the President's bit written until we came back. The new editor is Richard Wotton, from Wanganui. Richard has been active in submitting articles for a while, and has experience in producing magazines. He is even taking over from us at keeping "Mr Kodak" happy with the number of photos he takes. We wish him well.

After returning from Long Beach (Washington State) we feel refreshed and enthused again (time to get "The General" finished, plus a few others). It was good to meet people we know from previous trips and it's always good to meet new people and to see new kites and ideas. It was even great to have a couple of days where it rained, as that gave us more time to talk to people and to read books, so we even got to have a day or two of real holiday. More of this trip in the next issue. One of the questions that seemed to be on everyone's mind was "Does the water really go down the drain hole a different way in the Southern Hemisphere?" I honestly couldn't remember which way it goes, but it's not really one of those life-threatening things. What I had hoped was that we would be able to fly with the sun behind our backs. But guess what, once again the kites were flying directly into it.

It was great to be home three days and off for another weekend of flying. Obviously weather has a lot to do with our sport, but the Saturday at Wanganui was pretty glorious. The wind was not too strong, and even when we had small tangles no one was upset. People helped other people, and David even went and retrieved my pilot kite after the line broke. People talked to other people while their kites were staked out. People even left their kites flying and went off to lunch. It was a great day and the only complaint could be that it was a little wet under foot. The next day we went to Ohakea. This was a little bit windier, and while it's still hard to explain to the general public that you can have too much wind I do think the message was starting to get through this time. Having said that, we put on a good display and stopped a lot of traffic. Peter Calkin, Ohakea Museum director, says this is one of their more popular days, and this is only the second time they have had the event. It was great to see so many members who traveled some distance to fly.

Rotorua is on track to be a great festival. We had strong demand for more information while we were in Long Beach, and I think we will also see a lot of Australians here. Don't forget that Wellington will be hosting an informal festival/kite days the following weekend. It sounds as if quite a lot of the international visitors will stay on for it. This will give you a good chance to meet and fly with some of the world's more interesting flyers. Also at Rotorua we will be holding the judging/awarding of the Trans-Tasman Award. More information about this in the December issue of *What's Up?* The Labour Weekend kite-making retreat is on again, and even though there has been no formal announcement places are filling very quickly. [For more information about venue and times see item on page 15.] The Napier people held a kite-making retreat over Queen's birthday weekend and we saw some of the results of that at Ohakea.

Peter Whitehead

From the editor's desk



GREETINGS, READERS, from your new editor. Anne and Peter Whitehead, after years of quarterly slaving over a hot computer to bring you the latest news, views and hot gossip from the New Zealand kiting world, have thrown in the mouse and handed over to yours truly.

An article which appeared in *What's Up?* no. 65 back-grounds my involvement with kite-flying, which I'm still pursuing with undiminished enthusiasm.

Producing this magazine is an extension of my employment as photographer/designer at Wanganui's Sarjeant Gallery, a position I've held since 1987. There I have responsibility for layout and overseeing production of the gallery's quarterly newsletter and other publications, as well as all exhibition labels and signs. I also service all the gallery's photographic requirements. Prior to taking up this position I'd had 25 years in the printing industry, and from 1975 to 1989 had a strong and active interest in creative photography.

One thing I soon realised after becoming interested in kiting is that it's not easy to fly them and photograph them at the same time, but I'll do my best.

I'm looking forward to the ongoing challenge of producing *What's Up?*, but remember folks, I need your help. Yes, I know you've heard this *ad nauseum*, but input from the Association's members is required to keep the magazine going. We're scattered from one end of the country to the other (okay, you Hawke's Bay-ites, to the sides as well) and the magazine is our best means of communication.

Any items whatsoever related to the wonderful world of kites will be very welcome, and I'll do my damndest to publish them all. Tell me what's happening, or going to happen, at your place. If you've been kiting in your back yard, back paddock, out back (if you're an Aussie), if you've made something you'd like to share with other enthusiasts, or if you've had an amusing mishap – whatever – please tell me about it.

I'm not a hotshot typist, so e-mail submissions will suit me best. However, if you don't have a computer, double-spaced typewritten is fine and handwritten will do until we

have a vacancy for you in our "Welcome to the 21st Century" camp.

If you're sending photos, I prefer nice, crisp colour or black and white prints. If you've got a great shot taken with your shiny new 21st Century digital model and you'd like to see it published, please contact me by phone or e-mail before sending it via the Cyberspace Express.

If you have any suggestions about the magazine that you think may improve it, please let me know your views. This is a new venture for me and I'm willing to listen to what you have to say.

And I must say at this point a very big thank you to Geoff Campbell, of Computer Valet in Wanganui. Geoff has very generously supplied the computer this magazine is being produced on, not to mention patiently dealing with a few problems I've had because some things are a bit different from the computer I'm used to at work. However, I think I've found the way to get prompt service from your computer techie: offer them wine! The more the better! (But only after the job's done.)

My address details: e-mail kody.k@xtra.co.nz
44 Wairere Road, Wanganui
Phone 06 343 2770

I look forward to hearing from you and meeting up on the kite field some day soon.

In the meantime, best of breezes.

Richard Wotton
(and my faithful assistant, Elizabeth)

Welcome return of a classic New Zealand kite book

Originally published in 1990, Bob Maysmor's book *Te Manu Tukutuku* documents the known history of the Maori kite. A revised, updated edition is about to be published. With additional illustrations, many more colour photos, and an extra chapter, the book has been redesigned and is now case-bound.

The first edition fast became a collector's piece, much in demand from students of Maori arts and culture, kitemakers and fliers and those with an interest in things airborne! According to Professor Hirini Mead, "the book *Te Manu Tukutuku* has played a valuable role in the revival of interest in Maori kite-making."

He manu tukutuku te rangi ka uhia he huruhuru te manu ka tau – Kites adorn the sky as feathers adorn the birds.

An insert in this newsletter gives NZKA members the opportunity to buy the book at a pre-publication discounted price. For each sale, \$5 will be given to the NZKA.

Ray McCully wants YOU!

The Rotorua World Kite Festival needs the help of NZKA kitefliers, their wives, partners and families during the festival.

The festival is being organised with split responsibilities. The event organiser, Monty Morrison, is taking care of all arrangements outside the fenced off "fliers only" area. This includes the fencing, crowd control, parking, functions, advertising, sponsors etc. Rosemary and I are expected to arrange the inside-fence activities etc. Fliers do what they know best.

Those who were at Napier or involved with the Napier festivals will know that there is a lot more to do than at your average national festival or kite day. This is the result of three factors not normally part of our local events:

1. We will have overseas guests and as such, the world will be looking at us.
2. The numbers of fliers will be greater and it is full on for a longer period.
3. We have a huge sponsorship that pays for the festival and this requires us to deliver an entertaining, dynamic and interactive programme to the public.

Well-organised international festivals are definitely fun to attend, and the fun can be even greater when you are part of the organisation that is giving enjoyment and pleasure to so many.

The following is a list of activities that we have identified as probably needing helpers:

- Manning NZKA tent, lunch distribution and receiving auction items.
- Auction organiser
- Corporate and Flier Rokkaku Challenges – organiser, chasers, scorer, referee (the same people can organise and judge a monster bash if there is no wind)
- Indian fighters – organiser, judge
- NZKA members' choice competition organiser
- Corporate Rok Challenge trainers for Thursday and Friday
- Corporate Rok garden minder – sort out problems with anchored sponsors' kites
- Lolly drop/fauna drop helpers
- School arch minder
- School day – fliers to help children with their kites and maybe act as a kite "doctor"
- Workshop co-ordinator
- MegaRay helpers if required by Peter Lynn
- Airport welcome for guest fliers etc – Colin Mckay (Auckland)
- "Buddies" for overseas fliers

We will have a programme committee to help formulate daily activities based on wind etc. It will consist of Ray McCully, Peter Whitehead, Shakib Gunn and a couple of others. Due to the impact of the MegaRay we will invite Peter Lynn to be on the committee.

If you are interested in being part of the organisation of this event, please contact Ray or Rosemary as soon as possible with your preference and contact details.

We can be contacted at:

7 Goodwin Ave, Rotorua
Phone 07 348 3828
Fax 07 348 3821
Email: mccullyr@xtra.co.nz



Programme

The festival programme will be better defined and published in the next *What's Up?* The full programme will be part of the registration pack, as we will finally have a handle on who will be present and therefore the type of events/displays that are possible.

The major functions are:

Wednesday 20th

Early evening – Mayoral welcome and reception for all registered fliers.

Thursday 21st

School day 9.30am to 2.30pm, possible workshop 3pm to 5pm, about 6pm Tamaki village dinner and entertainment.

Friday 22nd

School day 9.30am to 2.30pm, Flapping Crow workshop 3pm to 5pm (see registration form), festival dinner in evening.

Saturday 23rd

8am AGM, 10am to 4pm public day, dinner and auction in evening.

Sunday 24th

10am to 4pm public day. Relax and think of Wellington next week.

Festival atmosphere

During the Saturday and Sunday, we are planning to have many activities in among the public areas so as to create a true festival environment around the flying arenas. We feel that this is the key to being so successful that we can repeat and grow the event in the future for the benefit of Rotorua and New Zealand kiting.



www.nzka.org.nz

The Rotorua World Kite Festival committee members are very grateful to Robert Van Weers for the work he has done in getting firstly the NZKA website up and running, and secondly for the Rotorua Festival information it contains.

We will continue to make available to Robert the latest news as it comes to hand.

We still have four overseas fliers to confirm and there are some other activities still under discussion.

The following guests have indicated they will attend:

Masami Takakuwa, Japan: flapping crow and shooting star kites

Mr and Mrs Yabe, Japan: kite trains

Rolf Sturm and Juergen Ebbinghaus, Germany

Two from No Limits, Germany

Malcolm Goodman, England: The Kiteman

Ray Bethell, Canada

Michael Alvares, Australia

Peter Lynn, New Zealand

Shakib Gunn, Singapore: Festival announcer

Probably two fliers from Zoone Collectif, France

George Peters, USA, is interested but not confirmed as coming.

We are still trying to contact one flier. The next issue of *What's Up?* will have much more program detail, which will depend on the final guest list and the visitors who register.

Kite Festival Accommodation

Rotorua has a lot of accommodation and most of it is on and around Fenton Street, which runs past the festival site into the town centre.

But remember the city is a major holiday destination and accommodation can fill up. Therefore, if you really want to be near the festival site and want to get lower-priced accommodation then the earlier you book the more likely you will meet your requirements.

Booking through the Event Secretariat will get a better rate and put you in the vicinity of other fliers.

Thinking outside the square

An amusing tale from the pen of David Gomberg, US kite flyer and retailer:

"There was a situation in Dieppe when one of my foils came down over the top of a flagpole. The 15-meter pole was right up through the bridles and I was standing there contemplating cutting all the lines to get the fabric free. Then it occurred to me . . .

"I reached down and lifted the pole up. It was attached to a 1.5 meter anchor set in the ground. [My wife] Susie then quickly lifted the kite out of danger.

"Sometimes, you just have to think 'outside the box' . . ."

Kite exhibition to be held next year

Pataka Museum of Arts and Cultures in Porirua plans to present an exhibition of kites during the International Festival of the Arts in 2002.

The exhibition will be a celebration of 'the art in kites', so rather than high-performance kites the exhibition will feature exquisitely designed and made kites that feature interesting sculptural forms, dramatic use of colour, and elegant design etc. Exhibition curator Bob Maysmor (a life member of the NZKA) is asking kite-makers to submit photos of their kites for consideration.

We have two quite big exhibition spaces to fill, so it really is very dependent on NZKA members to come to the party.

The museum will pay for all packing and freight costs incurred.

The exhibition will open in February and run for three months. Although the International Kite Festival and the Wellington festival will be on during this period it is hoped that you will at least allow one of your masterpieces to be on show at the exhibition.

The exhibition can be seen as a way of promoting kiting during the arts festival and also offer another attraction to the international kites who will visit Rotorua and Wellington during this period.

Please forward your photos for consideration to :

Bob Maysmor

Pataka Museum

Box 50218

Porirua

bmaysmor@pcc.govt.nz

Colour the sky in Wellington, Easter 2002

by Tony Fitchett

As a follow-on to the Rotorua International Festival, the New Zealand Kitefliers' Association is holding an informal kiteflying gathering the following weekend, Easter. This will be at Wellington (the capital city, jumping-off place for the South Island) on Saturday March 30 and Sunday March 31, at Fraser Park, Lower Hutt. The flying field will also be open for keen fliers on the Friday and Monday, with a minimum organisation presence.

The venue is a large flying area with good facilities and reasonable winds. There will be no registration fees, but we will have further details in *What's Up?* later so that we get an indication of numbers attending. Meals (including Saturday dinner) will be available at moderate cost.

NZKA organising representatives will be present at Rotorua with detailed information and to offer any help needed. Meanwhile, for further information, contact Tony Fitchett at tonyf@paradise.net.nz

For information about the attractions of the Wellington area, look at www.wellingtonnz.com

HOW TO MAKE YOURSELF ONE OF THOSE

by Geoff Campbell

History

I was taken by surprise with the popularity of the beach balls that I made and flew at Eltham. I can't take credit for them, as I first saw them advertised in *Kitelines* magazine then earlier this year saw a derivative flown by Julie Adams down in Nelson at the Summertime Festival.

I not only like to fly kites but also decorate the ground and these are excellent for that. Young children love these balls. Research indicates that the original design was developed by Alain Robillard, of Athis-Mons, France.

Description

My beachballs are basically two parachute hemisphere joined together around the middle with a special inlet system on the bridle half. If you have made a round parachute you are halfway there. My beachballs have all been made out of scrap material (hence the colour schemes)

Gore Pattern Construction

To create a parachute you create a sewing pattern called a "gore". This pattern is typically 1/12th of the final parachute.

Note: The included pattern size has a seam allowance of 10mm included.

To create your gore, take a sheet of paper and fold it in half so when you cut it out both sides of the gore will be the same. This is important or you'll find they don't match properly when sewing the pieces together.

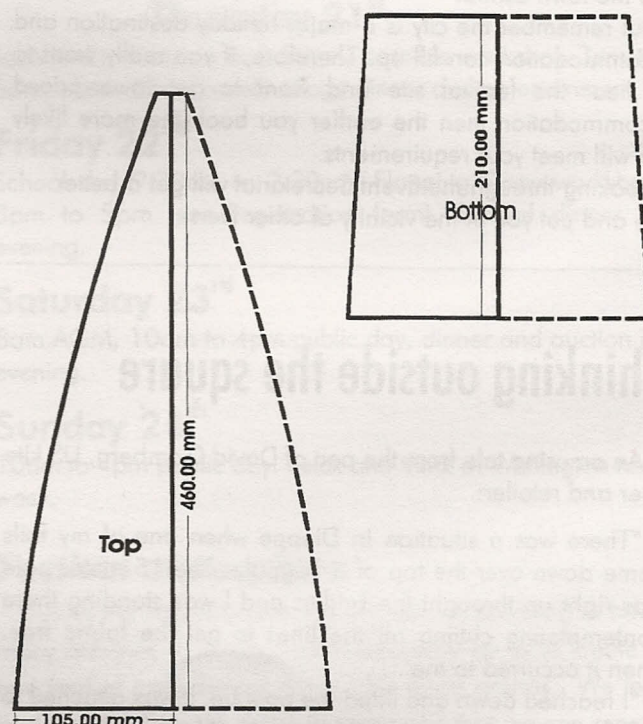
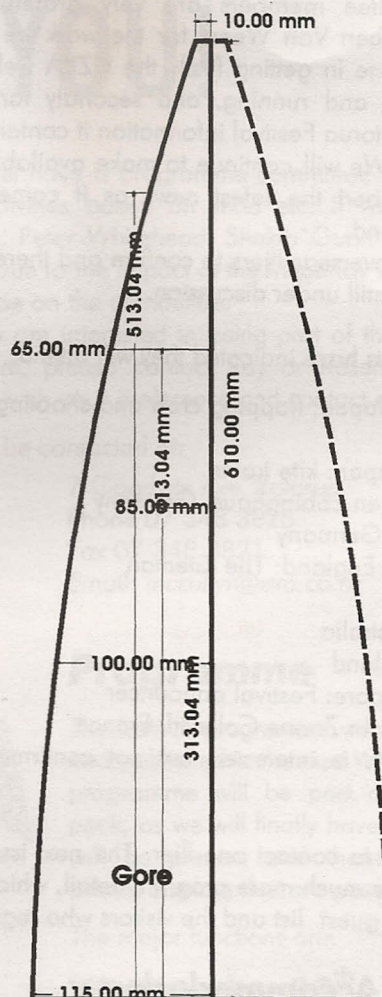
Measure the length (height) of the gore along the fold of your template paper (610mm) and then halve the width across the folded pattern (see diagram right) from the fold (115mm at the bottom and 10mm at the top). The three other points are also marked out: 210mm, 310mm and 410mm from bottom to top and are respectively 100mm, 85mm and 65 mm distant from the center fold.

Now get a flexi ruler, or a length of 2mm fibreglass rod, anything which bends easily, and curve it around the points marked and the angle lines. Drawing along the curved rod will then give a nice smooth curve to the gore edge. I find using a pinboard and pins to hold the rod in place makes the job a lot easier.

Cut out the gore pattern while it is still folded, or just half a pattern if it is made of cardboard, and you have your parachute gore pattern. It's important that the curve is the same for both sides of the gore, and thus the fabric you mark out with the gore pattern will be the same, so cut gores will line up correctly.

Transfer the pattern to cardboard, or as I do onto thin mdf board (cheaper than cardboard but does require a jig saw to cut out) as there are quite a few pieces to be cut out.

The air inlet is made by cutting two more templates which are based on the gore template. The first (or bottom) is 210 mm tall measured from the base of the gore. The second (or top) is 460 mm tall measured **down from the top**. When the two are sewn together they create an overlap,



BRIGHT AND BOUNCY BEACH BALLS

I also have another template that is half the width of the main gore to make better use of my scraps. This, however, involves a lot more sewing as there are 24 gore pieces per hemisphere.

Parachute Construction

All that's now necessary is to lay the pattern down on your parachute fabric, and cut out 12 pieces.

To sew the pieces with the curved edge I found the simplest way is to put two gores front (outside) to front and pin together. Then sew with a straight stitch along the gore boundary with 10mm seam.

Repeat until all 12 pieces have been sewn together. Don't worry about the hem sticking out and not sewn flat as you normally would with a kite, as this will be inside the beachball and will not be visible or affect the result.

When all the gores have been sewn together we start the second hemisphere.

Cut eight more gores, plus four top and four bottom. Start sewing as in the first half but when you get to the third gore we use top and bottom pieces. Start sewing from the bottom with the bottom piece and stitch this to the full gore then sew from the top with the top piece. This will create an overlap of the two pieces. With the next gore sew the same way, start with the bottom then do the top. Proceed like this with every third panel being a vent.

Once the second hemisphere is complete we need to install the bridle line: Cut a piece of braided dacron line approximately 200-250 mm long. Thread the line through the end of the hemisphere, sew about 50 mm between two of the gore seams then do the same with the other end. This should leave a loop on the outside of about 50 mm long. Tie an overhand knot in the loop very close to the skin.

Cut out two discs to reinforce tips of the hemispheres and sew these on the inside (sticky ripstop will do but I have also used flyscreen mesh).

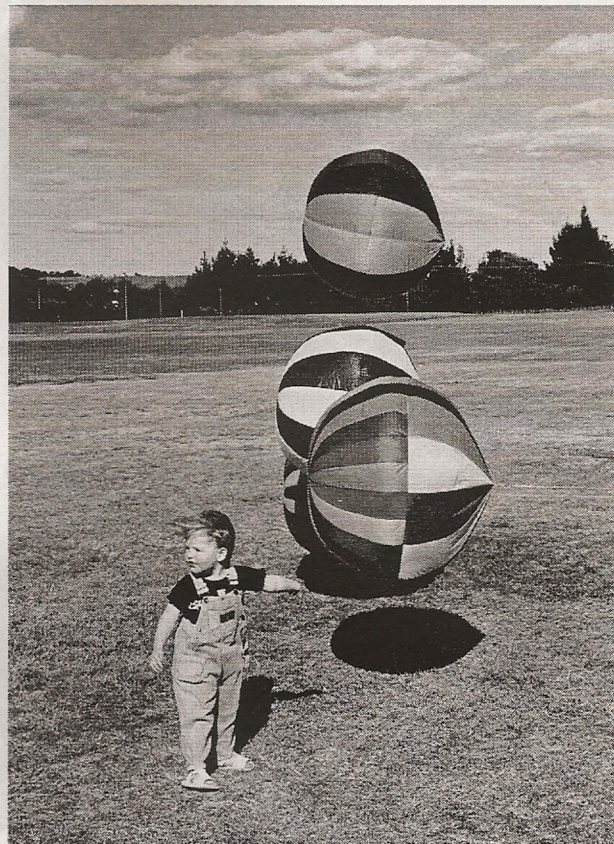
Now comes the finishing bit. Put both hemispheres face to face (outside to outside) and sew around the edge. When this has been done, reach through one of the vents and turn the ball inside out. The ball is now finished.

All that is left to do is to put a swivel on the bridle and a flying line on the swivel. I use about a 10m 30 lb flying line on my beachballs.

If you have more than one beachball I recommend that the loop at the end be spliced instead of knotted as this will enable the lines to be untangled very quickly, simply by pulling the line out of the mess that will be created with the beachballs bouncing over each other.

If you want to make beach balls (or parachutes) of different sizes or number of gores, I suggest you go to this web site:

http://anthony.kitelifelife.com/parafauna/chute_design/



Hawkes Bay Fliers Have Balls

(Well, some of us have made them recently)

by John Mason

You may remember the bouncing balls made and flown by Geoff Campbell during the National Festival at Eltham. They were certainly noticed by Sharon and Ian Russell, so much so that on the final night in Eltham it was suggested that we, of the Hawke's Bay, could run a workshop over Queen's Birthday weekend and make some.

The workshop was to make balls, bols and parachutes as they are all based on parachute gores. Ian, being our parachute expert, had done the research and sourced a programme to design the template for cutting the gores. The balls are just two parachutes joined around the circumference and the bols are modified to spin.

Eleven NZKA members got together at a local church hall and cut the dragon cloth, which Ian had previously arranged. Twelve of the gores were sewn together to form the back half of the ball, and having gained that experience making the front half was supposed to be easier but the placing of the vents required extra thought. The occasional one had to be re-done after sewing the vent inside out, so we all learned from that. Colours varied from black and white, pink and green. Purple, red and blue were other colours used.

Ian had converted one of the gore templates so that spinning bols could be made and a number of these can now be seen at our kite days.

ABOVE RIGHT: A passing toddler is intrigued by Geoff Campbell's beach balls at Springvale Park, Wanganui



The Rokkaku Fire Kite Saga

by Richard Wotton

A two-man rokkaku contest which didn't quite follow the script led to the presentation of this rokkaku kite to the Wanganui Fire Service.

Fire Chief Bernie Rush was delighted with the kite, which is now displayed in the Wanganui Fire Stop Shop in Victoria Avenue. As well as being flown at kite festivals it will also be seen at school gala days and similar events to promote the fire safety message and help put kites in the public eye.

It all began when I lost my grip on my reel and the kite drifted off towards the nearby sports stadium. My opponent, Geoff Campbell, tried to snare my kite with his line - which ended up being cut. End result? Two roks on the roof.

A rescue attempt with a 10m ladder was aborted when we decided it was too dangerous, so the only alternative was to go cap in hand (again) to the heroes of the Fire Service. Boy, do those guys know how to respond to a real emergency! Before you could say "111" a fire truck was backed up to the side of the stadium, safety gear was donned and our hero was shinning up the ladder. Being kites, naturally there was a bit of line caught on something - in this case the bridles around roof nails - but as soon as they were freed the kites were dropped over the side to their relieved owners. I had to spend about an hour untangling the flying line from the bridle but that was a far better option than making a new kite.

This was the second time for each of us to be helped out by the Fire Service. Last year firefighter Dallas Eves climbed a 20m macrocarpa tree (at night!) to rescue a kite for me, then at the Nelson Summertime Kite Festival in January this year the local Fire Service came to Geoff's rescue when his 3m inflatable teddy bear kite grabbed hold of the top of a passing lightpole and wouldn't let go.

Our very sincere thanks to you all, guys! By the way, I've been approached by TVNZ regarding a possible drama mini-series but they said we'll need a couple more rescues yet. In the meantime, I'm taking names for auditions.

If any individuals or groups of flyers around the country want to score some Brownie points with their local fire crews - either before or after their rescue skills are needed - give me a call and I'll supply you with a copy of Geoff's transparency for an overhead projector and you can make your own fire safety kite.

We're sending Peter Lynn a French version ready for his next trip to Dieppe. From what I've heard of his exploits there, I'd say anything that keeps his stocks up with the Dieppe fire service has got to be good for him!

ABOVE: Wanganui firefighters Peter Langford (left) and Brian Coskerie get their first look at the rokkaku Fire Kite

Two good kite days !!

by Tony Fitchett

On Saturday, September 1, a cheerful bunch of enthusiasts gathered on a farm paddock just south of Wanganui for a Spring kitefly organised by Geoff Campbell and Richard Wotton. The paddock was ENORMOUS and everyone was able to spread out. Up went Trilobites, flowforms, deltas, pilots, rays, rokkakus . . . At one stage there were 34 kites up, which was quite good for the 16 or so fliers present. The sun was out and the wind was reasonable although a bit gusty. No disasters and a good time had by all.

Richard and Dalwyne Wotton invited all back to their place for the evening. They provided a great array of tasty eats which rounded off a good event.

On Sunday the flying venue was Ohakea Airfield for the Father's Day observance, organised by the RNZAF museum there. Everyone remembered last year for the one-hour total absence of any wind followed by a sudden southerly blast which caused some excitement. This time we had a very cold wind all day and it was much too vigorous for all but the strongest of kites. Once again, there was an abundance of sunshine but the wind was a bit too cold for comfort, and all kitefliers were well wrapped up. We had a good turnout, including a cheerful group from Hawke's Bay in nice blue jackets made at one of their workshops. Ted Howard had his Hagaman parafoil up all day with that huge spinsock and there was a good display of other kites, even though the strong wind limited the choice of what to fly.

Ohakea Director chuffed with festival turnout

by Richard Wotton

RNZAF Ohakea Museum Director Peter Calkin was all smiles after the second annual Ohakea Father's Day kite festival. He estimated a crowd of nearly 3000 people attended throughout the day, and expressed his thanks to the 30 NZKA and Nelson Kite Club members who turned out to help put this event on the kiting map.

Peter says that at future events he would like to see kites available for sale, as he fielded a number of inquiries from the public. He also said that the Air Force is very happy with the way the day went and next year they will make available accommodation for 15 to 20 visiting kites on the base. Peter is also enthusiastic about the idea of Ohakea being used for a national festival. There's certainly enough space there!

Possible additional attractions for the public next year are static displays of aircraft and the Kiwi Blue parachute team.

Peter has had a number of calls from the public wanting to know if the event is being held again next year: "Yes, yes and YES!!"

Thanks, Peter, for a great day.

IS THIS THE NZKA'S YOUNGEST MEMBER?



Is Anders Ihle, at 2½, the NZKA's youngest member? One of you readers out there may be able to get away from the sewing table for long enough to drop the editor a line if you know of a younger paid-up member. (He has paid his sub, I hope, Hansen.)

From Hamilton, Hansen took this photo of Anders flying his Peter Lynn sled, which has been accessorised with a kite belt to anchor it because Hansen reckons his days as a sprinter are beginning to dim slightly in his memory.

Earlier in his kite-flying career Anders was pretty keen on his silk and bamboo dragonfly kite, but it broke after only two flights. Stay with that sled, Anders, and it should last you for a long time. We'll look forward to seeing you in action at the Rotorua international festival.

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to the following people who have recently joined our ranks:

Julian Nixon, Auckland, 09 522 5252

Wayne Golding, Hastings, 02 (06?) 550 2585

Jacquie de Haan, Christchurch, 03 383 7747

Colin Casey, Waipara, 03 314 6845

We look forward to meeting you on a kite field soon.

Candid Camera at . . . OHAKEA AND WANGANUI KITE DAYS

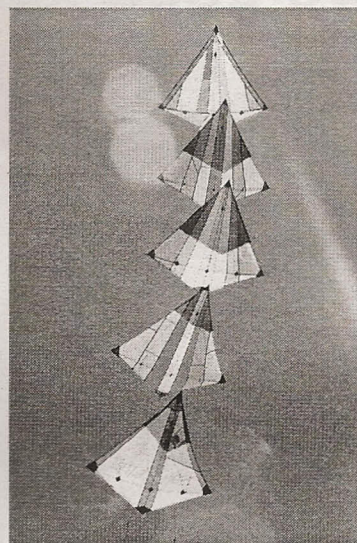
Photographs by Richard Wotton



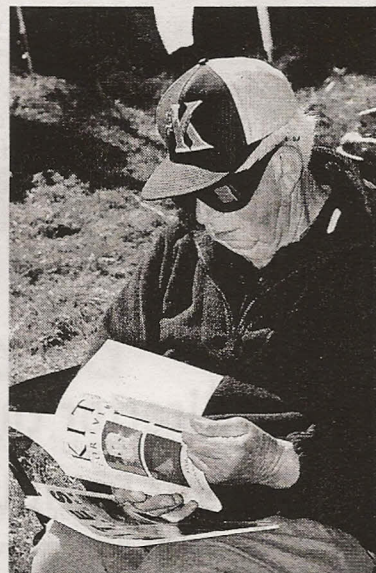
Tony Fitchett seemed to be enjoying his day



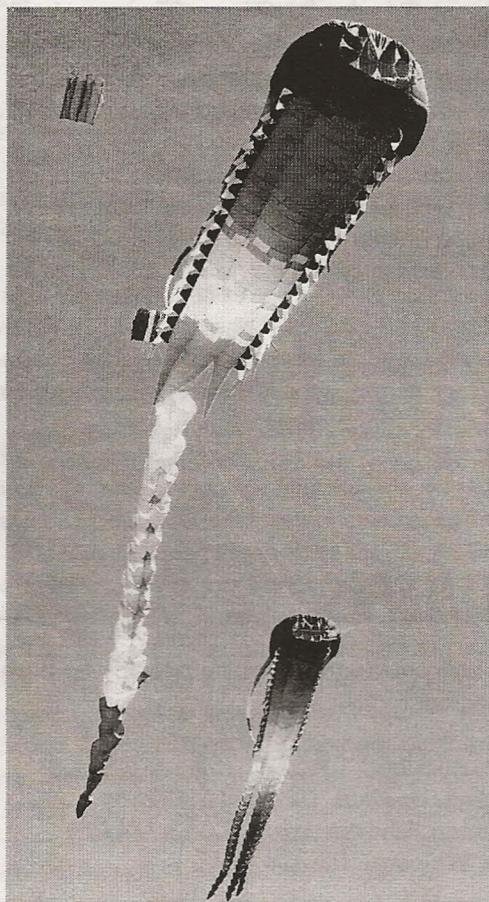
Ted Howard demonstrates one-armed beer-drinking



Bill Fern, of the Nelson Kite Club, had his stack in action at Ohakea



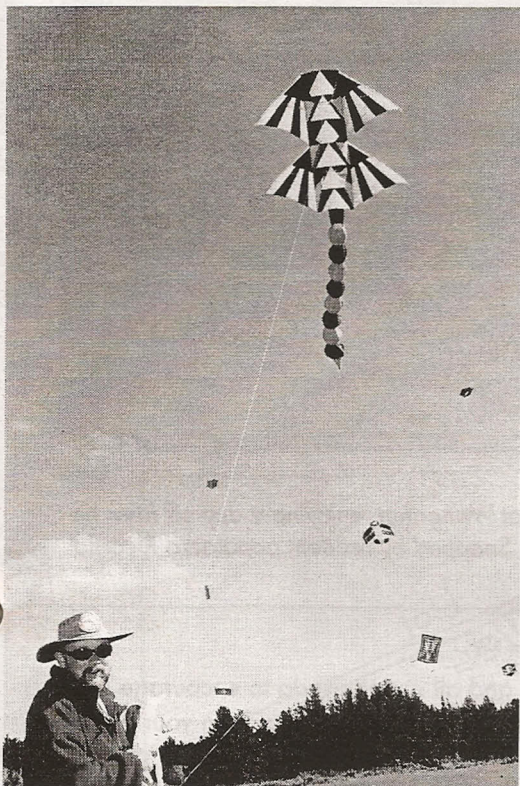
Jim Ayers caught up on an appropriate bit of light reading



Trilobites rule, OK?



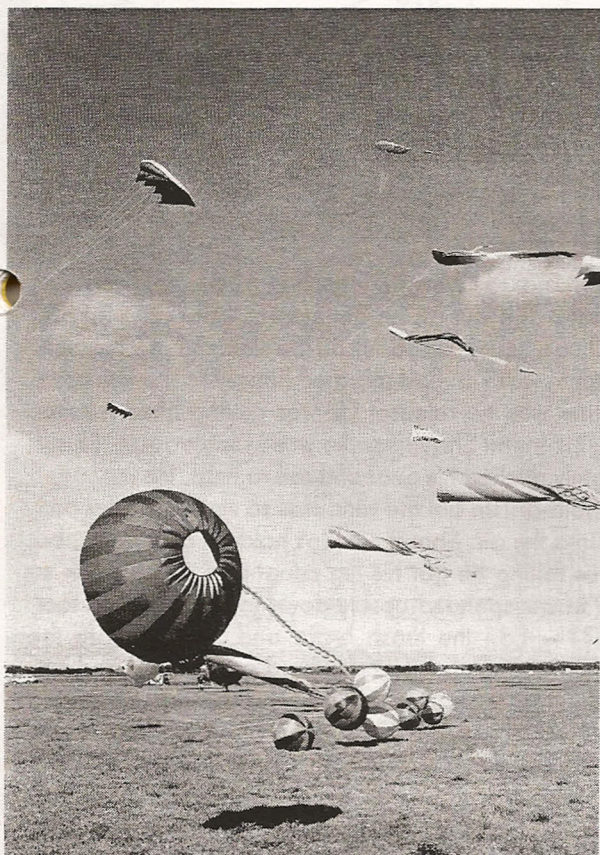
A hopeful-looking Ray McCully hawks his World Festival wares during the Saturday evening festivities at the Wotton residence



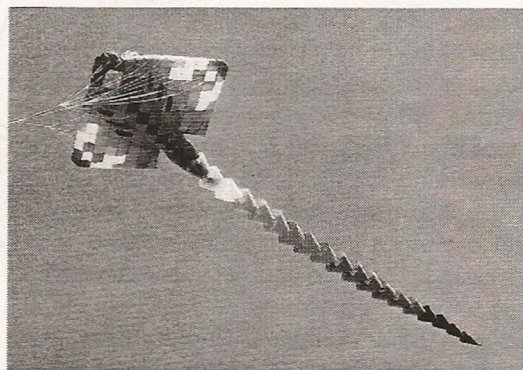
Look what Peter Whitehead found in his kite bag



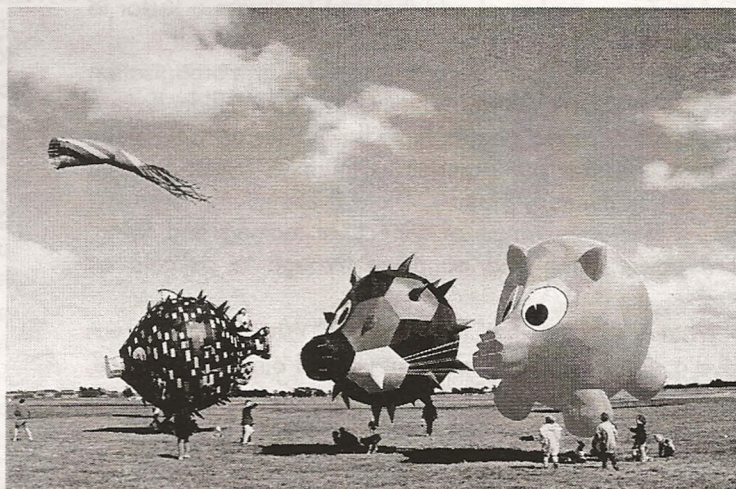
Max and Margaret McGuire enjoyed a picnic lunch beside the lake at the Kaitoke Kafé



ABOVE AND RIGHT: Plenty of action in the sky and on the ground at Ohakea



The McCully MidiRay looked great at the Wanganui fly



BACK ON THAT OL' COMMITTEE AGAIN!

by Stephen Cook (NZKA Treasurer)

Greetings to you, fellow kitefliers and members. Some personal thoughts of one who, after devoting a few years to Lions Club responsibilities, has now returned to the fold, as it were. My 'treasurer-ship' is almost like pulling on a comfortable sweatshirt or whatever – having been there and done that before. But having just been our Lions Clubs' District Cabinet Long-Range Planning Chairman (whew, what a mouthful!) I strongly believe we need some similar discipline for ourselves. Fellow committee members are aware of my view.

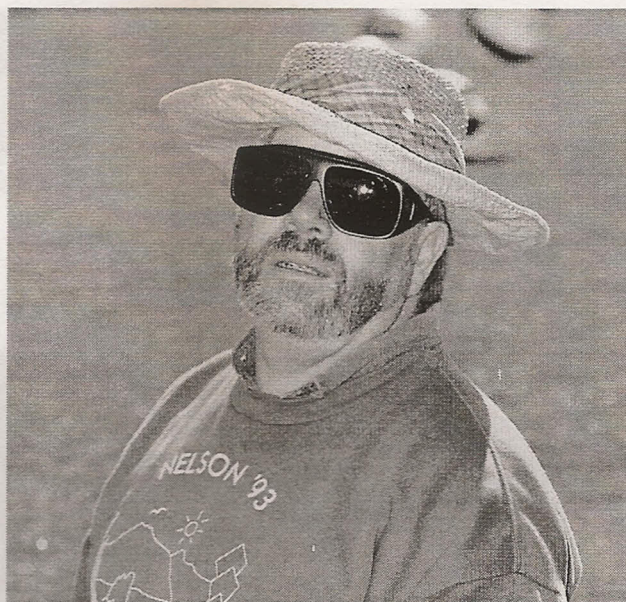
It seems to me that the NZKA (along with many other community and activity-based organisations) is facing that dilemma of gradually falling membership putting increased costs on all members. (No, this is not a softening up for subs changes!) A key issue to me for organisations seems to be communication, and the WIIFM syndrome (i.e. *What's In It For Me*, a natural human condition whereby we all want to get something for our efforts – whatever that effort may be).

So firstly, what about communication? We have *What's Up?* and this issue is the first one under a new editor. Thanks Richard for offering your services. As members we should all use *What's Up?* to help each other – after all that is what the NZKA is all about, promoting kiteflying, putting people in touch and assisting those with an interest etc. Thoughts and ideas about kiteflying, comment on events, or whatever you see working for the NZKA will all be helpful. Remember it is a public document, so positive ideas and helpful comments are better than complaints with no positive suggested remedies. Direct contact with your committee is the best avenue for specific problems. And let's not forget personal contact with other members. Organisations, for me, are all about the people involved.

And secondly, what about WIIFM? Well, my view is that the NZKA (or any organisation for that matter) can only give the members what they want IF the members let it be known what is wanted and then are prepared to assist as required. After all, we only get out of this world what we put into it. (And as Treasurer I must add that cost is always a factor to consider!)

If there is nothing 'in it' for members of any organisation then the members will not be there. We as kitefliers have a good pastime; most people have flown kites at some stage in their lives, it is non-competitive (mainly), family-oriented and environmentally friendly. There is something for everyone, with a wide range of aspects of making and flying, from power kiting and buggying through to delicate art kites.

What is it that is 'in it' for members? Why do some areas have a strong NZKA member group and others have none, or only a couple of members? Why is it that in some places there are kiting groups that are not members? Is it choice or lack of knowledge or WIIFM syndrome? What can we (i.e.



Stephen Cook at Wanganui, enjoying a day off from his treasury duties. Snapped by resident paparazzo Ricardo Wottoni

the committee and all members) do to encourage membership and participation? What do you do in your area that is successful or not successful?

What can all other members learn from YOU? Go on, communicate, let us all know WIIFY (What's In It For You) so that the NZKA can be stronger and better. My contact

Kitemare at Point Chevalier – a cautionary tale

by Kent McNish

Last March at Pt Chevalier Beach in Auckland, there was a guy called Tim out on an 8m Stamos in about 10 knots when a huge squall of about 30-35 knots came through. The problem was Tim had attached himself to the kite using a carabiner with no release! He was getting lifted into the air when his friend Shaun saw he was in big trouble. Shaun immediately ditched his gear and ran to help. He managed to grab hold of Tim but the wind was so strong it lifted both of them into the air. Shaun couldn't hold on and let go, but as he was falling he got his leg caught up in the leash so there he was suspended upside down in the air by his foot. Luckily [?? – Ed.] the leash broke and Shaun fell to the ground. Unfortunately he landed hard on his head and was unconscious for a short time. When he came to he started looking around for Tim. He spotted a set of lines disappearing into a tree and found Tim about halfway up, stuck in some branches. He was out cold and not moving. His face was cut up, an ear was torn and his nose broken. Shaun freed him from the lines and got him down before calling an ambulance and taking Tim off to hospital.

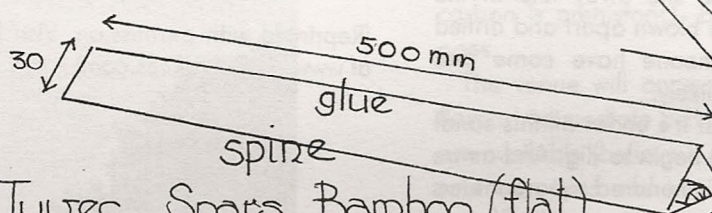
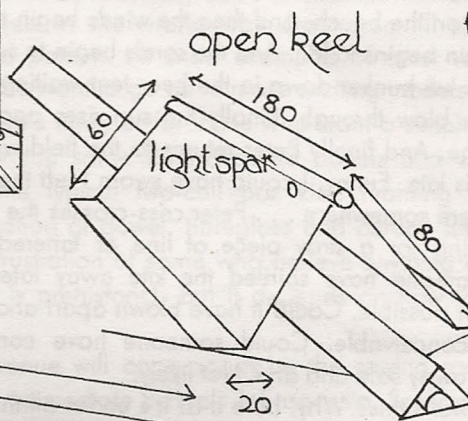
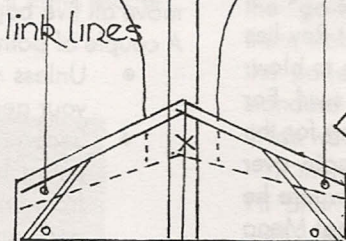
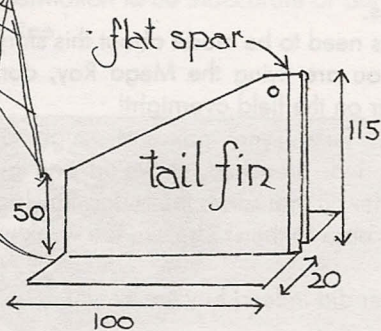
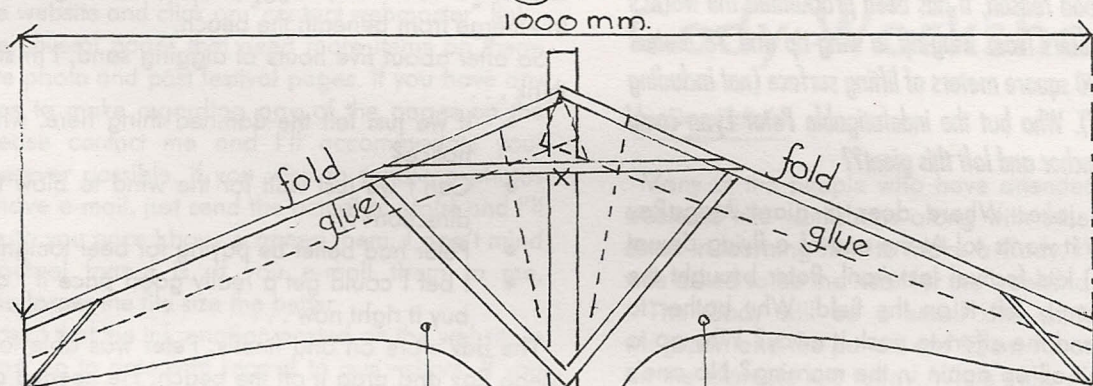
A very close call!



More Kites from Clarks Beach.

2001.

The Ayero Plane.



Paper: Tyvec. Spars Bamboo (flat).

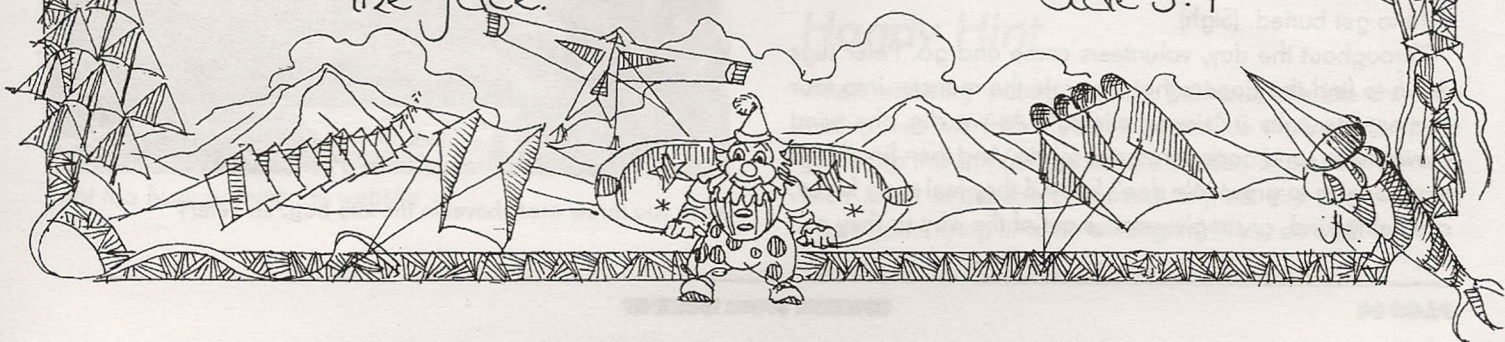
Spine: 6mm dowel (one side planed flat).

Glue: P.V.A. Bridle (Two point) Tail: spinner 120mm dia.

N.B. All spars to the rear.

Spine, open keel and fin to the face.

Details not to scale
Scale 5:1





why is this man smiling?

because he hadn't yet been hit by . . .

THE GREAT MEGARAY DISASTER

words and pictures by David Gomberg

Peter Lynn's Mega Ray is a truly astounding piece of modern kite engineering. With good reason, it has been proclaimed the world's largest kite — 42 meters from wing-tip to wing-tip and 28 meters deep, a delightful 600 square meters of lifting surface (not including that humongous tail). Who but the indefatigable Peter Lynn could deliver, assemble, anchor and loft this giant??

There's an old joke: Where does a giant MegaRay sleep?? Anywhere it wants to! At the end of a flying day at the Berck (France) kite festival last April, Peter brought the kite down and simply left it on the field. Why bother to spend the hours and the effort to pack it away? Why go to the trouble to set it all up again in the morning? No one's going to steal it . . .

So, as the sun sets after a perfect day, the giant Ray lies peacefully on the beach. And then the winds begin to blow. And the rain begins to fall. And the sands begin to swirl. For three days we hunker down in the beer tent waiting for the tempest to blow through. Finally the sun rises again over Berck Plage. And finally Peter returns to the field where he had left his kite. Funny, I could have sworn I left that Mega Ray out here somewhere . . . Peter criss-crosses the sodden field looking for a stray piece of line or tattered nylon. Could someone have spirited the kite away late in the night? Not possible. Could it have blown apart and drifted away? Inconceivable. Could someone have come and packed it away safe and dry? Not likely.

Wait, what's this? Why, here it is! It's under all this sand! It's under all this bloody sand! We begin to dig. And as we dig, Peter begins to mumble . . . Six hundred square meters of sand, 15 to 20 centimeters deep, wet, comes to 25 tons of sand!!! And that doesn't include the tail!

Three hours later, a soggy, dirty shape begins to emerge from the beach. Other people down the beach are beginning to launch kites. They are having fun. We are digging for wet fabric and beginning to ache from the task. What am I doing here anyway?? I picked up all my kites before the storm came. I didn't leave my stuff strewn around the field to get buried. (Sigh)

Throughout the day, volunteers come and go. Peter digs down to find the zippers that separate the monster into four sections. He calls it "zipper mining". As we dig, the wind blows more sand back across the fabric. And then finally the team begins to grow. We don't know if they feel sorry for us, are being kind, or simply want us out of the way so they can

walk their dogs on the beach. With the French, one never knows. But section-by-soggy-section, the Mega Ray begins to emerge from beneath the beach.

So after about five hours of digging sand, I'm starting to think . . .

- If we just left the damned thing here, who would notice?
- Can't we just wait for the wind to blow the other direction??
- Peter had better be paying for beer tonight!
- I bet I could get a really good price if I offered to buy it right now . . .

The day wore on and finally, Peter was able to bag the Mega Ray and drag it off the beach. He needed a truck to move all five bags.

A couple of points need to be made about this story.

- Unless you are flying the Mega Ray, don't leave your gear on the field overnight!
- Secondly, Peter Lynn makes a tough kite. After being buried, drenched, shoveled and pulled out from under all that sand, the Mega Ray looked fine and was back in the sky before the week was out .

Oh, and yes, Peter did indeed buy the beer.

(Reprinted with permission. Visit David Gomberg's website at www.gombergkites.com)



Lucky you threw that shovel in the kite bag, eh Peter?

www.nzka.org.nz

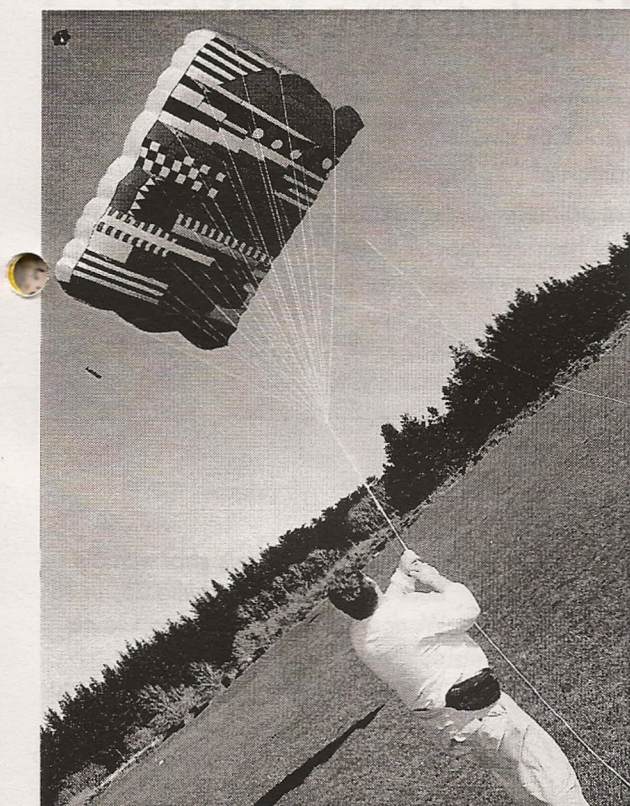
by Robert van Weers

Well folks, it has been a lot of work getting the site up and going but at the same time I must admit, it has been a great deal of fun. I certainly have learned a lot since I first started well over a year ago and I am still learning a lot as time passes. Although the website looks fine right now it is by no means complete, and this is where I need your help.

Foremost, the website is for you and as a member, you are entitled to make comments about its content. You may do this at the following address: boxkites@crosswinds.net, or go to the website and click on "contact webmaster" link.

There are several pages that need more items on them, e.g. our kite photo and past festival pages. If you have any contributions to make regarding any of the pages on the website please contact me and I'll accommodate your request wherever possible. If you wish to send me photos and don't have e-mail, just send the actual photo(s) and I'll return them to you once I have scanned them. I don't mind what the actual format is, if you e-mail them to me, although the larger the file size the better.

It's important that the information posted on the website is accurate and up to date with regard to our visitors. If you find any information to be inaccurate or out of date, please drop me a line.



Robert van Weers makes a pretty smart parafoil when he's not too busy running the website

Perhaps you host your own website or homepage about kites and kiteflying? Drop the URL [address] to me and I will post it on our "Links Page". Maybe you have an event coming up. Well, what better way to tell folks about it than on the Internet?

As you can see there's still a lot of work to be done and I'm positive that with your help we'll have a great site on the Internet for visitors to come to again and again to search for information regarding kiteflying in New Zealand.

Labour Weekend Cody Workshop

by Des Pitfield

Many of the people who have attended previous Labour weekend kite workshops along with other locals are interested in learning how to make a Cody. I've made a few so was asked to be the tutor for the weekend.

The Cody will be a small one at just over 1 metre wingspan and the panels are 25cm square. I've just started on the example kite today. While I like extended wings and the "go-faster" forward-leaning side panels, I decided that there would be too many opportunities for the novice to sew the panels in the wrong way around so I'll stick to the standard pattern. I'll show examples of other versions for those who want to go on to more exciting models.

If there's time, or for those who want a simple box kite, I'll offer the same 25cm square panels and wingtips to make the typical two-cell box kite. Framing will be a combination of dowel, fibreglass and carbon tubes (much to the frustration of some who believe anything other than carbon is prehistoric), but it depends on how the sample goes.

The venue will once again be the sewing room of the Raroa Intermediate School, Johnsonville. Sewing machines are available (believe it or not) but if you prefer to stick with your own tried and true machine, bring it along. Scissors, hot cutters, marking pencil, chalk etc will also come in handy during the workshop.

Cost of the workshop will be approximately \$80-\$90 including all materials. Contact Des Pitfield (04 938 9566) or Peter Whitehead (04 476 7227) for further information.

There's a shopping mall up the road a bit with a well-stocked food hall, so lunches will be obtainable there.

Handy Hint

When retrieving a cut-down kite, gather up the kite only: the trailing line will follow you, I guarantee it. Any attempt to gather up the line (except onto a winder, of course) will very likely result in the line becoming tangled. We don't want to waste good flying time on untangling lines, do we?

Regional Roundup – Wanganui

by Richard Wotton

For about two months after Easter we had virtually no wind, but we didn't find that in the least bit frustrating. (If you believe that you'll believe anything!) However, as these things do, it got better. After much bowing and scraping to the wind gods we were allocated some good flying conditions. One Sunday in early August, with the help of a steady breeze, we were able to put on a really good display at the park – both in the air and on the ground – and reckon we attracted more spectators than ever before. One commented to me that it must be a nice inexpensive hobby. Ha!

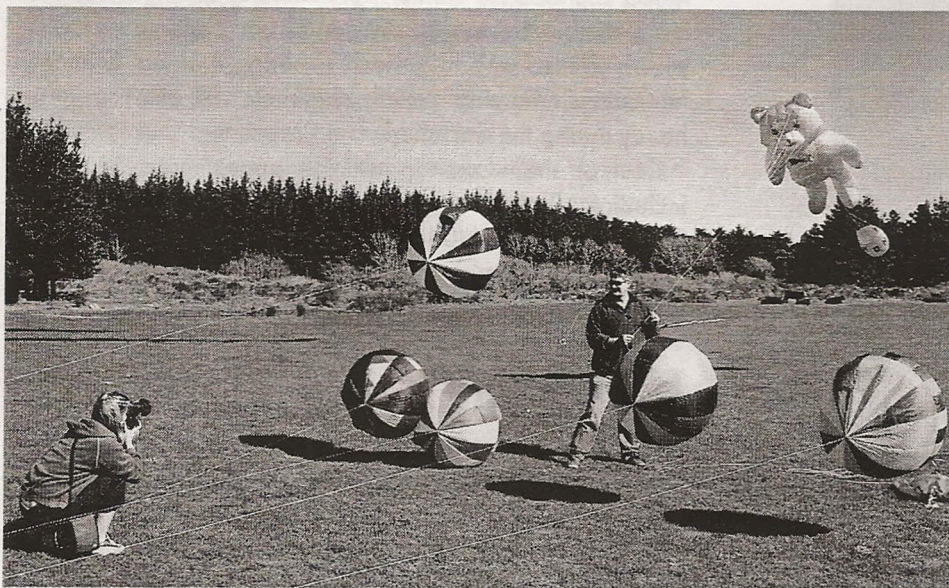
September 1 and 2 we had the Wanganui and Ohakea kite days reported elsewhere in this issue, and on September 14, 15 and 16, Geoff and I will be doing a flying demo at the Wanganui Racecourse as part of the Blooming Artz Festival.

The main project away from the flying field has been the construction of two fighter plane soft kites, designed by David Holt (see his website at www.dh.kites.8m.com). Geoff made a Snoopy version and I did the Red Baron. The most difficult part of the whole thing for me proved to be the baron's nose (modified from another kite pattern) but I think the problems I had could be mostly attributed to the consumption of a few glasses of vino with dinner prior to getting back to the kite factory.

Anyway, the end result was worth all the work. The kite isn't a snappy performer, but can be manoeuvred on dual lines. It will also fly as a single-liner (using a V line to connect it to the flying line) but probably requires a drogue to steady it up.

Geoff has been turning new kites out like sausages, and he and Carey have recently become the proud owners of a new Peter Lynn midi trilobite.

My own kite-making has been taking a back seat to the magazine for a few weeks but I have one or two projects in mind. Watch this space . . .



NEWS BRIEF

I've heard that Bill MacLachlan, of Hawke's Bay, is not long out of hospital after surgery. I'm sure all members wish you well, Bill. And take note of the item below, Bill – you don't want to be standing out on the field by yourself wondering where everyone else has got to!

CHANGE OF FLYING DAY FOR HAWKE'S BAY KITERS

by John Mason

Hawke's Bay fliers have decided to change the date of their monthly fly to the second Sunday of the month.

This change has been brought about because we tend to lose at least two months a year. [I'd rather lose two months than a good kite.—Ed.] At Queen's Birthday weekend many go away and our numbers are usually down for the June fly. With Father's Day flying being held at Ohakea we are disappointing the Hawke's Bay public by not being at Anderson Park on the first Sunday of September and the February fly can also be affected, depending on which day Waitangi Day falls. All those Wellington flyers who couldn't come to Hawke's Bay to fly with us because it was the Wellington day will now be able to.

My kingdom for a scribe . . .

Something must be happening out there in your kite district, so don't be shy, let me know about it for the next exciting edition of . . . *Regional Roundup*.

I'm just going to keep writing about Wanganui until you get sick of hearing about it so you'll send me something!

Geoff Campbell gets shot with his bear at the September kite day in Wanganui. There were two kite pix published within a week in the Wanganui Chronicle, so that has to be good publicity for kiting on the local scene.

There's a Kite Day coming to a flying field near you soon!

by Stephen Cook

NATIONAL EVENT

Don't forget the Epilepsy Kite day on October 28. This event is an awareness raiser for the Epilepsy Association, and they have chosen the kite as their symbol. The event is being run all around New Zealand, often in conjunction with local Lions Clubs, which have been asked to buy kites for kids on the day, and in some areas there are school events happening. This is also an ideal opportunity to raise the NZKA profile.

This year's kites, kindly sponsored by Janssen-Cilag, will be sent out in mid-September, along with stickers and posters.

The kites are overseas-made, of special printed plastic with thin bamboo spars. They flew reasonably well last year, but some had mismatched spar lengths, so if you get involved a sharp pocket knife may be handy.

The Schools' Kite Day is scheduled for Friday, October 26, with a family kite day on Sunday, October 28.

Please contact your local Lions Club and/or Epilepsy Association local committee. This year the epilepsy commit-

tees have been asked to get involved. If last year's event and publicity is any indication a LOT of schools will be involved, and reasonably good publicity was generated.

If you need any more information, please feel free to contact Simon Ridland or Denise Corlett on 07 834 3556, or e-mail them at National@epilepsy.org.nz

WELLINGTON EVENT

The Lions Club of Johnsonville has agreed (after prodding by member Stephen Cook) to have the first of what is hoped to be an annual kite day for the city, on **the first Sunday in December at Alex Moore Park in Johnsonville**. Lions are doing the organising, and a trial day some two years ago was reasonably successful despite poor weather.

Wellington area fliers are asked to mark their calendars (it is the usual 'first' Sunday flying day) and those from further afield are also invited. Flying will be from about 11am to 3 pm and there will be a barbecue etc during the day. Johnsonville Lions are keen to have this as a larger annual Wellington kite day – not a fundraiser, just a good family day out. There will be cheaper kites for sale.

NZKA KITE-FLYING DAYS

September 2001

2	NZKA monthly fly	Wellington, Waiuku
9	NZKA monthly fly	Dunedin Waikato Napier/Hastings
16	NZKA monthly fly	Bay of Plenty Nelson Palmerston North
23	NZKA monthly fly	Auckland Christchurch

October

7	NZKA monthly fly	Wellington, Waiuku
14	NZKA monthly fly	Dunedin Waikato Napier Hastings
21	NZKA monthly fly	Bay of Plenty Nelson Palmerston North
28	NZKA monthly fly	Auckland Christchurch

Note:

See item on the October 28 nationwide Lions Epilepsy Kite Day on page 17 of this issue.

November

4	NZKA monthly fly	Wellington, Waiuku
11	NZKA monthly fly	Dunedin Waikato Napier Hastings
18	NZKA monthly fly	Bay of Plenty Nelson Palmerston North
25	NZKA monthly fly	Auckland Christchurch

December

2	NZKA monthly fly Lions Kite Day	Wellington Alex Moore Park, Johnsonville- Waiuku
9	NZKA monthly fly	Dunedin Waikato Napier Hastings
16	NZKA monthly fly	Bay of Plenty Nelson Palmerston North
23	NZKA monthly fly	Auckland Christchurch

Don't forget the 11th Nelson Summertime Kite Festival

Now's the time to think about those bookings for the pilgrimage to the greatest little kite festival in the South (Island), particularly the ferry booking if you live on the wrong side of the water.

Your editor made the trip last January and really enjoyed the experience, although I must confess to being a bit pooped after four rounds of rokkaku battling.

Ted Howard and his merry band run a good event, and the wind at Neale Park is never less than fantastic – apart from last year, when it got a little, shall we say, variable at times.

There are motels close to the park, as well as all the other attractions of a very pleasant part of the country.

Festival dates are January 19/20, 2002. See you there!

TRADE DIRECTORY

Below is a key list of what kite retailers around the country are offering.

Key: SI-single line, DI-dual line, C-custom made kites, Bu-buggies, F-fabric, Ka-kite making accessories, Re-repairs, Kw-kite making workshops, D-demonstrations, Bm-books & magazines, W-wind related articles, G-gift items, O-other recreational items, Mo- mail order catalogue, Kk-kite kits, Ex-exhibitions, RI-reference library.

Kiteworks, 111 Symonds St, Auckland. Phone/Fax (09) 358 0991

Services offered: SI, DI, C, Bu, F, Ka Re, W.

Skylines and Bylines, at The Arts Centre, P.O. Box 845, Christchurch. Phone/Fax (03) 337 2669, mobile (025) 317 716. e-mail: julie@kites.co.nz

Services offered: SI, DI, C, F, Ka, Re, Bm, W, G, O, Mo, Kk, Ex, RI.

Sky's Unlimited, Wiroa Rd, R.D.3 Kerikeri, Bay of Islands. Phone/Fax (09) 407 7270

Services offered: Power kites and kites sourced from Germany

Rainbow Flight, 5 Montgomery Square, Nelson. Phone/Fax (03) 548 8707

Services offered: All services provided

A Kiwi Kite, 6 Long Street, Raglan. Phone (07) 825 7290

Services offered: SI, DI, C, Bu, Re, Kw, D, Ex, RI.

Coastal Kites, 22 Pooles Rd, Tauranga. Phone/Fax (07) 541 0519

Services offered: SI, DI, C, Bu, F, Ka, Re, W.

NZKA COMMITTEE

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Phone 06 343 2770

NZKA KITE-FLYING SITES

Auckland

Bastion Point (every Saturday)

Contact: Perrin at Kiteworks 09 358 0991

Bay of Plenty

Fergusson Park. Tauranga

Contact: Bill Cunningham 07 548 1044

Christchurch

Centennial Park

Contact: Steve Brorens 03 329 9449

Napier / Hastings

Anderson Park. Green Meadows

Contact: Bill McLachlan 06 870 0205

Nelson

Neale Park

Contact: Ted Howard 03 548 8707

Palmerston North

Ongley Park

Contact: Alan and Judi Main 06 353 1953

Waikato

Innes Common, Hamilton

Contact: Lorraine Watson 07 825 7290

Waiuku

Rugby Club Grounds, Waiuku

Contact: Jim Ayers 09 232 0251

Wanganui

Springvale Park (every Sunday)

Contact: Richard Wotton 06 343 2770

Wellington

Ngatitōa Domain, Plimmerton

Contact: Tony Fitchett 04 478 5575

If you didn't order a group photo from the Eltham National Festival, the good news is they are still obtainable. The bad news is that it will cost you a bit more than if you'd ordered at the festival. If you'd like a print, contact the editor. The more orders received, the lower the price will be.



REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Bay of Plenty

Bill Cunningham
135 Pahoia Rd
RD 2
Tauranga

Phone 07 548 1044

Nelson

Ted Howard
Montgomery Square
Nelson

Phone 03 548 8707

Christchurch

Steve Brorens
6 Hayes Rise
Governors Bay

Phone 03 329 9449

Waikato

Lorraine Watson
6 Long Street
Raglan

Phone 07 825 7290

Napier / Hastings

Bill McLachlan
2A Read Crescent
Clive

Phone 06 870 0205

Auckland

Perrin Melchior
111 Symonds Street
Auckland

Phone 09 358 0991

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THE NZKA KITE ARCH PROJECT

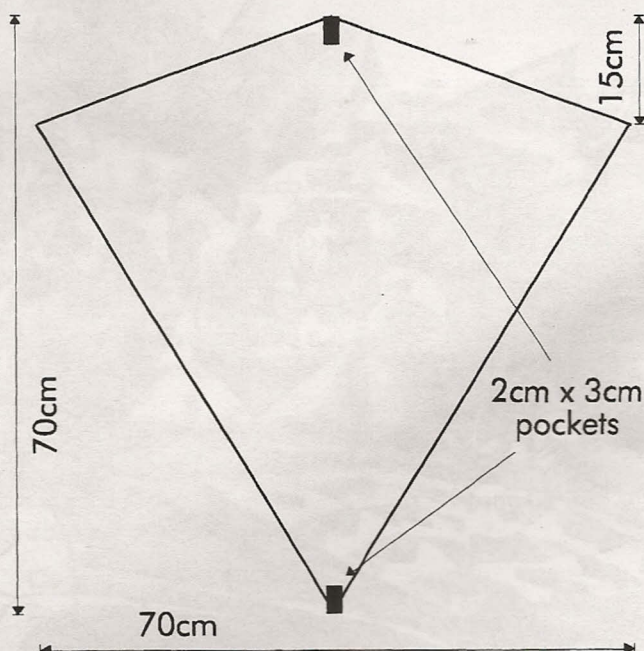
The members' arch is for every member to make at least one kite. It can be any colour or pattern but should follow the outline shown. The kite should be as individualistic as possible, expressing something of the member. It can be a design you like or have used on one of your kites – for example, you might be a "pale blue" person and a kite of simply pale blue may be just your thing.

If you don't feel confident making the kite by yourself, enlist the help of another member, but it should be your design.

The kites for the NZKA arch are made from $\frac{3}{4}$ oz ripstop. The dimensions are shown in the diagram alongside. The kite should be hemmed all around and two pockets only fitted, one at the top and one at the bottom. You do not need to provide a spar or any bridle points, just the skin. The kites will be joined onto a single line by dedicated volunteers to form an arch.

If you require further information, contact Tony Fitchett, Peter Whitehead or David Bowie. When you have finished your kite send or give it to David Bowie or Peter Whitehead, or send to P.O. Box 56, Wellington, for joining to the line.

The Association has available ripstop scraps which have been kindly donated by Peter Lynn Ltd.





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