

What's Up?

December 2001

A newsletter for kitefliers

Number 70



*A very Merry Christmas to
kitefliers everywhere!*



NEW ZEALAND KITEFLIERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

visit our website at www.nzka.org.nz

NZKA FESTIVAL – EASTER 2002

at Fraser Park, Lower Hutt

The NZKA Festival will be at Fraser Park, in Lower Hutt, and will make use of the Taita Cricket Club rooms which are at the same location. We plan for flying from early Friday, March 29, to noon Monday, April 1. The registration desk will be manned from noon Friday, either on the field or in the cricket club rooms.

We can promise you plenty of flying space on a large park, good company and very variable winds !!

The Lower Hutt area is well supplied with motels.

OUR TIMETABLE IS:

- FRIDAY General flying all day.
Fish and Chips after 5 PM (\$5). OTY if you want something else.
General socialising evening in the Cricket Club. (No bar – BYO)
- SATURDAY AGM 9.30 am in the Cricket Club Rooms.
Rokakku Challenge round late AM
Australia/New Zealand Travel Award flying PM
Evening: dinner followed by NZKA Auction. (No bar – BYO)
- SUNDAY General flying. Further Rokakku rounds and Travel Award flying.
Evening: Dinner (Chinese) in the Cricket Club rooms. (No bar – BYO)
Announcement of Travel Award winner.
- MONDAY General flying AM

The Registration form is enclosed with this issue. Please return promptly so that we have a good idea of attendance.

Any queries to NZKA, P.O. Box 56, Wellington, or e-mail Tonyf@paradise.net.nz

CONTENTS

- 2 From the Archives; Whitehead's Words
- 3 From the Editor's desk;
Rotorua Festival Postponement
- 4 NZKA Banners; Webmaster's Script
- 5 NZKA Insurance
- 7 AGM Notice
- 8 Regional Roundup
- 9 The Hawke's Bay Bluecoats
- 10 The Long Beach, Washington, Kite Festival
- 12 Roving Camera



**ROKKAKU
RULES, OK?**
page 23

- 14 Happy Birthday, Tony Fitchett
- 15 Short Lines; Kite-toons
- 16 Bruce Comfort's BIG Box Kite
- 18 Rules of the NZKA
- 19 The Lowdown on Labelling
- 24 The NZKA Kite Arch Project

BONDI REPORT page 6

Festival kite
by
Linda
Sanders



**THE CODY
WORKSHOP**
words page 14
pix page 12

Published by the
New Zealand Kitefliers' Association
P.O. Box 56, Wellington

Visit our website at www.nzka.org.nz

COVER PHOTO: David Bowie, from Wellington, and
Perth's resident comedian, Phil Taylor, prepare to launch
Phil's trans-Tasman travel award-winning helicopter kite
at the Bondi Festival of the Winds in September.
(Photo: Godfrey Gamble)

From the archives . . .

What's Up? #4, June 1985

Kite ruckus

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

Issue #4, June 1985

Classic words . . .

Chapter 15 of Charles Dickens' classic David Copperfield contains the following passage:

"Mr Dick and I soon became the best of friends, and when his day's work was done, went out together to fly the great kite . . . It was quite an affecting sight, I used to think, to see him with the kite when it was up a great height in the air . . . He never looked so serene as he did then. I used to fancy, as I sat by him of an evening, on a green slope, and saw him watch the kite high in the quiet air, that it lifted his mind out of its confusion and bore it (such was my boyish thought) into the skies. As he wound the string in and it came lower and lower down out of the beautiful light, until it fluttered to the ground and lay there like a dead thing, he seemed to wake gradually out of a dream; and I seem to remember to have seen him take it up and look about him in a lost way, as if they had both come down together, so that I pitied him with all my heart."

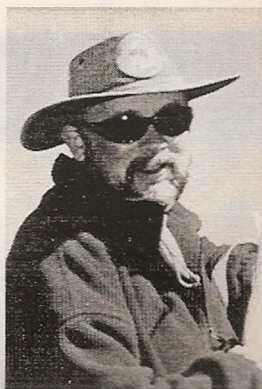
ISSUE #5, September 1985

Up, up and away no. 1

A Canadian waterbed store recently filled a waterbed mattress with helium and tethered it to a 100-foot-long rope as a sales promotion. The rope broke and the mattress was last seen heading south, so if you've seen a flying waterbed mattress . . . It's not so unusual, though: I have always considered flexifoils to be just an elaborate version of a flying Lilo air mattress.

Up, up and away no. 2

It was reported last year that a Czechoslovakian engineering student flew over the border into Vienna, Austria, in a motorised kite. The kite was assembled in a wooded area then flown 50km at an altitude of 200m. The daring aviator requested political asylum from the Austrian authorities.



Whitehead's Words

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

THIS MISSIVE is being written early, for once. This is because Christmas comes every year, and while it should be a time for relaxing it just seems to get busier and busier every year. We are looking forward to a real holiday this Christmas in the snow.

We have made sure that we'll be back in time for Nelson. As I have espoused in previous messages, this is one of the best festivals in New Zealand. It has a better than average record with the weather, and the wind is usually kind. I can remember days of flying two kites tied off to the car bumper bar with no problems. And years were we had five kites pegged out within about twenty feet of each other. I can also remember flying lots of kites that never got a mention, but guess how often they got mentioned when I put a lady on them for graphics. The ladies are still flying well, and there is about to be a new series of them in the sky. If you are holidaying in the South Island I can recommend that you be in Nelson for this kite event. Also remember that the Saturday is a warm-up day, which is just nice and relaxing. You don't have to worry about sheep manure, either.

The Labour Weekend kite-making took place again this year, with the Cody being the kite of choice. There were two sizes made, and plans were given out so people could go away and use the ideas and knowledge gained to make a different sized Cody at home. These events do seem to get people galvanized into action, and again there was a good turnout, which was great to see. The class was made up of some old hands, plus some new blood which boosted the numbers. This year Des Pitfield, possibly New Zealand's premier Cody kite maker, took the class. Having said that, Perrin (from Auckland's Kiteworks) has made some very nice Cody kites, even if he forgets how to bridle them sometimes.

With the postponement of the Rotorua international festival, Wellington has stepped up and will be hosting the national kite fly at Easter. We already have grounds, clubrooms and meals booked. Look for the registration form with this issue of the magazine. A tentative agenda has been decided, but we are trying for a more relaxed style of festival.

You should already have received your annual dues reminder. Don't delay in posting this back as we only send the invoice out once. The other option is to use the web to send in your details and we can bill your credit card.

The NZKA website is being continually updated and contains some information that doesn't appear in the magazine, because of the timing of the magazine and the information we receive from event organizers.

The New Zealand Kitefliers' Association has decided in an effort to keep the costs of coming to the annual festival reasonable that it will be paying for the hire of the cricket clubrooms. Last year we (the NZKA) paid for some of the meal costs, but paying for the clubrooms is seen as being a fairer option.

With that, I and the committee wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Peter Whitehead

(Please note my e-mail address is now drachen@paradise.net.nz)

The Editor says . . .

THE NEWS that stunned the world on September 11 has, as we all know by now, had its effect on the international kite festival to have been held in Rotorua next March. This has been a bitter blow for the organisers, who put so much time and effort into ensuring that it was going to be a great spectacle, but, on the positive side, a lot of spadework has already been done for the rescheduled event in 2004.

Let's hope the same line-up of international flyers is still able to travel Down Under two years hence, along with many other overseas visitors.

It all seems a long way off now, but let's not be down-hearted. In the meantime, we'll have two NZKA national festivals, the Nelson summer festival and various other events to enjoy, so there are plenty of reasons why we should all get busy and make sure we've got enough kites to fly! This is especially important, because I know a number of members are loaning kites to Bob Maysmor for his exhibition at the Porirua Museum which begins next February 16.

[See item p.19]. If your favourite kites are going to be away from active duty for the duration of the exhibition, that should be all the excuse you need.

DURING a recent chat with a fairly new member, I listened to his comments about the apparent lack of anything happening in his area in between scheduled monthly flying days. If the day happens to be unsuitable for flying the result can be an eight-week break, and we all know that's not good for any self-respecting kiter's mental health.

Kite-flying is a pastime generally made more enjoyable by the company of others (unless said others are using the dreaded monofilament line), so my suggestion is that if it's not a scheduled flying day members pick up the phone and let someone else know that they're heading for the park, paddock or beach. Apart from the social aspect, the more contact newer flyers have with experienced people the faster they'll learn the tricks of the trade. Maybe regional reps could set up phone trees so the word can be spread quickly.

DISCUSSION at the Labour Weekend committee meeting in Wellington has led to the publication of Stephen Cook's article on insurance (p.5). This is something we all hope we'll never need to use, but obviously we should all be conversant with the NZKA's insurance coverage.

First and foremost, we always need to act responsibly and to be mindful of the dangers involved when people and kites meet by accident. Also, we should never underestimate the power of the wind. This was underlined for me at Ohakea on Father's Day when I helped Ted Howard re-launch his big octopus – which took off like a rocket and gave another launcher a hefty whack on the arm with a bridle line – then later felt the pull on the lines of his large bol. These felt more like steel rods than ropes, and I can only say it's a good thing that the handbrake on Ted's van works very well.

Enjoy your summer's kiting, but remember folks, let's be careful out there. And have a darned good Christmas and New Year!

Best of breezes,
Richard Wotton



Rotorua World Kite Festival Postponed to March 2004

It was with considerable regret, considering the work already done, that the committee decided to postpone the Festival until March 2004 for the following reasons:

- Uncertainty over international air travel now and in the immediate future due to the current American anti-terrorism campaign
- Difficulty in insuring air tickets for disruption or airline failure
- Delaying purchase raises issues of availability and increased ticket cost
- Ansett situation is impacting on Australian attendees
- A drop in Rotorua tourism since the Ansett collapse and the World Trade Centre attack has resulted in a drying up of an already difficult sponsorship scene

We could not delay the decision in the hope of an improvement as:

- We needed to give people time to arrange for Wellington to be the NZKA annual festival
- It was unfair on the guest fliers who may still be able to make other festival arrangements
- Unrecoverable costs would increase with each passing month and at the end we may not have a festival

Our objective has always been to have a great festival in the expectation that participants, spectators, and sponsors would like to see it repeated. Events outside our control make this goal more difficult, if not impossible, to reach. We were not prepared to risk our overseas guests not making it, and Australian and New Zealand participants feeling as though they had paid for a world festival and got a local event. Unfortunately, 2003 clashes with the biennial Rotorua Arts Festival.

Please accept the committee's apology for any inconvenience this has caused.

Two Months Later

After feeling down for a few days we quickly realised that we really did not have another option given that this was a new festival and not one that was well established on the kiting calendar. Subsequent events have only confirmed that we made the right decision.

All the feedback we received from fliers was positive, they were appreciative of being told early of the postponement, and all said "See you in 2004."

The extra time we now have will give us the opportunity to plan for more activities.

Yours in kiting,
Ray McCully

NZKA Banners

by Ray McCully

At the AGM in Eltham it was proposed that we have some NZKA banners made for promotional purposes at kite days etc around the regions and this has been discussed several times at committee meetings.

We have shied away from the initial proposal because:

- it was potentially an expensive option.
- If the design was not liked in a region then it would not be flown.
- who qualifies to have a banner could be an issue.
- who owns the banners? NZKA
- tracking the NZKA assets is then an issue.

We have adopted the following:

- Association members could make their own banners with a personal or local design.
- The NZKA would supply a large screenprinted logo to be sewn on the banner. The logo and banner are then the member's property. When we come together at festivals we will have different banners that represent us but are all linked by the Association logo. It should look quite dramatic.
- The logo will be like the car sticker but with flat ends before and after the words "kitefliers association". This has been done to maximise the logo size for screenprinting.
- Logo width 400mm, height 275mm. It will have the black and red printed on a yellow cloth.
- The logo will clearly look better if it is sewn on to a black area of the banner. However, you may do as you wish.
- If the banner design is made to be two sided then we will provide two logos, otherwise one will be provided.

We are having 30 printed initially and they will be available from Ray McCully by the end of November. The committee has placed an initial limit of five members' banners per region for this initial batch.

Auckland and Wellington events coming your way in 2002

The following events are planned for early next year:

The Auckland Anniversary Regatta will be held on Monday, January 28, 2002. There will be kite flying at Bastion Point from 10am to 4pm. The organisers anticipate a crowd of around 10,000, so this is a great opportunity to show off your kites to large numbers of people. For more information on this event phone Tim Kay on 09 523 2456 or fax 09 524 9921.

Have just had a note in about the Festival of the Elements at Elsdon Park, Porirua, on February 6, 2002. This has been an annual event and it is happening again next year. Contact Anne or Peter Whitehead for further information.

WEBMASTER'S SCRIPT

What's new at the "www.nzka.org.nz" website?

As you all will know there are literally thousands of sites out there that are kite related, and from time to time I come across some of them on my travels, that are quite unique or different. I have put up a Webmaster's script page so I can share these with you. It can be found at <http://www.nzka.org.nz/webmasterscript.html>

Some of the things you will find there: a link called "website of the month" as well as links to "most useful" and "most useless" sites. The latter is more of an entertaining feature that has little or nothing to do with kiteflying. I just couldn't find a site that covered both categories. There are some other entertaining features as well, like kite cartoons, and cleverly made "everybody hates them" flash animation art. This page will grow as I try to find time to update it, so check it out regularly. Of course it goes without saying that if you have found an interesting site you would like to share with us, send me the details.

Also I am hosting individual members' webpages at the NZKA site. An example can be found at www.nzka.org.nz/petanwhite.html

If you would like a page yourself contact me for more information.

If anyone is interested in joining a mailing list regarding Website updates, find the link on the site, follow the instructions and you will receive a monthly newsletter, by e-mail, containing all the latest updates. Alternatively, you could just send a blank e-mail to me with "add me to the list" in the subject box.

For those who participated in the Labour Weekend workshop some photos can be found at www.nzka.org.nz/workshop.html. This page still needs some text, so could anyone out there who attended this event please send me a report to go with the images! Photos on this page are courtesy of John Whibley. Thanks, John.

If you have any comments about our website, let us know.

Robert van Weers (NZKA Webmaster)
E-mail: nzka@paradise.net.nz



handy
hint

GIMME SHELTER

If ever you should find yourself stranded beside a French motorway for the night, keep yourself warm with an octopus kite bed/sleeping bag. (Peter Lynn recommends one large octopus per person).

— Contributed by Anne Whitehead

We've got you covered, but . . .

by Stephen Cook, NZKA Treasurer

It's time that all members were reminded about NZKA insurance cover. One of the requirements for various locations where we fly our kites or hold kite days is that NZKA is required to hold public liability insurance.

When the association was formed back in 1985, liability insurance of \$250,000 costing just \$30 per year was arranged. Subsequently this was raised to \$2 million (costing \$400) in 1994, prior to events at Ohakea and Christchurch. In 2000 our public liability cover was raised to \$5 million, costing some \$600 per year.

You may ask why we need insurance. Firstly to protect members and office-holders from individual claims, and secondly to cover damage and loss that may be caused through any errors or accidents due to our actions.

While \$5 million may seem an extraordinary amount we should consider, for example, the possible costs of a large kite shorting national grid transmission lines, a loose kite causing a large, fully-laden truck and trailer to crash, a school destroyed because of a problem at a kite-making workshop, and so on. Personal injury to ourselves or bystanders is covered by ACC, but material and business loss is not, and that is why we need insurance.

Our insurance is held with Royal and Sun Alliance and is specific to NZKA activities in that the usual insurance clause excluding 'aerial devices' has been removed. This means that reasonable adverse effects from kites, line junk and similar items are covered by our insurance. [I am aware that some local kite groups do not belong to NZKA because they are 'covered' by other insurances. I would suggest that those groups carefully check the policies that they think offer them coverage.]

There are some basic 'rules' that you should be aware of:

- Coverage does not extend to the personal loss of, or damage to, your kite(s). This should be covered by your household effects insurance PROVIDED that you have confirmed coverage – in writing – with your insurance company. (Maybe there is an aerial devices or sporting equipment exclusion.)
- Coverage is given to NZKA members at NZKA events. Members are those who have a current paid subscription, and also honorary members formally acknowledged by the committee prior to events. [This would generally cover overseas or guest fliers at events – provided that the committee has formally acknowledged their honorary status.]
- NZKA events are those listed in *What's Up?* as regular flying days and for one-off events organised solely by NZKA. Other events

which NZKA recognise where NZKA members have a formal presence and have had involvement with organising, safety advice etc are also covered. [If you are unsure, contact the committee for formal sanction **before** the event.]

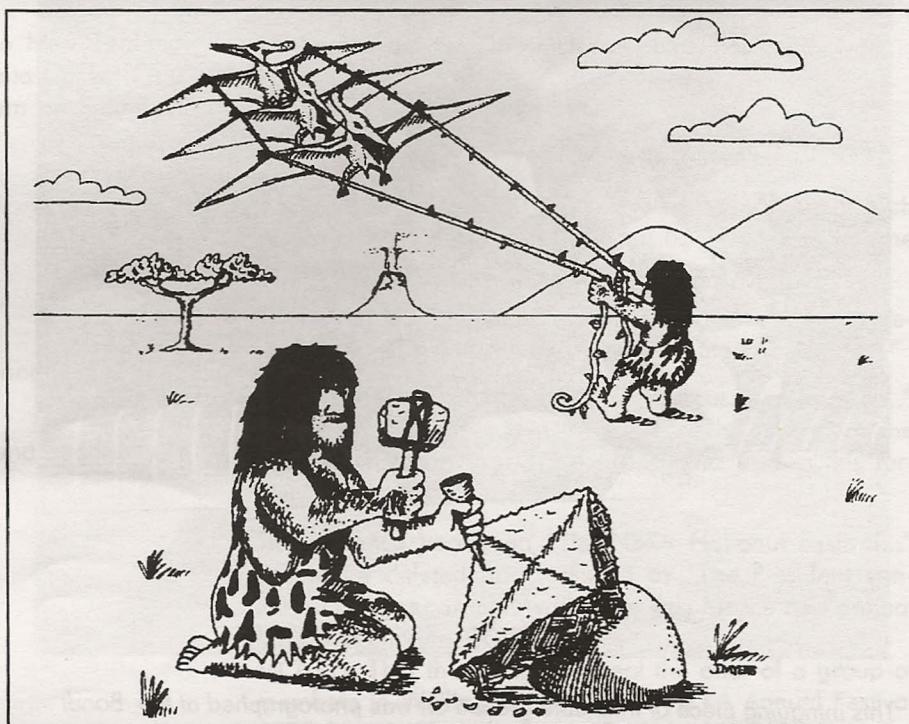
- Coverage is given where there is an element of accident, carelessness and so on. Deliberate wrongful actions are not covered.
- Under no circumstances should a member acknowledge liability. That is the prerogative of our insurers.
- There is a standard deductible of \$250 for each claim that is the responsibility of NZKA.
- All claims must be dealt with through the Secretary and Treasurer, and they must be made as soon as possible. (Contact details are in each issue of *What's Up?*).

If you have any queries, contact the Treasurer, Stephen Cook, for assistance.

Note that we must not rely on our insurance to protect us, so we must act responsibly. To date we have only made one claim (in 1989), and we don't want another. We are also mindful that terrorist events over recent months have had a significant impact on the insurance markets, and this may ultimately affect our cost and coverage.

For those of you with a particular interest in power kiting, especially kite surfing, our advice is that you should have the board and sail insured under a marine policy. Then it would be insured against damage to the board etc, as well as offer third-party liability. However, the third-party liability sum insured is often quite low on "small craft", and might need to be extended to a higher figure. Talk to your own insurer.

kite pioneers . . .



NO WONDER THEY CALL IT THE FESTIVAL OF THE WINDS

Blustery Bondi

by Raelle Connolly

Well, the sun was shining brightly when we got off the plane at Sydney Airport at noon. Kelz and I were loaded with kites and enthusiasm and ready to fly. We were to be picked up by an unknown flyer but after no contact for 35 minutes we decided to contact John Murray. He informed us that Mick Clarke (Victorian flyer) had left over 30 minutes earlier and should be there any time. It was only a 15 minute trip, so I had my reservations but he arrived 30 minutes later. We loaded the bags and were off to Bondi. It very quickly became obvious that we were lost. After a tour of Sydney suburbia and a suicide manoeuvre into oncoming traffic, we arrived at Bondi just in time for Lunch.

We caught up with old friends and met new ones including Vikki Clarke (a bright spark in anyone's day). I later was to get to know these Victorians well along with several others. Then it was back into Mick's van with held breath to the Swiss Grand to unpack.

Kelz and I didn't fly on the Friday as there was a not-to-be-missed workshop to attend at 3.30. This later proved to be the best flying day of the fest, but the workshop was worth the time, with John Freeman instructing us on the bargello technique. There was a second workshop on Saturday which was equally as interesting, when Asghar Belim showed us how to make Indian fighter kites.

By Saturday morning we were ready to get out there and just fly kites all day with the sun shining and wind – what more could you ask for? Uh-oh! A bit gusty, so we decided to wait a while and do some more socializing.

The weekend just got better, with plenty of socializing and

good tucker. Kelz and I enjoyed it immensely, but it was a real shame that the wind prevented us from doing more flying.

We stayed on in Sydney until Tuesday and did the traditional walk to Coogee Beach and had lunch in the park. We were then invited to spend the night with Godfrey and Karen Gamble. We saw the sights of the city and harbour on Tuesday, ending a very memorable trip to The Festival of The Winds.

We flew to Melbourne for a few days R & R with Kelz' relatives and more flying with the Melbourne flyers the following Saturday at the Elwood flying field. We had steady winds and a great fly, as well as another opportunity to catch up with the new kite friends we'd met in Sydney. We came home on Sunday in the middle of the Ansett crisis.

[Raelle was the winner of the trans-Tasman travel award at the 2001 NZKA Festival at Eltham last Easter.—Ed.]

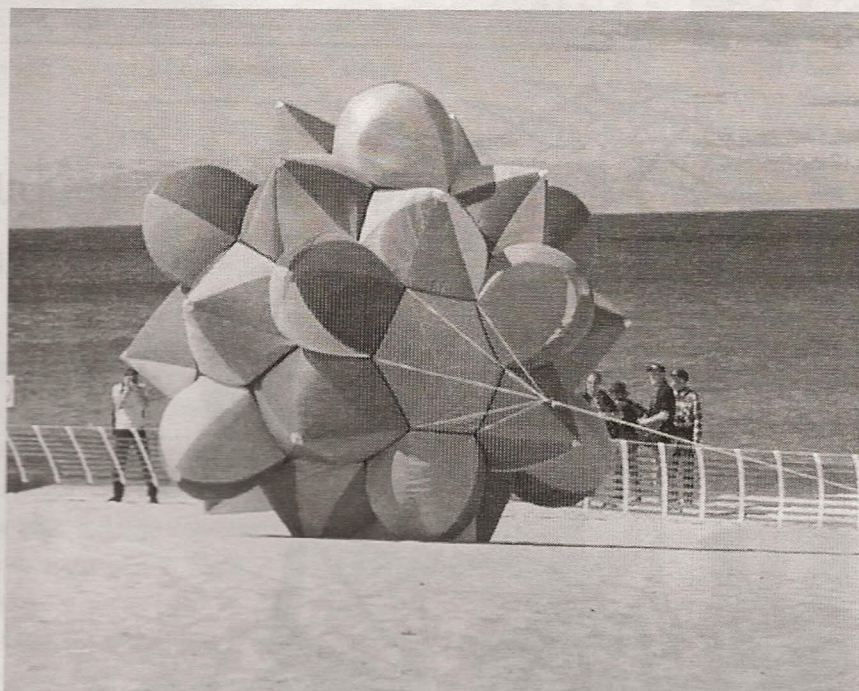
Year of the Winds

by Rosemary McCully

It was more comfortable temperature wise at Bondi this year! Oz never fails to pull something different though. This year was the YEAR OF THE WINDS. If we had thought Friday was a bit of an overkill, the velocity steadily increased with the date, until Sunday produced some memorable speeds with even more memorable gusts.

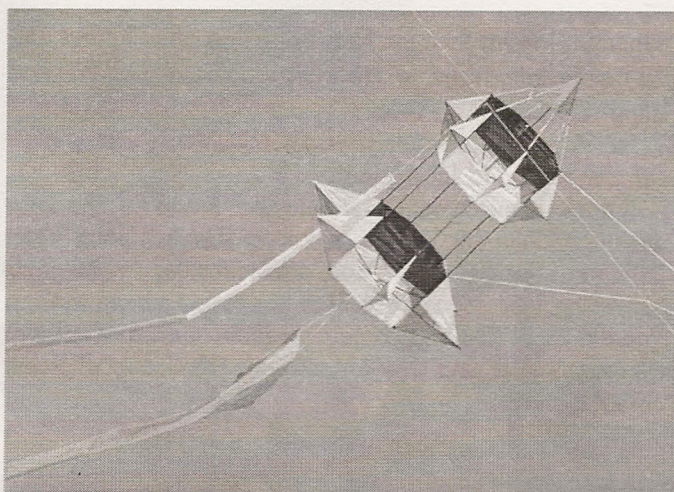
As this was the public day, it required a lot of goodwill among the kiting fraternity to put on a display. Despite the Aussies having plenty of high wind kites even they were really not equipped for this. I have to commend the stalwarts for the displays that eventuated. There were broken spars, a \$20 bribe to a surfer to retrieve a kite determined to swim to New Zealand, and plenty of kites that could not be tethered to look after themselves. Although the display was not what we would have wished, I believe that the majority of kite fliers understand that we have to risk our kites to some extent on public days, otherwise sponsorship and council support could wane.

The invited guests were John and Marlie Freeman from Canada with their beautiful banners depicting the Canadian provincial flags (plus the "ball and chain", of course) and their wonderful bargello kites. Seemingly, this old embroidery technique had been adapted to quilting and now to kites. John demonstrated clearly to us that this was a very straightforward method for applying graphics to kites without any waste. It is ideally suited to foils as you can join the risers as you create your graphics, and you can use up all your long, narrow scraps.



This intriguing piece of inflatable ground art was photographed at the Bondi Festival of the Winds in September by Godfrey Gamble, of Sydney

E WINDS... REPORTS FROM BONDI 2001



Zak Pitfield-de Mille took out second place in the box kite division at the Festival of the Winds with this rocket design.
(Photo: Godfrey Gamble)

John was one who always had several kites up, many of them Mock-foils.

There were two other guest fliers – from India – guests of Peter Stauffer. Asghar, who runs a 200-year-old family kite-making factory, also ran a workshop, demonstrating his craft. He came with a large number and variety of fighters for sale at very reasonable prices, hand-painted cards and photos of his factory. He and the other fighters were tireless on the beach, also demonstrating that you can fly a fighter even when most of its skin has been blown out by a

ferocious gust. I, on the other hand, ably demonstrated that paper Indian fighters don't like to swim.

As my leg was very painful on Sunday, I volunteered to work alongside Tansia in the tent. It made me realise why I don't know much about the kites some people fly. These are the people who year after year give their time to make things run smoothly. There were plenty of questions from the public, lost parents (these tend to move around a lot so that they are difficult to find), giving out lunches to fliers etc etc. I would recommend that everyone consider doing this at some time – you don't even need to wait for a sore leg!

There was a bit of a twist to the accommodation this year, with many cancelling the Beachside Inn and booking into the plush Swiss Grande, through *justintime.com* at not much more than the inn. The inn lost our booking for the second time.

Yet again, Phil Taylor's new kite got top billing, so we will all see his incredible twin rotor helicopter next Easter when he takes advantage of his travel prize to attend the NZKA festival.

It would seem appropriate to end this article quoting contents of an e-mail we received from John Freeman: "We had a wonderful time in Oz, and of course one of the best parts was getting to know another group of great folks. We are constantly amazed by the almost total lack of people in kiting who you would rather not be around! I guess it's just not something that attracts undesirable types. Every place we go in kiting the people are enjoyable, and the group we got to know from Oz and New Zealand were no exception."

Notice of NZKA Annual General Meeting

The 18th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Kitefliers' Association Inc will be held at Taita Cricket Club Rooms, Fraser Park, Wellington, at 9.30am on Saturday, March 30, 2002.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Greetings to visitors
3. Amendment to Minutes of 2000 AGM, and adoption of these.
4. Amendment to Minutes of 2001 AGM and adoption of these.
5. Matters arising from the Minutes.
6. President's Report
7. Appointment of Auditor
8. Financial report.
9. Election of officers

10. Formal business of which due notice has been given.
11. Other business

Note to Item 3 above:

The Minutes of the 2000 AGM were published in the March 2001 issue of *What's Up?*, and it has emerged that the wording of para 9 (Other business) needs correction.

The words "Discussion was then raised..." should be replaced by "The President informally initiated discussion..."

The sentence beginning "The final discussion was that..." should be deleted and replaced by "The feeling of the meeting was that the Committee should discuss this further."

The sentence beginning "The NZKA National Festival..." should be deleted and replaced by "The President confirmed that preparation was under way for the next annual festival in Eltham, 2001."

MOVED: That the meeting accept the offer of a group of members in Wellington to host the NZKA Annual Festival 2002 (Yvonne de Mille/Muriel Bowie). AGREED . "

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Christchurch

This month has been a busy one in Christchurch with the kite day on October 7 in North Hagley Park, hosted by the Girl Guides and part of the LawAsia Conference. The Guides did a great job organising entertainment/cultural activities, food stalls, an MC giving a commentary and prizes during the day. About 500 people attended despite very little wind. There were also lots of visiting countries represented from the Law Conference who brought kites to fly:

- Supreme Court Judges from Malaysia flew Wau kites which had been made in fabric with bamboo frames, and adapted so that they folded up into a tube for travelling. They were pretty heavy, so required a lot of running by portly gentlemen.
- A group of Chinese delegates, dressed in their best suits, smiling, laughing and running to fly their bird and butterfly kites, brought smiles to the local flyers too.
- There was a group with Indian fighter kites – three small black dots way up in the sky. The fliers were from New Brighton, although the kites had come out with relatives attending the conference, and they were flying on 3km (yes, km!) of line. They were well aware of the rules about height, but this was a kite festival and they were going to show us what they could do. The control tower obligingly kept the area free of other traffic!
- And the Australian organisers who had borrowed a kite so their conference flag could fly from its line. I was phoned the day before to come and help assemble it as they didn't know how, but it "looked like two big circles" and turned out to be a fairly small delta stunter. What can I say?!
- Of course, lots of Pippins, Brownies and Guides with the kites they had made – mostly kite kits which they had been busy making in previous weeks for the kite day.

The KiteShop set up a tent so people could make their own kites and was busy all afternoon with about 50 people making kites for the day.

So why is it we don't see kiteflying as something which middle aged people in suits can combine with our important jobs? These people turned up to show what their countries can do and share the fun with the people of Christchurch, and despite language barriers and lack of wind we all had a great day.

NZKA people attending were Steve Brorens, Simon van der Sluijs and Julie Adam.

October 14 was the One Sky One World international kite fly for peace at Hansons Park, Opawa. We had about 20 people flying, on a sunny day with steady gentle winds that saw single line and sport kites flying all afternoon. It was an enjoyable day – the right amount of wind, sun and friendship to make for a happy afternoon. Several families

joined in, having seen the kites flying from their homes and they were introduced to the philosophies of OSOW and kiting.

NZKA people attending were Colin McGeorge, Simon van der Sluijs and Julie Adam.

I think some mention should be made of the new direction Colin McGeorge is taking. He has long been (in)famous for his clever and practical kites in materials which can be sourced easily, but has recently been making "gaudy" kites. (Gaudy: containing more than one colour). His Malay kites and flow forms really stand out, whatever colour the sky!

– Julie Adam

Wanganui

A mid-September weekend provided some of the best flying weather here for a long time. Geoff Campbell and I had been invited to put on a kite flying display at the Wanganui Racecourse as a part of the blooming Artz Festival, and we feel we gave the patrons their money's worth. Because of the moderate and steady breeze which prevailed for the two days we were able to keep putting kites in the air – 18 between us on the first day and 17 the next. Combined with lots of line junk, this was a very colourful display, and one which drew a lot of favourable comment.

The exact opposite, weatherwise, the Epilepsy Kite Day was only useful for getting our kites cleaned by the rain. Apart from being very wet, there was no breeze, but we did manage to have a rokkaku battle in the morning. The victor – beginner's luck – was local Lion Kevin O'Sullivan, who cleaned up some far more experienced opponents after only a couple of minutes' instruction!

Dalwyne and I have just made our bookings for the Nelson summer kite fest in January [see item below], so we're looking forward to seeing some familiar faces there, as well as friends we've yet to meet.

– Richard Wotton

Don't miss the great Nelson Summer Kite Festival

As Peter Whitehead mentioned in the Presidential address, this is a festival not to be missed.

The breezes there are near-legendary, the sun always shines, the hospitality is superb and there's a ton of space to fly in at Neale Park. Gretchen and Ted Howard and the Nelson Kite Club team put on a really well-organised and enjoyable event, so book your accommodation now, as this is a popular part of the country in mid-January. You may be able to arrange a billet with one of the local flyers, so give Gretchen or Ted a call and check. Don't forget to book your ferry crossing, too, if you live in the top half of the country.



THE BLUECOATS OF HAWKE'S BAY

Those of you who were at Ohakea for Father's Day and those who have recently checked out the web page will have seen the results of the Hawke's Bay flyers' August workshop.

Following our Queen's Birthday workshop, where 13 of us got together and made a number of balls and bols, discussion took place on what a great time we'd all had and what should we do next? Among us we had Raelle Connolly, recipient of the Trans-Tasman travel award for 2001, and she was very keen to promote Hawke's Bay kite flyers at the Festival of the Winds at Bondi. So with her guidance, expertise and organization the decision was made to make matching jackets for those regular Hawke's Bay flyers who wanted one. After a couple of planning meetings, Raelle made the patterns in sizes from small to XXL. She also sourced the materials needed and had patches embroidered.

The design was basic and easy to make, which was particularly important to those of us who hadn't made a garment before. Fitting zips and pockets was a new challenge for many of us. As we only had two days to complete the jackets, all the pieces were cut out in advance and Raelle made one up so we could all see what it would look like finished. This sample jacket was taken to Sydney by Raelle and donated to the AKS for their auction. A unique item.

Braving a stiff, chilly breeze at Ohakea at the Father's Day fly-in, this cheery-looking bunch of Hawke's Bay fliers show off their new jackets

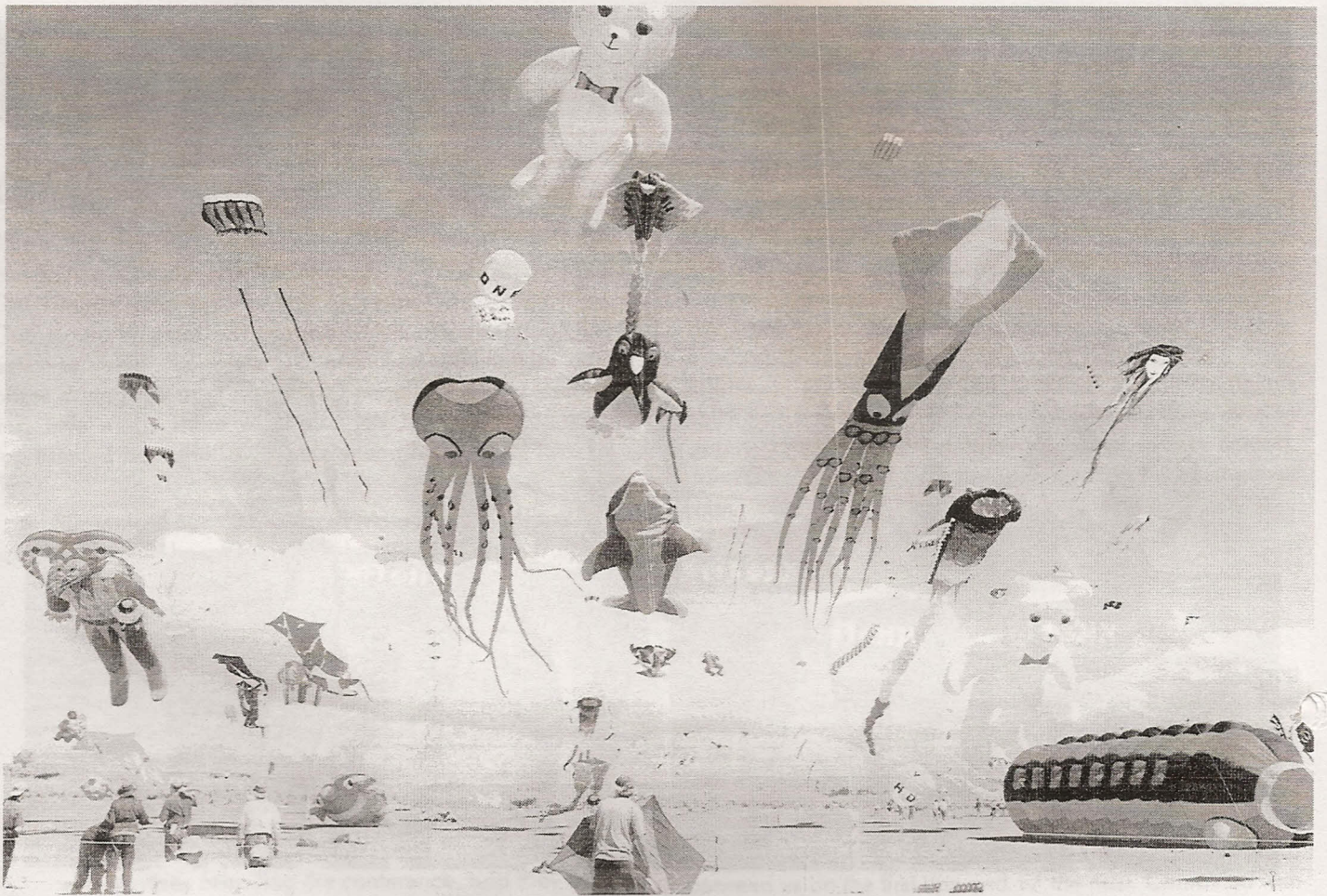
Those who have seen the jackets will know that they are all the same colour with a Hawke's Bay Kite Flyers patch on the front. The patch is a modification of the logo used for the 1999 National Festival in Napier. The entire back of the jacket was appliquéd with the same logo, except that the Eddy kite was replaced with a kite of the maker's choice. The individuality of each jacket is a work of art in itself. You will notice stunt kites, a stack of stunts, a stack of flexifoils, Hogwart's Express, a bird kite, a Della Porta and an octopus.

The first mass outing of the jackets was at Ohakea on September 3. Everyone seemed to notice that all around the flying field there were those blue jackets from the Bay. The only disappointment of the day was that the instigator of the project could not be there, but on the other hand Raelle and Kellie were not far away as they, and their jackets, flew out of Palmerston North on their way to Australia. The positive feedback we received made us all proud that we had gone to the trouble of producing a team outfit.

There has been a lot of talk about raising the profile of the NZKA and hopefully gaining new members. Hawke's Bay flyers are now waiting to see what regional jackets or other innovation will appear on the flying field. [Do I hear the slap of a gauntlet hitting the ground? – Ed.]

All in all, an enjoyable workshop attended by 12. So what's next in the Bay? We'll be holding a workshop at Queen's Birthday weekend 2002. What we will make has not been decided but you are all welcome to join us.

– The Hawke's Bay Team



LONG BEACH KITE FESTIVAL, WASHINGTON

by Peter Whitehead

After still being at the sewing machines less than an hour before we left Wellington, we arrived in Seattle late on the Friday night. We had to take a new penguin over for Peter Lynn, which meant we had five bags but the rules for passengers to the States say four bags for two people. Silly people say any of the bags can weigh up to 32kg. Peter had also sent us a bag to put the penguin and trilobite in. This was unwieldy so I decided to sew two buggy bags together. This worked a treat and the airline people didn't even bat an eyelid. As soon as we got to Seattle I used the unpicker to split the bags back into two (so we could fit all our gear in a compact car) and off we went.

We had a look around Seattle over the weekend, and even got to a fabulous place: Boeing surplus. Anyone want a Boeing jet? There was a fine array of tools, gear, used equipment and surplus stuff.

We arrived at Long Beach on the Monday afternoon. This was the day for arches, kite trains and multi-line stacks. We had some of our kites with us but, unfortunately, no line, so we were relegated to looking at what was flying. It was so tempting to want to fly as the wind was very steady.

Over the weekend before we drove down we'd been watching the weather forecasts and talking to the locals. According to local myths and legends it never rained at this time of the year. The weatherman was predicting rain though, and plenty of it. Having said that, they needed rain,

as there were out of control bush fires, and the ground looked parched in places.

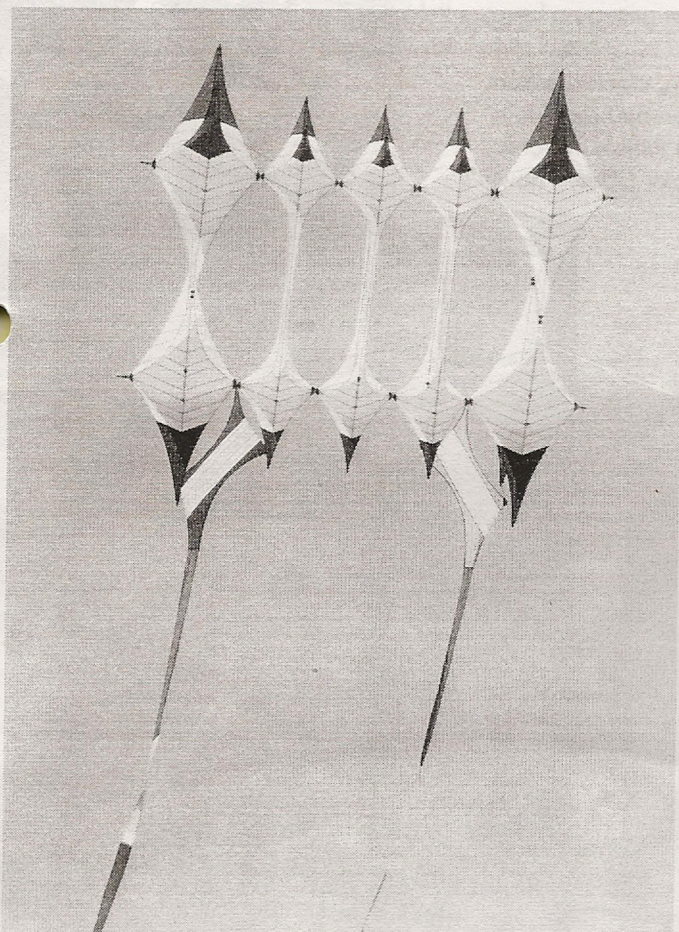
So the Tuesday dawned dull and rainy. This was a good omen. Let's sleep in for a bit. No one else will be on the beach and we can relax for a while. It ended up being a nice, leisurely day, when we took two Belgians on a bit of a tour of the peninsula and surrounds and then went out for a meal at one of the organiser's houses. This is where we started to get to know the Bay Area Sundowners better. This is a group of fliers who have specialized in performing sport kite routines at air shows – and they're good.

Wednesday brought more rain. Again a day for touring, and looking in the shops. We went out with the Sundowners to see more of the local area, but during the afternoon the rain started to slacken off and people were drifting down to the beach. There would be periods of about half an hour where there was no rain, followed by some rain and then more clear sky. I managed to arrive and get my kite up about 10 feet when it started to rain again for 10 minutes. Still, I'd flown a kite and cleared my head. That night we went to a spaghetti and meatball event hosted by some of the local fliers. This was another chance to sit down and talk, as well as participate in their auction. To speed things up you bought tickets, which you then put in a bag beside the item you wanted. The auction then consisted of drawing a ticket from the bag. This certainly made for fast action, and if you really wanted the item you could put more than one ticket in that bag to increase your chances.

Thursday, the rain had stopped, but it looked like rain again all day. Miraculously, it held off and we seemed to be a small island of sun in the middle of clouds. The wind was a little strong, but we test flew some teddy bears.

Friday was the start of a magnificent three days. The sun was out, the wind was steady and the crowds came out to look and enjoy. We were helping Peter Lynn fly the big kites – a stingray, trilobite, teddy bear, whale, cat and penguin. We also had some midi kites flying as well. This was great flying as we just put these kites up and left them. Jos and Kaatje Valcke, from Belgium, were flying a large inflatable jester (shown on the cover of the last issue of *What's Up?*) and clown, plus lifters with line junk. The first of the mass ascensions was flown this day. It was a simple one of deltas and delta derivatives. We were awarded the first of four pins for flying a kite in this class. Later in the afternoon they had another mass ascension, this time for cellular or box kites. We took the Enigma and the orange box kite out for that. Later on we went to the kite museum to see who would be inducted into the hall of fame this year. After much to-do it was announced that the inveterate battler "Charlie Brown" was this year's choice. After the induction we went down to the beach for a spot of fireworks and night flying, which was fun, although we were only watching.

Another bright clear day greeted us on Saturday. The wind was nice and light so this gave us time to choose our position and lay kites out ready for the wind. When it arrived it was just another day in paradise. Kites flew well, most things were well behaved, and it was easy. We had a parade of invited guests and met the mayor and were given keys to the city. In the mass ascension we flew flat and



ABOVE: Another stunning Robert Brassington box kite.
ABOVE RIGHT: Low aspect ratio, high visual impact.



bowed kites so I took one of the lady kites and Anne flew the mermaid. During the day the Sundowners had been putting on displays at regular intervals, Jos and Kaatje were flying their kites with us and Robert and Tracy Brassington (of Tasmania) were flying alongside us as well. The jester even had small bells on his hat and shoes, so you could always hear him while he was flying. This was the day of the crowds, who came to sit and watch and be entertained.

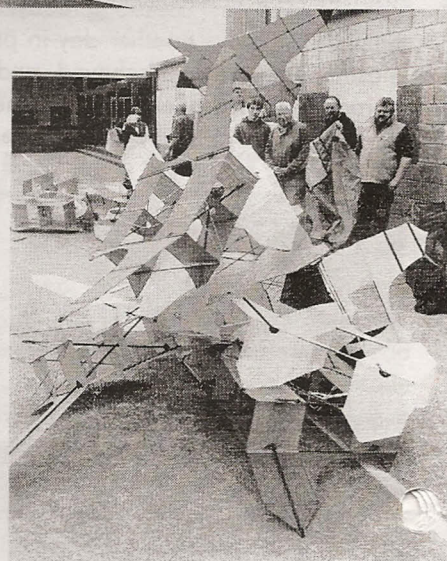
On the Sunday, there was one more mass ascension of soft kites, so we were able to fly a baby foil each and collect the fourth pin in the series. We flew a few other kites and this time we only had about two hitchhiker kites with us. We finally left about four in the afternoon for the drive back to Seattle, after saying goodbye to all the new friends we had made.

It was nice to receive compliments about our kites and to see what other people were flying. There were lots of people other than us at this festival, although we did not get to see them all. We had to tend to our kites, so we did not get out to see all that was on offer. We did sneak away from our kites a few times and saw some interesting trains (of kites), stunt kite exhibitions, and other innovative kites. One of the most innovative kites was a "Kilroy was here" kite flown on 12 lines. I would recommend this as a festival to attend, as the flying was first class, and the hospitality overwhelming.

Just before we flew home we got to do something else I had been hoping to do for a long time. We went pistol shooting and were inducted into the Tahoma Kite and Gun Club. Anne turned out to be a respectable shot with the smaller calibre pistols, and I think all my bullets hit the targets.

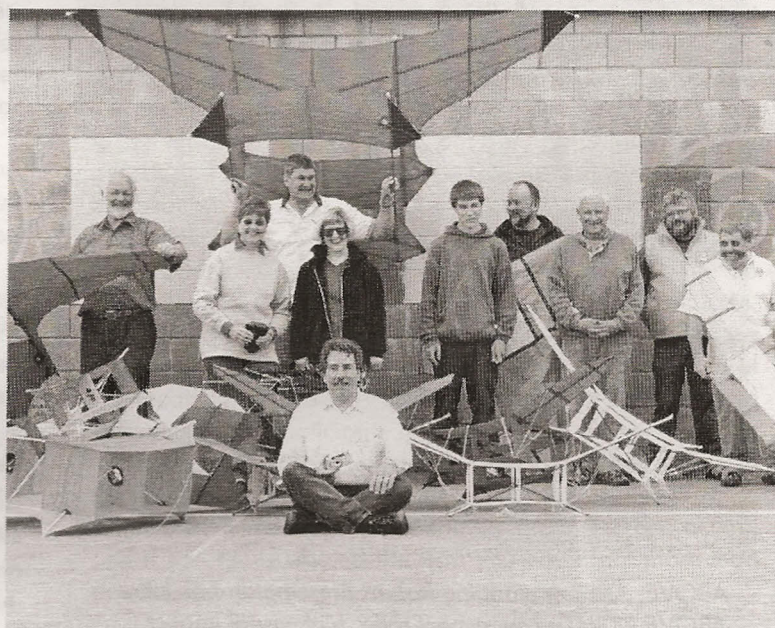
roving camera

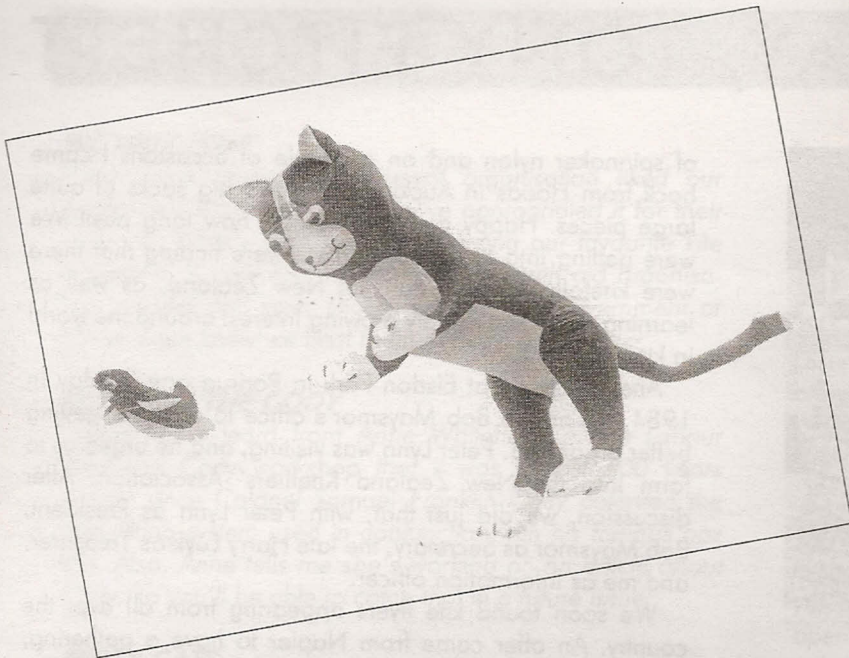
*here & there in the
kite world*



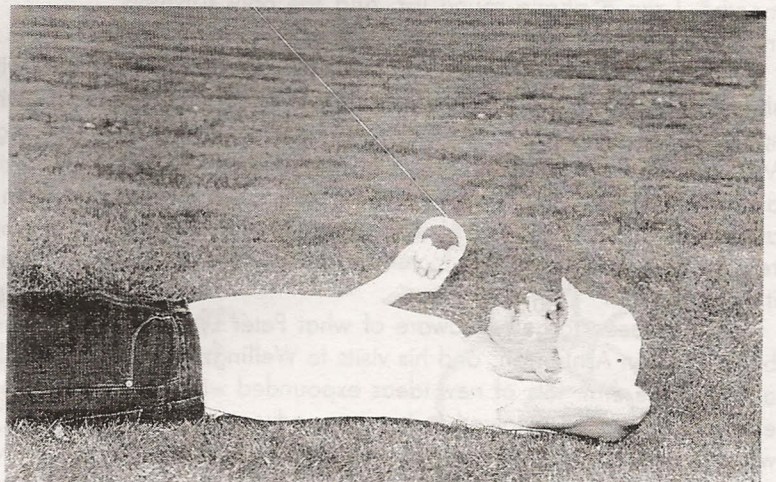
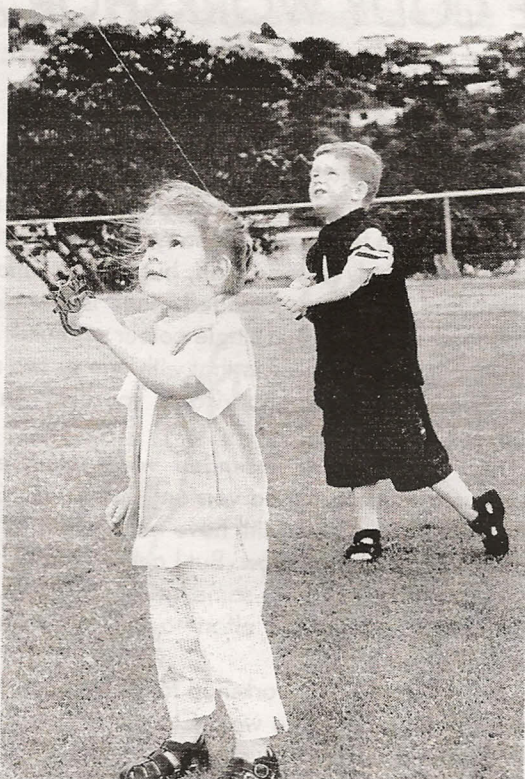
Action from the Labour Weekend Cody workshop in Wellington, clockwise from top left: Raelle Connolly; Muriel and David Bowie; a stack of brand new Codys (Anne Whitehead photo); workshop participants with tutor Des Pitfield in front (John Whibley photo); Sharon and Ian Russell came from Napier to learn how it's done.

(Pix both pages by Richard Wotton unless otherwise credited.)

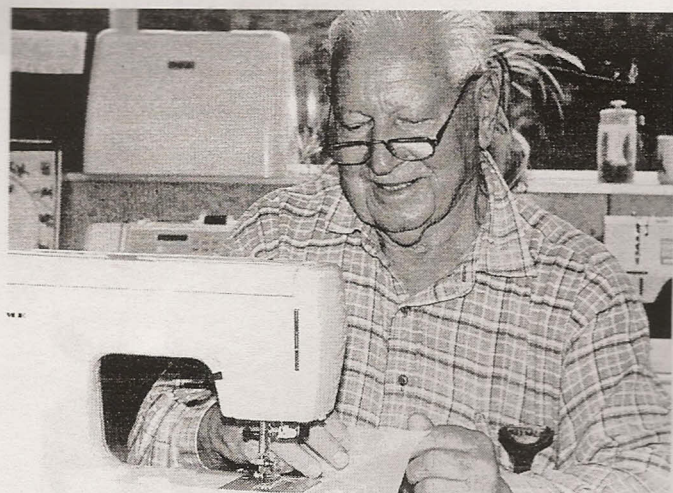




Clockwise from top left: Peter Lynn's new cat was the "people's choice" winner at Long Beach, Washington (Anne Whitehead photo); also seen at Long Beach was this clown by Jos and Kaatje Valcke, from Belgium (Anne Whitehead photo); this shot pretty much sums up the action at the Wanganui epilepsy kite day, but at least our kites got a wash. Geoff and Vaughan Campbell sit out the rain with Lions Clubber Kevin O'Sullivan; casual (very!) kiter Peter Russell at Springvale Park, Wanganui; Sarah and Joshua Gimblett enjoyed an outing with their Dad to the Johnsonville Lions Club family kite day.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TONY FITCHETT



NZKA Founding Member Tony Fitchett celebrated his 80th birthday late last year and to help mark this special milestone we have encouraged him to tell us about his life as a kite maker and flyer, so over to you, Tony . . .

"At every kite fly you go to, there is always someone who comes up and says "We used to make them out of brown paper etc." They undoubtedly had a fine time, and clearly they enjoy watching what we do, but it would be nice if we could entice some of them to start again.

I started with parka nylon and doweling, but I do not now remember why I started. I had for many years been a glider pilot and I had a couple of friends who showed me their fine aeromodeller work, especially the micro light stuff. Maybe this was what started me off to make a delta some time in 1971. I went to Fraser Park one day and found a couple of other kite folk there and we agreed to meet up again. One weekend there was a kite fly at McAllister Park, pushed along by a commercial radio station, and quite a number were there flying various kites. I managed to write down a few names of folk who agreed to meet each month.

We had all read the few books that were in the libraries, and we were making bigger and more adventurous kites. In 1973, Jim Oliver and I formed the Wellington Kitefliers' Association, a small and happy group who met each month. I ran a phone-round list, and the only survivors from it are David Bowie and Bruce Comfort.

I was still making deltas and a box or two. David Bowie showed up one day with a big Brogden using aluminium spars, which stayed permanently bent after a crash at McAllister Park. The biggest and most adventurous kite was a vast hexagonal box from Bruce Comfort, which looked awesome on the way down! This went through several rebirths and needed an ever-increasing handling crew, but it was great fun.

We had been largely unaware of what Peter Lynn had been doing in Ashburton, and his visits to Wellington were a shot in the arm: lots of new ideas expounded with great enthusiasm. We all resolved to be more adventurous. We were finding that sail makers were able to let us have offcuts

of spinnaker nylon and on a couple of occasions I came back from Hoods in Auckland with two big sacks of quite large pieces. Happy days of freebies, now long past! We were getting into fibreglass and we were finding that there were kitefolk in many parts of New Zealand, as well as learning about the rapidly growing interest around the world in kite flying.

After a kite fly at Elsdon Park in Porirua one Sunday in 1984, we met in Bob Maysmor's office to consider getting better organised. Peter Lynn was visiting, and he urged us to form into the New Zealand Kitefliers' Association. After discussion, we did just that, with Peter Lynn as President, Bob Maysmor as Secretary, the late Harry Luyk as Treasurer, and me as Information officer.

We soon found kite flyers appearing from all over the country. An offer came from Napier to have a gathering, and in 1986 we all assembled at Colenso School. It was fun meeting a wider group and seeing what they had been making. I had seen the Seven Sisters design in a magazine and decided to make one: parka nylon, dowels and selected bamboo. It went well and looked fine.

I envy the graphic artists who get great effects from a simple swish of colour. Most of us cannot do this and maybe we imitate what we see in the incoming magazines. I like the making as much as the flying, but I don't think I have the knack for the lovely detailed appliqué that some produce.

My favourite kites? Probably one or two of my old faithfuls. Next project? Probably a very vivid big flow form, a hybrid of a design by Harald Prinzler in Germany and some heavy modifications by me. Watch this space . . ."

THE CODY WORKSHOP

by Stephen Cook

Winston Churchill said "Never before have so many owed so much to so few" (or something similar). At Labour weekend his words could well have been "Never before has someone helped so few to sew so many . . ." Codys, that is.

A basic small Cody was the plan, but oh, the variations! Is that standard or with an extended wing? Is that plain or with scalloped edges? Is that single colour or multi? Is that with or without rigging lines? Is that with one or two sets of rigging. And what combination would you like? Any fries with that, sir?

In the end I created an extended wing, plain edged, multi-coloured, double rigged version! I write this about a month after the event and I still have not flown it. Weather and commitments do not allow. But I achieved a tight skin, simple colours and learned some new techniques. I am pleased I again made the effort to set aside the long weekend.

Des Pitfield ran his first workshop for us and an informative and patient teacher he was. Clear instructions, good advice, and he even liked my choice of music.

What are YOU doing next Labour Weekend? I know where I would like to be.

ABOVE: Tony Fitchett hard at work during the Labour Weekend Cody workshop

WE WUZ FIRST

I see some upstart Government organisation liked our magazine's name so much they've appropriated it for their own use. What's Up?, apart from being our favourite kite magazine, is now also the name of a youth aid organisation. Reader poll time: should we sue the Government or just let them know we beat them to it?

MORE ON THE CODY

Interesting to learn from Anne Whitehead at the Labour Weekend Cody workshop that it was almost 100 years exactly since Colonel Samuel Franklin Cody patented the man-lifting system used in conjunction with his famous box kite. Also, Anne tells me she's working on an article about Cody, so you'll be able to catch that in a future issue.

PESKY CATS

Quite a few members have probably heard of the Whitehead cats' habit of peeing on their owners' kites when they stack them prior to departure for yet another far-flung kite

fest. Well, one of the Wotton moggies went one better as your editor gathered his toolkit for the Cody workshop: she peed on the sewing machine. At least the Whitehead cats don't have a problem with Anne and Peter making kites!

ALL QUIET ON THE WAIKATO FRONT

Disappointing to get an e-mail from Charlie Watson the other day telling me that there's no longer an official Waikato flying day. However, Lorraine is continuing as Regional Representative.

INTERNATIONALISM RULES, OK?

A short take from David Gomberg's website demonstrating yet again the truly international nature of kiting. At the opening ceremony of a Hong Kong international kite festival, David was intrigued to see a man clad in kilt and snow-white bearskin hat (fake fur, I hope) leading a Chinese marching band playing "La Bamba". The mind boggles. (Item courtesy David Gomberg at www.Gombergkites.com)

kite-toons

drawings by Stacey Mead

REAL KITERS ...

...don't get annoyed with line tangles. They can sometimes be a social occasion.



...don't care that they've stepped in dog poop until after the winds have died down.



...most importantly, enjoy flying kites without worrying about whether they're real kites!

BELL'S HEXAGONAL BOX KITE (OR,

by Bruce Comfort

Nursing a broken leg, caused by my trail bike running into a tree in 1976, I cast around (excuse the pun) for something heroic to do, to fill my time, whilst recuperating.

I had made a few kites before and I had used David Pelham's *Penguin Book of Kites* to make a rather beautiful Marconi-rigged kite, which was an indifferent flier, and a very good large flare kite.

I had made both these kites with parka nylon and spars from a plank of beautiful old and seasoned California redwood which I cut and tapered with a plane (I still have some of them as an example of how stiff and light good, straight-grained wooden spars can be and how enthusiastic I was about finishing the frame of my kites as elegantly as I could).

Now the Hexagonal Box on p.193 caught my eye. All the panels were rectangular and regular, and the sewing seemed straight-forward (although Pelham gives little away in this regard and despite the book having fourteen pages on assembly and manufacture, you needed to be innovative or experienced in order to translate his isometric drawings into patterns and then assemble the kite. As an example, look at the Cody War Kite on p.184 and then think of how much you need to know, over and above those drawings, in order to actually sew a Cody). The instructions on fabric kites pre-date rip-stop fabric, but they were reasonably appropriate for parka nylon – the fabric of choice in 1976.

And so it began!

The NZKA was in its infancy in 1976 and adult kitemakers were in a minority in New Zealand.

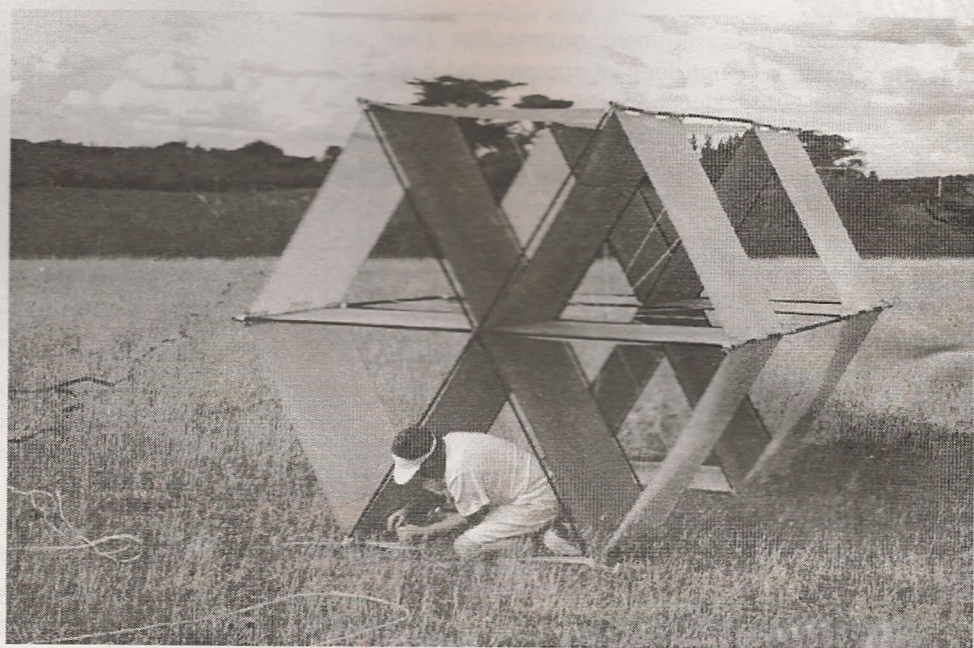
There were really only four or five of us in Wellington at the time and three are still around as I write this! Generally, you did things with kites in splendid isolation. In my case, that meant discounting Pelham's advice that "this [kite] is extraordinarily heavy . . . difficult to make and not easily collapsible".

Having ignored the fine print (literally – look at the book!) enthusiasm took over and caution flew out the window. This kite was to be big. No mucking around, the parka cloth was not cheap but labour was inexhaustible whilst I had Joyce to sew and I was at home to supervise, so I SCALED UP. Big time!

First mistake! Joyce refused to sew the kite (in case it didn't fly and she got the blame – am I that sort of guy, really!??) so I had to take sewing lessons from her.

If you have the book you'll see the design calls for six double longerons running inside the fabric cells and four sets of six cell bracers [spars] all force fitted and held in place by friction only. Second mistake! Pelham was an optimist. Kites over four metres long flout friction.

Pelham's book doesn't allude to running the longerons in



The hexagonal box at Eltham, Easter 1991. Bruce appears to be making some running repairs, but it's possible he was on his knees praying that it wouldn't crash again . . .

pockets or in any other way keeping them in place relative to the [fabric] cells. I suspect that this is because for a normal sized kite, field assembly would be *relatively* easy but at over four metres long I guessed that extensive engineering would be needed to transport, assemble and fly this kite. I reckoned, however, that the kite could be collapsed with the longerons still inside it to aid re-assembly next time.

All this is so obvious now and if you look at any box kite, that's the way we all make them, but in 1976 it wasn't a "given". Then there were the spars to design and the six diagonal braces from corner to corner running the full length of the kite that had to be inserted each time and made from non-stretch material (I ended up using polythene fishing net rope that seemed to have zero stretch for these braces).

There has been much exaggeration (and I am as guilty as anyone) about how big this kite was. It was never actually measured but now I open Pelham's book to look at the plans, I see my notes in the margin that convince me it was 4280mm long and 2310mm in "diameter" and I guess that is quite big. Each cell was a 2310mm diameter hexagon 1190 long and the two cells were separated by 1840mm of exposed longerons. It filled our living room and it wouldn't go through the garage door.

Something that long, of course, needed a bit of planning for transportation. I decided that the roof-rack was the way to go, so the longerons got fixed at about 2100 and 2080, joining therefore approximately at their centre point. And the spars were even longer. This kite never travelled in a car, always on the roof!

The double spars (broken at the centre but joined effectively by a simple double socket with a captive pin) were

A NIGHTMARE ON ANY STREET)

kept in pairs with a pin and labelled with respect to the position they occupied in the kite. I also made the spars in captive sets, in threes, pivoted at their centre point about a single pin rather than by using a hex joiner as other kite makers might have. This enabled me to open the spar sets (there were four such) a bit like a fan and they never got lost.

What I've carefully avoided up until now is telling you about the materials of the frame. You guessed it – the book says dowel, so dowel it was. Twelve mm for everything – and I had no idea of the forces on such a big kite in a 20 knot wind.

The first flight was at Petone on a small recreation ground near Ava Station. It was a cold southerly and quite a few friends were present to help assemble the kite. It looked great on the ground in its bright red and yellow, but in retrospect the photos show a frame that looks delicate, fragile and out of proportion to the kite!

The kite flew instantly and exuberantly, arcing up on its line as box kites do (bridled right first time) until in seconds it hit maximum altitude, determined by the angle of bridling and the lift-to-drag ratio.

In this case that was at about 70 degrees and that was mighty frightening as it was on a long line and it pulled like hell. Tony Fitchett and David Bowie were there and we were cautious enough to anchor the flying line before we launched the kite. Launching in a sufficient wind simple consisted of lifting the leading cell and the wind generally did the rest.

However, what was most amazing about this first flight was the shape the kite adopted as the frame bent in the wind under all the pressures on each panel. Indescribable but lozenge shaped comes close – not a straight line in the thing! Well, we all knew immediately that the frame wasn't up to it, but hey it flew and it HAD to be the biggest kite in the country!

In that original format this kite flew (or was tugged into the sky) about five more times, at various venues, the last being at Porirua at one of the community kite days in 1992 when a rogue gust made the whole kite "explode" as spar after spar after longeron shattered at a height which made everyone duck as bits of dowel fell like javelins. I have a photo of Joyce and me sitting in a pile of ruins that look like some hippy's fluorescent wigwam that just fell over!

The failure of the frame was clearly caused by catastrophic failure of the excessively bent dowel spars, so the next iteration of this kite was with aluminium alloy spars. The paired dowel longerons were retained and guess what? The next time something broke it was the longerons.

The kite went out of circulation for some time whilst I contemplated the next iteration, knowing that expensive longeron materials were now inevitable.

The double longeron design clearly implied double cost so the design was re-worked to place a *single* longeron outside the fabric cells.

This involved sewing 36 tubes onto the outside and a complete re-work of the way the spars "snapped" into the longerons. The longerons were tubular fibreglass (20mm internal diameter – at a cost of about \$400) and the

aluminium alloy tube spars cost about \$100, as I recall. The kite had now cost upwards of \$600 in materials alone. It was a big re-build. I even included powder coating the previously bare aluminium black, to match the fibreglass.

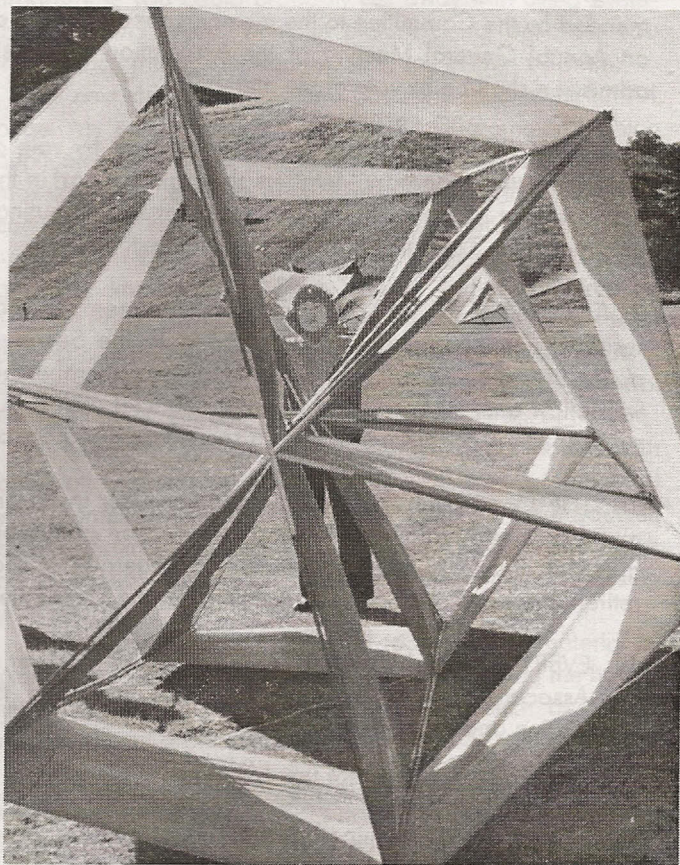
The end result, which included quite elegant joints at the spar/longeron interface was now robust and relatively easy to assemble on the field, however the kite was now quite heavy and it took a good breeze to fly it. But it was as good as it would get.

In the wind on an open paddock, it was still hard work to put it together and look after it. I well remember, as do other NZKA members, that the damned thing would occasionally fly horizontally across the field if it escaped from its tether, swinging about the anchor point in a perfect arc at ground level, trailing clods of dirt and any children, deck chairs or parked cars that were in its way. Altogether too risky and nerve-wracking for continued ownership and use by an older flyer.

After owning this icon of obstinacy for more than 12 years it was finally sold at our kite auction in Napier at the second international festival, to an unnamed but not forgotten buyer from the UK, who still probably doesn't know quite what hit him.!

If this kite were made today from rip-stop and carbon fibre it would be magnificent but lethal so I don't even contemplate doing it.

Been there. Done that. Got the scars!



This 1978 photo shows Joyce Comfort psyching herself up for a launch

Rules of the New Zealand Kitefliers' Association Inc.

1. The name of the Association shall be "The New Zealand Kitefliers Association Incorporated".

2. REGISTERED OFFICE The registered office of the Association shall be at the residence of the Honorary Secretary of the Association serving at the time.

3. OBJECTS. The object of the Association shall be to encourage and develop kitemaking and kiteflying.

4. MEMBERSHIP. Association membership shall be open to people of all ages.

5. THE Association may consist of Life Members, Ordinary Members, and Honorary Members. An Ordinary Member shall be an individual who has completed an application form and for whom a current subscription has been paid. If they are nominated, the partner or spouse of a subscription paying member and any other members of the family household under eighteen years of age may also be Ordinary Members.

6. ADMISSION OF MEMBERS. Membership of the Association shall be by completing an approved application form and by payment of current membership fees.

7. MEMBERS may be admitted as Life Members of the Association for meritorious service in the interest of kite flying. Candidates for Life Membership shall be recommended by the Committee to the members for admission at an Annual General Meeting of the Association and their admission shall be by vote of the members.

8. ADMISSION of Honorary Members shall be by vote of the Committee. Honorary Members shall take no part in the management of the Association but may attend its outings and meetings. They may not vote at such meetings.

9. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP Any member may resign his or her membership by giving to the Secretary notice in writing to that effect. Termination of membership will follow after six months of the new financial year if due subscription is not paid, following a second demand notice.

10. THE Committee may, at any time, by letter invite any member to retire from membership for any form of misconduct detrimental to the Association and in default of such retirement, expel a member by resolution of the Committee.

11. EVERY person shall upon ceasing to be a member of the Association forfeit all right to and claim upon the Association and its property.

12. SUBSCRIPTION. The Annual Subscription shall be such sums as shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting in each year and paid at the time of making application for membership and thereafter paid annually by a date fixed by the Committee.

13. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. The entire management of the Association (except as otherwise provided for by these Rules) shall be deputed to a committee consisting of the President, Immediate Past President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and four other elected committee members. Appointed members shall continue to hold office until they vacate their office or are replaced by the Association at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.

14. COMMON SEAL The Committee shall provide a Common Seal for the Association and they shall have power from time to time to destroy the same and substitute a new seal in lieu thereof. The Common Seal shall be in the custody of and under the control of the Secretary, who shall affix the same to all instruments requiring the same, but only in pursuance of a resolution of the Committee to that effect.

15. BY-LAWS. The Committee shall from time to time make, repeal and amend all such-by-laws and regulations (not inconsistent with these rules) as they shall think expedient for the internal management and well being of the Association.

16. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held no later than March 31 st or Easter observance whichever may be the later, in each year upon a date and at a time fixed by the Committee for the following purposes:-

(a) To receive from the Committee a Report, Balance Sheet, and Statement of Accounts for the preceding financial year.

(b) To elect the Officers and the Committee and to appoint an Auditor for the ensuing year.

(c) To decide on any motion which may be duly submitted to the meeting.

(d) To determine the annual subscription for the forthcoming year.

(e) To discuss any matters of general business.

17. ANY member desirous of submitting any motion in terms of Rule 23 at the Annual General Meeting shall give notice thereof in writing to the Secretary not less than four weeks before the date of such meeting.

18. FOURTEEN DAYS' NOTICE TO BE GIVEN OF ANNUAL AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS. Fourteen days at least before the Annual General Meeting or any Special General Meeting, a notice of such meeting and of the business of which notice has been given shall be delivered to each member.

19. PROCEDURE AT MEETINGS. At all General Meetings of the Association the President or in the President's absence, a member of the Committee, shall take the chair. Every Ordinary or Life Member present shall be entitled to one vote upon every motion and in the case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall have a second, or casting vote. The Committee shall be empowered, if it thinks fit, to make regulations for enabling members unable to be present to

EDITOR SAVED BY THE BELL

by Richard Wotton

I kept the lid on part one of this saga in the last issue of *What's Up?* because I didn't want my legions of loyal readers worrying about me, but now there's been a happy ending I can share the tale with you.

Earlier this year Mrs Ed designed and sewed a Della Porta, which was duly test flown and admired for its artistic virtuosity. Cut to the Father's Day fly at Ohakea . . . no Della Porta to be found in the car boot! As I'd been in charge of packing kite gear for the weekend, my actions were as suspect as those of Osama bin Laden a fortnight later. Even a search of the basement factory, on our return home, failed to turn up any sign of the absentee aerial artifact.

Now, cut to our return home from the Labour Weekend Cody workshop in Wellington . . . Looking for somewhere to file two small scraps of yellow ripstop from the workshop, I spied a bag of what appeared to be yellow ripstop scraps under my workbench. Lo and behold, the bag of scraps turned out to be Dalwyne's long-lost Della Porta with its bright yellow tail. It was a touching reunion.

And just to prove she doesn't bear a grudge, Mrs Ed has made me a beautiful wall hanging – featuring diamond kites – which now graces the editorial office suite.

As with most stories, I think there's a moral here: Keep your workroom tidy, and make bags for your kites as soon as they're completed. (Yes Geoff, I know I still haven't made a bag for the Red Baron, but at least I can see at a glance what's in the carton.)

Some useful Internet kite sites

Peter Peters lists almost everything at www.win.tue.nl/~pp/kites

Andrew Beattie has a lot of information at www.kites.tug.com

For all the information you're likely to want about flowforms, look at <http://members.aol.com/hprinzler>

For splendid pictures from British festivals look at www.aeolian.co.uk/kites/kites01/kites01.html

Also look at:

www.kitez.com, www.kitebuilder.com

<http://kitering.kitelife.com>

<http://www.deltas.freemove.co.uk/knots.html>

<http://qldkiteflyerssociety.com.au/linkfarm.html>

<http://www.deltas.freemove.co.uk/knots.html>

<http://qldkiteflyerssociety.com.au/linkfarm.html>

<http://anthony.kitelife.com/>

<http://www.peterlynnkites.co.nz/>

<http://www.win.tue.nl/~pp/kites/>

<http://www.batoco.org/>

<http://www.nzka.org.nz/>

<http://www.gombergkites.com/>

<http://www.kitebuilder.com/plans.html>

<http://www.kitelife.com/>

<http://www.csun.edu/~hfoao033/fighters.html>

<http://www.xs4all.nl/~pdj/>

<http://www.freespiritkites.com/pages/plan.htm>

<http://www.geocities.com/duyvis2001/home.html>

<http://dh.kites.8m.com/>

If you have others, e-mail them to the Editor or to our Webmaster so we can help spread the good word.

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

Waiuku

Rugby Club Grounds, Waiuku

Contact: Jim Ayers 09 232 0251

Wanganui

Springvale Park (every Sunday)

Contact: Richard Wotton 06 343 2770

Wellington

Ngatitua Domain, Plimmerton

Contact: Tony Fitchett 04 478 5575

PROTECT THOSE EYES

by Richard Wotton

Having recently read a newspaper article warning of an even larger than usual hole in the ozone layer this summer, a warning about eye protection seems timely.

While all sensible kites wear a broad-brimmed hat for protection from the sun, because we spend so much time with our heads back while we gaze admiringly at our latest creations there is going to be greater than normal exposure to damaging UV rays.

So do your eyes a favour: buy a good quality pair of wrap-around shades for the summer flying season. I picked up a pair which fit closely and protect my eyes from stray sunlight around the edges and from the sides.

And don't forget the sunblock, plus a chapstick for the lips.

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 and 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.

Raven Kites, 1 Victoria Avenue, Wanganui.

Phone 06 348 5805, fax 348 5806.

Services offered: SI, DI, Bu, C, power kites.

NZKA COMMITTEE

President

Peter Whitehead
59 Makara Road
Karori

Wellington

drachen@paradise.net.nz

Phone 04 476 7227

Fax 04 938 6825

Secretary

Tony Fitchett
3 Arapiko St
Johnsonville

tonyf@paradise.net.nz

Phone 04 478 5575

Treasurer

Stephen Cook
19 Arapiko Street
Johnsonville

stephen.rosemary@paradise.net.nz

Phone 04 972 2036

Committee Members

John Mason
"Tahuna"

13 Osier Rd

Napier

John.Mason@clear.net.nz

Phone 06 844 0127

Robert van Weers

4 Gill Crescent

Blenheim

aztec@paradise.net.nz

Phone 03 578 6484

025 247 0771

Ray McCully

7 Goodwin Avenue

Rotorua

mccullyr@xtra.co.nz

Phone 07 348 3828

Raelle Connolly

283 Marine Parade

Napier

manoronparade@xtra.co.nz

Phone 06 834 3885

834 3881

David Bowie

(Immediate Past President)

19 Bedford Grove

Kelson, Lower Hutt

dbowie@paradise.net.nz

Phone 04 565 0736

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Membership Secretary

David Bowie

dbowie@paradise.net.nz

Phone 04 565 0736

Corporate Goods

Rosemary Cook

stephen.rosemary@paradise.net.nz

Phone 04 477 2036

What's Up? Editor

Richard Wotton

44 Wairere Road

Wanganui

kody.k@xtra.co.nz

Phone 06 343 2770

A NEW KITE SHOP ON THE BLOCK

Would-be kites in Wanganui are now able to get themselves off to a flying start by visiting Raven Kites, at the bottom end of Victoria Avenue.

Well-known Wanganui kite enthusiast Geoff Campbell has decided to combine his interest in kites with his computer sales and service business, Computer Valet, and provide an outlet for good quality kites that won't break the bank.

As we've all seen too many times, cheap kites are sold by people who know nothing about flying them and the end result is generally frustration for Mum or Dad and disappointed kids, because it won't fly. Geoff is looking forward

to serving up lots of cheery advice to his customers to help put them on the right track and enable them to get a lot of fun for their kite dollar.

If you're passing through Wanganui, call in and see Geoff at 1 Victoria Avenue. If he's not up to his ears in computer chips out the back of the shop, I'm sure he'd be happy to pour you a cup of coffee and talk kites.



Geoff Campbell

Caption Contest



If you have a bright idea for a caption to match this shot of NZKA treasurer Stephen Cook and local Lion Peter Jones taken at the Johnsonville kite day send it to the editor. There's no prize other than sharing your wit with our readers.

AN EDITORIAL APPRECIATION

In this last issue of the year, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those who've contributed words and photos to share with the magazine's readers. Keep up the good work. — Mr Ed

NZKA KITE-FLYING DAYS

December 2001

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

January 2002

- | | |
|----|---|
| 6 | NZKA monthly fly Wellington,
Waiuku |
| 13 | NZKA monthly fly Dunedin
Napier Hastings |
| 20 | NZKA monthly fly Bay of Plenty
Nelson
Palmerston North |
| 27 | NZKA monthly fly Auckland
Christchurch |

February

- | | |
|----|---|
| 3 | NZKA monthly fly Wellington,
Waiuku |
| 10 | NZKA monthly fly Dunedin
Napier
Hastings |
| 17 | NZKA monthly fly Bay of Plenty
Nelson
Palmerston North |
| 24 | NZKA monthly fly Auckland
Christchurch |

March

- | | |
|----|---|
| 3 | NZKA monthly fly Wellington
Waiuku |
| 10 | NZKA monthly fly Dunedin
Napier Hastings |
| 17 | NZKA monthly fly Bay of Plenty
Nelson
Palmerston North |
| 24 | NZKA monthly fly Auckland
Christchurch |



NATIONAL ANNUAL NZKA ROKKAKU CHALLENGE – RULES AND GUIDELINES

BACKGROUND

The name *rokkaku* means "hexagonal" in Japanese. The rokkaku kite is indigenous to Shirone city in the Niigata prefecture of Japan. Local kite-makers produce big rokkaku specifically for battles, but smaller kites which are much more elaborate with traditional paintings on them are also produced in the region. The history of these fighting kites can be traced back 300 years, but the 2.5 metre rokkaku are only 100 years old and are referred to as the Sanjo rokkaku. This design allows for the spine to be removed for easier transportation.

The Japanese rokkaku is flown with a team of four or five people and during the fighting there can be between 30 and 50 kites in the sky at any one time.

The NZKA has been involved with fighting rokkaku for some years, with the first challenge for the Harris Cup (a plywood replica of the real thing donated by Bill and Shona Harris) being held in Feilding at Easter 1988. At that time rokkaku of about 1.2 metres or less were used, with one person per kite. At the Napier International Festival in 1990 larger rokkaku were used for the first time (New Zealand men being victorious over some fifteen other international teams!) and by popular demand of participating members the larger rokkaku are now the *standard*.

A national NZKA championship is usually fought for at each annual festival.

INTERESTED ??

General rules follow. The rokkaku should be around 2.2 metres or more high with a ratio of five units high by four units wide. It should be robustly built. While rokkaku are very stable kites they can be adjusted to give a wide range of flying characteristics.

The number of rokkaku involved varies year to year, but the more the merrier. Subject to the wind, fitness and stamina are not all-important, any participants are welcome and almost anyone can be involved. The event tests skill, judgement, cunning, bribery and – not least – sense of humour. There are rest breaks between rounds, and the overall objective is to have fun. If any damage is done to kites it is generally very small. I have fought at about 10 festivals since 1989, and many other times with no kite damage at all.

Display events at public days are very popular, particularly with a commentary given, and often the team antics on the ground are more entertaining than the antics of the kites. *Kitelines* issue Summer-Fall 1991 has an excellent article which was reprinted in *What's Up?* no. 38.

GUIDELINES/RULES

The following guidelines/rules will be followed in the spirit of the challenge, i.e. participant fun and enjoyment, spectator entertainment and judging without stress!

Kite and Size. Participants to provide their own kite. Sanjo Rökkaku to be the design and minimum size to be about two metres. Materials and manufacture are own choice. **Hint:** a design clearly showing "which way is up" can be helpful.

Flying Line. Maximum permitted length is 60 metres. No kevlar, wire or abrasive lines allowed. **Hint:** use 3.5mm braided polyester or similar, and keep one line aside for this activity as it will become weakened. NZKA may provide a standard line at each event for a small fee, and this should ensure more even battles.

Teams. Teams to be a minimum of two persons (including the launcher) and maximum of four. At least two team members to participate in the battle field. Team colours may be worn. **Hint:** Gloves for hand protection should be considered compulsory.

Rounds. There will be three rounds, with a ten-minute or less rest and repair break in between. Four rounds will be fought if participants demand, or if judges are confused. Each round lasts until one kite remains flying, or 15 minutes elapses.

Points. One point for first to be cut away or touch ground, two points for second etc. Most points at end of rounds is winner. Once cut free a kite is deemed down until next round. **Hint:** Judges' decision is final, but pleading and begging may help.

Fighting rules. These are very few. Kites are launched immediately on a given signal. Failure to join battle within three minutes, or failure to actively participate may lead to loss in that round. All team members to stay in the allotted field area. **Hint:** Cross from side to side, leap around and yell. Judges may consider you are actually doing battle.

General Etiquette. Do not re-launch if cut, or if kite has been downed. May re-launch or continue flying to prevent kite damage, but do not deliberately affect the outcome of continuing battle.

Remember to fight the kites and not the people! Judges should explain rules prior to the challenge. Deliberate body contact is not permitted.

Ensure that spectators are cleared from the fighting area, stress to them it is for their own safety. **Hint:** Challenge a kiteflier to a running backwards race.

Remember it is not a contact sport, but incidental contact may occur. Language is to be consistent with that acceptable to participants and spectators.

Always wear leather gloves.

Participate and enjoy.

Final hint: ALWAYS CLAIM VICTORY, IT MAY HELP. If not, consider bribing a judge!

Give it a go ! Let's have 20 teams at a national event !

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Bay of Plenty

Bill Cunningham
135 Pahoia Rd
RD 2
Tauranga

Phone 07 548 1044

Auckland

Perrin Melchior
111 Symonds Street
Auckland

Phone 09 358 0991

Nelson

Ted Howard
Montgomery Square
Nelson

Phone 03 548 8707

Wanganui

Richard Wotton
44 Wairere Road
Wanganui

Phone 06 343 2770
kody.k@xtra.co.nz

Christchurch

Steve Brorens
6 Hayes Rise
Governors Bay

Phone 03 329 9449

CONTACT PEOPLE

Wellington

Tony Fitchett
3 Arapiko Street
tonyf@paradise.net.nz
Johnsonville

Phone 04 478 5575

Waikato

Lorraine Watson
6 Long Street
Raglan

Phone 07 825 7290

Napier / Hastings

Bill McLachlan
2A Read Crescent
Clive

Phone 06 870 0205

THE NZKA KITE ARCH PROJECT

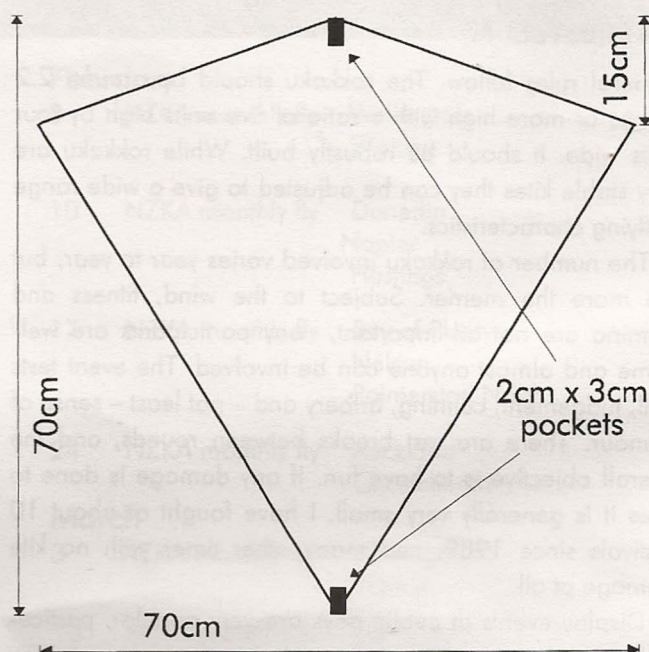
The members' arch is for every member to make at least one kite. It can be any colour or pattern but should follow the outline shown. The kite should be as individualistic as possible, expressing something of the member. It can be a design you like or have used on one of your kites – for example, you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





Permit No. 50 Porirua, New Zealand

What's Up?

a newsletter for kitefliers



Published quarterly by
The New Zealand Kitefliers' Association
P.O. Box 56
Wellington