

# *What's Up?*

September 2002

*A newsletter for kitefliers*

Number 73



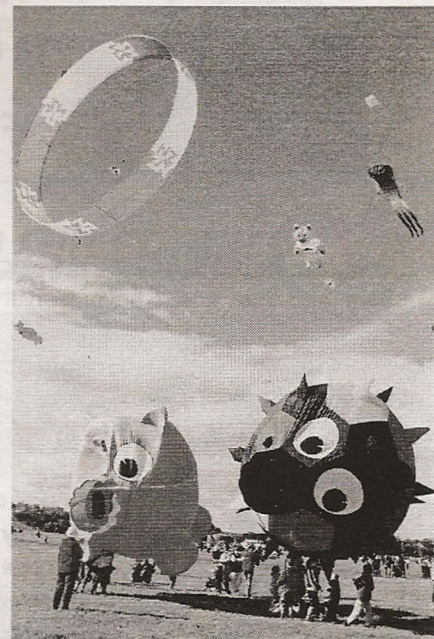
NEW ZEALAND KITEFLIERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

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## CONTENT

- 2 Whitehead's Words
- 3 Letters to the Editor
- 4 New NZKA Kite; Name That Bear
- 5 Wanganui/Ohakea Kite Days
- 6 Kites on the Winds of War
- 9 A Tale of Two Workshops
- 10 Webmaster's Script  
Festival of the Winds Canned
- 11 Muriwai Moose Meet  
Member Profile: Gretchen Howard
- 12 Roving Camera at Wanganui and Ohakea
- 14 Small Wonder: The Fighter Kite



OHAKEA ACTION  
Page 5



THESE INTERLOPERS AT THE WANGANUI KITE DAY  
WERE WEARING NZKA MEMBERSHIP TAGS, BUT  
NOBODY KNEW WHO THEY WERE . . . Page 5

- 15 Hawke's Bay Buggy Blast  
Two Coming Events
- 16 Regional Roundup
- 17 Labour Weekend Workshop  
New members; Events Calendar
- 18 2003 National Festival
- 19 Festival Etiquette
- 20 NZKA Rules
- 22 NZKA Committee; Trade Directory
- 23 NZKA Flying Days/Sites
- 24 Regional Reps; The Arch Project

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COVER PHOTO: NZKA Treasurer Stephen Cook took time out from his counting house to pass on a few tips to some novice stunt pilots at the Ohakea Father's Day fly-in.





# Whitehead's Words

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Well, the big news is that the Association now has its Teddy Bear and lifter kite. I have seen the photos, and you can too at our website. If you wish to borrow the Teddy Bear kite you will need to become accredited (certified) as a large kite flyer. To do this you will need to attend a kite festival where the bear is flying and be schooled by a qualified person.

I look forward to meeting many of you at festivals during the summer months, and send my best wishes to kitefliers travelling to Bondi this year. The contingent has quietly grown to about eight that I know are going. Sadly, this year we won't be able to attend this festival, as work and other commitments are taking a lot of my time.

I'll tell a little story about the tube worm that I've just made. We had just finished our hung-over octopus and I decided that a spider would be the next thing. I had tried to make a spider 10 years ago, but it didn't inflate well and was really just a flappy thing on the line. Also after thrashing about on the Barcelona sands it did smell a bit of the sea. So I decided I knew a lot more now and would remake the spider. I got to the legs and decided that re-doing eight legs (like the octopus) was not very much fun, and that I'd work a little down the evolutionary scale and make an animal/bug that had no legs. I'd already made the abdomen section by this stage, so I changed the creature into a flat worm – not a really sexy creature, as evidenced by our first fly of the two kites together. Some young children came up and were saying "cool octopus, but what's the other thing?" So I had a lot of explaining to do on that one, just as I have to explain the serpent kite of the face with sunglasses is not Michael Jackson. The next incarnation is going to have red hair so there will be no thought that it's Michael Jackson.

Speaking of the website, go and have a look for other new kites made by members over the last few months. There are some interesting new kites being built. You should also have a look at the web site to check out upcoming festivals. There are a lot starting to advertise (as many kite days as possible will also be in the magazine), some even into February 2003, so start planning your travels and accommodation now.

The kite days seem to be appearing in lots of different places as well as some good old faithful kite days. I've always recommended the Nelson kite weekend in January. This year was probably the worst, as the council had dug up a fair portion of the field for drainage purposes, but that

is finished by now and we should all receive the benefits of the better grounds on future kite days.

There's a new kite day in Taupo in February and then the next day in Rotorua. This should be a good weekend away for people (three days for some of us).

Palmerston North is hosting a kite day along the lines of this year's event. Hopefully the wind will not be quite strong this time.

Did anyone else see the movie *Monsoon Wedding* and the shots of Indian fighter kites over the city at dusk? What a sight that was. It really did bring to life some of the kite flying in India I have read and dreamed about.

The Labour Weekend kite-making classes will be held again this year and you should book early for them. Even though we have been experiencing strong winds for about a year now, we are planning to make two different light-wind kites. Light winds will return and you need to be ready for them, with a new design and a classic light-wind kite. See the workshop article on page 17 and get in quick with your booking for a place (places are limited by the size of the room).

David Bowie is going to teach how to make the classic Roller on Saturday and Sunday. I am going to teach making a simple light-wind kite, a design I saw in Malaysia last year made by some Germans (Rolf Sturm and Peter Releit). The parameters for making the kite were to be minimal cutting of spars (I relate to that. You should only need to cut one spar to fit.) The kite should have economical use of material in its construction (which it does.) As a bonus it has a single-point bridle, and has a small tail. I am intending to cut and sew the kite on the Monday, and then let attendees go and decorate the kite at their leisure. The main thing about cutting the kite out will be reasonably accurate measuring. The kite will measure two K75 spars wide (164 cm) and about 1.25 metres tall.

There's another copy of the members' addresses and telephone numbers enclosed with this issue. For the record, I did see that the phone numbers were missing the last digit of the phone number on the right hand column, but by this stage I had already enveloped about half the magazines.

Don't forget annual membership dues will be sent out in September.

Peter Whitehead  
President





# Letters TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Are we ready for this yet? It is some years since I suggested a change to our logo by the inclusion of a koru pattern in the top section of the design. At the time, it was rejected on several grounds by our committee: too hard to change, too expensive and Maori tokenism.

The recent reprint of Bob Maysmor's treatise on the Maori kite shows a greater interest in the revival of this craft. The awesome birdman kite in the Auckland Museum is a reminder of the beautiful kites that once graced our skies.

More of our kite fliers are visiting overseas festivals and the koru pattern is instantly recognised as New Zealand and a symbol of the bicultural nature of our society. It seems fitting that we acknowledge this in our logo.

Jim Ayers,  
Clark's Beach



Dear Editor

In the last issue, Jim Ayers raised an interesting question as to whether the Maori birdman kites faced the heavens or the flier when flown. It is not a question that I can provide a clear answer to, despite having discussed the topic with a number of people. In fact, there may well be two answers, depending on which period of history is being considered. Certainly, in ages past, the kite was seen by the Maori as a way for the human spirit to reach out to the gods. Often built in the form of a bird, the kites were sometimes seen as the actual physical representation of the gods, so in this regard the kites may well have faced the heavens. Sadly, we are talking about the Tawhaki period which was about the 8th century and clearly there are no records or oral tradition dating from that time.

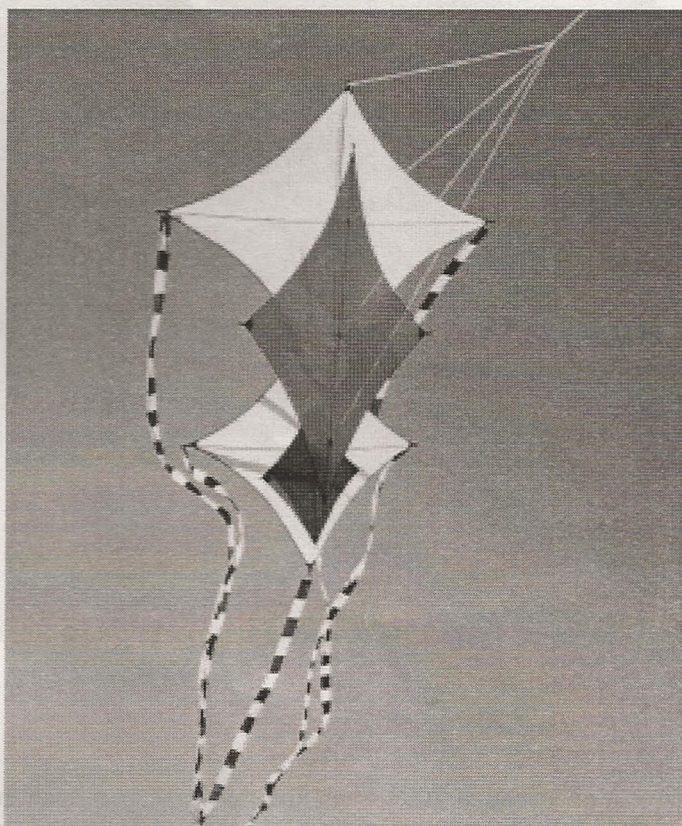
In more recent times, when kiteflying had lost its religious connotations and had become a recreation, albeit a competitive one at times, I believe the kites were flown facing the flier.

I have often wondered about the Auckland Museum birdman kite in as much as its apparent sail area to body weight ratio does seem to be quite low – meaning for the weight of the frame structure, the area of lifting surface seems small. Perhaps as the kite was knowingly made for George Grey to gift to a museum and not to fly, the decorative elements of the kite's structure were enhanced somewhat. Notwithstanding this possibility, it is obvious from the other birdman kite and Barraud's sketch that the frame structures of these kites were fairly intricate – again raising Jim's question as to whether the kites would have flown better with the sail covering facing into the wind.

Sorry Jim, no real answers, but we do know that these bigger kites needed more than a gentle wafting breeze to lift them. Of course, if you were to build one . . .

Bob Maysmor  
Paremata

## A SOUTH ISLAND STUNNER



This graceful kite, "Rising Diamonds", is Nelsonian Hans Podlucky's latest effort. An original design, Hans says development has been hampered somewhat by lack of flying opportunities, but it flew long enough at the Wanganui kite day for the editor to grab a shot of it.

## BIN WORRYIN'?



Reflecting on the Taliban's ban on kiteflying in Afghanistan, American comedian Jerry Seinfeld asked: "What were they worried about – that someone would discover electricity?"



# THE NZKA'S B-I-G NEW KITE



by Ray McCully

It all started in 2001 when Rosemary and I attended the Queensland Kitefliers' Society festival at Redcliff. The several large kites owned by the society, and their ability to make a decision to purchase another at a good price when the opportunity arose, impressed us. These kites are loaned to members for local kite days throughout Queensland, which means that all their festivals/kite days could have feature attractions that the average member could not afford to own.

Many members have, for some time, been concerned about what the NZKA is or should be doing for its members. These concerns have been raised at AGMs but no clear plan of action has emerged until this year. I have also been concerned that as an association without assets (buildings etc) to maintain, we seem to be accumulating a large amount of money without a clear strategy as to why.

It was proposed and adopted at the AGM this year that the NZKA purchase a large kite, a Peter Lynn midi inflatable being the suggestion. The committee has purchased a midi teddy bear (6m length) wearing a T-shirt with the NZKA logo, and a pilot kite for stability and lift when required.

In purchasing the bear, we considered that the first "big" kite needed to have as few safety issues as possible. For example, having minimal bridles, and no tail or tentacles that could trap children. Having a moderate lifting power and no spars was also a consideration.

With the large kite visibly linked to the NZKA via the logo, and the intention to fly it at public events, there is clearly a need to ensure the NZKA is not seen to be irresponsible.

The committee has prepared a set of rules for the use of the kite. They will be published in the next *What's Up?* and will accompany the kite. However, the main principles are that nominated members who own or have flown a large kite will be required to certify other members as being capable of safely flying the kite. In practice, it will mean that the first time a member requests the kite then either prior or at the kite day the nominated NZKA person must certify them.

I hope the NZKA bear will add that something extra to the kite days you as members may be involved in.

## Name That Bear

by Robert van Weers

To celebrate the new addition to the NZKA kite bag, we have organised a competition to give this bear a proper name. This way we will all know what we are talking about when referring to the kite. The bear family has now reached plague proportions.

The chief judge for the competition is Peter Lynn, with wife Elwyn as the assistant judge to make sure that decisions made by the head judge are not corrupt or biased. The winning entry will receive a "square kite", donated by me.

Entries can be sent to the NZKA, P.O. Box 56, Wellington, or you can e-mail your entry to [nzka@paradise.net.nz](mailto:nzka@paradise.net.nz), with "Name that Bear" in the subject line. You can also go to the website ([nzka.org.nz](http://nzka.org.nz)) and fill in the on-line application form.

The rules for the competition are very simple:

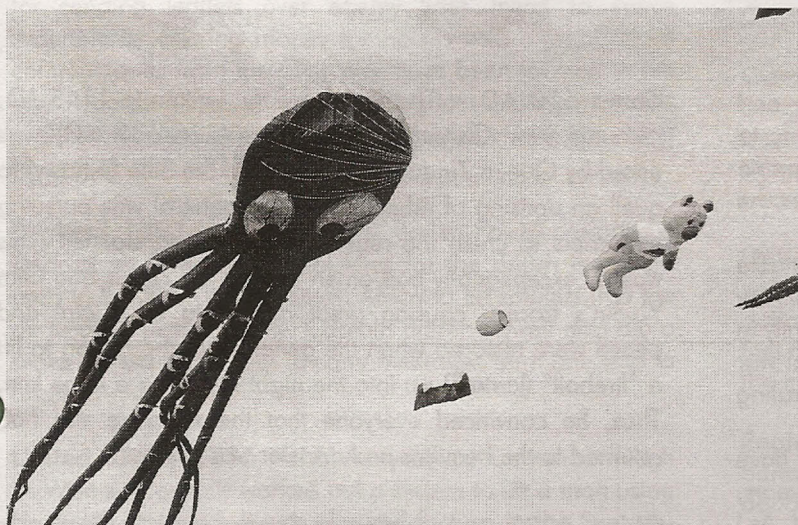
- Enter as many names as you like.
- All names are to be clearly written or typed. If we can't read it, it will be disallowed.
- The judge's decision is final.
- Entries that are politically, racial or religiously orientated will be disallowed.
- Competition ends October 21, 2002.

The winner will be notified by mail and the winning name will be posted on the NZKA website and in the following issue of *What's Up?*

Good luck everybody.



# WANGANUI AND OHAKEA TURN ON THE RIGHT (WEATHER) STUFF



by Hans Podlucky

After a long journey over the "ditch" and sleeping in a small cabin cramped with four loudly snoring people, we were a bit weary when we finally reached the green hills of Wanganui. A lot of kites were already in the air so we couldn't miss the flying site on Campbells farm just south of the city. The wind was blowing steadily but not too strong – perfect conditions!

After a brief catch-up with friends and an exchange of the latest kite news we were busy getting kites into the air. My flock of birds caused some interest at once (as they always do).

After I opened my second bag, containing a replica of a classic Milan kite, I had one well-known very excited fella around me who almost wet his pants during the inspection of my work! Unfortunately, one of the main spars snapped but we were able to fix it using Ted's superglue and tape. After that little accident it flew brilliantly and a lot of photos were taken.

The next kite I unwrapped was my latest creation, "Rising Diamonds". Due to lack of wind in the past couple of months this kite still needs some adjustments. The lower part still wobbles like crazy but I hope to have it fixed soon.

It was a sunny and warm afternoon but time was passing quickly and we had to head off into town, where we enjoyed the evening in excellent kiteflyer company. After host Richard solved the problem of pumping up our air mattresses by using a vacuum cleaner, we fell asleep almost immediately. The next morning gave us an incredible view over Wanganui and the mountains, surpassed only by the perfectly made and delicious breakfast served up by Dalwyne. After that, the second trip began.

TOP: Some of the aerial action at the Wanganui event.

RIGHT: This tot just loved the beach balls at Ohakea.

Early in the morning, Ohakea Air Force Base looked deserted, but soon the whole bunch of kitefliers arrived and up went the kites! Unfortunately, the wind dropped every now and then which kept us busy relaunching the kites, and one unknown member with a little black cat almost had a nervous breakdown . . . Shortly after noon the wind settled to a steady blow and soon more than one hundred kites were floating in the air. It was a spectacular sight and really made the journey worthwhile. Some of us had real fun burning rubber on the runway with our buggies.

We kept the kites in the air until late and then had to hurry for our dinner in the Air Force mess. The "hot room" accommodation was good except that the temperature was far too high, but an open window helped a lot. We were far too tired to complain and had a good night's sleep. Early next morning we had to leave Ohakea to catch the ferry back to the South Island.

I am still tired during writing this article but all the effort was worthwhile and we all have good memories of the weekend. So I say thank you to those who made these events happen and we all hope it will be held again next year.





# KITES ON THE WINDS OF WAR

by M. Robinson

With the nightly news saturated with reports of war and the recent uncovering of some exciting records pertaining to American Civil War kites, I thought it would be appropriate to explore the use of kites in military applications over the course of history.

For most of the examples below, we have indisputable proof that certain kites were indeed used for military purposes. Some of the historical military kites are currently in museums and private homes. Often, there were official war department photos, communiqués and even operating manuals.

On the other hand, there are also early stories that have been repeated in kite history books throughout the years, some with varying versions of how the events transpired. As I tried to trace the source of the information, I realized I was caught in a loop. Many of the books and authors referenced each other. This does not mean that the information is incorrect, but only that it has been flavored over the years by a certain amount of conjecture and embellishment. Some day, when the resource fairy delivers to me time and money, I hope to be able to offer more concrete evidence, taking these stories out of the realm of myth and placing them definitively in the kite history context in which they belong – just like the recent authentication of the use of kites in the American Civil War (see below).

This is far from an exhaustive compilation on the subject. Instead, it should be considered more of a sampling, a starting point.

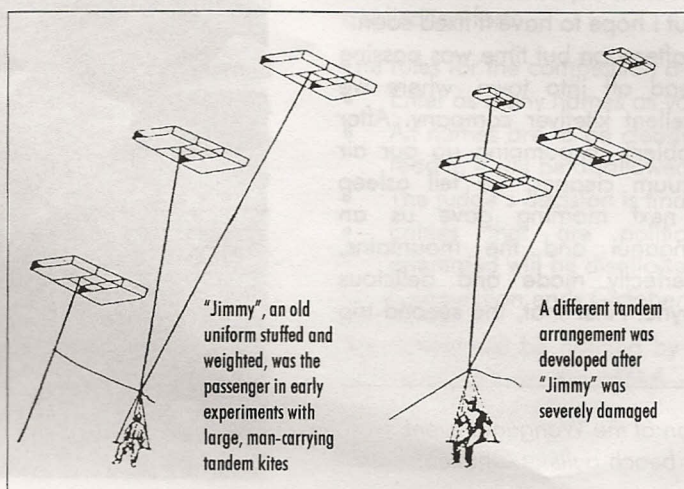
**China 202 BC** ~ B. Laufer writes in his book, *The Pre-History of Aviation*, of a general from the Han Dynasty, who, when his troops became cornered, devised a method of attaching Aeolian strings to a kite, so when flown under the cover of darkness over the enemy camp the sounds emitting from the kites were thought to be warnings from the gods, petrifying the opposing army and causing them to flee.

**Korea 600 AD** ~ The *Samguk Sagi*, written in 1145 AD, recounts how General Gim Yu-Sin (596–637 AD) was asked by Queen Zindong (28th ruler of the Silla Dynasty) to quell an uprising of rebels. While the general was pursuing his orders to crush the rebellion, a shooting star fell. This was an exceptionally bad omen to both the rebels and Gim Yu-Sin's troops, causing great anxiety to all. Calm and peace were restored when the general got the notion to lift a "fireball" (lantern) up into the night sky using a large kite. Thus, he convinced everyone that the shooting star had returned to the heavens and disaster was averted.

**China 1232** ~ According to *Science and Civilization in China*, J. Needham wrote that in 1232 the Chinese used kites for psychological warfare. Kites were used to drop leaflets into a compound that held prisoners, and the leaflets incited a riot that led to the prisoners' escape.

**India 1659** ~ As depicted by Bill Thomas in *The Complete World Of Kites*, the kite played an important role in an early territory battle between the Hindus and Muslims. A young Shah named Shivaji used a kite to get a line across a chasm near Poona. Under cover of darkness, kite line was replaced by rope and Shivaji's men were able to scale the wall of the fortress and overwhelm the guards.

**Russia 1855** ~ Admiral Sir Arthur Cochrane devised a method for kite use during the Russian war of 1855. Using 12ft kites, Cochrane towed torpedoes to a target. Even though the trials were very successful, their practical use was not. Prevailing winds and moving targets proved to be formidable obstacles.



FAR LEFT: Samuel Perkins conducting man-lifting trials for the US Army c.1915.

LEFT: Man-lifting system devised c. 1896 by Lieutenant Hugh D. Wise, US Army.



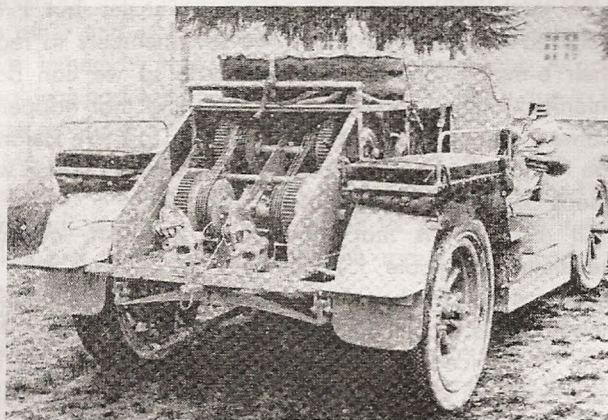
**United States 1863** ~ It is with great enthusiasm that I am able to report that in January of 2002, definitive proof of regular kite use in the American Civil War was located. It had been rumored, there were stories, but there was never any concrete evidence before. This research has just begun, but there is much to do and there are more questions than answers. What we do know for sure is that there were kites made near Vicksburg in 1863, and in 1865 they were used for sending leaflets over enemy lines trying to entice deserters by offering money for horses and arms. Official communiqués from the Civil War have been located in the War Records Office, some requesting kite-making materials and one that requested "...10,000 feet of strong kite string be sent at once..."!

**England 1893** ~ Captain B.F.S. Baden-Powell designed a stack of six large hexagonal kites for the British that were used in the Boer War in South Africa to lift soldiers into the air to observe the enemy. Captain Baden-Powell also did a series of tests using kites to carry messages from one ship to another.

**United States 1896** ~ US Army officer Lieutenant Hugh D. Wise successfully worked out a system to lift a man using Hargrave box kites. It was planned for use in the Spanish-American War for enemy observation, but the location and deployment of troops was learned by another means. Unfortunately, the airplane soon made the system obsolete before another opportunity could present itself.

**England 1901** ~ Samuel F. Cody patented his kite system of man-lifting and gave a demonstration to the War Office in December of 1901 for use in military applications. The Admiralty allowed trials on warships during 1904 and 1905. The War Office adopted the system in 1906 for Army observation. Cody was given officer status with the post of Chief Kite Instructor at Farnborough, with orders to design and manufacture kites and give instruction in their operation.

**Russia 1903** ~ Lieutenant Schreiber of the Imperial Russian Navy was also experimenting with a man-lifting system using a Hargrave double box. His system was abandoned after several fatalities proved it unstable. Captain Ulyanin of the Russian Army developed a train of double Conyne kites that achieved the lift they were looking for.



**France 1909** ~ Charles Dollfus held a competition to determine the most suitable man-lifting technique to be considered by the French military authorities. Captain Madiot won the contest with a winged box kite system, but he died in an aeroplane accident a year later and the French Army adopted Captain Saconney's man-lifting system. Saconney's kite corps contained a motorcar, a trailer and a winch that was driven by the car's engine. The system was also installed aboard the ship *The Edgar Quintet* in 1911.

**Germany 1914** ~ During World War I, Germany designed a folding box kite system, facilitating their use as man-lifting devices compact enough to store aboard their submarines. After launching the kite, a basket with its occupant was hauled up using a man-powered winch.

**United States 1915** ~ Samuel Perkins researched man-carrying kites for observational uses by the U.S. Army during World War I. He used kites that were nine to twelve feet high in trains of three to six. Perkins' work never passed the trial stage.

**England 1940** ~ The British Admiralty introduced a barrage kite to protect naval destroyers. The Hargrave double box kites were adorned with suspended wires or dangling bombs as a deterrent to aerial enemy attack.<sup>1</sup>

**United States 1941** ~ The Barrage Balloon and Kite School was opened in New York City. Saul's barrage kites were flown on wire lines and capable of shearing wings, which was very effective against enemy dive-bombers. Canisters of explosives were attached to the piano type wire used to fly the kites. At one time, 3300 of the Saul's barrage kites flew from the sterns of merchant ships carrying cargo from the United States and Canada to Europe.

**Germany 1943** ~ The Focke-Achgelis F.A. 330 was invented by aircraft expert Dr. Heinrich Focke. It is a rotating wing or gyroplane kite that is highly maneuverable and obtains lift from submarine traction. The kite has a set of rotating blades supporting an observation chair and could be assembled in seven minutes, taken apart in less



LEFT: Captain Saconney's French kite corps included this car with motor-driven winch for the man-lifting system.

ABOVE: The German Focke-Achgelis FA 330, known as the gyroplane kite, c. 1943.



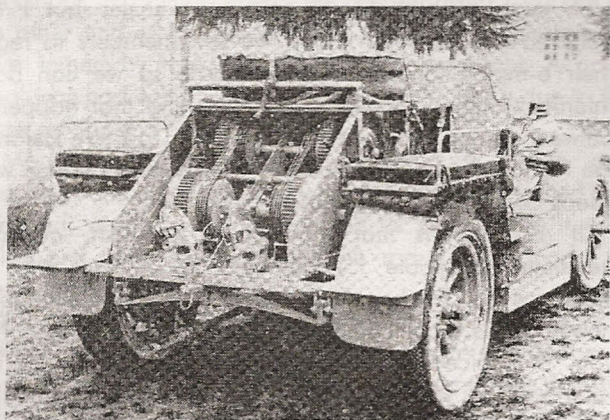
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ABOVE: The German Focke-Achgelis FA 330, known as the gyroplane kite, c. 1943.



# FROM HAWKE'S BAY: A TALE OF TWO WORKSHOPS

by Sharon Russell

The second Queen's Birthday weekend workshop was held in Napier. We had planned on having one workshop on making silk banners but a few of our new members were keen on making Nasawings (that was one of the reasons they joined: POWER!). So, we had two workshops.

## WORKSHOP ONE – SILK BANNERS

We had the McCullys from Rotorua, the McGuires from Wanganui (after their visitor left early and no, Margaret didn't throw the guest out the door so she could make it to the workshop), Yvonne, Des and Zak from Wellington, and of course the local crowd of John, Diana, Kel, Linda, Jo and myself.

The weekend started on the Saturday with us working around the dance class that was also using part of the hall complex. This worked out well, as it meant that we could do our cutting out and sewing before we got onto the messy play, I mean creative expression. Lunchtime soon arrived and as we were so close to town everyone disappeared to investigate what was around. Over the course of the lunches there were crepes, fancy rolls and sammies, homemade soup and roasted veggies.

In the afternoon the real fun began: what do we put on the silk? There was wax – beeswax, paraffin or a mix of the two, each one creating a different effect. Then there was the dye – initially just yellow, red and blue, but that soon changed as individual colours were made. Even colours made up by mistake turned out well.

At least 32 banners and one serpent were made over the weekend. Designs included butterflies, geysers, fish, kites, music, amoebas and one with Aussie colours until a protest was made.

Sunday continued with the dyeing and steaming. Not sauna steaming but fairly similar. Once wax was out of the banners they were rolled up as tightly as possible in paper, where they were steamed to remove any residual wax and to enhance the colours. This was where mistakes started to look really good. Congratulations must go to Ray McCully, as he managed to become the expert at rolling up the banners tightly. If you can imagine what a piece of paper looks like after it has been folded six times, the banners rolled were like the seventh.

Sunday evening resulted in nearly everyone from both workshops heading to one of the restaurants in Taradale (at the other end of Napier – all 15 minutes away) where we were joined by the Campbells from Wanganui. A good meal was had with many not being able to finish due to the large portions.

Monday resulted in some last-minute dyeing and steaming. Once cooled, they were ready to be unveiled and hemmed, ready to be flown. Half of them made it onto poles and were flown across the road in the park. An awesome sight.

A huge thanks must go to Yvonne for all her hard work before and during the weekend. Thanks must also go to Des and Zak for travelling away with Yvonne and then not seeing her for the weekend. Also, thanks for the yummy

homemade curry that was waiting on the Saturday night.

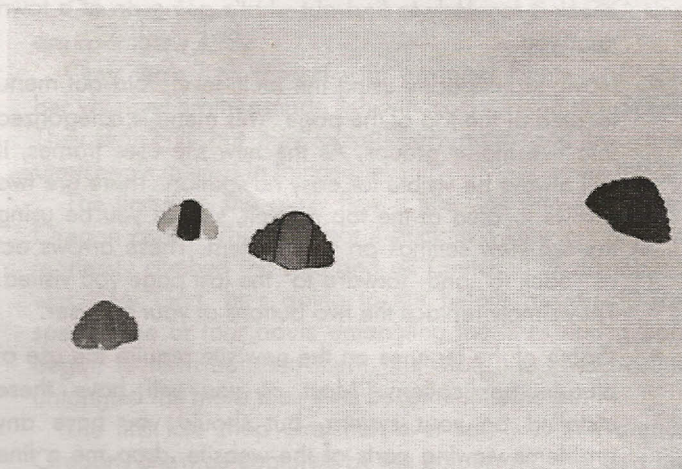
## WORKSHOP TWO – NASAWINGS

As our new lads were keen on making a Nasa it was decided that they could be made at Queen's Birthday as it meant that they didn't have to work. Well, that was the theory. Paid work for two finished lunchtime Saturday, one late Saturday, the other not at all. It did mean that in the end most started Sunday a.m. and finished late Monday.

Ian, Brent, Phillip and Raelle finished their kites, with a few adjustments to be made, and by the time this goes to print, Wayne will have also finished his. Thanks to Gordon, who started the Nasa craze in Napier and who helped with the making of them. His mistakes were a valuable lesson which saved time for all.

Now Nasas are good to fly, as they like to pull you round a bit and as this was one of THE reasons for owning one. The next step was to find someone with a buggy. Thanks to Warren in Taupo who brought his buggy down at the weekend. The Nasas have been tested with the use of his buggy, with the girls and guys being hooked. Keep your eyes open for flying pink elephants (with Raelle not far behind!).

A good time was had by all and someone has already said there will be another one next year. I wonder who will plan it?



## KITING, KITING, OVER THE IRISH SEA . . .

A 24-year-old woman has claimed the honour of being the first person to kite-surf across the Irish Sea. Kirsty Jones, who is the current UK women's kitesurfing champion, went from Ireland to St Martin's Haven in Pembrokeshire, west Wales, in just over five hours. She made the 112km trip balanced on a 1.2 metre-long board and was attached by harness to a kite to pull her along.

Kirsty, from Carmarthenshire, is hoping to raise about \$NZ6800 for a children's hospice.

(From The Wanganui Chronicle, September 9, 2002)



# WEBMASTER'S SCRIPT

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

by Robert van Weers

The website has a new look. By the time you read this article, the new-look website will be up and running.

What are the major changes?

- The design layout has changed so it will more easily be recognized as a kite-related website, making full use of our corporate colors.
- I have installed a news scroller to bring you the latest kite news and kite events that have been organized prior to or after this newsletter has been published. This is for your benefit, so make good use of it. If you are organizing a kite festival, workshop or just a fun day out, let people know by using our news scroller. Also check it regularly to find out what's going on at a town near you.
- Navigation is done using the multi-level, fold-out menu located at the top of the page. This menu is categorized into five major groups. As the new site uses frames, it will always be visible for easy navigation. There are two arrows located at the top as well, should you be using the full view settings on your system. These arrows act as "back to" and "forward to" the last page you visited. They simply replace the two buttons of your browser.
- Some of the features on the new site require the use of plug-in applications. Most of you will have these installed on your system, but should you have any problems viewing parts of the website, drop me a line and I will help you with the installation. Most likely you will be redirected by your browser to download the plug-in, should it be necessary.

### ☐ NZKA Photo Album

Some new photos have been added to our photo album. Go and have a look at the NZKA bear just purchased for your benefit by the NZKA. I would welcome any kite shots you may want to send me. Any format is suitable, even hard copies for scanning, which I will return to you once scanned. Here is an opportunity to show the world what you have been making lately. Go to the website and select: "kitelinks >kite photos" from the fold-out menu.

Remember: "All kitefliers are equal from a kites point of view."

## Festival of the Winds felled by insurance companies

The Bondi Beach Festival of the Winds, Australia's biggest and longest running kite festival, has been postponed for 2002 because the organisers have been unable to obtain public liability insurance.

In the 24 years the festival has been running never once has a claim been made. In April this year the Australian Kiteflyers' Society's insurers refused them cover because they did not want to bother with small groups of this nature. For months they have been trying to find insurance cover for the Festival of the Winds – one company offered cover which excluded "any object flying or moving through the atmosphere" and refused to change that provision to allow for kites.

The festival, which Waverley Council helps fund, attracts master kitemakers from overseas, including Indonesia, Malaysia and Japan. The Festival of the Winds is one of Bondi's major events. People of all ages come to Bondi Beach to watch this free, spectacular event. Those who want to participate can fly their own kites or take part in the kite-making workshops in the Pavilion.

Said Waverley Mayor Paul Pearce: "It's outrageous that the Festival of the Winds, which has never had an insurance claim in 24 years, has not been able to find an insurer despite months of looking. This is one more low-risk event cancelled in Australia this year because of the public liability insurance crisis. Our communities are being gutted of festivals and markets because insurance can't be obtained or if it can it's too expensive for a small group to fund."

[This news item came from the office of the Mayor of Waverley, Sydney, which administers Bondi Beach. – Ed.]

## NZKA TUBE AND LIFTER

Due to the generosity of Peter Lynn (for material) and Robert van Weers (for time and effort to make the kite and tube), the Association now owns a parafoil and worm tube (with the Association's website address as advertising on the tube) to be used to promote the Association at kite flying events.

The kite and tube are available to members for use at kite days. They will need to be booked for events on a first come, first served basis. The kite and tube will then be sent to you at the Association's cost. You will then either return it to the Association or to the next user, at your cost. At the moment the President of the Association is holding the kite and tube. As we go to press, anyone who borrows the gear will need their own 250lb line to fly it, but the Association will be buying some line to go with the gear in the near future.

A photo of the tube appeared in *What's Up?* issue #71.



## CAUTIONARY TALE FROM CANADA

by Marzlie Freeman

We were invited kitefliers at a sailing regatta in Vancouver, BC at the end of April. We had two good days of flying kites, but the down side of it all was that someone, late on Sunday, stole our bag of banners.

There were 20 banners in the bag and they probably have only added to a landfill somewhere once the thief saw it was not something of value to them. We submitted the claim to our household insurance company and it came to a little over \$US6000.

On a much more positive note, at a recent kite festival in Washington, a lady came up to me and asked me if the banners were for sale. I told her what a friend told us to say when asked, which will separate the curious from the serious: "\$20 per square foot". Well, she wanted one of them enough that she handed me \$200 cash right then for us to make her one just like one of the ones on the beach.

**Editor's note:** This is a little reminder that it's possible not all those people on a kite field are interested in merely looking at your kites. So be aware of who's just looking and who's just lurking. But keep your chequebook handy!

Marzlie Freeman is the editor of the Associated Oregon Kites' newsletter.

## KITEWORKS MOOSE MEET

by Ted Howard

Here is the information about the Moose Meet on October 19/20. This is New Zealand's annual buggy get-together on the most amazing area of sand dunes (many square kilometres of it!) and surf beach. For more information contact Perrin or Kent at Kiteworks, Auckland on 09 358 0991.

This is a weekend in October where we camp in the dunes at the top of Muriwai Beach near the south head of the Kaipara Harbour. You are going to need a 4-wheel-drive vehicle to get to the top of Muriwai Beach (50 km drive on the beach).

Tides on the 19th are: High 9.23am, low 3.23pm, high 9.43pm; sunrise 6.30am, sunset 7.50pm. All this means that on Saturday we drive up the beach at 12 midday and camp in the dunes at the top or be driving back from the top by 5.00pm.

Tides on the 20th are: High 10.07am, low 4.04pm, high 10.24pm; sunrise 6.30am, sunset 7.50pm. This means that on Sunday we can drive up the beach at 1.00 pm and camp in the dunes at the top or be driving back from the top by 6.00pm. All these times are on daylight saving time, so make sure you know the right time.

The dunes up the top are very exposed to the weather so come prepared for anything: ie. tow rope, drinking water, first aid kit, toilet paper, shelter, food and beer.

If you want to stay in Muriwai you can call:

Muriwai Beach Camp Ph. 09 411 9262

Muriwai Lodge & Store Ph. 09 411 8624

Muriwai Waterfront Cafe & Store Ph. 09 411 7763

## MEMBER PROFILE: Gretchen Howard



by Yvonne de Mille

Gretchen Howard has been a member of the NZKA since approximately 1992.

Gretchen's first contact with anything flighty was when her younger brother made fish windsocks in the Boy Scouts. They didn't fly but they looked very pretty and awakened Gretchen's interest in things kitey.

The first time she really flew a kite was with Ted on the Oregon coast. When she got it stuck in a very tall tree, Ted fearlessly climbed the tree and all Gretchen could think of was, "My God, he's going to die before my eyes". They spent three or four hours untangling the lines and a bond began to form between them; the more the lines became untangled the more their lives became intertwined.

The first kite shop Gretchen ever saw was in Florence, Oregon. She was captured by the colour and the idea that shapes could fly. Colour is most important to Gretchen and making things fly is husband Ted's passion – hence the name Rainbow Flight for their Nelson kite shop, which they have been running together for 10 years. They have hosted two NZKA annual festivals – in 1993 and 2000.

Gretchen loves the idea of being connected to the sky by a single line, and one of her favourite kites is Martin Lester's "Natalie's Legs". Another favourite is a Joel Schultz Neptune stunter kite. When she flies it she feels as if she has caught a big fish. Another passion of Gretchen's is dance, and belly dancing especially. She enjoys the dance of kites in a stunt routine and is a self-confessed groupie of the Hawaiian stunt kite team.

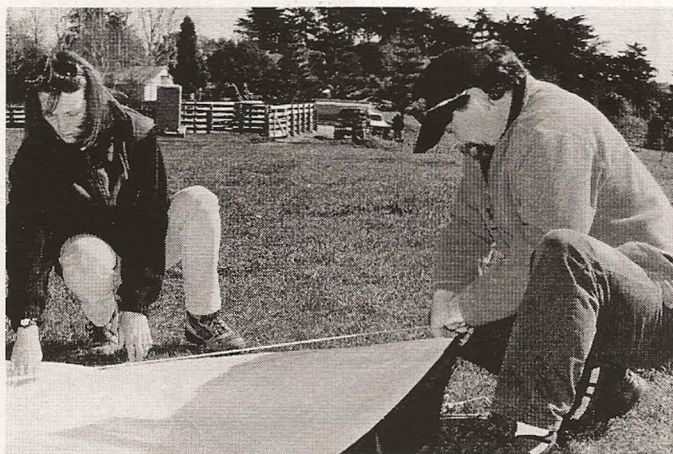
Gretchen is inspired by wind deities and especially the Egyptian deity Maat. She would like to make this image into a kite, and a belly dancer kite is another plan in mind, so keep your eyes skyward and watch out for these.



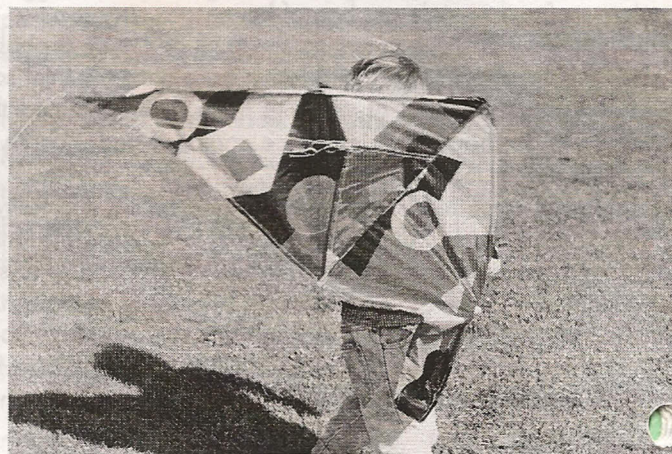
# roving camera

AT WANGANUI AND OHAKEA

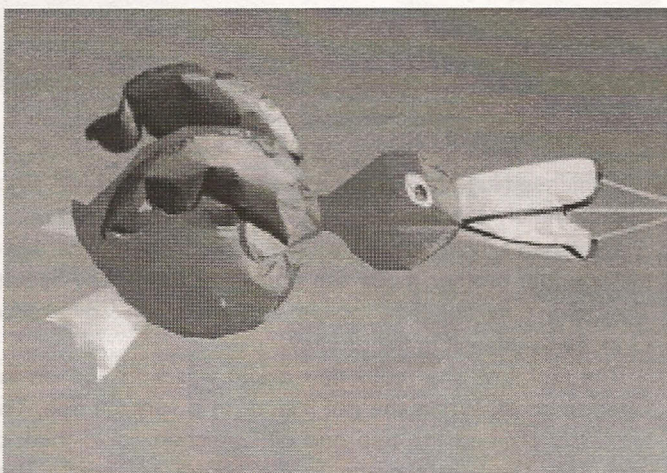
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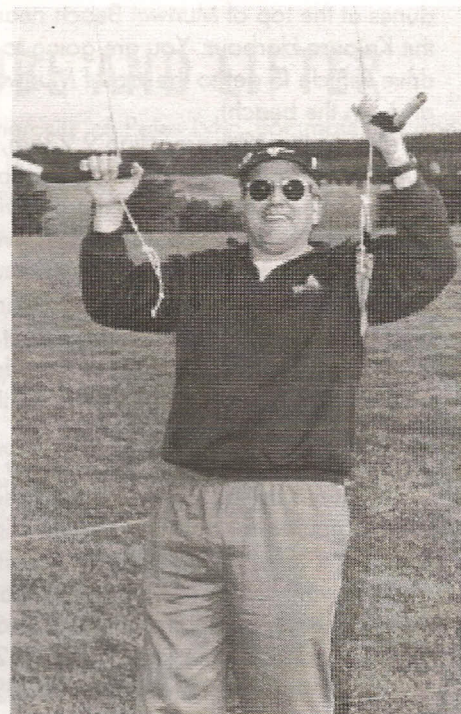
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1 Kate and Warren Ellery from Taupo. 2 This little chap preferred to remain incognito at Ohakea. 3 Richard Wotton's duck had a short flight at Wanganui. 4 Ohakea Air Force Museum Director Peter Calkin shows off his new F16. 5 Ted Howard came up from Nelson and just hung around. 6 Underneath the arches at Ohakea. 7 Hans Podlucky and his beautifully made Milan kite. 8 The Wanganui wildlife took more than a passing interest in the proceedings. 9 Bill Fern came up from Nelson and got a real buggy buzz on the Ohakea runway. 10 Warren Ellery with his Tri-D box kite. 11 Robert van Weers brought a whole flock of kiwis up from Blenheim. (Pix both pages by Richard Wotton)

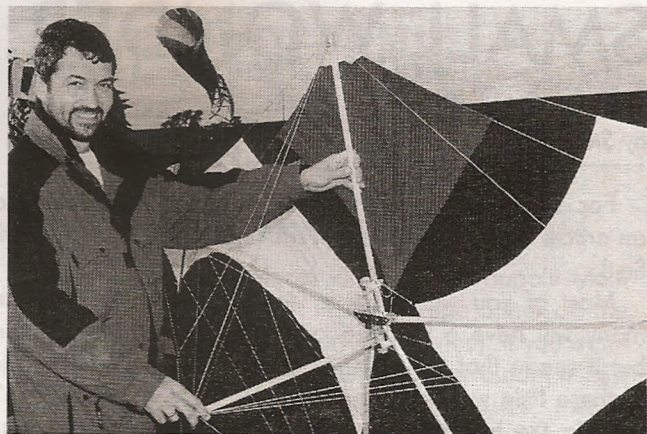
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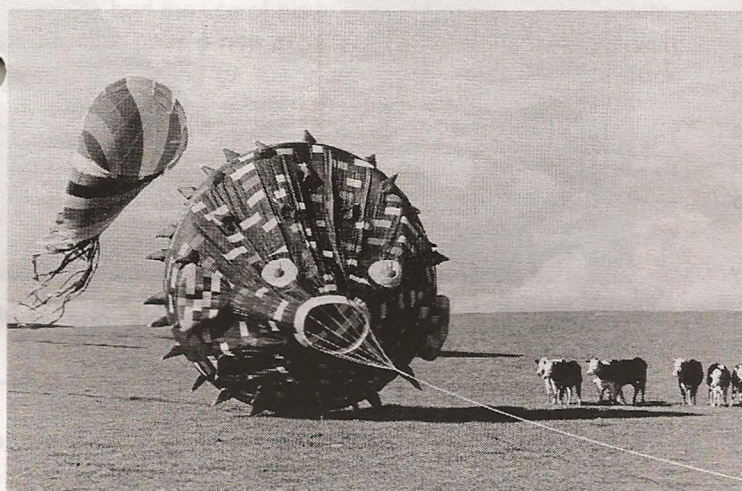




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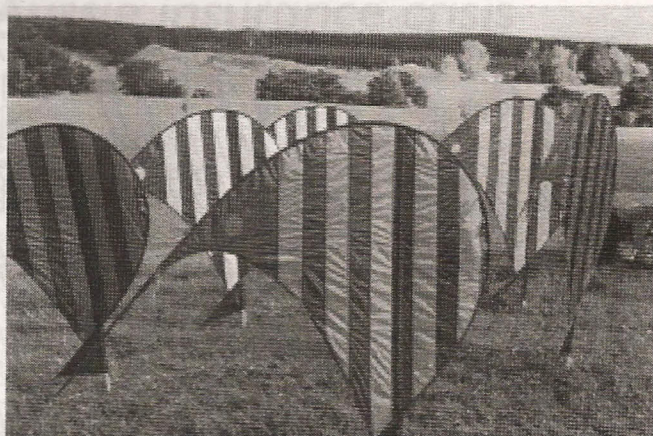
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# SMALL WONDER: THE FIGHTER KITE

by Steve Brorens

For a long while now I've been promising the editor to do an article or two on fighters. It's taken a while, but here's the first!

Most of you will know a little about fighter kites, and many will have a battered one stashed away somewhere, but it seems that only a few kites really understand the joy of these little wonders. This is a pity, because while they're not big the fun of flying them is immense, but too many people allow themselves to be discouraged by the skill required to "make them do their stuff". So, if I do nothing else in this first article, I'd like to pass on a few tips to encourage you.

First tip: Use the lightest line you can. These are the sports cars of the kite world, and every gram counts. Upholstery thread, button thread, crochet thread, even dental floss – but unless your kite is over 500mm high then leave your braided dacron and heavy-duty swivels in the bag. (If you must use a swivel get a packet of the smallest ones used by fly fishermen, but most fighter flyers just use a humble knot).

Second tip: A fighter has no tail and hence is naturally unstable. Add a two-metre long crepe paper tail, however, and you have a well-behaved little diamond kite. Now, trim the tail, little by little, "playing" with the kite to learn how it reacts. With the kite up nice and high, experiment with pulling line in hand-over-hand as fast as you can, and without letting it slip through your fingers.

Third tip: Keep that line moving! You should be either letting line out or pulling line in pretty much all the time – if you walk back and forth carefully your line will be fine lying in loops on the ground.

Now, all this is fine for those who have a fighter at hand – but what if you don't? Well never fear, because one of the endearing qualities of the fighter is that it's so quick and easy to build, and cheap! Unlike a sudden urge to build a parafoil, this is achievable in a night or two at the most. Where to get a plan? Well, I wouldn't trust many of the plans in general kite books but your library should have, or be able to get for you, Philippe Gallot's classic book *Fighter*



Wanganui flier Denis Rainforth checks out one of the editor's Indian fighters

*Kites: 29 Original Designs to Make and Fly* (also known as *Making & Flying Fighter Kites*).

Of course, in this day and age, there's always the Internet. Probably the most clearly described plan is Peter Stauffer's "Oz Flare" at:

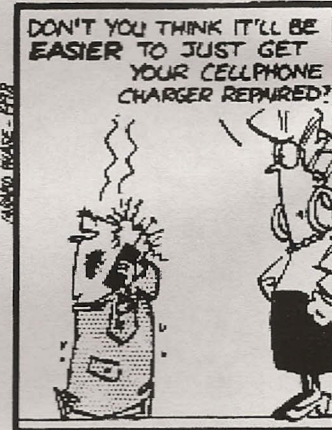
<http://www.moreinfo.com.au/aks/oz.flare.plan.html>

... but there are many more at [fighterkites.org](http://fighterkites.org).

By the way, don't worry about Peter's warning that this is "not a kite for the beginner to fly". Just use a tail to tame it while you learn!

Steve Brorens ([sjb@commarc.co.nz](mailto:sjb@commarc.co.nz))

Winner of the inaugural NZKA fighter competition in 2000





# HAWKE'S BAY BUGGY BLAST

by Brent McArthur

Our local kite fly was a bit of a blast. The wind was a little too much for the NASA wings we had all made at the Queen's Birthday workshops but I was keen for a fly (or did I have a death wish?). Put up the kite and that was the end of that – down the paddock at a rapidly increasing rate of knots. I managed to keep it pointing the right way and kept the kite out of the kite-eating trees that Ian knows all too well (how about showing that picture, eh Sharon?)

We also were entertaining Warren Ellery, from Taupo, who put up all manner of single line kites with rather interesting line laundry – a flying length of chain anyone? We also had the use of his buggy to try out our NASAs with, which was quite a new experience but not a good idea with the wind blasting as it was and Ian kayaking off the back with some mis-timed turns!

A few of my workmates came out for a look-see after I told them that I flew kites for a pastime, but they didn't expect to see me rip across the field hanging on for dear life, laughing madly all the way down towards the slushy part of the field.

So there you have it, another quiet and relaxing Hawke's Bay Kite fly.



Philip Dean works on increasing his arm length with the aid of his new Nasawing.

## HAVE A VOLCANIC WEEKEND

**January 31st, February 1/2, 2003**

Meet up with the local kiteflyers at Taupo's Mole and Chicken Restaurant, 40 Taharepa Street on the Friday evening, B.Y.O. (money and wine). If you don't like chicken, the Grasshopper Asian Restaurant is next door. [And if you don't like grasshoppers, there's always McDonalds. – Ed.]

Fly with us on Taharepa Road Reserve on the corner of Lake Terrace (SH1) on Saturday the 1st, then drive through to Rotorua for a major concert in the evening. Sunday sees the "Art in the Sky" kite festival at the Rotorua Racecourse.

Taupo to Rotorua usually takes us 60 minutes on SH5 but try the Reparoa way for easier driving.

For further information/help, contact Warren Ellery (07) 377 0877 or Jim Court at Taupo (07) 377 4784.

There will be more information about this weekend in the bumper Christmas edition of *What's Up?*

## Canterbury Festival of Flight

Canterbury is celebrating a Festival of Flight in March and April next year. There are a huge number of activities planned, including a kite festival to be held on the weekend of April 11-13 at Wigram airfield.

Wigram has been a fantastic site for kite festivals until recently, when changes to ownership and use have made this venue more difficult to access. We understand this will be the last opportunity to fly kites here as the land is to be subdivided for other uses.

Watch for further details of this festival in the December issue of *What's Up?*

## Some background to the Aussie insurance crisis

Further to the item on page 10 about the Festival of the Winds cancellation, just a couple of items to give that story a little background:

A Sydney court awarded Waverley Council to pay damages of \$NZ4.4 million after a man became paralysed when he dived through a wave onto a sandbank at Bondi Beach late in 1997.

At Coffs Harbour, on the NSW central coast, in a similar incident in 1999, a man was paralysed from the neck down. The case is now before the court and Coffs Harbour Council is facing the prospect of a multi-million dollar payout.



# REGIONAL REPORTS

## NASAWING ACTION DOWN SOUTH

William White, aged 13, flying his NASA Parawing at an NZKA kitefly at Hanson's Park in Christchurch. William found the design on the NZKA website and spent seven hours building the kite with ripstop nylon and 66 metres of 40kg braided nylon. "It can pull me straight off the ground in a strong wind," he says, "and pulls my dad along on his feet. It's a great first traction kite as it can be flown as a two-line or four-line kite." (Item contributed by Julie Adam)



## Hawke's Bay Events

by Sharon Russell

As has been seen in the article on the Queen's Birthday weekend workshops (page 9), buggying has become a Hawke's Bay hobby.

Our June weekend gave us the perfect buggy wind on the Sunday. On the Saturday, Ian, Gordon and Brent decided that they had better test the buggy before our official day so that if anyone saw them buggy they would look as if they knew what they were doing. Yeah, right!

I went along for the laughs and to be available to direct the ambulance if required. In Napier we have a small park beside the sea called Perfume Point (a former sewage outfall). We've seen learners practising land yachting there, so we thought this would be a good place to start.

After Ian was pulled out twice, and Gordon's kite became wrapped over a garden, pole and moving car, all at once, it was decided that we'd retreat to Anderson Park where the sea breeze/gale was not so strong.

Sunday gave us a good steady breeze to learn in, and Philip and Raelle joined in playing with the buggy. Photos of five Nasas flying reasonably close together look good (or they should as soon as the films are processed). Our Nasas are all varied and if you should see one look out for the owner not far behind.

Following weekends have been used for buggy practise, and it is noted that one local lad will soon be earning the name Charlie Brown if his kite lands in the trees for the third time. Luckily, there is a friendly park local who has helped out many a kiter in this predicament. I've been thinking we may make him an honorary life-saver in the Charlie Brown recovery team.

## Wanganui happenings

by Richard Wotton

I suspect it's been a common feature of the winter throughout the land, but over the last few months the flying here has been a matter of catch it if you can. Tragically, most of the good flying days have coincided with that nasty old thing called work, so that's been frustrating. However, on one very smooth Sunday a couple of months back I had the entire park to myself and enjoyed a long day's carefree flying. The breeze was very steady all day and changed direction by a maximum of half a degree. (That's only an estimate.)

As Peter Whitehead has mentioned in his presidential words, the NZKA bear has arrived from Peter Lynn's Ashburton factory, and it's first official duty will be to grace the skies at the Father's Day weekend flies at Wanganui and Ohakea. I'm sure it will be up to the occasion, as it's a very fine-looking bear.

Wanganui's newest recruit to the NZKA ranks is 10-year-old Stephen Gibson. As keen a kiter as you could wish to meet, he's really looking forward to the Wanganui event on August 31.

Braden Schultz is putting the finishing touches to his Paradox four-liner, so we should see it going through its paces soon.

I have to confess that the winter kite-making scene has been far too quiet at the editorial mansion, but plans are afoot for a couple of new winged wonders, plus a smallish flowform project Dalwyne is about to begin.

Roll on those long summer days!



# Labour Weekend Kite-making Workshop – A Light-wind Roller

by Anne Whitehead

This will be the fifth annual Labour Weekend kite-making workshop and this year David Bowie will be teaching you the intricacies of this light-wind kite. The Roller kite is an exceptionally steady and graceful flier, which is normally built as a dihedral kite, although it can be made in bowed form. It's similar to a rokkaku in many ways except for the vents and fins, which give it even greater stability. If you want to make a highly decorative skin in advance to bring to the workshop, contact the Whiteheads for an information sheet that will give you the precise dimensions. This is available only to people who are coming to the workshop.

## Alick Pearson's Roller

The name has nothing to do with the way it flies but comes from its antecedent, the Roloplan. The following gives you a bit of background to this kite. Alick Pearson was an English kitemaker and flier who for many years flew at the Round Pond in Kensington Gardens, London. Like many kitefliers, Pearson started to modify and simplify his Roloplan and by the early 1970s this resulted in the very refined Pearson Roller which is still made today. Further research has indicated that John Shaw was responsible for conceiving the original Round Pond style Roller.

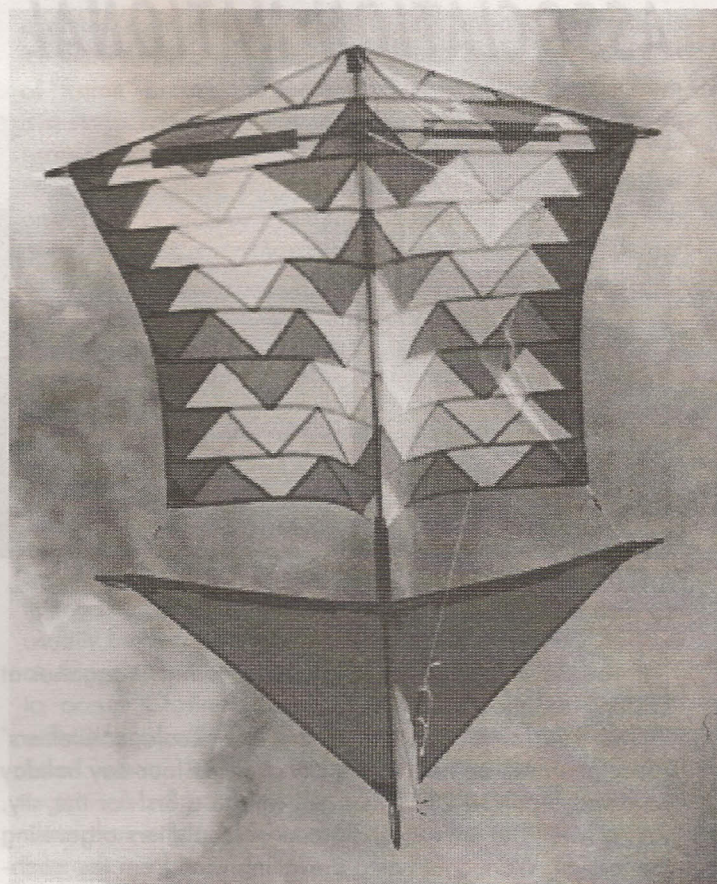
The background of the Roller has its origins in Germany. The Steiff Company (yes, the teddy bear people) were manufacturing kites from 1909 to 1968. The trademark for the Roloplan was registered on August 20, 1909. The two-piece sails were made of cotton with bamboo spars, in sizes from 120cm to 360cm, and during World War I a version made of lighter fabric was used for target practice in anti-aircraft gunnery training.

## References

*KiteLines*, Spring 1984, Vol. 5, No. 1  
*Drachen Magazin*, 3/92

*Kites* – Ron Moulton and Pat Lloyd  
*The Magnificent Book of Kites* – Maxwell Eden

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



This Anne Whitehead photograph shows a patchwork roller made by Brian Smith, a former secretary of the NZKA.

## Your 2002/3 Kite Events Calendar

August 31: 2nd annual Wanganui kite fly, Campbell's Farm

September 1: 3rd annual Father's Day kite fly, Ohakea Air Force Museum

January 18 & 19: Neale Park, Nelson. Contact Ted Howard

February 1: Taupo (see item elsewhere in this issue)

February 2: Rotorua (as above)

February 6: Porirua, Elsdon Park Festival of the Elements. Contact Anne and Peter Whitehead

February 8: Palmerston North, Manawatu Riverside Park. Contact Phil Whitehead

April 18-21 (Easter): NZKA National Festival, Wanganui. Contact Richard Wotton or Geoff Campbell

## NEW MEMBERS

The following have become members of the NZKA since the last issue of *What's Up?* hit the streets:

Graeme North and Deniece Gannaway, Warkworth, 09 425 9600

Stephen Gibson, Wanganui 06 345 4321

Rachel Davey and Mark Wickett, Auckland 09 817 1347

Say hi when you see them on a kite field!



# THE 19th ANNUAL NEW ZEALAND KITEFLIERS' ASSOCIATION NATIONAL FESTIVAL



by Richard Wotton

If you haven't been thinking about visiting Wanganui at Easter 2003, now's the time to start.

The 19th annual festival of the New Zealand Kitefliers' Association will be held in the city over the four-day holiday weekend, April 18-21. This event will be a first for the city, with a small but enthusiastic group of local fliers organising the festival. Wanganui has a prevailing wind from the north-west, so there's a very good chance that we'll get good flying conditions. There are no hills close to the venue so it doesn't matter which way the wind blows.

We've reserved the entire area of Springvale Park, and there will be an adjacent indoor venue. This will serve as a storage area for kites and equipment as well as being a social venue. New kitchen facilities are currently being installed, so it should be ideal.

A full programme of events is planned – including perfect flying weather! The weekend will kick off with casual flying on Friday, to be followed by the traditional fish and chips dinner. Saturday will see rounds of the rokkaku challenge, as well as flying for the Trans-Tasman Travel Award.

The Saturday night dinner will be followed by the auction and a wearable kites fashion parade. It's hoped that festival attendees will apply their creative thinking to make this a fashion show to be remembered. (Naomi who?)

Sunday will be a public day, with a large area roped off for registered fliers. The rokkaku challenge finals will be held, along with a session for registered fliers to bring out and fly a few of their earliest kites so the public can see that we didn't all start off with huge flowforms, Megarays etc.

Monday morning will be a relaxing, wind-down morning of casual flying for those with energy to spare, before departure for the out-of-towners.

**There are always a lot of things happening in Wanganui at Easter – and next year there will be a very big bowls tournament for starters – so it can be difficult to get just the accommodation you want. In**

**fact, it may be difficult to get any accommodation if you leave it too long. We strongly recommend that anyone who's at least reasonably sure they'll be here to let us know pronto.** This will enable us to get an early indication of numbers which should be a good lever for negotiating a bulk deal with motels and caterers. My contact details are at the bottom of the Committee list.

This publicity article has been sent off to various overseas kiting magazines – as well as any individuals I've been in contact with – and so far has resulted in an expression of interest from Clive Davies, of the UK. Clive is also intending to participate in the Christchurch Festival of Flight the weekend before Easter. This South Island event should help to make a trip to New Zealand more attractive to overseas fliers, so we hope to hear from some as the festival draws nearer.

Having the sports stadium as our base for the event means there will be plenty of room for everyone, plus it can be used for kite storage, so you won't have to pull your kites apart to put them to bed for the night.

We look forward to seeing you here next Easter!

## THE WIND

Robert Louis Stevenson



I saw you toss the kites on high  
And blow the birds about the sky;  
And all around I heard you pass,  
Like ladies' skirts across the grass.  
O wind, a-blowing all day long,  
O wind, that sings so loud a song!

I saw the different things you did,  
But always you yourself you hid.  
I felt you push, I heard you call,  
I could not see yourself at all.  
O wind, a-blowing all day long,  
O wind, that sings so loud a song!

O you that are so strong and cold,  
O blower, are you young or old?  
Are you a beast of field and tree,  
Or just a stronger child than me?  
O wind, a-blowing all day long,  
O wind, that sings so loud a song!

Vaughan Campbell won't have the whole of Wanganui's Springvale Park to himself come next Easter



# Festival Etiquette – A Pro's-eye View

by Peter Lynn

There are two points of view about my writing on this subject. The first is that eighteen years of attending international kite festivals, now at the rate of more than twenty per year, with an invitation rate much above this and continually rising, is proof that I must be doing something right. The second is that, having so gotten up some of my fellow kitefliers noses that there have been calls for a "Trashed by Peter Lynn Kite Club" dedicated to excluding me from events, I should be the last person to write about how to behave at kite festivals! Your call . . . but please read on.

I believe that much of the contradiction between unpopularity with some of my peers and widening popularity with festival organisers comes down to a disagreement or misunderstanding as to the underlying purpose of kite festivals. I believe that kite festivals are for spectators, not for impressing our fellow enthusiasts. Public kite festivals are the shop window by which we attract new enthusiasts into our world of kite flying. The huge, world-wide growth in participation in all aspects of kite flying during the last twenty years is, I believe, significantly a product of how successful we have all been at putting on interesting and exciting shows.

For many kite fliers, kite festivals are pleasant get-away-for-the-weekend events where they can have a good time among people of like interest, do a bit of showing off and stay within their discretionary expenditure budget. Kite festivals are not necessarily good fun for me or for other full-time professional kite fliers; they are hard, sometimes dangerous, often frustrating work that we are (usually poorly) paid to do. If you accept that kite festivals are primarily for spectators, then a set of principles and observations on how festivals should be structured can be derived which fairly much define how kite fliers should behave at kite festivals.

The major source of disputes between kite fliers at festivals derives from territorial behaviour. Some fliers act as though they have title to a particular piece of sky by the rationalisations that either "they had it first" or that it is "their fair share". Particularly obnoxious by my standards are those who arrive early and stake off some invisible kite at out-of-sight altitude so placed as to deny the use of much of the available kite-flying area to displays that have ongoing spectator appeal. Conversely, I have no problem with the kiteflier who "muscles in" to an area, providing their display is well received by the spectators relative to other kites flying. The sky belongs to kites that make best use of it by the standards of the spectators. Many effects flow from this:

The public do not usually appreciate the fine, accurate workmanship or other characteristics by which kite makers judge each other, but are impressed by bright colours, movement, size and representational effects.

Within safety considerations, crashes and wild kite behaviour generally adds to spectator enjoyment whereas they are seen by kitefliers as evidence of bad kites or bad kite flying. Any show that goes on for more than just a few minutes has to be very entertaining because the public

attention span is short. Of course, it is important at festivals for there to be a good number of kites in the sky, as a sort of "frame" around the central picture to attract viewers from a distance and to put a "this is a kite festival" stamp on proceedings.

Some kite fliers self-righteously exhibit behaviour based on envy and jealousy rather than aligning themselves with the needs of showmanship. By kitefliers' standards, of course, big kites are not "better" than small kites and kite fliers who get media attention aren't necessarily "better" than those who work away quietly without recognition, but by the public's values, size and media appeal are king. For two and four-line flying, manoeuvres that impress judges at kiteflier competitions will not necessarily impress the public. I have seen perfect synchronised "axles" interpreted as bad flying by the general public.

"Authority" at kite festivals is primarily the festival organiser, who has bought the right to call the shots by taking on onerous responsibility. Festival organisers will usually be very well attuned to sponsors' interests, which is as things should be because only sponsors enable festivals to occur. Closing the circle, spectators by number and enthusiasm justify the sponsor's investment. There are rare times when kitefliers should act against the festival organisers' directions – for safety reasons and when it is clear that organisers are not optimising spectator/sponsor interests.

A relevant observation, rather than a principle, is that festivals with good spectator numbers but less than, say, fifty or so kitefliers will often be impressively cooperative, with all fliers contributing unselfishly to optimise the show. With high numbers of kitefliers, internal competition seems to rule, and, relatively, the overall show deteriorates. Another observation is that, of course, egos get in the way at kite festivals as in every sphere of human activity. But it is a very good thing that we have egos because they drive us to do better.

One sure source of dispute is kitefliers who persist in "camping" themselves and their equipment in the kite launching and sweeping area at the downwind end of the kite field. Quite unnecessary damage will occur to their "parked" kites and to kites that snag on them. Also a problem are kitefliers who "mine" the flying field with spragged end metal stakes.

Good festival organization by way of field layouts and program is the best way to minimise kiteflier disharmony and maximise festival results. Of particular virtue are programmes that list all possible "acts" as 10 to 15-minute items but leaves the sequencing of these acts to be set hour by hour to suit changing wind and weather conditions.

I have considerable sympathy, even agreement, with some of those who get annoyed when they suffer kite damage at festivals. Tangle and crash incidents are just an unavoidable part of the cost and frustration of festival participation, from my perspective, but I recognise that by other standards are just bad behaviour. I am certainly far from being a perfect person. In contrast to public kite festivals, kiteflier-only events are quite a different matter. Although also not without their pressures, the ethics at such events can and should have quite a different basis.

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See [www.peterlynnkites.co.nz](http://www.peterlynnkites.co.nz)



# 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.

13a. Meetings of the Management Committee.

The Management Committee shall meet at least four times in each financial year. Meetings of the Management Committee may be held in person, by telephone conference, or by way of simultaneous internet (electronic) connection, except that at least three meetings shall be held in person.

14. COMMON SEAL. The Committee shall provide 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 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 ab-



sence, 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 vote by proxy or in writing. For the purposes of voting, Ordinary Members must be over the age of twelve years.

20. QUORUMS. The quorum at all meetings of the Association shall be ten and at all meetings of the Committee, four.

21. VOTING. The voting at all meetings, including meetings of the Committee, shall be in the first instance by voice PROVIDED that if not fewer than two members so demand, voting shall be by show of hands and PROVIDED ALSO that if not fewer than two members so demand, voting shall be by secret ballot.

#### 21a. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE VOTING.

Notwithstanding the voting requirements in Rule 21, where a meeting of the management Committee is held by telephone conference call voting shall be by voice, and each vote is to be confirmed and recorded by the meeting secretary. Also notwithstanding Rule 21, where a meeting of the management Committee is held by simultaneous internet ( electronic) connection voting shall be by way of electronic message from each Committee member present at the meeting, and recorded by the secretary.

22. INTERPRETATION OF RULES. The Committee is the sole authority for the interpretation of these Rules and of the By-Laws and Regulations made there under and the decision of the Committee upon any question of interpretation, or upon any matter affecting the Association and not provided for by these Rules or by the By-Laws and Regulations made hereunder, shall be final and binding on the members.

23. ALTERATION TO RULES. These Rules may be added to, repealed or amended by resolution of which notice has been given in terms of Rule 17, at any Annual or Special General Meeting provided that no such resolution shall be deemed to have been passed unless it be carried by a majority of at least two thirds of the members voting thereon.

24. CONTROL OF FUNDS. The control and investment of the funds of the Association shall be with the Committee. Banking operations on the Association's account shall be carried on by the Honorary Treasurer and all cheques drawn on or withdrawals from Association funds shall be operated upon under the signature of the Hon. Treasurer countersigned by one other member of the Committee.

25. INDEMNITY. The Association shall not be liable to any person for injuries or damage resulting from activities or neglect of the Association or of any of its members.

#### 26 WINDING UP.

(a) If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Association there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Association but shall be given or transferred to some other organisation or body having objects similar to the objects of the Association, or to some other charitable organisation or purpose, within New Zealand.

(b) No addition to or alteration or recession of the Rules shall be approved if it affects the non-profit aims, or the winding-up clause. The provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from this document and shall be included and implied into any document replacing this document.

(Amended at AGM March 2002)

## KITES AWAY

by Rosemary McCully

I have just completed a series of workshops with St Chad's, an old church which is run by a trust for disabled adults.

One day we just flew kites for two hours because the wind was suitable, and we were not sure when it would be again. We flew from Ray's and my collection, and staff and clients alike were blown away.

At a weekly literacy workshop, they worked on the following group poem, which I wish to share.

### KITES AWAY

Dazzling sun and blue grey sky.  
Steady wind blowing.  
A great day for flying kites.  
Outside, fresh air, healthy –  
Happy, excited people launching colourful kites.  
Kites tugging on long lines.  
Sore, burning, blistered hands holding firm,  
Kites swaying, dancing and diving around in space.  
Kites painting the sky with their movements and patterns.  
Tails looping and flying.  
Fantastic to see. Exciting kites flying.  
Happy kite fliers . . . Blown away!

### Kite quotes of the moment . . .

"A sophisticated spar is a mere stick without the aid of a great skin"

"If rip-stop rips and doesn't stop, is it called rip-go?"

– contributed by Robert van Weers



# Record numbers?

Ohakea Air Force Museum Director Peter Calkin is hoping that a record may have been set at the Museum's Father's Day kite fly, when he counted 150 kites in the air at the height of the activity.

Peter reckons the day was "better than the Olympic Games", but said tallying up the kites wasn't an easy task. "You have to remember which ones were zigging when you counted them so you don't count them again when they're zagging!"

The day was a great success, and lots of Dads were out enjoying themselves with their families.

NZKA President Peter Whitehead said that in Napier in 1990 there was a stunning breeze and he estimates that at one point there were 130 to 150 kites aloft, but there was nothing confirmed.

## TRADE DIRECTORY

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

Key: Sl-single line, Dl-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, Rl-reference library.

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

Services offered: Sl, Dl, C, Bu, F, Ka Re, W.

**Skylines and Bylines**, at The Arts Centre, P.O. Box 2195, Christchurch. Phone (03) 365 3907, Fax (03) 337 2669, mobile (027) 431 7716. e-mail: [julie@kites.co.nz](mailto:julie@kites.co.nz)  
Services offered: Sl, Dl, C, F, Ka, Re, Bm, W, G, O, Mo, Kk, Ex, Rl.

**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: Sl, Dl, C, Bu, Re, Kw, D, Ex, Rl.

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

Services offered: Sl, Dl, C, Bu, F, Ka, Re, W.

**Raven Kites**, 1 Victoria Avenue, Wanganui.

Phone 06 348 5805, fax 348 5806.

Services offered: Sl, Dl, Bu, C, power kites.

## NZKA COMMITTEE

### President

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### Secretary

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### Treasurer

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(Immediate Past President)  
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Phone 04 565 0736

### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

#### Membership Secretary

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#### Corporate Goods

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#### What's Up? Editor

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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: Ray McCully 07 348 3828

### Christchurch

Centennial Park

Contact: Steve Brorens 03 329 9449

### Napier / Hastings

Anderson Park. Green Meadows

Contact: Sharon Russell 06 843 4359

### Nelson

Neale Park

Contact: Ted Howard 03 548 8707

### Palmerston North

Ongley Park

Contact: Alan and Judi Main 06 353 1953

### Clarks Beach

Stevenson Road Park

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

## NZKA KITE-FLYING DAYS

### September 2002

- 1 NZKA monthly fly Wellington  
Clarks Beach, Stevenson Rd Park
- 8 NZKA monthly fly Dunedin  
Napier/Hastings
- 15 NZKA monthly fly Bay of Plenty  
Nelson  
Palmerston North
- 22 NZKA monthly fly Auckland  
Christchurch  
Wanganui

### October 2002

- 6 NZKA monthly fly Wellington  
Clarks Beach, Stevenson Rd Park
- 13 NZKA monthly fly Dunedin  
Napier/Hastings
- 20 NZKA monthly fly Bay of Plenty  
Nelson  
Palmerston North
- 27 NZKA monthly fly Auckland  
Christchurch  
Wanganui

### November 2002

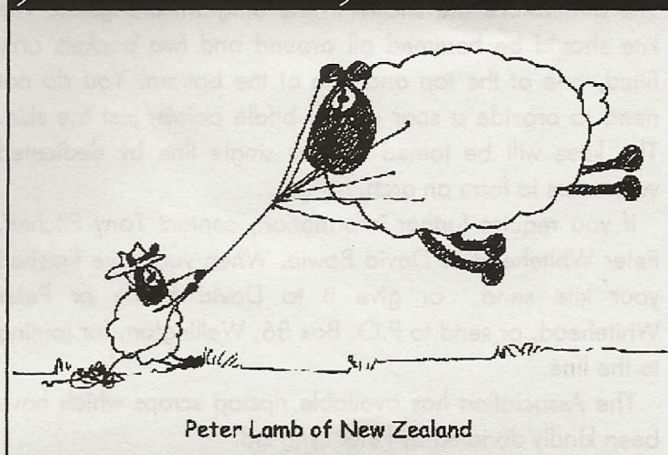
- 3 NZKA monthly fly Wellington  
Clarks Beach, Stevenson Rd Park
- 10 NZKA monthly fly Dunedin  
Napier/Hastings
- 17 NZKA monthly fly Bay of Plenty  
Nelson  
Palmerston North

- 24 NZKA monthly fly Auckland  
Christchurch  
Wanganui

### December 2002

- 1 NZKA monthly fly Wellington  
Clarks Beach, Stevenson Rd Park
- 8 NZKA monthly fly Dunedin  
Napier/Hastings
- 15 NZKA monthly fly Bay of Plenty  
Nelson  
Palmerston North
- 22 NZKA monthly fly Auckland  
Wanganui  
Christchurch
- 29

## famous kitefliers





## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

### Bay of Plenty

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### Christchurch

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Governors Bay

Phone 03 329 9449

### Waikato

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## THE NZKA KITE ARCH PROJECT

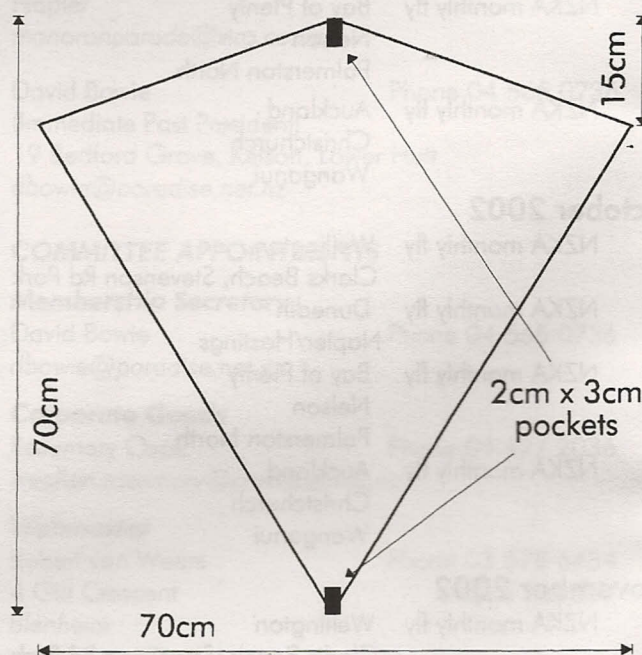
The members' arch is for every member to make at least one kite. It can be any colour or pattern but should follow the outline shown. The kite should be as individualistic as possible, expressing something of the member. It can be a design you like or have used on one of your kites – for example, you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







Postage Paid

Permit No. 50 Porirua, New Zealand

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# *What's Up?*

*a newsletter for kitefliers*



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