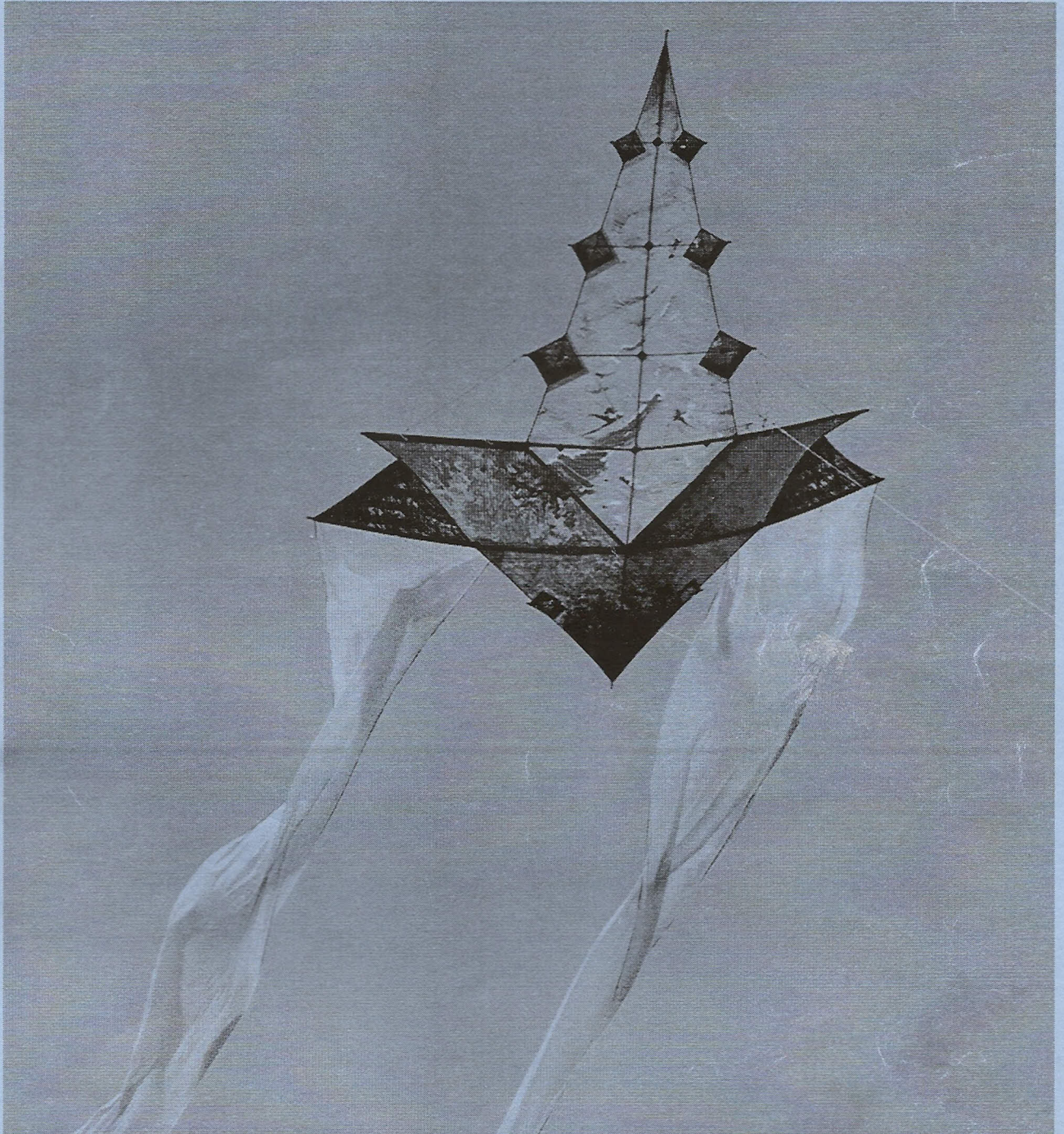


# *What's Up?*

March 2003

*A newsletter for kitefliers*

Number 75



NEW ZEALAND KITEFLIERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

visit our website at [www.nzka.org.nz](http://www.nzka.org.nz)

## CONTENTS

- 2 Whitehead's Words; From the Archives
- 3 Taupo and Rotorua Report
- 4 Mr Marconi and his Kites: Against the Wind
- 6 The Story Behind the Big Green Door
- 7 Webmaster's Script; Treasurer's Musings
- 8 Reports from the Nelson Summer Kite Festival
- 10 Around the Festivals: 3 Pages of Pix
- 13 Artistry in the Air: Kites in Afghanistan
- 14 NZKA 2002 AGM Minutes
- 15 Antarctic Kiting
- 16 National Festival; Solar Sails;  
Queen's Birthday Workshop
- 17 Manawatu Festival; Hawke's Bay Report;  
Rotorua Thumbs-down
- 18 Coming Events; NZKA Committee;  
Trade Directory
- 19 NZKA Flying Days/Sites
- 20 Regional Reps; The Arch Project

### THANKS FOLKS!

The editor would like to thank all those people who have contributed to this magazine. Your help is really appreciated.

### DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE MAY 1

The editorial team is heading to Fano on June 9. Because this will coincide perfectly with a really busy time at work for the ed, I'll need all those articles, photos etc in by May 1.

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

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COVER PHOTO: One of Michel Gressier's beautiful hand-painted kites in the air at Rotorua's Art in the Sky, held on February 1. - Photo by Richard Wotton

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Issue #16, June 1988

## KITE GIRL HAS SURPRISE TAKEOFF

Eight-year-old California girl Deandra Anrig said she felt like Winnie the Pooh when an aeroplane snagged her kite's line and lofted her on a 30-metre ride.

"I've read about how Winnie the Pooh flies in the air on kites, but I never wanted to try it," said Deandra, who let go just as the kite carried her towards a tree. "I wasn't thinking anything except how scared I was."

Her mother Debby said: "It carried her right over my husband's head. All he saw was a shadow going over his head. I'm just thankful she let go." Deandra escaped from her ride with bruises.

She was taking her turn flying the 3.6 metre glider-type kite when a twin-engined plane descending towards the airport caught the kite's 97kg test nylon line.

Mountain View fire marshal Frank Moe said the 30kg child was carried about 30 metres before she let go.

Deandra's father, Brad, said he and Deandra found their kite after the incident — about half a kilometre away — with about 18 metres of line still attached.

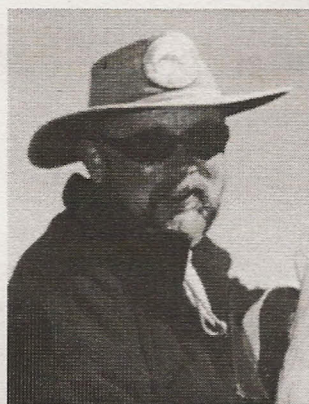
Issue #16, June 1988

## FAST FREDDY— WATCH THAT MAN GO!

Fred Marchant, of Feilding, ran kitemaking workshops at the Horowhenua jamboree for Girl Guides held in Levin this summer. His preprinted plan and instructions for making kites included a drawing of a knot that couldn't be recognised by the Guide leaders as having a name.

It was subsequently named a "Fast Freddy" knot, and we're still trying to determine why. Was it because it can be tied fast, or because Fred makes kites fast? Or because Fred established a reputation among all those young lasses?

No doubt the success of the workshops reflects the same organisational skills that we saw in action at the Feilding Festival.



# Whitehead's Words

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

IT'S PROBABLY NOT MY JOB to write about recent festivals, but I thought I would anyway to make sure that someone gets to write about them.

I missed the Wellington Lions fly in December, as we had a wedding in the family. Nelson was a great festival once again. We had Peter Lynn and team with the Megaray, and lots of other large kites. We saw plenty of New Zealand kitefliers, with some new visitors to Nelson (Raelle and Kelle Connolly, from Napier), some people we hadn't seen for a while (the Jarvis family from Christchurch), and people who have become regulars: Julie Adams (from Christchurch), Perrin Melchior and Kent McNish (from Auckland), Geoff Campbell and Richard Wotton (from Wanganui), Jim Ayers (from Auckland), Robert and Sue van Weers (from Blenheim), John Whibley (from Wellington). This year the event became truly international with visitors from Germany (Volker Hobert), Holland (Pepijn Smit) and England (George and Jackie Penney).

To the days. Friday night was great, a light steady breeze that even had tears in the eyes of some of the old timers. It was quite magical and good flying. What a way to start the weekend. I got indigestion eating my food too fast so I could get out and fly. Saturday was not too bad. It was really a test day for the kites, and then a great barbecue in the evening. Sunday was the public day, with good wind most of the day. Kites flew all day, with a lot of kites that had been seen before, but two new kites deserve mention. Garfield (by Robert van Weers) and Ankalogon (by Volker). A major wind shift and gust at 4pm told us that the day was finished.

Taupo. This event was organised by some local members, and was well supported. The wind was reasonable, so we were able to tie some kites off and leave them. Some kites seem to enjoy being tied off, while others prefer the personal touch of being held all the time. We were treated to members from Auckland, Rotorua, Taupo, Wanganui, Masterton, Wellington, Blenheim and visitors from Ashburton (Volker and Pepijn).

Rotorua on Sunday had interesting winds, where we would have 10 minutes of wind and then 5 minutes of no wind, repeating for most of the day. Rotorua had some hard-fought competitions for ground displays, banners and artistic kites. Congratulations to all winners. I just don't see where some of you get the time to hold down a job and make so many new kites between Nelson and Rotorua. To cap it all, the Gressier family arrived from France in the afternoon, kindly chauffeured from Auckland by Colin McKay.

Porirua, February 6. This has become part of the Porirua Festival of the Elements. We get a whole park to the public and ourselves. We had about 30 kph winds (gusting higher) at Porirua, although it wasn't as strong as last year, and not as strong as other places in the area. We had a good turn out from members from the North Island.

Palmerston North. On the Saturday we had the Festival of Manawatu by the river. This was attended by a small groups from Wellington, Wanganui and Napier. Michel Gressier graced the day again with his dagger kites. The wind was quite good and the company great. We finished the day with a barbecue at Shirley and Phil Whitehead's.

Eltham will be on again on the April 6. And don't forget the NZKA National Festival in Wanganui at Easter. There will be some extra items for sale at the auction this year, as an ex-member is letting some of his kites go.

I will be stepping down from the President's role this year and plan to nominate Geoff Campbell. Geoff has been on the committee for two years now to get to know us at the national level and is the controller of the big kite.

Don't be shy about putting your hand up if you'd like to contribute by running for one of the positions to be vacated this year, which includes slots on the committee.

Peter Whitehead

# THE TAUPO/ROTORUA ADVENTURE

by Jim Ayers

As the countdown to the weekend began I watched the weather man/woman slowly edge the big anticyclone towards the central plateau. On Friday I packed the car with kites, gathered my few necessities of life and set off for Taupo.

Breasting the hill as you enter Taupo town from the north is a real joy, the first glimpse of a blue shimmering lake with a backdrop of snow-covered mountains. I headed off down the main drag to Waitahanui, past the airport to my old fishing haunt. It seemed strange to arrive with a car full of kites and no fishing rod or waders.

Off to explore the flying ground, a wonderful space on high ground and nothing to impede the wind in any direction. I flew a couple of kites on the light afternoon breeze with not a soul in sight, and then it was back to my motel to prepare dinner.

Saturday morning I was up early: a beautiful, clear day with a light wind blowing off the lake. Away to the flying field, well greased with sun lotion, and no wrong turns this time. Again not a soul in sight, but undaunted I got a kite in the air (I like to be first – must be a morning person).

From there, the day escalated into a colourful scene, as kitefliers began to arrive to fill the sky and carpet the ground with wind toys and banners. We all enjoyed the warm, sunny day with a fairly steady breeze, which was not enough at times but did nothing to dampen the obvious enjoyment of the kite fliers. The informal atmosphere of families mingling with the fliers was refreshing, and I am sure enjoyed by all. It was a successful day and a time to greet old friends, see new kites and take away fresh ideas.

Many of the kitefliers packed up and headed for Rotorua for an evening lakeside concert and Sunday's flying, but having stayed in Taupo, I headed for Rotorua next morning via Reporoa. A ground mist obscured the surroundings until I reached the outskirts of Rotorua, where the sun was shining.

The venue – the racecourse – was by its nature more controlled than Taupo, with a carefully marked flying area and a separate ground set aside for public flying. On the authority of local gurus we were directed to the northern side of the field, as the wind was sure to come in off the lake. It didn't. The wind stayed roughly in the southwest for most of the day, with some wild swings in direction and velocity, which made flying exciting and sometimes frustrating. Again, out came banners and ground pieces: kiwis, geese, fish, dark figures flying small kites and, of course, line junk took to the air, often held aloft by anonymous parafoils. Teddy bears, cats, birds, fish, trilobites, puffer fish and an octopus joined Icarus in the sky. Unfortunately, the daddy of them all (the Peter Lynn Megaray) stayed on the grass all day, fussed over by its minders while they debated the wind conditions, which were finally deemed unsuitable. Perhaps some of the public went home disappointed that they hadn't seen the world's biggest kite flying, but a great display was put on in perfect weather.

The arrival of French artist/designer/kiteflier Michel

Gressier, with his beautifully painted kites, was a bonus for the day. What an effort to get straight off the plane after a long, tiring flight and come down to Rotorua to put up kites for us to see. Michel was an inspiration to all of us with his concept of the kiteflier and maker as an artist who saw the sky as his canvas. Our thanks must go to the Taupo kitefliers and Rosemary and Ray McCully and for the organisation and time spent on the events. Please can we have it again next – with the same weather, of course.

The winners of the various competition categories were:

Best public art kite: McLean family of Rotorua

Best NZKA art kite: Jim Ayers

Best NZKA banner: Robert Van Weers

Best NZKA ground display: Diana Hough

The judging was done by the Mayor of Rotorua, Grahame Hall, and Monty Morrison.

Ray McCully said the Rotorua newspaper carried a sympathetic report on not seeing the Megaray. A teacher colleague of Rosemary's said 75% of her class had been and were all talking about the kites. The staff room was abuzz about the kite day and the principal made a special mention of it as well. So while we were disappointed, as we knew better was possible, the general public were more than happy.



RIGHT: Jim Ayers with a plane kite he designed and made from a discarded real estate sign

# MR MARCONI, HIS KITES AND



by Bob White

My life-long love of kites combines a passion for flying and building with an intense interest in history. Sometimes the record on kite events is clear, but more often it contains incomplete areas or erroneous assumptions about the real story of the amazing contributions that kites have made to technology and science.

Every time I try to satisfy my desire to fill in the gaps I find that it is necessary to go back to source materials in order to truly learn about the kite event. Each project requires research into the person, the era in which he lived, and the context for the use of the kite. Invariably, I find myself being pulled across time by the line of the historical kite into a 'personal relationship' with the kiter. Each of these 'forensic kiting forays' involves more time and the pursuit of more resources than could ever be imagined at the outset. The pull of the historical kite becomes real.

So it was with my interest in Guglielmo Marconi. His use of a kite to help receive the first trans-Atlantic wireless signal is well noted in many books, but none of the details sought by serious kites can easily be found.

For me, the Marconi kite quest started in 1996 with three simple questions:

- Why did he use a kite as a tool to lift the aerial?

*ABOVE: In a battle against the elements, a kite is readied for launching from Signal Hill.*

*RIGHT: Guglielmo Marconi.*

- Why did he choose one particular type of kite?
- How did he become so acquainted with kites that he would rely on one for such a critical event?

Since that time, the journey to find answers has taken me on travels of several thousand kilometres. I have visited Signal Hill, Newfoundland, worked in the archive conservation areas of museums, photographed and measured artefacts, interviewed experts and acquired source materials from the era. Globally, I have exchanged hundreds of e-mails and made several new friends while chasing the facts.

The fully researched story of "Mr Marconi's Kites" will soon be ready for publication. It spans a period of 26 years in Marconi's career. The account will detail the use of different types of kites, contain original photographs, provide a complete bibliography of references and include accurate plans for replicas of the kite used at Signal Hill and others employed by Marconi.

December 12, 2001, was the 100th anniversary of the major milestone of bridging the Atlantic with a wireless signal. Here is a salute to the role of one of the kites that helped to launch the global wireless communication system that we rely on today.



# AN ATLANTIC CROSSING

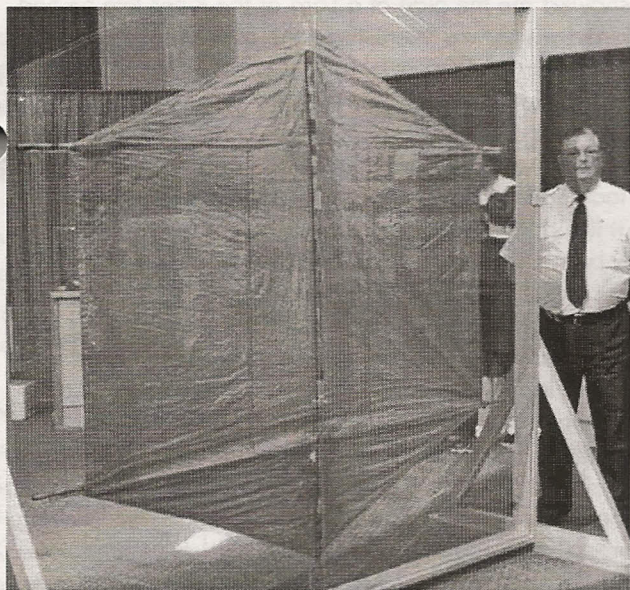
## AGAINST THE WIND

### The Role of Canadian William Holbrook in the Historic Kite Flight at Signal Hill, St John's, Newfoundland, December 12, 1901

He leaned against the large kite on the leeward side of its sail. Taking brief shelter from the biting wind that whipped constant and cold, William Holbrook glanced down from Signal Hill towards the St John's harbour. To the west and north the sky was a slate grey. It was unlikely that the near gale force winds would soon abate. He looked out from behind the momentary shelter of the kite toward Mr Paget as he came forward from discussion with Mr Marconi and Mr Kemp.

Here he was, working quite unexpectedly, in the midst of Guglielmo Marconi's team of wireless communicators. He marvelled at the men and their determination to defy distance with strange equipment and an idea that was difficult to fully comprehend.

A seasonally unemployed cooper's apprentice, Holbrook had been hired to help move equipment crates from the harbour to the top of Signal Hill, a large promontory of rock overlooking the vast Atlantic Ocean on one side and the protected harbour of St John's on the other. After helping to move the crates from the SS *Sardinian*, Mr Marconi had asked him to stay on and help raise the



This photograph was taken at Government House, St. John's, Newfoundland, on July 5, 2001. It shows one of the two kites remaining from the group of six that Marconi and associates brought to St. John's as part of their equipment to raise their aerial. This particular kite is the only one that still has the sail, spars, and bridle intact.

balloons and kites which were intended to lift a long wire aerial. He had explained to Holbrook that an attempt was to be made to grab wireless signals from the air; signals that were being sent a distance of over 2100 miles from a transmitter at the Poldhu station in Cornwall, England.

"All right," said Paget, "let's try again." Holbrook changed places and moved out to pick up the kite line fifty feet downwind. He and the others pulled. The heavy cord went taut, the kite rose and pitched wildly from side to side. Tumultuous winds, a constant feature of Signal Hill, made it difficult to steady the kite and maintain the required altitude for the aerial. The aerial wire was attached to the kite at one end and to a ground plate in the earth at the other. Flying the kite with this extra anchor point and in these strong winds was an arduous task. Assisted by George Kemp, Paget and other local labourers, Holbrook's arms ached with the strain of the large kite.

The kite fliers hung on in the cold wind. Marconi and Kemp entered the building and closed the door. Inside, a wireless receiving device, known as a coherer, was attached to a wire running through the window frame and to the wavering and unsteady aerial suspended by the kite. In the warmth by the wood stove, with the wind howling outside, Marconi and Kemp listened intently for a signal transmitted from the far shore of the Atlantic.

The kite continued to buck in the strong wind. It pulled roughly against Holbrook's grip. Today, December 12, 1901 was only half over. Already his hands hurt through the gloves as he clung doggedly to the line. He would be glad for his daily pay of \$1.00 that Mr Marconi personally presented at the end of work.

Inside, Marconi picked up a candlestick-type telephone receiver. He held it close to his ear and listened for the signal that he believed could span the Atlantic. It had not been detected on the previous day. The tension was palpable, but the wireless pioneers remained calm and intent, fervently hoping for a sound.

Then, out of the ether, faint but distinguishable – came the sound of three dots – the International Morse Code signal for the letter "S". The pre-arranged signal was audible over the static also sounding in the receiver. There it was again. Marconi quietly passed the receiver to George Kemp. He listened. Once more the signal came and Kemp nodded.

Outside, the kite with trailing aerial continued to pull and move from side to side. It remained anchored by Holbrook and two other St John's men, Jim Hohan and Peter Edstrom, working with Paget. The Atlantic had been crossed by a wireless signal! It had reached the aerial held aloft by the kite. Nations of the world were bound closer by communication than ever before.

This segment of "Mr. Marconi's Kites"  
© November 2001. Robert (Bob) White  
Port Colborne, ON Canada  
E-mail: bwhite@niagara.com

See next page for more on this historic event.

Here are some documented facts compiled by Bob White during his research into the kites used in Marconi's trans-Atlantic wireless project:

- There were six kites in the kit brought to St John's. They may have been of varying sizes since there is mention of one kite being 275cm tall. Others measure out at about 185cm in height.
- All of the kites were of the Baden-Powell type (Capt. B.F.S. Baden-Powell: 1860-1937).
- The Marconi Company first became acquainted with the Baden-Powell kite design during a wireless assignment for the British Government during the Boer War in South Africa.
- The kites were manufactured by G.C. Spencer and Bros. Ltd, Highbury, London, England. Spencer and Company was a well known supplier of balloons and kites. The company no longer exists.
- An examination of the Baden-Powell patent and comparison to an extant kite shows that some design modification was made by Spencer and Company.
- At least two of the kites broke away during the four days of flight in St John's. One was recovered from the captain of a fishing boat and the other from a valley on the north side of Signal Hill.
- Only two kites are known to remain from the set. One consists of only the sail; the other is complete with sail, frame and part of the bridle intact.
- The sail of the complete kite measures 183.5 cm high by 177 cm wide.
- The sails are of heavy cotton cloth. All outside edges were reinforced with linen tape and sewn with cotton thread. Five separate cloth panels were sewn together to make each kite sail.
- At key stress point locations, where the frame and bridle attached to the kite sail, additional cotton cloth reinforcing panels were sewn in place.
- Brass grommets were used to provide access points to attach the frame and bridle to the kite sail.
- The frame consists of three bamboo poles. The longeron is 199cm in length and the cross spars are 215cm in length. Thus, when fully assembled, the spars extend beyond the height and width of the sale
- The bridle was made of strong hemp cordage and was attached to the kite in six places (at the outside cross spars and at mid-points where the cross spars meet the longeron).
- There is no evidence of a bowing system for the kite in any photos or archival documents extant.

*The editor would like to thank Bob White for his generosity in making this fascinating article available for reprinting in What's Up? Bob, incidentally, is a friend of Meg Albers, of Buffalo, New York, author of the article "Kites on the Winds of War", reprinted in What's Up? #73*



## The Story Behind the Big Green Door

*by Stephen Gibson, Wanganui – 11 years old*

Imagine a lively 11-year-old boy sitting at his Grandad's house in Ashburton most of the day. What would you do? I pestered my Dad, asking if I could go to Peter Lynns Kites. He said, "Not today, but maybe when we take Grandad to the hospital tomorrow." When tomorrow came I reminded Dad when we were just coming out of the hospital and he said . . .

We found the workshop easily, as I had visited there briefly on another occasion. As we arrived at Peter Lynn Kites, Dad said "be quick." With great excitement I pulled the old big green sliding door across and walked in. A lady at the counter, Jenny Cook, came across and started talking to me. I introduced myself and she introduced me to a Dutch man who works at Vlieger-Op in The Hague. He showed me the plan of a Lord of the Rings kite he had designed which was interesting. She also showed me photos, and a small kites catalogue and I saw an S25 Excalibur and a Spinsock.

Just beside where I was standing I noticed a huge bag. I had a thought: "Could that be the MegaRay?" I asked the lady and yes, sure enough it was – I hope one day I'll see it flying. She continued to show me around. First I saw Peter Lynn's daughter. She was making a Tri-D box kite 6 metres long. This kite is to go on display at Te Papa Museum, Wellington. Peter Lynn had five staff working that day and each person was sewing some different type of kite. One lady was sewing a Maxi Cat, one man was making a Maxi Octopus and another a Maxi Teddy Bear. It was thrilling for me seeing the beginning of these fantastic kites.

The lady knew that I was interested in kites and sewing them, so she produced 2½ bags stuffed full with surplus scraps of ripstop nylon! My eyes boggled – this was like gold to me!! There were so many colours and so many pieces I could make use of.

We went back to the counter where she showed me a couple of magazines. She also gave me some catalogues. I said "Thanks so much for everything," then I pulled the big green door back and stepped out of the workshop visualising all the kites I could sew and so thrilled with my visit to Peter Lynn's Kites.

# WEBMASTER'S SCRIPT

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

### Articles

For those interested in fighter kites, Steve Brorens has kindly submitted a few articles of great interest. They have been posted for some time, so this is just a reminder for those who have not yet seen it. You can find the link on the news scroller.

### Festivals

For those who were unable to attend the Taupo and Rotorua festivals, a few reports have been posted together with some images of the day. You can also find the link on the news scroller.

### Kite photos

The pages containing your kite photos have been updated with a few new additions. There are quite a lot of text bits missing so if you can help with photos and details of a certain kite, let me know please. This photo album represents you [the NZKA] so if you want your images shown please send them to me. Any format is fine by me. If you don't have email, just mail me the photos through the conventional post, and I will send them back to you once I have scanned them.

### Newsletter

If you would like to receive our monthly website newsletter or an e-mail version of *What's Up?*, register your email address with us today. The NZKA E-zine is still being formatted, so it could take some time.

### News scroller

If you wish to announce your next festival or simply have something you want to say, why not post it on the news scroller?

### NZKA Christmas contest

We have had a good response to our Christmas competition, and the winners have been sent their kite prizes. For the results consult the news scroller.

Keep your eyes on the website, as an Easter egg hunt will be coming up soon. Launch date: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2003. The link: <http://www.nzka.org.nz/easter/index.htm>

Of course it goes without saying, if you have any questions please let me know and I will endeavor to answer them to the best of my ability.

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

## From the Treasure Chest

by Stephen Cook, NZKA Treasurer

Your Association is currently in good heart financially. A full set of annual accounts for the year ended 30 September 2002 will be presented at our AGM in Wanganui and a copy will be provided in *What's Up?* There will also be a full Treasurer's report. And also at the Wanganui AGM I will relinquish the post of Treasurer but I'm willing to stay on the Committee.

I have taken on the role of treasurer for my Lions Club and it is much more time-consuming than I anticipated. My wife Rosemary is to be our Lions President next year, and I was uncertain that I could refuse her request to continue as Club treasurer for her!

This year will see a 'loss' for NZKA, partly due to additional promotional expenditure and partly due to purchase of Grizz, our bear kite. It has received favourable comment and does much to publicise us. The committee agreed on a five-year 'write-off' period and there will therefore be a continuing paper 'loss' for the next couple of years.

We need to continue with our promotional expenditure, but I would caution against any plans to run down finances to a low level. We need the comfort of available funds to cover various eventualities. These could include greatly increased insurance and similar costs. After the infamous September 11 events, insurances worldwide have increased and we have been caught up in this.

There are also matters concerning public events that open us to liability and probable increased costs. We must continue to have backing to meet these costs, otherwise the fee for attending particular events could lead to a fall-off in participation.

Please attend our AGM and have your say, or pass your thoughts on to someone who will attend. One item I will raise is to move our financial year end to November 30, or even December. Currently, we change or confirm treasurers at the AGM at Easter, but end the year in September. This year the Treasurer will change some six months into the financial year, which is not an ideal situation for a part-time volunteer to the position.

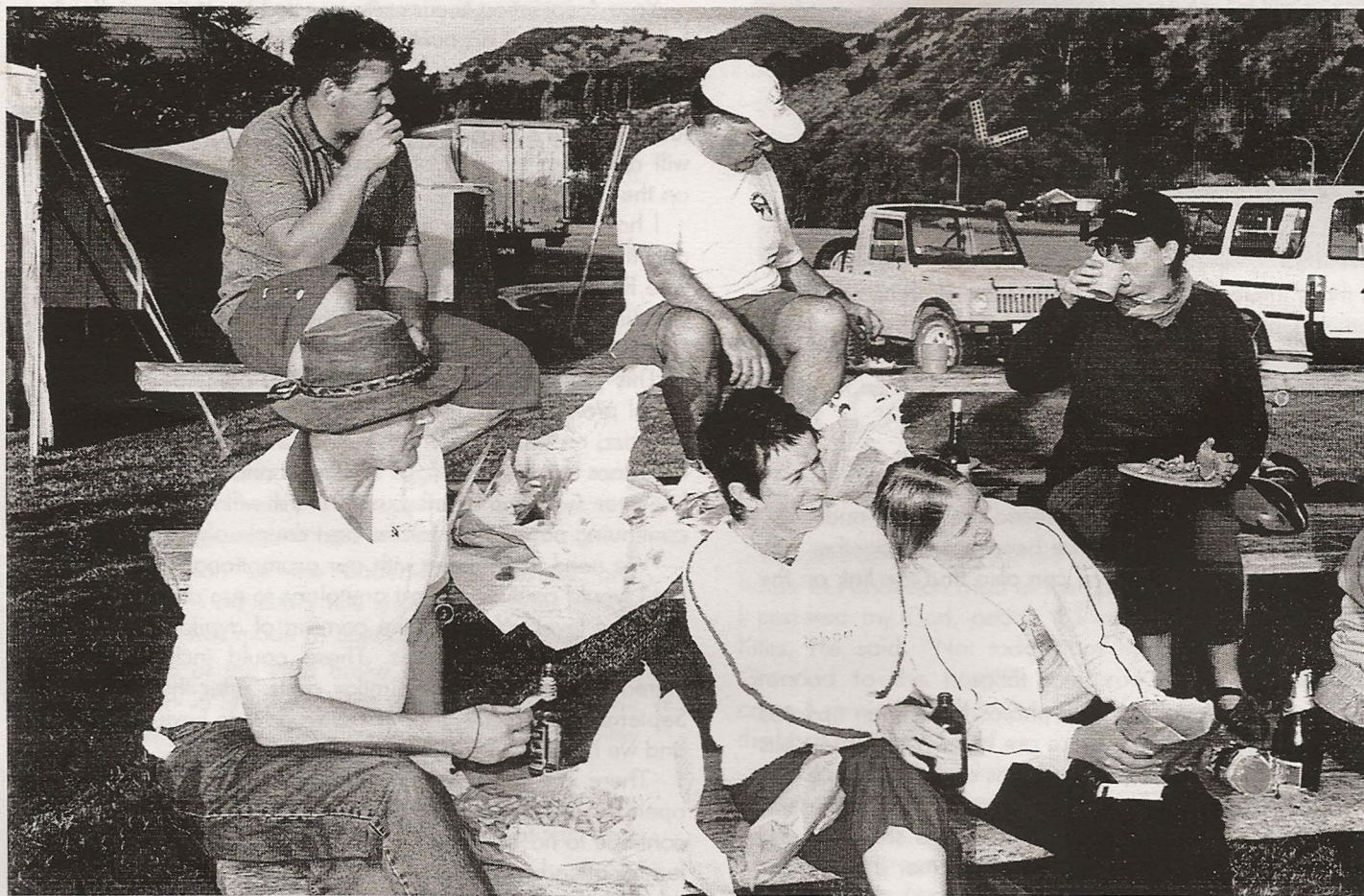
NB: A note from NZKA Secretary Tony Fitchett:  
Des Pitfield is to be nominated as the next Treasurer.

## Cindy Mosey, World Champion

Local girl makes good. Cindy Mosey, 28, formerly of Nelson and now an Auckland resident, cleaned up in a very big way in her first year on the world pro kitesurfing tour, winning by a convincing margin every Professional Kiteriders' Association event she entered. She also filled the top slot at every major non-tour event she contested.

Cindy didn't begin kitesurfing until 1999, when she talked Kane Harill, of Christchurch, into letting her have a go when he was kitesurfing in Nelson. While it's been a very rapid climb to the top in this demanding extreme sport, the battle with equipment and the elements was titanic, but this very determined young lady stuck it out and is now reaping the rewards.

# BY ALL ACCOUNTS, NELSO



## RAELLE CONNOLLY REPORTS . . .

I had been told that the Nelson annual fly was not to be missed, so this year I took a week off work, a very rare occasion, which just happened to coincide with the popular event. We flew into Nelson at 7.30am Friday and breakfasted with Anne Whitehead at Morrisons Cafe, which was very nice indeed.

Kelle and I spent Friday seeing the sights and getting settled in. We took in a session of "The Two Towers" in the late afternoon as well. Following that, we went out to the flying field, where some of the early arrivals were taking advantage of a smooth sea breeze. Ted Howard and Geoff Campbell went off for takeaways at 7.30pm and we kept flying virtually until darkness fell. It was good to catch up with some old friends and some others that we hadn't seen for a while.

Saturday arrived with steady breezes and blue skies. The fliers arrived and the skies were filled with our creations. I put Harry Potter up and he sat there all day. Kelle put up the new Roller she'd made at the October workshop, and then went into the marquee and read "The Hobbit", because she was feeling unwell. The rest of us struggled with the tangles as the wind became unstable. The highlight of the day for me was to help Robert van Weers launch Garfield on his

maiden flight, which was spectacular.

All in all we had a great day, which was topped off with a fabulous gathering of clans of glowing kite flyers at Ted and Gretchen Howard's. Geoff and I followed a plate of mussels around the back yard, but I didn't eat much more after that as I was full.

The public day turned out to be good. To begin with, the wind was unsteady and in the wrong direction but about 11.30am it turned right around and settled enough to allow us to put on a display, so this is exactly what we did. When Peter Lynn pulled out the MegaRay and put it up, it dwarfed every other kite in the sky – even the other big soft kites. It was evident that the other flyers had been a lot more religious about sunblock application when we went to dinner at Lambretta's, which was a very pleasant conclusion to a great weekend of flying.

I would really like to return next year if possible.

## ROBERT VAN WEERS SAYS . . .

I always look forward to the Nelson kite festival, which is in my opinion, one of the – if not the – best festival held in New Zealand. This year was no exception, and my hat goes off to the organizers for putting on a great event again.

My only regret is that I didn't fly as many kites as I wanted to. This was mainly due to the fact that I spent most of the morning putting the finishing touches on Garfield.

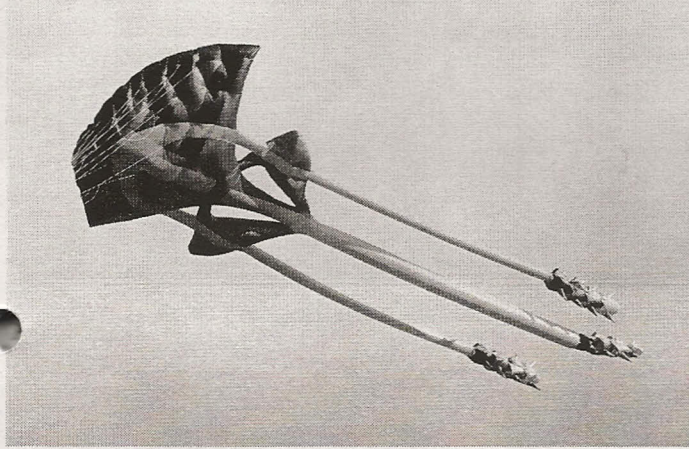
I am still undecided about what my highlight was. Was it seeing the MegaRay in action or seeing Garfield take flight

ABOVE: This keen bunch of Friday evening fliers at Nelson was snapped while dining al fresco at Neale Park.

# N '03 WAS A GREAT EVENT

for the first time. One of the reasons I like visiting the Nelson festival is to meet up with friends I haven't seen for a while, to share ideas and friendship.

I also have to mention the great hospitality from Ted and Gretchen, who again this year put on a superb barbecue evening. I can't wait to see you all there next year.



## JULIE ADAM WAS THERE TOO . . .

The trip to the Nelson Kite Festival, with three days of flying at Neale Park, is always one I look forward to. And this year I had a couple of new toys to try out.

Friday and Saturday were informal days with plenty of room to spread out and take over the field. The wind was perfect and everything that went up stayed up, giving the fliers a chance to catch up, swap stories and compare notes.

A bit of drizzle on Saturday morning meant an opportunity for a bit of retail therapy – and the Nelson market never disappoints! Right on the edge of the market square is one of the best of two kite shops in the island, and I was drawn inside for bit of a catch up, swapping tips, tales and yarns, a bit of cash and a good bit of fun!

On Sunday the pressure was on and several of us set up along the edge of the field, put up a few steady pieces and waited for the wind to shift, which it did when Ted said it would and then blew straight and steady for the rest of the day.

The challenges and displays, along with the commentary, kept everyone on their toes and interested in the goings on. The Lynn team did a great job keeping the big ones up and steady and the rest of us filled in the gaps, creating a spectacle that could be seen for miles around. It was great to see familiar kites flying again and new ones to broaden our horizons. There was a good selection of flyers with a huge selection of kites and some great workmanship and design – plenty to inspire, encourage and challenge.

ABOVE: Volker Hobert's Ankalogon flew well on its first outing, less than 24 hours after completion.

RIGHT: The one and only MegaRay cast a large shadow over Neale Park.

I was given the job of babysitting the NZKA midi-bear. For someone who always said that I wouldn't fly anything I couldn't hold on to, with good tuition and great engineering this was a highly successful experience.

A quick wind shift at the end of the day took the MegaRay for a wander and signalled time for everyone to pack up.

Hospitality is important at such events and there was plenty to weigh down the anchors for the field. The Saturday barbecue was extremely well catered – Nelson Kite Club members had been out hunting and gathering beforehand and the courses ranged from trays of mussels to cases of ice-cream. It was a great effort – thanks to all those at the Nelson Kite Club and Rainbow Flight.

The visitors were fewer than previous years, but they were still enthusiastic about what they saw and repetitive in their questions and comments. Nelsonians know about the festival, and visitors heard about it from moteliers, waiters and shopkeepers around the town. The kite festival is a wonderful community day – bringing out the crowds and the smiles – and, even though it is really hard work for the few who did an amazing job putting it all on, I hope it can stay on the annual kite calendar.

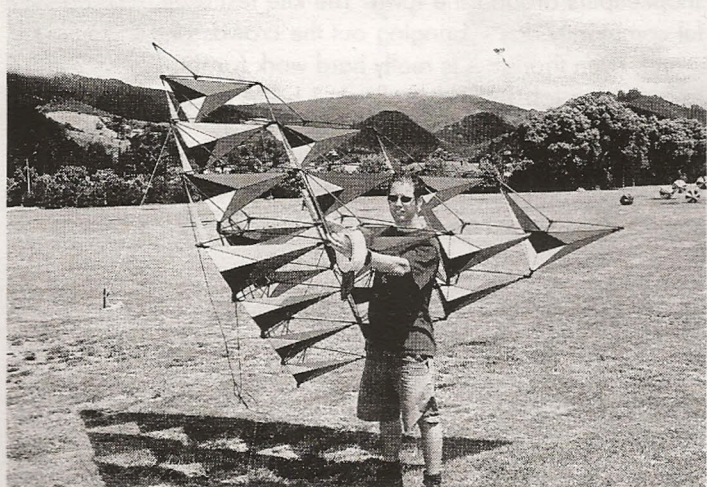
Next stop Wanganui – but I don't know that I've got time to finish the plans unfurling in my head, so maybe there'll be something new for Nelson next year too!





# Around the festivals . . .

PIX BY "SNAPPER"



## NELSON SEEN

Clockwise from top left:

Stephen Jarvis taking his pilot's licence test with Geoff Campbell and Grizz at Nelson.

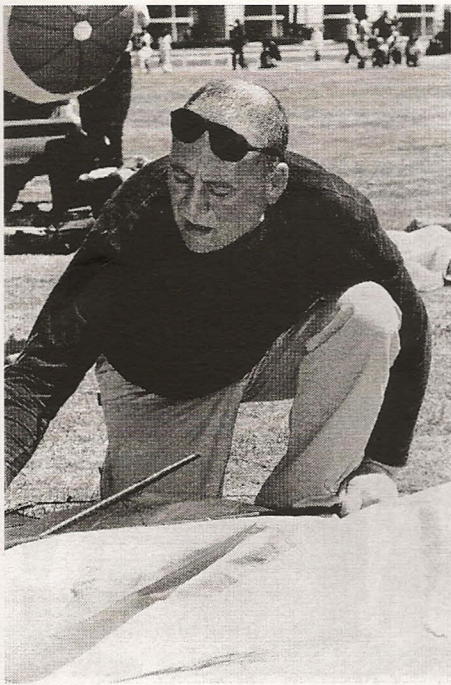
"Mr Buggymeister" Peter Lynn shows how it's done.

Ted Howard had a play with a new Peter Lynn power kite.

President Pete Whitehead lent a hand at the barbecue

Perrin Melchior was down from Auckland with his carbon-sparred Bell tetrahedral kite





## TAUPO/ ROTORUA/ NELSON

*Clockwise from top left:*

A bleary-eyed Michel Gressier assembling one of his dagger kites at Rotorua

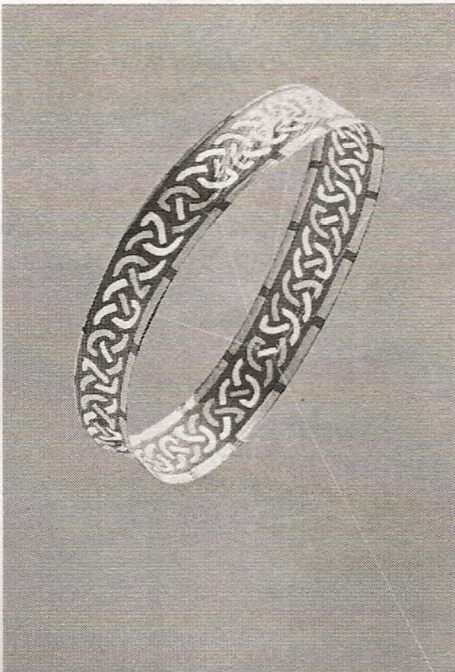
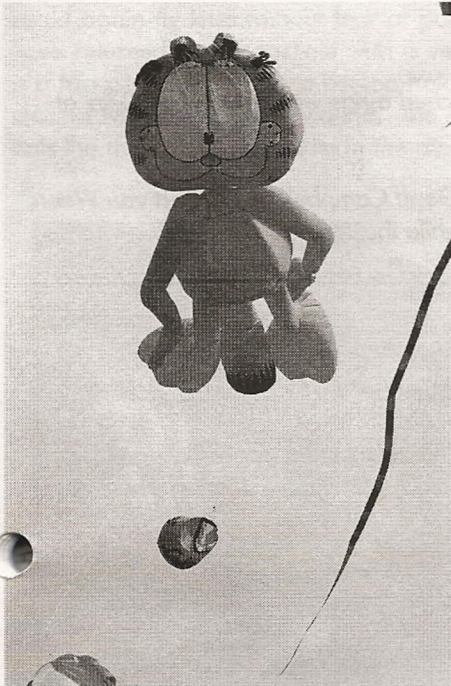
Michel gets airborne

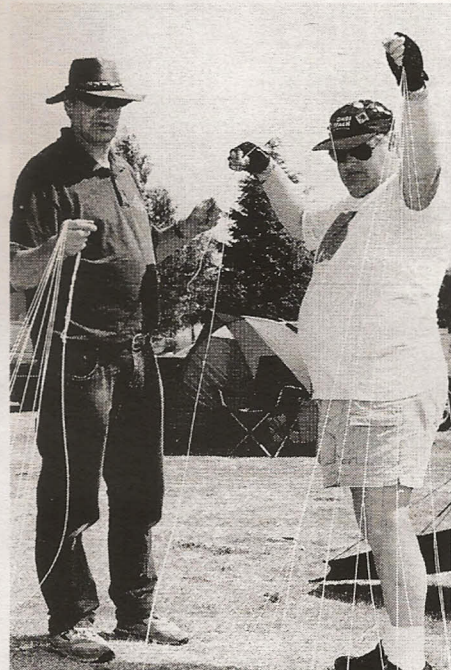
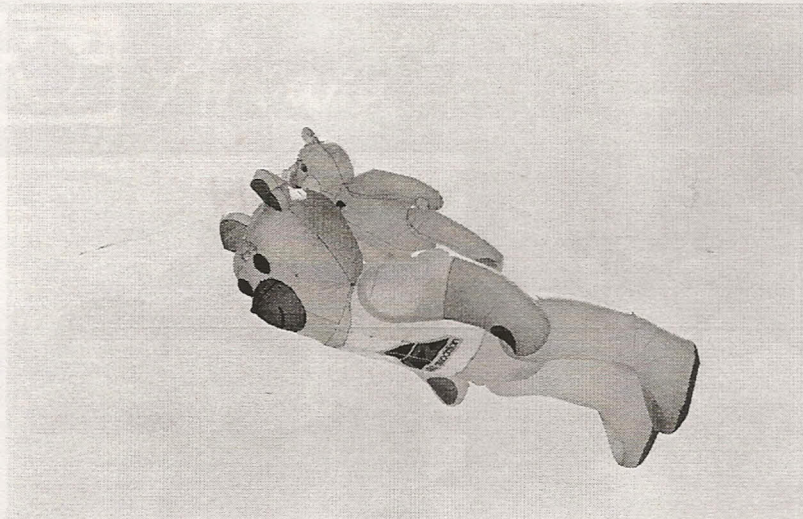
John Whibley's Celtic-design circoflex looked good at Taupo

Jackie and George Penney brought these Martin Lester creations from the UK for a Nelson summer holiday

Volker Hobert (left) and Pepijn Smit taking it easy at Taupo

The Nelson festival saw Robert van Weers' brilliant and brand-new Garfield on his first flight





## BONUS PHOTO PAGE

*Clockwise from top left:  
Geoff Campbell's mini bear hitched a ride with big brother Grizz at  
Rotorua*

*How long is a piece of string? Geoff Campbell and Robert van Weers  
ponder the question at Taupo while they make some bridling altera-  
tions*

*Inside the mighty MegaRay at Nelson*

*This shot gets the MegaRay into perspective*

*At Taupo, Jim Ayers shows off the latest in fashionable kiting wear, as  
well as his new kite made from a \$2 Warehouse steering wheel cover*



# AFGHANISTAN AFTER THE TALIBAN: ARTISTRY IN THE AIR

by Grant Podelco

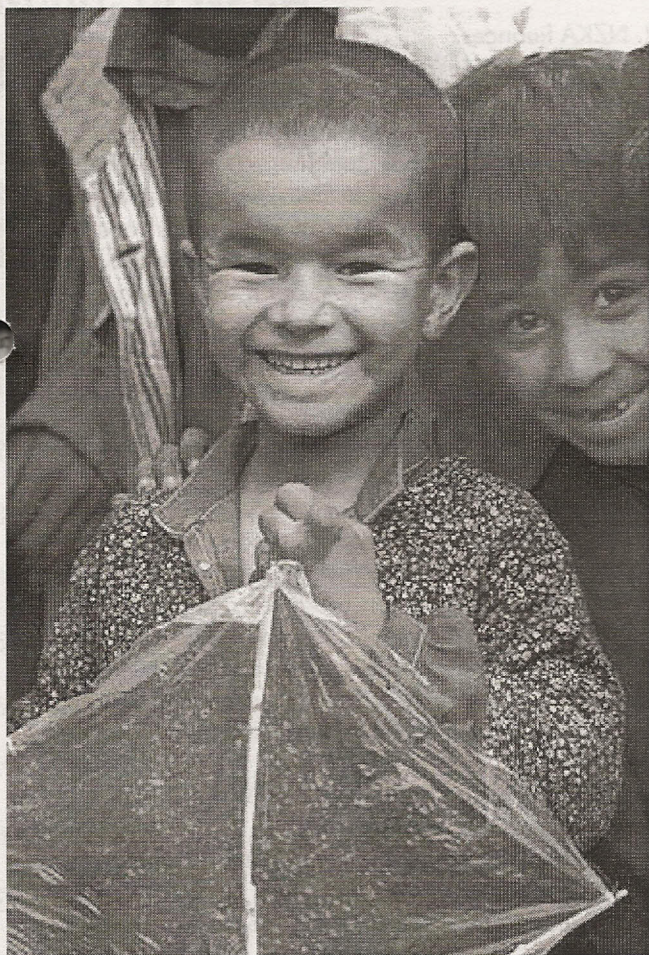
Kite flying is more than a pastime in Afghanistan – it's a national obsession. The streets of the capital, Kabul, are filled with shops selling kite-flying equipment, and the skies above the city are decorated each day with hundreds of colorful kites fluttering in the wind. Banned by the Taliban as un-Islamic, kite flying has now hit new heights of popularity in the country.

To the first-time visitor, the skies above Kabul appear to be filled with fluttering birds or pieces of paper caught in the wind. A closer look reveals hundreds of brightly colored kites soaring high into the air.

Karim is 12 years old and is helping his friend Muhasel fly a kite. He recalls what the Taliban would do if they caught someone flying a kite:

"During the Taliban, kite flying was not allowed. If you flew a kite, [the Taliban] would beat you and break the spool and tear up the kite."

The fall of the Taliban, however, meant that Afghans could again fly kites without fear of punishment, and many have returned to the pastime with a vengeance. Kite flying is a two-person affair. One person holds the wooden spool around which the line is wound. The second person controls the movement of the kite in the air.



These happy-looking young kitefliers were photographed at Mazar-I-Sharif refugee camp in Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, wherever there are kites there is kite fighting. Twenty-five-year-old Muhasel stands on the shaky roof of his small video-cassette shop in south-eastern Kabul, engaged in a kite fight with an unseen opponent elsewhere in the neighborhood. He explains what appeals to him about kite fighting:

"I enjoy [flying kites] because I'm interested in it. When I see people are flying kites, then I buy a kite to fly and fight with the others."

Everything in Afghan kite fighting depends on the quality of the line and how it is prepared. First, glass is finely ground and combined with an adhesive mixture to make a thick paste. The is then coated with this paste to make it strong and sharp. After it is dry, the line is wound around the spool. Kite fighters often wrap a piece of leather around their fingers to protect themselves from the taut line, which can cut to the bone. When an opponent's kite is cut free, it flutters like a colorful, dying bird into the far reaches of the city. Such kites are said to be "free and legal," and can be retrieved by neighborhood children to fly another day. Each neighborhood crowns its own kite-fighting champion. Kabul is filled with shops selling all manner of kite paraphernalia.

Twenty-six-year-old Jawid runs such a shop in the Shur Bazaar, the kite-selling market in old Kabul: "People have been flying kites [in Afghanistan] for more than 1000 years. We sell and buy from 500 to 2000 kites every day in our shop. Long ago, kite flying was part of our national games, and my father won a trophy 25 years ago."

The kites cost from 2000 afghanis – just a few cents for children's tiny kites no bigger than a magazine – to 100,000 afghanis (less than \$2) for large kites usually handled only by the most experienced flyers. Kites were still sold during the days of the Taliban, but it was done in secret.

"During the Taliban, we were doing our business here, but if they found out, they would come and destroy our kites, spools, and other stuff, as they did many times. They burned our kites, asking who the owner was. But we could not say anything, because if they knew they would imprison us," said one dealer.

Winter is one of the most popular times for kite flying in Afghanistan. The winds are strong, and schools are closed because of the cold weather. While it brings mostly smiles, kite flying is also dangerous. Many people are injured when they fall from roofs chasing free kites or when they lose concentration during a heated battle. Thirty-six-year-old Sharif is flying a kite beside the dry, trash-filled bed of the Kabul River in central Kabul. He says he's been flying kites for about 20 years, always on Fridays. Sharif recalls the glory days of kite flying in Kabul: "Before the Taliban, people used to fly kites in a place called Chaman-i-Babrak [in northern Kabul], and kite flying competitions were held there. Kids, young people, and older people from all over Afghanistan and Kabul City would gather there. They used to lay wagers on fighting kites."

Sharif smiles. He wants to get back to his kiteflying. There's a battle to be won.

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# NZ KITEFLIERS' ASSOCIATION 2002 AGM MINUTES

Minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting held at the Taita Cricket Club, Fraser Park at 9.30am on Saturday, 30 March, 2002.

1. GREETINGS: President Peter Whitehead gave a cordial greeting to the 43 members present.

2. Apologies were received from John Mason, Diana Hough, Stephen Jarvis, Norelly Jarvis, Bill McLachlan, Phil Whitehead, Shirley Whitehead, Gretchen Howard, Jim Ayres.

3. Amending of Minutes of 16th AGM.

After discussion, an amendment was made to the Minutes of the 16th AGM. (Peter Whitehead/Gwenda Galbraith). The Minutes were then adopted (Margaret McGuire/Ray McCully).

4. Amending of Minutes of 17th AGM.

Pursuant to the previous item, the Minutes of the 17th AGM were adopted. (Margaret McGuire/Anne Whitehead). There were no matters arising.

5. President's Report.

President Peter Whitehead presented his report. After thanking the Committee for efforts during the year, he noted some of the matters which had been actioned. Robert van Weers was stepping down, but continuing as Webmaster. Bill McLachlan was stepping down as Regional Representative and would be replaced by Sharon Russell. The previous three issues of *What's Up?* showed that Richard Wotton was doing a great job,

6. Appointment of Auditor.

The meeting confirmed Graham Cooper as Honorary Auditor for the financial year to 30 September, 2001 (Stephen Cook/David Bowie)

7. Treasurer's Report

Stephen Cook presented his Report, noting that NZKA was in good financial shape. The input from subscriptions had been reducing for the previous five years, which had resulted in a fall in "promotional" type expenditure. Although the reserves might be able to sustain this for a period, viability might suffer, and it was now important to review NZKA activities with a view to increasing membership. Although promotional dollars could be made available, this needs to be matched by efforts on the part of members. The report was adopted (Anne Whitehead/Margaret McGuire).

Stephen Cook presented the NZKA accounts. These were adopted (Peter Whitehead/Anne Whitehead)

Stephen Cook moved that the subscriptions remain unchanged (Stephen Cook/Raelle Connolly).

The meeting approved the appointment of Graham Cooper as Auditor for the 2001/2002 Financial year (Stephen Cook/Raelle Connolly)

8. Election of Officers.

The following were elected :

President: Peter Whitehead

Secretary: Tony Fitchett

Treasurer: Stephen Cook

9. Election of Committee.

The following were elected: Raelle Connolly, John Mason, Ray McCully, Geoff Campbell.

10. Amendment to Rule 26 (Winding up)

The meeting discussed the changes proposed to Rule 26, arising from IRD recommendations on wording to make tax exemption clear. While there was general agreement on the proposed 26(a), some members had reservations on the "no later changes" provision of 26(b). After further discussion, it was agreed to adopt the amendment (Peter Whitehead/Tony Fitchett)

11. Amendments to Committee procedures.

Stephen Cook and Ray McCully presented proposals to add a new Rules 13(a) and 21(a). 13(a) set out the frequency and form of Committee meetings, and 21(a) the voting procedure for both telephone conference calls and electronic messaging connection. The voting must be recorded by the Secretary.

The meeting approved the amendments (Stephen Cook/Peter Whitehead).

12. NZKA finances.

Ray McCully noted that NZKA was in a very strong financial position, and felt that money had been taken from members and not put into use. The funds should be used to support kiting. Stephen Cook commented that it was not correct to imply that funds had been taken from members – the bulk of the reserves had come the Tasmanian and Napier Festivals and the Hillary Commission. Some funds could well be used to promote NZKA, but it was very risky to deliberately run down reserves.

13. Membership.

On membership, David Bowie noted that the Wellington and Hawkes Bay areas were stronger in membership than elsewhere in New Zealand. Other areas would improve if members locally did more in promotion. He noted that some 50% of new members do not renew after the first year and that this had been so for some years. He also noted that big festivals do not produce new members. Ray McCully expressed support for members to be active in promoting kiting in their own areas and to have kites available to fly as demonstration items. He noted that Queensland kitefliers have a supply of kites for members to fly at gatherings.

Anne Whitehead noted that the NZKA arch has been flown at several areas around NZ.

Des Pitfield suggested that the Committee conduct a survey on why people have left NZKA.

So moved by Des Pitfield/Raelle Connolly. (David Bowie dissenting.)

*Continued on next page*

The meeting generally agreed that it would be useful to have kites available to members for kite gatherings. Robert van Weers noted that he had available a large NZKA logo windsock which could be borrowed by members.

### 13. Web Page.

Robert van Weers briefed the meeting on what was available on the Web page. He had run a competition with hidden "Easter Eggs" and the winners were Brian Heveldt, Anne Whitehead and Ian Russell. The meeting applauded Robert for his work.

### 14. Next NZKA Festival

Richard Wotton briefed the meeting on what could be done in Wanganui. The meeting agreed the next Festival should be in Wanganui.

Ray McCully noted that Rotorua 2004 was dependent on continuing assured sponsorship, and that there would be a decision in November on whether to proceed. It would be valuable if a South Island meeting could be arranged for the following week.

Raelle Connolly advised that 2005 could well be Hawke's Bay.

The meeting closed at 11.17am.

## Notice of NZKA Annual General Meeting

The 19th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Kitefliers' Association will be held at Springvale Park Stadium, Wanganui, at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, April 19, 2003.

### AGENDA:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Greetings to visitors
3. Adoption of Minutes of the 18th AGM
4. Matters arising from the Minutes
5. President's Report
6. Appointment of Auditor
7. Financial report
8. Election of officers
9. Formal business of which due notice has been given
10. Festival 2004
11. Other business

## ANTARCTIC KITING WITH ERIC MUHS

*by Julie Adam*

Eric Muhs first contacted me by e-mail. He had visited the KiteShop in Christchurch on his way to Antarctica (as you do) and thought we might like to hear about what he was doing. Being keen to show some Kiwi hospitality I invited him to come around and talk to us about his exploits on the ice. After a few days' delay because of bad weather, he turned up in Christchurch complaining of the cold he had endured, and talked of the Drachen Foundation, Kite Aerial Photography, TEA (Teachers Experiencing Antarctica) and his work detecting muons and neutrinos in Antarctica.

It turned out that he was a teacher from Seattle, with a family, and quite a normal kind of guy who loved travelling, exploring and discovering new things. He didn't like crayfish because they were too much like big spiders, but otherwise he was pretty courageous and adventurous! The photographs and videos he took were stunning, his stories and anecdotes were amusing and informative and his work with the astrophysics project quite beyond comprehension!

We had a great evening squashed around the TV in our lounge. The time was too short, but leaving us with a taste for more and inspired to go out and wreck some cameras!

Everything about his trip is well documented on the net and his kite aerial photos and videos are all there to be seen, so go explore . . .

For information about Eric:

[http://www.drachen.org/Drachen\\_Ed\\_site/around\\_the\\_world/antarctica/eric.pdf](http://www.drachen.org/Drachen_Ed_site/around_the_world/antarctica/eric.pdf)

For article and info about his trip to Antarctica:

[http://www.drachen.org/Drachen\\_Ed\\_site/around\\_the\\_world/antarctica/antarctica.html](http://www.drachen.org/Drachen_Ed_site/around_the_world/antarctica/antarctica.html)

For heaps of videos and slides (time consuming downloads) go to the bottom of the page, where you'll find kiting at the South Pole:

[http://www.drachen.org/Drachen\\_Ed\\_site/around\\_the\\_world/antarctica/Antarctica\\_CD/Open\\_Me\\_First.htm](http://www.drachen.org/Drachen_Ed_site/around_the_world/antarctica/Antarctica_CD/Open_Me_First.htm)

## More on world altitude record

*by Richard Wotton*

In *What's Up?* #71 there was a brief item about Canadian kiter Richard Synergy and his successful attempt on the world altitude record, which had stood for more than 100 years.

The record-breaking kite was a 30-foot wide delta flown on 270-pound Kevlar line, and the altitude reached was 14,509 feet. The old record stood at 12,471 feet, and was set in 1896, near Boston, Massachusetts.

While casting about on the Internet I came across his website, and he tells the whole story, blow by blow. On reading it, it's not hard to figure out why the record stood for so long—breaking it was a truly Herculean task, and it's well worth checking out.

Synergy's URL is [www.total.net/~kite/world.html](http://www.total.net/~kite/world.html)

# The National Festival is coming up fast!

by Richard Wotton

The 2003 annual festival of the New Zealand Kitefliers' Association will be held in Wanganui over the Easter holiday weekend, April 18-21.

We have the exclusive use of Springvale Park for the entire weekend, and we've booked part of the sports stadium as our base for the event. There's 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.

Registrations have been coming in slowly, and by the time some of you read this you will have missed the March 1 deadline for a \$5 rebate on your registration fee.

PLEASE DON'T DELAY: HELP US OUT BY GETTING YOUR REGISTRATION FORM COMPLETED AND POSTED NOW. Send to Richard Wotton, 44 Wairere Road, Wanganui.

If you stay at the Magnolia Motel (ph. 0800 1 MOTEL, fax 06 348 7004, e-mail [b-ks.magnolia@xtra.co.nz](mailto:b-ks.magnolia@xtra.co.nz)) or the Riverview Motel (14 Somme Parade, Wanganui, ph. 06 345 2888), 10% of your tariff will come back to the NZKA. Sunday night's dinner will be at the Golden Oaks Restaurant at the Collegiate Motor Inn, which is very close to the festival venue, so this may suit some people as a place to stay. Wherever you choose to stay in Wanganui, you're not going to be too far from the venue. For anyone without a car, the Sports Lodge Motel, cnr Parsons Street and Surrey Road, phone 06 344 6351, is very close to the venue.

## HAWKE'S BAY QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WORKSHOP

We are pleased to advise that the winner of "Best Art Kite" at the recent Rotorua Art in the Sky festival has agreed to be the tutor at the Hawke's Bay annual Queen's Birthday workshop.

Jim Ayers has had vast experience in art and kite design, and will be showing us how to use some of the more readily available materials. If you have had the chance to look into his box of kites you would have been fascinated in what Jim can fashion from bits and pieces. When looking in that same box you would be amazed at his artistic skills: every kite a gem.

Jim will take us through making a kite and then taking it into the breeze to see how it performs and then making changes to teach us the fine art of tuning for better performance.

As the next *What's Up?* will not be out in time to give you all the details that are yet to be worked out, please advise either John Mason or Sharon Russell by the end of April of your interest in attending.

Contact details: John Mason's are on the Committee page. Sharon Russell (Regional Rep) 92 Bill Hercock St, Napier. ph (06) 843 4359, e-mail [rj.russells@paradise.net.nz](mailto:rj.russells@paradise.net.nz)

# SOLAR SAILS – THE SPACEY WAY TO GO

by Richard Wotton

A recent conversation with a non-kiting friend about kite-powered boats prompted him to do some Internet research which in turn led him to information on solar sails, which neither he nor I had ever heard of.

I know these don't exactly qualify as kites, but I feel it's worth reporting here and any interested readers can do further research of their own. What follows is a little bit of information gathered from the Internet to whet your appetite.

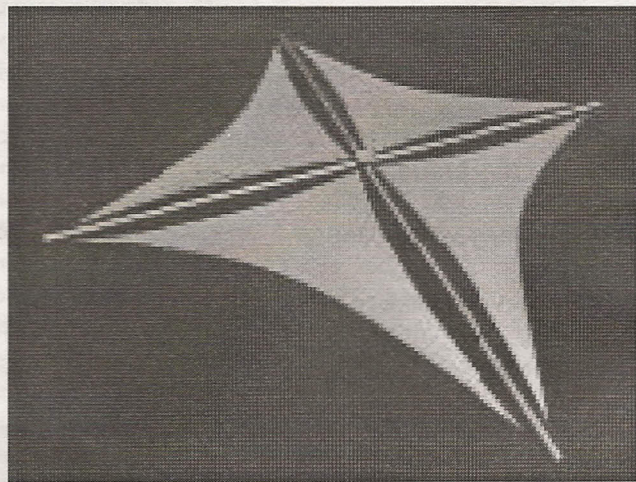
In the 17th century it was noticed that the tails of comets didn't just trail behind but actually pointed away from the sun. This was shown when a comet was flying away from the sun, when the tail moves ahead of it. This is due to the pressure of light, combined with solar winds acting on the particles within the comet.

Solar sail technology would use the pressure of light and solar winds to propel a spacecraft. A large sheet of reflective material, e.g. Mylar film (usually used to prevent spacecraft from overheating) would be used. The reflective properties of the material would reflect most of the light back, nearly doubling the pressure and therefore increasing the velocity. It's been suggested that sheets more than 1km wide would have to be used to reach an adequate speed.

Girders would hold the sheet in place, and also allow it to be tilted so the craft would fly in the right direction.

Many solar sail designs use a rigid structure, much like a kite, to hold the sail out to catch sunlight. This is called *three-axis stabilization*, because the structure supports the sail in all three dimensions, or axes, without spinning. The three dimensions come from the two dimensions that lie within the surface of the sail, and the third dimension that is perpendicular to the sail.

For more information go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), search "solar sails". You could try using the "Images" option to speed things up a bit.



The more observant reader may notice the resemblance between the design of this solar sail and those famous brown paper and bamboo kites that the whole world made when he was a kid!

# SECOND MANAWATU FESTIVAL FLY-IN

by Richard Wotton

For the second consecutive year, kitefliers were invited to take part in the Manawatu Festival, held on the banks of the Manawatu River on Saturday, February 8.

The day was cloudy to begin with, but gradually cleared to treat all those looking up to a wonderful exhibition of delicate white clouds painted across the blue sky.

Fliers arrived from Hawke's Bay, Wanganui and Wellington – plus Frenchman Michel Gressier, who flew his beautiful hand-painted kites. As with last year's event, the breeze was a bit on the turbulent side, so most fliers took a cautious approach and didn't put up too many kites at once.

Phil Whitehead showed he's still capable of a pretty fair sprint when he lost his grip on a winder and a fish kite took off for the river, but its bid for freedom didn't stand a chance once Phil got into high gear.

Many thanks to Shirley and Phil Whitehead for again generously hosting a barbecue at their home. Hope to see you again next year!

## HAWKE'S BAY FLYING REPORT

by Sharon Russell

When it comes to remembering when Hawke's Bay had a successful day flying, I can't. I know we tried to fly sometime in December, either our normal second Sunday or Boxing day, but I think it was either too windy or halted due to rain. I do know a few drove up in December and supported the Taupo crew, who put on a good display of sun and light breezes.

Our January fly had visitors from Rotorua and Taupo. One of the visitors made a comment after the second roll of thunder was heard, "Wasn't there a thunderstorm or rain last time we came down?" Guess who we can invite when the drought starts to hit Hawke's Bay?

After visiting Taupo, Rotorua and Palmerston North, Grizz (the NZKA Bear) arrived in Napier for our usual fly. With a VERY light sea breeze it looked as if Grizz was going to stay firmly in contact with terra firma, but surprise, up came the wind from the north, not a direction we have flown in before with any success, and up went Grizz. It may be an idea for Grizz to have a name tag on his T-shirt, as I have heard throughout a number of towns where he flew cries of "there's Winnie the Pooh!" A very successful day's flying, with a strong team of local fliers out and about with a good variety of kites.

P.S: Re the comment about successful flying from the north, at 2:54 the breeze spun and increased from the north (with a few kites anchored to trees) to the east (look at those kites run!).

# FINAL NO-GO FOR ROTORUA FESTIVAL

by Ray McCully

Co-organiser for Rotorua World Kite Festival 2004

The proposed kite festival in 2004 will not proceed. We had obtained:

- The venue
- The support of the Lions Clubs for organisational help.
- The preferred dates
- But despite our best efforts we have been unable to secure major sponsorship funding.

The amount of funding needed for a large festival can only come from two sources in New Zealand:

- Large companies – the limited numbers of large New Zealand companies are all tied up with America's Cup and the major sporting codes.
- Pub charities (pokies community funding) – they are interested and have the funds but will not commit to 12 months out. This is because legislation is currently before Parliament to change the rules under which grant allocations are made, so for now they are operating month by month.

Our goal was always to make a decision by now so that the kiting community could plan with some certainty, especially after the events of 2001.

We concentrated on making Art in the Sky, on February 2, 2003, a big success, with a view to expanding it in 2005 (next Rotorua Art Festival) to two days and adding a limited international flavour. If those who control the sponsorship funding in the future can see the potential maybe we may yet have a world kite festival in New Zealand.

Thanks for your interest, and hopefully a world festival will occur sometime.

## Life's just a picnic for some . . .



Julie Adam sent in this pic of herself and the gals from the Kite Shop, Christchurch, enjoying a day out at the Lake Hood Aquafest on January 25.

As well as having a darned fine picnic, they were able to enjoy the sight of the Peter Lynn MegaRay on its first-ever flight as a single-line kite. Julie says it whizzed up to 100m.

Pictured above from left are Sally, Carla, Julie, Janice and Claire.

## Them Ol' Over-length Kiting Baggage Blues

by Richard Wotton

Next time you're heading off by Air New Zealand to a kite festival, before you go, check out the regulations on overlength items. Raelle Connolly was stung for \$50 when she flew to Nelson in January – and presumably another \$50 going back, unless she was able to make other arrangements.

My suggestion is to check prices with your favourite courier firm, and I'm sure Raelle would agree. I'll bet the courier would have saved her enough to shout me dinner at Lambretta's after the festival.

## Your 2003 Kite Events Calendar

**April 6:** The annual Eltham kite festival. This was a great event last year, with perfect breeze all day. Don't miss it!

**April 18-21 (Easter):** NZKA National Festival, Wanganui. Contact Richard Wotton or Geoff Campbell (see Committee list at right for contact details).

Memo Editor: Don't forget to go to Fano in June. (from Mrs Ed)

## 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, B-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**, The Kiteshop at The Arts Centre, P.O. Box 2194, 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.

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

Services offered: All services provided

**A Kiwi Kite**, 1a Sunshine Rise, Raglan. Phone (07) 825 7290. Services offered: Sl, Dl, C, Bu, Re, Kw, D, Ex, Rl.

**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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027 4485 360

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Phone 07 348 3828

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Napier  
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### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

#### Membership Secretary

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Phone 04 565 0736

#### Corporate Goods

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#### Webmaster

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025 247 0771

#### What's Up? Editor

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Wanganui  
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Phone 06 343 2770

## NZKA 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

Hansen's Park, Opawa

Contact: Julie Adam 03 365 3907

### Napier / Hastings

Anderson Park. Green Meadows

Contact: Sharon Russell 06 843 4359

### Nelson

Keale 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

Ngatitoo Domain, Plimmerton

Contact: Tony Fitchett 04 478 5575

## NZKA FLYING DAYS

### March 2003

2	NZKA monthly fly	Wellington Clarks Beach, Stevenson Rd Park
9	NZKA monthly fly	Dunedin Napier/Hastings
16	NZKA monthly fly	Bay of Plenty Nelson Palmerston North
23	NZKA monthly fly	Auckland Wanganui Christchurch

### April 2003

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

### May 2003

4	NZKA monthly fly	Wellington Clarks Beach, Stevenson Rd Park
11	NZKA monthly fly	Dunedin Napier Hastings
18	NZKA monthly fly	Bay of Plenty Nelson Palmerston North

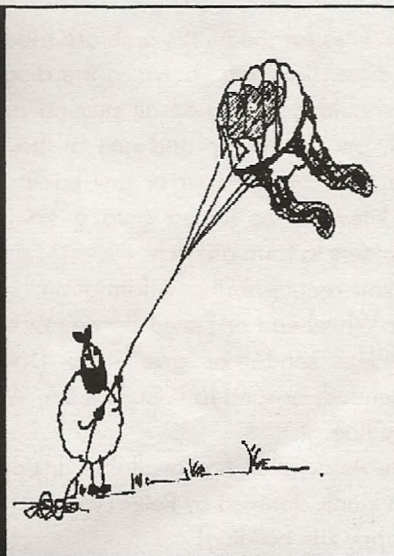
25	NZKA monthly fly	Auckland Christchurch Wanganui
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### June 2003

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
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Kitefliers

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Lester



## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

### Bay of Plenty

Ray McCully  
7 Goodwin Avenue  
Rotorua

Phone 07 348 3828

### Nelson

Ted Howard  
Rainbow Flight, Montgomery Square  
Nelson

Phone 03 548 8707

### Christchurch

Julie Adam  
Skylines and Bylines  
Christchurch

Phone 03 365 3907  
[kiteday@kites.co.nz](mailto:kiteday@kites.co.nz)

### Waikato

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Raglan

Phone 07 825 7290

### Napier / Hastings

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Phone 04 478 5575

## NEW REGIONAL REP

After a couple of years in this role in Christchurch, Steve Brorens has passed the baton on to Julie Adam, of Skylines and Bylines kite shop, in the Arts Centre.

Julie can be contacted at the shop on (03) 365 3907

## 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.

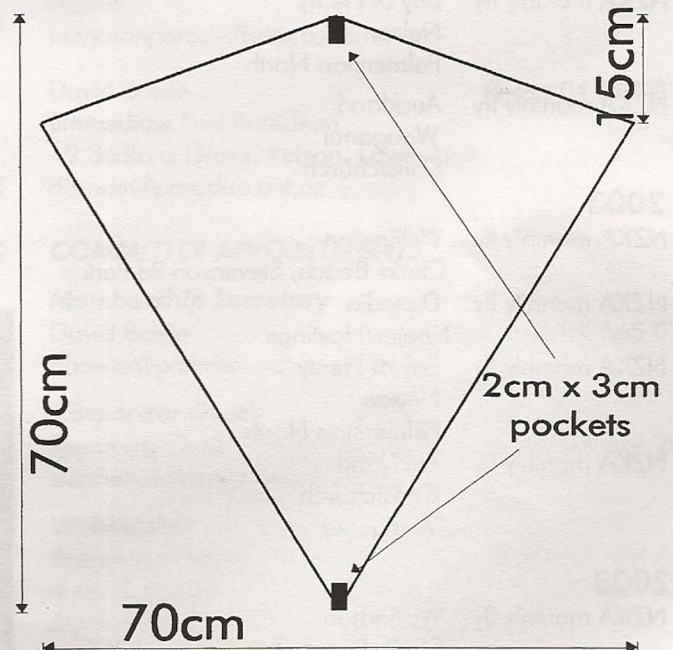
If you don't feel confident making the kite by yourself, enlist the help of another member, but it should be your design.

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.

Happy kite building!



# *What's Up?*

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a newsletter for kitefliers



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