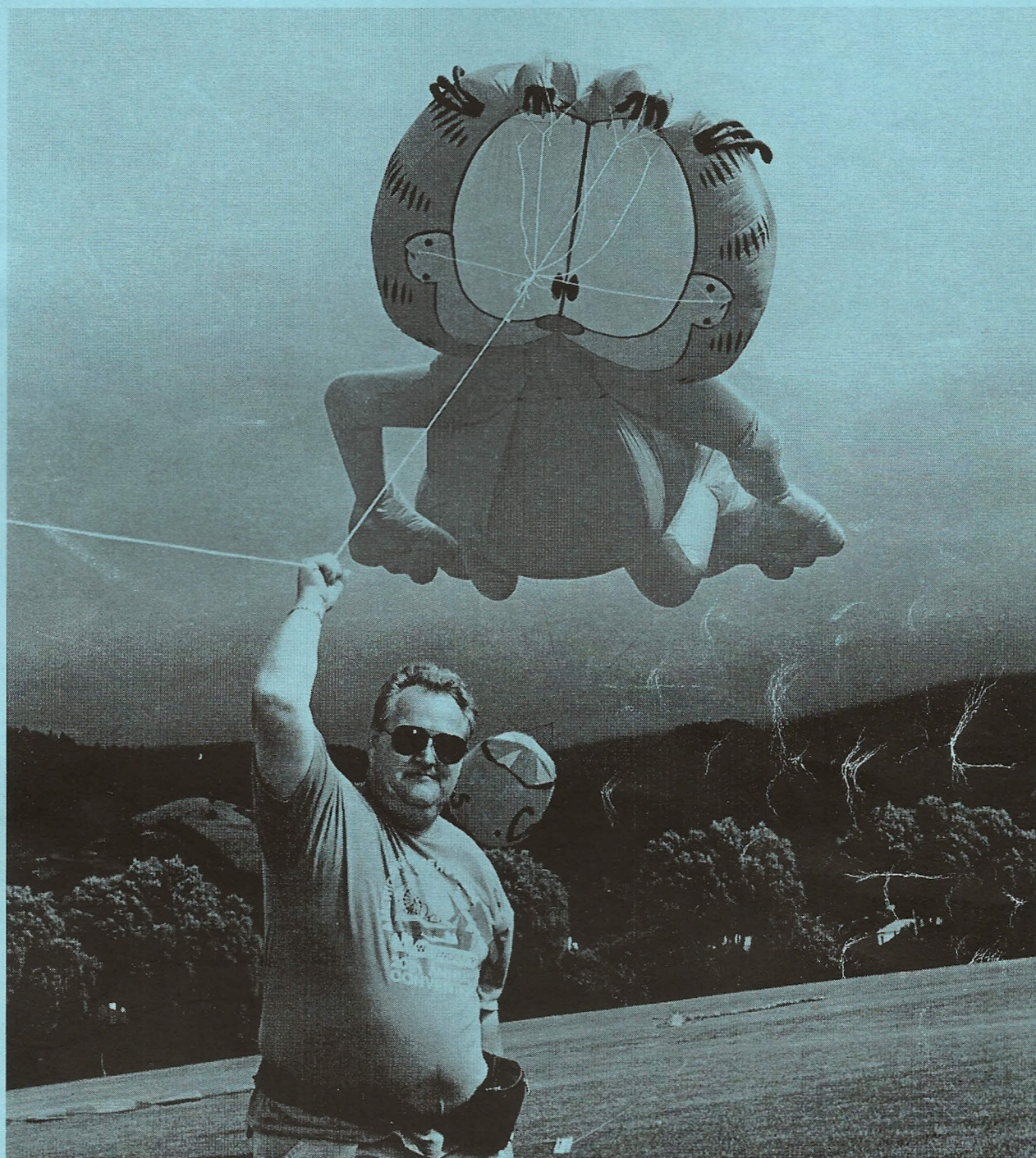


What's Up?

June 2003

A newsletter for kitefliers

Number 76



NEW ZEALAND KITEFLIERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

visit our website at www.nzka.org.nz

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THANKS

TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO
THIS ISSUE

THE DEADLINE FOR MATERIAL FOR
WHAT'S UP? #77 WILL BE AUGUST 1

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Visit our website at www.nzka.org.nz

COVER PHOTO: Robert van Weers about to launch Garfield for his
maiden flight at the Nelson kite festival in January – Photo by Rich-
ard Wotton

From the archives

Issue #16, June 1988

KITE EXHIBITION ATTRACTS CROWDS

The Te Awamutu District Museum has recently held a feature exhibition on kites. Recently-appointed director Kelvin Day transformed the museum into a colourful display of kites and display panels that attracted an all-time record number of visitors to the museum.

About 100 kites of all shapes and sizes were loaned by Hamilton enthusiast Logan Fow, who also ran a series of kitemaking workshops during the exhibition. The workshops and exhibition were to be followed up with a kite day some time in May.

Issue #19, March 1989

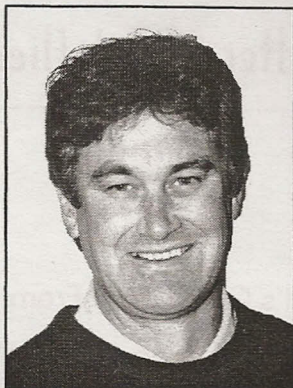
MEMBERSHIP TOPICS

A few words of history. The oldest NZ kiting organization is the Waikato Kite Club, founded in Hamilton in 1972 by Clarrie Croft and Logan Fow. It still exists as a small, enthusiastic body. The next one was the Wellington Kite Association, founded in January 1973 by Jim Oliver and Tony Fitchett, which had a newsletter and reached a membership of 50 at one point. It settled down to a regular hard core who met for flying. Then Bob Maysmor arrived on the scene with the wish to create a national group of kiting enthusiasts and to produce a good newsletter to keep people in touch. Tremendous efforts on his part brought about the thriving NZKA we have today, and efforts by all of you can continue the good work.

Issue #22, December 1989

FLYING (FALLING?) FAUNA

On 7/10/1989 a new record for fauna parachuting was set by Colin McKay and team. It now stands at 57 parachute-equipped fauna launched, lifted and let go (mostly turtles, owls, ducks and fish). All 57 were souvenired by the crowd, which was the intention.



Campbell's Comments

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

WITH WINTER fast approaching I am in my workshop making a flock of birds (well, I cut them out in my workshop and sew them inside in front of the heater) with the templates made available by Robert van Weers at the 19th annual kite festival.

It was great to meet everyone again, especially as this year it was held in my home town of Wanganui. What a weekend! It was busy from Thursday right through to Monday, with the only blemish being the one thing we can't control: the weather. On Friday the winds were almost perfect except for a little bit of precipitation. Saturday, no rain but the winds blew a gale which prevented a lot of the lighter-wind kites from flying. On Sunday it was the turn of the light-wind kites, with only small puffs of breeze all day, but at least the sun shone! With the festival being held on the main road, the number of projected spectators was very high. We've had a lot of feedback from people who stopped to look with their children, and the response was always very favourable.

The organisers tried a few new things this year to streamline events, and one of the more successful was the Trans-Tasman Travel Award. This was done by photographing eligible entries and these were then put on display. The judging was held between the end of the flying and the meal on Saturday night.

My congratulations go to Robert van Weers for his large and spectacular soft kite, Garfield. I am also proud (not to mention unbiased) to say that Carey's Tiger Rok was second and her ladybugs (story and plans elsewhere in the magazine) won the "best ground toy" award. To recognize the achievement of members who take the time to make things other than kites, the Wanganui team gave away awards for ground toys, line laundry and banners. (The list of awards appears on page 5).

By the time you read this the Queen's Birthday Weekend Hawke's Bay workshop will have been and gone, with New Zealand's own kite treasure Jim Ayres instructing all attendees in his brand of kite-making.

The next major kite event will be the fourth annual Father's Day fly at Wanganui and Ohakea. This will be followed by the Labour Weekend workshop, with members making Peter Lynn inflatable kites. The idea of the workshop is to instruct members in the "super ripstop" technique and using through-lines to maintain the shape of the kite. We will also be running, in conjunction with the master class, a class for beginners, run by Des Pitfield. This is for those members who have not attended workshops before and would like to improve their kite-making skills.

The strong team in Wellington have volunteered to run next year's festival at Elsdon park in Porirua. At this stage, it's planned to hold the festival over Waitangi Day (Friday) weekend which will make it a two-day fly.

I'm extremely envious of our roving editor Richard Wotton, who, when he's finished this magazine issue, will be off gallivanting around the world with wife Dalwyne for a week or three. The excuse, he says, is to go to Fano but who would want to go to a beach and fly kites with 5000+ other people?

Geoff Campbell
President

19th NZKA FESTIVAL IN WANGANUI

by John Derham

I would like to thank our Wanganui members for organising and hosting a most enjoyable festival, with an excellent flying field and indoor facilities – coupled with a warm welcome.

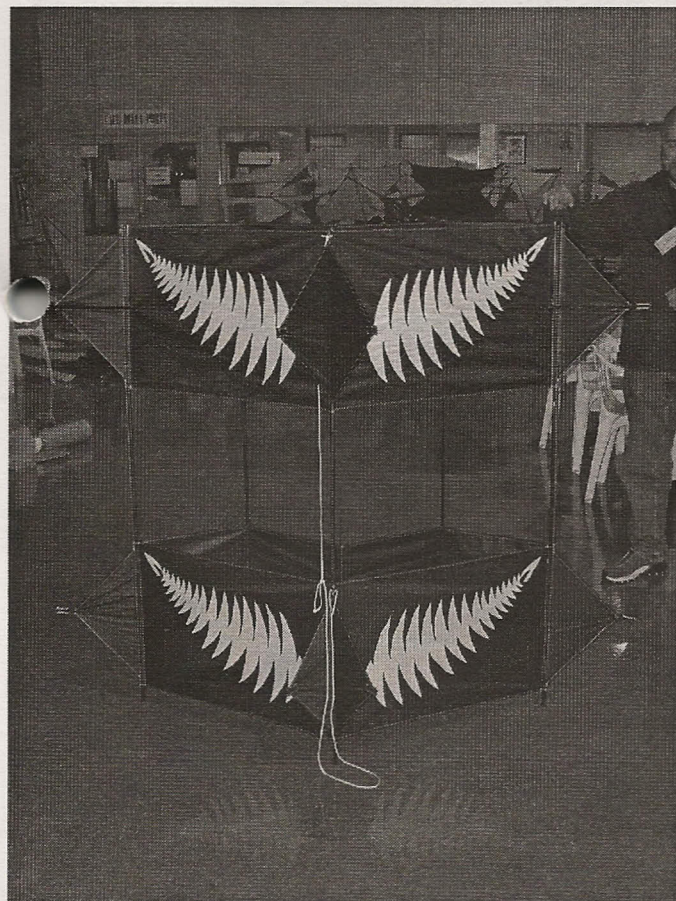
The weather on the first couple of days was not quite as warm as the welcome but, luckily, we brought some Wellington weather with us for the Sunday!

Seriously, though, two years running with less than perfect flying weather must give weight to the argument of holding our national festival earlier in the year when, hopefully, the weather would at least be warmer!

Personally, we came away with a slight added problem. I am on a restricted diet and read the labels on food packets carefully to ascertain their respective fat, sugar and salt levels. Now, after speaking to Jim Ayers, I have to consider how well the empty packets would fly. I will probably lose a lot of weight trying to find food that fits all these requirements.

The plague of giant ladybirds was a worry. I hope MAF don't find out about them. If they do, Wanganui could be aerial sprayed at the very least. It's a good thing they didn't take to the skies or we could have been dodging ladybird droppings all weekend.

Once again, many thanks Wanganui. It was a wonderful weekend.



Charlie Watson's Silver Fern box kite proved itself to be a great flier at the festival.

ROBERT VAN WEERS SAW IT LIKE THIS . . .

Friday was a relaxing day and quite a few of us set up our kites in the big hall that the festival committee had organized for us at the event venue.

It made for quite a spectacle seeing all these beautiful kites. David Bowie was seen taking about 3½ hours to set up his big kite which he flew on Sunday but due to lack of wind it was only up for a short time. It was very spectacular, though. Grizz was flying with the NZKA banner attached. The promotion was successful because the website count went up on the Saturday.

Saturday saw some nasty winds, gusting at times to 50 kph. Despite this, many kites stayed aloft. Charlie Watson flew a beautiful black box kite with silver fern graphics and a large sled kite with the same graphics for most of the day. Ted Howard got a prize for quote of the day with his comment: "We need more wind." Good one, Ted!

Saturday was also the day for competitions. Some great banners were entered into the best banner event, with yours truly taking the first prize with "Kite Man Banners".

In the evening after the auction we were entertained with a kite fashion parade. Also part of the entertainment was a comedy sketch and a demonstration by Ted and Gretchen Howards' "Comet Poi".

Another competition was the best ground junk/toys. The Campbells with their "Raven Bugs" won this event.

The skies were blue on Sunday, with a very light breeze. There were many nice "Rollers" out there as well as other light-wind kites in all forms and sizes. A shooting star train by the McCullys was up for most of the day, along with my "Penta" kite.

FESTIVAL QUOTES

JULIE ADAM: Is this the official complaints department?

CHARLIE WATSON: Great venue but the coffee cups are too small.

TED HOWARD (in the teeth of a 50kph "breeze"): We need more wind! (He got a prize for this!!)

JULIE ADAM: Is this the official complaints department?

STEPHEN COOK: I'm a prepared kiteflier – I've got a petanque set.

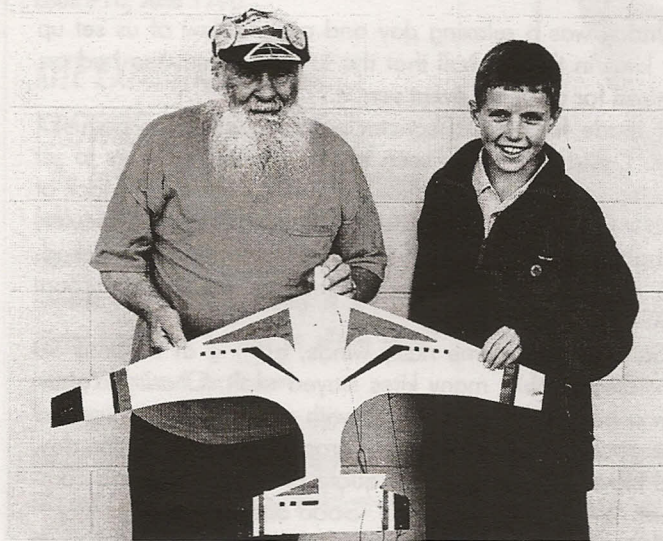
CHARLIE WATSON (on tuning fighters): I used to bend the spine over my head until some Indian kids laughed at me.

JULIE ADAM: He's the only auctioneer to make me hide under a table!

MARK WOTTON (auctioneer): Tell them if they didn't drink so much they wouldn't spend so much.

JULIE ADAM (on departure): I've got my last official complaint—it's over.

MORE FROM THE FESTIVAL . . .



STEPHEN GIBSON'S FESTIVAL

Usually any good kite festival is somewhere else and too far away for an eleven-year-old boy to attend. So you can imagine my excitement when I knew the national festival was to be here right in my home city. I arrived on Friday afternoon and to me the sky just seemed full of kites. After attaching my name tag I was soon outside and my new Rokkaku up with the rest of them. Garfield was launched, and I really thought he was the best. I also liked the elephant and the dog, as I had not seen any of these before. To meet other members for the first time was a highlight, including Charlie Watson from Raglan and Ian and Sharon Russell from Napier.

Saturday morning began with the AGM. Never before had I attended one so I was wondering what it would be like . . . after two hours I was bored stiff. Richard said I

could leave early so I got the perfect spot to put up my pig Rokkaku. Saturday was a good day for flying but a bit windy. During the afternoon Carey Campbell's tiger had a battle with my pig and my pig bit it and sent the tiger flying right off over the road until it got caught in a tree. Saturday night I entered a competition for matching kites, and I really enjoyed this.

My overall view of the festival is that it was very worthwhile and enjoyable. The only disappointment was that the winds changed from high to low. Thank you to all the organizers.

ANNE WHITEHEAD'S VIEW . . .

Well we certainly had the weather, all kinds, but what a great four days. A test for all our kites. Good Friday gave us inclement weather with strong winds and liquid sunshine to keep us all on our toes. Still, it was a great chance to catch up with new and old kite friends again. Saturday the wind meter was certainly given a workout, and those brave enough to fly definitely tested their lines. Soft kites were certainly order of the day. The auction was on the very memorable list. People under tables still managed to place their bids and more than a few went home with things that I'm sure they never expected to! The wearable kite art was lots of fun and it was great to see the talent strut their stuff. Sunday was relaxed, in every sense of the word. The flying was light-wind kites and lying on the ground making sure things didn't land in the wrong place – or at least trying to. An offering to the wind gods of a patchwork roller was gratefully accepted and was liked so much that there were others trying to keep it company. The roller that was driven by Peter Whitehead flew so well that he has decided he needs to make one for himself, and no he still hasn't asked permission for the keys! Monday gave us no wind so the packing up was easy to do. A great thank you to all the Wanganui members who gave us a memorable festival. See you all in the sky somewhere.

ABOVE: Max McGuire and Stephen Gibson, Wanganui's oldest and youngest kilters, with a Jim Ayers aeroplane kite which Jim gave to Stephen at the festival.

RIGHT: Auction action. Mark Wotton works the crowd into a bidding frenzy which saw this Peter Lynn Tri-D go under the hammer at \$475.



THE GOLDEN SPOOL AWARDS

The following awards were given out at the festival:

Best Snag: Tony Fitchett
 First kite cut loose: Carey Campbell (tiger rokkaku)
 Top tiger hunter: Stephen Gibson (see above!)
 Altitude sprint: Ted Howard 1, Stephen Jarvis 2, Stephen Cook 3.
 Hardest-working flier: Jim Ayers
 Best line laundry: Charlie Watson
 Best banner: Robert van Weers
 Best ground toy: Carey Campbell
 Best junior flier: Stephen Gibson
 Photo quiz: Anne Whitehead and Stephen Jarvis equal 1
 Most ironic comment: Ted Howard
 Most impatient flier: Phil Whitehead
 Kite fashion award: Ray McCully 1, Muriel Bowie 2, Karen Whibley 3
 NZKA Travel Award: Robert van Weers 1 (Garfield), Carey Campbell 2 (tiger rokkaku), Charlie Watson 3 (Silver Fern box kite)

If anyone needs further information on any of these awards (or wishes to dispute the judges' decision), please contact the recipient concerned. The judges are currently relaxing at an undisclosed holiday destination.



Tony Fitchett has the full attention of his audience as he describes the drama leading up to his "Best Snag of the Festival" award. The spellbound listeners are Dalwyne Wotton, and Ross Fuller and Julie Garside, from Sydney.

Identity crisis?

We've all heard how pet owners come to resemble their pets. It struck me when I got to the end of an e-mailed NZKA website that in the photo of webmaster Robert van Weers, which appeared directly above his signature, he looked a dead ringer for Garfield! I kid you not.

Sue, I think that guy is spending too much time with his sewing machine. Maybe you'd better check closely to see that his skin isn't developing little squares.

All questions of identity aside, thanks for all the good work with the website, Robert. Helps to keep us in touch.

The Man's Buggy!



by Peter Lynn

Yes, it's true, I fell off a buggy. Not some conventional buggy either but THE MAN'S BUGGY. Built by Dave Kennedy and cohorts for the Burning Man Festival in Nevada later this year (when it's to go up in flames), it's around 5m wide and 7m long with 1.5m diameter cable drums for wheels (check out web site www.sbbb.net).

I recall clambering up on it and trying to generate enough kite pull to get moving and then the next thing I remember is a face looming through some sort of fog asking me to name the US president. George Washington came to mind but apparently this was the wrong answer (politics getting mixed up with sport again.)

This was during the SBBB (Spring Break Buggy Blast) on dry lakes in California and Nevada, a wonderful event that attracts far wider kiteflier attendance than just buggies and at which I met Dave Culp and Joe Kool in person for the first time. Dave, Joe and myself are arguably the world's three most obsessional extant proponents of kitesailing. In our different styles we've all been pushing away for 20 years or more, and all of us sense that kitesailing is close to taking off. Of course, none of us are what you would call objective about this.

There have been many times in the 175 years since George Pocock gave kite traction its modern foundation that kitesailing has seemed about to become mainstream—maybe it really is going to happen this time.

Currently generating impetus is the work that Dean Jordan and Dave Culp did for the Oracle syndicate in the recent America's Cup challenge. Time was ultimately against them for this regatta but they were successful in developing a kite that qualified under the rules as a spinnaker and that many believe was faster. The publicity that this generated has significantly raised kitesailing's profile with mainstream sailors.

We (Dave, Joe, myself and other enthusiasts) are thinking to have a kitesailing meeting, hopefully later this year, at which we can all share, compare and generate some mainstream interest. The venue is not yet settled — maybe San Francisco, maybe Kittyhawk, maybe wherever the next America's Cup regatta is held. Interested anyone?

Web Page: <http://www.peterlynnkites.com>

Photo courtesy Bob Childs. See www.doomwheels.com

ROSEMARY'S TRAVELS: THAILAND REVISITED

by Rosemary McCully

One year on from our trip to the international kite festival in Thailand, I joined our daughter Louise for 3½ weeks in South-East Asia. Resulting from last year's festival, Louise has formed a strong friendship with the daughter of one of the Thai kitefliers. (You may remember seeing a photo of a magnificent bird kite with Aei and her boyfriend Noi in front of it.)

The afternoon before flying to Cambodia, we joined Aei and her extended family at Sanam Luang Park, by the Grand Palace in Bangkok. There is a month-long kite festival, where there are children flying mainly serpents, together with the serious competitions between the chula and pakpao fighting kites. Aei's father takes a month off work each year for this. His are the female pakpao kites, and he and his wife go to the park every afternoon at 3 pm to play kites. (It seems that in Asia you do not fly kites, you play kites. I like that!)

The setting is very festive, and the backdrop is majestic. A large outdoor stage is at the Grand Palace end, where there is all sorts of entertainment, including Thai boxing, traditional dancing and "lady boys" singing pop music. Food stalls abound, and there are racks of kites for sale almost as far as the eye can see. As well as the serpents, there are many decorated pakpao. A popular design was with the US flag, but I wonder if that has changed – I also saw one with the Australian flag. The tourism authority has a marquee with sound system and announcer.

More and more families arrive to join in or just observe

the fun. Most sit on mats and have a picnic meal. Our mat was directly under the flight path of the fighting kites, which I can assure you adds to the excitement. Whenever there is an engagement there is a sort of a siren and announcements. You just look up to make sure you don't need to take evasive action, and I'm glad to say we didn't! For those who remember the demonstrations at the two international festivals in Napier, it was quite different in many ways. There were normally two fights going on at one time, with several pakpao to each chula. There was a line marked by a 2 metre-high rope, and as long as the chula got to that side without being downed by the pakpao it was safe. One thing that remained the same was that the larger male chula normally won!

Aei's father did well and was likely to win a prize. There was so much else happening – not to mention some language difficulties – that I didn't get to the bottom of how the competition was to be conducted over the course of the month.

After the fights had finished it was the time for flying big kites. Our family had two new kites. One was a life-sized water tank – the type seen on many Thai homes – constructed from bamboo and mylar. Aei's doubts over its weight were proved wrong in the strengthening wind. It flew beautifully. Next was a rectangular kite made by her father and painted by Noi (who designs graphics for T-shirts). It also took its rightful place in the night sky.

I was asked if I wanted to play kites with them, but I declined after seeing a few rope burns on ungloved hands. It was sufficient to be there and experience the atmosphere.

The whole crew at the Easter festival in Wanganui (well, as many as could drag themselves out of bed in time to be in the picture).



KITERS HIT THE HEADLINES

by Richard Wotton

Two NZKA members have recently had their 15 minutes of fame – but it probably won't be the last time this happens.

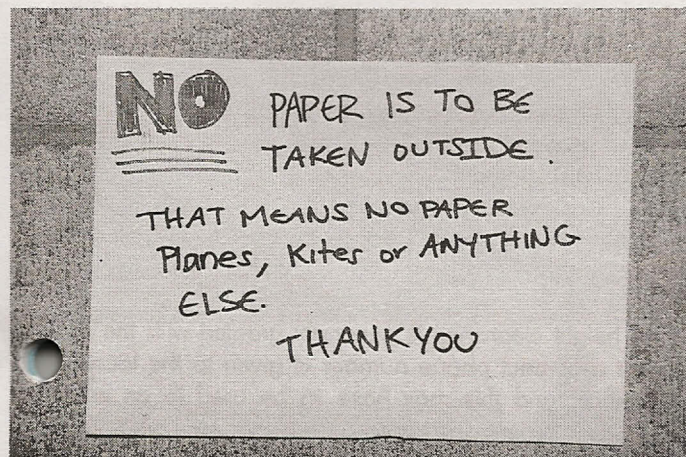
Julie Adam, owner of Skylines and Bylines, the Kite shop in the Arts Centre, Christchurch, featured in the April 14 issue of the *New Zealand Woman's Weekly*, in an article on women who beat the odds and have been successful in business.

Robert van Weers has had a couple of TV appearances accompanied by his new friend Garfield. The first was an item about Garfield being used to scare birds away from the grapes at Hunter's Marlborough vineyard, where Robert works as a chef (see article at right), and the second was in a spot on *What Now?*, the popular Sunday morning kids' TV programme. Once again, Garfield featured with Robert.

It's great to see these two hard workers for kiting getting such good personal publicity, and I'm sure there will be a positive spin-off for kiting in general.

Well done, Julie and Robert!

DON'T PANIC, JIM!



When you go off to fly kites for a few days you know it probably won't all be plain sailing, but I'm told that Jim Ayers broke into a cold sweat when he got to the venue of the Easter festival in Wanganui and saw this notice. Fortunately for him, it hadn't been posted for NZKA members!

LABOUR WEEKEND WORKSHOP

Planning is under way for the sixth annual NZKA Labour Weekend kitemaking workshop. There is the possibility of a delta workshop for beginners as well as a soft kite workshop learning about the super ripstop method with Peter Lynn. Several members indicated at Easter that they were keen to attend and details will be sent out to all who have expressed an interest. For further details e-mail Peter and Anne Whitehead at drachen@internet.co.nz and they will send further information.

GARFIELD GUARDS THE GRAPES

by Nikki MacDonald

11/3/03

When the grape-gobbling birds got too prolific and too cunning, Hunter's Winery put down the shotguns and resorted to unconventional scaring tactics: They brought in a B-I-G cat to keep the birds away.

"He's been fantastic. There's been no sign of any birds," said Tim Crawford, Hunter's viticulturist.

While home-grown, this is not just your common garden variety of big cat. At 10m long, brightly coloured and inflatable, this cat is one of a kind. The Garfield kite was designed and built by Marlborough kitemaker and Hunter's chef Robert van Weers.

Yesterday afternoon was his first tour of duty above the rows of vines. And his hunting prowess turned out to be more than just hot air – flailing arms and legs quickly scared the birds from the maturing grapes.

With the pinot meunier due to be harvested, Garfield was performing the final vigil over the unnetted grapes.

In 20 years of kitemaking, Mr van Weers said Garfield was his best kite yet. Finished just weeks ago, the inflatable Garfield took two months of working four hours a day to design and build.

For the basic proportions Mr van Weers put a grid scale on a cartoon drawing of the cat, but the finer details were a matter of trial and error.

"Working with flat kites is so easy compared to 3D. I must have made about five or six different feet, blowing them up with my wife's hairdryer and looking at the shape. I must have read 400 comics, because I needed to know what he looked like from behind. Only one drawing showed his back."

Made from 80m of ripstop nylon, the ultimate birdscarer does not come cheap. Just the materials set Mr van Weers back about \$1500.

Not content just to be the top cat of the vines, Garfield will also travel to Wanganui at Easter for the annual festival of the New Zealand Kitefliers' Association, where Mr van Weers is quietly confident he will take out top honours at the event.

In the meantime, the big cat will continue his duties as official bird scarer on a part-time basis.

Mr Crawford expected more conventional scaring tactics would be used for another 10 days to two weeks, with the pinot noir, chardonnay and sauvignon blanc grapes due to be harvested after that time.

By some unlikely coincidence, Mr Crawford's middle name happens to be Garfield. "I think I had it first, or my father and grandfather did," he explained.

Article courtesy of *The Marlborough Express*.

WHO OWNS THIS KITE?

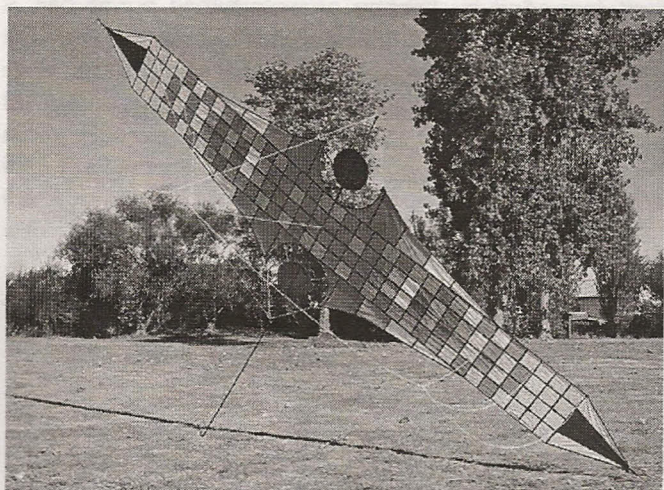
by Richard Wotton

I've been aware for a while now that there's an occasional problem with fliers leaving their airborne kites in the care of others without bothering to let them know. The nuisance rating of this can rise exponentially with the complexity of the unattended rig, e.g. a train of box kites.

While considering writing a piece on the subject, I happened to spy the following article in the *Midland Kite Fliers' magazine*, from the UK. Jim Cronin, of the MKF, takes up the story:

"I'll admit that on occasion I've been guilty of leaving a kite unattended for a while – but that doesn't alter the fact that it's a bad habit, and one which needs to be discouraged.

MKF insurance states that members are covered for third-party damage/injury "when flying a kite in a safe manner" (or words to that effect). So what comments can you expect when it comes to light that you were not at the end of the line, but were in the traders' tent buying your next kite/at the



other end of the field/in the loo/having 40 winks in your van/cooking your dinner?

Multi-line kites are frequently left unattended on the ground, their lines pegged down, and this is clearly an accident waiting to happen. Having a kite in this position is unavoidable at takeoff and landing, but keep it to a minimum and NEVER walk away and leave it. If a child runs through your lines, you'll have a damaged kite and tangled lines – perhaps even an injured child and irate parents. You could say that people shouldn't be in the arena/should watch where they are walking/should control their kids. The fact remains that the accident would not have happened if you had not left "ankle-height trip wires" stretched across the grass!

An unattended kite (whether in the air or on the ground) is always a "child magnet". On one occasion I arrived just in time to prevent a wandering toddler claiming the "pretty

orange ball" ("stake in the grass") that was holding the lines of two twin-liners. In another few seconds the child would have been in possession of a 12" pointed steel stake, and I don't want to think about the possible consequences! Then of course there's the problem of two kites, dragging their lines, tumbling down the field....

At the last Coventry Festival we'd arranged a rok fight, which was delayed while people ran around trying to find out who owned the single-liners that were flying in the arena. At the same event, one of the pairs teams caught the line of a tethered kite which had been left too close. Organisers of any event appreciate anyone "decorating the sky", but at times the arena needs to be cleared NOW. This can only happen if the owner of every kite is on the end of its line.

If you happen to cross lines with another flier it's not normally a major problem. You simply walk towards each other and the tangle will sort itself out – if both lines are staked, a cut line is almost inevitable. Having abandoned your single-liner in favour of your lunch, who exactly do you expect to sort out the mess? Upon your return, are you justified in complaining that "Some *?*@*!! has cut my line!"?

To decide if a kite is unattended/abandoned I recommend the following test:

Stand near its ground stake/anchor.

Look around to see if anyone is making any effort to fly, launch or land the beast.

Say in a loud voice "Who Owns This Kite?"

(Please avoid shouting, as kite flying is meant to be a peaceful pastime ;~)

Wait 20 seconds.

If no response is forthcoming the kite may reasonably be considered abandoned, its owner clearly having little interest in its welfare.

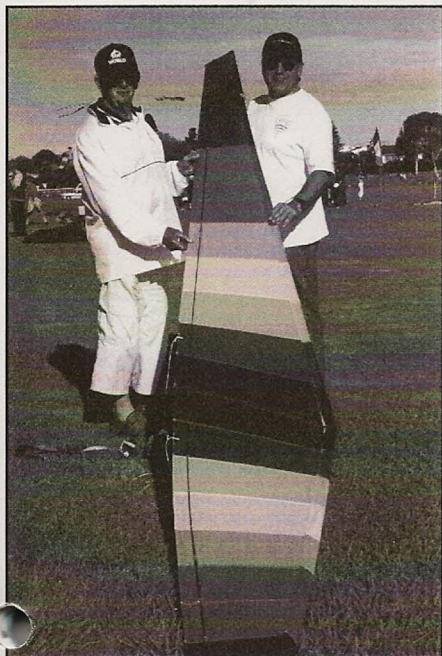
CAA height clearance is generally granted with the proviso that a contact phone number is given to the local a traffic office, and this may have to be used in an emergency. Don't expect anyone to be too bothered what damage is sustained to "abandoned" kites in the process of getting them on the deck in a hurry!

A few years ago, at a festival down in the south of England, a passing light aircraft had engine failure and was forced to make an emergency landing in our flying field. There was no "procedure" for such an eventuality – yet every kite and line, in the sky and on the ground, was moved within seconds of the first person noticing the plane's predicament and alerting fliers to the danger, the field being left clear for the unfortunate pilot. Every kite there had someone in attendance. 'Nuff said . . ."

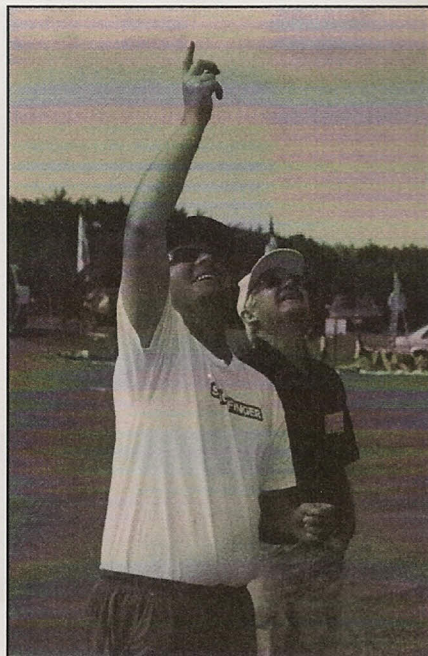
Thanks, Jim. Obviously, it's going to be necessary from time to time for fliers to be somewhere other than where their kites are, so why not ask a nearby flyer to keep an eye on them for you while you're gone? And it would be courteous to let them know how long you intend to be away from your post.

ABOVE: This kite may look abandoned, but in fact it's Hans Podlucky's newest creation. He was just itching to photograph it but lack of wind forced a ground shot.

Festival Flicks



1



2

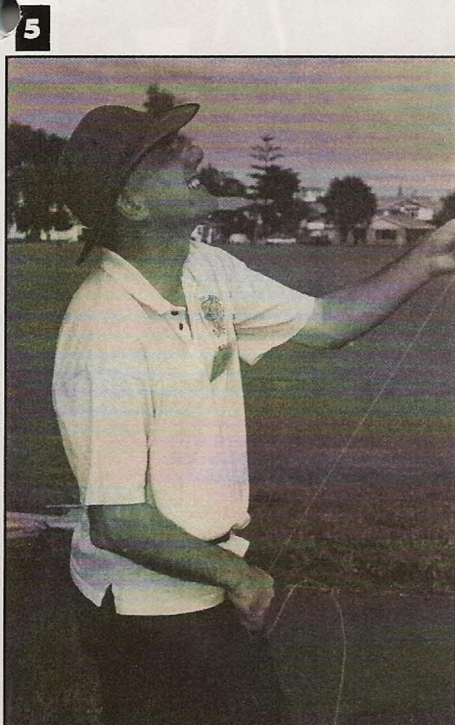


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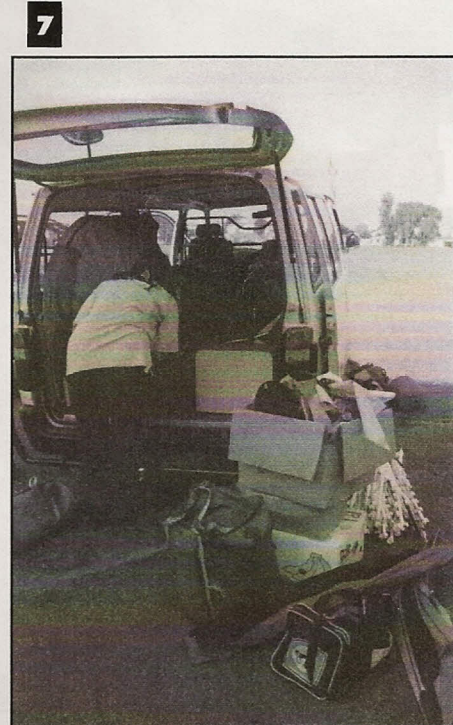
1. Jim Ayers and Ted Howard with Ted's 3.2m Ayeroblade, a somewhat modified Ayers design. 2. Charlie Watson's spotted a real high flier. 3. Gretchen Howard was the star of the Sunday night dinner. 4. No wind? No problem. Charlie Watson has something for every occasion in his kite bag. 5. Steve Brorens made the trek up from Christchurch with a sackful of fighters. Good choice, Steve! 6. Shirley Whitehead did sterling duty guarding the portals. 7. "Dang, I hope we didn't buy too much at the auction." Gretchen Howard tries to shoehorn everything back for the journey home.



5

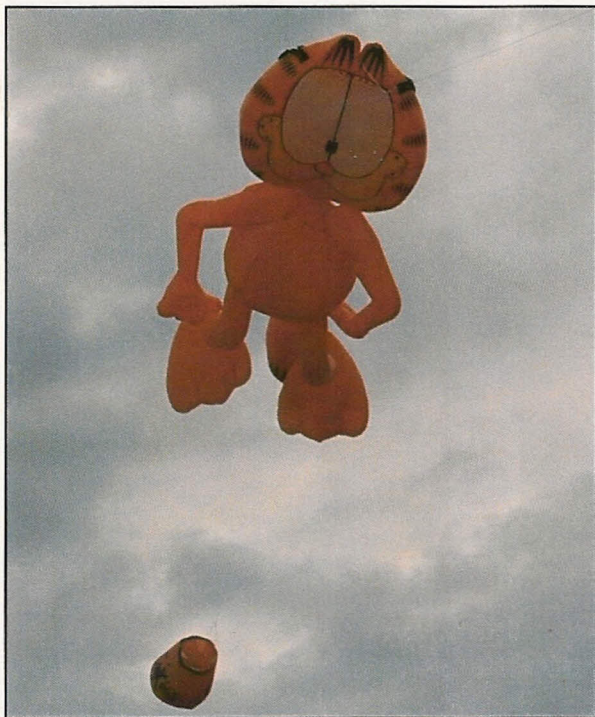


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Festival Flicks



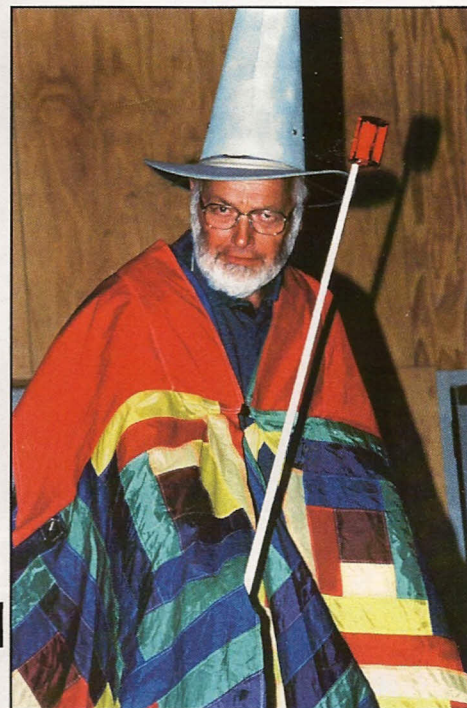
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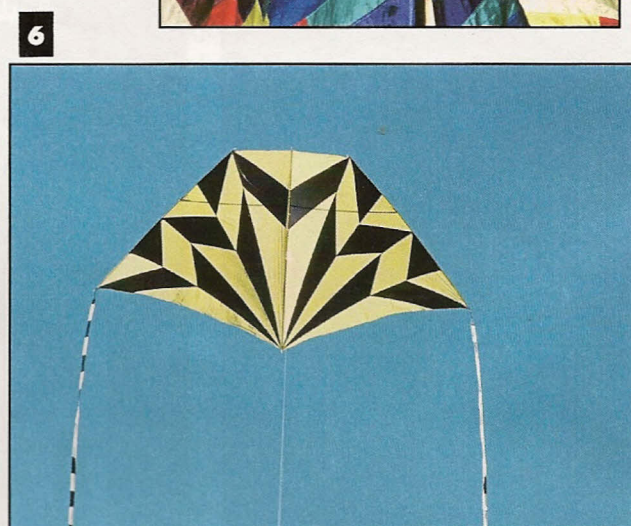
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6

Festival Flicks



7



8

1. Garfield again, in living colour. 2. John and Gladys Derham's Madonna seems to have mutated. 3. Ted Howard's Ayeroblade. 4. David Bowie as Gollum in the fashion parade. 5. Lisa Podlucky, of Nelson, couldn't make it to the festival with her new Genki kite, but was with us in spirit. 6. Robert van Weers' Penta. 7. Jim "I'm First Again" Ayers on Good Friday morning. 8. Gwenda and Graham Galbraith's intricately-patterned mock foil. 9. Charlie Watson's bird ground toy was a colourful little critter. 10. Julie Garside was over from the Land of Oz with Ross Fuller. 11. Ray McCully took out top honours in the kite fashion parade with this stunning ensemble.

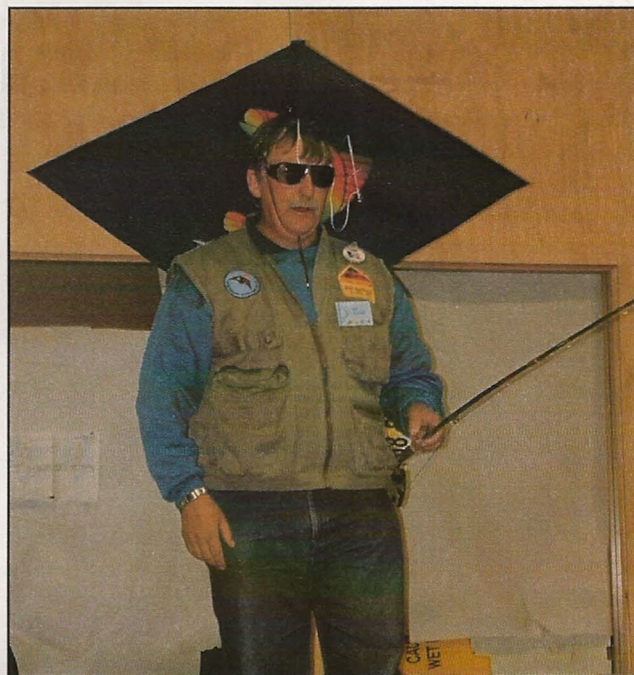
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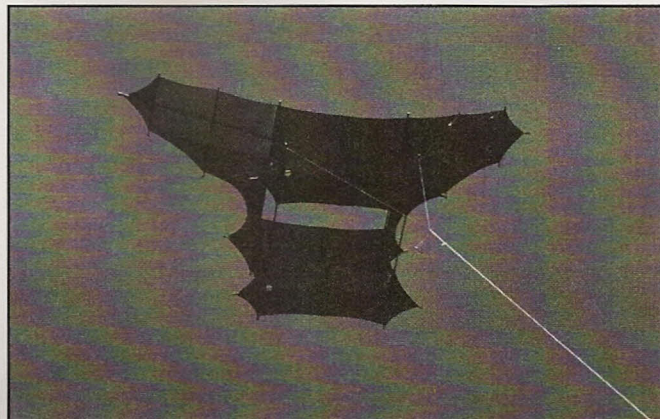
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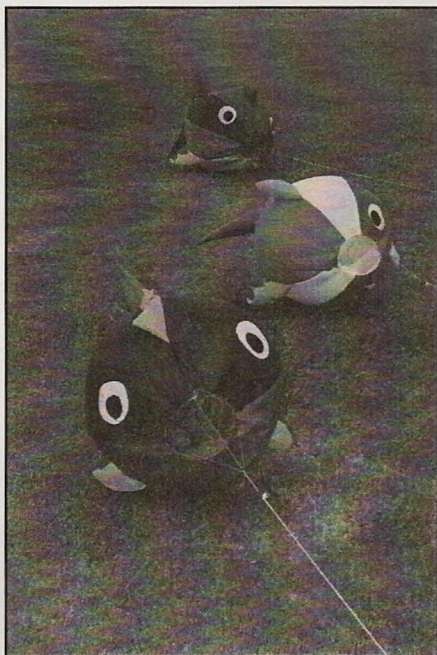
Festival Flicks



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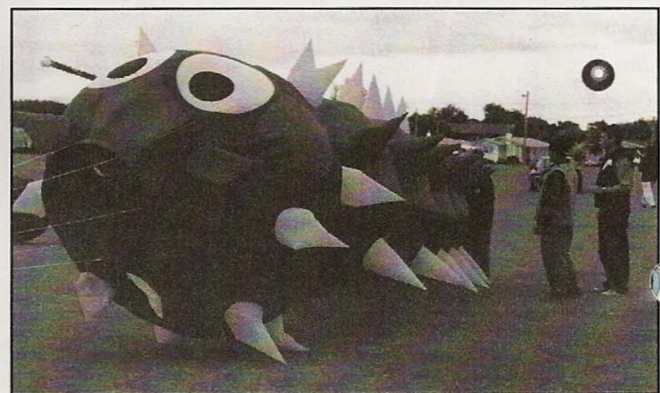


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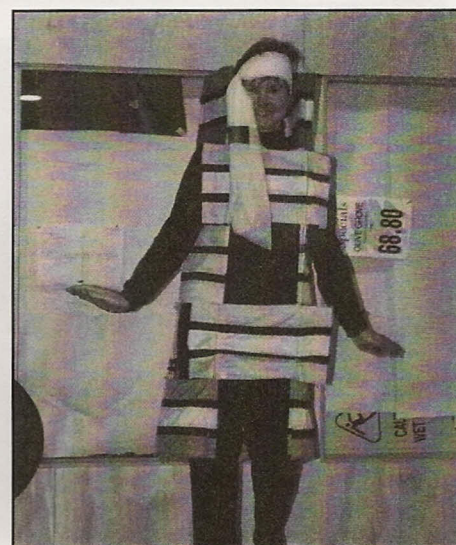
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1. Sunday was a great day for a chat in the sun. 2. Richard Wotton's Cody managed a brief outing. 3. Stephen Cook's "Orange Roughies" came up for some air. 4. New hand, old hand: James Cone, from Wellington, with David Bowie. 5. Stephen Jarvis's giant caterpillar. 6. At the auction, Diana Hough enjoyed herself while Stephen Jarvis looks for another bargain with his newly-purchased binoculars. 7. Gwenda "Allsorts" Galbraith's fashion entry.

WHO WAS THAT MASKED KITER?

by Richard Wotton

There were a couple of low-key visits to our shores by overseas kites in March: Diane and Dan Weber were visiting from Oregon, USA, and Julie and Jim White from the UK. Julie and Jim called in to Julie Adam's Christchurch kite shop and report they were very well looked after by Julie's shop manager, in the chief's absence.

They had a pretty tight schedule and managed only a small amount of kite flying. I asked Julie after they'd returned home if she had could supply me with a pic of themselves flying for the magazine. Her reply? "You must be joking — a picture of us flying kites? When we were flying kites the camera stayed in the bag as we were enjoying ourselves so much."

Flying or not, they must have enjoyed themselves, because Jim reckons they'll be back in two years' time.

Julie is the president and website manager of the Midlands Kite Fliers, and you can see their site at www.mkf.org.uk

Diane and Dan Weber's visit was spent mostly in the South Island, visiting a friend on the West Coast. They report having a great time, but not much kiting was squeezed in to their trip. Oh well, I guess that's just part of the price you sometimes have to pay when you travel. Life can be cruel.

Maybe we'll be able to talk them all into coming back in early 2005 when the international series gets off the ground.

WIGRAM WOES

by Julie Adam

We have received official advice from Wigram that a kite day will not be able to happen there. Wigram is now within the area controlled by Christchurch Airport and they are reluctant to approve kite flying at Wigram. One condition is that the field would need to be closed to all other users.

The Wigram User Group, including gliding clubs, private flying operations etc, have requested compensation for closing for two days and this requires a huge amount of money, which we would find extremely difficult to raise. (This is not a problem at Ohakea as they don't have another airport nearby or other users on their land). Other conditions, such as the height restriction, are very difficult to control when the public are flying kites and Christchurch Airport see this as a real problem.

It seems that, while I receive considerable goodwill from Air Traffic Control for my business and NZKA monthly kite days, there have been occasions which have resulted in a loss of goodwill for other events and this will extend to larger public displays.

Sorry to bring you this news, but that is where we stand with Wigram. We still, however, continue to have our monthly kite days at Hansen Park and other activities are in the pipeline. I'm working on it!

The Wright Stuff

by Meg Albers

The Wright Flight Centennial Kite Festival will be held on June 13, 14, 15, 2003 at the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina.

This year's kite festival is 6 months, almost to the day, before the actual centennial of the Wright's first flight. This makes it considerably more exciting, because for many years prior to that day of December 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur used kites to do much of their research on the principles of flight, so it's appropriate that a kite festival precede the First Flight Centennial.

Events will include a kite stamp display from around the world, fantastic miniature kites and an historical kite display from the Smithsonian Institute, military kites from WWII, as well as a kite aerial photography display.

Guest fliers will include Craig Wilson, from Madison, Wisconsin. Craig is an aerial photography expert who will be photographing the event from above, as well as demonstrating indoor kite flying . . . on roller blades!

Also on the guest list are Gerard Clement (France), an expert on historical French kites and their connection to early aviation; Jose Sainz (San Diego, California); the Grand National Champion Kitemaker of the AKA 2002; Scott Skinner is the founder and president of the Drachen Foundation; Christian and Susie Treppner (Germany); and Richard Dutton (Buffalo, New York, originally from Australia). Richard is the world record holder for the most box kites flown on a single line.

LOGO COMPETITION

The 20th anniversary of the NZKA will be held in 2004 in Wellington, where the association started. For all budding designers and artists we would like to see your design for the logo for the 20th anniversary festival.

Design considerations should include the fact that the winning logo should be simple and effective. The logo will need to be able to be reduced for pin and patch production, as well as for clothing.

The winner of the logo design competition will win free registration to the festival plus a limited edition pin set in gold, silver and bronze.

The closing date for the competition will be October 15th. Please send all entries to Anne Whitehead, 59 Makara Rd, Karori, Wellington. The judges, I'm sure, can be bribed.

OBITUARY – PAT DELL (UK)

Pat Dell, of Kitability and the Brighton Kitefliers, died peacefully after a short illness on January 14, 2003, with her family around her.

Pat probably wasn't known personally by many NZKA members, but she and her husband Ron had been members of our association for some time. Our condolences go to her family.

Let the Infestation Begin!



by Carey Campbell

After too many flying days with little wind and the subsequent lack of colour in the sky, we decided we wanted something to decorate the ground.

We played around with the idea of insects as markers for the line stakes. Having an affinity for ladybirds, the idea of an inflatable bug was born. By the time we drove from Wellington to Wanganui, after the Waitangi Day fly-in at Porirua, we had concocted the major part of the plan. That evening the first prototype was born and still lives in the back shed. Long hours were spent poring over insect books and internet pages to establish exactly how many spots there should be. According to the experts there are any number between two and 11 dots, so we chose seven spots for aesthetic purposes.

Number two creepy-crawly evolved and made his first appearance on the banks of the Manawatu River. He escaped twice which led us to revamp his tether system, bugs escaping could cause the infestation to spread exponentially. The new tether system also created an unforeseen bonus, in that when the wind gets up they "chatter".

After raiding the scrap bags to find every possible colour it seemed natural to make a mother to look after the babies, so I sewed while Geoff cut the pieces. He brought in a disgusting pile of brown bits but I refused to sew brown bugs. There had to be a more attractive colour than that! I can be stubborn when I feel like it, so the pile sat there for days. Eventually, Geoff took pity on the bug and put it together. My sister was very rude and called it a cockroach, but have you ever seen a cockroach with spots? Not to be outdone, Geoff then proved to my sis what a cockroach should look like. Secretly, I still think it's more of a slug. The Emperor Gum caterpillar came next, so watch this space for more bugs.

So far they have spread to Christchurch and Nelson, and made the leap to Australia. Rumor has it that they may even spread to Fano . . .

The infestation continues!

DIRECTIONS FOR LADY BIRDS

PARTS LIST

1 x base (K Cloth) 600 mm dia

2 x eyeballs 50 mm dia
2 x eye white 76 mm dia
1 - 11 spots 90 mm dia (or as many as you feel like sewing on)
2 x coloured faces part B
2 x black faces part A
4 x coloured body part A (same template as black face)
6 x legs

Mark on all stitch marks for vents.

Stitch centre seam of coloured face, then stitch one side panel to each side.

Glue and then stitch on spot over vent seams.

Sew eyeballs on whites then position and sew on black face pieces, sew centre face seam.

Use several small pieces of double-sided tape to position coloured face onto black face, being careful to leave vents free. Top-stitch face on. It is important that face vent seams are flat.

Folding back the coloured side panel, stitch through three layers of seam, leaving the vent space free. This completes the venting.

Sew remaining body seams and spots.

Attach double sided tape on right side of the outer edge of the body. Attach legs to body with tape (facing forward). Attach tow point to nose with tape.

Position body around base, some adjustment may be necessary depending on seams used. Stitch base to body.

To turn inside, put hand through vent and gently pull base through, using your hand to restrict the pull on the vent stitching.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The bugs work much the same as the beach balls, utilizing a variation of their venting system to keep them inflated.

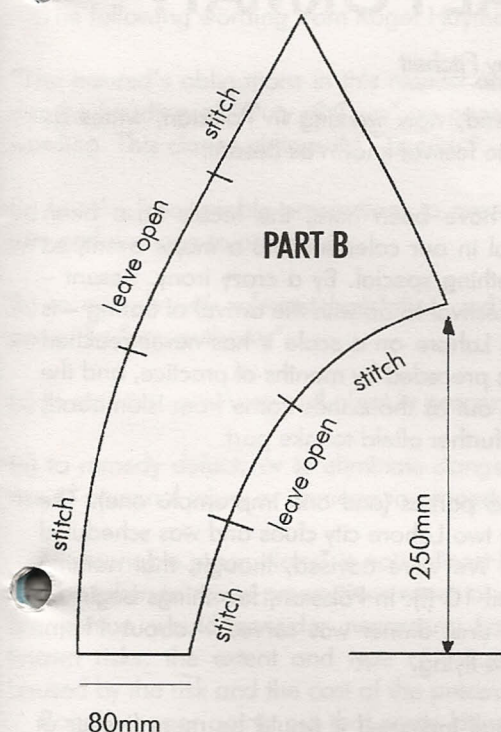
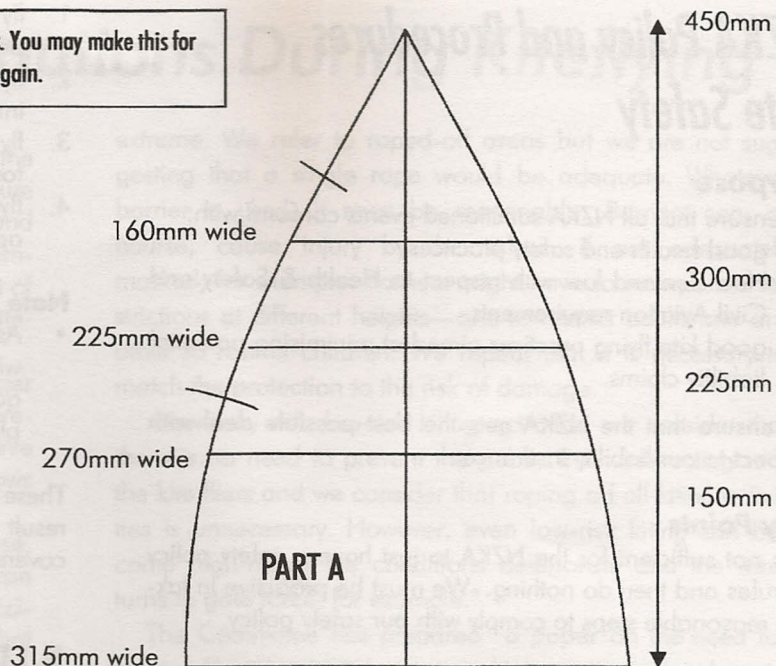
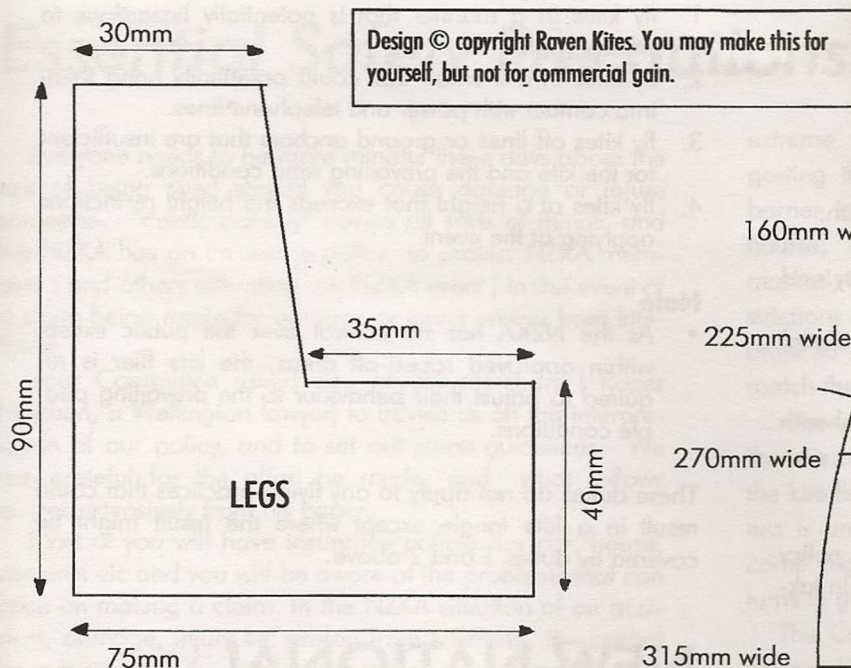
NOTE: We have had some bugs stay inflated for weeks in the shop.

The bugs are, like the beach balls, based on the parachute gauze and the geometric shape of a circle for every thing else.

All of the circles we used were from pre-existing templates (for the base) or were the holes from various size hole saws so the sizes for the eyes and spots were more by chance than design.

THE BASE

After much experimenting we found that using the heavier K cloth (nylon canvas) for the base helped them stay the right way up, and to flip back if they do try to play dead. We also we found that a longer line from the nose bridling point helped reduce the tendency to flip.



An outbreak of ladybugs spread rapidly over the Springvale Park turf at the Easter festival.

SITUATION VACANT: EDITOR REQUIRED



After two years on the job, I've decided it's time to take an extended break from the editor's duties and devote a bit more time to kite making.

Somewhere out there in Kiteland must be someone with a burning ambition to be famous for 15 minutes, someone with the ability to ferret out some articles, take a few photographs, bully people into sending in contributions then use their computer skills to hang it all together. It's not an easy task, but it does have its rewards. These include putting the editor in closer and more frequent contact with the membership, and also the valuable and interesting contacts with kite magazine people in other countries. Plus there's the satisfaction of seeing the finished article.

If you enjoy a challenge and would like to give this a go, contact Geoff Campbell.

All current files would, of course, be made available to the new editor. My page layouts are in Microsoft Publisher 2002. – Richard Wotton

NZKA Policy and Procedures

Kite Safety

Purpose

To ensure that all NZKA sanctioned events conform with:

- good health and safety practices.
- New Zealand law with respect to Health & Safety and Civil Aviation requirements.
- good kite flying practices aimed at minimising potential liability claims.

To ensure that the NZKA gets the best possible deal with respect to our liability insurance.

Key Points

It is not sufficient for the NZKA to just have a safety policy or rules and then do nothing. We must be proactive in taking reasonable steps to comply with our safety policy.

- A person taking on the role of Kite Event Safety Officer does not assume the liability for a safety incident.
- The liability, at all times, remains with the kite flier and the festival organisers.
- The Kite Event Safety Officer provides objective advice and a reality check on the observed behaviour of the kite flier.

It is up to the flier to behave in a safe manner and the organisers to insist on that behaviour if the flier is to continue to participate in the event.

Qualifying Events

The following events or event types are required to comply fully with this policy.

- NZKA national festival (usually at Easter).
- NZKA sanctioned kite days.
- Events organised by others to which the NZKA has been invited and at which there are more than 10 NZKA members in attendance.

The following events are expected to comply with the policy, except that they need not formally appoint a Kite Event Safety Officer.

- Monthly kite flying

Kite Event Safety Officer

A Kite Event Safety Officer is to be appointed by the organisers or by the NZKA committee present.

The person needs to be a reasonably experienced and responsible NZKA member who is expected to act in a consultative and non-confrontational manner when fulfilling their duties. Experience in the area of Occupational Safety and Health would be an advantage.

Authorities

The Kite Event Safety Officer is responsible to the person(s) appointing him/her.

All NZKA members and event registrants are required to conform to the decisions of the Kite Event Safety Officer.

Duties

To ensure that NZKA members and registrants at sanctioned events do not:

1. fly kites in a manner that is potentially hazardous to other people.
2. fly kites in a manner that could potentially bring them into contact with power and telephone lines.
3. fly kites off lines or ground anchors that are insufficient for the kite and the prevailing wind conditions.
4. fly kites at a height that exceeds the height restrictions applying at the event.

Note

- As the NZKA has no control over the public except within approved roped-off areas, the kite flier is required to adjust their behaviour to the prevailing people conditions.

These duties do not apply to any flying practices that could result in a kite tangle except where the result might be covered by duties 1 and 2 above.

NEW NATIONAL FESTIVAL FORMAT?

Contributed by Tony Fitchett

A Wellington friend, now working in Pakistan, writes as follows about a kite festival known as Besant:

"Ever since we have been here, the locals have been building the festival in our calendar into a major event, so we expected something special. By a crazy irony, Besant – originally a Hindu festival to do with the arrival of Spring – is now celebrated in Lahore on a scale it has never reached anywhere else. It is preceded by months of practice, and the hotels are booked out as thousands come from Islamabad, Karachi and even further afield to take part.

We attended two parties (and one impromptu one). The first was put on by two Lahore city clubs and was scheduled to begin at 8pm. We were advised, though, that nothing would happen until 10 (!). In Pakistan, few things begin on time. We stayed until dinner was served – about 11pm. About six kites were flying.

A local colleague indicated it would be more livelier at his place, so we went there and found that just about the whole city was on the rooftops flying kites, barbecuing chickens and sending up fireworks, while trying to watch cricket on TV – which kept suffering power cuts as the power lines were entangled in kite strings.

Since the kites were mostly very simple affairs in plain white or yellow they were relatively easy to see even in the dark – important, since cutting the strings of opposing kites was very much part of the exercise.

We went out into the Old City the next afternoon and the sky was absolutely full of kites. For daylight flying the colourful designs had been brought out. Of the several thousand visible, at any given moment about a quarter had been severed and were slowly drifting down . . ."

Essential Safety Precautions During Kiteflying

Everyone needs to be more mindful these days about the risk of being sued should you cause damage or injure someone. "Public Liability" covers all sorts of things, and the NZKA has an insurance policy to protect NZKA members (and others attending an NZKA event) in the event of a claim being made for damage or injury arising from kiteflying.

Your Committee asked one of our members (Roger Hayman, a Wellington lawyer) to advise us on the interpretation of our policy, and to set out some guidelines. We are grateful for the effort he made, and what follows quotes extensively from his paper.

Most of you will have insurance policies for car, house, contents etc and you will be aware of the problems that can arise on making a claim. In the NZKA situation of an accident, damage, injury etc arising from kiteflying, the central issue is whether the kitefliers were being "reasonably careful" in what they were doing. If they were not, cover might be contested!

The following wording from Roger Hayman is relevant:

"The insured's obligations in this respect are contained under the heading of "Duty of Care" on page 8 of the policy wording. This clause obliges the insured:

- (a) to take "reasonable precautions to prevent personal injury and damage to property";
- (b) to comply with relevant legislation and obligations imposed by "any authority";
- (c) to maintain premises and plant in proper repair; and
- (d) to remedy defects or to eliminate danger that may give rise to personal injury or damage to property. "

"Reasonable precautions" is not defined in the policy but be taken to mean precautions which an ordinary, sensible person would consider necessary, having regard to known risks, the extent and type of injury that might be caused by the risk and the cost of the precautions. "

Roger's paper points out that some kiting activities have a higher risk of damage than others, and that more care must be taken. These could include kite buggying, kite jumping, flying giant kites and releasing dangerous objects from kites. Suitable precautions could mean taking steps to keep the public at a distance, perhaps by roping off an area, along with having persons appointed to monitor the barrier. On a day when the public is present (or invited), the wisest course might be not to indulge in risky activities, and this must include keeping an eye on what kiteflying is being done by members of the public.

Roger further comments:

"It is a case of matching the protection to the risk of damage. A roped-off area might be suitable for high-risk activities at the lower end of the high-risk spectrum but marshals will be essential as the high-risk activity becomes more

extreme. We refer to roped-off areas but we are not suggesting that a single rope would be adequate. Whatever barrier is used, it must be reasonable. Barriers can, of course, cause injury by themselves, if not adequately marked, for example. Barriers might have to incorporate restrictions at different heights—one to restrict adults and another to restrict children. We repeat that it is necessary to match the protection to the risk of damage.

However, with low-risk kiting activities, we consider that there is no need to prevent the public from interacting with the kite fliers and we consider that roping off all kiting activities is unnecessary. However, even low-risk kiting can become high-risk if the conditions deteriorate and the wind turns to gale force, for example."

The Committee has prepared a paper on the need for safety officers at NZKA events, which appears elsewhere in this issue. On this topic, Roger adds:

"We therefore consider that at public kite events, the association should insist that "safety officers" be present throughout the event; that these officers should not be allowed to fly kites (so that they are not distracted from their duties) and that the officers have the absolute right to determine what activities may take place at the event, and in which areas.

For example, the safety officers could decide that, because of the strong wind, the large stationary kites should move into the roped-off area. Conversely, the officers could decide that, because of the gentle winds, some of the larger kites could move from the roped-off area to the open area. The officers could also direct that risky manoeuvres such as launching and landing the larger kites, take place in the restricted area and that, once airborne, the kite fliers could move into the open area.

The officers would also be able to determine what activities were totally unsuitable for the kite day, whether through the weather conditions, crowd size or lack of a secure area, and stop dangerous activities."

And he concludes "that preventing the public from having any interaction with kite fliers is not required by the terms of the insurance policy but that restricted areas should be provided to separate the public from high-risk kite activities and that, as the risk increases, marshals should be appointed to patrol the barriers and the barriers should be made more substantial. We also consider that dedicated safety officers should be appointed to set the limits of the activities that may be conducted in the open and restricted areas and to supervise those activities to match the conditions on the day, which include the weather, the risks presented by the kites being flown and the size and characteristics of the crowd."

In conclusion, although NZKA has insurance cover, members still need to take care because, if care is not taken, the cover might be declined.

SHOPPING COMPANIONS

This item isn't kite-related, but I'm including it for the amusement of a well-known Blenheim kiteflier who in the past has voiced rather strong views on the subject of shopping:



Husbands fed up with being dragged around the shops by their wives are being offered the chance to hire stand-in "shopping companions" in China, a news report said.

A business in Chengdu is offering stand-ins who will carry bags and trudge around shops in place of husbands, for about \$NZ16 for a full day.

The service has run into problems, however, with some "companions" waiting until they are loaded up with bags then running away with them, according to the Hong Kong edition of The China Daily.

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, 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

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

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06 843 4359

Ray McCully
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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

Maori 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

Ngatitoa Domain, Plimmerton

Contact: Tony Fitchett 04 478 5575

NZKA FLYING DAYS

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

July 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

August 2003

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
Wanganui

31 NZKA monthly fly Christchurch

September 2003

7 NZKA monthly fly Wellington
Clarks Beach, Stevenson Rd Park

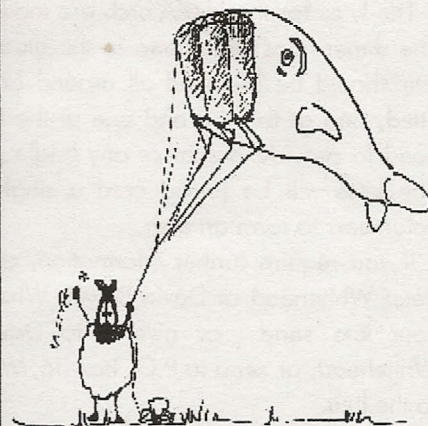
14 NZKA monthly fly Dunedin
Napier/Hastings

21 NZKA monthly fly Bay of Plenty
Nelson
Palmerston North

28 NZKA monthly fly Auckland
Wanganui
Christchurch

*famous
Kitefliers*

*Jim
Rowlaaands*



REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Bay of Plenty

Ray McCully
7 Goodwin Avenue
Rotorua

Phone 07 348 3828
mccullyr@xtra.co.nz

Nelson

Ted Howard
Rainbow Flight, Montgomery Square
Nelson

Phone 03 548 8707
kitesfun@ihug.co.nz

Christchurch

Julie Adam
Skylines and Bylines
Christchurch

Phone 03 365 3907
julie@kites.co.nz

Waikato

Lorraine Watson
1a Sunshine Rise
Raglan

Phone 07 825 7290
akiwikite@xtra.co.nz

Napier / Hastings

Sharon Russell
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rj.russells@paradise.net.nz

Phone 06 843 4359

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Perrin Melchior
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Phone 09 358 0991
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Wanganui

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Phone 06 343 2770
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THE NZKA KITE ARCH PROJECT

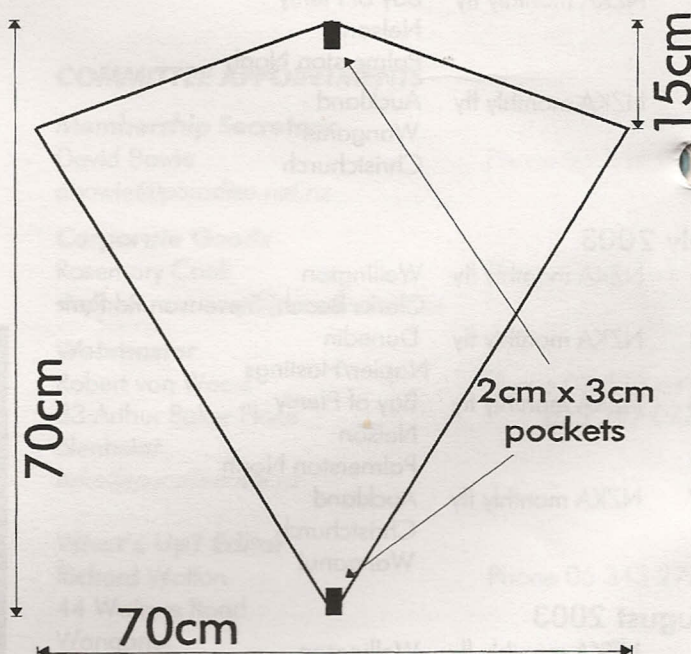
The members' arch is for every member to make at least one kite. It can be any colour or pattern but should follow the outline shown. The kite should be as individualistic as possible, expressing something of the member. It can be a design you like or have used on one of your kites – for example, you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



What's Up?

a newsletter for kitefliers



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