

# *What's Up?*

September 2003

*A newsletter for kitefliers*

Number 77



NEW ZEALAND KITEFLIERS' ASSOCIATION INC.

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

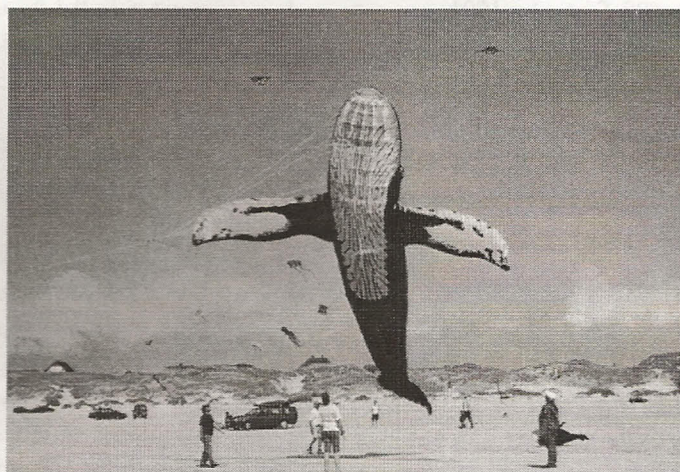


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This magnificent whale kite was just one of the many standout flying wonders seen at Denmark's Fano 19th International Kitefliers' Meeting by the Editor and Mrs Ed.

Get the full story on Page 4, plus two bonus pages of pix on Page 20.



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

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

COVER PHOTO: Ted Howard, of Nelson, with Robert van Weers' latest kite: a replica of an historic Biplan kite. — Photo by Richard Wotton



Issue #23, March 1990

## FLEXIFOIL SPEED RECORD?

On February 28, Tony Fitchett organized an interesting stunt kite gathering in Wellington, to try for a speed record. He had managed to borrow the services of a patrol car from the MOT, complete with Hawk radar, and he assembled a team of Wellington speedsters. Following the lead of an article in KiteLines [magazine], double-sided tape was used to fasten aluminium foil to the leading edges to give the Hawk a good signal, but it was soon found that this was not needed – the Hawk picked up all the kites without difficulty.

Flexifoils flown by Peter Whitehead, Craig Bush and Te Tuhi Kelly were fastest, and speeds over 100kph were soon being recorded. The harbourside site would have been splendid in a southerly (as planned), but the wind had switched to northerly and the stunters were in gusty conditions in the lee of hills. Despite this, Te Tuhi was fastest, with 144kph recorded.

The fastest noted recently in KiteLines is 190kph, and had the Wellington wind been southerly the Flexi would have got closer to this figure. Te Tuhi seems to have the New Zealand record at present (and he didn't get a ticket!).

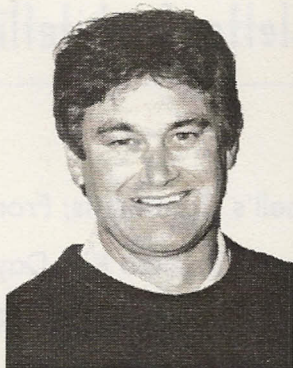
Issue #29, September 1991

## ENJOY YOURSELF!

I sometimes wonder how newer members see us. Are they self-conscious about their kites? Some conversations lead me to believe so. My kiteflying is fairly low key, with a selection of small kites. Initially I almost felt embarrassed with my toy-like kites, but soon I found that any kiteflier is accepted. The attraction to me is the relaxation and forgetting of real world worries and enjoying the fresh air. The people met are a bonus and add another dimension to this pleasurable pastime. Let's not forget why probably most of us are involved in kiting.

We are not here for a long time, we are here for a good time, so enjoy life.

—(Excerpted from a Letter to the Editor, by Stephen Cook)



# Campbell's Comments

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Another Father's Day kiteflying festival in Wanganui and Ohakea has just finished. With a pre-flight get-together on the Friday night at the president's residence, a relaxing flight on the Saturday followed by a barbecue again at my place, then a short jaunt down to Ohakea it was a very hectic weekend for both Carey and myself. The winds were not bad and the rains held off for the entire weekend. Friday was very wet, and while everyone else was doubting that the weather would be fine the next day, I had no worries about the conditions. A website that predicts the weather ([www.predictweather.com](http://www.predictweather.com)) informed me that it would be fine, and it was. It was a great way to shake the cobwebs out of the kites that had been stored away for winter and a chance to meet old friends and introduce new members to that wonderful event, the kite festival.

With winter now quickly fading behind us, we again start getting into the festival season (my favorite time of the year). We have a new event on the calendar this year – or should I say next year (just) – with the Chateau fly on the golf course at the foot of Mount Ruapehu. The kite fly is to take place over two days of the New Year weekend, January 3 and 4. (See the item about this event on Page 7.)

Prior to that we have the continuing series of workshops on kite-making with Peter Lynn to instruct us in his techniques for making soft kites. I must admit I have started early by going down to his workshop and cutting out the gecko that I'll be making. When I arrived at the Ashburton factory, Jenny Cook told me: "Tomorrow you'll have aches in places you didn't know you had." Being a typical male I just thought, "I've cut out kites before, I'll be right." Boy, was I wrong! Four days later (just in time for the Father's Day fly) I was finally able to walk without pain.

**An important notice to all members:** the next National Festival is earlier next year, being held on Waitangi Day weekend instead of Easter. This means that all remits etc need to be in before the next magazine's deadline.

Speaking of which, this is the last magazine that our current editor will be putting together. I would like to say a very big thank you to Richard Wotton for the great magazines he has produced for us. I would like to call on any volunteers for the vacant position of editor. Please let your interest be known either to me or any other committee member as soon as possible.

Geoff Campbell  
President



# THE WANGANUI/OHAKEA WEEKEND

by Rosemary McCully

It was really great to see some new faces at Wanganui: Sue and Keith Bunn and Jim Maidens from Wanganui, and Jan Vennix from Martinborough. (Jim Ayers, watch your back – I think you have competition from the new Jim, with kite aeroplanes.) Ted Howard and his two helpers represented the South Island, after making the trek up from Nelson.

Robert van Weers was there in spirit, in the form of his latest kite, sent along with Ted to tune and test fly. It's a replica "Biplan", designed by Rene Lemaire, and we'll expect a full report on this in the next issue! Sparred with cedar, with duck sails, it was a sight to behold. Robert probably had heart failure more than once, starting with the phone call asking him if he didn't mind the new colour for one of the sails, after landing in a cow pat. Later, when we

were around at the Campbells for dinner, he was sent an email containing photos of the kite flying "before the accident". ;-)

We flew on a different farm this year. Once again, the farmer was not a kite flier, so many thanks for his generosity, and to the Wanganui fliers who organised it. You could be forgiven for thinking we were in Taihape, given the favoured footwear.

Winds were very light at first, developing to something a little stronger than most of us would have liked. It's so difficult to please kite fliers. A good range of kites was flown away from public gaze – no-one could accuse us of distracting people from their driving this year, unlike last year when we flew right alongside State Highway 3 just south of Wanganui.

A convivial evening was hosted by Carey and Geoff Campbell that evening: potluck BBQ, with lovely salads and dessert provided by Carey. There was all the normal kite talk, and looking through books and web sites.

Mark this one on your next year's calendar!

## JOHN DERHAM'S VERSION OF EVENTS...

After a bit of a 'Tiki Tour' (thanks to my navigator) we arrived at the flying field: a beautiful spot on a local farm, with an audience of appreciative sheep in an adjoining field.

The sun shone, the wind was light and God was in his Heaven. But, alas the wind slowly strengthened as the day wore on until it got very strong – so we pulled down our kites and retired to our motel.

The strong, gusty wind was no real problem for us hardy Wellington fliers as we served our time at Fraser Park! The reason Wellington gets a lot a wind is due to its proximity to the Beehive. The hot air rising from this building and the cold air rushing in to replace it is responsible for Wellington's wind. I strongly suspect that there must have been a political party conference in Wanganui this weekend!

We finished the day with a magnificent barbecue at the Campbells – a lovely finish to a kite flying day.

Sunday dawned a very nice day – the old "currant bun" was shining and it was warm – but at Ohakea there was virtually no wind at all. A light breeze came up in the afternoon but it turned out to be one of those frustrating days where everything was up and down as the wind fluctuated. The only thing which flew well was the Air New Zealand Boeing 767 doing circuits and bumps.

The real worry resulting from the weekend is whether the farmer on whose land we flew on Saturday will send me a bill for the bits of his farm I carted away on the tyres and wheel arches of my car.



Stephen Gibson, of Wanganui, helped Wellington flier Anne Whitehead reel in a line of good-sized and colourful carp. Unfortunately, they weren't quite fresh enough for the evening barbecue.



# FANO THE FABULOUS!

*Roving Editor*

*Richard Wotton*

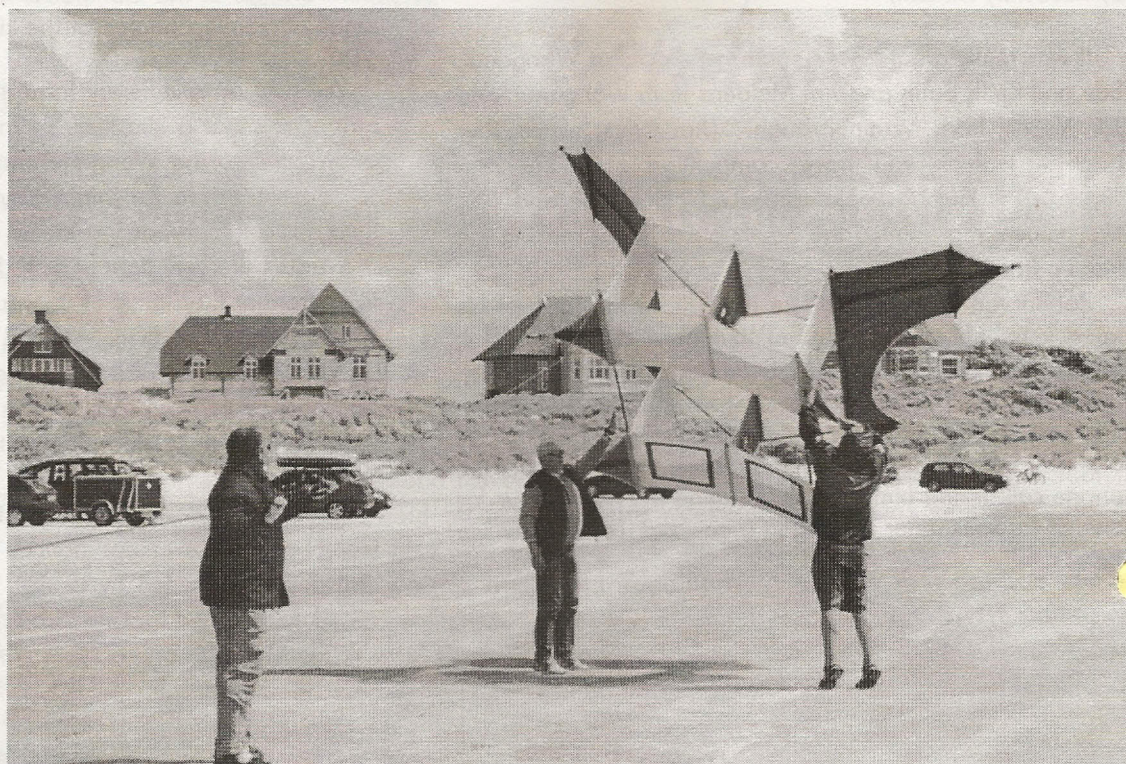
*reports on the*

*19th International*

*Kitefliers' Meeting,*

*Fano, Denmark,*

*June 19-22, 2003*



Fano the fabled! This Danish west coast island event must be the ultimate kiting experience.

After training across Denmark from a spell of sightseeing in Copenhagen, my wife Dalwyne and I arrived on the island late on the Sunday afternoon prior to the festival. When you travel halfway around the world, you need to have time to make the most of whatever is happening.

The beach is vast, and on the day we arrived we walked for what seemed like ages and the "wagon circle" of kiter's vehicles down the beach just didn't seem to be coming any closer, so the following morning we walked 3km into the village of Nordby and hired a couple of bikes for the week. It's a good thing the beach is hard and smooth, because it's just too big to cover adequately on foot. Apart from the pain inflicted on our posteriors by the awful seats, the bikes were an ideal way for us to get around, but I think another couple of days and we'd both have been crippled for life. However, a daily dose of lovely, fresh Danish pastries helped to take our minds off our suffering!

Monday's breeze was a little on the strong side, but quite flyable, and Tuesday was sunny and warm, but with a very light breeze. However, on the Wednesday conditions were absolutely fabulous. There wouldn't be a kite in the world that wouldn't have flown perfectly, it was so smooth. The direction shifted a few degrees in the morning then remained steady for the rest of the day. I talked the next day

to a German flier who said he and his friends finally packed their kites away at midnight.

There were a few thousand kites in the air, by my estimate, and it was a wonderful sight – one I'll probably never see again unless I go back to Fano. It didn't matter where we looked, there was always some flying creation that demanded closer inspection. We biked a lot of kilometres up and down the beach, rubbernecking and photographing. It was impossible to try to steer a straight course, because we were always shooting off at a tangent, with cries of "Look at that!"

But, as you all know, it doesn't always happen that kite events get perfect weather from start to finish . . . The first three "official" days of the four-day event were blown away by a VERY constant 40kph wind off the sea. It came up in the early hours of Thursday morning and just didn't let up. Very disappointing, to say the least. Conditions on the



*ABOVE:* This Cody was man-handled into the 40kph breeze by a determined and wind-resistant team of German fliers on the Friday afternoon.

*RIGHT:* The sand swirling around these fliers gives the lie to beach conditions on the Friday afternoon.



beach were horrible, with stinging sand blowing continually, but as they say, that's kite-flying.

Saturday afternoon saw some braver souls getting kites into the air, but conditions dictated that it was strong kites only, so there wasn't a great deal of aerial activity then. Peter Lynn had turned up and was demonstrating his new quilt kites (referred to by the irreverent as the "handbag kite"), as well as putting on a display of his ever-popular inflatables.

This year's Drachen Foundation workshop was tutored by Robert Brasington, of Tasmania, who is well-known for his

night was time for some auction action, in this case in a large barn on a farm near the village of Rindby. In conjunction with the auction there's a flea market outside the barn, so I made myself a cardboard "For Sale" sign and stood there looking pathetic until people took pity on me and bought all the patches and pins left over from the Easter festival in Wanganui. Sue Clarke, from Oregon, whom we had already met, felt so sorry for me she bought five pins, my biggest single sale of the evening! Funds raised by the sale of these items went to help out the needy at Golfparken Apartment 34 (i.e. the Wottons) while auction proceeds went to another worthy cause: homeless children in Colombia. As a related matter of interest, I was told that at last year's auction, a parafoil with the festival logo appliquéd on it fetched the top price of the sale: \$NZ15,000!!

Now I know I've said a bit about when the weather wasn't so good, but when it was great it was *really* great. As mentioned earlier, the Wednesday conditions were perfect, and Sunday was a repeat dose: the sun shone, and the breeze was moderate and steady. I was down on the beach by about 8.30 and quickly had the pilot up, with Lizzie the cat and Tweetie Bird underneath. The Red Baron fighter plane also had a trip to Denmark, so he was pleased to soar up into the wide blue yonder.

The beach rapidly filled with fliers and the sky bloomed with colour, quickly equalling the spectacle we'd seen on Wednesday. I flew for maybe two hours before packing my kites away so we could devote our time to cruising the beach to check out the day's crop of aerial marvels. I spent far more time looking than flying, because I can fly at home pretty much any time but I don't see that many kites at Springvale Park on a Sunday afternoon! The three windy days must have meant there were an awful lot of kites which didn't see the light of day at Fano, so I guess I'll just have to make another trip to catch up with them . . .

I was interested to see the various historic kites. There was a very nice Saul's barrage kite of about 3m span, made by Marc Wolff, from Luxembourg. The sails were cotton and the spars made from larch. Fittings were aluminium, all handcrafted by Marc. He's made a beautiful job of it and it flew perfectly.

On the Friday afternoon when it was blowing hard, I saw a team of six or seven German fliers struggling to land a 6m-wide Saul's kite. Boy, that looked like a job and a half! Obviously a hard-pulling kite. That particular version also had cotton sails but the spars were bamboo. I also saw a very interesting triplane kite, but was unable to get any in-



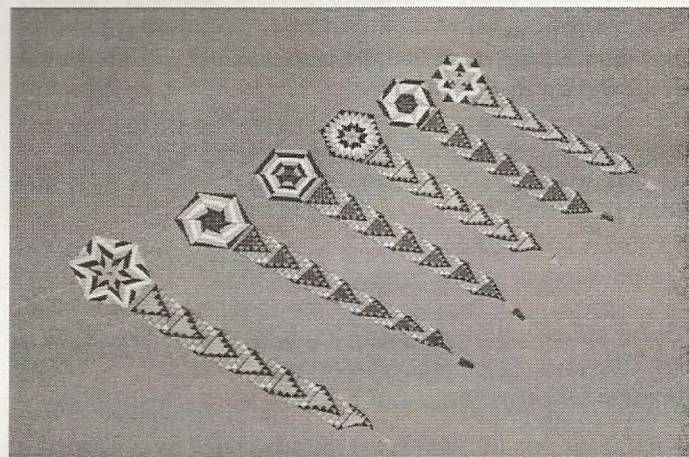
elegant cellular kites. The two one-day classes were filled to capacity, and all the participants, plus Robert, took part in a mass fly late on Saturday afternoon when the wind had dropped to 39km/h from its previous 40.

Robert and his wife Tracey were staying in the same apartment block as us, so we were able to enjoy their company while we waited for that pesky wind to calm down. Just as well we didn't spend any more time with them, though, because I might have ended up buying more than two kites from Robert!

As seems to be the custom with kite events, Saturday

ABOVE: Some of the big stuff! A giant Philip McConachie sunflower is watched over by a Peter Lynn bear.

RIGHT: The shimmering tails on this train of hexagonal kites looked wonderful in the Fano sunshine.







formation about it. I assume it was a replica of some historical kite, and its constructor was obviously blessed with a huge amount of patience and skill. There must have been hundreds of hours of very painstaking work in it, shaping the wooden spars and making dozens of small metal fittings. Unfortunately I didn't see it flying.

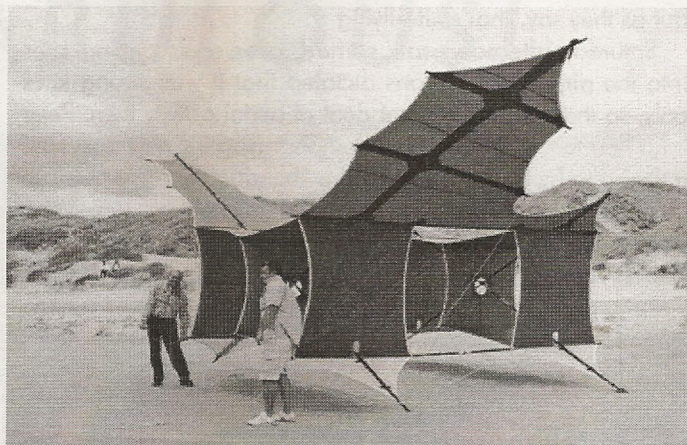
Codys, of course, were out in force. The Cody was the classic kite featured at this year's event, but the mass fly scheduled for the Friday morning was cancelled because of the strong wind. However, this didn't deter the diehards. They just delved a bit deeper into the kitbags and came up with the *really* heavy-duty spars! I must say I was quite amazed at some of the industrial strength spars, hardware and lines a lot of the European fliers were using, not to mention some pretty impressive ground anchors. Anyway, these people obviously knew what they were doing, because once they got the kites into the air they flew well in spite of the wind strength.

Five members of the Wigsley Wings Kite Display team made the journey from the English Midlands with about three truckloads of large kites (I'm not exaggerating too much here). They've got so many large Peter Lynn kites I

ABOVE: Maiden flight for this historical replica flat Cody.

ABOVE RIGHT: This extended-wing Cody wasn't flat, and it certainly wasn't small! My estimate was a wingspan between seven and eight metres.

RIGHT: German flier Ralf Maserski's beautiful geometric-flat kites floated gracefully above the beach.



reckon Peter will soon be gifting them some shares in the company! They had a very impressive array of large inflatables, bols and anything else you care to think of. And they're terrific people.

While it was wonderful to see kites in such incredible variety and numbers, the most enjoyable aspect of the whole event for me was meeting so many new people who also share this great interest. Everyone we met was very friendly, and seemingly impressed by the fact that we'd come halfway around the world on our pilgrimage to the kiteflier's Mecca.

Coincidence department: One of the kites I was really hoping to see at Fano was Pegasus, the flying horse, which some readers will no doubt have seen illustrated on the web or in magazines. On the first day of festival week we went down to the beach and got talking to a flier assembling a kite. We introduced ourselves and exchanged cards, and what should I see on this gentleman's card but a line drawing of Pegasus. The very first kite flier I talked to was Marc Duguay, the French-Canadian designer of this kite! Sad to relate, however, Pegasus was still in his stable back in Paris, where Marc is currently living.

You can see photos of the kite on his website, [www.perso.club-internet.fr/m1508](http://www.perso.club-internet.fr/m1508)

Finally, here's a tip for those who like to travel light: don't take a shovel with you to Fano for filling your sand anchors. All you need to do is keep checking rubbish skips until you find an empty tin can large enough to make a good scoop.

For more photos of Fano 2003, check out the following websites:

[www.kitefliersmeetingfano.de/strand.html](http://www.kitefliersmeetingfano.de/strand.html)

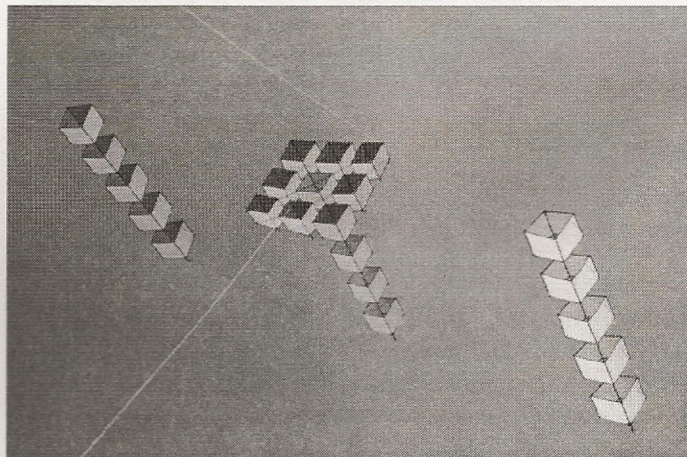
[www.wigsleywings.fsnet.co.uk/html/main.htm](http://www.wigsleywings.fsnet.co.uk/html/main.htm)

[www.stieg-op.de](http://www.stieg-op.de)

[www.nappravnik.com/aktuell.htm](http://www.nappravnik.com/aktuell.htm)

[www.dietrich.dk](http://www.dietrich.dk)

[www.maserski.de](http://www.maserski.de)





# WEBMASTER'S SCRIPT

## *What's up at the [www.nzka.org.nz](http://www.nzka.org.nz) website?*

by Robert van Weers

NZKA Webmaster [[nzka@paradise.net.nz](mailto:nzka@paradise.net.nz)]

### Kitefliers' Forum

As some of you will know, I've created a platform on our website for people to discuss kite-related subjects. Go to the forum and login or register. Registration is necessary for the script to function properly, and doing so enables you to participate in the forum. You might be able to find some answers to your questions or you could help someone with their problem or queries. This is a secure forum and the NZKA does not share any of the sensitive information you may give, such as email addresses, to third parties. None of your sensitive information like passwords etc is visible to other forum members. You will find a link to it on the main page just below the news scroller, and you don't need to register to browse the forum.

### News Articles

For those interested in articles from around the globe, there are a few articles of great interest. They were posted some time ago, so this is just a reminder for those who haven't yet seen them. You can find the link on the news scroller.

### Kite photo information [still missing]

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 details of a certain kite please let me know. This photo album represents you, the NZKA member, so if you want your images shown please send them to me. Any format is suitable, and please include some information about the kite.

### Newsletter

If you would like to receive our monthly website newsletter or an email version of the "What's Up?", register your email address with us today. The NZKA E-zine is still being formatted so it could take some time. There's a link at the website. [NZKA Info>Join the NZKA>Mailing list]

### News scroller

If you wish to announce your next festival or kite day, or simply have something you wish to say, why not post it on the news scroller! Got something to sell? Put it on the scroller. Seeking donations? Put it on the scroller. You never know!

## Whakapapa kiteflying event at New Year 2004

Each year, beginning on Boxing Day and running for about three weeks, the Tongariro Natural History Society and Department of Conservation present a programme of activities within Tongariro National Park.

On January 3 and 4, 2004, they will be hosting kite flying on the golf course in front of the Chateau. This is to encourage people to consider other recreational activities in the park. Event organiser Sarah Gibb worked in England for a few years and enjoyed organising kite days in conjunction with the North-east Flyers.

The prevailing winds up at Whakapapa are westerly, and the Chateau is north facing, so the kites would probably be up with Mount Ngauruhoe as an impressive backdrop.

There will probably be some low-cost accommodation available in a ski lodge. Contact Geoff Campbell for further information about the event.

This will be a great opportunity for all flyers to see their kites in an unusual setting, so start planning now and mark it on your 2004 kite calendar.

If you'd like to know more about the Tongariro Natural History Society, their website is [www.tongariro.org.nz](http://www.tongariro.org.nz).

Sarah Gibb

Executive Officer

Tongariro Natural History Society

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Turangi

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## Mighty oaks from little acorns grow . . .

*by Tony Fitchett*

A long time ago, in a park far far away, a group of Wellington kitefliers at their regular monthly gathering on Saturday, 3 March 1984, had been talking about starting a national association. This was in Porirua. They adjourned to Bob Maysmor's office in a nearby building to consider the matter, and Peter Lynn, who was there that day, encouraged the idea, and it was decided to go ahead. Bob Maysmor agreed to take some initial action on publicity.

Interest developed, as indicated on the cover page of the first *What's Up?*, shown elsewhere in this issue along with the minutes of a special meeting of interested kitefliers held on 15 July, 1984.

At the NZKA annual general meeting in Wanganui at Easter this year, the meeting agreed with a suggestion from Anne Whitehead that our annual gathering should be held at Elsdon Park, Porirua, over Waitangi weekend in 2004 (February 6/7/8). It would be nice to have all the 1984 crowd come back to see what has developed from simple beginnings.



# WHAT'S UP ?

## THE NEWSLETTER FOR KITEFLIERS

Well! this is it, the first newsletter of the New Zealand Kitefliers Association Incorporated. Yes, we became an Incorporated Society on the 17th July. The Association had its beginnings back in March of this year when a highly successful kiteday was held in Porirua. Many people from out of town came, including Peter Lynn of Ashburton. The idea of a kite association was discussed and so, now nearly 6 months later, here we are.

The idea behind the Association is to share knowledge, experiences, sources of material etc, and to help generate an 'identity' among kite enthusiasts which may help to dispel the image of "only kids fly kites!"

Back in April, the television programme 'SPOT ON' did a story about kites and gave at the end of the programme the Association's address. This was early days indeed as we were not even formed at that stage, HOWEVER, over 250 letters were received. Most of letters asked for plans for easy to make kites, and sources of materials. Replies were sent to all the letters enclosing the information requested. This response certainly showed the re emergence of 'KITES' as a popular recreation.

At the end of April, we applied for an 'Establishment Grant' from the Ministry of Sport and Recreation. Unfortunately, in early July we learn't the application had been unsuccessful, however it was suggested we reapply once we were more established. This reapplication has been made and the results should be known in a couple of months. The grant, should it eventuate will help cover the expenses incurred in setting up the association. Postage, stationery and photocopying costs have all been high but with the help of the donations that some of you have sent in we are not too much in the red.

Well thats a brief history of our Association to date. I think the big thing to remember is that with everybody's support, especially in the way of newsletter contributions our association can be strong and long lasting. Without that support.....who knows!

Happy flying

*Bob Maysmar*



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c/ 9 Kenef Road Paremata



NEW ZEALAND KITEFLIERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a special meeting of members of the N.Z. Kitefliers Assn., held on Sunday July 15th 1984 in the Porirua Museum, Te Hiko Street, Porirua at 3.00 PM.

Present; Jim Oliver, Tony Fitchett, David Bowie, Bob Maysmor, Harry Luyk,  
Bill Harris, Shona Harris, Eric Martin, Derek Martin, John and Judy  
Hellstrom.

Apologies: Ian Johnson, Oriel Hoskin, Mark Pennington, Sue Pennington,  
Bruce Comfort.

Minutes : N/A

Finance: Bank balance stands at \$100 being a donation from Peter Lynn.

Election of Officers :

Members present confirmed the following appointments :-

President: Peter Lynn  
Secretary: Bob Maysmor  
Treasurer Harry Luyk  
Information Officer: Tony Fitchett

General Business :

1. Incorporated Society -it was agreed that the incorporation of the Association be immediately applied for.
2. Establishment Grant -Ministry of Recreation and Sport -  
Members were informed that the initial request for a financial grant was refused. However, following a recommendation from the Ministry it was decided to reapply once membership was established.
3. Membership Fees -It was agreed that a flat membership fee of \$5 per individual/family would be levied.
4. Financial Year -it was decided the financial year would end on September 30th. This would allow for a balance sheet to be distributed in the last quarter newsletter prior to the AGM proposed for January-
5. Stationery (a) envelopes -an offer by Bob Maysmor to print a logo on envelopes was accepted. Jim Oliver offered to obtain envelopes at a wholesale price and obtain prices for the same.  
  
(b) Logo -a letter to be sent to the School of Design asking if they would consider a project to design a logo for the association.  
  
(c) Letterhead -3 designs for a letterhead were discussed and one was chosen. The letterheads will be photocopied in quantities required until finances allow for printing..



General Business cont :

6. Newsletter

- (a) it was agreed the size of the newsletter would be A4
- (b) Advertisements. Following discussion it was decided any commercial business wishing to advertise in the newsletter would be charged 50 cents for each full A4 page distributed and that this page should be provided pre-printed and ready to insert in the newsletter by the advertiser.
- (c) David Bowie offered to enquire about photocopying rates at his work. A high quality photocopy is required for reproducing photographs .
- (d) Following the first newsletter, application will be made to the Post Office to have it registered as a magazine in order to qualify for reduced rates.

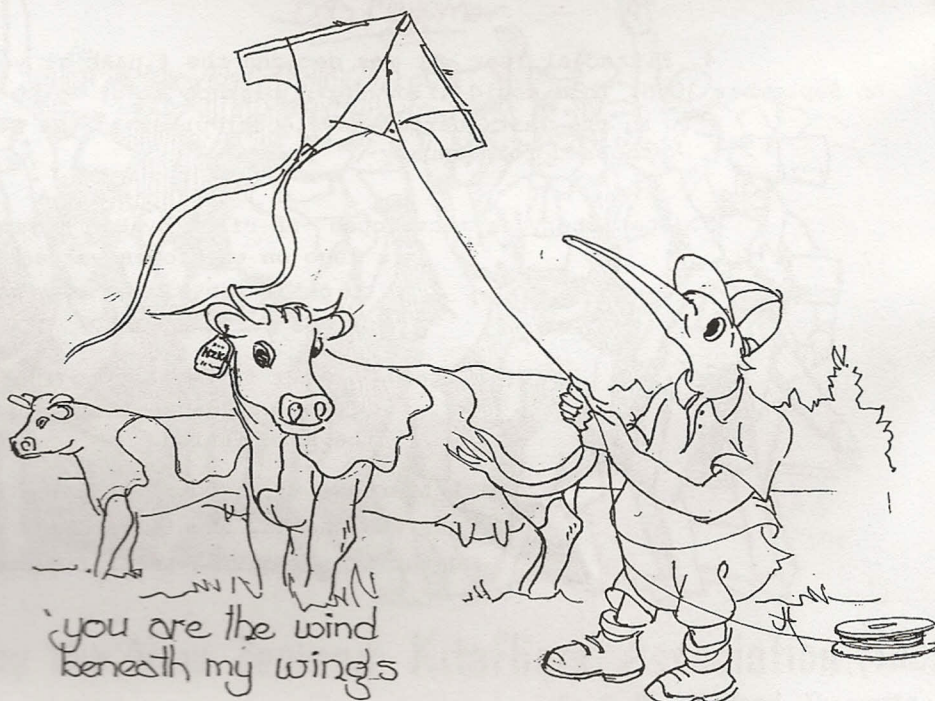
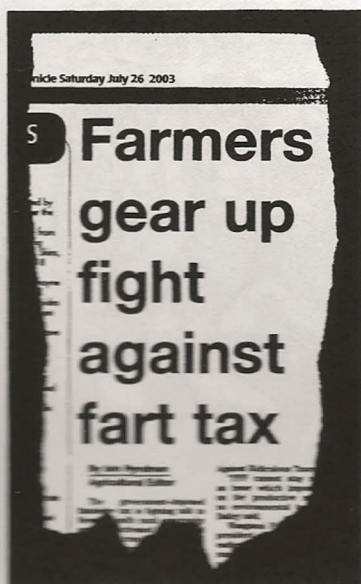
7. Post Office Box -it was agreed that a P.Office Box was not necessary at this stage.

The meeting ended at 4.30 pm.

## NELSON KITE FESTIVAL January 16-18, 2004

Don't miss one of the best festivals on the New Zealand kiting calendar!

Contact Ted and Gretchen Howard for further details: Ph. 03 548 8707 email [kitesfun@ihug.co.nz](mailto:kitesfun@ihug.co.nz)





# OVER AND OUT – EDITOR SIGNS OFF

As mentioned in *What's Up?* #76, I've decided it's time to take an extended break from the editor's duties and spend a bit more quality time with my sewing machine.

One of my intentions in taking over as editor was to lift the overall content of the magazine and embrace the wider world of kiting. There has been some magazine content which is freely available on the Internet, and which I'm sure has not been hot news for some of our members. However, this has all been material which I feel was worth publishing in the magazine so it's kept for posterity.

It's worth repeating that one of the most important components of the magazine is YOU. Without contributions from members, the editor's job not only becomes more difficult but could become redundant. A couple of weeks after returning from Fano, I was speaking on the phone with Ken Hansen, the Danish flier whose duck windsock plan appeared in *What's Up?* #72. He told me that the membership of the Danish Kite Club has dropped from around 300 to around 200 over the past few years, and their quarterly magazine is now published once a year. The reason? A complete lack of contributions from members. Similarly, I was told recently by Meg Albers, of Buffalo, New York, that the AKA magazine editor's job went begging until they made it a paid position. The number of issues per year has been cut from six to four. It's food for thought.

On a more positive note, I would like to thank all those people who have contributed material for the magazine, even though some of it may not have found its way into print. Be assured that there is always a considered reason for this, so please don't be discouraged from making future submissions.

I would also like to thank those people who have encouraged me with their positive feedback over the course of the last two years.

Photographing kiting activities will continue to be a priority for me, so there will be an ongoing source of photographs available for use in the magazine.

My faithful editorial assistant Elizabeth is very pleased I'm handing over the magazine. She spends her time in the office sleeping on whatever pile of paper is handy, and she objects to the frequent disturbances as I rummage around looking for some vital scribbled note or photograph. She feels it's much more relaxing to help me cut and sew kites – and a pile of ripstop makes a more comfortable bed.

I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of you on a kite field somewhere over the summer, but be warned: I'll still have that camera ready to catch the unwary.

Please note that my e-mail address is now:  
[rjwotton@hotmail.com](mailto:rjwotton@hotmail.com)

Best of breezes,  
Richard Wotton

*RIGHT: The retiring, but not shy, Elizabeth, my faithful editorial assistant for the past two and a bit years. She says she'll miss not being the first to read each new issue of What's Up?*

# 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.

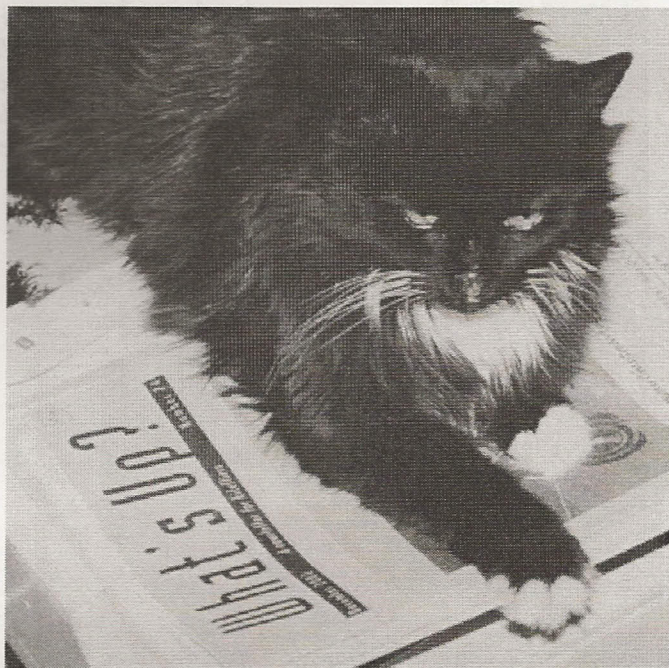
# LABOUR WEEKEND WORKSHOP

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 details, e-mail Peter and Anne Whitehead at [drachen@interh-net.co.nz](mailto:drachen@interh-net.co.nz) and they will send further information.

# TIED UP IN KNOTS

Ray McCully emailed the information that the *New Zealand Herald* had published two websites for information on knots that it recommended, and which he thought looked very comprehensive.

International guild of Knot Tyers  
[www.igkt.net](http://www.igkt.net)  
[www.earlham.edu/~peters/knotlink.htm](http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/knotlink.htm)

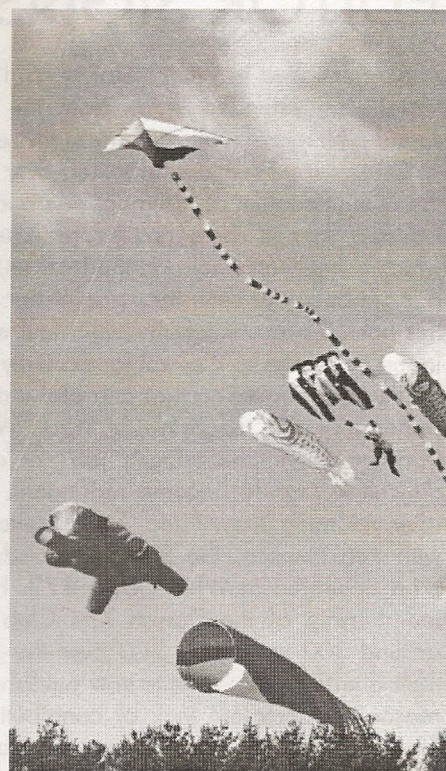




# Father's Day Weekend Flying: Wanganui and Ohakea



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1. Gladys and John Derham had a bootside seat at the Wanganui fly to watch their kites and Anne Whitehead's carp (pic 2).

3. Tony Fitchett (centre) on bread-slicing duty for lunch with Margaret and Max McGuire. 4. Geoff Campbell and Ted Howard tweak up Robert van Weers' new Biplan kite before its maiden flight at Wanganui. 5. Ted Howard does some indoor flying in Campbells' lounge. 6. Jim Ayers with one of his latest creations, this time made from house wrapper.



4

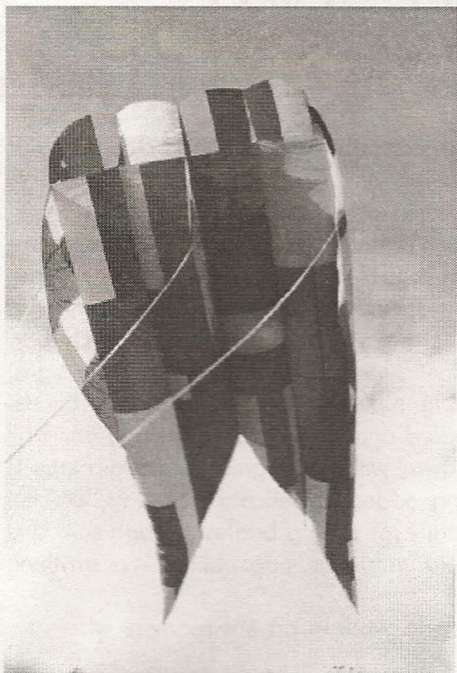


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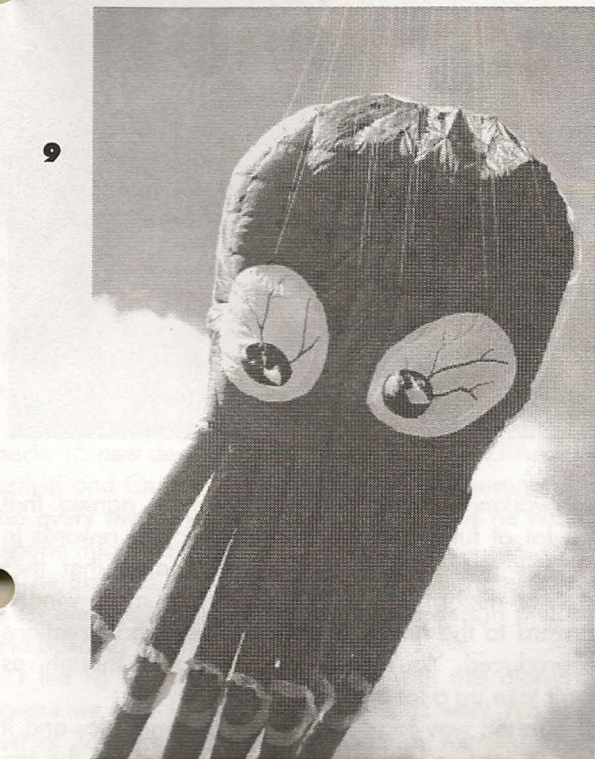
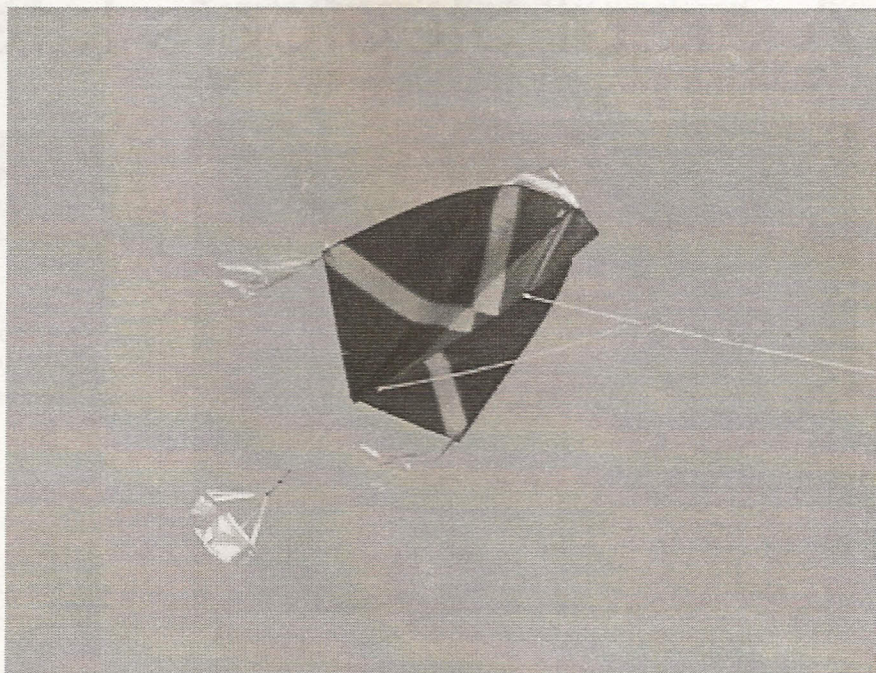


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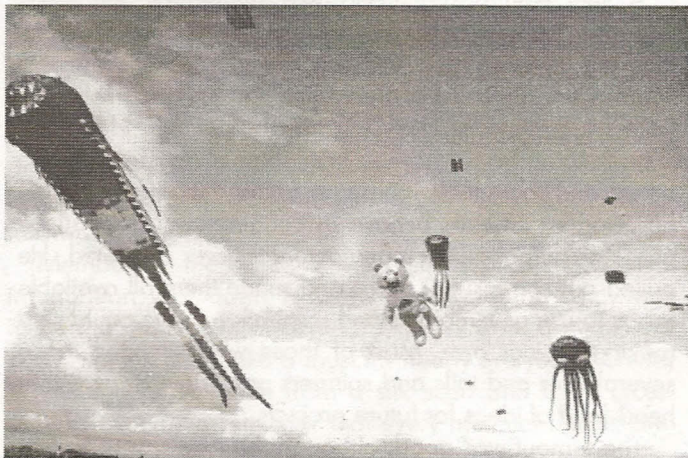


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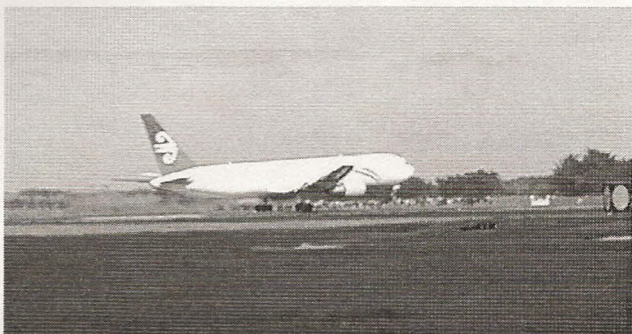


7. Stephen Cook's new patchwork flowform. 8. The McCullys' new Jim Ayers-designed Enigma. 9. This big guy kept a beady eye on things. 10. An assortment of critters at Ohakea. 11. Kitefliers engaged in their second favourite activity: talking about kites at Carey and Geoff's barbecue. 12. A very realistic-looking and sounding (not to mention lifesize) replica of a Boeing 767 kept dropping in on us at Ohakea.



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# A great Steptoe's kite workshop



by Julie Adam

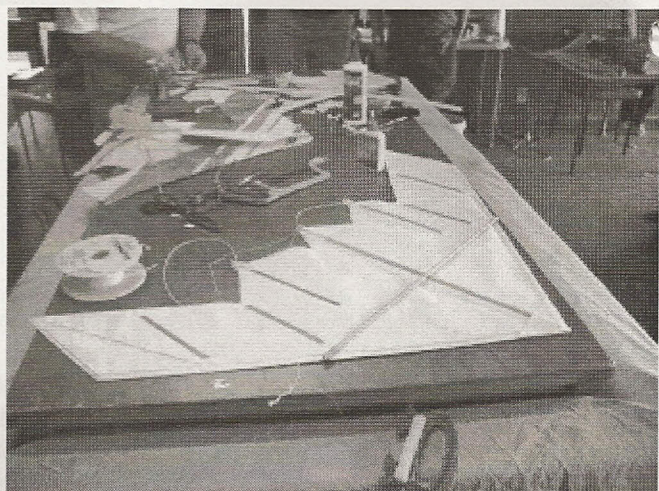
A very enthusiastic group was guided by Jim Ayers through a journey of discovering small kites and easily obtainable materials. Jim is a great teacher, and shares his wisdom and enthusiasm freely. He showed us a selection from his carload of kites, talking about where ideas and shapes come from, showing how some shapes evolve into others and some techniques can be used in different ways, how some materials behave in certain ways and can be used for purposes the manufacturers never imagined. He pulled out some super gems and made them all available for us to use as templates and inspiration so we could start making up our own. Most of those who attended made several kites and tails and spinners and came away with a head-load of ideas for future projects.

The turnout was good, although the locals were feeling a bit overrun by visitors from Rotorua, Palmerston North, Wellington and, of course, the mainland. The social work was extremely well done with a pizza evening on Friday and dinner out on Saturday, and the whole weekend was a relaxed and friendly time. The venue was good – the Seafarers' Club – a nice light space near the beach where

we could walk out the door for a test fly, and close enough to town for us to head off for lunch and new supplies of paper bags and other materials. Some of the locals unfortunately had to work during the weekend and only managed half day visits, but it was great to see them – especially with the baking they brought to keep us all going.

We gathered, scrounged, swapped and recycled to make kites from plastic and paper bags, real estate signs, silk scarves, building materials and even airport blinds. Our tools were pooled and we swapped tips and titbits all weekend, coming away with some great gems: gib tape is great for reinforcing edges of delicate materials, crochet hooks are really handy for pulling bridles through sails and never throw away old umbrellas, bags, blinds – or anything else for that matter!

It was a pleasure to work in an environment where we



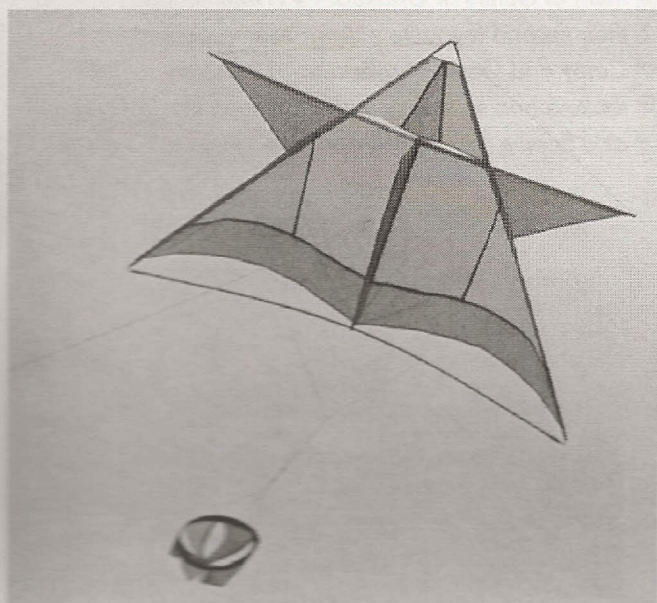
were all working so co-operatively. We all agreed that there's a lot of fun in little kites and heaps of rewards in trying things out, fiddling about and finding that they worked – or might, eventually, with a little more wind! We look forward to the next kite festival to see what creations will be produced. You'll have to look closely though, as they won't take up a lot of sky.

It all finished way too soon, as these things do, and it was time to fold up the kites and pack them for the trip home. Having a bit of time at the end of the afternoon, Jim and I went down the coast a little and flew along the parade where there was just enough wind to keep a couple of kites aloft and let some of the ideas sink into place.

I had a great weekend, learned heaps, enjoyed the conversations and company and came away knowing that kites which can be shared and given away without any thought of the cost, only the reward, are the most satisfying. Thanks Jim – we look forward to the book and film ... coming soon. And to next year's workshop.

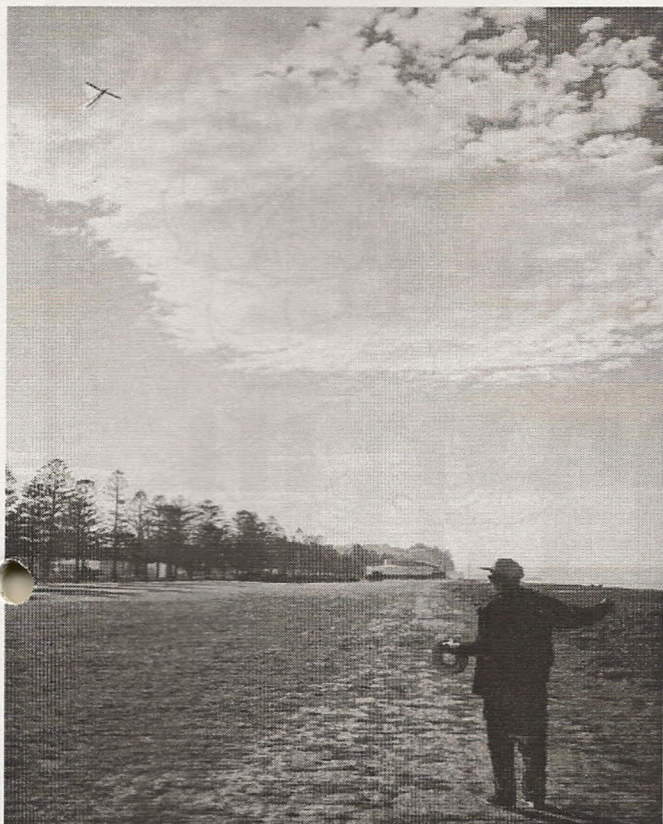
*ABOVE LEFT: Phil Whitehead transformed a silk scarf into a cross-framed diamond kite.*

*LEFT: Rosemary McCully made this kite at the workshop. It's an Ayers variation on the delta.*





## Queen's Birthday Weekend Workshop in Napier with Jim Ayers



by Ted Howard

About 15 budding kitemakers gathered in Napier to sit at the feet of national treasure Jim Ayers, and we all learned a lot!

Jim has been bubbling over with kitemaking, having made 15 new designs between the Easter NZKA Wanganui festival and Queen's Birthday. That's an average of a new kite every two days, so now you know why he has had to expand into a new studio at home!

The first two hours flew by with Jim showing us his new kites, and explaining his aerodynamic design philosophies and building techniques.

I felt I'd got my money's worth with this alone, but of course we had to try making some as well! We spent the rest of Saturday, Sunday and Monday morning making a range of kites using Jim's techniques. I came away with seven new kites, two new drogues, a bunch of photos and a new eye for turning any material into a kite. Jim's ability to turn trashed golf umbrellas into new kites was very inspiring, and his understanding of kite aerodynamics, coming from a sailing background was great. His sense for balance, tuning and performance was truly a bit of a revelation, even to me!

NZKA members came from Christchurch, Nelson, Wellington, Palmerston North, Wanganui, Hastings and Napier. We all enjoyed the workshop, and the company. I recommend you think about going next year, when I understand Jim may be prevailed upon to share his miniature kite-making skills.

Thanks to Jim for an excellent workshop and special thanks for the Hawke's Bay Fliers for hosting it, and to Philip and Jo Dean for having me stay.

## Napier Queen's Birthday weekend workshop—some notes from the tutor

by Jim Ayers

Some time ago David Bowie asked me if I would tutor a weekend school in Wellington and show kitefliers some of the techniques I use for making my kites with unusual materials.

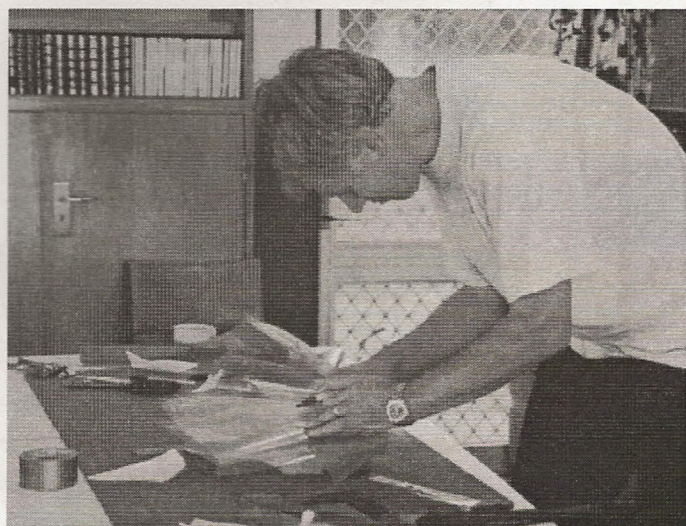
I refused, thinking my style trivial when compared with the larger ripstop and carbon fibre creations which appear at our festivals.

After some thought, however, I began to realize that I had a lot of information and ideas that I should endeavour to pass on to other kitefliers. So when John Mason asked me to tutor their Queen's Birthday workshop I agreed, and in doing so embarked on one of the most memorable weekend I could imagine.

Firstly, I introduced the members to recent work I had been doing and the materials used. The use of plastics for semi-rigid kites, coreflute board for spars with the added advantage of fiberglass rods for stiffening. We looked at different types of cane and bamboo from old blinds. Mesh tape used for stopping gib board was found to be ideal for hemming light materials like plastic or paper. The group was introduced to the efficiency of a spinning windsock to provide drag for any kite. A small kite I had developed recently, made from a plastic filing folder with its gyro spinner, was a great hit.

Members of the class, after the shock of so much initial information, got down to work and really ran away with ideas that had been presented. Fighters were a great success, with the little buka a must for nearly everybody. Shirley Whitehead's kite made from a silk scarf and using cross-stick spars, was a reminder that every material has its own beautiful qualities.

For me, this was a satisfying and enjoyable way to share the aspects of kite making that are dear to me, and I thank all who attended for a wonderful three days.



ABOVE LEFT: Jim Ayers flying one of his creations along the Napier waterfront.

ABOVE: John Whibley turning a plastic "L pocket" into a high-performance kite.





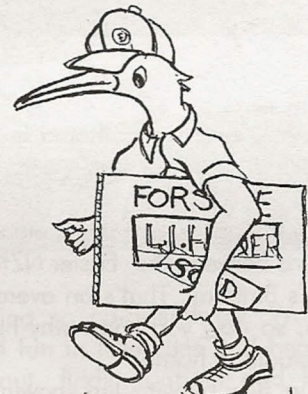
Don't worry it's only a  
blow up thing



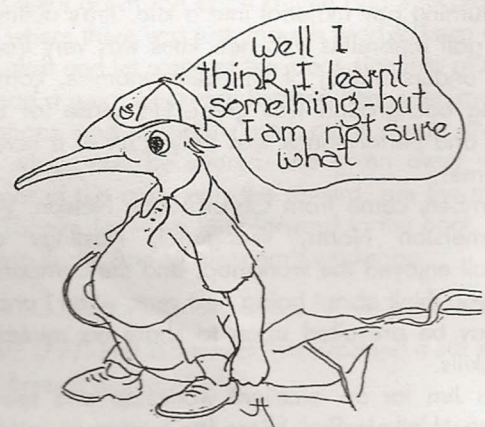
Do I qualify as a big  
kite flier?



Where do these come in  
the pecking order?



"Thank you Mr. Hooker"  
'Material gains'





New Zealand Kitefliers' Association

20<sup>th</sup> Annual National

# KITE FESTIVAL

*Elsdon Park, Porirua*

*February 6-8, 2004*

Registration details will be available  
in the December issue of

*What's Up?*





# THE GENIUS OF ROGALLO'S WING

by M. Robinson

The modern non-rigid kite started as a vision of Dr. Francis Rogallo, an Aeronautical Engineer of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Francis Melvin Rogallo earned one of the first aeronautical engineering degrees issued by a United States educational system, from Stanford University in 1935.

Following World War II, Rogallo began research on a flexible wing. Prior to his research, it was believed that cloth had to be braced or stiffened in order to serve as a basis for flight. Rogallo had always been an avid kite flier and he believed he could develop a kite with the stability and shape of a parachute, but with the lift of an airplane wing. There was no organization willing to subsidize such experiments at that time so his early work was done privately in his own home with the invaluable assistance of his wife and life-long partner, Gertrude.

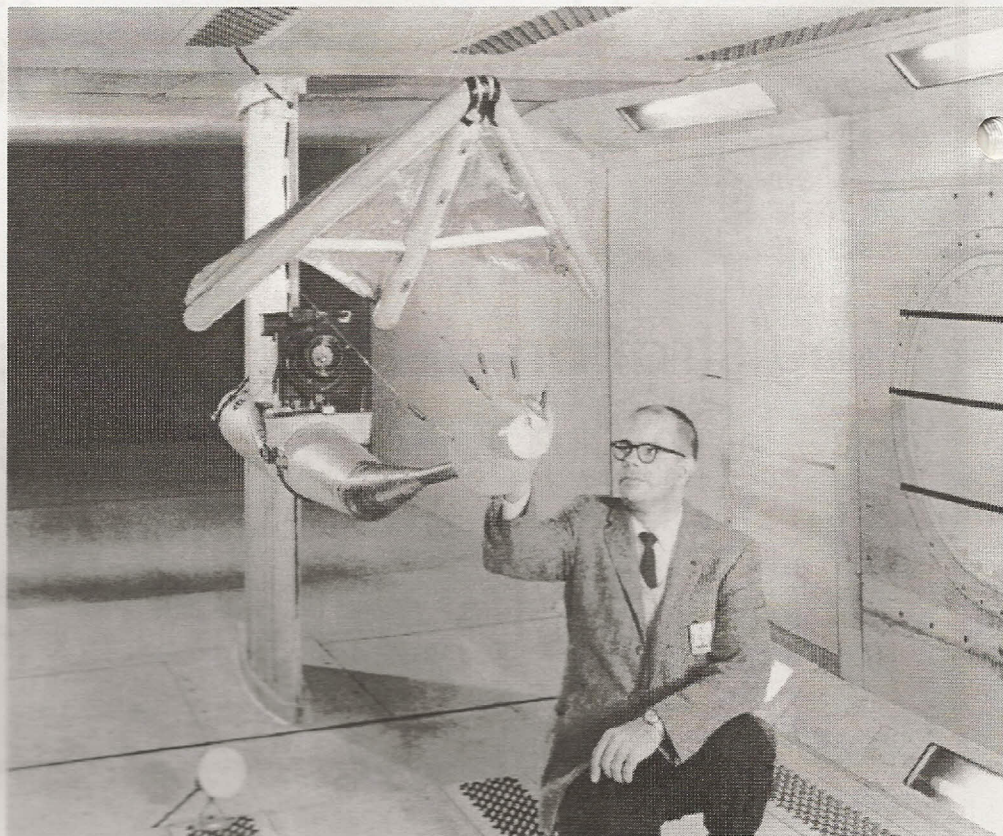
Before the end of 1948, Rogallo had succeeded in producing the first fully successful flexible-wing kite called the 'Flexi-Kite'. A patent was applied for in 1948 and granted in 1951. As an acknowledgement of his wife's enormous contribution to the project, Francis put the patent in his wife's name. Gertrude holds the patent on the "Flexi-Kite". This was not simply a tribute to Francis' love for his wife, but an acknowledgement that she was a significant partner in his research. Gertrude cut and sewed the fabric into the required dimensions, often using household items like the kitchen curtains. Together they built larger and larger sails, and did endless hours of testing on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. They took advantage of the same winds that the Wright brothers used in their research a half-century previously. And, as is true of many great experimenters, the Rogallos often learned as much or more from their failures as they did from their successes.

Rogallo didn't stop there. He and Gertrude continued with their research. In order to free

himself from dependence on the weather, Rogallo installed a 36-inch electric fan in his house. The fan was situated in such a way as to produce a strong breeze through a doorway, providing them with a basic wind tunnel. The original flex-wing kites used a windsock-like tail that doubled as a storage bag. Eventually, Rogallo designed kites that only required tails in strong wind.

The flex-kite held its shape with a system of shroud lines forming a multi-leg bridle. Rogallo's early kites needed up to twenty-eight shroud lines, although their tendency to tangle convinced him of the need to design simpler models using six, and then finally four lines. These kites proved to be extremely light and efficient. They reacted to the wind pressure and formed a nearly perfect aerodynamic shape. Since they required no spars it was the first unbreakable kite and this characteristic made the flex-kite a popular toy. However, the design was destined for more serious work.

Two American aircraft companies, Ryan and North American, became very interested in Rogallo's flex wing design with a variety of uses in mind. The companies saw the immense potential for gliders, dirigible parachutes, and even a new type of manned vehicle. The first powered manned flex-wing test was completed in 1961. These tests led to the development of a 'Fleep', a flying jeep that works from short, rough landing surfaces and can lift loads of almost a half-ton. The large flex-wings used in these applications have the same general configuration as



Francis Rogallo testing his flexible wing in an early wind tunnel experiment





*A Rogallo-designed parachute being tested*

these applications have the same general configuration as the Rogallo kites, but have rigid frame members. At times these members are simply inflated cylinders of flexible material.

Francis Rogallo believed that flexible wings provided more stability than fixed surfaces. He felt that an aircraft or kite should conform to the flow of the wind, as opposed to the wind conforming to the form of the kite or aircraft. With his aim being to achieve minimum supporting area with maximum lift, Rogallo worked towards the total elimination of rigid spars. His concepts have been referred to as classics examples of purity and efficiency.

The mid 1950s saw the Soviet Union take the world by surprise as it launched its first capsule into orbit around the earth. As the United States played catch-up to get its own craft into space, a variety of methods were tested to ensure the safe return of our space capsule. The potential of Rogallo's theories was not overlooked by NASA and the United States space program. It wasn't long before he was involved in extensive research at the enormous wind tunnel in Langley, Virginia, developing highly sophisticated parawings, capable of being deployed and controlled with precision for the landing of returning space capsules. Eventually, however, NASA needed to make a decision and the parachute won out over Rogallo's design.

During the early 1960s, papers written by Rogallo and various government reports became available to the general public. The Rogallo wing was turned into an easily constructed, inexpensive, foot-launchable glider, which worked well. Word of its success got out and more were built. This presented the Rogallos with the dilemma of whether or not to defend their patent. In an incredibly generous gesture, they chose to let manufacturers freely produce their inven-

tion. And to this day the people of the world continue to enjoy the fruits of their labor.

It can certainly be argued that Dr Rogallo's most significant contribution was in the development of the famous delta wing. While this makes Rogallo the father of modern hang-gliding as it is known today, for kite fliers the importance of the delta is profound. Dual-line sport kiting is what it is today because of the delta swept-wing design. It is also very possible that the ease and lack of frustration that accompanies the flying of a single-line delta kite has significantly increased the ranks of the AKA and kite clubs everywhere.

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## *Regional Report from Christchurch*

*by Julie Adam*

On June 8 we had a kite day at Birdlands, Little River. The day was fine, but cold, and, as usual with planned kite events, no wind. A few hardy souls ventured around the peninsula, stopping for lunch at Little River, which was the last we saw of some! By the time we climbed the hill (thank goodness for 4WD) six families were there with their kites waiting for the display! We got about 20 little plastic kites up, but even they required a fair bit of effort. The KiteShop crew, however, had a lovely day out, gathered feathers for decorating kites and found a great mudslide, so the day wasn't wasted.

The last Sunday in June was a lovely sunny day with a steady southerly breeze – which meant that the kites required little attention, so the fliers had time to mix and mingle and tell tall stories. The last Sunday in July was another gorgeous sunny day with a light wind and about 70 people came to Hansen Park for the NZKA kite fly. There were the usual 10 or so faithful fliers putting up several kites each, lots of family groups with little kites – some of which they had made themselves at the recent KidsFest kitemaking workshops at the KiteShop. And a couple of ex-Wellingtonians, Bruce and Joyce Comfort, came along and had a wee fly on the way back from the dump. We're hoping to see more of them when they have finished sorting out their new abode.

It is always good to see new kitefliers and family groups turn up on a kite day and great to see them coming back – especially over winter when the wind is less welcoming! I've come to grips with getting Ray Wind (my Peter Lynn midiray) to behave and I've found the pilot kite much prefers being closer to the ground and lifting line junk – which is a great opportunity to get snakes, centipedes, fish and other stuff fluffing about for other people to get tangled in. Aren't tangles a great way to meet new kite friends!

In August I spent two weeks way down in Southland making kites with over 400 kids at schools and was amazed at some of the kites they brought along to their school kite days – some very old kites passed down through families, lovely kites brought back from visits to Asia, amazing flying wonders that people have made themselves and, of course, lots of cheap kites that are "really good, but I can't ever get it to fly very well – can you fix it?". It's always good to come home again!



# FURTHER FLICKS FROM FABULOUS FANO

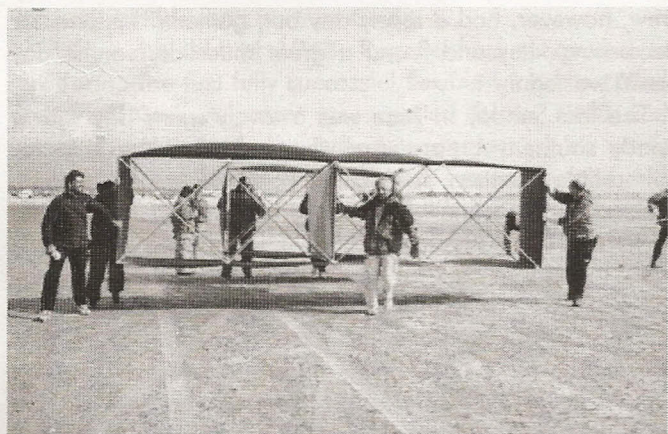


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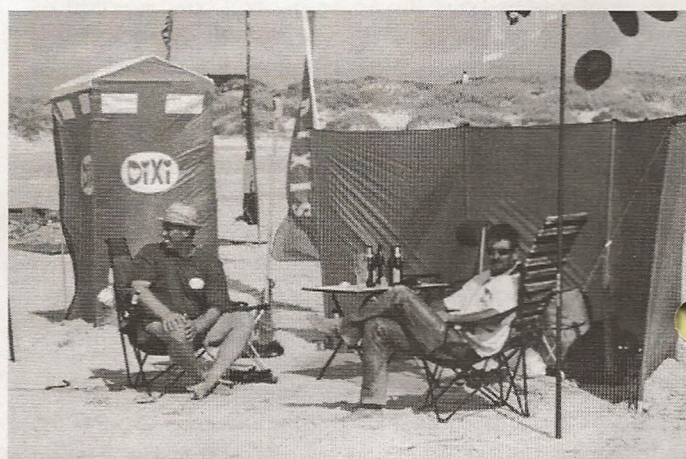
1. Speedos and gloves: European kiting chic. 2. You're having fun when time flies. 3. A 6m Saul's barrage kite. 4. These happy German chappies flew their other three loos! 5. Peter Lynn had a cheery wave for the editor. 6. Cotton and wood triplane kite. 7. A Peter Lynn gecko chums up with Rolf Zimmermann's Tweetie Bird and owl. 8. Marc Wolff brought his very fine Saul's barrage kite from Luxembourg. 9. This windsock had plenty of bite. 10. Linda and Doug Richardson, of the UK, spent some time clowning around. 11. Now that's the way to see a kite festival. 12. This fabulous Indian kite was made by Christian Harms, from Germany.



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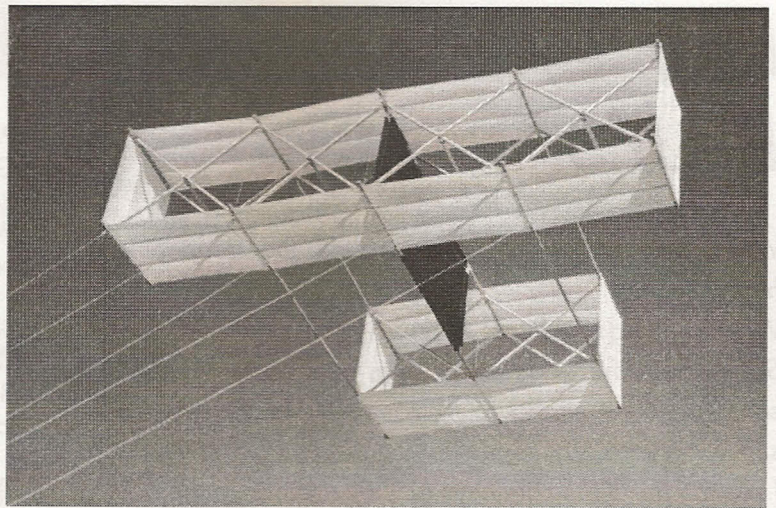


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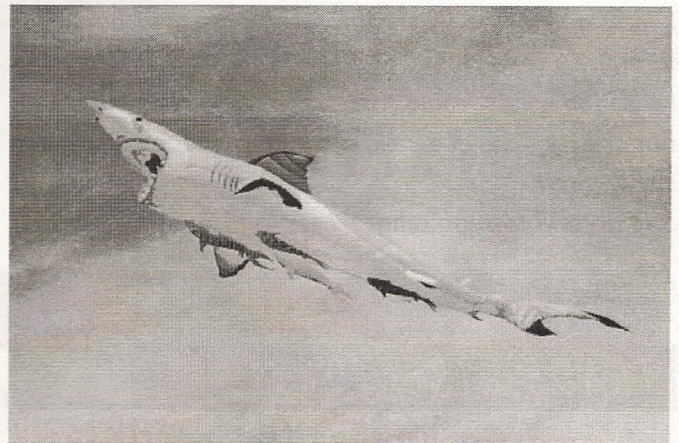




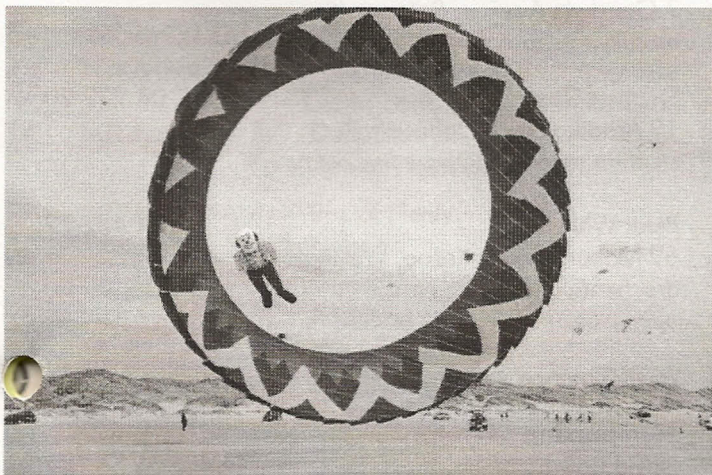
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# KITEFLIERS' BLUES

Where has the wind gone, around the deepening high?

Why are the dark clouds weeping in the sky?

Somewhere the gods are saying, "It's winter time my son. You can't expect to fly your kites basking in the sun."

I see the mill's tall chimneys as they rise above the hill,  
And see the smoke form mushrooms when the air is very still.

I look out to the westward, where an arch begins to form,

I wish the winds would follow from the tail of the storm.  
But the sky stays in slow motion, the clouds hang steely gray.

So I go and fashion other things to fly another day.

— JIM AYERS

## 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](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.

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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

Scale 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

### 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

### October 2003

5 NZKA monthly fly Wellington  
Clarks Beach, Stevenson Rd Park

12 NZKA monthly fly Dunedin  
Napier/Hastings

19 NZKA monthly fly Bay of Plenty  
Nelson  
Palmerston North

26 NZKA monthly fly Auckland  
Christchurch  
Wanganui

### November 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

30 NZKA monthly fly Christchurch

### December 2003

7 NZKA monthly fly Wellington  
Clarks Beach, Stevenson Rd Park

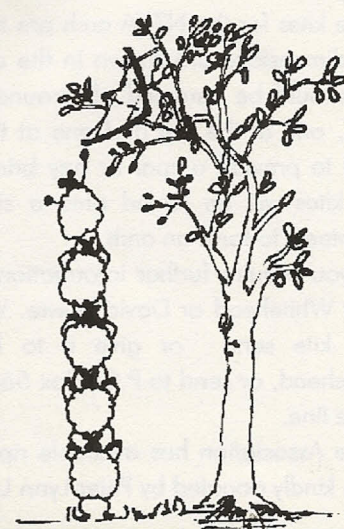
14 NZKA monthly fly Dunedin  
Napier/Hastings

21 NZKA monthly fly Bay of Plenty  
Nelson  
Palmerston North

28 NZKA monthly fly Auckland  
Wanganui  
Christchurch

*flying  
tip*

*stay well  
away from  
the trees*





## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

### Bay of Plenty

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### Christchurch

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Christchurch

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### Wellington

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Johnsonville

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tonyf@paradise.net.nz

## NEW MEMBERS

Since the last *What's Up?* went to press, the following new members have joined the NZKA:

Jan (pronounced "Yon") Vennix, from Martinborough;  
Jim Maidens, from Wanganui.

Please make them welcome when you see them on a flying field somewhere around the country.

## THE NZKA KITE ARCH PROJECT

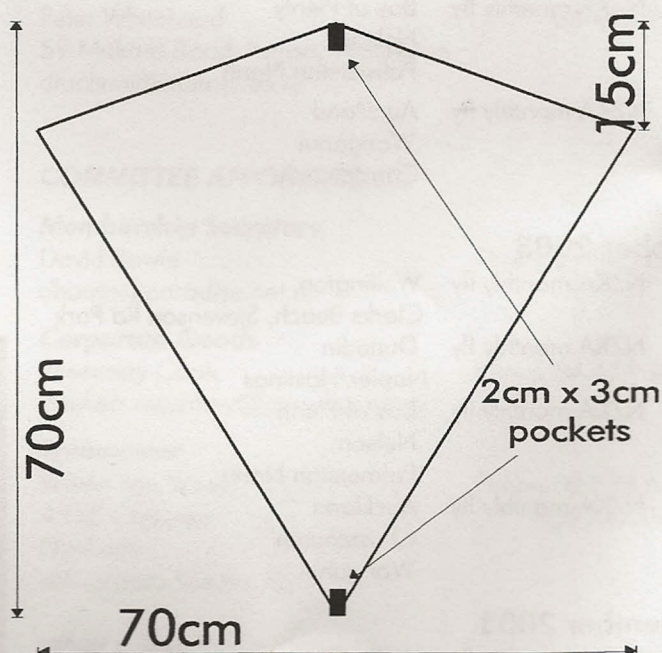
The members' arch is for every member to make at least one kite. It can be any colour or pattern but should follow the outline shown. The kite should be as individualistic as possible, expressing something of the member. It can be a design you like or have used on one of your kites – for example, you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

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a newsletter for kitefliers



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