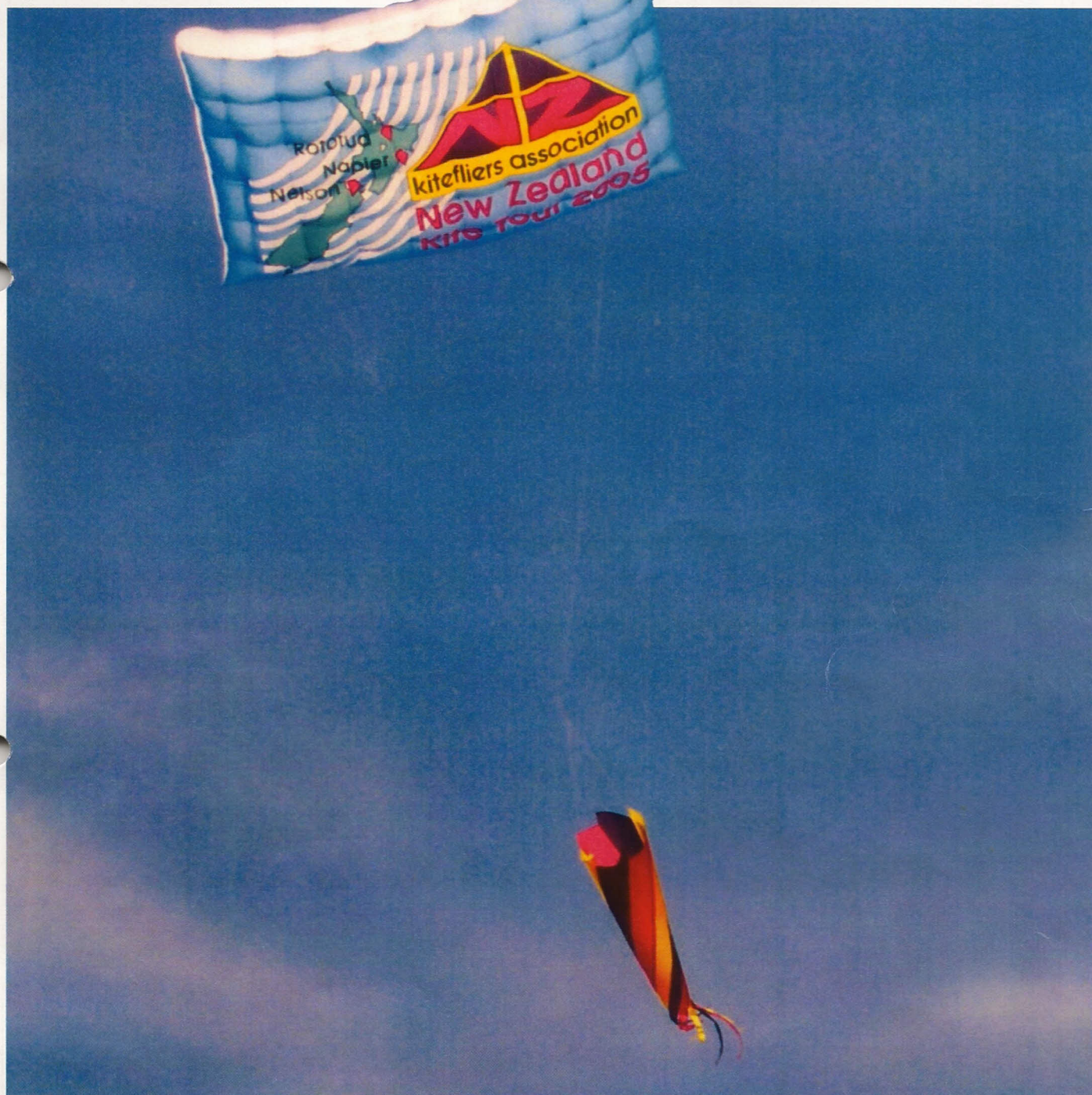




What's Up?

A Newsletter for Kitefliers

Number 80 June 2004



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New Zealand Kitefliers Association Inc.

Visit our website at: WWW.nzka.org.nz

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

Welcome

The NZKA welcomes four new members this month:

Quintin Terry - Christchurch

Idar Andreason - Cambridge
(Interested in sport kites)

Pat Johnson - Bayswater,
Auckland
(Interested in power kites)

Grant Lovett - Indiana, USA

What's Up

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Letters, articles, stories, or other
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On the cover this month we feature the NZKA Kite Tour kite being flown at the recent Fano Festival. The story of the design and development can be found on pages 9 and 16. Many thanks to Richard Wotton for the photograph and for flying the flag.

From the Editor's desk

Well it's well past that time again, I'm late.

It's not as though I'm short of material, there has been a fantastic response to my plea for articles and I have the luxury this quarter of being able to hold some contributions over until September. The problem I have is that I still have to earn a living and I'm afraid that if the deadline for contributions is missed and I am unable to produce the mag in the allocated time, I run into conflicts with my work schedules.

Please continue to send in your words and pictures and I will try to have the next issue out on time.

I am told the September issue is the hardest as naturally kite flying is not uppermost on most peoples list of winter activities. However after the last summer, the winter, so far, has been very kind.

In this issue you will find plenty of interest for all. My thanks go to: Stephen Cook, Richard Wotton, Peter Lynn, Ray and Rosemary McCully, Anne and Peter Whitehead. Tony Fitchett, Robert van Weers and Julie Adams for their efforts.

Next month the story of the Cervia festival and the Swindon Kite Museum will be featured, as well as the story on the Fano Festival and the regular updates.

I look forward to hearing from you.

John



Incidentally



Left: Perri Melchior demonstrates his unique method of attaching a camera for kite borne aerial photography at the Nelson Festival last year. Right: Geoff Cambell in a presidential tangle at Eltham - it's all part of the fun.

Photos by Richard Wotton

What's Up Next...?

2005 Kite Festivals Holiday in New Zealand

**Nelson Kite Festival —
January 21st –23rd,
Neale Park, Nelson**

**Hawke's Bay Kite Festival —
January 29th and 30th,
Tareha Park, Napier**

**Rotorua Art in the Sky 2005
February 5th and 6th,
Arawa Park Racecourse,
Rotorua**

Background

In 2002, a proposed International Festival was derailed by the uncertainty that followed September 11th. A subsequent attempt to get sponsorship for a festival in 2004 failed. The costs to bring high profile fliers to New Zealand are high, as airline sponsorship is not available outside of their current commitments. Currently there is not enough corporate sponsorship available for anything that is not a mainstream sport or big TV exposure event.

Smaller events can get funding through pub charities with some restrictions.

New Zealand is currently one of the most popular tourist destinations, and as most keen kitefliers link their holidays to kite festivals, why not capitalise on it?

Objectives and Principles

To run a series of back-to-back kite festivals at or near popular tourist venues and attract the world kiting community to have a kiting holiday in New Zealand.



There will be no sponsorship of any flier.

For insurance and numbers management, registration will be required for each festival but no fee.

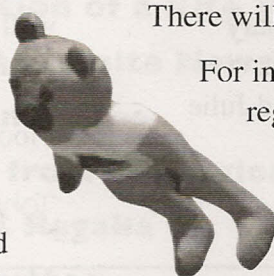
Other features such as evening functions, clothing, badges etc are user pays.

International Visitors Co-ordinator

Ray McCully will co-ordinate the promotion to overseas fliers and act as the liaison with each of the festivals. This ensures a consistent message goes to all fliers.

June Update

As I write this, Anne and Peter Whitehead and Bill Farber have been at festivals in Berck Sur Mer, Cervia and Swindon flying kites and promoting the tour. Feedback from Anne says there is a strong interest in the tour from Dutch and German groups. Some additional information on the website was recommended and implemented.



What's Up Next...?

Add the above interest to the French group and a confirmed booking from Tasmania and you can see the numbers are starting to grow.

However, confirmations are slow and I suspect that is due to two reasons:

- ◆ Overseas we are perceived to have cancelled two previous festivals (unfortunately 2004 is seen as a cancellation when in fact it was only ever announced as a possible festival, which would go ahead only if sufficient sponsorship was secured - it was not).
- ◆ General trend to delay commitment and international travel bookings in these uncertain times in the world.

The Kite Tour festivals will proceed as all the funding required to provide the facilities has been secured. The organisers are now working on securing further sponsorship so that we can provide further benefits to the fliers who provide the display.

It is important that NZKA members advise me of their intention to attend any of the festivals as soon as possible. An indication of your intention to join in the evening functions would be useful.

Likely evening functions are:

- ◆ Nelson – Sat – spit roast/BBQ on field, Sun – catered dinner at a venue to be decided.
- ◆ Napier – Sat – dinner at a venue to be confirmed.
- ◆ Rotorua – Sat – buffet dinner and auction in the Racing Club rooms



Your festival organisers have a difficult job arranging evening functions etc when they have no idea of the numbers involved especially as numbers can affect cost. Because the tour is a new concept we do not have any past history we can use. Also with all events being in the main tourist season there is not a lot of catering flexibility once you get past November.

We will have a good idea of overseas numbers by October but we need NZKA numbers.

Contact:

Ray McCully
Email: Ray.McCully@xtra.co.nz
Ph 07 348 3828
Fax 07 348 3821

Or post to:
7 Goodwin Ave Rotorua.

Other contacts

To register intention to attend any festival and make a hospitality offer:

Ray McCully
7 Goodwin Ave Rotorua
ray.mccully@xtra.co.nz
07 348 3828

To register intention to attend Nelson Festival

Ted & Gretchen Howard
info@kites-rainbowflight.co.nz
03 548 8707

To register intention to attend Napier Festival

Ian or Sharon Russell
rj.russells@paradise.net.nz
06 843 4359

Make a Genki

NZKA 7th Annual Labour Weekend workshop Raroa Intermediate School, Johnsonville, Wellington 23 - 25 October.

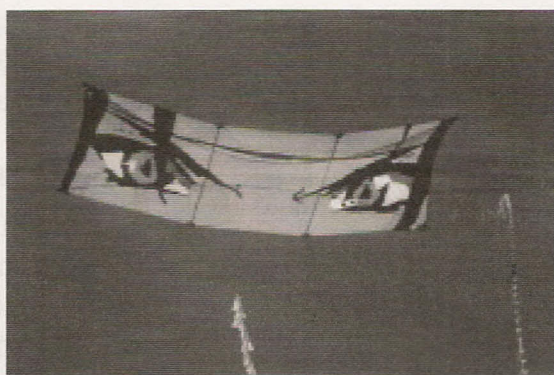
This year at the 7th NZKA Annual Labour weekend workshop we plan to have an easy kite design to teach you. Over the years the genki has appeared in a variety of guises.

Nop Velthuisen from Holland invented this style of kite in the late nineteen-eighties. (KiteLines Vol. 7 No. 2).

Confusingly, the name, Genki, is a Japanese word for health. This has caused some people to think it is a traditional Japanese design, rather than the modern European one it is. The kite is a fabulous soaring kite, and will fly in as little as a 4 kph wind without the tails. The stability is good, but it does require some attention. Tailless, it can occasionally fly right over the zenith and then catastrophically nose-dive. Giving it large amounts of slack line will usually let it right itself. In any case, the tails generally prevent this, and also allow it to fly in higher winds with greater stability.

There has been a range of variants derived from the original design, some members may recall Tony Wolfenden out here for the Wellington Wind festival in 1994 when he flew his genkis. Carl Crowell from the US has acknowledged Tony Wolfenden in his variant named the Wolf Genki. His web site is www.kite.com.kite/ckites/htm

While in Cervia one of the many wonderful kites we were impressed with was the poster genki which is a more simplified design. It has no keels and is straight. This makes it a great platform for graphics.



Those who are interested in attending please contact:

**Anne & Peter Whitehead,
59 Makara Road, Karori,
Wellington.**

Phone 04 476 7227.

Email drachen@internet.co.nz

THIRD ANNUAL

WANGANUI/OHAKEA KITE DAYS

Even though there has been a change of director at the Ohakea Air Force Museum, as far as we know at this stage the Museum will once again be hosting this popular kite day on Father's Day, September 5.

This will be preceded on Saturday, September 4, by the now traditional Wanganui kite day. This is a good, relaxed weekend of flying, so mark it on your calendars - but please contact me first for confirmation of the Ohakea event and the Wanganui venue. And please don't leave it to the last minute, so we can have an idea of numbers to help us organise Saturday night social activities.

My contact Richard Wotton

Email: richardw@sarjeant.queenspark.org.nz

Phone: 06 343 2770

Post: 44 Wairere Road, Wanganui

Some World Kite Records

The highest single kite – 12,471 feet – 3,801 meters

On 28 February 1898 in Milton, Massachusetts. A modified Hargrave box kite with about 86 sq ft of sail. The line was piano wire with a breaking strength of 330 lbs.

Highest kite train – 31,955 feet – 9,740 meters

Eight kites over Lindenburg (now East Germany) on 1 August 1919.

Distance – traction on land – 113 miles – 182 kilometres

In the 1820's George Pocock speed at about 25 mph in his "Char-volant", a four wheeled carriage towed by controllable kites. Precise details are unknown, but estimates range up to 113 miles in 1827. He made one documented journey of 60 miles as the crow flies from Southampton to London.

Duration – outdoors – 180 hours and 17 minutes

Under the direction of Harry Osborne, the Edmonds Community College kite team at Long Beach, Washington, kept a J-25 parafoil aloft from 21 – 29 August 1982.

Fastest kite – measured speed – 108 mph – 174 kph

On 16 May 1987 Troy Vickstrom piloted a speeding 10ft Flexifoil across the beach in Lincoln City, Oregon. The flight was documented by local police and he was issued a ticket for exceeding the speed limit in an area with a posted limit of 20 mph!

First aerial photograph by a kite-borne camera – 20 June 1888
Arthur Batut took the first aerial photograph from a kite-lifted camera in Labruguiere, France.

First US Kite Patent – 2 January 1866

Patent #51,860 was issued to William Perrins for a hexagon-

shaped flat kite with two inwardly bent masts. Since then over 575 kite patents have been issued by the US Patent Office. There are also 101 patents cross-referenced to kite subclasses.

Largest Kite – Peter Lynn
"Megabite" made in Ashburton. Now 22 metres wide and 64 metres long (plus tails) and contains more than 2000 square metres of fabric. The Guinness Record certificate was issued for an officially observed flight of 22 minutes 57 seconds at the Bristol Kite Festival on 7 September 1997. Total flat area is 933m², "effective" flat area, taking off the whiskers and the tails and a proportion of the "legs" is about 680m². Currently comprising five main zip together sections the Megabite with ropes and etc weighs in at around 250kg.

NATIONAL ANNUAL NZKA ROKKAKU CHALLENGE

Introduction

A national NZKA championship is usually fought for at each annual festival. Unfortunately the weather has been unkind - or timing on the days has been unsuitable - so our annual event has not happened for the last few festivals.

The following information is offered as a reminder that a lot of fun is to be had, and you, yes you, could be a national champion for a year. Why not prepare for our next festival??

Background

[The name *rokkaku* basically means "hexagonal" in Japanese.]

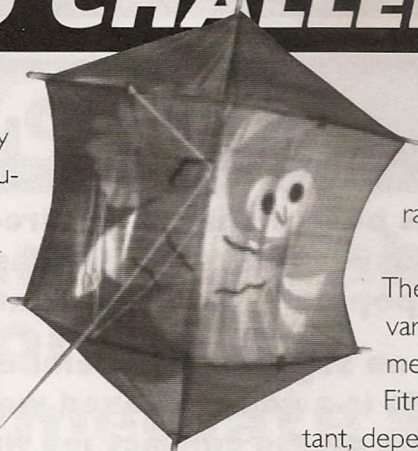
The rokkaku kite is indigenous of the Shirone city in the Niigata prefecture of Japan. Local kite makers produce big rokkaku specifically for battles, but smaller kites which are much more elaborate with traditional paintings on them are also produced in the region. The fighting kites can trace their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

The Japanese rokkaku is flown with a team of 4 - 5 people and during the fighting there can be between 30 and 50 kites in the sky at one time.

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

Interested?

General rules follow. The rokkaku should be around 2.2 metres or more high with a ratio of 5 units high by 4 units wide. It should be robustly built. While



rokkaku are very stable kites they can be adjusted to give a wide range of flying characteristics.

The number of rokkaku involved has varied year to year, but the more the merrier.

Fitness and stamina are not all important, depending on the wind, any participants are welcome and almost any one can be involved.

Depending on the wind there may only be a little 'slow' walking involved. The event tests skill, judgement, cunning, bribery and not least sense of humour. There are rest breaks between rounds, and the overall objective is to have fun. If any damage is done to actual kites it is generally very small. Stephen Cook says he has fought at about 10 festivals since 1989, and many other times with no kite damage at all.

Display events at public days are very popular, particularly with a commentary given, and often the team antics on the ground are more entertaining than the antics of the kites.

"KITELINES" issue Summer-Fall 1991 has an excellent article reprinted in WHAT'S UP? No 38.

Give it a go!

Guidelines and rules

NZKA National Rokkaku Championship

The following Guidelines / Rules will be followed in the spirit of the challenge. I.e. Participant fun and enjoyment, spectator entertainment, and judging without stress!

Kite and Size Participants to provide their own kite. Sanjo Rokkaku to be the design and minimum size to be about 2 metres. Materials and manufacture are own choice. (Hint .. a design clearly showing "Which Way Is Up" can be helpful.)

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

ROKKAKU CHALLENGE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Spectators should not be in the fighting area, stress to them it is for their own safety. (Just think -how fast can a kiteflier run backwards?)

Remember it is not a contact sport, but incidental contact may occur.

Language is to be consistent with that acceptable to participants and spectators.

Wear gloves.

Participate and enjoy.

Stephen Cook

(Final Hint .. ALWAYS CLAIM VICTORY .. IT MAY HELP .. if not consider bribing a judge!)

FLYING THE FLAG AT FANO (and other exotic locations)

Ray McCully, in a moment of sheer brilliance, recently decided that the bag I would be packing for the 20th International Kitefliers' Meeting at Fano, Denmark, in June wasn't going to be full enough.

The result of this train of thought was a decision by the NZKA committee that it would be worthwhile, for the resulting publicity, to purchase a 3m Peter Lynn flag kite on the bottom of which would be applied the logo for the international festival series to be held in early 2005, at Nelson, Napier and Rotorua. So far, so good.

Enter Peter Lynn, stage right. "What you guys really need is a BIG flag, big enough to be seen properly, say something around 6m." So, the problem of that extra space in my bag was neatly taken care of, and Peter is very generously making up the cost difference between a 3m kite and the 6m model.

The McCullys' home quickly took on the appearance of a Hong Kong sweatshop as they attacked the massive task of transferring the logo to the face of the kite. Beaver away, day and night, they came through with flying colours.

While this frenzied sewing was taking place, I emailed Peter Lynn Kites to find out what weight line would be required. The answer made me begin to seriously doubt my involvement in this scheme: 2000kg! Visions of sand-skiing behind the kite filled my head! I could see myself cutting a swathe through those massed kites! I hope the water isn't too cold when I'm dragged off the end of the island! What's German for "look out!"? Where's Peter Lynn in my hour of need?

Anyway, Jenny Cook very soon came back with the message that 2000kg is probably overkill, so my heartbeat gradually returned to normal.

As well as its seaside holiday at Fano, Rosemary and Ray will take the kite to Dieppe, Marseilles and the AKA national convention in Oregon, later this year.

Richard Wotton

Peter Lynn on Soft Kites

At the last Labour Weekend workshop some of the most interesting moments were Peter's descriptions and explanations of the factors affecting kite stability, in particular, soft kite stability. Unfortunately, none of us there took any notes.

I had also noted with interest that Peter was continually tweaking the flag kites during those strong Wellington winds at the 20th NZKA Festival.

It was therefore of great interest to me to see more or less the same explanation on kite stability in the May Peter Lynn Newsletter. As we are going to be flying the 6m Tour Flag kite in Europe and the USA in September and October Peter's comments on large flag kite stability were even more relevant. It would seem the solution to flying the Tour kite at overseas festivals and still fly our own kites, is to lend it as a Pilot to those flying big kites!

With the permission of Peter Lynn the NZKA reproduces the relevant part of Peter's newsletter below.

"I've been working on the flag design for about a year now, had immediate success with the smaller sizes but came up against the usual single line soft



The NZKA's new promotional soft kite, flying beautifully at Fano.

Photo by Richard Wotton

kite stability problem as they scaled up.

This problem is easier to describe for our pilot kite designs because it manifests particularly clearly. In the 2sq.m size, pilots are almost uncontrollably volatile-wild oscillations building rapidly to terminal looping even in light wind. In 4sq.m size they can be excellent but still tend towards the volatile as wind speed increases, especially if heavier fabric is used. The 8sq.m size pilots are nearly perfect kites-insensitive to bridling, not oversensitive to fabric weight or stiffness and neither volatile unstable nor subject to edging or superstability in strong winds- at least until 60km/hr or more, when all sensible large kite fliers have retreated to the bar anyway. By 16sq.m's, Pilots are inclined

to edge or hang off to one side as wind speed increases.

I've always called this type of instability "superstability" though this term covers a multiplicity of sins. One thing that superstability isn't is asymmetry in manufacture or bridling- of course it's true that perfect symmetry can delay

the onset of superstability, but a useful analogy is balancing a triangle on it's point- even when perfectly made and balanced, sooner or later something will cause it to tip one way or the other. Our job as kite designers is to make kites that behave like triangles resting on one side, not a corner- so that when tipped a bit they settle back quickly to their original orientation.

The reason that soft kites change from volatile to superstability as they are made larger is very likely to be that the mass of air contained within the kite increases disproportionately as area increases. The Megabite has 635sq.m of lifting surface and contains roughly 2 tonnes mass of air. A Trilobite of 1/100th of this area contains only 1/1000th of this air mass. When a kite is tipped a bit by turbulence or a wind shift, the time it takes to restore its orientation determines how far

to the edge of the wind window it will fly before this correction happens. Because of the huge mass of air they have to swing, very large soft kites take so long to correct from a perturbation that they can fly right to the edge of their window before adequate correction occurs.

A kite's weight and where it is centred can have a big effect on this correction time also- making a kite heavier and especially adding weight to the trailing edge area will help to counteract superstability, as will bridling the kite more forward (effectively moving the centre of gravity back). But, the largest effect is aspect ratio-how wide a kite is relative to its length. High aspect ratio kites tend to superstability because more of their contained air mass is further out from the centre of rotation. For the pilot kite design therefore, if the 2sq.m size was made wider but shorter it would be less volatile. For the 16sq.m size, making it longer but narrower would reduce the superstability problem. We have only recently started to make very small pilots and have so far made only one larger than 8sq.m, but I'll try these design changes as soon as there's a break from continual festivalling. It's a tough life!

The Flags are a challenge with respect to superstability because changing their aspect ratio as they become larger is not an

option- The span to chord ratio of a flag is 0.63+/-, anything very far from this looks silly. Anyway, 30 years of gradually improved understanding and the developing theory of why kites don't fly will have its way even against a seemingly intractable problem such as this- and it has.

As from about a week ago, the big flag edging problem is solved- at least to 8m and I'm sure to much larger sizes because the current 8m (span not area) is now still showing a little residual volatility even at 50km/hr- (and volatility is an easily solvable problem, it's superstability that's the bete noir).

For the last day at Cervia, the first time at a festival in 5 years at least, I flew entirely without pilots (actually I'd sold them all), using Flags and Quilts of different sizes instead- many big kites shoulder to shoulder in a tiny space and nary a problem sufficient to interrupt lunch. Yep, it's pat on the back time, wallowing in self satisfaction I am after 12months/1000hrs of frustration beating my head against this problem. Well, not really, what I did was to remove every second bridle along the kite's leading edge- and I have absolutely no idea why it worked.

Oh well."

By Peter Lynn with
preface by Ray McCully.

Seven dead at kite-flying festival

From correspondents in Lahore

February 16, 2004

SEVEN people were killed and more than 100 injured in Pakistan during the annual kite flying festival marking the arrival of spring, officials said today.

An 18-month-old girl's throat was cut by a stray kite string while she was travelling with her parents on a motorbike, witnesses said, adding that she died on the spot.

Three people were electrocuted when metal wires they were using to fly or catch stray kites fell on live electric lines, and two people fell from roofs, hospital officials said.

A 12-year-old boy died while trying to catch a stray kite when he was hit by a car on a main road, police said.

More than 100 people had been reported injured since last night in various kite-related accidents, medical workers said.

Officials at Lahore's Mayo Hospital said 42 children and 60 adults had been treated for injuries.

"One child was injured by a stray bullet," deputy medical superintendent Dr Saqib Shafi told AFP. Though firing guns is banned, people celebrate the spring festival by firing into the air, often causing casualties.

Relatives of people killed or injured in kite flying accidents held a demonstration in Lahore last year urging the government to maintain its ban on selling and flying kites.

More than 20 people have been killed in kite flying accidents in Lahore since last year's spring festival.

Agence France-Presse

Easter at Eltham

What do kite fliers have in most common with farmers? Watching weather forecasts, of course. This was very much what we were doing as Easter was approaching. The weatherman left us very little to look forward to, predicting plenty of unsettled weather. A few cancelled out of the weekend, while others decided to take their chances on the weatherman being wrong. Whatever eventuated, we knew that the company would be good.

We loaded up the car with more than a few kites, plus a jigsaw and board games. Others also had contingency plans. Whiteheads each brought a sewing machine and work in

progress. Geoff Campbell brought a very special kite puzzle - in other words, an almighty tangle of line to sort out. And Bowies brought John and Tansia from Oz.

We arrived late Friday to find all comers very enthusiastic about a great day's flying. The grass had been carefully manicured by some of our four legged friends, leaving much evidence of their

Clockwise from top left: Spiky Ball Tubes by Rosemary and Ray McCully

Anne Whitehead's Koru Delta.

A Peacock Delta.

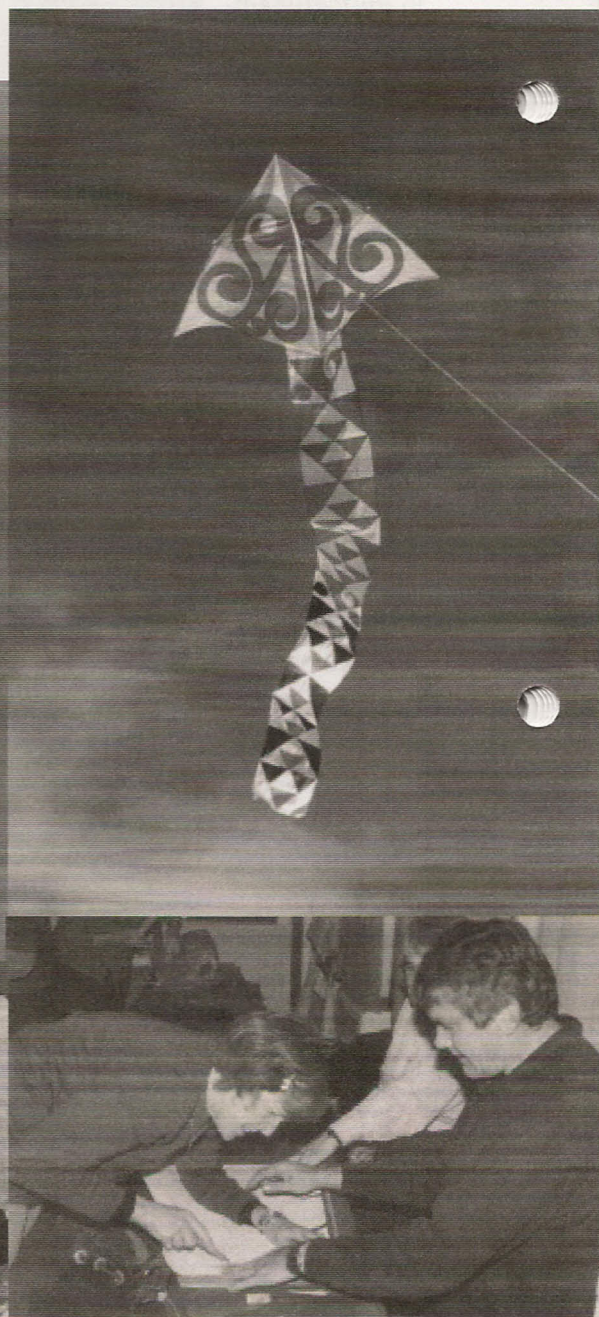
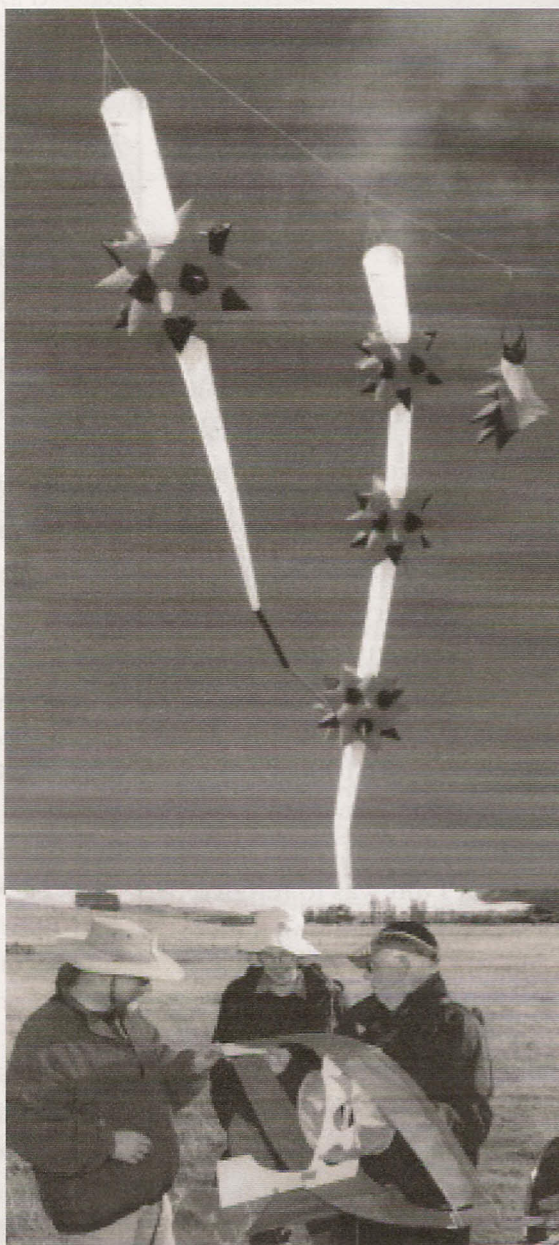
L to r: David and Muriel Bowie with Tansia Green and John Murray of Sydney.

Stephen Gibson of Wanganui having a work out with two of Charlie Watson's umbrella bols.

The gang at Eltham.

Dalwyne Wotton and Geoff Campbell collaborate on making a ghost kite at the Easter 'Workshop' by John Murray.

Jim Ayers explaining the detail of yet another of his original designs to Peter Whitehead and James Cone.



passing on the ground - which left a few challenges for keeping kites clean.

There were a few very light sprinkles of rain on Saturday, but other than that the weather was fine and there was more than enough wind. Generally, we saw the rain clouds skirting around the edge of where we were, leaving Eltham weather to be the best kept secret of Taranaki this Easter. It was cold, but nothing that six layers of clothing couldn't remedy.

Anne was the caterer on Saturday evening. She had brought a rather large lasagne and salad, followed by apple crumble and ice cream. This good feed gave us the energy to participate in a workshop with John and Tansia.

We all made some rather nice kites out of plastic and kebab skewers, with one bridle point. These were to be distributed to children on Sunday, at the Eltham Lions Club Annual Kite Day.

On Sunday there was a constant stream of cars coming and going for the public day. The Lions were very pleased with the event and our participation. Those members who believed the weatherman, missed a really great weekend. We hopefully look forward to a very special Easter next year - it should be their 20th kite day.

Rosemary McCully



"FINGER TO HEAVEN"

I was casting around for something to use up lots of offcuts of ripstop when I came across an article in KiteLines (Vol 12/3) by Perth kiteflier Kevin Francis. He described two ideas – Poor Man's Banner and Finger to Heaven. The PMB was a 10 metre strip of colourful ripstop pieces about 12" wide, with the bottom end pegged off and the top end attached to the flying line. This drew attention to the line and the kite, and stopped people tripping over it. We exchanged Emails.

I became more interested in the FTH, which was a 4cm strip of multicoloured bits running the full length of the line up to the kite, with the line sewn on to the strip...(This sacrifices the line.) He used 3 step zigzag and noted that wider than 4 cm gives too much drag.. I made one up about 150 feet long, but my line could not have been as good a quality as his because my line twisted a lot and quite spoilt the look of it. Kevin notes the FTH effect is quite striking and he now uses several FTHs all the time – the line looks so bare without them ! He says "The best benefit I found was that with a few FTH's like this tied down, it created a wonderful atmosphere for spectators, all these bolts of colour shooting skywards, and passersby were much more likely to come over and want to touch it and fly it." You could try this if you have a good non-twisty line to spare.

Back to the drawing board. I thought it might work better if the line and the ripstop were not sewn together all the way down the line.. I started again, making a 6 cm strip with a 2cm turnover with the line loosely in the sleeve. This yielded a 4cm strip. (I sewed the first 50 feet without the line and tried to lace the line in after. Very messy – put the line in as you go. A 2cm turnover goes nicely under the sewing foot.). I made 150 feet of this and sewed the line to the sleeve at the kite end. I used a piece of elastic at the bottom end to tension the sleeve. I took it out for a test fly and it looked quite good. (Applause....) My Assistant Kitemistress unpicked the twisty version, which will be used as tails.

I found when letting it out under tension that the differing stretchiness of line and sleeve caused problems. It was alright when out full length, so I decided to stitch the sleeve to the line at intervals of about 20 feet. This involved opening the sleeve, putting tension on the line (but not on the sleeve) , and securing this with a pin. Then stitch 1 cm or so on the line to lock it, and on to the next one. This involved stretching each 20 foot segment suitably, and finally you arrive at the end of the sleeve, which gets locked with a stitch after tensioning. If you do not put enough tension on the line when marking each 20 feet, the additional line stretch in a strong wind will pull the sleeve too tight and make it twist.

I took it out for a test fly, and was surprised to find that the whole line oscillated quite vigorously, perhaps harmonics of 20 feet. The effect was splendid in the sunshine, with bits of colour racing up and down the line. I put up another kite nearby (at a kitefly at Paraparaumu Beach with a lovely steady wind) and indeed the second kite did look bare !

I have just made a second FTH, but this time I paused after making 20 feet of line/sleeve, tensioned the line, locked it, and went on with the next section. This was a much easier way of making it. It too oscillates nicely. Maybe lockstitching at intervals of other than 20 feet would produce a different behaviour.

Kevin was right that larger than 4 cm causes too much drag. Do have a go if you have plenty of ripstop bits waiting to be used for something ! (and some spare line ..) Be aware that even 4 cm of sleeve will have quite a big drag on a strongwind day. I recommend you try this only on a lightwind day – it is difficult to handle the sleeve in a gale ! I had the length lying loose in a box, for ease of feeding out, but it seems to work better if you lay out the line full length before flying. Watch this space

Tony Fitchett

Featherlight Kite

This kite is simple to make and is an excellent light-wind flyer. I look forward to pitting mine against a Roller sometime, to see which one is better in next to no wind.

I was unable to alter the drawing and put the words on it in English, so I've listed the translations here, just in case one picture isn't worth quite a thousand words.

eddy-verbinder = dihedral

Y-verbinder = Y-connector

stabilitasche = pocket

evtl stabilitasche = optional pocket

aussenkante versaeumen = hem (I definitely prefer that one in English!)

waagepunkt = bridle point

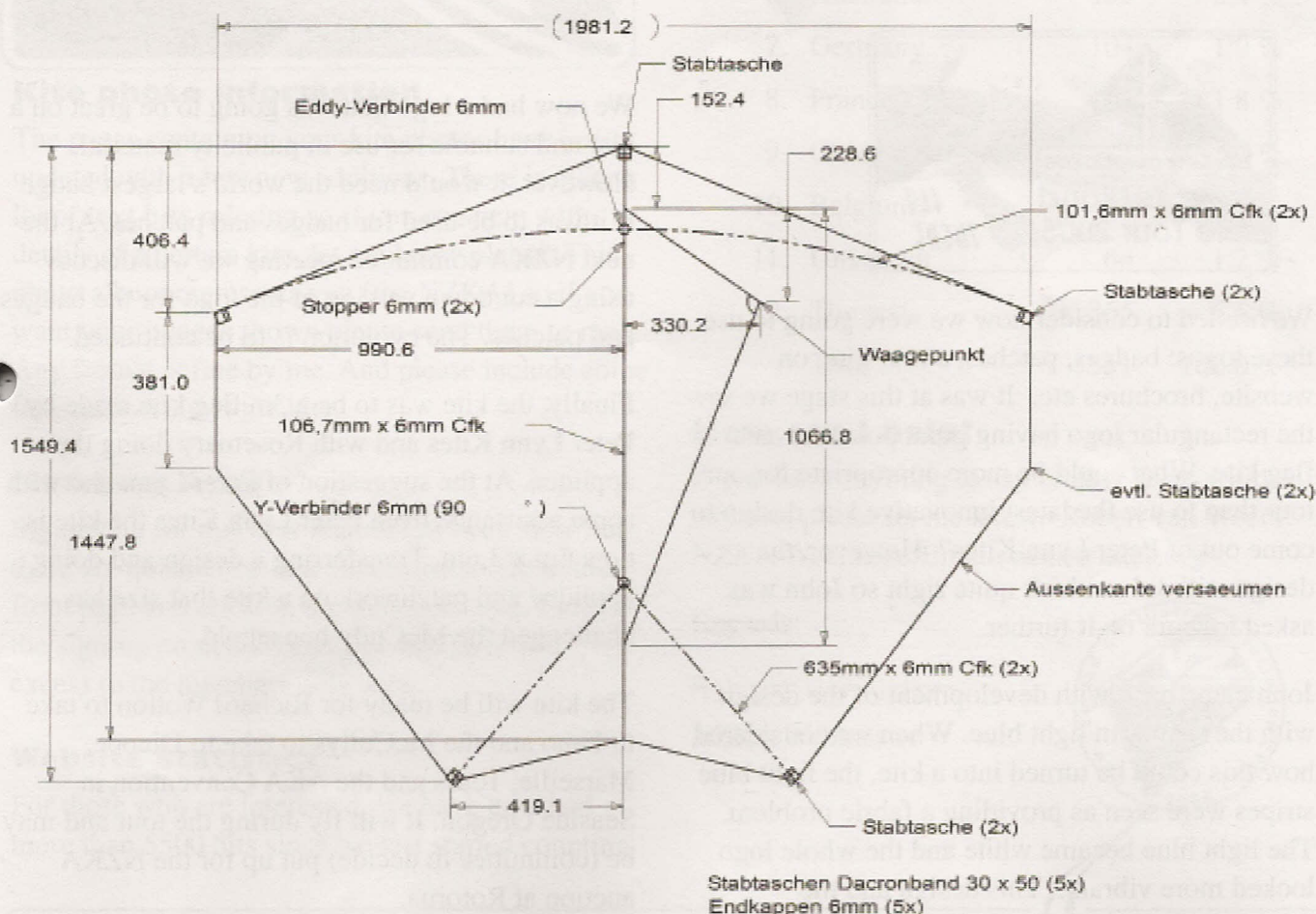
I rounded off most of the measurements, and also found I was able to use 100cm wing spars, rather than the 1016mm dimension given on the original plan. Gluing a piece of fibreglass rod about 125mm long in the dihedral end of the spars should guard against wing spars splitting, and would add only minimal weight.

All spars are 6mm carbon fibre, and Peter suggested using Icarex

for the sail. If you want to go to the extra expense, I'm sure it will be beneficial, but for me it flies well enough with a Chikara sail. You will also need five 6mm vinyl endcaps.

For the Y-connector I used an 8-hole disc, which has holes at 90deg angles, but you could possibly make one from a piece of solid nylon such as a kitchen chopping board. I first tried using a simple piece of plastic tubing, but it was immediately obvious that the connector must be rigid.

Richard Wotton



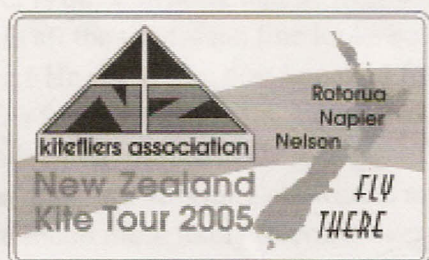
This plan is reproduced courtesy of Peter Schmidt, of Germany (www.schmidts-pit.de).

Evolution of a Kite Tour Logo

After seeing the very impressive 20th Festival logo, I asked its designer, our editor John Archbold, if he would develop a Kite Tour logo.

To be a successful marketing tool the logo had to include some key features such as: the main festival locations, maybe a map of NZ, the year of the event, and "Kite Tour".

John came back with four designs: one was not practical but the other three had possibilities. John's preference and initially mine, was a circular design. The other two were a diamond and a rectangle shape.



We needed to consider how we were going to use these logos: badges, patches, a tour kite, on website, brochures etc. It was at this stage we saw the rectangular logo having great potential as a flag kite. What could be more appropriate for our tour than to use the latest innovative kite design to come out of Peter Lynn Kites? However, the design still did not look quite right so John was asked to work on it further.

John came back with development of the design with the stripes in light blue. When we considered how this could be turned into a kite, the light blue stripes were seen as providing a fabric problem. The light blue became white and the whole logo looked more vibrant. This design and the precursors were taken to Eltham for comment and feedback. It was suggested that the red kites from



the circular logo be used on latest design. The final design is in colour on the

cover of this What's Up.



We now had a logo that was going to be great on a kite and suitable for use in publicity material. However, it would need the world's largest badge if it was to be used for badges and patches. At the next NZKA committee meeting we will discuss using a cut down version of the logo for the badges and patches. The evolution is to be continued.

Finally, the kite was to be a 3m flag kite made by Peter Lynn Kites and with Rosemary doing the appliqué. At the suggestion of Peter Lynn and with some assistance from Peter Lynn Kites the kite is now 6m x 3.6m. Transferring a design and doing appliqué and patchwork on a kite that size has challenged the McCully household.

The kite will be ready for Richard Wotton to take to Fano and the McCullys to take to Dieppe, Marseille, Tours and the AKA Convention in Seaside Oregon. It will fly during the tour and may be (committee to decide) put up for the NZKA auction at Rotorua.

Ray McCully



NZKA Website Newsletter

Dear Members:

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

Kite-Flyers Forum

This feature has been put in place a long ago but sadly it has seen very little use. There are alternatives for those who wish to seek additional information about kite making. There is a very good site at <http://www.kitebuilder.com/forums/index.php> Check it out.

News Articles

Please let me know if you have any news articles or information that could benefit our kiteing community. All too often a copy is sent to the "What's Up" editor and one keeps forgetting that the website is a good platform to let others know what you have to say.

Kite photo information

The pages containing your kite photos have been updated with a few new additions. There is quite a lot of **text bits missing** so if you can help with details of a certain kite, let me know please. This photo album represents you [the NZKA] so if you want your images shown please send them to me.

Any format is fine by me. And please include some information about the kite.

Members Area

Signing up for this new feature has been slow but there are quite a few that have done so. Go to the front page and click on the members area. Follow the sign-up procedure and you will have full excess to the members only area.

Website Statistics

For those who are interested, we have now had more than 5500 hits since we last started counting

in Dec 2002. I have placed a chart below to show you where they come from. Yes the majority are from NZ but that is normal. It is quite good to know that we are being watched from all around the globe. 174 from Brazil? Who would have thought that there were so many surfing cometas.

1. New Zealand	3455	62.2%
2. The Netherlands,	535	9.6 %
3. United States	303	5.5 %
4. Brazil	174	3.1 %
5. United Kingdom	168	3.0 %
6. Australia	135	2.4 %
7. Germany	104	1.9 %
8. France	102	1.8 %
9. China	85	1.5 %
10. Belgium	61	1.1 %
11. Unknown	64	1.2 %
12. The rest	365	6.6 %
Total	5551	100.0 %

How can I help?

If you have anything to say or have ideas for the website, please let me know. Robert van Weers
NZKA Webmaster Email: nzka@kites.org

Regards:

Robert van Weers
NZKA Webmaster



Visit us on the web at: www.nzka.org.nz

Regional lines

News from the regions

Waikato round up

Kite buggiers have been spotted blasting around Hamilton parks and a new flier made himself acquainted. Joined the NZKA and all. Still no regular meetings although the kite surf fraternity seems to be getting a bit more organised with lots of kitesurfing happening on the Raglan Bar. 23 at once the other week.

The mid winter bash is on in the Coromandel July 3 and 4. It's sort of a power kite meeting but we are just flying kites and everyone is welcome. its the tenth annual so thats a bit special. There are

very few Buggy/powerkite meets that can boast ten years. The Muriwai Moose meet in the spring celebrates its tenth as well this year.

As always there are people flying kites all over the Waikato and we see kites at the beach all the time. it's a shame that most do not want to commit themselves to the club or NZKA but at least there is lots of flying going on.

Ray McCully

Wanganui

We seem to have a mini-boom in the Wanganui kite scene at present. Sonia and Jeff White are in the process of making their first kites (a pair of rokkakus) and Yulette How, the newest local signing to the NZKA ranks, has leaped in boots and all. Her first project is a Peter Lynn pilot kite, and after flying one of the presidential roks decided that that's to be her second kite. Wow, that's enthusiasm!

Since the national festival, I've made a 24-link chain windsock and a calico and bamboo replica of a 1913 French meteorological kite. On only its second outing, in early May, I thought I'd lost the kite, but finally spotted it in a very slight depression in the field. The kite has a front longeron for its two triangular cells, but because there's no cross-bracing it lies flat when it hits the ground. Maybe I'll fit it with a locator beacon.

Stephen Gibson is plugging away at a very long corkscrew windsock, and Jim Maidens seems to have something new every time he comes to the park. Sounds a bit like another well-known Jim . . .

Jeff White has bought a 3.5 metre Peter Lynn Rebble power kite and a competition buggy, so he's been busy scattering small children and dogs all over the park. Once he gets a longer yoke for the buggy and his knees stop hitting him on the jaw, he'll really get cracking.

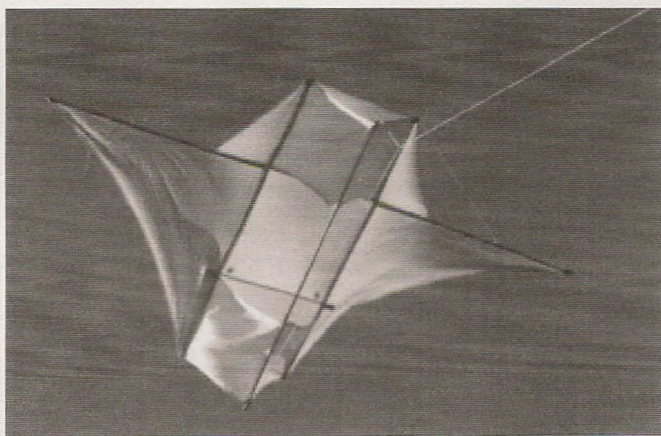


Jeff White sewing his first self made kite watched by his wife Sonia and Geoff Campbell.

It was an interesting experience to work with the completely different materials required for this kite. I knew the calico wouldn't slip, but it's very soft and seems to have a life of its own at times – and it's a lot harder to unpick the blunders.

The kite was made with the Fano Classics fly in mind. This year's theme is meteorological kites, which should be very interesting as designs for these workhorses were many and varied, to say the least. And speaking of Fano, I'll have to lean extra hard on my bag to do up the straps this year to fit in the six-metre Peter Lynn flag kite (see item elsewhere in this issue). While I'm not sure I'm old enough to take on responsibility for a kite like this, at least at Fano it shouldn't be a problem to round up a few helpers if I need them.

At the end of March, Dalwyne and I were very pleased to host Sue and Paul Fieber, of Madison, Wisconsin. Paul is the director of Region Six of the AKA, a five-state area around the Wisconsin-Minnesota area (or somewhere). They're great people, and strongly recommended that we come over to their annual Kites on Ice festival, held each February. It sounded very tempting – until Paul told us that this year the ice was 60cm thick. (I wonder if Thailand holds any festivals in February ...) A few days after their Wanganui visit, Sue and Paul were hosted by Rosemary and Ray McCully, in Rotorua.



Richard Wotton's latest effort, a replica 1913 French Meteorological Kite constructed of calico and bamboo.

Along with other non-Wanganui NZKA regulars, Braden Schultz, Sonia and Jeff White, Geoff Campbell and yours truly went down to Palmerston North for a kite day to help celebrate the city's Multi-ethnic Day. The wind was wild, and soft kites were definitely the order of the day. I was severely reprimanded when I got home because Dalwyne's new flower arch got a bit mangled in a confrontation with the Bowies' Mock foil.

The two days I spent at Eltham during the Easter break were somewhat similar. It swirled and gusted, but nothing was busted – well, nothing of mine. Jim Maidens wasn't so lucky, and must have spent a few evenings repairing his plane kite after it crashed and burned. And Geoff Campbell had to make a few trips into the neighbouring cornfield to retrieve his bear. It's fortunate he's tall, otherwise we might still be looking for him in there.

The next event in this area will be the annual Father's Day weekend combo of a Saturday fly in Wanganui followed by a public day at RNZAF Ohakea, near Bulls. Mark this one on your calendars now.

Even though there has been a change of director at the Ohakea Air Force Museum, as far as we know at this stage the Museum will once again be hosting this popular kite day on Father's Day, September 5.

This will be preceded on Saturday, September 4, by the now traditional Wanganui kite day. This is a good, relaxed weekend of flying, so mark it on your calendars - but please contact me first for confirmation of the Ohakea event and the Wanganui venue. And please don't leave it to the last minute, so we can have an idea of numbers to help us organise Saturday night social activities.

Richard Wotton

Wellington flydays.

For the March flyday, the gathering was at Paraparaumu Beach, which happened to be the day that the Council was organising a Beach Awareness Day. The usual crew turned up, and as the tide was on the way out there was plenty of room. A gentle breeze was blowing off the sea from the south, along the beach, and stayed stable all day.

Everyone had stuff floating quietly, and one of our number observed that it was almost a bit boring – just put them up and lie around ! Wellington flyers had earned a peaceful flyday after a series of blustery ones.

Afterwards everyone went off to the Whibleys for chat and BBQ, with yummy anticipation of

cooking from Karen (memories of our national gathering !). But before the BBQ, everyone was to be found in John's kiteroom, gazing at his flash new sewing machine. Bells and whistles galore. 5000 (or was it 10,000) computerised stitches! (but it also does straight and zigzag ...)

Our April flyday was chilly, with a strong gusty southerly. The hard core turned up but by about 3.30 people were packing up as it had become cold. Things were back to normal....Roll on Spring !

Tony Fitchett

Canterbury

For the last two last Sundays of the month we have had no wind. We have, however, been getting a good turnout of 10 or so regulars with car loads of kites, and 20 or so spectators asking "why haven't you got the big kites up" and "perhaps if you run more" and other helpful hints. So, we settle down in the sun and talk about kites, life, the universe and everything. Some clear developments have occurred: that the best kites are made from recycled materials like plastic bags,

that not following kite plans is the best way to find out what really works, camisoles make great drogues, and almost any day that is not advertised as a kite day is a good day to fly kites. So, there are often people flying kites at Hansen Park and some days there are quite good displays with lots of kites - its just that this hardly ever coincides with a kite day. Ahh well ...Onwards and upwards

Julie Adams

NZKA Regalia

The NZKA has a range of smart looking badges, stickers and embroidered patches for sale.

Embroidered patch \$7.50

Lapel pin \$5.00

Windscreen sticker \$2.50

20th Anniversary

embroidered patch \$ 11.00

20th Anniversary

enamel badge \$7.85

Eltham 2001

embroidered patch \$7.50

Eltham 2001 lapel badge \$7.50

Available from: Anne Whitehead, telephone: 04 476 7227

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Any articles, snippets or tips for kitefliers are always welcome at What's Up. Send your contribution to the Editor.

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Bastion Point (every Saturday)
Contact: Perrin at Kiteworks
Phone: 09 358 0991

Bay of Plenty

Fergusson Park, Tauranga
Contact: Ray McCully
Phone: 07 348 3828

Christchurch

Hansen's Park, Opawa
Contact: Julie Adam
Phone: 03 365 3907

Napier/Hastings

Anderson Park, Green Meadows
Contact: Sharon Russell
Phone: 06 843 4359

Nelson

Neale Park
Contact: Ted Howard
Phone: 03 548 8707

Clarks Beach

Stevenson Road Park
Contact: Jim Ayers
Phone: 09 232 0251

Wanganui

Springvale Park (every Sunday)
Contact: Richard Wotton
06 343 2770

Wellington

Ngatitoa Domain
Contact: Tony Fitchett
Phone: 04 478 5575

Flying days

August 2004

7 Wellington
Clarks Beach

14 Dunedin
Napier/Hastings

21 Bay of Plenty
Nelson

28 Auckland
Taupo
Christchurch

September 2004

5 Wellington
Clarks Beach,

12 Dunedin
Napier/Hastings

19 Bay of Plenty
Nelson

26 Auckland
Taupo
Wanganui
Christchurch

October 2004

3 Wellington
Clarks Beach

10 Dunedin
Napier/Hastings

15 Bay of Plenty
Nelson

31 Auckland
Taupo
Christchurch

November 2004

7 Wellington
Clarks Beach,

15 Dunedin
Napier/Hastings

22 Bay of Plenty
Nelson

28 Auckland
Taupo
Wanganui
Christchurch

Photographs

If you want copies of any of the photographs of the 20th Anniversary Festival featured in What's Up, prints can be obtained from Richard Wotton, for just \$12.00 per print. There are many more photographs that will appear in future issues.

Contact:

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Phone: 06 343 2770
44 Wairere Road
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richardw@sarjeant.queenspark.org.nz

'What's Up' thanks Richard for the huge contribution he makes to the magazine.

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.

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.

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.

Raven Kites

1 Victoria Avenue, Wanganui.

Phone 06 348 5805, fax 348 5806.

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

The NZKA Kite arch project

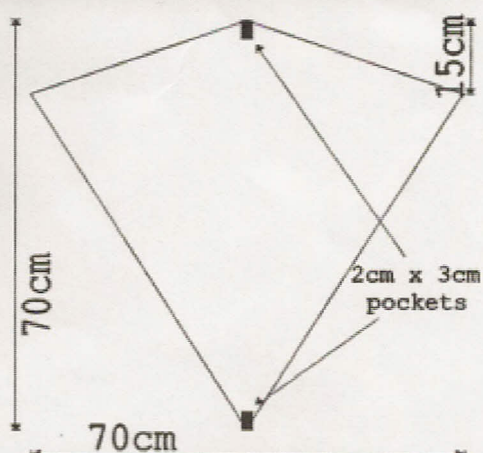
The members' arch is for every member to make at least one kite. It can be any colour or pattern but should follow the outline shown.

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.

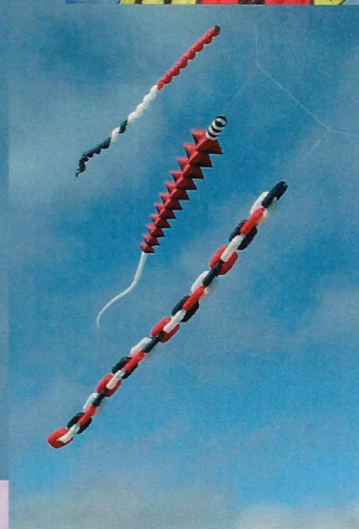
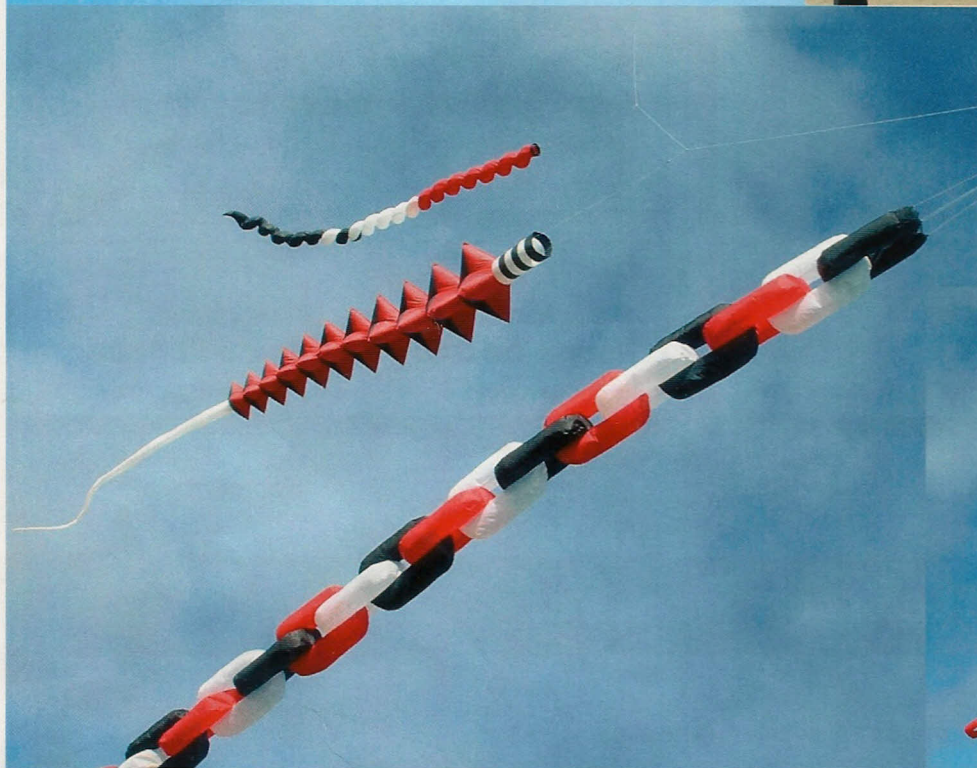
If you don't feel confident making the kite by yourself, enlist the help of another member, but it should be your design.

The kites for the NZKA arch are made from three quarter ounce ripstop. The dimensions are shown in the diagram alongside. The kite should be hemmed all around and two pockets only fitted, one at the top and one at the bottom. You do not need to provide a spar or any bridle points, just the skin. The kites will be joined onto a single line by dedicated volunteers to form an arch.

If you require further information, contact Tony Fitchett, Peter Whitehead or David Bowie. When you have finished your kite send or give it to David Bowie or Peter Whitehead, or send to P.O. Box 56, Wellington, for joining to the line.



The Association has available ripstop scraps which have been kindly donated by Peter Lynn Ltd.
Happy kite building!



Clockwise from the top left: Two shots taken by Anne Whitehead during recent travels.

Photos: Anne Whitehead.

The NZKA tour kite under construction at the McCully household.

Photo: Rosemary McCully.

Two views of Richard Wotton's ambitious chain kite.

Taken at the Palmerston North Multi Ethnic Kite Day, these animal forms attracted the children. Photos: Richard Wotton