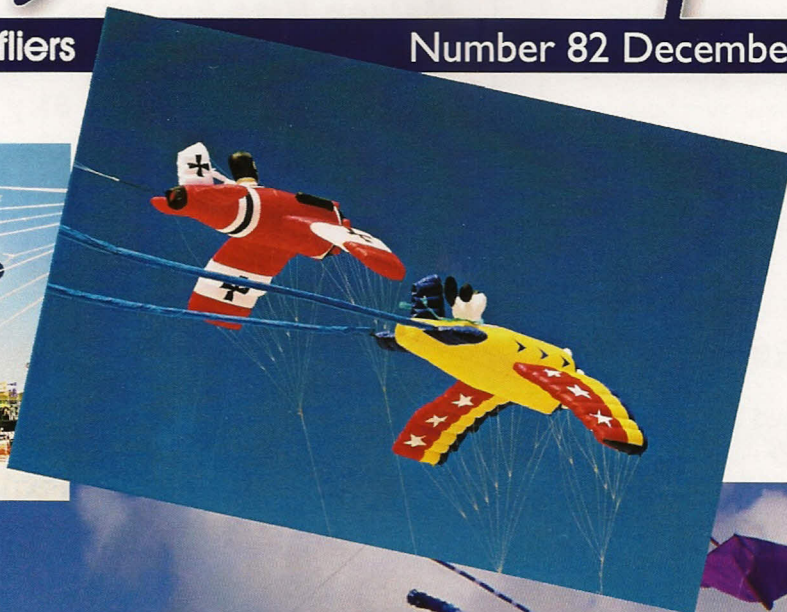




# What's Up?

A Newsletter for Kitefliers

Number 82 December 2004



Retail price \$5.00. Distributed free to members

**New Zealand Kitefliers Association Inc.**

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



## The Newsletter for Kitefliers

### Welcome

What's Up welcomes these new members:  
Yulette How, Wanganui  
Teena and Owen Austin, Christchurch

### What's Up

Published by the  
New Zealand  
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Editor: John Archbold.

Letters, articles, stories, or other items of interest about kites and kitefliers are welcome and can be sent to the  
NZKA, PO Box 56,  
Wellington

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Tawa,  
Wellington.

E-mail: [archde@ihug.co.nz](mailto:archde@ihug.co.nz)

# Contents

<b>From the Editors Desk</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>What's Up Next...?</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2005 Kite Festivals Tour</b>	
<b>Nelson Kite Festival</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Hawke's Bay Kite Festival</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Rotorua Art in the Sky</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>...and don't miss these events</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>BONDI FOTW 2004</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Three French Festivals</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Dieppe</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Marseilles</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Tours</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Lincoln City Festival and AKA Convention at Seaside, Oregon</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Thinking Inside the Square</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Rokkaku Plans</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Obituary - Neville Pitfield</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Regional lines</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>News from the regions</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>CAA Rules affecting kiteflying</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Committee</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Directory</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Committee Appointments</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Regional Representatives</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Flying sites</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Flying days</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Directory</b>	<b>24</b>

On the cover are photographs representing the six overseas festivals featured in this issue. Our thanks go to Richard Wotton for his coverage of the Bondi Festival of the wind and Ray and Rosemary McCully for an account of their tour of European and American events.

The photographs clockwise from the top left: Mark Doyle's Blue Meanie at Bondi and Snoopy and the Red Baron over Bondi, Dieppe Festival ground and sky cover and from Marseilles a superb spider web.





## From the Editors Desk

### **Welcome to a special edition of What's Up. After years of work the ambitions of the NZKA are to be met with the first Kite Festival Tour.**

Many people have worked very hard to bring this concept to fruition and I trust that it will gather the support from all members that it deserves. As well as incorporating the three major events at Nelson, Napier and Rotorua, there are supporting events in Christchurch, Wellington (at Paraparaumu Beach), and the most spectacular location of all, the Chateau. This programme brings an event close enough for most people to get to, at least for the day, even if they are not able to spend longer following the tour.

The social side of events has been well thought out as well, and you can get the full details of the tour starting on page four. I look forward to bringing full coverage in the next issue. Remember to take your cameras and use them and then drop me a line - every word is appreciated.

Meanwhile this issue which features stories of overseas festivals is brought to you with contributions from: Ray and Rosemary McCully, Richard Wotton, Tony Fitchet, Stephen Cook, Anne and Peter Whitehead, Neville Pitfield, Gary Engvall, Ted Howard, Jim Ayres, Julie Adams, and Sharon Russell.

Next month as well as the coverage of the New Zealand Festival Tour we will continue our journeys with the McCully's and we have a story about kites and kite flying in Bali from Penny Robinson.

My thanks go to all of you.

The Editor



# What's Up Next...?

## 2005 Kite Festivals Tour

**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**



**This article provides the organisational information you require for participating in the Kite Tour.**



A separate registration form is included with this magazine. Please complete it and return it as soon as possible so the venue organisers have attendee numbers for completing their catering arrangements.

Note: Rotorua Art in the Sky has to make a deposit of 75% of the meal cost ahead of the function so payment is required with your registration.

### **Programme of events**

#### **Christchurch**

- ◆ **New Brighton Beach Kite Day** - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January. Contact Julie Adams (see Trade Directory) if you can attend and/or you need any help with transport etc.

#### **Nelson**

- ◆ **14<sup>th</sup> Nelson Summer Kite Festival** - Friday 21st – Sunday 23rd January, Neale Park, Nelson

#### **Friday evening:**

- ◆ Self-catering takeaways on the field after informal flying during the day.

#### **Saturday evening:**

- ◆ BBQ on the field for \$10, with catering by the Nelson Kite Club. Menu to consist of: local wild pork & venison, hash browns, salads, bread, etc. BYO drinks.

- ◆ To book in for Saturday evening meal as soon as possible, so we know how much wild pork and venison to cook! **Please contact Ted & Gretchen at Rainbow Flight:**

Phone/fax 03 548-8707),

e-mail : [info@kites-rainbowflight.co.nz](mailto:info@kites-rainbowflight.co.nz))

#### **Sunday evening:**

- ◆ Your choice and expense at Freemans Bar & Grill in the Wakatu Hotel on the corner Bridge and Collingwood St.



## Programme

- ◆ On the morning of Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> we are attempting to arrange a talk/look at the history and geology of the area by a member of the Tongariro Historical Society before the 1 hour drive to Taupo.
- ◆ **Taupo** – an informal gathering 3-00pm Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Taharepa Reserve on the corner of State Highway 1 and Taharepa Road (it slopes up from State Highway 1 and is about 1km north of the Napier turn-off). Gather from 3pm to fly kites. Note: Except for 3 or 4 cars designated as anchors all vehicles should park on the road along the top of the park.

Depending on the weather we will either arrange takeaways on the park or go to restaurants for a meal.

## Rotorua

- ◆ **Art in the Sky 2005 (NZKA Annual Festival)** February 5th and 6th, Arawa Park Racecourse, Fenton St., Rotorua.
- ◆ **Times:** Open to the public from 11am to 5pm. Fliers are welcome from 10am (no wind likely any earlier)
- ◆ Lunches and water are supplied free of charge both days.
- ◆ **Activities:** We will have a large free fly area, a smaller exhibition area, and a public flying area. Outside the flying areas there will be fun activities for children as well as a variety of street theatre.

**Directions:** Fliers entrance, is the second on left down Margerita St. – it allows access to the



centre of the track. Details of vehicle parking and placement in the centre will be advised on arrival.

## Programme

### Friday evening

- ◆ Bring your takeaways and gather at the McCully's place: 7 Goodwin Ave., Rotorua, from 6pm for some pre-festival socialising.

### Saturday

- ◆ 11am to 12 noon and 3pm to 4pm: Tasman award fly in the exhibition area. Voting forms will be issued during the 3pm time slot. The split times should allow for a range of wind.
- ◆ The exhibition area will also be used for Rokkaku challenges, fighter kite competition, a running of the bols, trick kite demonstration, possibly a couple of mass ascensions and featuring our overseas visitors.

### Saturday Night

- ◆ 7-00 pm Smorgasbord dinner and auction in the Racing Club lounge.

Price is \$30 per person (children under 5 free, 5 to 10 yrs. \$15), which needs to be prepaid. It is not BYO, drinks are from the bar and are at reasonable prices:



## What's Up Next...? 2005 Kite Festivals Tour

Beer: (can) \$3-50, (glass) \$3-00,  
Wine: (glass) \$3-50,  
Spirits: single \$2-50,  
Orange juice \$2-50.

### Sunday

- ◆ Free flying with use of exhibition area in a similar manner to Saturday.

**Note:** With no lunch cost, no registration fee, the dinner at \$30 plus drinks makes for a very inexpensive annual festival.

### Contact for NZKA and overseas registration:

Ray McCully

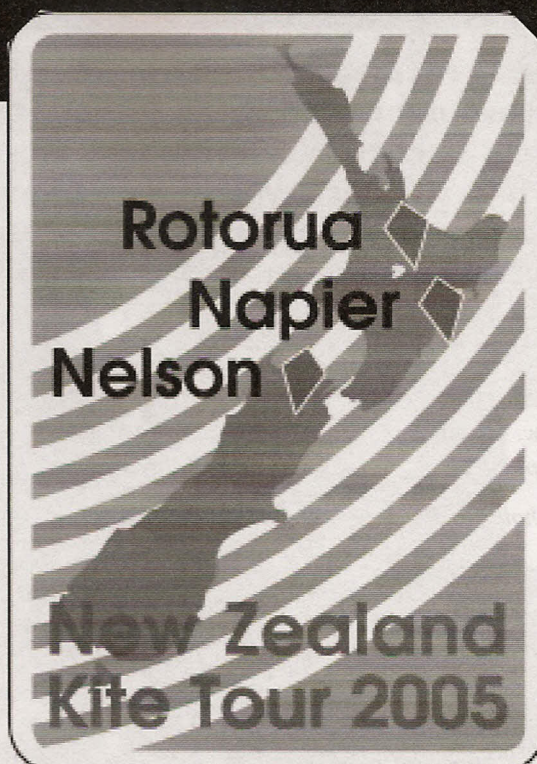
Email: Ray.McCully@xtra.co.nz

Ph 07 348 3828

Fax 07 348 3821

Or post to:

7 Goodwin Ave, Rotorua.



*This embroidered patch (shown full size) will be available as a souvenir of the event. Based on the tour logo it has a sky blue background with the type and kites superimposed in red and black.*

### Remember

Fill in the separate registration form which is included with this magazine.

## ...and don't miss these events

### Carterton

Saturday 15th January 2005, Carterton Showgrounds, Clareville, on the main road north of Carterton From 11.00 am - 1.00 pm SWDC Libraries Summer Reading Kite fly - Pirates

### Wellington

**Sunday 13th February Chinese New Year Kite Fly Alex Moore Park, Johnsonville. 12 - 4**

Help complete the Chinese New Year celebrations which are to run in Wellington from the 5th February the kite festival will be the finale of their celebrations. NZKA members are all warmly invited. There will be food stalls, a dragon dance and much more so come along and help celebrate. Any further information contact Anne Whitehead, 04 476 7227 or email [drachen@paradise.net.nz](mailto:drachen@paradise.net.nz) also check out [www.chinesenewyear.org.nz](http://www.chinesenewyear.org.nz) to see what else is happening.



# BONDI FOTW 2004

**When I returned from the 2000 Festival of the Winds I wouldn't have bet \$5 that my next trip there would be as the winner of the Trans-Tasman Travel Exchange Award. But, as someone once said, truth is stranger than fiction, so there were Geoff Campbell and I eagerly leaping onto the tarmac at Sydney airport (keeping an eye out for snakes, of course) on a fine September Thursday evening.**

*Left: Mark Doyle's Blue Meanie at Bondi.*

*Below: Me with my replica 1909 Roloplan.*

*All photos by Richard Wotton*



AKS president Ross Leighton had generously offered to collect us from the airport, so it was red carpet treatment all the way as we were whisked off to our beachfront hotel. After dumping our gear and making the room look lived-in, we went looking for food and immediately bumped into more foraging fliers: Linda and Kevin Sanders, Gail and Ray Wilmer, Tansia Green and John Murray, and Queenslander Phil Holloway. A tasty, cheap and quick Chinese meal and a beer quietened the worms and gave us a boost for all the exertions and fresh air of the weekend ahead.

The forecast for the next three days didn't sound altogether

promising, but as things turned out it was pretty much sunshine all the way, with plenty of that deep blue sky so beloved of kite photographers.

Friday's wind was shifting around in a fairly typical Bondi fashion – about 360deg – but we were always able to have something in the air, and our ranks were swelling by the hour as more fliers arrived.

The first of the weekend's scheduled get-togethers found us at the Bondi Pavilion that night for a very tasty seafood dinner which was followed by a talk and slide presentation by Mike Goddard, this year's invited flier. Mike and his wife Fran hail

from northern England, where Mike lectures in visual communications. He gave us an insight into his sources of inspiration – which range from African tribal art to the Chrysler Building in New York – then took us through the ensuing creative steps which lead to the finished kite.

Saturday got off to a slow start as we had a very long wait for a very ordinary breakfast at one of the numerous beachfront cafes. The sign outside advertised “the biggest breakfast in Bondi”, but forgot to mention that it's also the slowest. The weather was more or less a repeat of the previous day's, but the number of fliers had increased greatly.





*Clockwise from top left: The Red Baron calling 'chocks away', Geoff Campbell with Linda Sanders, Dalwyne Wotton with Momma Bug, Phil Taylor from Perth at Bondi, Philip MacConachie's giant sunflower at Bondi.*

The only drama of the day occurred when Phil MacConachie's delta was cut out of the sky and fluttered gently downwards into the blue Tasman Sea, about 60 metres offshore. Luckily, it landed close to one of the numerous surfers, who promptly loosened its bridle lines and gave it mouth-to-mouth before towing it back to Phil.

To provide a better display on Sunday, this year's competitions were held on Saturday afternoon instead of Sunday. Kevin Sanders, of Adelaide, went home a very happy chappy after taking first place in both flat or bowed and soft or flexible categories, as well as the biggie: the Travel

Exchange Award, the trip to the New Zealand national festival in Rotorua next February. I believe Kevin and wife Linda are giving some serious thought to covering the whole of our 2005 kite tour in January/February, so plenty of people will get the opportunity to see their beautiful kites and banners.

In the non-ripstop category, David Bowie was third, and first place was taken by yours truly, with a replica of a 1909 Roloplan. In the box and cellular category, Karen and Godfrey Gamble took the top honours, with Bob Moore, of Sydney, the runner-up and yours truly, once again, in third place with the Lamson Aerocurve. There was

an element of luck for me with the wind during the competitions. Both of the kites I'd entered need a fairly good breeze and although it was quite light most of the afternoon, at the critical moments when the judges gave me the nod to launch the kites there just happened to be a good puff.

Everything considered, it had been a good day's flying, but all too soon it was time to shake the sand out of our shoes and get spruced up for the evening festivities at the pavilion. After a lot of talking, a slap-up meal was followed by the traditional auction. It was very pleasing to see the Firebird kite I'd made for the auction go under the hammer



Right: Ex-pat kiwi Philip MacConachie at Bondi.

Far right: Bondi banners by Michael Goddard, England.

Below: Geoff in our camp at Bondi.



for \$220, the night's top price. Kevin Sanders was the successful bidder.

Sunday morning dawned bright and clear, but the wind was coming directly from the Antarctic. It was quite strong until about 1pm, when it eased to a very good onshore flying breeze, so fliers were quick to take advantage of the conditions and put on a great display. The promenade above the beach was crowded all day, so the show must have been seen by quite a few thousand people – as well as thousands of dogs! There are almost as many dogs as cellphones around Bondi.

Guest flier Mike Goddard kept himself busy all day with a succession of his very colourful

kites, and another toiler was Linda Sanders, editor and chief photographer of *Flying High*, the AKS magazine. It seemed to me that if Linda wasn't taking a photo she was jotting something down in her notebook – and I think I even saw her flying a kite a couple of times. Phew, talk about multi-talented!

Soft kites were very much to the fore, with Ross Leighton's Rolf Zimmermann lobster – or "purple prawn", as one local newspaper described it – being one of the stand-outs, along with Mark Doyle's Zimmermann owl and the Blue Meanie inflatable.

There were large numbers of small kites being flown by the

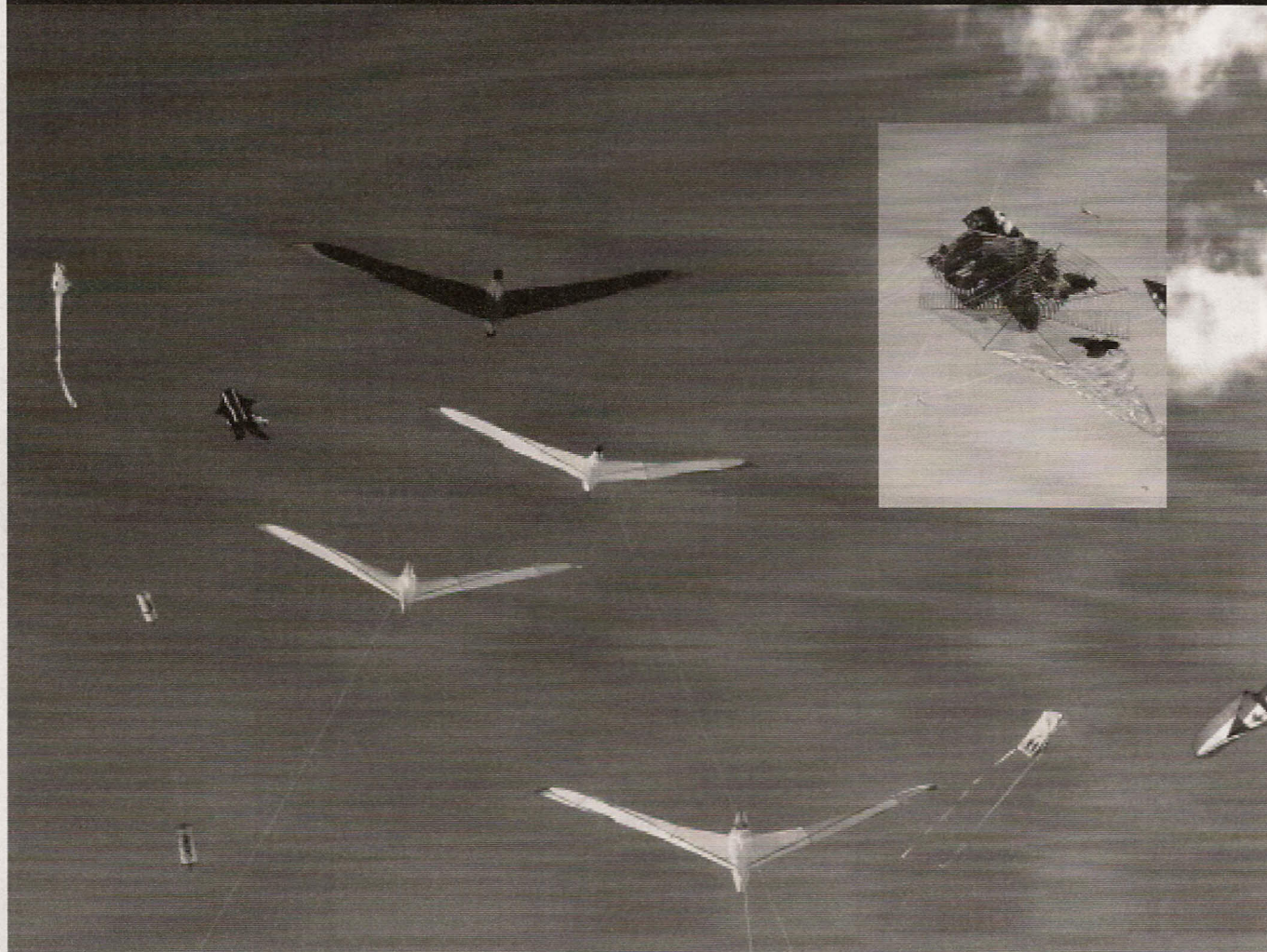
public outside the official flying area – including some Indian fighter kites being flown at stratospheric altitudes – and my summing up of the festival is that a great time was had by registered fliers and the public alike. Good breezes, plenty of sunshine and blue sky, not too hot, and a great bunch of people to be with.

My sincere thanks to the AKS and the NZKA for providing the Travel Exchange Award, which I believe provides a very valuable contact point for the two countries' kitefliers. Also, my thanks to all those who voted for my Lamson Aerocurve at the 2004 NZKA national festival.

Richard Wotton



# Three French Festivals



*Wild life in the sky: Dieppe Albatross and (inset) Marseilles spider web.*

## Dieppe

It took us 50 hours to get to Dieppe from Rotorua. The last 10 were spent "travelling" from Charles de Gualle Airport to Dieppe, due to its being Sunday. We were to be picked up from the train station, but that is another story!

We keep hearing about Dieppe as one of those "must go to" festivals. Well - maybe. Dieppe is a quaint little town, and well worth the visit. There were 35 countries represented, but we were disappointed that there did not seem to be nearly that

number of countries represented in the sky. Many fliers were sponsored (not us) so you would have expected a good number to be working even half as hard as Peter Lynn - maybe that happened on the days after we left.

One thing we really enjoyed was the way they organised the school children. There were plenty workshops (which we were not involved in) and worksheets for the children to fill in, which were designed to increase their knowledge of the world and kites in general. The children were delightful, and

very tolerant at my attempts at French.

## Marseilles

We travelled by TVG train on Thursday to Marseilles, where we were collected from the station and taken straight to the kite village on the beach. There was a week of children's workshops held here, leading up to the weekend festival. The number of fliers was a much smaller and more intimate group than Dieppe, and very welcoming. We helped with the workshops on the Friday.



*Clockwise from the right:  
Dieppe, Kite and  
ground effects.*

*Marseilles, genki  
and rokkaku.*

*Dieppe, The New  
Zealand Tent  
tent.*



The weather was excellent - blue skys and good wind. There was a different mix of kites than we saw at Dieppe, with only one Peter Lynn kite. The sky was filled with a constantly changing array of kites on both days. A very inspiring vista! Fliers represented Denmark, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Cambodia, China, India and Singapore.

We were the only fliers who spoke English as a first language. Aren't we fortunate that English is the dominant second language amongst kitefliers?

It was here that we first encountered the large French lunches. They were a veritable feast. It was not until much later that we learnt to eat all our lunch, since this is the main

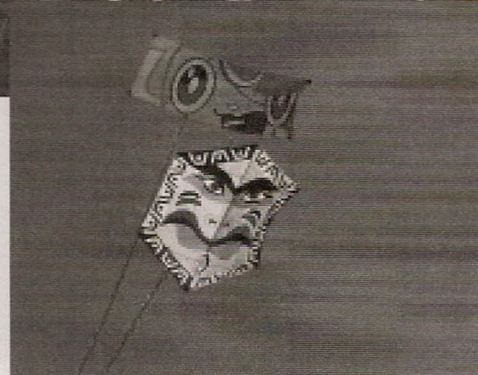
meal of the day in France, and the evening light meal may be served very late (after several glasses of red wine).

Monday saw us taking a bus tour - the type you can hop on and off the bus along the way and pick up with the next bus. As neither of us had visited Marseilles before, we found the city very interesting.

## **Tours**

We journeyed to Tours on Tuesday and Wednesday, via Bordeaux - to see some different scenery. We had been asked to arrive on Wednesday, as there was press exposure and an official reception at the field.

Thursday was a day in the schools. Five of us went to the village school that Frederique and Michel's children attend at



Cinq-Mars. We talked about our kites and our countries, then went off to the field to fly our kites with the children. Did I mention the four course lunch we were served in the school dining room?

The next day we were off to see the chateau of Chenonceau - the management wish to extend their tourism to include tours from China. We did a walkman type tour of this majestic chateau, then had a photo call flying the Chinese kites in their amazing formal gardens. After that it was a two and a half hour lunch at the





*Clockwise from the left:  
Back to school in France*

*Tours, Balloons in flight.*

*Marseilles, Kiwi Ground.*



Wind at Tours is generally light, and not as steady as one would wish - something we can empathise with. This was a festival which had a smaller number of international

Michel Gressier is a much respected citizen of the city of Tours. Each year he spends about two months on a commission to make the banners which adorn Pont Wilson, leading across the Loire to the city centre. At the kite field La Gloriette, there is a wind garden of artistic windmills built by Michel. New Zealand artists would envy this level of patronage.

Orangery, with a different wine for each course!

The festival at the weekend this year featured dragons and trains. That almost came unstuck for Michel, when the eight Chinese he had organised had visa problems. He managed to recruit two Chinese fliers who were at Dieppe and Marseilles, together with a dragon. Also, Gerry and Carolyn from the Midlands had a double dragon. One of the French had made a modernistic dragon out of (I think) mylar and floppy discs. At one stage there were five dragons flying.

fliers, with England, Holland, Brazil, India and China also represented. The sponsors like the public to be able to mix with the fliers, which presented a few challenges in unstable winds.

At the end of the day, when the wind abated, the hot air balloons came out - mini versions with radio control. The smaller ones had Action Man underneath, while the larger ones were complete with hand made baskets. They are even equipped to remotely drop teddy bears. As the natural light lessened, the spectacle intensified.

We spent a couple of days ambling around Tours before moving north. We spent a couple of days ambling around Tours before moving north. Walking around Tours is akin to walking through an open air museum. The architecture is wonderful and the buildings very clean.

*Rosemary McCully*



# Thinking Inside the Square

**This kite is based on a square folded by Clarry Croft of Adelaide.**

**Clarry Croft and Logan Fow of Hamilton New Zealand were the first kite fliers from this country to achieve international recognition before the formation of NZKA.**

Clarry has long been famous for his Clarry bugs and recently sent Clarry bug III folded from a 300mm square of newspaper. Clarry had bridled this from the outer edges (sled style). I found this a little unsatisfactory and tried a two point bridle based on the spine to be much better and a great success.

Since this, the kite has been made in sizes from 90mm to 1m square.

This design has been the basis for indoor kites in tissue paper to the metre square in nylon with spars from match-stick cane to 4mm filane glass rod with the smallest (90mm) model completely sparless.

Initially I used corflute for spars cut to fit the top folds but found these too heavy and resorted to a fibre glass bow as a simpler arrangement.

In large sizes I added a light fibreglass bow to support the mid points of the lower edges.

The versatility of this shape has been a delight to fly in all its forms.

The construction details are very simple.

In fabric, hem the edges of your square, mark the diagonals, fold the top corner to just below the centre and hot pin.

Sew down the tip triangle and stitch the lower edge of the outer corners to the diagonal only.

Sewn pockets for the spine and also the lower support bow.

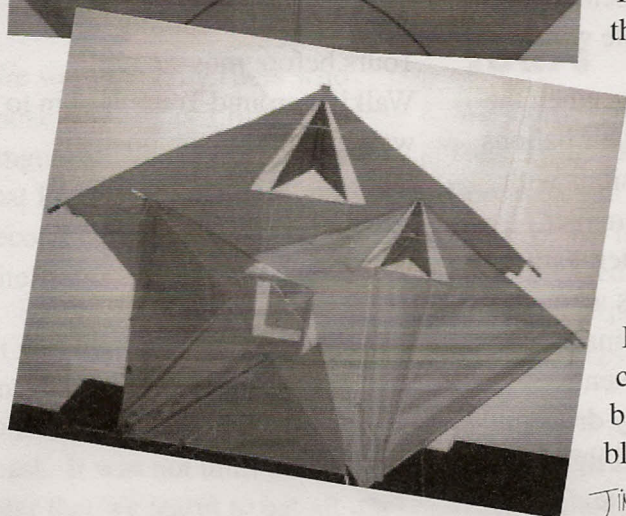
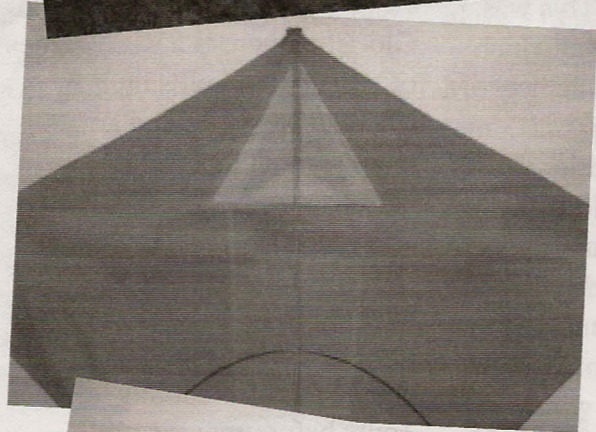
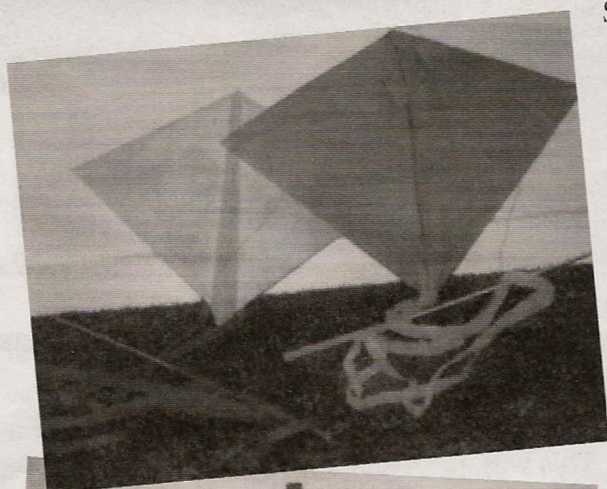
Thread the fibre glass bow through the folds at the top (on the front of the kite) and cut to extend on either side to tension it into a bow with tip fittings sewed to the kite.

It helps to sew a keeper at the head of the kite just below the spine pocket to hold the spreader.

An open keel is sewed to the front of the kite with a three point bridle (The keel is optional but greatly improves the angle of flight.) A spinner is flown from the lower edge lop for drag.

Decoration: Applique white triangle at the head and a contrasting small triangular patch complementary to the body colour, eg red-green, orange-blue, yellow-purple, blue/green-red/orange.

Jim Ayers





# Kites

TO MAKE AND FLY.

## Crofler

from a paper fold by Clarry Croft.  
can be made in any size.

Basic square

Matchstick bow

1m  $\rightarrow$  6mm f/g rod

Lower Brace Dowel or f/g

mini size

300mm. Square

Spars: Matchstick

core

fold

300 mm

fold

Open keel (large sizes)

Bridge points

Tail loop

alternative spars  
in core flute for larger  
sizes

Dowel  
spine

Dowel  
Spine

Core-flute pegged with  
BBQ sticks or 3mm fibre glass.

Tails: ribbon or spinner.

Coreflute  
rose cone.

Jim Ayers.

21-7-04.



# Rokkaku Plans

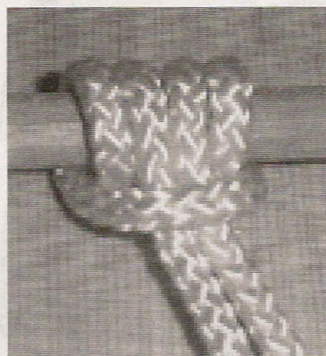
**To finish off Gary Engvall's article, which we started last month, on the construction of a Rokkaku Kite, here is the technical run down on the bridle and some notes on kite sewing:**

## The Bridle

Make 3 lines, 1-1/2 times the width of the kite. Since that is a 'finished' dimension, cut the lines at 10 feet (7-1/2 feet plus 2 feet for splices, plus a half a foot for fudge factor). There is a principle to grasp here: **The actual length of the bridle lines is relatively unimportant.** They don't even really need to be all the same length, but it helps if they are close. The important part is: Tie or Splice the loops on the ends first. Then put the ends of the loops over a nail and bend the line to find the middle of the line. Mark each of the 3 lines in the middle. One line goes across the top Spreader, one line goes across the bottom Spreader. The last line goes between them, secured at the middle marks of each line with a Lark's Head or a Prussik Knot. It is easiest to make up this bridle first, then pass the ends thru the eyelets and Lark's Head them to the spreader sticks.

Make a Knotted Loop by taking 18" of bridle line and tying the ends together using a Figure 8 Knot. Then Prussik Knot this to the main leg of the bridle about 6" above the middle mark.

## Tension Lines: (Bow Lines)



I learned the neatest thing at the Oregon Kitemakers Retreat this year. Barry 'Bazzar' Poulter came up with it, and Arnold Stellema was showing it to everyone who would sit still long enough to learn.

Instead of going thru a bunch of folderol to attach bow lines to the outsides of the Spreader pockets,

just do this: Take a piece of string. Tie (*or splice, or No-Knot™*) a loop in each end. Prussik Knot it to each end of the Spreader, close to, but outside of, the Bridle. Then simply spread the Prussik Knots along the stick to bow it however much needed.

Aha, you say, but how does one tie a Prussik to a stick when one only has one end of the string to work with? Enter the knot(ty) Ronda Brewer and Ellen Pardee. They taught us how to tie it this way at OKR.



*Take the loop, drape it over thumb and forefinger.*



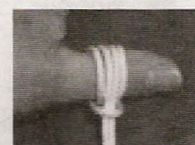
*Wrap twice around forefinger.*



*Wrap twice around thumb.*



*Bring thumb and forefinger together.*



*Clean it up, then slide on to stick.*

For a six foot tall rokkaku, cut the bow lines 48" long. Make a mark 6" in from each end. Bend at the mark and tie an Overhand Loop. I usually use 5" to 6" of bow, but your mileage may vary.

Reproduced with the kind permission of

Gary Engvall



## A brief review of Kite Sewing 101:

{web page: <http://www.geocities.com/gengvall/sew/sew.html>}

One of the lessons learned from doing this kite in workshops over the years is that people of all different experience levels build this kite. So we'll review a few quick sewing terms and techniques. A seam is where two pieces of fabric are sewn together. An allowance must be added to the size of the panels to sew them together. These plans call for half inch seam allowances. A hem is where an edge is folded over once or twice and sewn to prevent it from unraveling with use. These plans call for a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch hem allowance for a double fold hem. Mark the kite at  $\frac{3}{4}$ " in from the edge, then fold on the mark, then fold to the fold, and sew down.

**Warp & Weft:** As is most fabric, ripstop nylon is woven on a loom. There are threads running in two directions. Fabric cut along the threads is cut on the grain. Fabric that is cut, not on the grain, is said to be cut on the bias. Fabric cut on the bias tends to stretch more under stress than fabric cut on the grain. When fabric is woven, there are long straight threads called the Warp threads. The shuttle of the loom carries a thread between them called the Weft or fill threads. The Warp threads tend to be straighter than the Weft threads, so an edge of fabric cut along the Warp threads tends to stretch less than an edge of fabric cut along the Weft threads.

- ◆ All sewing is Straight Stitch unless otherwise noted.

- ◆ Stitches should be no closer than 1/8 inch. Or, 8 stitches in any inch. Or, one per tiny square in the Ripstop. Any closer together and the stitches impair the strength of the ripstop and the seams could tear like perforated paper. Ripstop is very thin and the sewing machine tension must be to be very light or the stitches will cause the fabric to pucker.
- ◆ Adjust top and bottom tension on scrap before sewing the kite.

The best way of initially adjusting bottom (bobbin) tension is to loosen the tension screw until the bobbin race and bobbin just fall (with a little encouragement) under their own weight. Then install in machine and adjust top tension to match.

**Plain Seams:** The Plain Seam is the most common seam used for kites. Sew the seam using your favorite seam allowance, then simply fold it flat and sew it down (*top stitch it*). Folding it twice (a Mock French Seam) looks nice, but isn't necessary. The added thickness can be a problem in many kite structures. Sewing a Plain Seam down with a straight stitch is easiest and strongest, but any sewing irregularities really show up. Zig-zag covers a multitude of sins . . .

The best way to sew an accurate seam allowance is to use a mark on the throat plate of the machine. If one doesn't exist, then drawing one on the machine with a pencil works, or using a piece of duct tape works too.

Finish all appliqué before assembly. It is much better done before than after. Trust me ...



## NZKA Kite Tour

### Remember

Fill in the separate registration form which is included with this magazine.



# Obituary

## Neville Pitfield – Empty Spaces in the Sky

**On September 20<sup>th</sup> Neville, aged 78, passed away after battling with cancer for the last few years.**

Neville was born in England and after leaving school was apprenticed as a mechanical engineer. Always interested in flying things, as a young man he joined the RAF as soon as he was old enough. He was posted to various airfields in Britain during the last years of World War II and his final posting with the RAF was to Agra in India. After being demobbed from the RAF he went back to the engineering company he had been working for but after a year he realised he missed the air force life and was still keen to work with aircraft. So he joined the South African Air force and left England for time in Durban & Capetown before ending up in Korea with the in the famous Flying Tigers No 2 Squadron. During his time as an aircraft mechanic he worked on all the aircraft we now go to places like Wings Over Wanaka to see flying.

Neville was always inventing and designing tools and gadgets to solve problems or make his tasks easier... He continued to look for solutions to problems after he retired and moved to New Zealand. (When we moved him to Wellington in May this year we found so many little inventions and improvements all around the house in the sheds and the garden. There are some we have yet to work out what they do!)

After being sent kites for birthdays and Christmas Neville had no option but to start flying them. With Hilda he joined the Chiltern



Kite Group in England and started attending the kite days. It was 1991 when Neville & Hilda retired to live in New Zealand. When he was not on the Seagull Kites production line he spent many hours designing and building kite making gadgets and line climbing devices, trying to find ways to drop large number of teddy bears from kites. His vision was to see the teddies jump and look as they would jumping from the rear

of a DC3 ! As we cleared out his workshop we found dozens of teddy bears all with parachutes packed and ready to jump... In this area of invention his engineering skills worked against him ... he was used to working with solid (heavy) materials and could never think of using fabric or other lightweight materials. He had a number of dropping devices in various stages of testing hanging in his workshop... and while the teddy transporting devices and dropping mechanism's are ingenious and worked in the workshop, I doubt they would have been successful out on the flying field !!

I know Neville enjoyed being part of the Global Sky business and while he was never what you would call a natural kite flier he had determination and liked to attend the kite days and displays we were involved with. I'll miss my dad and will look forward to taking his kite bag to a kite day soon and seeing what I can fly for him. Another empty space in the Sky!

Des Pitfield



# Regional lines

## News from the regions

### Canterbury

Kite days at Hansen Park are getting busy with groups like the Boys Brigade coming along for their regional picnic. Whoever thought a lozenge kite made with cardboard strips for spars might stay rigid enough to fly? Well some BB leaders did - and their kids showed them how disappointing it can be when kites just won't fly! The kids who won prizes that day had all brought the kites that they had made at workshops with the Kite Lady.

We're getting quite a few regulars along each month and some really full skies. The October fly on Labour Weekend Sunday brought perfect NE winds and about 40 flyers put kites up, tied them off and lay about telling stories. A more energetic flyer gave a great demonstration of flying his stack of sport kites, and some kids discovered that if you put your cap inside a spikey ball you can't get it back out. At this time of year, the winds are steady and warm and the grass grows back after the rugby season.

The November kite day on Sunday 28th November will be the last one before Xmas - so we're going to see if we can't fill the sky with red, green and gold!

Onwards and upwards ...

Julie Adam

### Wellington

Our next flyday on 5 Dec will be at Alex Moore park Johnsonville, organised by the Lions as part of Johnsonville Christmas celebrations.

Note that it is 10.00 AM to 4.00 PM, so come early. A few cars will be allowed on the field.

Lions will have sausage sizzle!

Turn up and put on a good show for our last one of the year.

And again at Alex More Park on Sunday 13th February to help complete the Chinese New Year

celebrations. There will be food stalls, a dragon dance and much more so come along and help celebrate.

Cheers

Tony

### Wanganui

After the longest spell of bad flying weather in the five years I've been into kites, it seems that Sunday afternoons are finally on the up and up. In the main, the breezes have been light, but it's been great to get out and enjoy the sunshine.

Our Father's Day weekend event suffered the worst weather since its inception. On the Saturday at Alan Cave's farm, the winds were fairly brisk, plus we had a couple of showers. However, what we had on Saturday was good compared with the gales and heavy showers at Ohakea the next day. If you wanted to walk somewhere on the field, it was a good idea to take a large bag of ground stakes in each hand - I guess you'd call them hand anchors . . . The only kite I had that could handle the conditions was my Red Baron, flown on a shot line.

Dalwyne staked out her small arch, but after a few hours we noticed the grass was littered with spars that had punched their way through the pockets. Another repair job to add to the pile.

A few days after Father's Day weekend, President Geoff Campbell and I winged our way across the Tasman to bask in the sun at Bondi Beach. I'll just say here that it was a long way to go to get in a good Sunday afternoon's flying! (A full report on the Festival of the Winds appears elsewhere in this issue.)

A recent local highlight at Springvale park was the sight of Geoff Campbell climbing a tree to retrieve a kite after its line was cut by someone who wishes to remain anonymous.

Richard Wotton



## Hawkes Bay

Flying in the Hawkes Bay over winter has been a struggle. Through the week and Saturday the weather is Ok but come Sunday either strong winds or showers flick through which become annoying. The November fly saw a gentleman join us who found out about us through the net, - well done web site. He had bought a kite in Wanganui, - well done Geoff and tested it in Napier - thanks to Ian & Gordon. He enjoyed

himself and wasn't worried about the grazed arm or grass stains. He will join in whenever someone wants to get out so we will keep in contact.

Fingers crossed for good wind weather in December and all fingers and toes crossed for January.

See everyone here.

Sharon Russell

## CAA Rules affecting kiteflying

Some years ago, after a long period of liaison with CAA, new rules for kiteflying were agreed. It is in our interests to observe these, and to maintain good relations with the Air Traffic Controllers in your locality. Around each Airfield there is a designated Control Zone, where all flying ( including us ) is carefully watched. These control zones may extend out to 15 Km ( for takeoff and landing ) but may be as little as 4 KM elsewhere. It is essential to find out from your local Air Traffic Controller where the boundaries are in relation to where you wish to fly kites.

If you are outside the boundary, you may go up to 400 feet. If you are inside the boundary, the Air Traffic Controller may allow you to fly to a lower height, but may also stipulate the need to have a mobile phone contact person in case of emergencies.

If you are having a public day, it would pay to let the Air Traffic Controller know, and also to keep an eye on the public in case someone lets their kite get above 400 feet. We do wish to avoid complaints by CAA about flying rules. Note that night flying is not allowed.

Tony Fitchett



**新年快樂**  
**Chinese New Year Festival**

**Sunday 13th February Chinese New Year Kite Fly**  
**Alex Moore Park, Johnsonville. 12 noon - 4.00 pm**

Help complete the Chinese New Year celebrations which are to run in Wellington from the 5th February the kite festival will be the finale of their celebrations. NZKA members are all warmly invited. There will be

food stalls, a dragon dance and much more so come along and help celebrate. Any further information contact Anne Whitehead, 04 476 7227 or email [drachen@paradise.net.nz](mailto:drachen@paradise.net.nz) also check out [www.chinesenewyear.org.nz](http://www.chinesenewyear.org.nz) to see what else is happening.



## Committee

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

## Regional Representatives

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### Wellington

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## Flying sites

### Auckland

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

Elsdon Park  
Contact: Tony Fitchett  
Phone: 04 478 5575

## Flying days

As the Kite tour is on over the holiday season the full regional flying dates will be listed in the next issue. Generally Wellington and Clarks Beach flyers congregate on the first Sunday of each month, Dunedin, Napier and Hastings the second, Bay of Plenty and Nelson the third and Auckland, Taupo, Wanganui and Christchurch gather on the last Sunday of each month.

## Wellington

**Our next flyday on 5 Dec will be at Alex Moore park Johnsonville , organised by the Lions as part of Johnsonville Christmas celebration.**

**Note that it is 10 AM to 4 PM, so come early. A few cars will be allowed on the field.**

**Lions will have sausage sizzle !**

**Turn up and put on a good show for our last one of the year.**

## Photographs

If you want copies of any of the photographs in What's Up, prints credited to Richard Wotton can be obtained from him, for just \$12.00 per print.

### Contact:

Richard Wotton  
44 Wairere Road  
Wanganui

Phone: 06 343 2770

E-mail: 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

## **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.

## **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.

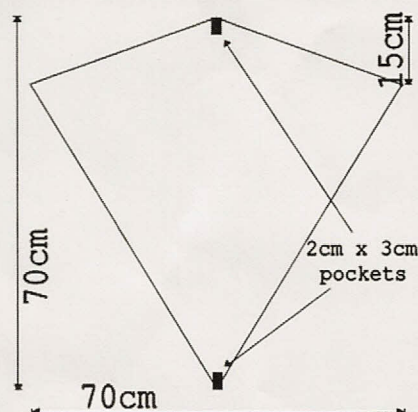
## The NZKA Kite arch project

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!



What's Up extends a warm  
welcome to our overseas visitors  
and wishes all participants to the  
Kite Tour Festivals happy flying.

**Rotorua**

Chateau Tongariro

**Napier**

**Nelson**

Wellington

Christchurch



**New Zealand  
Kite Tour 2005**