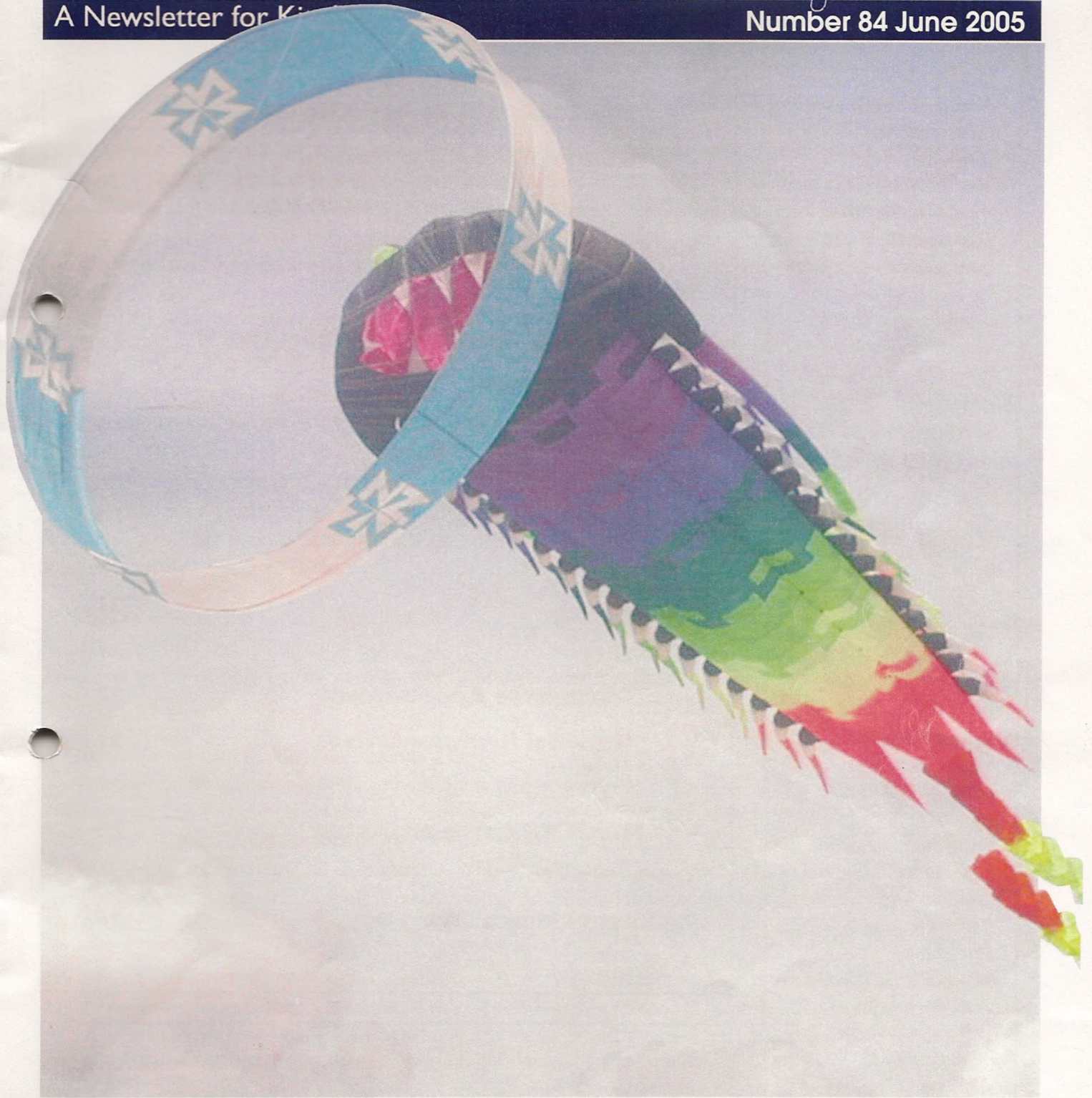


What's Up?

A Newsletter for Kitefliers

Number 84 June 2005



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New Zealand Kitefliers Association Inc.

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

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

Welcome

What's Up welcomes new members to the NZKA Committee: Debra Elgar (treasurer) Stephen Jarvis, Anne Whitehead and Gwenda Galbraith and notes a change of role for Ray McCully from committee member to secretary and membership secretary.

What's Up

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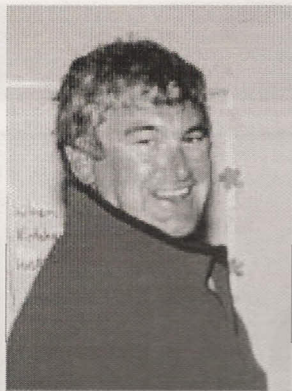
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The cover photograph 'Into the ring' was taken by ^{LOUISE MCFAUL} Richard Wotton at the Chateau.

Our thanks this month go to: Geoff Campbell, Pauline and Tony Fitchett, Richard Wotton, Charlie Watson, Thorsten Alofs, E Ray and Rosemary McCully, Allen Little and Julie Adam, for their contributions.



Campbell's Comment's

From the Presidents Desk

The main feature of this year was the Great Kiwi Kite Tour held over seven venues in two islands over four weekends. The tour started in Christchurch followed by Nelson, Wellington, Napier, The Château, Taupo and finally Rotorua, where we held our annual auction and the trans Tasman travel award winner was voted on; my congratulations to Charlie Watson on his win.

I would like to thank all members who arranged venues, meals, accommodation, advertising etc. A special thanks must go to Ray and Rosemary McCully whose idea it was for the Great Kiwi Kite Tour, and who organized the finale in Rotorua. It was great to see flyers from Australia, England and Holland, hopefully they will have spread the word that NZ is a great place to fly kites.

For Easter weekend in Eltham, although the weather forecast was dismal, it was a great weekend let down only by the small numbers, and only a bit of rain on the Sunday.

At the AGM we said goodbye to several of the existing committee members with Tony Fitchett (Secretary), Des Pitfield (Treasurer), Yvonne de Mille, and Stephen Cook all deciding to step down. I would like to thank all committee members for their help and support though out this year.

I would like to welcome on to the committee Debra Elgar (treasurer) Stephen Jarvis, Anne Whitehead and Gwenda Galbraith and note a change of role for Ray McCully from committee member to secretary (and also membership secretary). It is interesting to see that the NZKA committee is going the same way as the rest of New Zealand ... with a significant influx of women ... finally!!

Next years festival will be held in Ashburton, at Waitangi weekend. This allows for a 3 day kite fly. Book your tickets early to take advantage of any travel deals, other matters (ie contact persons, accommodation, social functions) are yet to be finalised.

The Hawkes Bay members, who have hosted the Queen's Birthday weekend workshop over the last few years, have decided to give it a break this year after hosting one of the legs of the great New Zealand Kite Tour. We look forward to their next workshop, hopefully next year 2006. I understand that there is a vineyard or two in the area that may be worth a visit if anyone is interested.

The 2005 September Fathers Day weekend; planning is well under way. Held over 2 venues, Wanganui on Saturday the 3rd and Ohakea on Sunday the 4th, this will be the 6th annual fly and promises to be an event not to be missed.

We also say goodbye to Rainbow Flight kite shop. Ted & Gretchen have decided to retire from operating a retail outlet and are working from home. As a fellow retailer I wish them well.

GLC

Petone Festival

On Sat 18 June, Petone Council is setting up a mid-winter Festival on the foreshore/beach, including kiteflying.

I l.am to about 3.30pm.

HOWEVER, I suggest anyway that we have a midwinter potluck dinner at our place on the Saturday evening for the hard core - say 6.30 PM. onwards

Please say if you are interested.

Pauline and Tony

Phone: 04 478 5575

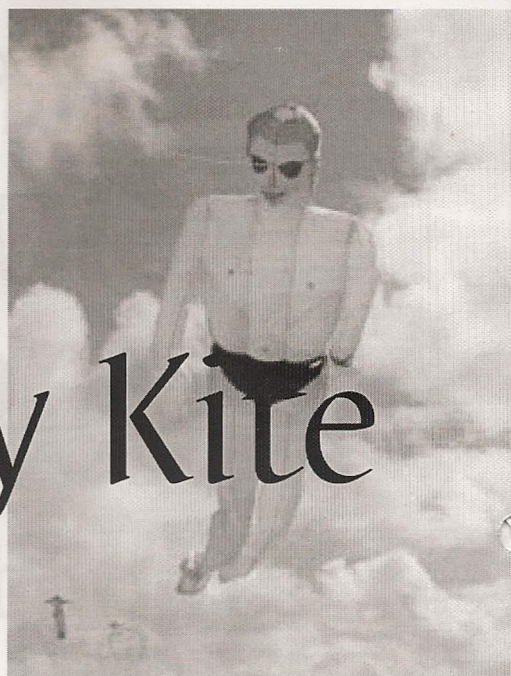
11th annual Blue Balls Buggy Bash.

**18 and 19 June 2005
SeaView motor Camp
Mokau Coast.**

**2 days of Power kiting.
Buggies mountain boards
Kite surf
Stunt and single line
welcome**

**Contact Paul Crafar
021 162 0606**

The 2005 September Fathers Day Kite Weekend



Wanganui Saturday 3
Ohakea Sunday 4

This will be the 6th annual Fathers Day fly and promises to be an event not to be missed.

Advanced Notice

Labour Weekend Workshop



Wellington
23-24 October 2005

The traditional Labour Weekend gathering is in the advanced stage of planning - watch this space for full details next issue.

Mark the 23 - 25 October on your calendar.

Trivia

UFO Sighting in Australia

IDENTIFIED: Paul Cremin and his 13-year-old son Aidan with their 'UFO', the kite they were flying on Sunday night that got the whole city talking when it sparked reports of a spooky sighting.

A father, son and their 'UFO'

LINTON BESSER

Friday, 11 March 2005

It was independence day for Dubbo, and Paul Cremin didn't even know.

It wasn't until his friends showed him the photograph in yesterday's Daily Liberal of an unidentified flying object that he realised he had spooked all of the city.

"My neighbour came over laughing with the newspaper," he said, blushing.

Mr Cremin and his 13-year-old son Aidan fly kites and model aeroplanes as a hobby.

Last Sunday night, for five hours, he was flying a 'delta coyne' kite 140 metres in the air - directly in the part of the sky that Suzanne Fuller and her family reported seeing a UFO.

"We couldn't stop laughing when we read the story," he said.

"I called the police because I didn't want anyone to worry, and

the policewoman couldn't stop laughing either."

Suzanne Fuller had called police on Sunday night to report seeing the object "about 50 miles away" in sky's south-east.

Shaky video footage of the object was later viewed by police who made an official report to Air Services Australia (ASA), and sent them a copy of the tape.

"It looked like a bird, but much larger... with a flat top and a deeper shape at the bottom," was how Mrs Fuller described what she had seen in the sky "for five hours".

It just so happens that's an almost exact description of the Cremin's kite. Mrs Fuller also said that she had seen a light from the object flashing on and



off, once the sun set. But that too has now been accounted for.

"We use a torch to try and spot the kite in the sky once it gets dark," Mr Cremin said.

"Reading that they saw it move a bit to the left, and then back again, I knew it was the kite. It does exactly that," he said, shaking his head.

Police had commended the Fuller family for reporting the incident, and were themselves unable to explain the strange object in the sky. That is, until they got the call from Mr Cremin.

A member of the local area command called Suzanne Fuller to tell her that the object had been found.



Visit us on the web at:

www.nzka.org.nz

Trivia

More on movies with kites ...

The lyrics from one of the pieces featured in
Les Choristes

<http://samedipepinot.oldiblog.com/>

Cerf-Volant

Composed and written by Bruno Coulais

Cerf-Volant

Volant au vent

Ne t'arrete Pas

Vers la mer

Haut dans les airs

Un enfant te voit

Voyage insolent

Troubles enivrants

Armours innocentes

Suivent ta voie

Suivent ta voie

En volant

Kite

Flying in the wind

Do not stop

Towards the sea

High in the sky

Seen by a child

Impertinent voyage

Dizzying tumults

Innocent loves

Follow your path

Follow your path

In flight

Cerf-Volant

Volant au vent

Ne t'arrete Pas

Vers la mer

Haut dans les airs

Un enfant te voit

Et dans la tourmente

Ted Ailes triomphantes

N'oublie pas de revenir

Vers moi

Kite

Flying in the wind

Do not stop

Towards the sea

High in the sky

Seen by a child

And in a gale

Your wings of triumphant

Do not forget to come back

To me

Submitted by Jim Court of Taupo, who tells us that there is a CD available of the music from the film, this being one of the tracks.

Thankyou Jim.

2005 NZKA Kite Tour Review

Kite Safari 2005

I've travelled from the Netherlands to New Zealand to attend to the Kite Safari, and some travelling. The kite safari was for me a good way to start my travels, and I hoped to meet some people along the way. I took my trick kites, and hoped to show people what that was all about. And meet other trick-kite pilots at the festivals. That worked out other than expected.



Thorsten Alofs at Rotorua.

Photo: Richard Wotton.

The first festival that was officially not on the safari agenda, was at New Brighton, Christchurch. Just days before I'd met my guide, and now my friend, Julie from the KiteShop in Christchurch. She took me on the trip, and the festival at Christchurch was her organisation. In the morning we went to the beach. And unloaded our stuff. Julie was going to run her mobile shop next to the library, and I was off to fly my kite. It started out ok, and the wind was nice to handle. After an hour I broke my bridle, and decided to fly my other kite. That worked out quiet well, although the winds where becoming fairly strong, and that is what a trick kiter does not want.

At the library side of the beach there was a small field, and I was flying my Gemini kite over there. As I said the winds where strong, and so I had to run forward quite a lot, to get the pressure out of my sail. Sometimes this caused some close encounters. And that also means people. So I was going forward, and backwards all the time, until the inevitable happened and I hit somebody over the head with my wingtip.....Although I didn't even notice it, he came up to me pretty angry. I should hold that thing up in the air, and I'm flying too close to people. I tried that, I said, but I'm sorry, didn't mean to hit you..... So I stopped flying for a while, and I reckoned that I'd wait until the tide was down a bit more.

So I did, and I went on the field again. This time with my Nirvana. A big Ballet/trick kite, with a high precision capability. The winds where even stronger than before, but I reckoned that I could handle it. So I started to fly some squares and stuff. There were some people on the beach, and I was flying high above them. The people where standing behind the "fence" and I hoped that they would understand that they had to move, as soon that they heard my kite humming above them. But it seems that the people just stopped doing everything, and just look up..... And of course, you've guessed it. I snagged a little diamond kite in my line. I hoped to steer my kite out of it.... SNAP! there it turned around and around.... broken line that means.

My kite crashed, and I wasn't all too happy. Indeed a broken spectra line, and that was quite irritating.

The man ran up to me, and started yelling what I'd think that I was doing? And look at this!!! Pointing at a broken, wooden spar... YOU BROKE IT!!!! Oh, man. Relax I said. I broke a \$100 line, and you weren't supposed to fly here anyway.... but maybe it was smarter to ask the security before I went flying..... I had it, and I stopped. I didn't feel like flying anymore.

Until a guy came up to me, really excited. And he apparently was waiting for me to fly. So he arranged the security to make a field for me. And my name was even announced on the speakers. That was fun. Even when you keep in mind that the winds where really fast, and gusty, and that is hard fly for a trick pilot. But I got my gear, heavy lines, and went on the field.

And what a fly that was! I had such a hard time to control the power of my kite, and still be able to trick. I had to run at least 5 meter to land properly. And if I wanted to do a cascade then I had to run for like 30-40 meter to get 3 out! That's a hard job, and I was broken afterwards. But the impression I left on the people was more than I imagined. WOW, these people loved it! Clapping, whistling... happy faces. Afterwards people came up to me. Saying that that was unbelievable..... For me it was just a game of ugly flying, and terrible tricking. But the people were happy, therefore so was I.

It was a fun festival, and lots and lots off people where visiting. The kites at the other end of the field were having a great day, and were spectated by loads of enthusiastic people. And the BBQ afterwards at Julie's was perfect. A nice festival!

Nelson Festival

After arriving in Nelson, I had to help Ted and the other NKC members build the tent. The field was absolutely superb, and I was looking forward to fly my kites here. The festival started that day in the afternoon, and I decided to repair some of my stuff. The broken line for instance, and of course the bridle. After spending an hour on that, I was ready to fly. All the single liners where set up at the edge off the field, and since I need quite some space, I went to the back. the winds were again gusty and pretty fast, but not as fast as Christchurch.

chance to talk to some people, and that was fun. The day after the public was supposed to come, but the weather was not working out very well. It rained a bit, and therefore people did not come in great numbers. Still a lot of people hanging around the field, and I had a very good fly that day. The winds were gusty and a bit fast, but the challenge was fulfilling. And in my opinion I flew good. I could see that in the people looking at what I did, and complementing me. And I met the first trick pilot from the NZ. A guy from Wanganui, with a Gemini. He just started and he had a heap of questions for me. I'm visiting him on my way back south, and

have a trick day with him.

In the late afternoon, when the single liners started to pack up, I saw a chance to pick up my Gemini and fly at the front of the field. Ted was calling the names of my tricks, and let

people know that what I did was trained, and not accidental. Although Ted got half of the names wrong, that was fun. And I think especially for the people, because they get some more info about my form of flying.

Nelson was a good festival. With some rough winds, and a relaxed atmosphere. There were a lot of new people and faces for me, and that was a bit hard. But that doesn't mean I didn't enjoy talking to some of these people. Luckily I didn't break anything, that happened on the day after, when I flew on my own.

Paraparaumu

So there we entered the North Island. And flew at a great looking beach near Wellington. And what a day it was! Really beautiful! And I started out ok. Single liners in the air, and a nice soft steady wind

to trick in. I basically ran up on the beach, and started to fly. These are the winds we want, soft, slow, and steady..... But not dropping, as it did after 30 minutes of flying!!!! So that basically meant the end of our fly day, because the winds stopped..... Pity, because I think everybody really wanted to fly some good stuff today, and some people did, but it was simply too short.

Napier

Napier on the other hand was a good festival. A nice field, somewhat far from the city though, and

some buildings surrounding the field that influenced the winds from time to time. But that didn't matter. Everybody flew! The winds were basically just right for every kite. And all the big ones were in the sky, right next to all the little ones.



Group Photo, Rotorua. Photo: Richard Wooton

Yet again I managed to get my own spot at the end of the field. And although the first day had overcast all day, the weather was fine. I flew all day long, and I enjoyed myself very much. People sat down to see me. But they were not in great numbers on the field. Some local organisers asked me some questions, and I talked to them for some time. Nice day. Relaxed. but I should have put some sunscreen on my face in this overcast. Because at the BBQ that night I had a face like a lobster. Pffffff.

Unfortunately that influenced my flying the day after considerably. The sun showed her face from behind the clouds, and that meant pain for me. Burning up! I talked to some people around the field, as I was searching for the shadows. And that was really nice. All over I liked this fest, especially the first day....

Grand Château

The following Wednesday was a great flying day at the Chateau. Between the volcanos.... WOW this is really awesome. This is the most superb location I've ever flown a kite. perfect! The winds were pretty ok, too. Not perfect, but that didn't matter to me. Just look around, and you'll smile. The flying went good, and I had a blast. But after the rainfall it didn't work out anymore. And after a while the flying went all bad. So I stopped, and just enjoyed the area.

That evening we stayed at a lodge with the whole bunch. And that was a very nice evening. I met another Dutch kiteflier, and that was also nice.

Rotorua Festival

Rotorua Festival was meant to be the biggest, and the best. And in a way it was. The field was BIG! And a bit small for me.... But after some adjustments we managed to make it bigger, so I had a bit more room to do my stuff in. And that was some nice stuff. First off all everybody was there, and everybody flew. So it was a great spectacle for not only the public, but also the kitefliers themselves I believe. For myself I had a great first festival day. People sitting around the field, looking and enjoying my tricks and moves. They were clapping, and coming up to me. It was great! It makes it worth while, to see the joy in the peoples eyes, and enjoying themselves. Some don't understand that it is the combination of me and the kite that does the trick. But they think it is the kite that does it. But that doesn't matter, as long as it makes them happy.

So for the second day I was hoping on just another day like that, or even better. But it rained from time to time. At the end of the day I said goodbye to everybody

Overall I enjoyed myself very much. Sometimes the winds were somewhat fast, and I realised that I had to get a full competition set for next year. The people were all very nice

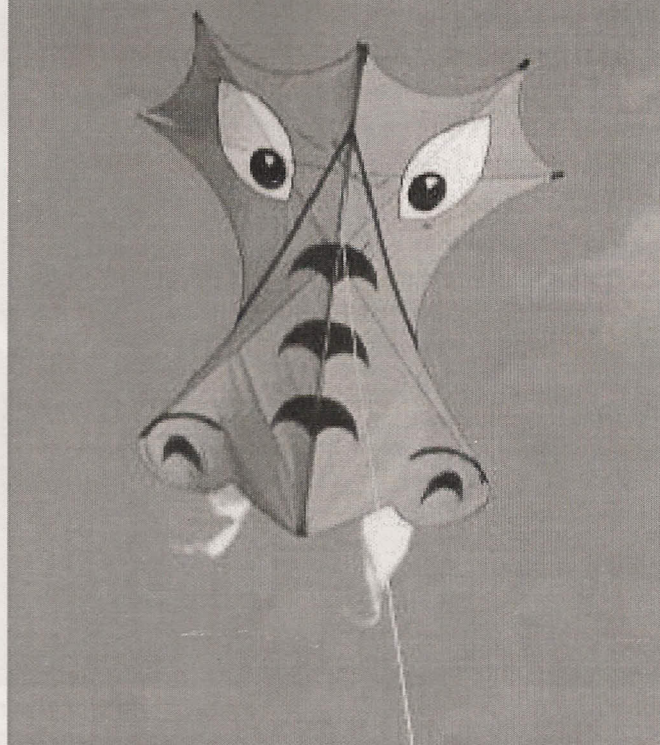
The Safari needs some maturing in time, but for the first one, it was perfect....

Thorsten Alofs

Snuffles

NZKA Trans Tasman Travel Award winning kite 2005

Snuffles is a Dragon, a good old Raglan Dragon. He took to the skies in May 2004.



His Brother Huff was hatched just before Easter 05.

Snuffles and Huff are 4th generation kites made using a framing system that I developed in 1998. It's not a truly original frame or anything but it came about as a need to fit a particular kite shape and progressed from there.

I sometimes use this design philosophy that is about using "Key Elements". Some people are into "less is more" and "the gaps are as important as the lines" but at times I like to get into the keys.

The first kite in the range was a bird's head. Most bird kites are about outstretched wings. These kites are great but the other key element to a bird is it's a beak so I did away with the body and wings. The resulting head needed a frame and the V strut frame worked really well. It is a simple frame with a vertical spine, a horizontal spar and a pair of

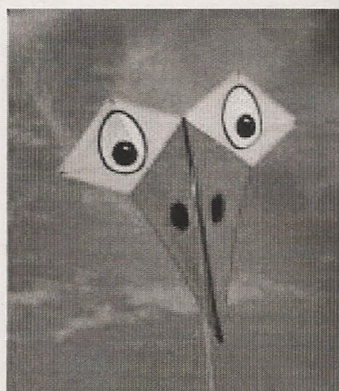
angled struts. Additional spars are being used as more kites are designed. The Bird's first prototype worked on its maiden flight in 1998 but development was delayed until 2003. The V struts on the bird are quite flexible and work as a kind of shock absorber. When the wind rises or the kite is struck by a gust the struts bend back. This creates a deficiency in the lifting area and the kite tends to

the kites skin. Hexagons, delaporta's and all end up with one spar closer to the skin than the other. This does not give good symmetry and can cause minor problems. Obviously X frames are commonplace but I was hesitant to use it as I was aiming for a tailless kite. In the end it worked fine but there were times when the kite leaned off to the side and the remedy is to swap X spars around.

Right: Charlie Watson with his Crocodiles.

Below: The bird

Photos : Charlie Watson



back down in the sky instead of loading up and roaring around.

The second in the range was the Crocodile. I used the same frame with an additional spar near the bottom of the spine. The V struts are stiffer and do not absorb loads like the Bird. The Croc flies at a higher angle and requires less tuning.

The third kites are the big noses. I call them Harvey and Gloria. These suit light/medium winds best although there is a high wind fix. They have a bowed spar to hold the sides of the nose out. Every time I get these kites out the nose jokes start flying around.

Snuffles and Huff are fourth in line. The Dragons have an X frame instead of V struts. I tried the V Struts and extra lower framing members but the form of the snout was never right. It was when I used the X that it all came together. The trouble with using an x frame is it always creates a bias on

Once set up correctly Snuffles flew beautifully in Raglan with no tail but in the erratic winds at Rotorua I added a tail, which was later replaced with a long tassel to give a fire breathing effect.

I am not very good with illustration and the eyes were a struggle. I tried a few ideas and ended up with eyes that look a bit dopey when the kite is on the ground but when it is flying they come to life and look a bit more menacing.

Kaiya is now Snuffles Dragon Master. She flew him during the voting and is looking forward to flying him at Bondi.

Winning the NZKA travel award is a huge honour. Thanks so much, we will try our best to be worthy representatives.

Charlie Watson

Kite Flying in China - An Olympic sport !

According to an item broadcast on "China Radio International" Kite Flying might be listed as an Olympic sport....

In its Topic of the Week segment on "Listeners Garden" CRI's recent focus was on kite flying in China. They said "many people in China are out in the open air to fly kites as an entertainment or a sport"

Historically it is thought Kites originate in China dating back about 2500 years. Very old books record that during the Spring and Autumn Period, there was a legendary carpenter of the time, with a very keen sense of observation. His name was Lu Ban, and he noted that the sparrow hawks could fly quite high. So he carefully studied this bird's manner of flying. The fruit of his studies was a bamboo magpie that was said to have stayed aloft in the sky for three days. Later, paper was developed and people began to make kites using this lighter and more suitable material. For the richer classes, some were even made of very thin silk, and adorned with fine pictures.

In ancient China, kites were not only used for leisure purposes; this toy-like invention has also been used for military matters. In the year 549 a rebellious force surrounded a town. Unable to ask for help by conventional means, the besieged people within the town's walls flew a kite with a "warning letter" hidden inside. Thanks to this ingenious strategy, a friendly army arrived in time to break the siege and save the town.

Springtime kite flying became fashionable during the Tang Dynasty between the 7th and 10th centuries. That was about the time when kite production was being introduced to Japan, Korea and Southeast Asia. Later the kite spread through Arabian countries to reach Europe and the rest of the world.

Many people enjoy carrying on the Kite Flying tradition in China. Tiananmen Square is the major venues in Beijing for locals to let the wind carry away their kites and the stress of city life. People fly kites all year round, especially in the spring and autumn. A typical scene on a sunny afternoon with light wind would be of several people, most of them retirees, sitting on their own stools, 5-10 meters from each other on the grass, looking attentively into the sky, which was dotted with kites shaped as swallows, butterflies or triangles.

The vivid impression is kite-flying remains a popular sport in China, especially among the elderly and children. Its not just a sport its but also an art form.

According to the CRI report there have been people who specialize in the making of kites, as a hobby, if not as a profession.

Master Kite Maker 'Zhao Weizhe' says.... "Kites involve four types of skills, employed in frame making, pasting, painting

and kite flying. Kites are shaped like different objects. Bats are most common in Beijing. This is because "bat", or fu in Chinese sounds exactly the same as the word 'Happiness'. Everybody wishes for good luck." The frame of a kite has to be very thin so as for the kite to keep its balance and fly high and true. The frame is precise and functions well he said... Mr Zhao has worked on a variety of high flying and artistically elegant kites which have been admired at prestigious international competition, including the annual Kite festival in Weifang City, Shandong Province, a place known as the Hometown of Kites. Mr Zhao Shimin says "Foreign kite makers give priority to a kite's function. They use waterproof materials. Their kites are very tough and can withstand strong winds. The kites can be altered into different shapes through the operation of two threads. I heard that kite flying might be listed as an Olympic sport. If it is true, we the Chinese shouldn't lag behind. We are now working on how to make and fly such waterproof kites."

Transcript of an Item broadcast by China Radio International (Listeners Garden) and heard in NZ on Short Wave by NZKA Member Allen Little of Levin. Copyright cleared from broadcaster for publication in What's Up.



Finger to Heaven Mk 2

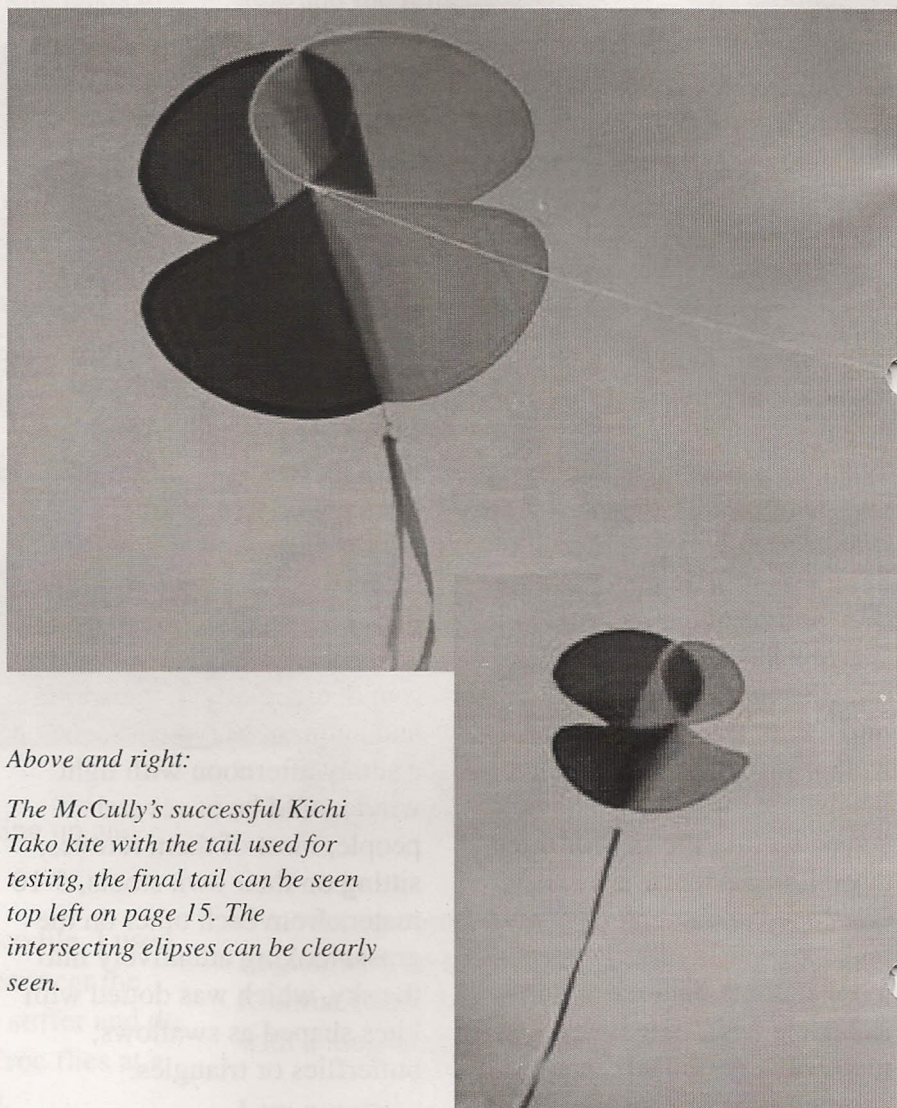
I made another FTH, but instead of locking the sleeve every 20 feet, I locked only the top and tensioned the sleeve at the bottom end with a strong piece of elastic. You have to adjust this while it is flying something (to allow for line stretch) and when you have the tension about right you can secure the elastic in any way you choose. With the sleeve too slack it flaps about a bit, and by increasing the sleeve tension you reach a point where it settles down nicely. I think this is a better way to make the FTH.

Because the line slides inside the sleeve, it is necessary to lay it out full length rather than feed it out gradually as the kite climbs. Similarly, hand over hand reeling in to pull the kite down is difficult - walk it down and all is well.

Tony Fitchet

Make a Kichi Tako

With permission from Mike Mosman, USA, here is the information he sent to enable me to make his Kichi Tako that we saw at the 2004 AKA Convention at Seaside Oregon.

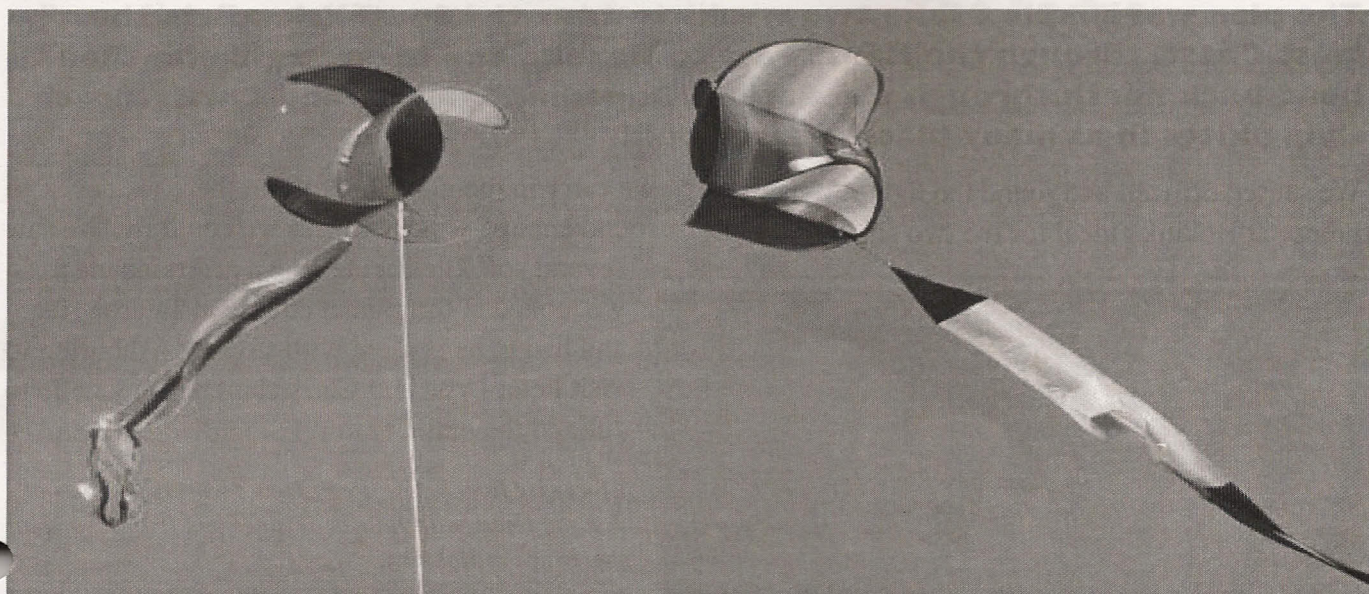


Above and right:

The McCully's successful Kichi Tako kite with the tail used for testing, the final tail can be seen top left on page 15. The intersecting ellipses can be clearly seen.

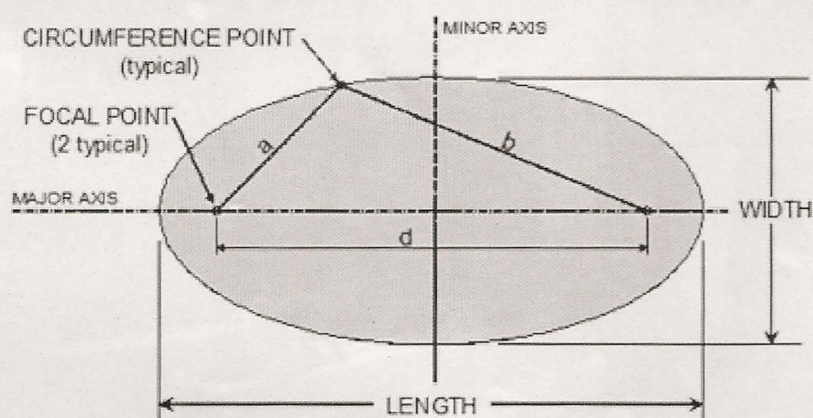
"The kite is nothing more than two ellipses that "intersect." I've attached something that explains the math behind the ellipses that I use to make the kite. Make two ellipses, edge bind them, and sew them together along two lines 8" from, and parallel with, the minor axis. Notch out the edge binding where the two ellipses are sewn together and insert .098 fiberglass rods into the edge binding. (The rods cross at the edge binding notches.) Tie short strings to the tips of the ellipses at the major axis, and use them to pull the tips toward each other. This bends the ellipses into "taco" shapes that seem to pass through each other forming a single cell between them. I use a carbon tube down the cell along one of the sew lines to stiffen the cell. Small pockets can be made to hold the tube, or one can use end caps with eyes and bungie the tube ends to the crossed rods."

Make a Kichi Tako



Above: Mike Mosman's kite.

Left: Diagram for cutting the ellipses.



PROPERTIES of ELLIPSE with LENGTH = L and WIDTH = W

$a + b = L$ for all points on circumference

$L^2 = W^2 + d^2$ or $d = \sqrt{L^2 - W^2}$

Circumference, $C \approx \pi \sqrt{2 L^2 + 2 W^2 + \frac{1}{4} WL}$

For this kite:
 $L = 48"$ $W = 24"$
 $d = 41\frac{1}{2}"$ $C \approx 125"$

5. Mike makes his ellipses from two pieces and "bounces" the colours. I made mine from six pieces, to allow the colours to "pass through" each other.

6. It is helpful to put the kite in a steamy bathroom to stretch the fabric before inserting the spar.

7. I used fishing line and clear buttons to form the shape - it needs to be at least 13cm apart.

Mike would love photos of Kichi Tako kites which you make. His address is: mmosman@ccgfacilities.com

Contributed by
 Ray and Rosemary McCully

Further Notes

1. I reduced the dimensions (circumference C in diagram), so I could cut both spars from 6m.
2. Solid fibreglass spar 2.5mm
3. The seam at the lower intersection needs a rod, to stop the kite from collapsing in stronger winds.
4. As suggested by Mike at a workshop at Seaside, the spar casing was formed by cutting facings from what was left over after the ellipse was cut.

Southern Holiday

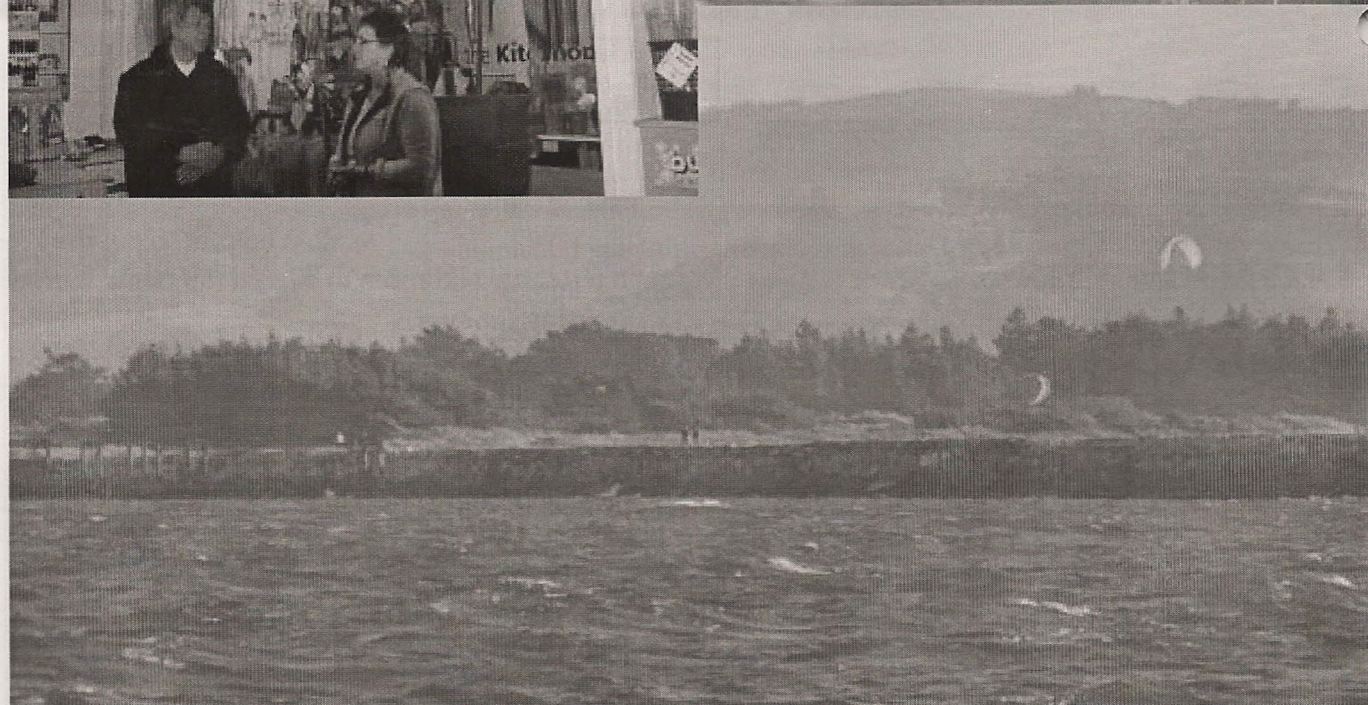
The plan was simple - take two weeks to tour the South Island via the West Coast, through the Haast Pass to Wanaka and Invercargill and then head back north through the Catlins, Dunedin, Oamaru, and Christchurch flying kites in as many places as we could.

We started off well and found the light off-shore breeze at Hokitika ideal for the two small soft kites

we carry in the glove box. From there we never found enough wind at places we could fly. We saw several soft kites being flown at Aramoana as we looked at the gannet colony at Taiaroa Head and had to be content with stops at Ashburton to visit Peter Lynn and Christchurch to say hello to Julie in the Arts Centre.

Clockwise from below: Peter Lynn's workshop, Kites at Taiaroa Head, with Julie at Skylines and Bylines, and on the beach at Hokitika.

John and Lise Archbold



Remembering Eltham

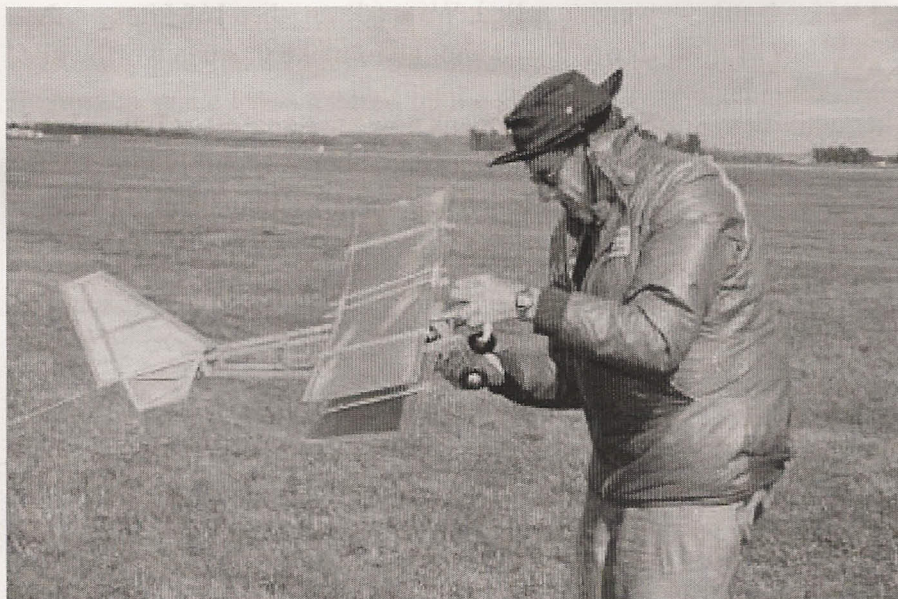
From Jim Ayers Kite maker extraordinaire, come these memories of Eltham.

Eltham

When we go down to Eltham and fly out on the farm
It has a rustic feeling and an agricultural charm
We sometimes see the mountain when not shrouded in mist,
And living with the Lions is a navel kind of twist.
We know that Lions get hungry and are always on the prowl,
And they could even eat you if you complain or growl.
They always treat us royally as the king of beasts should do.
And feed us on the kind of food that only Lions knew
We try to fly our kites when the weather isn't kind
But nestled in a Lions mane who should really mind,
So come on all you fliers let's thank the Lion pack
They certainly are great hosts and we will all be back.

Jim Ayers

Clarks Beach 2005



The Lodge

If you put up at the Lodge boy,
Where the backpackers call it home,

Remember it's the place boys
where the nurses ghosts still roam.

You'll hear them in the corridors
when the night is after four,

And often you will hear them as
they pause outside the door

So if your feeling feisty and
want a bit of fun

You could unlatch your door
boy and leave thing undone

But remember ghosts are clammy
and their breath is very cold

And not the sort of thing boy
that you should like to hold

So hide beneath the blankets, or
you may rue the day

And remember you are sleeping
Where a nurses head once lay.

Jim Ayers

Jim Ayers is better known to NZKA members for his kite building and kite plans. He is pictured here readying one of his creations for its maiden flight.

Photo: Richard Wotton.

There will be another of Jim's small kite plans in the next issue of 'What's Up'.

Regional lines

News from the regions

Four weeks and a long time from home ...

The great NZ Kite Tour would be different things for different people, but early publicity suggested that this was to be an exciting opportunity to travel around NZ with a convoy of kite fliers, from both NZ and overseas, flying in various locations and ending with the annual NZKA festival in Rotorua.

Planning, especially ferry bookings, began a long time ago. As someone who makes my living solely from kites, I promoted this event early to ensure enough business during the tour to cover my costs – and pre-sales in to each area were good. At each event customers turned up with their kites and came to say hello, and some had even travelled quite long distances to attend the festival nearest their homes. Next time I know not to try and sell when I could be flying – its not worth the effort and not nearly as rewarding, unless I've been working in the area beforehand and people know what to expect from kites.

This tour offered opportunities to see friends rarely visited, both in the kiting and the real worlds, to see parts of the country that were loved and familiar, as well as some never travelled before. And to share these with a young pup who was seeing it all for the first time.

The venues were spectacular, from beaches to mountains, and the hospitality was excellent. The schedule allowed enough time for other activities and explorations as well as plenty of time for flying.

So what was the tour about for me – friendship, fun, travelling, exploring and enjoying our beautiful country, showing off our kites and skills, and sharing them with other communities.

At Nelson that I heard that Rotorua was not to be the NZKA annual festival with the AGM – although it would hold the auction, normally associated with the annual festival (was this perhaps because numbers were expected at Rotorua, but not at Eltham?)

Several members can afford – either because of holidays, family, work or financial commitments – to attend only one festival and had planned to be at Rotorua, as this had been billed as the annual festival. Fares were booked and paid for before the word went out that this change had been made (the notice actually arrived in Christchurch after I had left for Nelson).

Some committee members told me that they were looking forward to a short, sharp AGM without too many members there to hold up proceedings. The Committee in their wisdom are doing what they believe is best for the NZKA and it seems to me will be ensuring that they will have the same opportunities again next year.

The tour continued for me to Wellington, where I spent a week visiting 13 schools and making kites with 1585 kids. Then a kite day on Sunday at Johnsonville where typically Wellington winds were supplied. We made another 168 kites on the day and sold enough to make this trip worthwhile.

So, what happens now ... Aquafest at Lake Hood this coming weekend, NZKA monthly kite day the weekend following and after that a Nelson Kite Club safari to Carters Beach on the West Coast. Whew, it never stops.

Julie Adam

Wanganui

Well, if the old saying is true and no news is good news, then it's good news from Wanganui, the River City. I know we're not the only ones to have had this problem, but the weather over the past few months has not been kiter-friendly around these parts. Except for work days, of course.

While reflecting on the lack of flying, I realised that I have not flown my Biplan replica since the Rotorua festival in early February - and I guess that's not the only one of my kites that hasn't flown since then. If this goes on much longer I'll have to get out the instruction manual to put them together!

On the days when we've been lured out to the park by the faint promise of some flying, the breeze has generally been very light. Normally, this would not be the sort of breeze associated with kiting records, but I believe I may have inadvertently set one. Now this is very embarrassing, but I'll share it anyway. It was a balmy Sunday afternoon at Springvale Park. Not a cloud to be seen, not another kiter to be seen, just me and all that lovely empty blue sky. I had up five of my lightwind kites - three Firebirds, the Brogden and the Featherlite. They were all performing well and minding their own business, so I decided it was a good opportunity for a snack and a drink. When I eventually glanced up again to admire them all floating in space I was greeted by the sight of some form of cosmic knitting - all five were tangled together! I quickly looked around for someone to blame, but no, I was still the only flier on the field. I guess sometimes you just can't help bad luck, because the problem obviously wasn't caused by overcrowding at ground level.

Sonia and Jeff White have been spotted at the park a few times - with Jeff usually trying to lengthen his arms a bit more with a bunch of power kites - and Stephen Gibson has also been trying a bit of power kiting this year, fortunately without serious

injury! There was one outing which resulted in a bit of bloodshed, but like a real trouper our man wasn't fazed in the least. President Geoff has been busy setting up a new kite workshop, and the result is a pretty spiffy setup. Look for some new flying critters emerging from it soon.

On the home front, I've made a Dart Duck (or Pfeil-Ente in German). It's only had two outings so far, but it seems to be a brilliant low-wind flier. Anyone interested can find plans at www.stieg-op.de. (Look under "Bauplane". Be warned, though, the 6.5 metres of 8mm carbon fibre aren't cheap.)

I've also been busy building a couple of replica classic French kites - a winged box kite and a military signal kite, both from around 1911-12. The latter kite is from David Pelham's book and, as anyone who's studied that will know, there's not exactly a lot of detail in the plans. The end result is that I've tried to make it as I think it could have been, so please don't mention historical accuracy. The fabric used was a king-size sheet from Briscoes and the bamboo spars are courtesy of Mitre 10 - and a lot cheaper than carbon fibre!

Dalwyne and I are off to Denmark again in June for the 21st Fano International Kite Fliers' Meeting - as I said last year in my *What's Up?* report, it gets in the blood. The Fano Classics theme this year is military kites, so I thought I'd better make one to ensure I'd be allowed onto the beach. Once again, it will be a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and also to meet old friends and swap some lies, as well as see a huge variety of kites. I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of historical kites and coming back with plenty of photos and enthusiasm for the projects I've got lined up. For the full story and photos, don't miss the September issue of *What's Up?*

Richard Wootton

Wellington

Petone Festival

On Sat 18 June, Petone Council is setting up a mid-winter Festival on the foreshore/beach, including kiteflying.

There will be some publicity about NZKA.

I guess it will be say 11.am to about 3.30pm.

HOWEVER, I suggest anyway that we have a midwinter potluck dinner at our place on the Saturday evening for the hard core - say 6.30 PM. onwards

Please say if you are interested.

Pauline and Tony

Phone: 04 478 5575

I will get details in due course and will send them out, along with details our next flyday on 5 June.



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

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Wellington March Flying Day

It may have been grey and variable but it didn't stop a good group from gathering to make the most of the opportunity to get a kite in the sky.



Clockwise from above: Tony Fitchett demonstrating his finger to heaven.

Jeffrey Dixon is one of Wellington's keenest Kitefliers, it takes more than a little cloud to stop Jeffrey enjoying the regular flying days.

Anne and Peter Whitehead demonstrate their wrestling technique as they try to persuade the penguin to fly. Their efforts were rewarded but the conditions kept the flight low and short.

