

# What's Up?

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

Number 88 May 2007



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**New Zealand Kitefliers Association Inc.**

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





# What's Up?

A Newsletter for Kiteflyers

## The Newsletter for Kiteflyers

### Welcome

The NZKA welcomes these new members:

John Ham, Tokaanu  
hamtokaanu@xtra.co.nz,

Mike Mylonas Carterton  
mike@dragon-is.co.nz,

and welcome back a former member:

John Lukkassen,  
Palmerston North  
lukke@inspire.net.nz

### What's Up

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New Zealand

Visit us on the Web at:  
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### Photographs

Copies of any of the photographs by Richard Wotton featured in What's Up, can be obtained, for \$12.00 per print.

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This issues cover is adorned with photographs by the inimitable Richard Wotton taken at the last Annual NZKA Meeting and an image of Grizz taken during the big kids kite day in Auckland. Clockwise from the top you see:

*John Whibley's Jolly Roger rok. Jim Ayers with a Tyvek and bamboo creation, based on a traditional Malay kite, all by Richard Wotton.*

*Grizz rising above the hill, copyright L Karadjov.  
www.aucklanddailyphoto.com/2007/03/04/big-kids-kite-day*

*The Cat in the Hat, by Jim Ayers; also by Richard Wotton.*

Inside you will read about some of the kite flying events that have taken place over the last few months.

The Editors thanks go to: Anne and Peter Whitehead, Ray McCully, Rosemary McCully, Richard Wotton, Sharon Russell, and Stephen Cook for their contributions which make this magazine possible.



# Presidents Flyer

***It's time for some Presidential words, a long-standing tradition in this magazine. Lets hope that I can keep this up for my time in office. It does seem a little strange swapping jobs with Geoff, as most will be aware that I have been President before.***

So let me start by thanking the outgoing committee for their work and enthusiasm. Let me encourage the incoming committee and thank them for putting their names forward.

This is the first time in a while where we had to hold an election. We had nearly forgotten what to do. Hopefully this is a sign of things to come where there will be more competition for jobs in the future.

We have had an interesting year in terms of festivals so far this year. The Chateau was a little wet on our test flying days, and a little variable in terms of wind on the fly day. But it was a fun time, and everyone there seems willing to sacrifice a days holiday to repeat it next year. Nelson was as good as it gets with easy flying and a good crowd of spectators. Unfortunately we did not make it to Christchurch but the word was it was reasonably good winds. Waitangi day flying at Porirua was also one of the better days there with not too much wind. We have really been battered by the wind at past kite flying days there. Eltham just picked the wrong weekend. We had fine weather for weeks before and then fine weather for weeks afterwards. Next the Annual NZKA Festival at Wanganui, held over Easter. Weather wise we could not have asked for much more. All I had heard was pessimism about rain, leading up to the weekend. I did not see any rain for the whole weekend. I also looked at the clouds a lot more this time, and



it even looked like the graphics they have on TV1 weather with funny clouds going one way and different clouds going another way.

I had the misfortune to be holding one of Peter Lynn's kites (when we were visiting for his birthday) when it

happened to fly high into a tree. I was only trying to be helpful at the time. Truth be known I would have been better to leave it alone and let nature take its course. The kite would have probably fallen down some distance behind the tree and everyone would have been happy.

We are off on our trip to Italy to fly on the beach at Cervia. To bring back photos of new ideas, perhaps even buy a kite or two and enjoy some Italian hospitality.

Talking of hospitality reminds me of visitors and meeting Richard Wotton at Napier Art deco weekend while he was flying his historic kites. He had a German couple helping him, who are interested in historic kites and then we had a visit from Werner Schmidt and his wife Claudia who had been out here at the Napier international festivals all those years ago. We had kept up with Werner over the years and it was great to see him again, even if it was for too short a time.

I hope that this coming year will be enjoyable and productive in all your endeavors. Also start thinking about the Art Deco theme for Easter 2008.

Peter Whitehead



# What's Up Next

## **NZKA Kite Festival & AGM** **Easter 2008 Napier**

*Get your thinking caps on – you have a year to be prepared*

**Theme – Art Deco, 1930's**

## **Flying sites**

*The following is a list of flying sites used by NZKA members on either a regular basis or an occasional basis. If you like to add to the list please advise the secretary.*

*Not all areas have regional reps but if you contact the secretary he will give the contact details of the nearest active member.*

### **Auckland**

Bastion Point

Contact: Perrin at Kiteworks,

Phone: 09 358 0991,

kiteworks@xtra.co.nz

### **Bay of Plenty**

Fergusson Park, Tauranga (3rd Sunday)

Lake front by Sound Shell, Rotorua (only when the wind is off the lake)

Taharepa Reserve on the lake front at Taupo

Contact: Ray McCully,

Phone: 07 348 3828,

mccullyr@xtra.co.nz

### **Christchurch** (Last Sunday)

Hansen's Park, Opawa

Contact: Julie Adam,

Phone: 03 365 3907,

julie@kites.co.nz

### **Napier/Hastings** (2nd Sunday)

Anderson Park, Greenmeadows

Contact: Sharon Russell,

Phone: 06 844 0689,

rj.russells@paradise.net.nz

### **Nelson** (3rd Sunday)

Neale Park,

Contact: Ted Howard,

Phone: 03 548 8707,

kitesfun@ihug.co.nz

### **Palmerston North** Ongley Park

### **Clarks Beach** (1st Sunday)

Stevenson Road Park

Contact: Jim Ayers,

Phone: 09 2320251

### **Wanganui** (every Sunday)

Springvale Park

Contact: Richard Wotton,

Phone: 06 3432770,

rwotton@xtra.co.nz

### **Wellington** (1st Sunday)

Ngatitoa Domain

Contact: Anne and Peter Whitehead,

Phone: 04 476 7227



**Visit us on the web at: [www.nzka.org.nz](http://www.nzka.org.nz)**



## **Kuratau**

### **January 20**

A group of five NZKA members (Jim Court, Sharon Russell, Warren Ellery and the McCullys) participated in a fundraising event at the southern end of Lake Taupo. It was run by Baileys Realty, a new medical facility in Turangi being the recipient.

We flew on a hill sweeping down to the lake. What a view! The wind was mostly good. Most of the activities were below us, and so I guess we were there as a very decorative backdrop.

Consequently only a few fit spectators found their way up to where we were. We had the best of both worlds - not having to bother too much about the public getting in the way, yet we had good interaction with those who did find us.



We were also able to drop their lollies from a kite, which went very well until one young lady was hit on the head by a "missile". I know there are those who spend hours putting

parachutes on each lolly to prevent this.....

We were given a donation for the association.

*Rosemary McCully*

## **Big Kids Kite Day**

### **February 3, Bastion Point**

***For the second year, the Mercy Hospice organized a kite day at Bastion Point, Auckland. Again, their aims were fundraising and awareness.***

The day before, we called in at the field en route to see how the winds were, since the forecast was similar for both days. It seemed that our work would be cut out to keep any kites up in the soft breeze, let alone the big ones which draw the crowds.

Thankfully, the weatherman was wrong. Excellent winds were enjoyed by all, and the threatened showers turned out to be one pathetic little sprinkle.

We had a good turn out from NZKA, and the organizers were

very appreciative of a different mix of kites in the display. The event had been built on from a good start last year, with a bouncy castle and mobile coffee vendor, as well as their own sausage sizzle. This year, the Maoris (whose land we were flying on) opened up an area for patrolled parking for a gold coin donation, which they shared with the hospice. Despite many competing events, attendance was good, with the hospice benefiting by over \$5000.

A gem of a photo was taken

by a spectator and with his permission ( Auckland Daily Photo [www.aucklanddailyphoto.com](http://www.aucklanddailyphoto.com) ) it is featured, in colour, on the cover.

*Rosemary McCully*

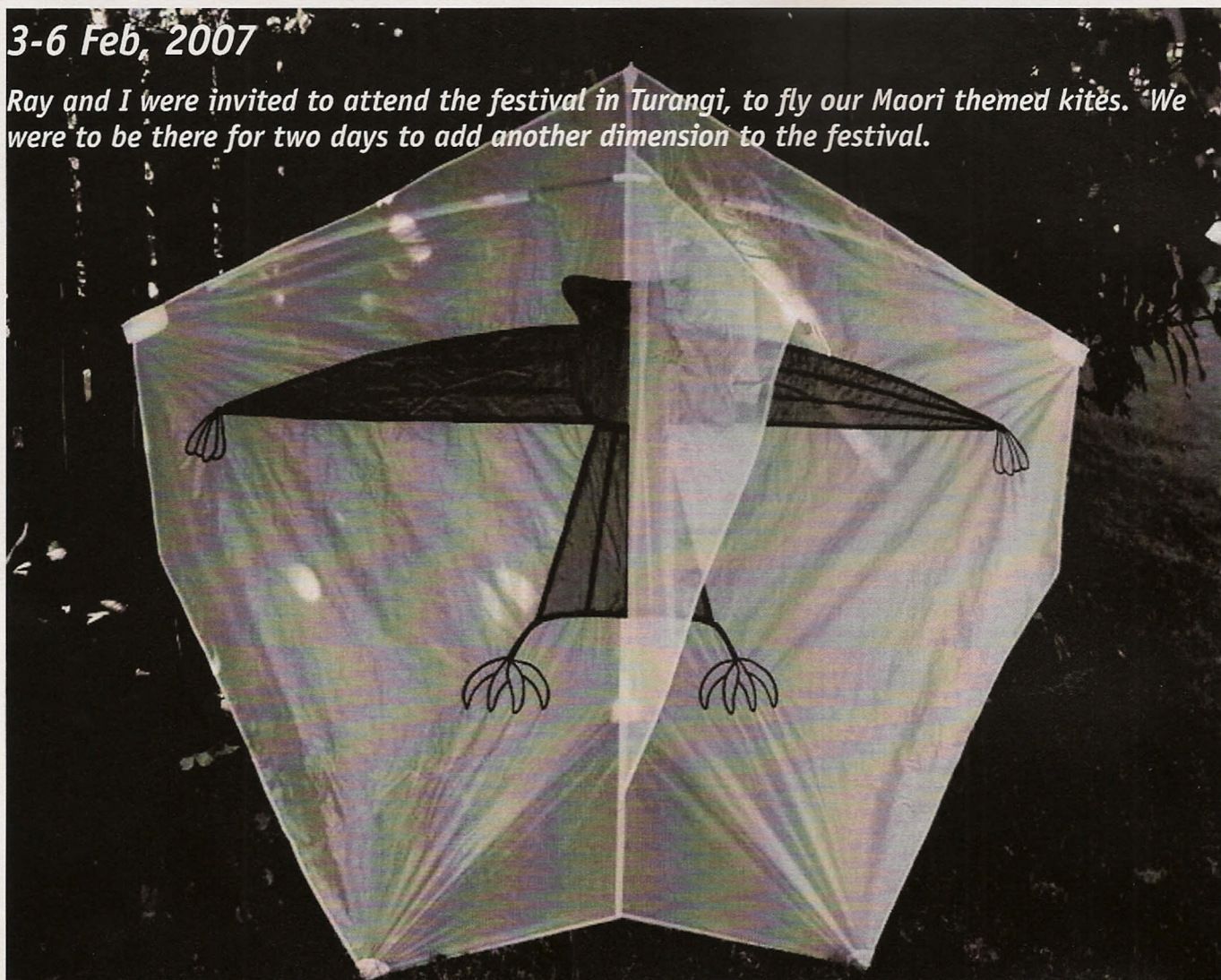




# KAHA MAI TUWHARETOA MAORI POLYNESIAN GAMES FESTIVAL

3-6 Feb, 2007

*Ray and I were invited to attend the festival in Turangi, to fly our Maori themed kites. We were to be there for two days to add another dimension to the festival.*



As a result of flying at Kuratau when the winds were initially a bit on the light side, I decided to make a new skin for my featherlight, featuring the traditional Maori kite manu kahu. It was just as well we had it, since the wind was light and flukey all the first day. We managed to fly some of the other kites briefly and mounted a good ground display. The definition of Maori themed kites was broad - it included the decedents of Rangi and Papa (birds, fish, trees etc, and the Maori gods). Interest in the kites was good

- it certainly justified having us there.

The second day had even less wind and was threatening rain at times. After a few feeble attempts by the kites to fly, we mostly mounted a display in a corner of a tent. This gave us the opportunity to watch some of the games.

One that was completely new to me was a game of football played on a round field - Ray said he had played something similar at primary school.

I was asked to judge a kite

competition. These were decorated kite shapes, not actual kites, a competition for two age groups of children. I judged these by considering how a kite could look in the sky, how it might fly, and Maori design features. I hope there weren't too many disappointed children!

We met some of the people who were invited to Dieppe last year. John Ham from Turangi, who has had a long interest in making and flying kites, has joined our association. Welcome John!

Rosemary McCully



# NATIONAL FESTIVAL WANGANUI, EASTER 2007

Text and Photographs by Richard Wotton



*Geoff Campbell's Panda hovering above Dalwyne Wotton's arches*

**Considering some of the weather we've experienced for national festivals, the organisers of the 23<sup>rd</sup> National at Wanganui ought to rush out and buy a fistful of Lotto tickets! Amazing as it may seem, Wanganui turned on four consecutive days of sunshine which coincided with the festival. Were we lucky or what? There were some patches where the breeze got a tad on the light side, causing a few kites to wander off course and get into a bit of mischief. (Sorry Anne, Geoff and anyone else whose kites I may have got a bit too cosy with.)**

Numbers were down a little this year, and we had no-one from the South Island, which was a pity. It's always inspirational to have some "overseas" fliers here, but we all know that strip of water is expensive to cross.

As per usual, the honour of having the first kite in the air went to Jim Ayers. When I

arrived at about 9.30am on Good Friday to unlock the Springvale Park stadium there was Jim, reel in hand, basking in the glorious sunshine as he flew a very interesting-looking Roloplan variant.

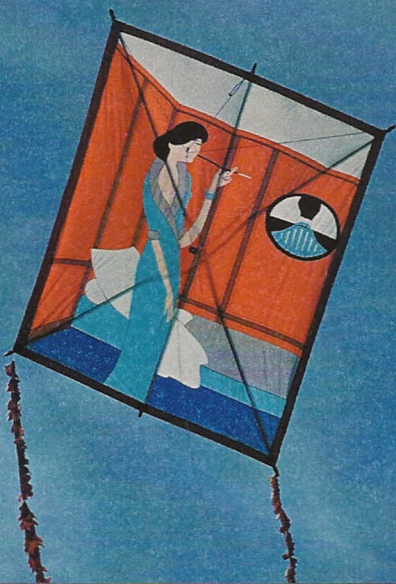
Out came the camera for the first of many pix shot over the weekend, followed by a close

look at Jim's take on this classic German kite.

This man never ceases to amaze, because whenever he turns up at an event his car is always full of a whole new batch of kites. I'm sure the makers of some of the materials Jim uses would be flabbergasted to see what can be done with their products. He told



Muriel and David Bowie's latest work of art.



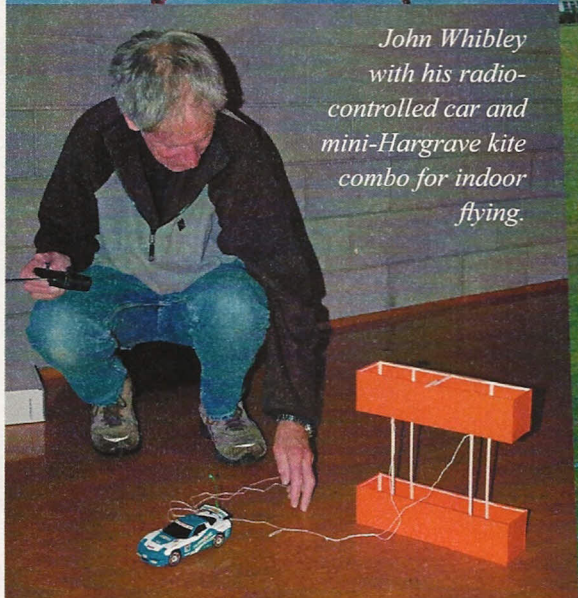
Charlie Wa

Outgoing president Geoff Campbell makes his final report to the AGM.

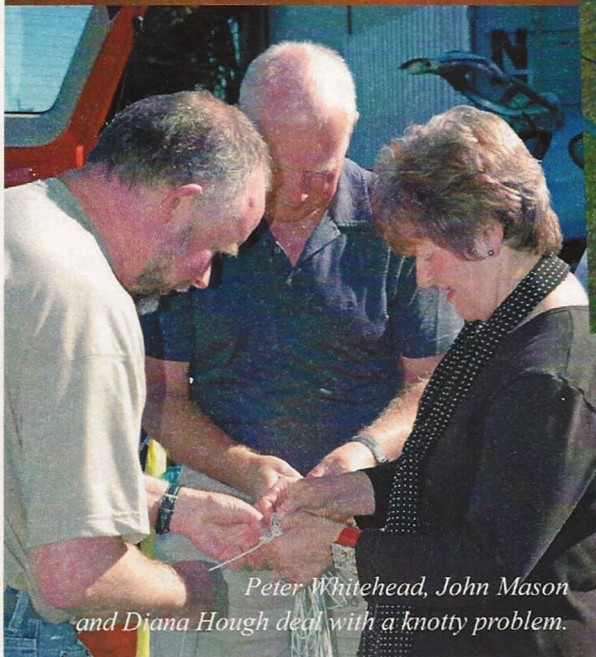


## NATIONAL FESTIVAL, W

John Whibley with his radio-controlled car and mini-Hargrave kite combo for indoor flying.



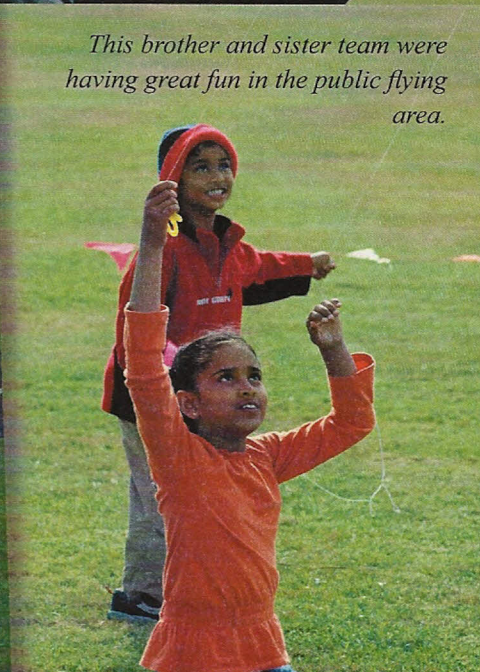
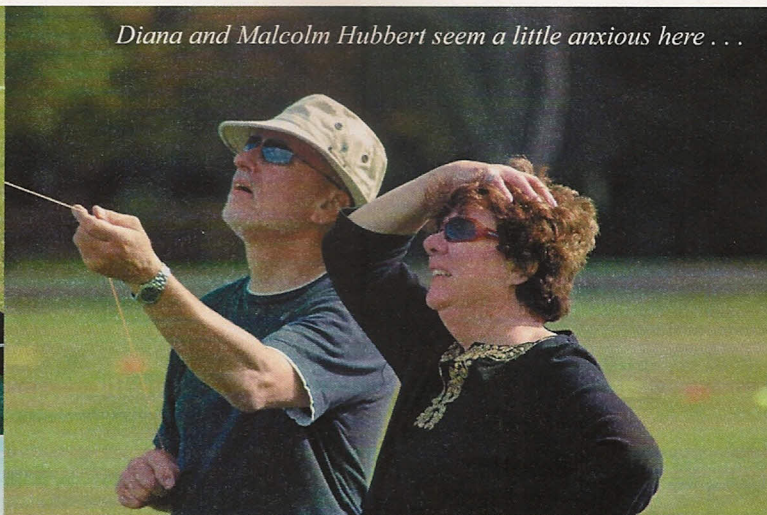
Peter Whitehead, John Mason and Diana Hough deal with a knotty problem.







## ANGANUI, EASTER 2007



bove: 2007 Group Photo.

second left: John Mason (Napier) doing a great job of reeling in the bunting at the end of the day.

left: Diana Hubbert and wee Stewart, her new pet Easter bunny, were down from Auckland for the festival.

right: Sharon Russell asking herself how all this stuff is going to fit back inside the van.



me that one of his latest efforts was buying some sort of fabric and mesh baby shelter, putting a bridle on it and flying the thing without further mods!

As fliers trickled in on Friday, they were able to take advantage of a good breeze and fill up the sky with colour. In the evening, we had the traditional fish and chips dinner, followed by a few vinos and a lot of talking.

Saturday dawned bright and clear, another beautiful day in Paradise. The AGM in the morning saw Geoff Campbell step down from the presidency, with Peter Whitehead being elected in his place.

Back on the flying field, we had another great afternoon. Well, most of us did. I had a bit of drama (and exercise) when my Dart Duck got itself tangled up with another of my kites.

While trying to untangle things, the Duck made a break for freedom. It floated very gracefully across the park, across the busy state highway bypass, over the Collegiate School hedge and finally touched down on the playing field. As I sprinted after it, I was having some anxious moments wondering if it would land on a car or the road, both of which could have had unfortunate consequences. (That night when I mentioned to David Bowie that I'm getting too old for that sort of strenuous activity, he said that a kiter knows that he/she has reached a certain age when friends offer to go after the kite for you!)

Fortunately, I'd recovered from

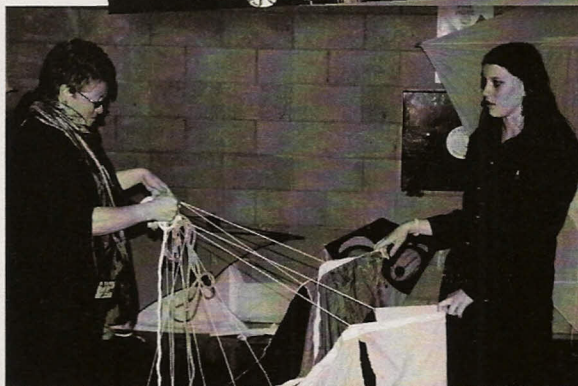
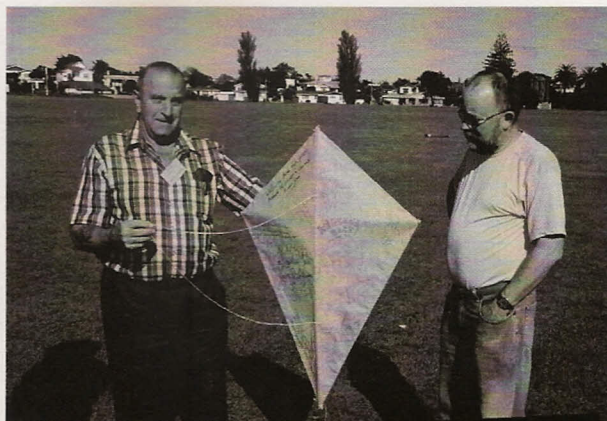
all this by the time our delicious dinner was delivered in the evening. As hungry as we all were after a day in the fresh air, there was just about enough left over to feed a second sitting. David Bowie took the helm for the auctioning of kites and ephemera from Tony Fitchett and the late John Derham. A total of around \$2200 was raised, with \$750 of it going to the Mercy Hospice in Lower Hutt.

By Sunday morning we were getting a bit bored with all the sunshine and blue sky, but we decided to stick it out. It took a while for the breeze to come up, and it didn't really have much oomph all day. However, for a while there was enough for the soft kites and lighter-wind sparred kites, so no-one felt cheated.

There were plenty of fliers in the public areas, most of them young and burning up a lot of energy as they careered about, towing their kites in the time-honoured manner.

On Sunday night we had the pleasure of Margaret McGuire's company for dinner, so that was a great opportunity for members to catch up with her news.

I'll take this opportunity of thanking Debra Elgar and Dalwyne Wotton for doing the lunch catering.



*Top: Graham Annabell and Peter Whitehead with one of those famous brown paper and two crossed sticks kites. Owners Dalwyne and Richard Wotton say they once flew it on 15 miles of string and it stayed up for five weeks.*

*Above centre: Sharon Russell and Warren Ellery managed to score some comfortable seats for the auction.*

*Above: Anne Whitehead and Nicole Campbell demonstrating a John Derham windsock at the auction.*

All in all, I think everyone had a good time and went home giving thanks to the weather gods. Now it's only 12 months until we gather at Napier for Festival No. 24.



# Chateau Fly 2007



*Top: The Chateau Tongariro framed by arches.*

*Above: Richard Wotton and John Mason . . . well, what were they up to?*

*Far left: Dalwyne Wotton bundled up against the summer chill.*

*Left: Peter Whitehead sorting out his penguin*

**January 1<sup>st</sup> 2007, the second month of summer and we are all out on the golf course at the Chateau putting up and flying our kites in trousers (bar 2 Hawkes Bay lads), sweatshirts, jackets, woolly hats and scarves, - Welcome to Summer!!**

Watching the cloud cover drop, knowing that it was filled with snow made it a different New Years day to others that we have had at the Chateau. I think we can say we have now had all weathers that Mother Nature can supply. With the cold ending flying sooner than normal, a few of us went up to the top of the road to see if we could

find some snow – and we did, enough for 1 small snowball. We also had a go at flying stunters on one of the car parks but with the wind changing directions and the cold we didn't last long.

*Sharron Russell*

*Continued on page 12*



*Right: Whakapapa kite – Ian Russell flying a two liner on the car park at Whakapapa.*



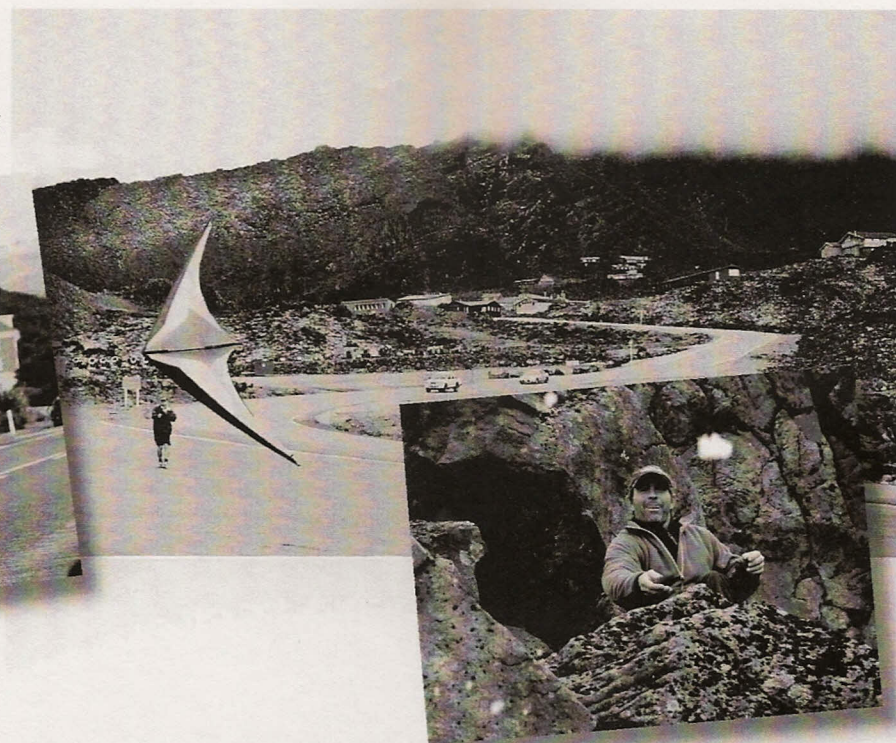
*Above: Chateau unicycle – Warren Ellery on a unicycle at the chateau.*

*Inset right: The snowball – Warren Ellery with the one and only snowball at Whakapapa Skifield.*

*Photos: Sharron Russell*

*Right: After dinner when we went up on the golf course for a short fly before having dessert.*

*Photo: Ray McCully*



This year we had a record number of members including children stay at either the lodge or nearby accommodation. Most people arrived on Saturday 30th, with some bringing their sewing machines for some kite construction or repairs.

On the Sunday we had arranged to fly in a paddock on a Landcorp farm. About 4 carloads were at the farm flying kites for 30 minutes, when an approaching storm cloud ( we were hoping it would miss us) dumped buckets of rain on us. With very wet kites, little wind and long wet grass we all decided to retire back to the lodge for more R&R.

Life was much easier for the Wanganui crowd this year, with

two sets of walkie talkies. The younger generation had a bit more rope, and could be called home for meals. Technology is our friend!

New Years day was partly cloudy overhead and reasonable wind all day, but with storm clouds all around us on the mountains. Mid-afternoon it got very cold and we could see snow falling on the upper slopes of Ruapehu and Ngarahoe. Through all this we continued to fly kites.

Visitor numbers to the park seemed to be down on previous years, possibly due to the weather forecast.

The meals were master pieces of catering by Whiteheads, Muriel

Bowie and everyone else who pitched in. The New Years day evening meal was so enjoyable we decided to give our bodies a break before dessert. With the sun low in the sky we headed once more for the golf course to fly kites. There was some wind but most of us were more attentive to how cold it was - a factor very evident in the photo.

With the cold and winds getting lighter, we were all thinking of a warm lodge and dessert when the low sun lit up a ridge in front of Ngauruhoe with a magical golden colour. Only one camera was present to capture the moment so most just stood and watched!

*Ray McCully*



# Regional lines

## News from the regions

### Hawkes Bay

In typical kite fashion the 'official' kite flying days have either been too windy or the only day it has rained each month has been on a Sunday pm (we are in a fire ban) but that hasn't stopped us flying. Buggy along the beach has been the preferred way of flying for Ian, Gordan and Warren (from Taupo) with Sharon being accident watcher. (I wonder why?)

For those who are unaware, Ian had a graceful meeting with a log of wood at Waiterere at Labour Weekend which meant he got to spend 3 nights in ICU in Palmerston North hospital plus another 4 nights in wards in Palmerston & Hastings and 6 weeks off work.

Since that incident there have been a number of prototypes for harnesses and quick releases developed and the final designs are nearly complete.

The bugging grounds have been Ocean Beach (a lovely sandy beach south of Cape Kidnappers) and Marine Parade, Napier, along the walkway that the council so nicely put in just for us. (Yeh right)

With the season nearly finished it is time to pull out the sewing machine to create something for next years festival.

### National festival at Wanganui

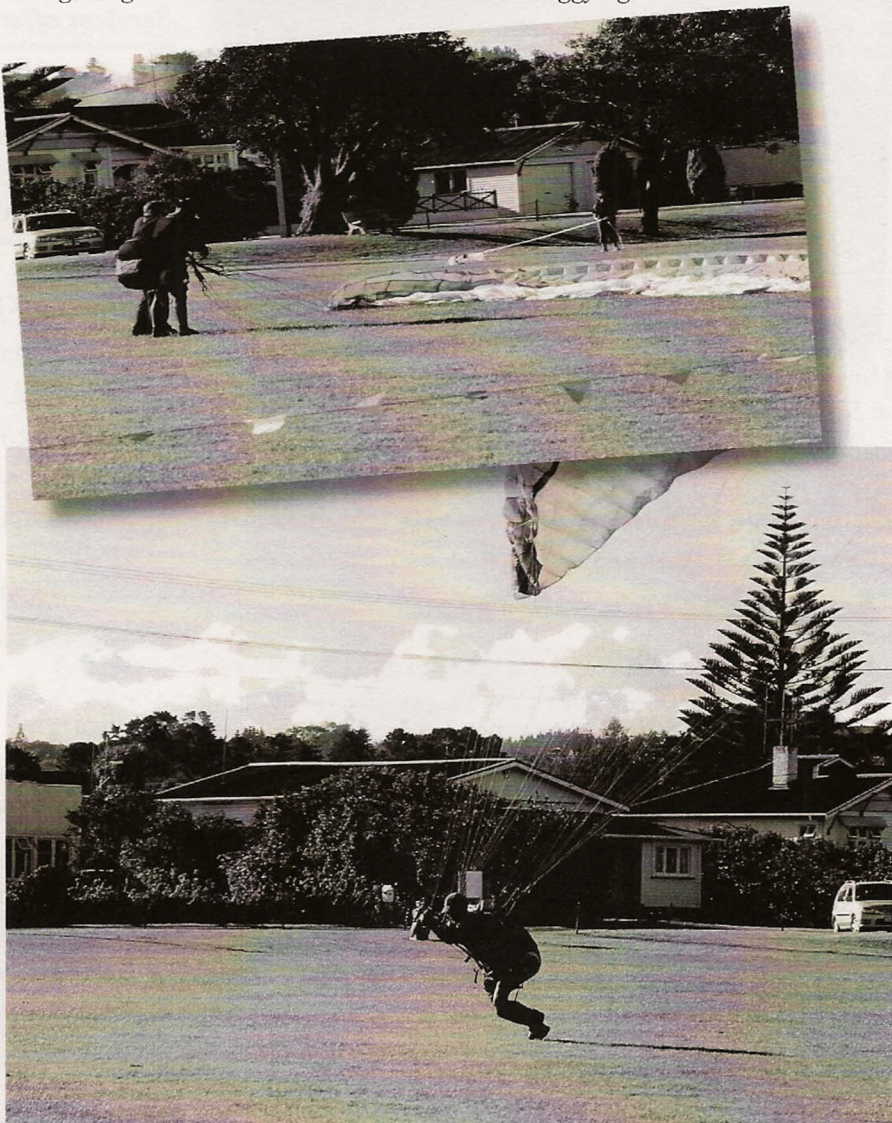
A combined van loaded with 3 buggies, a mountain board, unicycle, casket (I mean kite bin), kites and sleeping bags headed to Wanganui via the scenic route. Saturday saw some arm twisting to get a young lass flying a 4 liner so that she could then use her buggy.

So three buggies and fliers puttered along, puttering being the operative word – long grass and holes in the wind prevent zooming but this did prevent aquating ourselves with the Wanganui Health system. The auction provided a few laughs as usual with one discussion beforehand centering on working out how many uranium

*Below: National Festival at Wanganui*

*Less Ipara – Ian Russell getting lesson one in his new kite.*

*Paragliding – Ian Russell with his new kite? For bugging?*

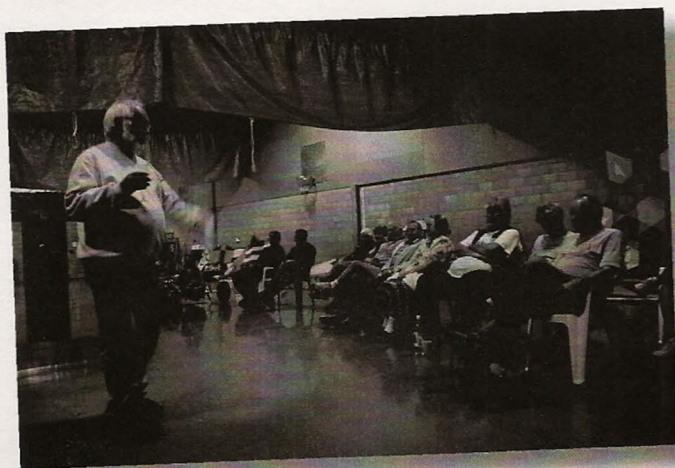




## Regional Lines

shares had to be cashed in to provide enough funds for a certain anatomically correct kite. Sunday saw most of the auction kites up flying, a good display. It also allowed Ian to check out a new kite for buggying, we'll wait and see. As with all outdoor sports – a good meal is always welcome and Wanganui did well. Seconds were had on both nights and we cleaned up all the desserts. Hawkes Bay are planning for next year and we are planning the dessert menu first – plenty of pavs. Well done Wanganui for a good festival, you even had the power to change to weather from what was forecasted by the national weather services.

Sharron Russell



Above: David Bowie whips the auction crowd into a frenzy on Saturday night.

Photo: Richard Wotton

There is more Regional News on the back cover...

## Long fin Banner Fish

Heniochus acuminatus, is it's scientific name. But don't let that fool you. It's a little beauty and at 1.75 cm tall this one is specially developed for you to make in your own studio or work space.

I have received a lot of requests for the plans of my "Fish in Line" so I made a decision to accommodate those wanting to make one of these pieces.

To find out more go to:

Robert van Weers  
[www.softkites.com](http://www.softkites.com)

Phone 03 578 6484

## Trade Directory

Below is a key list of what kite retailers around the country are offering.

Key: SI-single line, DI-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, RI-reference library.

### Kiteworks

111 Symonds St, Auckland.

Phone/Fax (09) 358 0991

Services offered: SI, DI, C, Bu, F, Ka Re, W.

### A Kiwi Kite

1 a Sunshine Rise, Raglan.

Phone (07) 825 7290.

Services offered: SI, DI, C, Bu, Re, Kw, D, Ex, RI.

### Raven Kites

1 Victoria Avenue, Wanganui.

Phone 06 348 5805, fax 348 5806.

Services offered: SI, DI, Bu, C, power kites.

### Rainbow Flight Kites

Rainbow Flight Kites

19 North Rd.,

Nelson Phone/Fax (03) 548-8707

email: [info@kitesrainbowflight.co.nz](mailto:info@kitesrainbowflight.co.nz) website: [www.kitesrainbowflight.co.nz](http://www.kitesrainbowflight.co.nz)

SI, DI, C, Bu, F, Ka, Re, Kw, D, W, O, Kk, Ex.

### Skylines & Bylines

2 Opawa Road – corner of Opawa, Wilsons and Shakespeare Roads

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: SI, DI, C, F, Ka, Re, Bm, W, G, O, Mo, Kk, Ex, RI.





## Directory

### 2007 Committee

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#### Ian Russell

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#### Anne Whitehead

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### Flying Sites/Regional Reps

#### Auckland

Bastion Point  
Contact: Perrin at Kiteworks,  
Phone: 09 358 0991,  
kiteworks@xtra.co.nz

#### Bay of Plenty

Fergusson Park, Tauranga (3rd Sunday)  
Lake front by Sound Shell, Rotorua  
(only when the wind is off the lake)  
Taharepa Reserve on the lake front at  
Taupo  
Contact: Ray McCully,  
Phone: 07 348 3828,  
mccullyr@xtra.co.nz

#### Christchurch (Last Sunday)

Hansen's Park, Opawa  
Contact: Julie Adam,  
Phone: 03 365 3907,  
julie@kites.co.nz

#### Napier/Hastings (2nd Sunday)

Anderson Park, Greenmeadows  
Contact: Sharon Russell,  
Phone: 06 844 0689,  
rj.russells@paradise.net.nz

#### Nelson (3rd Sunday)

Neale Park,  
Contact: Ted Howard,  
Phone: 03 548 8707,  
kitesfun@ihug.co.nz

#### Palmerston North Ongley Park

#### Clarks Beach (1st Sunday)

Stevenson Road Park  
Contact: Jim Ayers,  
Phone: 09 2320251

#### Wanganui (every Sunday)

Springvale Park  
Contact: Richard Wotton,  
Phone: 06 3432770,  
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#### Wellington (1st Sunday)

Ngatitoe Domain  
Contact: Anne and Peter Whitehead,  
Phone: 04 476 7227



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# Regional lines

## News from the regions

### Wanganui

Once again, the Wanganui scene has been a bit on the quiet side. Most of the activity has consisted of out-of-town flying – and most of that has been a Wottons-only affair. In January, I flew down to Nelson for the Nelson Kite Club's annual festival. As always, this was an excellent event, with good flying and great hospitality.

While I was busy flying down at Porirua on Waitangi Day, Geoff Campbell was busy back home talking to the local constabulary and his insurance company after his car was broken into. Scratch one day on the kite field.

A week after Porirua, Dalwyne and I hosted some German fliers who were on their first visit to New Zealand. We got to know this couple, Dörte and Frank Schulz, at Fano and last year I stayed with them in Hamburg, where I was looked after royally.

As thanks for their hospitality, I made Dörte and Frank – who are both historic kite enthusiasts – a cotton and bamboo 240/3 Roloplan to take home with them from New Zealand. They arrived here with a very nice little cotton Pearson Roller for us, so during their visit we spent some time at Springvale Park for the 2<sup>nd</sup>



*Richard Wotton (left) with Dörte and Frank Schulz, of Germany, at Springvale Park, Wanganui, with their "exchange" kites*

Wanganui Mini International Kite Festival (unofficial), where we each gave our new kites an airing. Beautiful weather and beautifully-performing kites, so everyone went home happy. (I've got to confess being a bit ticked off with the Roloplan made for the visitors, because it flies better than the one I made for myself!)

This 1.2m Roller needs a bit more wind than the usual ripstop and fibreglass versions, but it will still fly in a pretty light breeze. I think my next project just might be a 2m Roller, for those days when the heavier kites are lying on the ground.

A few days later we were off to Napier for the annual Art Deco Weekend. The organisers had invited us over to fly our historic kites during the Sunday picnic lunch on the foreshore. Breeze which varied from very light to light, restricted space

and the loose shingle "beach" combined to make the flying a trifle problematic, so we were extremely glad of sterling assistance from Sharon and Ian Russell, plus Dörte and Frank for some of the day. However, the organisers were very happy with the display and there was a lot of keen interest shown by the public. Because of the conditions, for most of

the day there were a number of kites on the ground, so passers-by were able to have a very close look at them.

As the old saying goes, there's no rest for the wicked. After a few days back at work, we lit out for a family weekend at Onemana, in the Coromandel. Family biz or not, I had to pack a few kites, just in case . . . On the Saturday afternoon we went down to the beach domain for a fly and I can tell you it was hard to tear myself away after only an hour: the breeze was absolutely perfect, and the kites appeared glued to the sky. Life can be cruel at times.

The big event around here, of course, was the 23<sup>rd</sup> NZKA national festival, held over Easter weekend. There's a report on this elsewhere in this issue.

*Richard Wotton*