

What's Up?

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

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New Zealand Kitefliers Association Inc.

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

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

New Members

Serdar Seydi, Rotorua

Julian Dixon, Epon,
Auckland

Paddy Robinson, Manaia,
South Taranaki

Betty Oxley, Taupo

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NZKA Annual National Festival 2009

Friday 6-2-09 till Sun 8-2-09

We gather at Taharepa Reserve on the corner of Sh 1 and Taharepa Rd Taupo for Friday's flying with Fish n chips at the Sea Scouts hall on the lakes edge in the evening. If you think that the view from Taharepa Rd is good, wait till you experience the sun set from the Scout Hall.

Saturday will be at Crown Park Taupo where we will have the AGM at 9.30 am followed by flying on the flat playing fields. A BBQ and auction in the evening held at the Soccer Club at this venue.

Sunday will be all flying and open to the public, and then home.

Lunches will be available in the form of Buns and fillings for personal construction.

Need a map? Apply with registration.

Need a list of accommodation? Ask with registration.

Salaams Jim Court

What's Up?

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Front cover photo by Christian Harms. Scene
at Fano

Page 3. Sode Train by M Hubbert

Page 4. All photos J Vennix

Page 5. All photos and art work R McCully

Page 6-7. Photos supplied by R Wotton

Page 9. Photos by R McCully

Presidents Words



We have had Labour weekend and the election is past us. How time flies. Hopefully we are looking forward to a bright and wonderful summer.

Some members attended a gathering at Pukeora Estate during Labour weekend. There was no assigned kite to make this time, but time was spent on fixing kites, and socializing. The estate also happened to have a winery attached, so guess what, we had a wine tasting on the Saturday night. This is the old sanatorium just south of Waipukerau. We were accommodated in one of the wings of the sanatorium which also included a ball room (with parquet floor) and other large rooms that we could easily use for laying out our kites. This was an ideal place, and with

local flying sites at the high school this could be a useful place for an AGM gathering. Richard Wotton will also attest that you are able to fly a kite outside the dormitories, so you don't even have to go into town to fly a kite. And it was nice of Stephen Cook to drop in for a chat while he was motor biking around the area for the weekend. Also for some of the other Napier people to drop in for Sunday night to have a meal with us all. Many more and we would have had to look at a bigger room for the meal.

As no one has sent anything in about Labour weekend I will use the rest of this to continue the praises. Labour weekend and Queens birthday kite making retreats have been great events in the past and I for one would hate to see them stop. And as can be seen from this social event, we do not have to have a certain kite to make to have reason to get together. Pukeora turned out to be an excellent event space and the room we used for kite making was beautiful and sunny for working in, with a fabulous view. The other obvious point is that this is also more central than Wellington. For those that came down to the school in Waipukerau they can attest how good the flying field looks as well. The only issue at the moment is that Pukeora estate is booked for next Labour weekend by a scooter group.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year in the challenging times ahead from the NZKA committee, and see you all at Taupo.



During our trip to India last year I was not expecting skies full of kites as I thought this was mainly a special festival occurrence. In the larger cities there was plenty of evidence of fighter kite remnants in power lines and rooftop structures. To my pleasant surprise in Varanasi, India's holiest city, they were flying fighter kites every afternoon.

From the hotel rooftop restaurant we watched the sky fill up with Indian fighter kites as far as we could see and how a handful of pros were culling the opposition. Most of the kite battles took place above the river Ganges while on the riverbank life carried on with bathing worshippers, funeral pyres and commercial laundrymen "beating the shit out of the sweat, out of the shirts"

The rooftops of Varanasi are also the habitat of marauding gangs of monkeys. We had an encounter at breakfast with a large alpha male monkey who, while baring his teeth, decided that I could have the cornflakes but he would have the banana. They are quite a nuisance but safe according to the waiters, as they are holy monkeys. However they are not safe enough for the kite flyers. Most rooftop kite flyers had a mate with a stick sitting nearby. With full attention on the kite flying you could easily be targeted by a monkey. And the holy monkeys did get quite a whack and verbal abuse if they got too close.

The skills of the young lads who flew their kites from a couple of square metres of rooftop were fascinating to watch. Launching in light wind and obstructed by other buildings they would quickly reach the battleground altitude. Once cut, the glass paste coated flying lines would drop all over the place. They would then be reeled in, across rooftop restaurants, crowds of worshippers and power and phone lines. At home I use much safer flying line and I need at least an acre of paddock to launch my far less delicate, tyvek fighter kite clones. They do however, occasionally land in the neighbours swimming pool.



Naku (Belongs to me)

I have always admired those kite makers who design and make new kite shapes and styles. To spend all that development time, with no guarantee at the end for a kite that flies, is something I struggle with.

For that reason, it was with some trepidation that in 2004 I embarked on making an original kite



d e s i g n inspired by the shape of a logo I saw in Rotorua. The original design is shown in the drawing. After making the kite, with bridling at the three points of the middle top triangle

and fitting a bow string, it was time to test fly.

The simple result was it did not fly. My biggest fear had come true. Replaced the tail with a spiked tube tail and while it still did not fly it was now obvious that the problem was the top red triangle was forming a pocket that spilled the wind and the kite forward.

A new triangle was added to the top with a vertical spar connected via a dihedral to a spar in the original red triangle. The new triangle was bent back by the wind (now the kite does not tip forward) and at the same time forced the spar



into the red triangle, which eliminated the pocket.

The kite now flew well with the spiked ball tube tail but would not fly with the original tail as it flapped frantically, destabilising the kite and not supplying needed drag. I reached this stage one week out from our 2004 European and American trip.

During our 2006 trip to Tasmania Robert Brasington and I spent some time working on the original tail to try and increase its drag as that was the obvious difference between the tails. We were unsuccessful and the kite continued to fly with the tube tail – looked okay but was not my original concept.

At the 2007 Robert Brasington Labour Weekend workshop, the Sode kite with its long organza tail suggested a new possibility for realising my original concept. In July this year I finally did some drawings to determine tail length and best visual location for the tail triangles. In the end having the triangles spaced out looked better than having them all at the top as originally planned.

Back to the sewing machine and a tail was made (awful stuff to cut and sew) without the coloured triangles. A test flight proved very successful so it was back to the sewing machine to add the coloured triangles. I now have an original kite (Naku) that more or less reflects my initial concept – it only took 4 years.

Ray McCully



FANO 2008

By Richard Wotton

Our fifth visit to Fano, and the buzz kicked right in again the moment we stepped onto the ferry for the short crossing to the island. Jetlag and the chilly, dull weather didn't have a hope of dampening our enthusiasm – although very soon after we'd set out to walk the 2km or so to our beach apartment it began to rain, so that made a taxi seem like a good idea. It was only a five-minute ride and cost \$20, so that almost dampened our enthusiasm!

Mere details like taxi fares are soon forgotten, however, on nearing the beach and seeing kites floating in the sky. As our world-famous Wanganui booster slogan says, it's well worth the journey. We were booked in for two weeks this time, our longest stay yet. This gives a great opportunity to experience a real mix of weather – direct from the Arctic on the bad days, but the good days are fabulous.

The sunny afternoon, sandblasted, we struggled up the beach wheeling our bikes directly into a head-on gale that must have been blowing at least 70k/ph, but the next day we were blessed with a perfect flying day. One never knows, do one? All things come to those who wait, but we all pray to the wind gods not to make us wait too long.

Being a dyed-in-the-wool (cotton?) historic kite enthusiast, one of my highlights of this year's Fano meeting was having the opportunity of seeing a group of replicas of previously unknown kites by the German Steiff factory (of teddy bear and Rolo plan fame). Photographs of these 17 kites were unearthed by historic kite expert Walter Diem during a research visit to the Steiff



factory 10 years ago. Gradually, in conjunction with fellow Rolo plan meisters Werner Ahlgrim (who is now 86 and still sewing a might fine seam) and Wolfram Wannrich, a plan formed for a new book, with text by Walter.

Wolfram drew up all 17 plans, based solely on the photos and his own experience of making Rolo plans, and made three of the kites. The remaining 14 were made by Werner.



Not all of the kites are great flyers, but there are no records available to indicate if the originals ever amounted to anything – apart from looking spiffy. Mostly, however, they flew extremely well and made a very impressive sight, one I felt very privileged to witness. The kites were also on display in the public library for three days, so that was an opportunity for further close examination, as well as a chance for the project's three principals to take a well-deserved bow.

My second major highlight was being given a cotton and bamboo replica Espenlaub kite, designed around 1920. This 2m version was made by Heinz Pieper, a retired enthusiast who was perfectly happy with the idea of going home and making himself a replacement.

Another highlight was seeing the first flight of



what I consider the ultimate in historic kites: a three-wing, wood and cotton Lamson Aerocurve, whose design dates from 1897. This 3° metre kite was the culmination of 14 years' worth of spare-time work by Falk Hilsenbek, one of Europe's leading historic replica experts. The Lamson looked magnificent as it climbed into the sky and flew like a dream. Needless, to say, Falk's smile was pretty wide.



As always, the sky was a riot of colour, with every imaginable size and shape of kite in the air. Things on the ground are somewhat similar, with a variety of kites almost as wide! A highlight of our social whirl was finally

meeting up with Marzlie and John Freeman, from Canada. I met them electronically (via the Internet, when I was editing What's Up? around 2001 and Marzlie was the editor of the Associated Oregon Kites' magazine. We've always kept in touch, and I was so pleased when they said they were making the pilgrimage to Fano this year, in company with Charmayne and Bob Umbowers, two stalwarts of North-western USA kiting who are regular visitors to Fano. Jackie and George Penney were there, in great form, as was Mark Bowlas, who Ashburton festival participants will remember. Mark and his parents are very keen kites, and can always be relied on to have a great display in the air.

It was great to spend time with old and new friends and enjoy the camaraderie of the event, and learning that we'll have visits from some of our German friends over the next couple of years. Also enjoyable was sampling various types of alcoholic beverage we hadn't encountered previously. They were very nice, and I'd tell you what they were if I could remember.

Dalwyne and I always get a buzz out of seeing the island's wildlife, and this year was no exception. In fact, it was better than ever because the beautiful little roe deer were much more in evidence than during our previous visits. They're barely bothered about human presence and we hear numerous stories of some very close encounters.

Next year is the 25th anniversary of this fabulous event, so if you want to experience the ultimate in kite events, just do it!

Chateau 2008

The lodge is available from 31st December 2008 to 3rd January 2009 for our usual New Year fly on the golf course in front of the Chateau.

Please contact Peter or Anne (04) 4767227 for updates and to confirm numbers for food and accommodation. The function will be fully catered as usual.

Eltham 2009

Put this in your diaries. Due to unforeseen circumstances this year's event did not take place. We are booking a weekend early in the season this year

The Sunday of the 3rd weekend in March is going to be Eltham

Nelson 2009

The 18th annual Nelson Summer Kite Festival is running over the weekend of the 17-18th January 2009, at Neale Park, Nelson. This is a great provincial event with top kitefliers coming in from around New Zealand plus a few international kitefliers who plan to visit Nelson during their stay in New Zealand.

Setup day Friday 16th, with usual BYO takaway meals on the field in the evening. Free camping on the field, but please book this in with Ted.

There is a warm up day on Saturday followed by the main public day on Sunday, running from noon to 5pm. Come and see wonderful flyable art, a sky filled with colour, and modern power kiting displays.

Hosted by the Nelson Kite Club Inc. Gold coin donation appreciated.

Johnsonville 2008

This Johnsonville Lions family kite day is definitely on at Alex Moore park Johnsonville. We are allowed vehicles on the grass. I have organised a 'small' display for a couple of days in the Johnsonville Library - I will hang a couple of my kites. I have also arranged for them to have a kids kite workshop on the Saturday 6th afternoon from about 2.30 to 3.30. [After my Lions Club Xmas parade.] We will be making the simple dove and owl kites from the Aussie 'make mine fly' book. Will be interesting to see how that goes. The Library is supplying all the materials etc.

I will also have some Peter Lynn sled kite kits for the Sunday. Probably ask a gold coin donation to help Lions pay for a guide dog and training.

I have some kites to use as prizes also. We will have a BBQ & drinks for the kids and flyers etc

It would be great to see you all there - and even greater if the weather is kind to us

New Brighton 2009

The Summertimes Kite Day will be held on Sunday 1st February from 1 - 4 pm at New Brighton Beach just south of the Pier. All are welcome to join us for the biggest kite event held in New Zealand

NZKA AGM 2009

This will be held over Waitangi weekend 6-8th of February 2009 at Taupo.

Registration forms will be found with this issue of What's Up? But you can look forward to a fish and chip evening with good flying all weekend.

TAUPO WEEK-END

Our annual Taupo kite fly this year was well attended considering that the politicians were having their three yearly jamboree at the same time. The wind was good but in an unfortunate direction, unlike last year when we only flew from 4pm Sunday afternoon.

Very distinctly seen was a new (He was finishing it on Saturday morning) “Lifter” made by Ian Russell. Pure white, it took the swinging wind beautifully and had three or four very long streamers as line laundry.

This meet is attracting more and more local interest, both from the local people and the press. The Taupo Tourist group is now giving some support and includes this meet and the February AGM meet on their information website.

I wish to thank Warren Ellery, Sharon and Ian Russell, and Ray McCully for their help in organising this week-end. Also the Taupo Sea Scouts for the use of their Club Rooms (with a million dollar view) for our Saturday evening “take-aways”.

Jim Court



Geoff Campbell's tent flying away at the Chateau earlier this year.

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 and W.

A Kiwi Kite

1a Sunshine Rise, Raglan.

Phone (07) 825 7290

Services offered: SL, DL, C, Bu, Re, Kw, D, Ex and RL.

Raven Kites

1 Victoria Avenue. Wanganui.

Phone (06) 348 5805, Fax (06) 348 5806

Services offered: SL, DL, Bu, C and power kites.

Rainbow Flight Kites

19 North Road, Nelson.

Phone/Fax (03) 548 8707

E-mail: info@kitesrainbowflight.co.nz

Website: www.kitesrainbowflight.co.nz

SL, DL, C, Bu, F, Kw, D, W, O, KK and Ex.

Skylines and 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

Services offered: SL, DL, C, F, Ka, Re, BM, W, G, O, Mo, KK, Ex and RL.

In Christchurch we are changing the venue for kite days to suit the wider interests of flyers and the opportunity to enjoy more of the lovely parks and beaches Christchurch has to offer, as well as to be part of kite days organised by other organisations. Contact Julie (julie@kites.co.nz) to find out where we will be or to suggest a good venue to try out. Members are advised by email a week or so before each kite day, so email Julie to ensure you're on the list.

The Summertimes Kite Day will be held on Sunday 1st February from 1 - 4 pm at New Brighton Beach just south of the Pier. All are welcome to join us for the biggest kite event held in New Zealand.

If you need any more information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

A few years ago, my wife and I joined the U3A group in Taupo. This was to study music on one hand and to meet more people at the same time. The "University of the Third age" offers many courses from Scrabble to flying gliders and fly fishing. At one meeting I was asked to start a kite making and flying class and this is now gradually increasing in interest from the over 55 year olds. I am not a teacher by profession, so I decided to have "Students" one at a time to protect my sanity and to meet them once a week each.

At the Taupo "Home Made Kite Week-end" (the other Kite Flying that day was on election day!) two of my students flew their kites with great success. One joined NZKA.

As an outreach to older people by our club, this is a great way to attract kite flying and making to not only the retirees but through them, to their grandchildren. Please contact me at jimulian@paradise.net.nz if I can help you get a class going in your area.

Jim Court

Flying Sites/Regional Reps

Auckland

Bastion Point

Contact : Perrin at Kiteworks

Ph 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,

Ph 07 348 3828

mccullr@xtra.co.nz

Christchurch (Last Sunday)

Hansen's Park, Opawa

Contact : Julie Adam,

Ph 03 365 3907

julie@lites.co.nz

Napier/Hastings (2nd Sunday)

Anderson Park, Greenmeadows

Contact : Sharon Russell,

Ph 06 844 0689

rj.russells@paradise.net.nz

Nelson (3rd Sunday)

Neale Park

Contact : Ted Howard

Ph 03 548 8707

kitesfun@ihug.co.nz

Palmerston North

Ongley Park

Clarks Beach (1st Sunday)

Stevenson Road Park

Contact : Jim Ayers

Ph 09 232 0251

Wanganui (Every Sunday)

Springvale Park

Contact : Richard Wotton

Ph 06 343 2770

rwotton@xtra.co.nz

Wellington (1st Sunday)

Ngatitoa Domain

Contact : Anne and Peter Whitehead

Ph 04 476 7227

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2008 Committee

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The 25th Annual General Meeting of the NZ Kitefliers Association will be held in the Soccer Club at Crown Road Park, Taupo on Saturday 7 February 2009 at 9.30 am

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Greetings to visitors
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 24th AGM
4. Matters arising from the Minutes
5. President's Report
6. Appointment of Auditor
7. Financial Report
8. Formal business of which due notice has been given.
10. Festival 2010 & 2011
11. Other business.
12. Election of officers.