

What's Up?

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

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New Zealand Kitefliers Association Inc.

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



Above
Pania of the Reef by R McCully
Photo R McCully

Left top to bottom
S Cook on his journey Photo by S Cook
S Cook on his journey Photo by S Cook
R Brassington kites

Photo by R Brassington
Spirit Kite designed by M Lester
Photo by A Whitehead

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Front cover photo of M Hubbert's cuttle fish at Eltham 2010
Photo by A Whitehead using a fancy filter

Presidents Words



This was going to be the usual rant about where we are going and where we have been and what good flying we have been having, and then two phone calls happened that decided me to write a different story. So here is the tale of two kitefliers and the web site.

As I write this we are about to leave for Eltham. Two weeks ago a member rang up and said they had just found they had a few days free for this weekend and looking for something to do had happened on the NZKA web site and noted that Eltham was on this weekend. Was there room for them to come along too? Well of course there was, so we have one happy camper (hopefully the weather will be kind this weekend, its been a little changeable lately). Feeling good after that, I was surprised to get a call from another member who had traveled to Eltham (on the day noted in last What's Up?) only to find that the event had been postponed, and he had not been told.

I thought that told us a few things, mostly

about communication, and that things change that are not in our control.

Another story. Part of the story is from the archives, and part from today. Years ago we had an AGM get together at Ashburton and one of the things that is fondly remembered is the flying of a delta coynyne with appliqué flowers that attracted some flying geese to circle around the kite. So on to the present. A few weeks ago my sister rang and said could I make her a hawk kite to protect their grapes. I decided the easiest option was to buy a couple from Peter Lynn Kites. A few days after the kites arrived my sister rang. She said the kites were working well and had even attracted a real hawk to come and look the flying kite over.

I was amused at Nelson that I was able to win the Rokkaku battle after so many years of not flying in them. Seems to me things have not changed. Everyone runs away from me and then expects me to come and attack them. I'm getting old you know, and running is not what I do this flying for!

We know come to the quiet part of the year, as far as kiteflying is concerned.

Thanks

The committee would like to express thanks to all those who donated goods for the annual auction. Special thanks to Peter Lynn for all his goodies, including some things finally described as marital aids (you had to be there, and you should have been), to Steve Borens for his collection of fighter kites. Due to these and other donations the auction raised much more than was budgeted for.

Up coming events

Fathers Day at Ohakea

As usual we will not know if this is on till nearer the time, but pencil it in your diaries. This is an expected event on the calendar. Please keep an eye on the website closer to the time.

Labour weekend kitemaking at Pukeora

This will not actually be on at Labour weekend, but two weeks later. To be held at Pukeora Estate just out of Waipukarau. We will again be sharing accommodation at Pukeora with the BMW bike riders group.

We are contemplating bringing Robert Brassington back with another selection of his kites for us to make, including choices of a box kite, to a delta, to some of his own creations. An email will be sent to members who express interest showing pictures of intended kites and likely costs etc. Expect costs to be between \$80 for some of the smaller kites to \$150 for the box kite

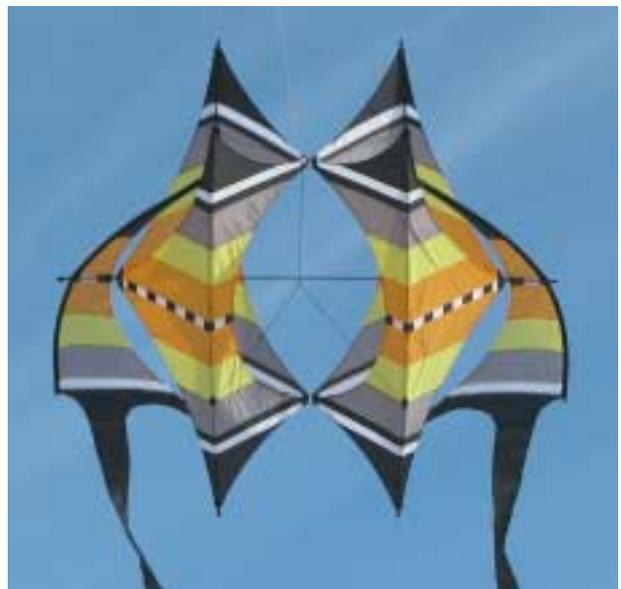
Please email drachen@paradise.net.nz if you are interested..

AGM 2011

Note that the AGM will be held in Eltham next year and it will at the end of March. Many more details as we get closer to the event.

Dates are Friday 25th to Sunday 27th of March 2011

Selection of the kites available for the R Brassington workshop



A joining of two interests

Those who know me will know that for many years I have joked about how I can combine my kiting interests with my motorcycling interest, and a solution has never presented itself.

February last year I had been planning to motorcycle through Molesworth Station from Blenheim, across the large government farm, to Hamner Springs, and I was thwarted by the road being closed because of drought, and the fire risk. Instead I rode the state highways in pouring rain(!) to get to Hamner from Blenheim.

February this year I planned to try Molesworth again, and I suddenly realised that our annual kite festival would be in Nelson. Was this an opportunity to combine my two interests? The possibility was there, but carrying clothes etc and sleeping bag for ten days “on the road” left room for only a couple of very small kites. Clearly not what I should bring to national kite festival!

However gentle discussion with Anne & Peter resulted in the offer of using their car to transport my kites, while I would transport myself and motorcycle.

A ferry trip to Picton and on board I met unexpectedly briefly with Robert and Sue van Weers, it had been some years since we had last met. Arrived in Picton and they went to Blenheim to see friends, and I chose the Queen Charlotte scenic road, much more interesting on my bike. Eventually stopped at a rough hidden layby on the river side at Pelorus Bridge for lunch in the sun to again most unexpectedly meet Sue and Robert having lunch in the sun.

Saturday morning to the flying field, and there in the truck were my kites, and so followed two great days of kiting. Most exciting for me was the first actual flight of my ‘spirit’ kite – completed at our Labour Weekend workshop, and only once been out of its bag to show family what I had made.

The day was very grey and overcast, and I was thrilled to see Robert Brassington and his kites – on the Sunday he suggested some small tweaks to kites we had made at his workshop the year before, and the smallest changes made a huge difference – it was really great to get specialist advice. Saturday morning and I missed the AGM. At the appointed place, saw the parked cars, but no evidence of a meeting so rode instead to the Saturday markets where I met several kite fliers

assisting the local economy. Rode back to the flying field for another good day in the sun, flying in the good breeze, grumbling about people encroaching on “our” area of the sky and generally having a great time. Even managed to get third in one heat of the altitude sprint thank to a borrowed John Whibley plano.

It was brilliant to catch up with everyone, and to see the wide range of kites on display, and the public enjoyment of the event. And my kites were gratefully packed back into Peter and Anne’s car.

And my motorcycling? Monday went Nelson to Blenheim to Hanmer via Molesworth – including 160 km of rough road and well used farm road, farm gates and fords. Magnificent scenery and field of blue wild flowers (borage I think). Tuesday, Hanmer Springs to Greymouth over Lewis pass, down the coast and back over Arthurs Pass and scenic route to my brother at Waimate - about 860k and the southern rata at Otira gorge was brilliant. Wednesday and Thursday back to Wellington. On the way I stopped at the small aircraft museum in Ashburton where there is a harrier jump jet on display.

And some weeks later I eventually collected my kites from Anne and Peter – many thanks for your help. It was an absolutely great week, great people and flying, magic New Zealand scenery and roads and much time spent catching up with kiting friends from around the country.

Stephen Cook

Balikpapan, Borneo Indonesia.

I was invited to attend this festival and looked forward to going to that part of the world. I have always had a great taste for Indonesian food and I thought that by attending that festival, it will be a mouth watering event for me as well as enjoying flying kites of course. Well the food part was very true as the nasi goreng was out of this world. I just love it to bits. I had it even with my breakfast, hmmm getting carried away here

One of the first things I noticed and made a big mark with me was the fact that all the international flyers were given helpers to put their kites sky-high. I had around 5 of them. That made the hard work more pleasant in the scorching heat. Here are four of them, number 5 was the camera man

There were also lots of containers with bottled water as well, and boy in that heat you just need to keep it topped up.

I flew my new updated Monkey with a banana and at one stage I just had to manoeuvre it into a coconut tree as the beach. Where we flew, was full of them, coconut trees I mean, not monkeys, they even had coconuts in them that were ready to be harvested.

One of the kites that really stood out for me was the 6 meter ship. In the image you can see it flying and see the maker and his helpers as well. This also gives you an idea as to how much work went into this kite. It is made out of aluminium and parka nylon for the sails. It is a really nice piece of work.

All in all it was a great festival and the people were very friendly and treated you like a king. There is a page at my website with hundreds of images. Oh one of my helpers was asked to be my photographer and he did a good job with my camera

Robert Van Weers

Eltham 2010

Well after last years effort with superb winds we were hoping for more of the same. The year had started well with great flying at Ruapehu for New Year. A group of us stayed at the Stratford Heritage Lodge for the Saturday evening and partook of the provincial fare served up at Colonel Malones.

The morning started off with breakfast at the cafe in town but with light drizzle we were slow to leave. We headed to the field around 10ish and the Lions had the tent erected and were ready to go. In vain hope that things would get better – and they did, we started to put up an array of kites. It was good to see Phillip & Jo Dean join us along with the McCullys, Hubberts & McCraes. It turned into a good day with variable winds but enough to keep us all occupied. Kit & Geoff had been shopping on Trade Me and had a range of kites to test out. Malcolm had his menagerie flying including the purple and orange spotted frog. He was flying it with the orange, black & yellow kites which I felt clashed so he did move the frog to the more colour co-ordinated line.

Our new penguin had it's first airing, more to check that he hadn't been genetically modified, the last one had been so it was better to be safe than sorry. A good day had by all and the Lions are keen to host us in 2011 for the 25th Eltham Kite Festival as well as the NZKA National Festival which will be held from Friday 25th to Sunday 27th March.

AW

Bay of Fires Retreat- Tasmania

(Also known as Kite Flying on the Edge of the World)

Each February in the height of the Tasmanian summer, kite flyers from around the state, and from around Australia and sometimes, if we are lucky, from around the world descend onto this small chunk of land to follow their passion of flying kites. Kite flying on the Edge of the World may sound rather melodramatic but at times, with the island stuck in the middle of the Roaring 40's, it certainly feels like it. This year's Saturday was certainly no exception with the wind blowing so hard I am convinced it blew the knots out of my flying lines. Looking south into the 35 Knot blow one could not forget the next landfall was Antarctica.

However all the Intrepids had come so far to fly kites, most thought the only thing to do was....Fly Kites!... and that is what we did. Small at first and then slightly larger kites took to the sky as some were heard to say "It's really not THAT bad". But being a local, I knew there would be tears before bedtime and after some varying mishaps retreat was seen as a more appropriate form of valour.

The rest of the day light hours were spent with

Scott Skinner and his Washi paper workshop in the relatively safe haven of a local garden. Rokkaku and Sode were the order of the day. After the ardour of the workshop everybody retired to the gentility of an Aussie Barbi. That entails lots of beers, wine and slabs of red stuff thrown onto the BBQ.

The weather forecast for the next day were for winds to be out of the south again, but not so urgent. Ten o'clock on the Sunday morning saw most of us up and around, on the beach. The wind was blowing hard and I was heard to say "It's really not THAT bad" and to back up my statement put up some deltas to test the wind. It really wasn't that bad and by 11 o'clock the beach was a frantic scramble to get as many kites in the sky as possible. The winds dropped out to 10 Knots and I was not the only one to run out of kites to launch and flying line. By midday the sky was full of single line, dual line, quad line, inflatable line laundry and bols. What a sight.

The best part of this little fly is that we fly for ourselves. It is the only event on the Kite Flyers of Tasmania's calendar where we are not flying for the public. The east coast of the island is a very special place with aqua blue seas and white, white sands. That is why people keep coming back to this far flung area of the planet, to relax and fly kites with kindred spirits.

Robert Brassington



Sometimes the public look at kiteflying differently!

My 'traffic sign' Genki prompted the following conversation with a young man watching the Nelson kite festival.

"Hi, is that your kite"

"Yep"

"it's the best one here"

"Why is that"

"It tells a story – there is a wall in the middle, the bloke on the right is with his boat so he can go fishing – the woman is on the left with the picnic table so she can get lunch ready for when he gets back!! I really like it!!!"

"Oh – I never thought of that!!!"

Photo opposite of the kite in question
by A Whitehead

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@kites-rainbowflight.co.nz

Website: www.kites-rainbowflight.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.

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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
mccullyR@xtra.co.nz

Christchurch (Last Sunday)

Hansen's Park, Opawa
Contact : Julie Adam,
Ph 03 365 3907
julie@kites.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)

Elsdon Park, Porirua
Contact : Anne and Peter Whitehead
Ph 04 476 7227



Photos from R van Weers trip to Balikpapan
Photos by R van Weers

