

What's Up?

The Newsletter for Kitefliers

Number 99

May 2011



Retail price \$5.00. Distributed free to members

New Zealand Kitefliers Association Inc.

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Left :Photo of Malcolm Hubbert at the Chateaux at New Year by Karen Whibley

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All photos by Richard Wotton.

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All other photos by the author of the article

What's Up?

Published by the New Zealand Kitefliers Association.

P.O. Box 56,
Wellington,
New Zealand.

Visit us on the web at:

www.nzka.org.nz

What's Up? Is distributed free to NZKA members

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Presidents Notes

The AGM is done and dusted. I think we had an enjoyable time with the Lions even if we did not get to do all the flying we wanted. From that festival if anyone is missing a nice jacket, tell us what the colour is and its yours. Noel thinks it is too good for the people of Eltham.

As you can see this is issue 99, so the next issue will be a bumper issue, articles are already flowing in. That does not mean that you don't need to write an article as well. All contributions will be eventually printed (Within reason). Here is your chance to be World famous with some of the pithy comments like "We must have a night fly one of these days."

There is not much planned in the way of kite days for the next few months as its winter, But look out for the annual Fathers day kitefly at Wanganui and Ohakea. Look out for more information next issue or on the web site.

All members who have not paid this years subs are reminded that this is the last issue they will be receiving. Check your mailing label for a red cross.

We are hoping to go to Pukeora Estate again



with the BMW bikers for another Not Labour weekend kite making retreat.

We are still thinking of Christchurch so over the page is a note from Julie in Christchurch about some of the current conditions.

THE 2011 NATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL, ELTHAM

The NZKA national festival and 25th annual Eltham Lions kite festival got off to a somewhat sluggish start due to a bit of moisture falling from the sky. Following the morning's AGM and lunch, quite a few fliers opted for a visit to the excellent Tawhiti Museum and came back buzzing about it.

Meanwhile, a few hardy types had gone out to the field to test the breeze as the drizzle eased off, and they were joined by the museum-goers for a good flying finish to the day.

Dinner that night was a joint affair with the Lions, who were also celebrating the club's 40th anniversary. Peter Whitehead, the NZKA president, who has had a long association with the Eltham festival, joined with Lions' president Noel Boddie to cut the birthday cake. This was followed by the usual lively auction, with Geoff Campbell wearing the auctioneer's hat and Peter Whitehead wearing, er, well, maybe there's a

photo with this article that will give you the general idea. But never mind the hats, they did a great job and the whole evening was thoroughly enjoyable.

Sunday's wind was a little up and down, but everyone still managed to get in plenty of good flying. Malcolm Hubbert put on a great one-man show with his massive train of inflatables.

I think about the only incident approaching drama was when Robert van Weers demolished a fence post by anchoring his anemone bol to it. The breeze came up and the post went down.

Once again, the NZKA is very grateful to the Eltham Lions for their organisation, assistance and great country hospitality.

Next year's festival will be held in Wanganui. See you there!

Richard Wotton

Kite Exhibition April 2009 – Jim Ayers

During the past year it began for me with a one man kite show in the new Pukekohe Art Gallery. Over a hundred kites hung in flying position from the roof of the gallery.

As you entered bird kites were flying above leading to the rear of the gallery to the larger kites.

The show literally blew the public away and children stood in the doorway and gasped – so did I as I had not seen my work together before

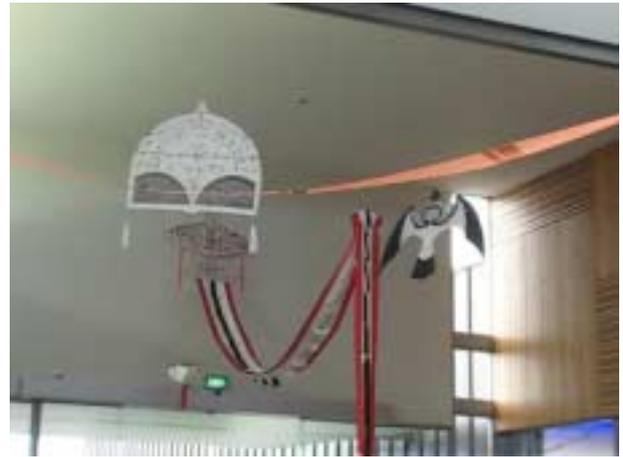


The foyer with its high ceilings and glass windows was an ideal area to suspend large kites with long tails.



Not only was the exhibition a successful event but for me it was a financial success.

On my way back from Auckland I visited the exhibition late in the day, unfortunately after Jim had gone home. It was an awesome display as shown by the photos I have supplied to accompany Jim's comments. Ray McCully



Christchurch Happenings

Many parks have been closed, although opening up again now. The beach at New Brighton has been out of bounds while helicopters buzz around and the army desalination plant was in action. And who, other than Jim, wants to fly where the poop is being pumped! Civil Defence are moving out of New Brighton by the end of May, so that will open up again. Wigram, being an ex-military facility, has a clause in its lease that allows it to be taken over in a civil emergency, so the 40 hectare field has been out of bounds, but I think we'll be having a kite day there in the next school holidays. Winter, yay!

My display kites are under silt in the lockup. I could clear this up, but the silt aggravates my asthma. Several post quake deaths have been from asthma and, as I was nearly one of them and the hospitals are full, my doctor has told me not to clean up yet. No housework. Doctors orders!

Otherwise, all is well. My house is still here, although EQC say the piles need fixing.
Julie Adam



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Combining Past-times –Not!

You will know that two of my interests are kiting and motorcycling, and often comments are made about how to combine both.

I have tried over the years and last year was able to attend nelson Festival on my bike while Anne and Peter carried my kites, and I then did a bike trip through Molesworth. All very satisfying.

This year I thought I would try something

different. Combine a ride on the motorcycle Southern Cross rally, with some kite flying. The bike rally goes to all four corners of new Zealand in a week, - well actually five days. And I had never tried anything like that before. And I thought “*why not fly a kite in all four corners of NZ in five days, bet that hasn't been done before*”. Maybe the kite might end up with special value at an auction!!!!

So I signed up to the rally and chose a kite – has to be a good and simple flier, small and robust enough to fit in the pack on my bike, and quick to get out and fly.

Grandson Josh had grown out of his Peter Lynn small kids ‘octopus’ – flat, small, robust and always flies, so I packed that.

The rally was in March –reasonable winds for kites, and the motorcycle objective was each day to sign a book at the checkpoint sometime between noon and 1 pm.

So Monday I arrive at Bluff about 11.30, Stirling Point, just over a hundred bikes and riders to see, nervous toilet stop to have, and a safety briefing to listen to. And suddenly it was 12.15 and I was away on my bike – forgot the kite completely!

Then Wednesday about 11.45 arrived at Cape Egmont lighthouse – just time for a quick chat, not even the slightest breeze for the kite, and I was off again.

Come Thursday about 11.15 arrive at East Cape and climb to the lighthouse to sign the book – 880 feet up, over 1600 wooden steps through bush in hot weather and full motorcycle gear!! And I had left the kite on my bike down below - &\$&*(!

Arrived Friday just on 12 at Cape Reinga car park, and 800m very hot walk to the lighthouse and sign the book (and get a small commemorative pin) – left the kite back on my bike again. So up to the car park, really perspiring in my riding gear again, and there are small 9and larger) whirlwinds across the car park situated on the ridge. Enough to lift up motorcycle helmets, set off alarms etc. So my kite stayed in the pack.

I now have one kite, been to the four corners of NZ (hence the rally name) and stayed in its bag the whole time.

Next opportunity to try is in March 2013 – I will keep the kite safe until then ;-)

Stephen Cook

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

Near SFT Disaster

Waipa District Council put on a kite day at Te Awamutu on 30 April between 12 noon and 4pm as part of their get out and play program. We dodged the bad weather and had a warm day but as is typical at this time of year very little wind.

McCullys and Hubberts spent most of the time trying to fly light wind kites rather than the larger show kites that drag in the spectators.

However, the families that came along with their home made kites all had fun and many went away with prizes. Unfortunately, once again the diamond kite plan was the one promoted by the organizers. The results were heavy unstable kites, mostly wrongly bridled that required maximum running speed for anything to happen. We were able to help some of them make corrections to the design. We did see one clear plastic and bamboo kite made in the shape of the featherlite that flew as good as our light wind kites.

As is common at these light wind events, after the prize giving and when most people had left the wind increased slightly. Up went Malcolm's Strange Flying Thing (Volkeron) then with out any effort at all it was perched on a goal post (below).

The good news was that the second goal post was unraveled and the SFO was able to fly off the top of the first post. (No cherry picker required this time - see Whats Up April 2009)

Ray McCully



Help was on the way (above) and with a bit of effort it was now tangled on two goal posts (below).





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