

# TASKITE



Issue 32, Summer 2003/04

Quarterly Newsletter of KITE FLYERS of TASMANIA



David Chandler's Tetra on the Domain

**WHO'S WHO?****President**

Robert Brasington  
groundzerokites@tassie.net.au

**Vice President**

Flocky Bock

**Secretary/Public Officer**

Malcolm Dick  
PO Box 615  
Devonport 7310  
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**Treasurer**

David Geer  
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**Committee**

Lynden Dorrington  
Avril Flewelling  
Rodger Willows  
Chris Thomas

**Life Members**

Helma Stevenson  
Kent Stevenson  
David Chandler

**Membership Fees**

Single	\$20
Family	\$25

Please forward to The Treasurer

**FLY DAYS**

1st Sunday of the month  
**Queen's Domain – Hobart**  
12pm onwards  
Rodger Willows 0427 278 640

2nd Sunday of the month  
**Meercroft Park – Devonport**  
2pm onwards  
Dot Priestly 6424 4803

3rd Sunday of the month  
**Binalong Bay Beach – St Helens**  
10am onwards  
Robert Brasington 6376 1667

4th Sunday of the month  
**Show Ground – West Ulverstone**  
2pm onwards  
Avril & Ian Flewelling 6425 2242

**EDITOR'S CORNER**

Welcome to the Summer edition of *Taskite*.

A packed issue again with reports from both local and overseas festivals and fly days. Thanks to all contributors for the effort put into words and pictures.

As always, a call for contributions to the next issue... I can be contacted at:

813 Sandy Bay Rd  
Sandy Bay 7005

pbaynes@iprimus.com.au

6225 0291

## CLUB LIBRARY



The club has a number of resources that you may find interesting and helpful.

There are back issues of the magazines from the Australian Kite Association and the Australian Kite Society. These contain many interesting photos articles and kite plans.

The library also has a copy of the A.K.A CD-ROM which contains all the early newsletters of that Association. There is lots of interesting kite information to be found here. Also available is a CD-ROM with 4 issues of the Drachen Foundation Journals .

Recently Kent Stevenson has donated his collection of magazines to the library for loan. David Chandler has also loaned his magazine collection to the library for members to borrow.

**To borrow, or place a hold on, any items please contact Rodger Willows 6224 6433 (home) and he will organise your "loan".**

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members:

Tony Howe & family, and;

Robin Tihema

Both are from South Hobart.

Welcome to the club folks!

## EVENT DATES

Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004 – **DEVONPORT**, Meercroft Park 2:00pm pre -festival fly.

BBQ that evening at 6:30pm at the home of Ken and Greta Linn, 3 Dorothy Close, **West Ulverstone**.  
**B.Y.O. food and drink**

**KITE AUCTION** will be held during course of the evening. (Details below)

Sunday February 15<sup>th</sup>. 2004 - DEVONPORT "**KITES OVER THE BLUFF 2004**"

Saturday February 21<sup>st</sup>/ Sunday February 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
**BINALONG BAY**

## KITE AUCTION

The annual Kite Auction will be held at the barbecue on the evening of Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2004. Ken and Greta have kindly allowed us to use their new barbecue facility at their home at West Ulverstone. Please bring along your own meats to cook, salads to share and of course any liquid refreshments you fancy.

Highlight of the evening will be the K.F.T. Kite Auction. The auction is one of our major fund raisers for the year and eagerly looked forward to by members. Bring along an item(s) for the auction. It can be any thing relating to kiting. It might be books, kites , clothing, kite making materials, mystery parcels, spools or reels, collectors items, trivia, kite line, ground stakes, banners, bags etc.

Be prepared to bid generously for a piece of the action. This is your chance to pick up the kite bargain of the year!

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Malcolm Dick

Hello everyone and welcome to the Summer edition of Taskite.

Thank you to all the club members who attended the kite displays at Wynyard and Burnie, and the kite festivals at Launceston and Howrah. Without you, these events would have been for the poorer. You mounted a great display of kites and our thanks go to you for once again bringing to the public's attention the joy of kite flying.

At the Launceston and Howrah festivals the club members set up a ground display. We roped off a small area of grass, put up banners and pegged down in the area a display of our kites. In addition we made club membership information available and handed out pamphlets to interested people about our club. Public reaction was encouraging. There was a continuous audience looking at the display throughout the day, and members graciously gave up a lot of their flying time to talk kites to the public. We also had publicity in the Mercury newspaper the next day. I am confident we raised the club's profile as a result. Promotion reaps benefits. We need to be proactive to increase membership.

Let's get behind this idea for the Devonport Festival and again at Binalong Bay.



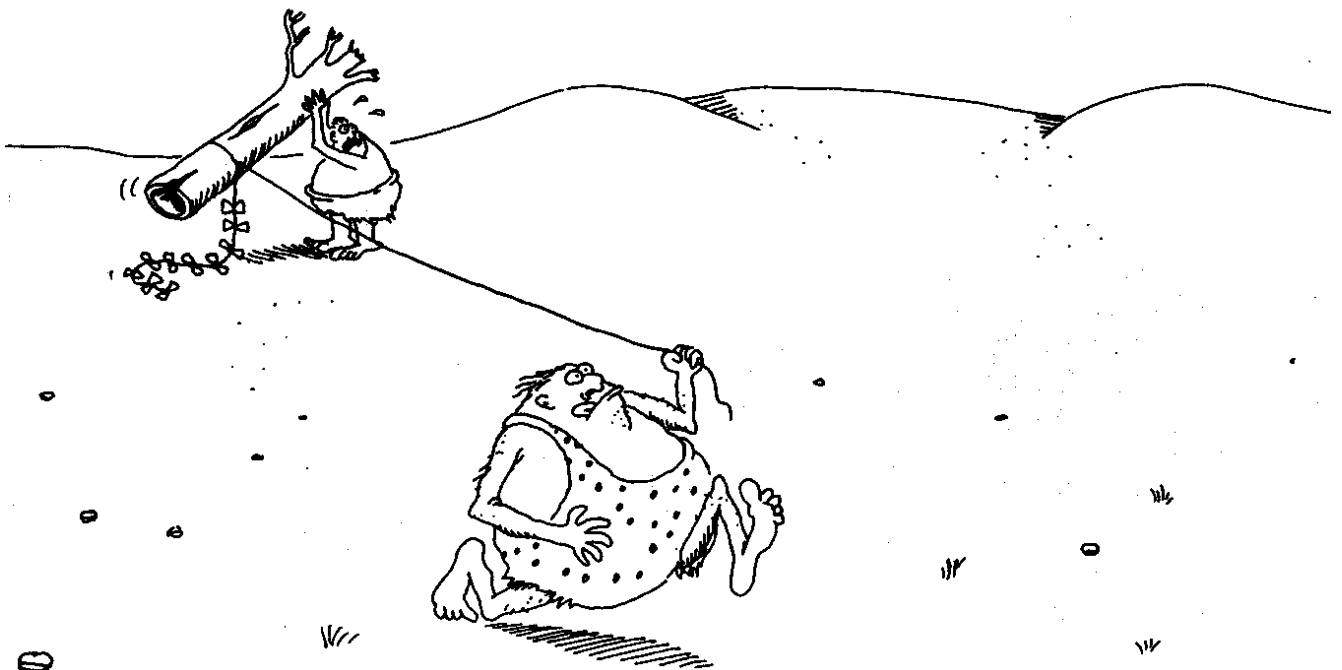
## APPM FISHING COMPETITION

Ian Flewelen

October 18<sup>th</sup> saw Flocky, Dot Priestly and myself on the foreshore outside the Burnie Yacht Clubrooms as representatives of KFT, having been invited to fly there as part of the APPM fishing competition for the third year running. We were welcomed warmly by the organisers and were treated to perfect flying conditions (unlike last year's gale force winds) and low tide, which left us a nice stretch of sand to fly on. Dot worked tirelessly to put up as many banners, wind socks and "pretty twirly things" that she could find space for, before heading to the sand to fly her stunter with its beautiful 100ft of flowing tail making ever changing patterns in the sky.

Flocky had already established his presence with his huge Tyvek double sled with its long shimmering golden loop tail which eventually broke in the middle to form two equally impressive individual gold ribbons flying high above the event without fault. All day it caught people's attention whilst travelling along the Highway causing more than a few cars to detour and come and see what was going on. With a few more sleds in the sky, Flocky decided it was time to give the "flying mattress" an outing but it wasn't long before a fascinated bystander had taken the lines off Flocky and was very reluctant to hand them back, even after many crashes and lines dripping with seawater and sand. To close a perfect flying day, the trademark "Sperms" even came out for an airing.

All up it was a great day, with good friends and kind winds creating lots of interest and inquiries re KFT. What more could we have asked for?



"Okay Bob... Go... Go..."

## FLY @ 42° SOUTH

David Geer

Following on from a fantastic dinner on Saturday night 1/11 (*many thanks to Clarence United Soccer Club for doing such a great job catering*) Wentworth Park was again invaded by the intrepid kite flyers from all over Tasmania on what turned out to be a bonza day, which was better than that forecast by the weather bureau (*sorry Robin T.*) ☺.

The forecast for Sunday was for a bit of a wet day but the day turned out to be a howling ripper!! The wind was strong and gusty and but the rain stayed away. Fantastic.

The only wetting for the day was from the irrigation system which came on during the morning setup saturating banners and progressively moving towards where everyone was setting up displays, stalls etc. thankfully the system was shut down before everything was given a watery blessing.

During the day it was decided to cancel the planned Rokkaku Challenge as a safety measure due to the strong winds. This was a pity as we had arranged for the Taiko Japanese Drummers to play their drums during the battle to provide a sight and sound spectacular! Instead the drummers put on a crowd drawing display of their skills as the sounds drifted around the whole park. I for one will never forget the joy on the faces of the little kids taking control of the drums and beating out their random rhythms after the Taiko drummers had done their stuff, it was absolutely brilliant!

Malcolm and I organised a Serpent Kite Project where a large tyvek serpent kite was built by Malcolm and painted by primary school children during the week leading up to the festival. The serpent was very long, brightly decorated and flew all day. One young boy was heard saying "I helped paint that at school", hopefully he'll be able to say that each year as we bring it out to fly at successive festivals.

The festival was a success but it wouldn't have been so without the help of the following people and organisations who put their support behind it.

- Clarence and United Soccer Club (*great kiosk and bbq folks*)
- Jo & Ricky Baker from Kites4Kids in Victoria (<http://www.kites4kids.com.au/>) for donating the tyvek, Malcolm for building and providing spars and the kids from Emmanuel Christian School (<http://www.cst.tas.edu.au/emmanuel/>) in Rokeby, who provided paint and lots of hand prints to enable the success of the Serpent Kite Project.
- Clarence City Council without who's help and sponsorship the festival could not go ahead (*special thanks to the tireless events team especially Wendy and Robin P.*).
- The participation of other sponsors HO-FM, WIN Television and Enigma Kites, thanks folks, you are an important part to the success of this and future festivals.
- I especially want to thank the Taiko Japanese Drummers (<http://www.taikodrum.com/>) for putting on a great display and bringing an extra spark of culture to the festival. I believe some of the drummers stayed on and had some extra fun flying kites! Excellent stuff!!!

Last but not least thanks must also go to you the members of KFT for putting in over the weekend. Your efforts and support do credit to you and elevates the clubs place within the Tasmanian community.

Dave

One of the features of the Fly @ 42° South was the interest generated by the static display set up by Kite Flyers of Tasmania (KFT). My vehicle was conveniently parked nearby and enabled me to pay attention. One particular member spent a considerable amount of her time talking to, and handing out flyers!!! to passing members of the public. Visiting members of the Australian Kite Society (AKS), Pat and Noni Cassidy of Shoalhaven, commented that the display was a great feature and focal point of the flying field.

Well done to those who devised and assisted in the display, a feature to be continued.

Rodger

## CLUB FLY DAYS

Malcolm Dick

Supporting the club fly days is an important part of being a member of the club. Lets face it, Kite Festivals are great fun, especially the Tassie ones, which are all community festivals where every one comes along and flies, but this can have a drawback. Often community kite festivals are not the ideal place to fly the best kites we have as it usually is a battle to avoid all those little deltas , sleds and diamonds that the public fly along side of us. Line tangles are inevitable and even the occasional cut line. But that is all part of the fun flying at a community kite festival of course. We wouldn't want to miss a moment of fun so we tend to gear ourselves to the day, and fly the most suitable kite and leave the "special stuff" to enjoy on quieter moments. Our club flydays are an opportunity to bring out the hidden treasures.

I experienced such a day when I attended the October fly day at the Domain in Hobart. Octogenarian life member David Chandler was there and David brought out from his car boot two classic kites that many members hadn't seen before. David put together 16 cells of his giant tetrahedral kite and allowed members the thrill of flying it. A thing of beauty is a joy forever, and time doesn't diminish the thrill of seeing this kite masterpiece. The kite floats on the wind and surprised most members when they felt how little the kite pulled when in the air.

(See this month's cover for a picture of David's kite *Ed.*)

David then graciously allowed us to assemble and fly his Cody War Kite. Originally David built this Cody for Tasmanian artist Greg Waddle. Following Greg's death, the kite was returned to David. David has built this kite with care and skill and it too flew perfectly. So without fanfare the club members present at the fly day experienced a very special kite moment that I am certain will be remembered and talked about for a long time to come. Thank you David for the privilege of being able to assemble, see, and fly your kites



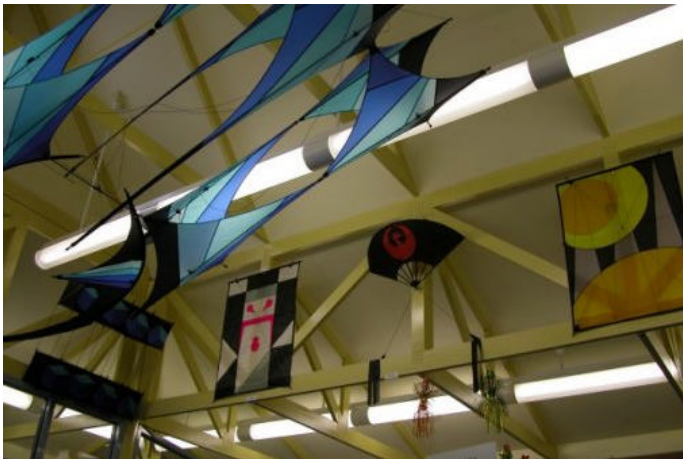
Another special moment occurred at the Devonport fly day in November. While flying at Meercroft Park we noticed a car with N.S.W. number plates pull up next to ours and the driver strolled over to us as we flew our kites. His large brimmed hat with an Australian Kite Society badge proclaimed the visitor to be a fellow kite flyer. Pat Cassidy and wife Noni from Sholhaven were on holiday and had attended the Howrah festival the previous weekend. They picked up an information brochure from our kite club display and during the week decided to join us for the Devonport fly day. Pat flew his large delta with us, while Noni was content to sit and chat with us when we took a rest from flying. Very pleasant and another fly day moment to treasure.

Club Fly days can be very special events themselves, and can provide just as many memories as a kite festival. The good news is fly days occur four times every month around the state (see details on page 2). So, if you have been missing club fly days, maybe you should go along to the next one. You never know, there just may be a special surprise like the ones I had the pleasure to encounter.

KFT LIBRARY EXHIBITION Robert Brasington

It's up! Looks great and a big thanks to all those who contributed kites for the kick off. Will be in St helens library until the middle of Jan. and then moving to Devonport in preparation of the Bluff bash. If anyone has anything more to put in, can you get it to Avril, who will be the coordinator for the North West coast.

Rock on, Robert



## KFT DINNER, 2003

Malcolm Dick

The KFT dinner on the Saturday evening of the Howrah festival was a fun night. The meal was delicious and those attending the dinner enjoyed themselves to the full. Thankyou to Treasurer David for his hard work in arranging the caterers and organising the evening. During the evening an indoor kite competition was held. Everyone participated in making a kite and members were allowed to work together to create a small indoor kite.



Competition rules called for a kite to be made from provided materials, the kite was to be flown from a 1 metre length of thread at the end of a 1 metre length of dowel. Yours truly was the test pilot and flew all the kites in turn. The judging panel was President Rob and Treasurer David. The judging criteria was that the smallest, best made, best flying kite would be judged the winner. Izzy Von Lichtan's kite was judged the best and Izzy declared winner. Rob and David presented Izzy with her trophy. In the photo you can see Izzy's kite hanging off the trophy.



Life member Kent Stevenson brought along a selection of kite books to the dinner and they were raffled off during the course of the evening. This raised over \$80 for the club. Thank you Kent for your generous donation.

## KITE REELS

First: a reel good idea seen at the Howrah kite festivals. An improvised line reel, made by Rodger from a discarded plastic coke bottle. Just the trick for winding on a bit of line so that you can give a newcomer a take home fighter kite and line.



Second reel good idea was seen at Devonport. Ian takes a plastic fishing line spool, drills a hole and glues 2 drawer knobs together with a piece of dowel through the hole. The knobs are left loose enough to allow him to spin the spool when holding either of the knobs. Simple and efficient.



## TAIPEI KITE FESTIVAL, 2003

Robert Brasington

What a great event, the hospitality, the people, the food and the history of the island made it truly a memorable festival.

The first weekend with a few friends from other events, along with the local Taiwanese flyers was spent on the north west coast of the island. Onshore breezes ensured we all flew and it was a great chance to check out the local kite flyers. Like all festivals today, the kites are an eclectic mix of large, small, traditional and contemporary. But the locals fly on Kevlar which made for an interesting and challenging weekend. Which of our kites was the next to be set free?

During the next week we all moved into a hotel in Taipei city and spent the week doing school workshops, cultural exchanges and TV interviews to promote the next weekend of kite flying. At nights we spent our free time going to the myriad of street markets and helping young Shane (A team member of the American stunt team TKO) find a nice girl. Alas, we all failed miserably, as very few spoke English and at times I am not sure whether Shane was speaking English either.

The next weekend rolled around and after an overcast week, the sun came out, just for the festival. By this time all the other guests had arrived and 17 countries were represented, Phil from Adelaide and myself held the flag aloft for the "land of the long weekend". The wind by this time had swung around to nearly onshore which meant the flying was reasonably civilised, and just as well as the small arenas were well used. Stunt teams flew all weekend, entertaining the estimated 100,000 spectators, while Phil did his thing kite surfing, what a crowd pleaser! The single line arena was full of Martin Lester, Thijo van Beek, Ramlel Tien to name a few. After more TV interviews, seminars on kite design and the ubiquitous Asian boxed lunch, the time had come the pack up another kite event and think of the long journey home. When sitting in the departure lounge it is always a wonderful time for reflection. Great people, great food, great hospitality. Would I do it all over again? You bet!



(Not sure what these have to do with the festival, maybe they are from Rob's workshop! *Ed.*)



SEEN AT RECENT FESTIVALS & FLY DAYS

