

# TASKITE



Issue 48, Spring 2008

Quarterly Newsletter of Kite Flyers of Tasmania Inc.



Aukja, David, Avril and Ian at the Domain in July.

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**Membership Fees:**

Single \$25  
Family \$30

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## Regular Fly Days

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month  
Meercroft Park – Devonport  
2 pm onwards  
Malcolm Dick  
0419615648

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month  
Binalong Bay Beach – St Helens  
10 am onwards  
Robert Brasington 6376 1667

### Editors Note

Welcome to this edition of Taskite. Hope you enjoy the stories about what has been going on with KFT in the past few months, and make note of the festivals over the coming months.

I would like to thank, Ian, Malcolm, David and Izzy for the article contributions in this edition. Please keep them coming in—it makes my job much easier!

As the year draws to an end, I wish you all a Happy Christmas and may you be blessed with good Kite Flying days in the coming year.

Avril Flewellen  
Editor



*PS Congratulations  
To the  
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A wide-angle photograph of a grassy field at the Hobart Domain during the Hobart Kite Festival. Numerous colorful kites are flying in the sky, and a crowd of people is gathered in the foreground. The background shows a line of trees and a clear sky.

**HOBART KITE FESTIVAL**  
4th January 2009  
Hobart Domain

BYO BBQ on Saturday night at Rodger Willows 62495138

A landscape photograph of Binalong Bay. The foreground is a grassy field, and the middle ground shows a wide expanse of water leading to a distant shoreline. Several small kites are visible in the sky.

**Binalong Bay Retreat**  
14-15 February 2009

BYO BBQ Saturday night at Robert and Tracey Brasington's. 63761667

A photograph of the Devonport Kite Festival. A large, colorful, circular kite is the central focus, floating in the air. The background shows a green field, trees, and a blue sky with other kites.

**Devonport Kite Festival**  
22nd February 2009  
Meercroft Park, Devonport

BYO BBQ at the Bluff . Contact Malcolm Dick 0149615648

A photograph of Austin's Ferry Kite Festival. A large crowd of people is gathered on a grassy field near a body of water. Many colorful kites are visible in the sky. The background shows hills and a clear sky.

**Austin's Ferry Kite Festival**  
22nd March 2009  
Details to be advised

**Workshop Weekend**  
30-31 May 2009  
Camp Clayton, Ulverstone  
Details to be advised

## Asymmetrical Kites

Malcolm Dick

Over the past winter I have again explored the use of bamboo and paper to make asymmetrical kites. I have experimented with these unusual shaped kites for several years now and have found that they are both interesting and frustrating to build and fly. A symmetrical kite is one that both sides of the kite (either side of the vertical spine) are mirror images. The asymmetrical kite is “free-form” in shape and doesn't have identical sides.

Bamboo is an ideal material for making asymmetrical kites as the bamboo quickly dictates the shape that it wishes to form and so drawings and pre-conceived ideas of the kites shape, or at least I have found, are of little help. Now I just let the bamboo bend to the shape it wishes to form. By applying gentle heat to the strips of the bamboo I am able to bend curves and angles in the bamboo, and armed with a good supply of bent strips, I then assemble them into a kite. I have no idea what shape or form the kite will take, this is entirely the will of the bamboo. I just tie the strips together with cotton thread and glue it.

Once the frame work of the kite is assembled I then randomly cover sections with paper, and decorate as I feel appropriate. From the photos you can see that I have used many different coloured papers and even rushes and grasses from my garden. Bridling the kite and getting it to fly is the hardest part of making the asymmetrical kite. My experience bridling conventional kites has made it easier for me to anticipate where the bridle points will approximately be, but the tried and true way to get these kites up in the air is to go to the flying field armed with thread, tape and paper tails and experiment. This is the best way. Sorry, I cant give you any secret formulae, bridle points are different for every kite and experimenting is just part of the deal when making asymmetrical kites.



I am pleased to report that the two kites I made over the winter months flew successfully. Attached are photos of them in flight. Thank you Flocky for being my “third hand”.

Asymmetrical shaped kites fascinate me. The process of inspiration and creation of the kite gives me a load of pleasure. The fact that such a “strange” kite will fly is always a bit of a mystery. One thing is sure, an asymmetrical kite draws lots of attention, and never fails to draw a comment from spectators as it drifts in the sky.



Mal

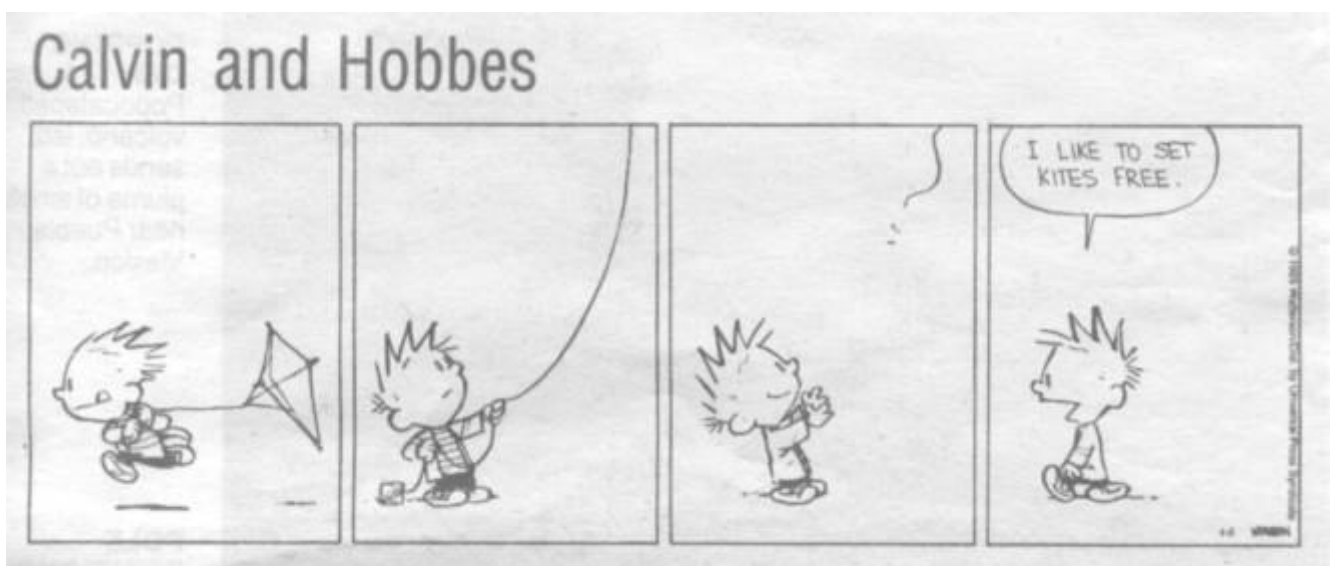


## Kite Flying at Ellendale

The Communities for Children Fun Day at Ellendale in September was a great success with a variety of activities for children.

The kites were a big hit with children of all ages. The children decorated the kites inside the hall and then braved the cool day to test them out in the park. Many smiles were testament to their surprise at how easy it was to fly them when it wasn't a very windy day. Even a couple of grandfathers were seen at the park testing out their grandchildren's creations.

Many thanks to the Kite Flyers Association for supplying the kites. It was not only fun, but helps us to promote outside exercise and how we can make it fun for children (and adults) in a variety of ways.



## October Fly Day – Regatta Grounds, Hobart

What's a kite flyer to do when the Tulip Festival fills the regular flying field with parked cars?

That question among others went round and round in my mind as our October Fly Day approached.

The decision on where to fly was made all the more difficult as we were trying to do something a little different with the Fly Day. In the end it was decided to push on and use the end of the Regatta Grounds near the Cenotaph or the area to the south of the Avenue pending on parking and wind conditions.

The something “a little different” being....I was approached by a volunteer working with the recently arrived Karen community with a view to arranging a fun time of flying kites with the kids and their families...and it turned out to be something really special in my personal experience as a kite flyer as Nat Pausin on behalf of the Karen Community writes...

“Strong winds and parked cars didn't deter Hobart's newly forming Karen community from joining members of the Tasmanian Kite Flyers Club near the Cenotaph on Sunday, 5th October 2008, in what turned out to be a fantastic afternoon of kite-flying and cross-cultural engagement.

As the adults picnicked on the slopes by the Cenotaph, the kids sent up to 30 sled kites skyward and, unfortunately, some tree-ward as well (the evidence remains). Thanks to the Club's generosity in donating these kites, these kids were able to fly kites for the first time. Not that anyone could have guessed, as they seemed to master the art of keeping kites airborne in no time at all.

The Karen are a hill-people from Burma. Since the end of WWII, the Burmese military junta have been systematically persecuting them, burning their villages and driving them out of the country. There is now up to 150,000 Karen living in refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border.



For more information about the Karen and the conditions that exist in these camps, visit: <http://www.tbbc.org/>

Overall, it was a fantastic day, with smiles all round, and everyone in agreement that "we have to do this again!" Plans are underway for another kite-flying Karen picnic during the upcoming Kite Festival in Lauderdale - everyone is welcome to join in."

I would really like to thank Nat for her words and her work. I'd also like to thank the club members who have put so much time and effort into making the sled kites it's you who have bought the joy to the faces of the kids and in a small way hopefully helped the Karen people feel welcome and at home within our wider Tasmanian community.

-David



**KITE LINKS**  
by Isabella 'Izzy' von Lichten



**Kite Builder**

<http://www.kitebuilder.com>

This site is full of information for the kiter! Once you pass the "enter" front page there is a selection panel on the left to choose from. The "Knowledge base" is great for tips on kiting and is now set on the wiki encyclopaedia, and includes some basic plans. Then there is the "Forum" in which you can browse, or if you are a registered member you can freely chat with other kite builders and flyers. There is no charge to register, and it is rather painless. The forum is probably one of the easier kiting forums to navigate that I have come across; it is very well run, and has many members with a wide knowledge base. There are plenty of discussions on kites, kite making, and kite plans. Well worth a rummage!



**Miznet**

<http://miztral.free.fr/>

This is a French site that has morphed through out the years but still has some interesting kite plans, including dual line, quads, and also three lined kites! There is an artistic bent to some of the kites as well as a delicate functionality with the sport ones. If you are worried about the language, just use an online translator.



**Sewing Trouble Shooting**

<http://sewandserge.com/tshoot.asp>

A good little site for those sewing problems.

**Bondi Festival of the Winds**  
**September 2008**

Ian Flewellen

Being a believer that if something doesn't work the first time, try it again—or a “glutton for punishment” as it turned out, I decided to try for my second attempt at Bondi Festival of the Winds. The first attempt was in 2006 when the weather was so appalling that 2006 became known as “NOT the Festival of the Winds”.

Leaving Avril in Melbourne to play Nan to our 2 year-old grandson and our new granddaughter, I got in the van and headed north, having several enjoyable stops with family and friends along the way, including Graham and Carol Gurney at Bega and a laugh filled couple of hours with Di Delli Paoli at Merimbula. I also spent some time with Noel Shaw at Nowra. It's always rewarding and fulfilling to catch up with good kiting friends. Graham and Carol are both doing fine and Noel is making the best of a bout of bad health but still enjoys a visit and chat about kites and kiting people. He may have lost some of his mobility and energy but no one can take away that sense of humour or the polite flirtatiousness that is the very heart and soul of the man—thank goodness.

Leaving Noel's about 6.00am Friday, I arrived at Bondi about 10.00am. The weather was reasonable so after all the formalities, I decided to have a fly. After an hour or so I was joined by another flyer—Dean from Ballina—and gradually one or two more and we made the most of what turned out to be the best of the three days weather for flying.

Friday night we were treated to an official function for everybody involved with the festival which involved much hand shaking from local councillors and politicians—no prizes for guessing there was an election looming.

Saturday morning the weather was okay for flying, but I had made the mistake of locking my kites away in the pavilion with most other people—and sat out some passable



winds while others lingered over a long breakfast and coffee. Saturday afternoon gave us gusty winds along the beach so kites aloft but not very pleasant. Great dinner and auction at the Pavilion and then over the road to the hotel for too many drinks.

Sunday was raining as we met and greeted day flyers with winds blowing off shore over the buildings in a feast or famine fashion. By 10.00 am I was about to pack up my wet coat, etc and head back to Melbourne but was chatting with Noel, Graham and Carol who had driven up for the day, when the rain stopped.



So out with the kite rigged for light breezes only to have it crash and burn every time a sporadic gust came through. We ended up with various kites pegged out on the sand and moved spasmodically to the one most suited to the current five minute block of wind. 2.30 and a huge black downpour sent everybody racing for cover and stuffing wet kites, etc into cars and heading for home, with me heading the exodus.



So I left with being pleased with the opportunity to catch up with friends, enjoying a great Saturday evening being entertained by the ever jovial Godfrey and crew at the auction, and generally having a good time with old and new friends. It's just a shame it is a long way to go to do that without the added pleasure of three days of good kite flying. Oh well—that's Bondi.

Ian



**Tassie Devil flies over Bondi**  
 (even if some Sydney-siders did mistake it for a badger or a skunk!)

**42° South Kite Festival  
Lauderdale Football Ground  
November 2008**

This year's 42 South Kite Festival was held at Lauderdale instead of the usual Wentworth Park, Howrah due to restoration of the grounds. We had a smaller turnout than usual—kite flyers as well as spectators—which we thought may have been due to the change of venue. But it was a nice little oval to fly on. We had consistent light winds for most of the day.

We preceded the fly day with a BBQ at Kent and Helma Stevenson's home in Lauderdale and the weather was kind to us—it was even warm enough to have a BBQ! It was great to catch up with Kent and Helma and for them to join us on the flying field on Sunday.

As ground display we had three banners up, that we made at the workshop. They looked great together and we could have sold them many times over.

I think a good day was had by all, and the word is it will be held again at Lauderdale next year.

Avril



