

# HARDEN KITE FLYER

*Karen Gerg*



I come from a small village in rural America at the mouth of the Niagara River as it flows into Lake Ontario. Most people come there for the boating, fishing, hunting and the fresh produce such as cherries and peaches.

I started kite flying around 1994 after having a jaw operation. While my jaw was wired shut Noel Shaw introduced me to stunt kite flying. My first attempt was on a home made kite made from ripstop nylon and bits of garden hose and string. I crashed it numerous times on the beach at Shoalhaven Heads and eventually was able to make geometric shapes in the sky. By 2006 I was recruited to be secretary of the Australian KiteFlyers Society which I have held ever since. I have been accumulating kites in numerous ways from purchasing commercially made kites, being gifted kites or by making my own. I have been fortunate enough to win a few trophies at the Festival of the Winds for kites I have made.

I write submissions to numerous councils and am very proud of our 42 year association with Waverley Council and the annual support they provide for the Festival of the Winds at Bondi. We have also been fortunate to be invited to the Eden Whale Festival and to Blacksmith's Beach, Caves Beach, Wollongong and inland to Harden and Marulan for their festivals and events. It's great to be with like minded people who enjoy kiting and bring with them a wealth of knowledge which they are willing to share.

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*Karen Gerg cont.*



My favourite kite is the kite that flies the best due to weather conditions on the day. I love to see it and the others performing their wind dance in the sky! I love to see the joy that they bring others and my fellow kite flyers and makers.

My tips for a successful kite fly for the novice is to keep the wind to your back and to fly the kite which best suits the conditions. If you want to put your hand toward kite making, give it a go. Ask questions and apply the hints in those answers to your current project, practise sewing on ripstop nylon and know your sewing machine. Often issues that arise are due to your bobbin and the type of thread you use. Making mistakes are just part of the learning process. Don't be afraid to give it a go. Source your materials wisely.

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