

No.9 (CITY OF WANGANUI) SQUADRON AIR TRAINING CORPS

PO Box 560
WANGANUI



NEWSLETTER 044

AIR FORCE EXPERIENCE

To me the 'Air Force Experience' was exactly what its name implies: a true experience. I got to see, learn about and experiment with things that usually only RF are faced with. It gave me a true insight of all the careers and opportunities within the RNZAF.

On the first day when my group of six (two of them I already knew from my JNCO) arrived and RNZAF base Ohakea we expected a tough officer, marching everywhere and the most thing dreaded; BEDPACKS!!! But we were wrong, it was the opposite, a completely relaxed course.

We got shown all around Ohakea, logistics and supply, the King Air Squadron and the best of all: 3 Squadron. Too bad when it was time to take off for our helicopter ride the hydraulics went bust!



Sergeant Blake Jones, 3rd from right on the Air Force Experience.

Later that day we were flown down to RNZAF base Woodbourne where we visited the ground training wing, where I was lucky enough to catch up with AC Butters, Cleveland and Robinson. At Woodbourne we also visited all the workshops which are the vast majority of the base. After spending a night at Woodbourne we flew on a King Air to RNZAF Base Whenuapai. Here we visited number 42 Squadron, the P3K Orions, another series of ground trades including the parachute and soft materials bay and the C310 Hercules. We also went for a quick drive to Hobsonville to look at the beautiful Seasprites, ran by the RNZN but maintained by 3 SQN of RNZAF. After spending two nights at Whenuapai we were flown back to Ohakea then driven home.

I would like to thank all the people involved in the AFE .

Sergeant Blake Jones

END OF YEAR FUNCTION

The squadron's end of year function will be held at ATC on Saturday 27 November. The evening starts with a Mess Dinner for the Squadron Officers, Cadets, ATC Association and our invited guest at 5:15pm.

This is followed with the parents and other invited guests arriving for an 8:00pm start of the promotions and awards part of the evening.

An invite, along with times is included with this newsletter.

OPERATION “HAUMATA”

An exercise for the squadron’s cadets was held over the weekend of 29-31 October. We held this exercise in the top of the Waiouru Training Group, in an area known as Club Med.

The 5 staff and 24 cadets arrived at ATC late Friday afternoon and after a final check of gear we departed. A quick stop at Waiouru for tea, and we headed up the Desert Road. We managed to set up camp in the last light of the day and after a briefing, issuing of food, and making a hot drink, everyone A very windy and wet Friday night as the cold front went through and the staff were concerned about Saturdays planned training.

On Saturday the rain had stopped, however there was still a cold wind out in the tussock. We made the decision to go to Shepherds Hut to conduct some of the days training programme as it offered a larger area with shelter under trees. At Shepherds Hut a Map and Compass lesson was held and all three sections set up a compass course under the guidance of a staff member. Each course had 6-8 paced bearings and was designed to link to form one large course. It took the cadets 1 1/2 hours to do all 3 courses, with some interesting clues, “santa entrance” and “boxing bag”. We also covered firelighting and how to cook on hexies before the cadets had lunch.



After completing the compass courses in groups we headed back to Club Med and conducted 4 varied and very interesting leadership exercises.

Sergeant Bryce Hackett, Cadets Albeshy Walker and

A shortened night exercise was held after tea due to the cold weather and all was quiet in the camp when the staff did the final check at 2200.



Section 1 carrying the patient back to camp on the search and rescue exercise

Sunday morning and we held a search and rescue exercise in the tussock and then the cadets completed the confidence course. Lunch, final clean up and back in Wanganui we pitched the tents in the garage for airing and returned other equipment to the store

The cadets experienced a range of weather conditions and I learnt from the various activities. I am sure that all cadets have gained something from the experience. Our safety margin was greatly enhanced by the use of the Squadron Swandri's for cadets who did not have adequate clothing, the use of Jerry cans for drinking water and the loan of the 5x6 metre tarpaulin which provided shelter for briefings etc.

Overall a successful weekends training.

PARENTS VS CADETS SHOOT

The parents vs cadets shoot is planned for Thursday 18 November, commencing at 1730 hrs.

There will be a barbeque outside to provide basic sustenance whilst awaiting the opportunity to show your son or daughter your shooting skills.

EXAMINATIONS

We wish all of cadets well for the examinations they may be sitting this term and remind them to phone for leave if they are unable to attend ATC on parade nights.

Our cadet numbers have been down a little over the past few weeks and we hope that it is just due to the cadets studying for NCEA examinations and internal assessments.

COURSE

In addition to Sergeant Blake Jones being on the Air Force Experience, Sergeant Tarryn Cleveland was on the Senior Leaders Course in Auckland and Cadets Alex Fleury and Andrew Hatcher were on the Junior Leaders Course at

C H QUIRK

Squadron Leader, NZCF

UNIT COMMANDER

2 November 2004

FORTHCOMING EVENTS TERM 4 2004

12-14 Nov	Remembrance Parade	Selected group to travel to Wellington for the Remembrance Parade to be
18 Nov	Parents vrs Cadets Shoot	To be held at the Wanganui Pistol Club Range, Airport Road commencing at 5.30pm plus Barbeque
27 Nov	End of Year Function	Mess Dinner for Staff and Cadets at 1715hrs followed by annual prize giving commencing at 8pm.
1 Dec	Squadron Tidy up	Casual dress
TBA	Power flying with the Wanganui Aero Club	We will be trying to arrange some power flying with the Wanganui Aero

Other dates to be confirmed: We will be going to the Intermediates and schools that have students in Form 2 for recruiting, once our NCO's have finished their exams