

No.9 (City of Wanganui) Squadron Air Training Corps

PO Box 560
WANGANUI

www.9squadron.org.nz



NEWSLETTER 052

SQUADRON ORGANISATION

At present the Squadron has 3 Commissioned Officers, 2 Under Officers and a civilian assisting with the squadron's administration and training.

The squadron strength at present is 74 cadets, (48 males and 26 females). Our numbers are up on the same time last year and to date we are averaging over 60 cadets on parade each week.

Our congratulations go to Under Officer Robin Kuhn who has been accepted into the Navy as an Officer. Robin will be leaving us at the end of this term.

ANZAC DAY

It was pleasing to see so many cadets turn up for Dawn Parade on a cold and occasionally wet morning. In addition to the cadets marching we assisted with the Cenotaph and Book of Remembrance guards, carried the RNZAF Flag and laid the ATC wreath.

Just over 20 cadets attended the Maori Service later on Anzac Day.

RAY BOWES

It is with regret we note the passing of Ray Bowes in Auckland. Ray was the Commanding Officer of No.9 Squadron 1952–1960 and served with No.75 Squadron, RNZAF during WW II.

Our condolences go to Ray's family.

COURSES

During the school holidays we had a number of cadets on courses:

Corporals Joshua Dyke, Gerard Mendez and Melody Mendez on the Junior Leaders Course at Ohakea.

Flight Sergeant Kirsty Calman staffing the Senior Leaders Course at Ohakea and Sergeants Harry Seville and Natasha Ward as students,

Sergeant Blake Jones was on the Outdoor Leaders Course at Waiouru and experienced snow and very cold conditions.

SQUADRON PHOTO

A Squadron photo is being taken on Wednesday 11 May before parade at the Memorial Hall forecourt. Cadets are requested to be at the forecourt at 1830 hours. Parents are most welcome to stay and watch as we will require some assistance to transport the cadets to ATC following the photo

Forms have been provided to cadets who wish to purchase a photo.

A YEAR IN ENGLAND – *Flight Sergeant Kirsty Calman*

2004 was always going to be a different year for me, as it was my first year out of school and away from home, but especially because I spent it in Sherborne, a small town in Dorset, England (about 2 hours south west of London). Working at Sherborne Preparatory School as a GAP year student meant working in the boarding house, taking sport and other small staff duties that regular teachers hate doing (listening to kids read and lunch time duty).

I was lucky enough to get in touch with the Sherborne ATC unit and managed to attend the weekly parade every Wednesday night. The unit was run much the same as No. 9 Sqn here, similar uniform, parade nights had similar lay out except that they only had around 15 cadets on the books, so I got to know the cadets and staff really well.

The major highlights to my year at 874 Sqn was the free flying and gliding which was offered to me. Since the Air Cadets over there have huge funding from the RAF, they are lucky enough to have their own aircraft kept in hangers on RAF bases. I went flying twice at RAF Base Boscombe Down, and both times the instructor gave me extra flying time just because I was from New Zealand, which included flying over Stonehenge. Then I went gliding for a day at RAF base Upavon which was also a cause for extra attention because I was foreign. I almost became banned from taking drill as it was rather different and they could never understand me, and vice versa.

A week before I left England we had the 874 Sqn Prizegiving where I was awarded with the 'cadet of the year' cup.

Other parts of my year were spent travelling around Europe and around the UK. All in all a very worthwhile year away, before coming home to decide on my future.



The crest of the Dorset and Wiltshire Wing



Flight Sergeant Calman with others laying wreaths at the Commemoration Service in Sherborne.

DAVY DRILL

Our Davy Drill team have been giving up their spare time after school and on weekends to practice.

We will be inspected on Wednesday night, 18 May at 1830. Over the past few years all Squadrons have been inspected on a Saturday at Ohakea. Cadets will be advised where the inspection will take place and parents are most welcome to watch

POPPY DAY

We had the largest number of cadets ever involved assisting the RSA with Poppy sales.

20 cadets sold poppies on both the Friday and Saturday at various locations in the City. We have had some discussions with the RSA to extend our assistance on Poppy day next year as their membership decreases.

ATC ASSOCIATION AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the ATC Association was held on Thursday 7 April.

A small turn out of parents re-elected Mr Tim Campbell as Chairperson. Mr Ian Bell was elected Treasurer with Mr Bill Fleury being elected as Secretary. It is pleasing to also have a small committee to support the Squadron and represent the parents' views.

At the meeting the fees were set at \$40.00 per cadet for the year with varying discounts for more than one cadet per family in the squadron. Included with the Newsletter is an invoice. If you have already paid the family levy, thank you, as it does assist your sons and daughters within the squadron.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

If parents would like to receive their newsletter by email or be advised the latest newsletter is available on the Squadron website please let me know on contact@9squadron.org.nz

We are looking at this as a way of reducing postage, however the final years newsletter plus end-of-year invite will be sent by post.

C H QUIRK

Squadron Leader, NZCF

UNIT COMMANDER

7 May 2005

FORTHCOMING EVENTS TERM 2 2005

11 May	Squadron Photo	Cadets to meet at the Memorial Hall at 1830 hours. If wet the photo will be taken at ATC in the hall.
18 May	Davy Drill Competition	Location TBA
28 May	Squadron Shoot	Wanganui Pistol Club Range, Putiki. 0800 start. Casual comfortable attire.
19 June	Sports Day	Flying Officer Frericks has organised an inter unit sports day. Details TBA.
2-3	Senior Exercise	We are investigating some adventure training for our senior cadets