

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

PO Box 560
WANGANUI

www.9squadron.org.nz



NEWSLETTER 054

SQUADRON ORGANISATION

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

The squadron strength at present is 58 cadets, (37 males and 21 females).

DAVY DRILL

It was very pleasing to receive notification advising No.9 Squadron had come second in the Davy Drill Competition with 203 points.

No. 29 (Rotorua) Squadron won the national drill competition with 212 points, and No.38 (Waimakariri) third with 201.

The cadets put in a lot of effort over the past weeks to prepare for this inspection and they are to be commended on their achievement. This included having 4 new members and a change of team leader. The changes were due to Kirsty Calman having joining the RNZAF, Robin Kuhn the Navy and two other team members no longer being available.

FLYING

We were again very fortunate to have Flight Lieutenant Scott Williams from Ohakea take 5 senior cadets flying in an RNZAF Airtrainer.

Scott an ex cadet with No.9 Squadron was an instructor at Pilot Training School also conducted the navigation lessons with these senior cadets during Term 3.

We are very grateful to Scott for providing what will be for most of these cadets a once in a life time opportunity.



Flight Lieutenant Scott Williams adjusting the helmet of Flight Sergeant Blake Jones before the flight

EVENTS THIS TERM

This term will be a busy one with three of the four activities incurring a cost.

We are also aware that some of our cadets will be studying for examinations.

We do not want parents to feel pressured into having their children partake in both the bushcraft exercise and flying training for either financial or study reasons. Some cadets may have to make a choice of which activity they partake in.

If parents have enquiries regarding these activities please give me a phone call.

OPERATION “YETI”

Over the weekend of 6-7 August, 3 staff and 4 NCO’s walked into Whakapapaiti Hut on Mt Ruapehu.

All at ATC just after 0800, van loaded, final check and we depart for Tongariro National Park. We stopped at the shelter near Park Headquarters and while the cadets put on their wet weather gear, split up the group food and equipment, Miss Smith went and checked the latest mountain forecast. We decided not to proceed to the ski-field and do some snow craft, but to walk into the hut while the weather was still ok. A check of the map to show the cadets where we were going, loaded the van and we drove up to the Scoria Flat car park and following a briefing on how long it would take and what we would see, the party started walking.



FGOFF Beaudine Frericks showing Corporal Gerard Mendez their location on the map.

Once at the hut, we gave the hut etiquette brief, followed by lunch. After lunch, the mountain radio aerial was put up and into the firewood cutting with FGOFF Frericks had to provide some instruction on how to use an axe. The NCO’s thoroughly enjoyed the firewood cutting, and at the end we had an ample supply not only for ourselves but others to use after us.

Wet weather gear on and we headed back out for the exploration of the area and some map work. Light snow fell for some of the next hour and half of exploring, checking the map, and the occasional icy snowball been thrown.

Tea was prepared on returning to the hut and all had eaten, dishes done and benches cleaned before darkness set in. A brief on how to use the mountain radio and the service they provide was carried out before the 1830 schedule. NCO’s completed route guides for Sunday’s walk out and then a game of cards and yahtzee. All in bed at around 2100, followed soon after by a very quiet hut.

All up by 0730 on Sunday morning and breakfast under way. Everybody had a hot breakfast, and we completed the 0800 radio schedule. Cleaned the hut, dropped the mountain radio aerial, packed our gear away and cleaned the hut.

Final photo call outside the hut and on the track at 0930. A quiet start to the day as we walked in overcast weather towards the river crossing 20 minutes away. A cold, but not very deep river greeted us and once on the other side we adjusted clothing and continued down the valley, stopping for snacks and drinks breaks along the way. We were fortunate that the rain held off until we were in the bush and we continued to tramp with regular, snack and drink until we reached the road.

Back to the shelter where we cooked up a hot lunch followed by a quiet return to Wanganui.

An enjoyable and successful weekends training in a range of weather conditions with all the cadets gaining from the experience.



The group at the end of the track

OPERATION “WHEKI”

The Basic Cadet’s bushcraft exercise was held on Orangimea Station in the Waitotara Valley on 10-11 September with 6 staff and 26 cadets participating in the exercise. Majority at ATC just after 0800, with the first arrivals being there around 0745. Roll checked and group leaders checked that all cadets had adequate clothing, ration packs issued, trailer packed and we departed for Waitotara.

Outside the woolshed at Orangimea Station the group food and equipment was distributed, FLTLT Cleveland conducted a briefing for walking in including timings and where we were going. Miss Smith walking in ahead of the cadets was greeted by an inquisitive deer that moved away and then returned to investigate. By the time the cadets had arrived the deer was long gone.



One of the groups walking into the campsite.

All arrived at the campsite, where following a briefing the sections moved to their respective campsites. The NCO’s gave the cadets an orientation of the area and some bushcraft lecturesses were conducted. The sections then set up their respective camp sites, began to collect firewood and had lunch.

In the afternoon we carried out ground to air signalling without having a flypast, the building of traps and snares and late in the afternoon a discussion on how to use the Squadron ration pack. After the evening meal a night exercise was conducted. Final debrief of the day with times advised for Sunday, then back to their respective sections for a drink, lights out, with the staff completing the final check of the cadets for the day.

On Sunday everybody was up by 0730 and breakfast under way. A check of the traps and snares with the area being tidied up. A Spot and seek exercise was held under the direction of FGOFF Frericks while the NCO’s assisted in the tightening of the ropes on the confidence course. All back to their campsites for a drink and a snack, followed by a leadership exercise and the confidence course which was tackled with great deal of enthusiasm.

Cadets returned to their sections and started to clean up and have lunch. Staff inspection of the section camp sites and following the debrief by the staff we departed in groups for the road to return to Wanganui. Equipment returned to the store, tents pitched in one of the Army garages, vans cleaned and cadets then were able to go home.

A very good weekends training and the cadets now have some basic grounding in bushcraft which they will expand upon and develop on future exercises.



Cadets Kirsty Blencoe & Alysha Bardell outside their tent.

PARENTS VS CADETS SHOOT

The parents vs cadets shoot is planned for Thursday 17 November, commencing at 1730 hrs.

There will be a barbeque outside to provide basic sustenance whilst awaiting the opportunity

VISIT TO OHAKEA

On the parade night of 24 August we all meet at ATC early so we could go to Ohakea. Flight Lieutenant Scott Williams met us at the main gate where he briefed us all and then as the four individual sections of 12-13 before heading off to the respective areas. The four section visited two of the following operational areas; No.42 Squadron, Pilot Training School, Control Tower and Fire Section..

We spent around 30-40 minutes at each of the two sections before returning to Wanganui. A very worthwhile activity on a parade night and our thanks go to FLTLT Scott Williams for his approach to the Base Adjutant and his volunteering to be our liaison officer on the night.



Corporal Andrew Hatcher and Cadet Fiapaipai Casserley in the cockpit of an Airtrainer.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN COMMEMORATION SERVICE

I was very pleased with the turn out of 22 cadets to St. Peter's Church on 18 September to participate in the Battle of Britain Service. As in previous years 3 SNCO's carried the RNZAF Flag down the aisle with two NCO's assisting with the collection.

COURSES

In the last school holidays FGOFF Frericks staffed the Air Force Experience at Ohakea and Cadet Jaquelyn Ward was on the Junior Leaders Course at RNZAF Base Auckland.

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.

END OF YEAR FUNCTION

The squadron's end of year function will be held at ATC on Saturday 3 December. 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. Further information will be sent out in the next newsletter.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS TERM 4 2005

28-30 Oct	Operation "Toetoe"	Squadron exercise to be held in Waiouru. Parent permission forms have already been sent home.
9 Nov (Parade Night)	Chuck Glider Fly-off	The first year cadets will be having a fly-off to see how well they have built their chuck gliders
11-13 Nov	Remembrance Parade	Selected group to travel to Wellington for the Remembrance Parade to be held on Sunday the 13th November.
16 Nov (Parade Night)	RNZAF Recruiter	We have requested the RNZAF recruiter to come to the Squadron and talk to all the cadets.
17 Nov	Parents vs Cadets Shoot	To be held at the Wanganui Pistol Club Range, Airport Road commencing at 5.30pm plus Barbeque
19-20 Nov	Flying Power / Gliding	We are currently negotiating with the Wanganui / Manawatu Gliding Club and the Wanganui Aero Club to provide flying for the cadets over this weekend. In the past the cost has been approximately \$35.00 for this activity and we may require some parents assistance
3 Dec	End of Year Function	Mess Dinner for Staff and Cadets at 1715hrs followed by annual prize giving commencing at 8pm. More details in the next newsletter
7 Dec	Squadron Tidy up	Casual dress

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

C H QUIRK
Squadron Leader, NZCF
UNIT COMMANDER

7 October 2005