

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

PO Box 560
WANGANUI

www.9squadron.org.nz



NEWSLETTER 065

SQUADRON ORGANISATION

At present the Squadron has 3 Commissioned Officers, 1 Under Officer and two civilians assisting with the squadron's administration and training.

The squadron strength at present is 62 cadets (40 males and 22 females).

CHUCK GLIDERS

On the parade night of 10 November the Basic Cadets test flew their Chuck Gliders which they built during Terms 2 and 3.

Cadets Thomas Martin, Tanya Duxfield, Evan Anderson and Kirsten Hackett comparing their gliders which were still intact and flying at the end of the fly-off.



END OF YEAR FUNCTION

The squadron's end of year function will be held at ATC on Saturday 2 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.

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

Please note that while we try to keep our records up-to-date, sometimes we do not always have the most recent information. Other family members, including grandparents and siblings, are always welcome to attend this function.

OPERATION “MERCURY”

The annual full Squadron camp was held over the weekend of 27-29 October in the top of the Waiouru Training Group, in an area known as “Club Med”.

The 6 staff and 29 cadets left Wanganui late on Friday afternoon after the final gear check. Following a quick stop for tea at Waiouru we headed up the Desert Road and set up camp in the last light of day. After a briefing, food was issued and everyone headed back to section campsites for a hot drink and off to bed.

On Saturday we completed the setting up of camp and then moved to another area in the Training Group known as Shepherds Hut. Each of the 8 groups had a pack with lunch, cookers and snacks. Miss Smith conducted a map and compass refresher, followed by the 4 sections being provided with 6 orange marker poles to set up a compass course. Once each section had built its own course, they then had to complete the other 3 courses to get back to the start. Cadet Moorhouse unfortunately tripped and broke his arm and was evacuated to Waiouru Base Hospital.

The remaining staff and cadets conducted a Search and Rescue exercise in the area before returning to Club Med late in the afternoon. After tea we took a short evening walk to a knoll overlooking the Desert Road where we discussed other activities we have done in the past. We decided not to hold a night exercise, due to the cold weather and allowed the cadets to have a hot drink and go to bed. With light rain falling the staff moved around the 4 sections and when the final check was completed around 2130, all was quiet.

The updated weather forecast advised us that the bad weather was going to reach us earlier than expected, so we decided not to have a confidence course, but focus on leadership and team building. In an area under some trees on the other side of the creek we conducted five interesting and varied leadership exercises, which were completed in sections and brought out the competitive nature of some groups. With rain settling in, the cadets had lunch, cleaned up their area, had an inspection by staff and final emu parade, before we departed for Wanganui. When we arrived back, the cadets cleaned the vehicles, pitched tents and tarps in the Army garage for drying and airing, before phoning home.

Although the weather was not kind to us for most of the weekend, 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 that provided shelter for briefings etc. We were also carrying spare sleeping bags and clothing as a back-up measure.



Section 1 were the first to carry Cadet Timothy Clark back to Shepherds Hut on the Search and Rescue Exercise

PARENTS v CADETS SHOOT

The parents v cadets shoot is planned for Thursday 16 November, commencing at 1730 hrs. We will be at the range from 1715 and if there is anyone who needs to shoot early due to other commitments please see one of the staff.

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

RECRUITING

We have written to all of the schools in and around Wanganui with year 8 (Form 2) students requesting permission to visit and give a presentation about No.9 Squadron and the Air Training Corps.

If you know of young people who are wishing to join the Squadron in 2007, please pass their name onto myself, or advise them we will be holding a recruiting night at the beginning of February.

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.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

It was pleasing to see a small number of cadets turn up at short notice to the Remembrance Day Commemoration and Re-dedication of the Veteran Steps on 11 November.



Sergeant Andrew Hatcher saluting after laying the ATC wreath at the Remembrance Day Commemoration

C H QUIRK
Squadron Leader, NZCF
UNIT COMMANDER

12 November 2006

FORTHCOMING EVENTS TERM 4 2006

15 Nov (Parade Night)	Army Recruiter	We have requested the Army recruiter to come to the Squadron and talk to all the cadets.
16 Nov	Parents v Cadets Shoot	To be held at the Wanganui Pistol Club Range, Airport Road commencing at 5.30pm plus Barbeque.
2 Dec	End of Year Function	Mess Dinner for Staff and Cadets at 1715hrs followed by Prize Giving commencing at 8pm.
6 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.