

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

PO Box 560
WANGANUI

www.9squadron.org.nz



NEWSLETTER 073

SQUADRON ORGANISATION

At present the Squadron has 4 Commissioned Officers, 1 Under Officer and two civilians assisting with the squadron's administration and training.

The squadron strength at present is 67 cadets (40 males and 27 females). We farewelled Flight Sergeant Nicole Gregory and Sergeant Jon Shelly at the end of Term 2 as they returned to the UK having spent nearly a year with No 9 Squadron.

Our congratulations go to Cpl Jacquelyn Ward and Cdt Siobhan Cleveland on their promotions to Sergeant and Corporal and we welcome Corporal Caleb Temprow who has transferred to us from Oamaru.

ANZAC DAY

This year was probably the largest turn out of cadets at a Dawn Parade, with 60 cadets participating in various duties including the cenotaph guard, RNZAFA Flag and wreath bearers.

Later in the morning small groups attended the Maxwell, Brunswick and Maori Services.

COURSES

During the school holidays we had a number of people on courses at Ohakea:

- Sergeant Ben Sandlant, Corporal Tammy Hay and Corporal Tim Shepherd were on the Senior Leaders Course.
- Cadet Siobhan Cleveland was on the Junior Leaders Course.

ASSISTANCE TO 5 WWCT REGIMENT

Flying Officer Beaudine Frericks and Pilot Officer Jason Smith took cadets from the three Wanganui Cadet Force Units to Hawera to assist the Regiment with a Charter Parade. Flight Sergeant Andrew Hatcher and Sergeant Emma Homes represented ATC and the feedback from the Regiment is that they were very pleased with our presence and efforts.



Sergeant Ben Sandlant on the Cenotaph at the Maori Service

CHIEF OF AIR FORCE COMMENDATION (by Miss Smith – Adjutant)

On 16 May it was an honour to host the Chief of Air Force, Air Vice Marshall Graham Lintott. The purpose of his visit was to present Squadron Leader Charles Quirk with the CAF Commendation “for outstanding zeal and devotion to duty” over 40 years in ATC.

Thank you to all the parents and guests who turned up on a cold night to view the parade and then stayed for refreshments and to have a look at the Squadron on a “working” night.

The cadets responded very well to such a formal parade, being inspected by Air Vice Marshall Lintott, and were very proud of “their CO”.



Air Vice Marshall Graham Lintott presenting Squadron Leader Quirk with the written Commendation.

Photo courtesy of RNZAF

Many thanks to the all of the Squadron for their support on this prestigious occasion. A special thank you to Amanda Spooner for the fabulous catering and to the Support Committee and parents



Sergeant Joshua Meade toyes the ball ahead during the soccer game.

SPORTS DAY

On Sunday 18 June the annual sports day was held between the three Wanganui Cadet Force Units at Wanganui High School. A very good turn out of 5 staff and 27 cadets from No.9 Squadron. The SNCOs ensured all cadets received game time in the netball, volleyball, soccer and touch rugby.

The games were played in good spirit and at the end of the day No.9 Squadron won the overall trophy and retained the cup played for against the Sea Cadets.

Our thanks go to all who assisted with umpiring and refereeing.

THANKS

Our thanks to Beadles for supplying the wood for the fuselages the cadets use to make their chuck gliders and to the Ex-Malayan Organisation for their donation.

OPERATION “ICE CUBE II”

Over the weekend of 11-12 August, 4 staff and 5 NCO’s walked into Blyth Hut on Mt Ruapehu. This exercise was originally planned for 23-24 June, however we postponed the trip due to bad weather.

We arrived at ATC just after 0800, loaded the van and departed for Tongariro National Park. We stopped at Ruapehu College to pick up Phil (caretaker) who secured the van for us. He offered us the use of the school hall and toilets for any last minute clothing changes, distribution of the food and final briefing, so that we could hit the track running.

We hoped that the dozen other cars in the car park were just day walkers and headed off. After about 15 minutes uphill, we were nearly blown off the boardwalk before returning to the shelter of the trees. There were a couple of very quick snack stops along the way but not many photo shoots. Wanganui High School Hut looked inviting if Blyth turned out to be over-crowded.

We arrived at Blyth Hut just as the weather got really nasty, and were pleased to find only 3 others staying the night. After quick lessons on etiquette, we sorted bunks and got some hot food into us. After lunch the mountain radio aerial was put up and firewood cut. FGOFF Frericks had to provide some instruction on how to use an axe and very soon we had plenty of firewood. We had a discussion on the hut ticket system the NCO’s completed route guides for Sunday’s walk out.

Prior to the evening meal we looked at the use of the retort (Kaweka) packs, prepared tea, and we made sure all had eaten, dishes done and benches cleaned before the NCOs started playing cards. The mountain radio schedule was at 2000 and the weather forecast advised of continuing high winds and bad weather. After a hot drink, we turned in for the night with the last of our party in bed by 2100. During the night we were buffeted by strong winds and rain.

We woke to poor visibility, a very light layer of snow, wind still blowing and occasional rain, so everyone stayed in bed a little longer. After breakfast we cut some more firewood, dropped the mountain radio aerial and reviewed our situation. After cleaning up the Hut, we put on rain coats, leggings, hats and gloves, did the final photo call and hit the track. With the wind still strong in exposed places we made good time past High School’s Hut, across the two streams and into the bushline. We stopped at the junction of the Round the Mountain Track for a snack break and then down to the next two river crossings. These two rivers were flowing a little quicker than normal and good procedures for crossing were used.

By this time the wind had dropped and our walk back across the boardwalk was not as eventful as the walk in. We had lunch by the river just before 1200, then proceeded up the road to try and find some snow. The road was closed at the Massey A-Frame and even with limited snow the cadets managed to throw a few snowballs at each other before we headed back down the mountain, stopping to change clothes before driving back to Wanganui.

An enjoyable and successful weekend’s training in a range of weather conditions with all the



Ready to depart Blyth Hut for the road.

L-R: Sergeant Emma Homes, Corporal Aaron Shield, Sergeant Jacquelyn Ward (front), Corporal Tammy Hay, Sergeant Ben Sandlant, Pilot Officer Jason Smith, Flying Officer Beaudine Frericks and Miss Tracy Smith

ATC ASSOCIATION

The ATC Association have been very busy putting in new shelving into the equipment store and have the canteen prepared ready for painting.

Our thanks go to Murray Clay who put forward a proposal to Power Co for funding and they have agreed to assist with purchase of new equipment and refurbishment of buildings with \$2500.

Thanks go to parents who have paid the Squadron donation as it does assist with the training of our cadets. If you are uncertain if you have paid please contact the Treasurer, Mr Ian Bell.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN

The Royal New Zealand Air Force Association have decided to continue commemorating Battle of Britain with just the Church service again this year.

We will assemble at St Peters Church in Koromiko Road, Gonville on Sunday 16 September at 1345 hours. At this service three members of the Squadron will be carrying the RNZAF Colours down the aisle, and we will assist with the collection and at the afternoon tea.

The church service is normally finished by 1530 and the cadets will be free to go at this time or stay for afternoon tea.

CONTACT NUMBERS

The squadron's phone number is 345 7303 and is listed under Air Training Corps in the White pages. The squadron web site is www.9squadron.org.nz

If any parents have any concerns or questions, I can be contacted on 347 8124.

C H QUIRK

Squadron Leader, NZCF
UNIT COMMANDER

14 August 2007

FORTHCOMING EVENTS TERM 3 2007

- | | | |
|---------------|--|--|
| 1-2 September | Operation "Manuka" | Basic cadets bushcraft exercise to be held in the Waitotara Valley. Parent permission have been sent home. |
| 12 September | RNZAF Recruiter | The Air Force Recruiter will visit the Squadron. |
| 15 September | Operation "First Light" | A day walk for our Proficiency cadets to be held in the Waitotara Valley. Parent permission forms will be sent home. |
| 16 September | Battle of Britain
Commemoration Service | Assemble at St Peters Church, Koromiko Road, Gonville at 1345. This is a compulsory parade as |