

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

PO Box 560
WANGANUI

www.9squadron.org.nz



NEWSLETTER 075

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 57 cadets (35 males and 22 females).

OHAKEA VISIT

On the 24th October we had our biannual base visit to Ohakea. The cadets were split into four groups of about 9, who each visited two RNZAF Squadrons or sections. No.3 (Iroquois) Squadron, No.42 (King Air) Squadron, Pilot Training School and the Fire Section all gave our cadets a very good overview of what they do and then a practical look around with time for "hands-on". A very worthwhile night and our thanks go to Ohakea for allowing us to visit.



Sergeant Ben Sandlant sitting at the controls of an Iroquois of No.3 Squadron

END OF YEAR FUNCTION

The squadron's end of year function will be held at ATC on Saturday 1 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 “HERCULES”

The annual full Squadron camp was held over the weekend of 2-4 November in the top of the Waiouru Training Group, in an area known as “Club Med”. The 4 staff and 22 cadets left Wanganui late on Friday afternoon after a 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 moved to the Waipakahi River where we conducted river crossings using single pole and mutual support methods. After lunch by the river we headed back up the road to be confronted by a Fish and Game Warden concerned about the possibility of Didymo in the river. While it took time to all be sprayed with Palmolive mix (a precaution) the cadets learnt about the threat of Didymo and “say NO to Didymo” became a favourite phrase for the rest of the weekend.

Once we had returned to Club Med we held a map and compass refresher and three interesting challenges as a competition between sections. After tea we took a short evening walk, did some more challenges and held a shortened night exercise. Then a hot drink and all off to bed with camp all quiet around 2200.

High winds were heard in the night and we awoke to light steady rain. The cadets completed three of the confidence course tasks. A search and rescue exercise was held in a sheltered area and once the object was found, a cadet was placed onto the stretcher and all had a go at carrying.

With it still raining 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.

We achieved a varied range of training over the weekend, with the staff commenting on how much we achieved on the Saturday while the weather was kind to us. Again our safety margin was greatly enhanced by the use of the Squadron Swandris for cadets who did not have adequate clothing, the use of Jerry cans for drinking water and the loan of the 9.6 metre tarpaulin that provided shelter for briefings etc. We were also carrying spare sleeping bags and clothing as a back-up measure.

Overall a very enjoyable and successful weekends training.



Part of Section 2 practising the mutual support method of river crossing.

EFFICIENCY TROPHY

It was recently announced that No.9 Squadron had won the Efficiency Trophy for Central Area (Air Training Corps Squadrons). At this stage we will inspected for the National Trophy on Wednesday 21 November. It would be good to see the Squadron at full strength that night, including seniors on study leave, if at all possible.

PARENTS v CADETS SHOOT (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

The parents v cadets shoot is planned for Thursday 22 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.

FLYING WITH AERO CLUB

We will have a number of cadets flying with the Aero Club over the next two weeks. If for any reason they are unable to attend, they must phone Flying Officer Frericks on 343 1416.

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.

TROPHIES

With the end of year function approaching it would be appreciated if cadets who have Squadron trophies could return these promptly

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 2008, please pass their name onto one of the Squadron staff, or advise them we will be holding a recruiting night at the beginning of February.

C H QUIRK
Squadron Leader, NZCF
UNIT COMMANDER

11 November 2007

FORTHCOMING EVENTS TERM 4 2007

16-18 Nov	Assistance to the Wanganui Pistol Club	Assisting Wanganui Pistol Club at their range and Landguards Bluff
12, 12, 15, 19 and 20 Nov	Cadets Flying	Cadets are flying in groups of 3 at Wanganui Aero Club
22 Nov	Parents v Cadets Shoot	To be held at the Wanganui Pistol Club Range, Airport Road commencing at 5.15pm plus Barbeque.
1 Dec	End of Year Function	Mess Dinner for Staff and Cadets at 1715hrs followed by Prize Giving commencing at 8pm.
5 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.