

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

PO Box 560  
WANGANUI

www.9squadron.org.nz



## NEWSLETTER 102

### SQUADRON ORGANISATION

At present the Squadron has 5 Commissioned Officers and 3 Under Officers assisting with the squadron's administration and training.

The squadron strength at present is 67 cadets (52 males and 15 females).

### DAVY DRILL

This year our team was lead by Under Officer Ben Sandlant. After a few weeks of practices our drill team travelled to Ohakea on Saturday 1 May to compete for the Davy Drill Trophy against other ATC units from the lower half of the North Island. They put together a very good display and for their efforts came a creditable third. The team are to be congratulated for giving their time after school and weekends for practices. A very enjoyable day for the cadets to participate, learn and for some catch up with friends from other squadrons.

### COURSES

Bryce Hackett completed his commissioning course at Ohakea in May and gained the rank of Pilot Officer. This is a great achievement and I congratulate him on his new promotion.

During these school holidays will have both Flight Sergeants Jason Anderson and Tim Clark attending the Advanced Leaders Course in Woodbourne.

We wish them all the best for the course.

### SPORTS DAY

On Sunday 27 June the Wanganui/Manawatu New Zealand Cadet Forces annual sports day was held at Wanganui High School. The weather was not kind to us so the volleyball, netball and soccer were all held indoors. On such a cold and wet day I was extremely pleased with the turn-out of 24 ATC cadets.



At the end of the day the No.10 (City of Palmerston North) Squadron won the trophy with No.9 Squadron in third place and successfully retaining the soccer trophy played for against the Sea Cadets.

*Playing the Sea Cadets at netball with the result being a win to No.9 Squadron.*

Our thanks go to the referees of the day and the support committee for their fundraising event.

## OPERATION “MCDONNELL DOUGLAS”

This exercise was for the Proficiency and Advanced cadets of the squadron, with objectives to improve their bushcraft skills and knowledge and to also develop teamwork and leadership. The day started at the splash Centre at 0830. I introduced Mrs Sharon Jamieson as the dive instructor and following her briefing the cadets went off and changed ready for the diving. The instruction was completed in 2 groups, with each group taking just over an hour to complete the snorkelling before moving onto using the tank.



*LAC Clark and CDT Archer receiving diving instruction*

The scuba diving activity finished around 12pm and we headed off to Landguards Bluff. Once arrived, the weather deteriorated and it began to hail. The cadets headed inside to have their cut lunch.

The weather started to clear about an hour later and SQNLDR Cleveland took the cadets outdoors and down to the river to conduct a fire lighting activity. With wet wood and a cold south wind the cadets learnt some excellent fire lighting skills. I believe this is a skill that is starting to be lost with our cadets and yet it is one of the most important skills for survival.



*Lifting the Stick*

After this activity the cadets headed back to camp where a lesson on clothing and equipment was carried out by SQNLDR Quirk and SQNLDR Cleveland.

The group then split into two and headed back outside to complete a leadership exercise and a compass course. FGOFF Smith and UO Sheild ran the compass course while UO Sandlant and I ran leadership exercises. The exercises were; “untangle the circle”, “recover the nuclear waste” and “lifting the stick.” These exercises were entered into with a large amount of enthusiasm and the staff had a good opportunity to observe the cadet’s teamwork and leadership.

While the last group were out on the compass course the remaining staff assisted Miss Smith in the kitchen preparing the evening meal. All cadets tucked into the evening meal of devil sausages. It was good to see all cadets eating hearty meals, with some going back for more.

Overall an enjoyable and successful days training.

## BATTLE OF BRITAIN

On behalf of the Royal New Zealand Air Force Association, the Squadron will organise and commemorate the Battle of Britain with a Church service again this year.

We will assemble at St Peters Church in Koromiko Road, Gonville on Sunday 19 September at 1345 hours. At this service three members of the Squadron will be carrying the RNZAFA 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.

### ATC ASSOCIATION — THANK YOU

The support committee would like to thank all parents that supported and provided cakes, biscuits to sell at the last BBQ fundraiser. The BBQ was a great success making a \$336.20 profit.

The support committee are planning more BBQ fundraisers at Sunny's Wanganui between 10am-1:30pm on the following dates:

10<sup>th</sup> July 2010    7<sup>th</sup> August 2010    4<sup>th</sup> September 2010

If you can assist in either support on the day or providing cakes and biscuits, please telephone Lesley Clark on 06 343 3223.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS TERM 3 2010

7-8 August	Operation "De Havilland"	NCO mountain exercise to be held in Tongariro National Park.
21-23 August	Unit Commanders Conference	Held RNZAF Base Ohakea for Unit Commanders of Central Area.
28-29 August	Operation "Beech"	Basic cadets bushcraft exercise to be held in the Waitotara Valley. Parent permission forms will be sent home.
18 September	Squadron Shoot	Wanganui Pistol Club Range Putiki 0800 start. Casual comfortable clothing. There is no cost and we should be finished by 1030.
19 September	Battle of Britain Commemoration Service	Assemble at St Peters Church, Koromiko Road, Gonville at 1345. This is a compulsory parade as our second civic commitment for 2010.

B J FRERICKS  
Flight Lieutenant, NZCF  
UNIT COMMANDER

30 June 2010

