

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

PO Box 560  
WANGANUI

www.9squadron.org.nz



## *NEWSLETTER 053*

### **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 63 cadets, (41 males and 22 females).

### **FAREWELLS AND ARRIVALS**

On the last parade night in Term 2, we farewelled Under Officer Robin Kuhn who has joined the Navy and Flight Sergeant Kirsty Calman who has join the Air Force. We wish them good luck in their new careers.

We have fortunate to have two ex-cadets return to 9 Squadron. Jenny Hawken after a year in Wellington has returned and has re-joined as a civilian instructor. Jason Smith left the Squadron at the end of 2001, due to work commitments and will be going back into uniform as an Under Officer.

It is pleasing to have both of them back and good to see young people returning and volunteering to assist.

### **COURSES**

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

- Sergeants Blake Jones and Nicholas Joblin-Mills along with Corporal Andrew Hatcher on the Senior Leaders Course at Ohakea. Also on the course was Flight Sergeant Tarryn Cleveland as one of the staff.,
- Corporals Alissa Hackett and Matthew Phillips and Cadets Andrew Bell and Emma Homes were on the Junior Leaders Course held at Waiouru
- Flying Officer Beaudine Frericks staffed the Junior Leaders Course

### **GORDON STRACHAN and DAN COTTON**

It is with regret we note the passing of Gordon Strachan and Dan Cotton. Gordon was the Commanding Officer of No.9 Squadron 1960 –1969 and served with the RNZAF during WW II. I know Gordon's family were very appreciative of the ten NCO's who formed a guard of honour outside the Church at his funeral.

It is also with regret that we note the passing of Dan Cotton earlier this year. Dan was the Commanding Officer 1951 – 1952.

Both of these men made a contribution in their time to the Squadron as staff and as the Commanding Officers and our condolences go to Gordon and Dan's families.

It is with sadness that we note the Squadron has now lost all of its 7 previous Commanding Officers since forming in 1941.

## DAVY DRILL COMPETITION

After giving up so much of their time to practice, our Drill team was finally inspected on 18 May. We were thrilled to win the Central Area Drill Trophy again having also won it in 2002 and 2003. We now have opportunity to compete for the Davy Drill Trophy against a Squadron from both Northern and Southern Regions. This inspection will take place on Wednesday 21 September.

The team will now start practices again and also need to replace Flight Sergeant Kirsty Calman who ran the team and Under Officer Robin Kuhn who was also part of the winning combination.

## SPORTS DAY

On Sunday 19 June the annual inter-unit sports day was held at Wanganui. This is the second year that the competition between the three Cadet Force Units has been held.



*Flight Sergeant Kirsty Calman receiving the No.75 Squadron Trophy from Flight Lieutenant Wayne Crosswell from Ohakea*

Volleyball, netball and soccer were repeated again this year with a “top town” event held at the end. I was extremely pleased with the turn-out of 26 ATC cadets. With so many cadets in attendance we were able to loan 4 or 5 to assist the Sea Cadets.

At the end of the day the Sea Cadets and Cadet Corps tied for first place and we successfully retained the trophy played for against the Sea Cadets for soccer.

*Flight Sergeant Bryce Hackett assisting cadets; Samantha Cawley, Emma Blencoe and Kirsty Blencoe across the “drums and planks” in the Top Town event.*

## BATTLE OF BRITAIN

The Royal New Zealand Air Force Association have decided to continue with 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 18 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.

## **OPERATION “ONGAONGA”**

Three staff and 7 senior cadets headed up the Waitotara Valley on Saturday 2nd of July. The purpose was to provide an opportunity for NCO's and senior cadets to familiarise themselves with the campsites we have used in the past (that none of them had been to), before being responsible for a group of cadets in the area in the future.

At the first campsite the staff talked about the area to be used, and potential hazards including Ongaonga (the native stinging nettle). On arrival at the second area we split the group into two and they went off to find the best site for their section. This included where they would pitch their tents, place the fire and location of a shared ablution. This exercise took a little longer than planned, however proved to be useful.

We walked further up the valley to an area we have also used in the past, where Flying Officer Frericks conducted a refresher lesson on fire lighting. The two groups then built a fire to cook lunch and have a hot drink. This also took a lot longer as number of the cadets were inexperienced in this subject and this challenge proved very beneficial.



*Cadets Nuku Rerekura and Andrew Bell cooking lunch over the fire.*

Following lunch, the group practised using the compass as we continued to move further up the valley. At each stage during the day we continually referred back to the map to ensure that cadets could locate their position. Once we were at the confluence of two streams and a gorge to cross, we turned around and headed to the roadside via the ridge into the next valley. Although no-one was heavily loaded, this was a good test for many of the cadets, as on normal Squadron camps we may only tramp for 20 – 30 minutes at a time.

We were fortunate to experience mainly fine mild weather during the day, which aided in the success of the training undertaken. We meet our objectives for the day, and although not all NCO's and senior cadets were able to attend the trip, I am satisfied that the cross-section of cadets that attended will enhance the Squadron's Bushcraft capability for future activities.

Overall, this was a very successful and enjoyable day for all.

## **CLOTHING STORE**

During the school holidays the last of our “blue” uniforms were moved from the old store into the new clothing store. There is still a little way to go before it is all neat and tidy and everything is in its correct place, however this will happen over the next few weeks.

My thanks go the ATC Association for financing the project, our Chairperson Tim Campbell for spending many hours with the builder creating the new room, Ken Smith, our Adjutant Tracy Smith's father for providing some of the paint and manpower, and the NCO's for moving all the uniforms.

## PARADE NIGHT TRAINING

Some very good training on parade nights was conducted during Term 2. Flight Lieutenant Scott Williams (an ex-cadet and now at Ohakea) delivered some very good lessons on Navigation to the Advanced and Proficiency cadets. FLTLT Williams is now planning to take some selected cadets flying during Term 3.

Basic 4 Flight have nearly finished building their chuck gliders with the fly-off taking place in Term 4.

The NCOs have been undergoing lessons on how to prepare and deliver their 15 minute lectures. They will be giving their lectures during this term.

## 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](http://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

25 July 2005

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS TERM 3 2005

6-7 August	Operation "Yeti"	NCO mountain exercise to be held in Tongariro National Park
21 Aug	Flying Training	Selected senior cadets will be flying with FLTLT Scott Williams
24 Aug	Ohakea Visit	We will be visiting Ohakea on this parade night. Cadets will need to be at ATC by 1815 and we are planning to be back in Wanganui at 2130. Parent permission forms will be sent home prior to the evening and there will be a small cost to as-
27 Aug	Squadron Shoot	Wanganui Pistol Club Range, Putiki 0800 start. Tidy casual comfortable clothing.
10-11 Sep	Operation "Wheki"	Basic cadets bushcraft exercise to be held in the Waitotara Valley. Parent permission forms will
18 Sep	Battle of Britain Commemoration Service	Assemble at St Peters Church, Koromiko Road, Gonville at 1345. This is a compulsory parade as
21 Sep	Davy Drill Competition	Inspection for National Trophy – Location TBA