

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

PO Box 560  
WANGANUI

www.9squadron.org.nz



## NEWSLETTER 064

### 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 67 cadets (42 males and 25 females).

We welcome Flight Sergeant Nicole Gregory and Sergeant Jon Shelly to No.9 Squadron. Both Nicole and Jon are from the UK and are in New Zealand for a GAP year. Nicole is a tutor at Nga Tawa and Jon at Huntley School.

### FLYING

We were very fortunate to have Flight Lieutenant Scott Williams from Ohakea take 18 senior cadets flying in an RNZAF King Air on Saturday 5 August.

Scott (an ex-cadet of No.9 Squadron) had earlier in the term conducted the navigation lessons to these senior cadets.

This is the third time that Scott has arranged flying for our cadets having previously taken a few select cadets up in an Air Trainer.

We are very grateful to Scott for providing a once in a lifetime opportunity for most of these cadets. We wish Scott well in his new career now flying for Cathay Pacific out of Hong Kong.



*Flight Lieutenant Scott Williams and one of the groups before take off.*

### EVENTS DURING TERM 4

This term will be a busy one with three of the four activities incurring a cost.

We are also aware that some of our cadets will be studying for examinations.

We do not want parents to feel pressured into having their children partake in both the bushcraft exercise and flying training for either financial or study reasons. Some cadets may have to make a choice of which activity they partake in.

If parents have enquiries regarding these activities please give me a phone call.

## OPERATION “CHIONE”

A weekend exercise for the NCO's of the squadron was planned for 12-13 August 2006. We monitored the weather during the week and the forecast was for high winds, lowering of the freezing level, poor visibility and rain/snow showers as of Saturday afternoon and worsening on Sunday. Begrudgingly, the decision was made on the Friday night to just go for a day exercise.

All NCO's were at ATC by 0815 and we departed for Tongariro National Park. We arrived at Tongariro National Park HQ in drizzling rain and poor visibility and our first reaction was that the weather pattern had sped up and the predicted bad afternoon weather had arrived early. We stopped in Park HQ to check the most recent weather forecast and then moved to the shelter 100m further up the road.

Inside the shelter we put on our wet weather gear and updated the cadets on our revised plan. We drove up to Whakapapa ski field area, parked the van and walked across the road and found a suitable place to have a practice with the ice axe and for the cadets to slide down a small slope and throw snowballs at each other. Returning back down to the shelter we cooked up a hearty lunch.

We packed away what we did not require for our walk, drove back to the start of the Silica Rapids Track and we departed for Silica Rapids. After snacks and drink at the rapids we carried on down to the intersection of Whakapapaiti Hut Track, where we meet up with Miss Smith who had moved the van for us. We walked to the intersection of the Whakapapanui Track and carried on down this track, stopping at a couple of points along the way. With the rain setting in we arrived at the carpark at 1530. We returned to the shelter for a hot drink, change of clothes, toilet stop, re-pack of the van and we were on the road for home.

After a quick stop at Raetihi, it was a leisurely drive down the Parapara's with all the slips and back into Wanganui at 1800.

Although we were not able to complete the original planned exercise the NCO's were



*The small group of staff and NCO's in the snow*

## 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. Further information will be sent out in the next newsletter.

## OPERATION “HEBE”

The Basic Cadet’s bushcraft exercise was held on Orangimea Station in the Waitotara Valley on 2-3 September with 6 staff and 24 cadets. The first arrivals at ATC were around 0745, keen and ready to go. Group leaders checked rolls and that all cadets had adequate clothing, issued ration packs, packed the trailer and we departed for Waitotara.

We arrived outside the woolshed at Orangimea Station where group food and equipment was distributed. FLTLT Cleveland conducted a briefing for walking in, including timings and where we were going. On arrival at the campsite, the advance party found that there had been a lot of damage from the recent weather, including a change in the creek bed. This is the first change to this campsite in the over 20 years we have been using it.

It took a little longer than normal to walk in as cadets had to alter clothing and some found the mud tough going in places. Finally all arrived at the campsite, where following a briefing the sections moved to their respective campsites. The NCO’s gave the cadets an orientation of the area and the lecturettes on various aspects of bushcraft were conducted in the section campsites. The sections then set up their respective campsites, began to collect firewood and had lunch.

After lunch we moved back out down the valley and carried out a shortened ground to air signalling without having a flypast. While FGOFF Frericks conducted the afternoon exercise on traps and snares, the rest of the staff started setting up the confidence course. Late in the afternoon the discussion on how to use the Squadron ration pack was carried out before the evening meal. The night exercise was enjoyed by the cadets, followed by a hot drink and all into bed. When the staff did the final check of the day all was quiet.

On Sunday we checked the traps and snares, then conducted some leadership exercises. The confidence course (completed in groups) was tackled with a great deal of enthusiasm. Cadets returned to their sections and started to clean up and have lunch. We were slowed down by a deluge of rain as the staff were checking out the campsites out and with raincoats on we took shelter until the shower passed. Following the debrief by the staff we departed in the groups for the road and back to Wanganui.

Once equipment was returned to the store, tents pitched in one of the Army garages and vans cleaned, then cadets were able to go home.

A very good weekend’s training and the cadets now have some basic bushcraft skills which they will expand upon and develop on future exercises.

*Section 3 listening to Miss Smith on how to get the best use out of your ration pack.*



## PARENTS V CADETS SHOOT

The parents v cadets shoot is planned for Thursday 17 November, commencing at 1730 hrs.

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

### COMMANDANT'S VISIT

Lt Col Bob Campbell, Commandant of New Zealand Cadet Forces, visited the Squadron on Wednesday 16 August. As well as looking around the Squadron he talked with the cadets and meet with the Parent Support Committee.

### ASSISTANCE TO NZ ARMY

We have recently assisted the Army on two occasions.

Sergeants Andrew Hatcher and Melody Mendez, along with two cadets from both the Cadet Corps and TS Calliope, acted as guards on the Charter parade for WWCT Battalion Group on Saturday 19 August.

On Saturday 9 September, Corporal Emma Homes, Cadet Ben Sandlant and Cadet Tim Shepherd acted as patients in the Army's First Aid competition at Landguards Bluff.

C H QUIRK

Squadron Leader, NZCF

UNIT COMMANDER

19 September 2006

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS TERM 4 2006

27-29 Oct	Operation "Mercury"	Squadron exercise to be held in Waiouru. Parent permission forms have been sent home.
8 Nov (Parade Night)	Chuck Glider Fly-off	The first year cadets will be having a fly-off to see how well they have built their chuck gliders.
11-12 Nov	Flying Power / Gliding	We are currently negotiating with the Wanganui / Manawatu Gliding Club to provide gliding for the cadets over this weekend.  In the past the cost has been approximately \$35.00 for this activity and we may require some parental assistance for transport to Feilding for the gliding.
17 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 annual prize giving commencing at 8pm. More details in the next newsletter.
6 Dec	Squadron Tidy up	Casual dress