

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

PO Box 560
WANGANUI



NEWSLETTER 071

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 78 cadets (46 males and 32 females).

We still have the capacity to enrol and train around another 10 cadets in one of our two first year flights. If parents or cadets know of anyone who would like to join the squadron, please ask them to contact myself or to come down to ATC on a Wednesday night parade.

2006 END OF YEAR FUNCTION

Our End of Year Function was held on 2nd December. Following a mess dinner for the Squadron Officers and Cadets we had the prizes and promotions part of the evening with our parents and invited guests in attendance.

The official guest for the evening was Flight Lieutenant Rachel James from No.3 Squadron RNZAF based at Ohakea. Flight Lieutenant James gave an excellent presentation on her background within the RNZAF, an update on No.3 Squadron and gave some very good messages to the cadets.

It was pleasing to see so many parents and guests at the prizes and awards part of the evening.

Flight Sergeant Nicole Gregory receiving the Squadron's Leadership Trophy from Flight Lieutenant Rachel James.



No.9 SQUADRON ATC ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting of the ATC Association will be held on *Thursday 29 March at 7:00pm* at the Squadron's Headquarters.

The ATC Association is the Parents Committee / Governance body which works with the staff of No.9 Squadron to make it one of the best ATC Units in New Zealand. We welcome input from parents / caregivers and any other people interested in helping out.

Last year we upgraded our uniform store in the detached building that the Squadron owns and we would like to continue this upgrading process.

With this and our other activities we are looking for assistance in two areas:

- 1 Competent people to help with refurbishment
- 2 Any ideas for fundraising activities – with our manpower, we can do anything!

If you can assist in either of these two areas please telephone Tim Campbell (our Chairperson) on 06 342 7782.

COURSES

In December, Sergeant Ben Sandlant was on the Area Gliding Camp at Waipukurau. In January, Sergeant Emma Homes, Corporal Tammy Hay and Corporal Tim Shepherd were on the Outdoor Leaders Course at Dip Flat, 100km south west of Woodbourne.

Also in January, Flight Sergeant Andrew Hatcher and Sergeant Jon Shelly successfully gained their “wings” on flying courses. Sergeant Shelly was at Omaka (near Woodbourne) on the ATC Flying Scholarship while Flight Sergeant Hatcher was at Matamata on a Walsh Memorial Flying Scholarship gained through Wanganui High School.



Flight Sergeant Andrew Hatcher (left) and Sergeant Jon Shelly proudly show off their wings.

ANZAC DAY

Anzac Day (25 April) is the first Wednesday back next Term. In the past the Squadron has provided Book of Remembrance Guards and other details at the Dawn Parade as requested by the RSA.

There will be an additional practice for the various details during the school holidays and the training staff will negotiate these times.

Dawn Parade will be our compulsory parade, with the Maori Service being voluntary. In addition to these two parades we will also be assisting the RSA at the Maxwell and Brunswick Services. Details and timings will be given to the cadets at the briefing on the last Wednesday of Term 1.

In addition we will be seeking volunteers to assist the RSA by selling poppies outside the old DEKA building on Friday 20 April and outside Woolworths and New World on Saturday 21 April.

OPERATION “TOTARA”

On a brilliantly fine weekend 10-11 March we held Operation “Totara”. The scenario for the 6 staff, 8 NCOs and 2 advanced cadets was based on the group being shipwrecked in an area on the north side of the Waitotara River mouth.

Most met at ATC by 0800, loaded vehicles and we re-met at the turn-off to Waitotara valley before moving onto Hawken’s farm on the banks of the Waitotara River. We meet Miss Hawken who led the way on the quad bike, stopping further down the farm track to load the vehicle of packs. The cadets started walking while the quad bike continued on, carrying our food, water and other equipment. Once at the beach the cadets were told of the scenario for the weekend and were given some timelines for the rest of the morning.

With some enthusiasm they started building two bivvies, one for the females and one for the males. The cadets had a discussion on the food they had and sorted out a menu, followed by lunch. In the afternoon we found a suitable place to use to cook our meals, which was followed by a discussion on rips and tides, and obtaining food from the surrounding area. A leadership exercise consisting of building 2 rafts and having somebody stay afloat for 5 minutes was conducted and then a late afternoon swim. Miss Smith brought in the two UK imports on Saturday afternoon.



At night we held a “mini-solo” exercise, where we placed them on their own up the beach for a short period of time. After a debrief of that exercise and the day’s activities, they were all back to camp for a hot drink and into bed.

Building the boys bivvy.

After breakfast on Sunday FLTLT Cleveland ran a search and rescue with PLTOFF Smith leaving a number of clues so he would be found. The exercise involved a bit of tracking to find him, with the grid search picking up a number of clues as to his whereabouts. The next leadership exercise was a contest between two groups of 5 to build a fire on the lagoon. Although planned to take an hour, the first group had their cup of water boiling furiously within 17 minutes and the second group was only about 30 seconds behind. Some spare time here allowed us some R&R: beach cricket and another swim, before lunch and clean up. We walked out, loaded the vehicles and returned to Wanganui.

This is now the fourth time we have held this type of exercise and we have found it to be an ideal way to develop leadership and teamwork. The cadets are not told where the exercise will be held and this makes them think more deeply about the skills they have and how they will use them in this situation. The use of a different environment was worthwhile as they proved to themselves their clothing and equipment could be used in a different environment.

The benefits of this exercise individually to the cadets will be seen later on in the year when they are in the position of leading a group in the bush. At the parade night debrief, the cadets stated they enjoyed the exercise and all learnt something from it.



GLIDING

On the weekend of 3-4 March, 19 senior cadets travelled to Taonui Airfield outside of Feilding to go gliding.

All of the cadets received 25-35 minutes in the air and in near perfect gliding conditions, all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Cadet Timothy Clark in the glider before take-off.

OHAKEA VISIT

We were very fortunate to have a small group of NCOs travel to Ohakea to view the Australian Air Forces F1-11's.

The Central Area Office of NZ Cadet Forces arranged at short notice the opportunity for some cadets to visit and our thanks go to them and to local Army for loaning us a van for transport.

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

UNIFORMS

At present we are outfitting the new cadets with their uniforms. All cadets will be in uniform by the end of term.

All first year cadets will receive a lesson on ironing and how to clean their shoes.

Cadets will be issued with a Record of Service Book which they are to have with them whenever they are in uniform, or at other times as a form of ID when required.

C H QUIRK

Squadron Leader, NZCF
UNIT COMMANDER

20 March 2007

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

24 March	Squadron Shoot	Wanganui Pistol Club Range Putiki, 0800 start. Casual comfortable clothing. There is no cost and should be finished by 1030.
29 March	ATC Association AGM	7:00pm for interested parents.
20 April	Assistance to RSA for Poppy Day Collection outside DEKA	10-12 cadets required. Volunteers will be asked for on Parade night.
21 April	Assistance to RSA for Poppy Day Collection outside Woolworths and New World	10-12 cadets required. Volunteers will be asked for on Parade night.