

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

PO Box 560
WANGANUI

www.9squadron.org.nz



NEWSLETTER 074

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 61 cadets (37 males and 24 females).

COURSES

Recently Flight Lieutenant Murray Cleveland completed the Command Course at RNZAF Base Auckland. This course is for those officer who are either currently commanding a Squadron or are about to.

During the school holidays we had a number of people on courses: Cadets Benjamin Cawley, Stephanie Gailey, Shane Peebles and Sanket Sali were on the Junior Leaders Course at Ohakea.

Sergeant Ben Sandlant was on the Air Force Experience and visited all three RNZAF Bases.

VISIT TO OHAKEA

We are going to Ohakea on 24 October and visiting some working Squadrons. Cadets will need to be at ATC by 1815 and we are planning to be back in Wanganui at 2130.

Parent permission form will be sent home prior to the evening and there will be a small cost to help cover the bus hire.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN COMMEMORATION SERVICE

A small number of cadets turned up to St Peter's Church on 16 September to participate in the Battle of Britain Service. Pilot Officer Jason Smith carried the RNZAFA flag down the aisle, escorted by Flight Sergeants Andrew Hatcher and Matthew Phillips.

Corporal Tammy Hay and Cadet Stephanie Gailey assisted with the collection.

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 most of our cadets will be studying for examinations.

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

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

OPERATION “MANUKA”

The Basic Cadet’s bushcraft exercise was held on Orangimea Station in the Waitotara Valley on 1-2 September with 6 staff and 22 cadets. Group leaders checked rolls and that cadets had adequate clothing, before packing the trailer and departing for Waitotara.

Outside the woolshed at Orangimea Station the food and equipment was distributed and Flight Lieutenant Cleveland conducted a briefing for walking in. All arrived in good time, and following the briefing, the sections moved to their respective campsites. With rain threatening we had the cadets pitch their tents and start collecting firewood and shifted running of the bushcraft lectures by 40 minutes. After lunch we continued with the collecting of firewood and setting up the campsite.

We moved back out down the valley and commenced the ground-to-air signalling exercise. The temperature started to drop and with a cold wind blowing through the valley we decided to hold off the exercise until Sunday morning. While Pilot Officer Smith and Under Officer Hackett 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 in the three sections.



Sergeant Emma Holmes keeping an eye on Section 1’s fire.



Corporals Aaron Shield and Tim Shepherd making sure there is plenty of smoke from the signal fire.

After the evening meal the night exercise was held using Section 1’s campsite. Final debrief of the day with times advised for Sunday, then back to their respective sections for a drink, lights out, with the staff completing the final check of the cadets for the day once all were in bed around 10pm.

On Sunday we headed back out to the open area and finished off the ground-to-air signalling exercise with the lighting of the signal fire. A spot-and-seek exercise was held and the confidence course was tackled with a great deal of enthusiasm and thought into some of the challenges. Cadets returned to their sections and started to clean up, have lunch, then staff inspected the camp sites. Following the debrief we departed in groups for the road and back to Wanganui.

Equipment was returned to the store, tents pitched in one of the Army garages, van cleaned and cadets were then 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.

PARENTS V CADETS SHOOT

The Parents v Cadets shoot is planned for Thursday 15 November, commencing at 1730 hrs.

There will be a barbeque outside to keep you going whilst waiting to show your son or daughter your shooting skills.

OPERATION “FIRST LIGHT”

Three staff and five senior cadets headed up the Waitotara Valley to Orangimea Station on 15th September. The purpose of the exercise was to provide these cadets with further bush experience and training, develop team work and leadership, and allow familiarisation with potential training areas.

At the first campsite, the staff talked about the area to be used, where sections and groups may be sited and a discussion on potential hazards including the native stinging nettle, Ongaonga. A brief lesson on tree recognition was held, with the aim of the cadets being able to identify at least three trees by the end of the day. At the next area known as “the Swamp” we split into two groups. The cadets went off to explore the area to decide where they would place their section, pitch tents, put the fire and collectively where the ablutions would be situated.

Further up the valley Flying Officer Frericks conducted a refresher lesson on fire lighting with the two groups building a fire to cook lunch and have a hot drink. As the cadets were finishing lunch we held a discussion on 1st Aid and survival kits. Following lunch, the group practiced 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.

At a suitable place we climbed up to meet a track which took us out of the Mangamingi Valley to return to the roadside via the ridge into the next valley. Although no-one was heavily loaded, this was a good test for the cadets as some of them may only tramp for 20 – 30 minutes at a time on normal Squadron camps. A couple also passed comment that the climb was actually better than they thought it would be.

We were fortunate to experience mainly fine mild weather during the day, which added to the success of the training undertaken. The exercise objectives were achieved well, and although not all Advanced and Proficiency cadets were able to attend the trip, the cross-section of cadets who did attend will enhance the Squadron’s Bushcraft capability for future activities.



Cadets Evan Anderson, Thomas Martin and Rosie Coker studying the map to pin point their location.

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

RELINQUISHMENT OF COMMAND

At our End of Year Function I will be handing over the Command of the Squadron to Flight Lieutenant Murray Cleveland.

I have enjoyed my 41 years in No 9 Squadron as both a cadet and an officer, with the added privilege of being the Commanding Officer since the end of 1983 when I assumed command from Squadron Leader John Lockett.

C H QUIRK
Squadron Leader, NZCF
UNIT COMMANDER

14 October 2007

FORTHCOMING EVENTS TERM 4 2007

24 October	Ohakea Visit	We will be visiting Ohakea during parade time. Please be at ATC by 1815 (6.15pm). We plan on
2-4 November	Operation "Hercules"	Squadron exercise to be held in Waiouru. Parent permission forms will be sent home prior to this
14 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.
Nov	Power Flying	We are currently negotiating with the Wanganui Aero Club to provide power flying for the cadets. We plan to conduct this over a number of early evenings in November. In the past the cost has been approximately \$35.00 for this activity and parent permission forms will be sent home.
15 Nov	Parents v Cadets Shoot	To be held at the Wanganui Pistol Club Range, Airport Road commencing at 5.30pm plus Barbeque.
1 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.
5 Dec	Squadron Tidy up	Casual dress

CELL PHONES

We would prefer that cadets do not bring cell phones to ATC. However, it may be necessary for your son or daughter to have a phone so they can contact you to be picked up after parade. These phones are to be turned off during parade hours.

If any cadet is found to have their cell phone turned on, even in silent mode, it will be taken off them and held in my office for the remainder of the evening. If this happens a second time the phone will be held in my office and returned to the parent, not to the cadet.

The Squadron has a policy of no cell phones on exercises and any phones are secured in our safe for the duration of the exercise.