# No. 17 (City of Christchurch) Squadron, ATC





# **Trophies, Awards and Promotions**

#### **Individual Awards**

Woodfield Recruit Cup for Best Recruit	CDT A. Woods
Adventure Training Trophy for Cadet Adventure Training	CDT A. Stopforth
Halldane Trophy for Shooting	UO M. Watson
Paul Garrett Trophy for NCO Adventure Training	F/S L. Trenberth
Brevet Club Aviation Award for Best Progress in Aviation Studies	SGT E. Swain
Sommerville Cup for Endeavour	SGT N. Clark
McKenzie Trophy for NCO Leadership	F/S G. Saville
RNZAFA Award for General Excellence	W/O A. Cotton
Squadron Commander's Trophy	CDT N. Haverland
Ian Petit Trophy for Attendance	LAC T. Donaldson
R L Austin Trophy for Cadet Leadership	CDT B. Williams
Brevet Club Efficiency (Interflight Competition)	Spitfire
RSA Trophy for Community Service	SGT E. Swain
Hoult Trophy for Dress and Bearing	CPL L. Senior
Dan the Man Trophy for Motivation and Enthusiasm	F/S Withers

# 2014 Promotions

To Corporal	Senior Pugh	To Flight Sergeant	Sutton Trenberth
	Debenham		O'Regan
	Langen Poulsen		Siddall
	Stevenson Soni	To Warrant Officer	Saville
	Ryken	To Under Officer	Watson
	Warming Smith		Jones
	Catto		Cotton
	Maikuku		
	Kilner	To Pilot Officer	Farrow. H
	Simpson		
	·	To Flying Officer	Lacey. C
To Sergeant	Vallance	, ,	•
•	Andeson	To Flight Lieutenant	Cole. K
	Dickson	•	
	Cullimore		
	Clark		
	Swain		
	C.I.a.ii		

## 17 Squadron Awards 2014

No. 3 Squadron Cup for Southern Area Drill

## **Unit Commanders Address**



Another successful year for our Unit. We have had a good year with lots of camps and activities providing plenty of learning and experience for the cadets. This year the unit has won the Southern Area Drill Competition keeping up the winning tradition. So onto next year where I hope we can continue our successes and continue to grow the unit.

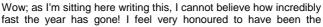
In closing I would like to thank all the cadets for turning up to parade and activities, to the NCO's for the same and the additional effort and dedication they put in to help things run smoothly. To the under Officers and Officers who give up countless hours of time to make sure the unit is the best it can be and keep the cadets interested, to the support committee who help to fund all the activities that we undertake and lastly to everyone who assisted the unit in its fundraising opportunities this year.

Once again thank you to everyone for the things you do to make 17 SQN what we are.

Regards,

Shane Cole QSM Squadron Leader, NZCF Unit Commander

# The Warrant Officer's Wrap Up



Warrant Officer of 17 Squadron this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed it and I am definitely not ready for it all to be over. Once again it has been a very busy year, with multiple camps, activities and community work occurring throughout the year.

For a select few Cadets and NCO's ATC began a little earlier this year, when we attended Exercise Cadet 150 at the end of January. We flew on an RNZAF Boeing 757 from Christchurch Airport to Ohakea Air Force Base, and then took a bus to Waiouru Army Training Ground. The exercise was attended by more than 1000 Cadets and Officers from all over New Zealand, Australia, Canada and Singapore. We spent 8 days braving the highs and lows of the weather system and completed many activities, including high ropes, mud runs, a range of sports, a visit to the Waiouru Army museum. as well as shooting the military's Styer rifle and using their

shooting simulators. I also got to complete a day tramp over the Mount Tongariro Alpine Crossing, it was an amazing experience to see the incredible landscape of an active volcano.

After being back at ATC for a couple of weeks, recruiting for the year commenced. We had a smaller number of recruits join us this year, which created some havoc in the Basic Training Program. However, they turned out to be a pretty good bunch. Basic Camp was held at West Melton Army Rifle Range during the last weekend of March where the Basic's learnt how to iron their uniforms and set their barracks out for inspection, they also had



multiple drill lessons, learnt some CFK and GSK, as well as shooting for the first time and competing in some fun activities, leadership tasks and a Night Exercise.

The 25<sup>th</sup> of April had huge significance this year as it marked 100 years since the first ANZAC soldiers were sent to war. We had a large turnout at the memorial service held at Cranmer Square, where we marched in a parade along with the other Christchurch based Cadet Units and Returned Service members. At the same time, a smaller contingent attended the service at Harewood School, where they provided a Cenotaph Guard and a uniformed presence for the locals.

The biannual Warbirds over Wanaka was on this year, and a bunch of NCO's and older cadets travelled down for the weekend. They spent a day at the air show, went to Puzzle World and played air-soft. I was unable to attend but I heard it was a great weekend had by all.



In April, our Drill Team competed in the Southern Area Competition. This didn't give them much time to practice as it was so close to the start of the year, but all the same they did a fantastic job and performed a well-polished routine which won them the Southern Area Competition for 2014. This allowed them to compete in the National Drill Competition in May.

The next camp was Frostybird, held over Queens Birthday weekend, at Coopers Creek in Oxford. The weather this year was truly frosty, with a temperature of -8 degrees recorded at one point! However, the sun shone each day and we were able to have a great weekend full of all things Bushcraft, lessons on choosing the right campsite, how to light a fire, emergency shelters, knot tying, a Night Exercise and a Search and Rescue Exercise, as well as the famous skit and Kangaroo Court night. Proficiency and Advanced Cadets had the opportunity to put their Bushcraft skills to use as they went on an overnight tramp.

The first weekend in July saw NCO ABL taking place at the gun emplacements over at Godly Head. It was a team survivor type exercise with lots of healthy competition and fun to be had. While we were there we did an afternoon of community service, helping a DOC ranger to carry out some maintenance on some planting sites around the headlands. We cleared long grass and weeds from around native plants, took protective sleeves off from around the plants that were large enough and fixed protective sleeves around plants that were still growing and needed protection. It was hard work, clambering around in long grass on steep hillsides, in the sun and wind, not to mention on the empty stomachs... but it was very rewarding work and gave us a great feeling that we were able to give nature a helping hand.



The following week, during the holidays, I was at Burnham Military Camp to staff a SNCO Course. I spent a week doing paperwork, helping the JNCO Cadets on the course to prepare for their assessments, braving the freezing cold wind and rain on the practice Leadership day and staying up to all hours of the morning, writing course reports! However, I had heaps of fun and was very privileged to have such an amazing team of Cadet Staff and Officers where we all got on so well. I came away not only knowing that I had helped prepare a new generation of SNCO's, but also with personal development as well.

Exercise Ardua, which is our training camp for

Exercise Sparrowhawk, was held from the 5-7th September, at West Melton Army Range. Over the weekend, we were in teams, competing against each other and refining our skills for Sparrowhawk.

The fun-run was organised again this year, by the Christchurch Cadet Building Trust Committees, to raise money for the upkeep and renovations of the Wigram building. With the sun shining bright and a big turnout from 17 Squadron, 18 Squadron, 38 Squadron and Christchurch Cadet Corps, there were runners, walkers, skippers and cart wheelers of all ages and ranks. The day also incorporated raffles, sausage sizzles, 'guess the number of lollies in the jar' and the much loved candy-floss.

Sparrowhawk this year was one for the history books, with the toughest competition seen in many years and the first ever 3-way tie for second place. However, 17 Squadron Alpha prevailed to again take the trophy. The competition tested teams on a range of skills learnt in Cadet Forces, such as General Service Knowledge and Cadet Forces Knowledge, teamwork, communication, shooting and drill. It was a great weekend, filled with a huge amount of fun and laughter.

Labour Weekend came around quickly, bringing with it Exercise Taiaha for 2014. Taiaha is the 'summer' version of Frostybird, meaning a similar Bushcraft based training programme. The weather this year was a lot kinder than last year, as it remained dry throughout the whole weekend, however, we did have a battle with the winds trying to keep the tents where we left them! Proficiency and Advanced Cadets again had an overnight tramp, which even included marshmallows toasted over a camp fire.

On Sunday 9th November, Cadets. NCO's and Officers across all 5 Cadet Units in Christchurch (17 Squadron, 18 Squadron, 38 Squadron, Christchurch Cadet Unit and TS Godly), plus Returned Service Association personnel, gathered for a Parade of National Significance to mark 150 years of Cadet Forces in New Zealand and Armistice Day. The parade commenced at Christ's College, after which we all marched through the central city streets to the park at the Bridge of Remembrance, for the



service. The parade was inspected by Air Vice-Marshal Kevin Short (RNZAF). At the same time, all around the country, there were similar services happening in each town that has a Cadet Force unit. A national parade was also held on the steps of Parliament, in Wellington, with one Cadet representative from each unit around New Zealand.

During the same week, the Squadron was involved with New Zealand Cup and Show week. This is where our major fundraising for the year happens. Last year we were lucky enough to secure the clean-up contract, at Addington Raceway, for 4 years, giving us a huge \$10,000, each year for 2 days of work. We had a number of parents and Senior Cadets volunteer their time, alongside the Officers, to pick up rubbish, clean venue areas and attend to the general upkeep of Addington Raceway, both on Cup Day (Tuesday) and Show Day (Friday). On both evenings, Cadets were required to give up a couple of hours to complete final tidy-ups. It was a very full on 2 days, however, it was lots of fun being able to experience the atmosphere and was a much easier way to raise money than sausage sizzle after sausage sizzle! We were given some very positive feedback from the public about what a great job we did and how tidy the whole area looked, throughout the day and afterwards.

An on-going project this year has been the building of our very own flight simulator. The committee has granted funding to build the simulator, which will be placed inside the Wigram building to be used for Aviation Studies and it can also be hired out to other units and organisations. This will be a great asset and learning tool for the unit and has already given some Cadets a chance to use and develop skills. We are hoping that it will be completed and installed early next year.

As I write this, we still have a few activities left before we wrap it all up for the year. We have an upcoming weekend to volunteer at Willowbank Wildlife Park, helping to clean up some gardens and areas around the animal enclosures. This will hopefully lead to other opportunities within the community and may give us further access to Willowbank, in the future.

Final Parade this year is being held on the 4<sup>th</sup> December. We will be having a full unit parade, on the Wigram Parade Ground, followed by prize giving of trophies and awards to those who have stood out during the year. We are lucky enough to be having Group Captain Marshall (RNZAF) reviewing the parade, who was a 17 Squadron member many years ago.

On the 5-7<sup>th</sup> December we will be having our final camp for the year, Exercise Survivor at Omaka Scout Camp. This Summer Camp is intended to have a changing theme and training program each year and is a great way to finish for the year with the warmer weather making it the perfect opportunity for swimming in the lake and water fights... Who knows what is in store for this year?!

We will be finishing Exercise Survivor earlier than usual as the Santa Parade is also being held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December. Our main task for the Santa Parade is to marshal the crowds lining the streets to keep people off the road while the floats go past. It is a great way to promote ATC and shows our community focus.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to such a worthwhile year. Good luck to you all for next year; seize every opportunity you can while at ATC, because before you know it, you may be heading down another path. I have learnt some amazing things and made lifelong friends while at ATC, so stick with it, give it your best effort, support each other, and remember to have fun!

#### W/O Cotton



# Flight Sergeants' Debrief

No. 1 (Spitfire) Flight - F/S Sutton

Spitfire, Mustang Hurricane Harvard. Long ago the four flights lived together in harmony. Then, everything changed when the Warrant Officer attacked. Only the Flight Sergeant Watson master of all four values of the NZCF values could stop her, but when the world needed her the most Flight Sergeant Watson got promoted. 100 years passed and my brother and I discovered the new flight sergeant, a spitfighter named Sutton. And although his leadership skills are great, he has a lot to learn before he's ready to win the flight competition. But I believe Flight Sergeant Sutton and his cadets can win it all.

Though I have not been Flight Sergeant long I have spent the whole year with spitfire and I have always been proud at how we perform. The high standards in uniform and drill make our flight a cut above the rest. Every cadet in Spitfire should have felt proud when they were in first place in the flight competition, because it was due to their hard work and teamwork that we stayed at the top for so long. This year I have been very proud to be in spitfire and hope next year will be even better.



## No. 2 (Mustang) Flight - F/S Smith

Mustang – A story of success, role models and sportsmanship. As we entered the fourth term of cadets this year, Mustang finally

handed over the position of first place to Spitfire after holding it for the majority of the year. To the other flights it looked like Mustang had been beaten, but this was not the case. For the duration of the year, Two-flight excelled in discipline, respect, integrity and loyalty, which had kept them at the top of the leader board. As the year progressed, the other cadets in the unit started to look to our flight to see what they could learn and thus the passing of Spitfire in the competition was due to the high standard of our flight encouraging and leading the rest of the unit to do the same, and push themselves further. As Flight Sergeant of Mustang, I had countless sleepless nights dreading that moment every week where the Warrant Officer asks

me to pick the cadets in doesn't take 'the whole of the flight deserved that recognition. It's been a privilege working with the cadets of Two-flight who are humble in their success, and still stand proud wherever they place in the flight competition knowing that they had a strong year and their efforts not only helped the individuals in our flight, but the entire unit.



# No.

## No. 3 (Harvard) Flight - F/S Saville

Since the time I was promoted to Flight Sergeant halfway through this year, I have had the joy of leading No. 3 Harvard Flight. I have seen them develop their teamwork skills and greatly improve their personal

drill standards. Initially we had a good start in the inter-flight competition but we fell away towards the end of the year. However without us there would be no winner, so Harvard accepts the placing gracefully and will endeavour to come back next year with even more team spirit! It's

been a pleasure seeing the cadets of they stick with ATC as long as they can, bringing with them the fantastic attitude 17 Squadron is known for.





## No. 4 (Hurricane) Flight - F/S Withers

At the start of the year we were a full cast of characters yet to be developed. As the story of the year unfolded there were plot twists and tragedies. Cast members started dropping like flies, and dramas broke out. But those that did not get scripted off kept calm, drank water, and carried on. They showed their fighting spirit, they kept at the cutthroat business that is the inter-flight competition with conviction and pride. They were the underdogs that continued to battle on even in the face of almighty forces.

After all, the show must go on.



## **Drill Team**

This year's drill season started with a shock, when we suddenly realised that we had four weeks until the Southern Competition... and no drill team. However 17 Squadron's high standards of squadron drill came to the rescue and within a week we had twelve people ready and willing to devote a large chunk of their weekends to doing the same thing over... and over... Regardless, we had a team and a flight sergeant so we were ready to go!

Practises were exciting right off the bat and our awesome team clicked straight away. Some of our members were in last year's team but we also had a few newbies, surprised by the funloving vibe of drill practises and ready to jump in "all guns blazing"! Practises started with a fun chat, a pep talk from F/S Pugh, and then an hour-long session on the parade ground, followed by a five-minute break, a chant-off (What are we here to do? DRILL!) ...and another hour and a half of drill. Fun times, right? Well, we thought so.

The weekend of the competition was ominously cloudy and by cloudy, I mean it was pouring so hard Noah's ark could have made a comeback. Through excellent time-management, F/S Pugh had also completely lost her voice, to the point that she would have made a great guinea pig translator. (Possible career option?) So, generously at last minute, F/S Watson stepped in to save the day; that is should it have stopped raining long enough for even a 5 minute routine! Either way, the drill team had a great morning preparing their uniforms, and an even greater lunch with a pizza - EACH. (And chips and fizzy because hyper-drill teams work harder, right?) Two hours before the competition was set to take place, the competition was called off. Ironically, two hours after the drill competition was called off, the rain stopped. So we had another week to prepare but we didn't use any of it to our advantage because we completely forgot.

So the next weekend, we were back again and raring to go! It was bright and sunny this time and we even got a glimpse of the competition, 18 Sqn! Their flight looked tough to beat and well-prepared. They were determined to finally overcome 17 Sqn's winning streak and walk away with the win and the coveted helicopter flight. However, 17 Sqn doesn't give up so easily. After appropriating our rightful half of the parade ground, we revved up with a vocal pep talk (What are we here to do? DRILL!) ...and picked up our already-strong game to make doubly sure we would come out on top. After all this hard preparation, the 10 minute drill routine in front of F/S Jase Trevarton was a piece of cake! (What were we here to win? DRILL!)... And we did. 

While F/S Pugh and half the drill team were on seniors later that week, a phone call confirmed that we did indeed take out Southern drill competition.



# Recipe for A typical Thursday night from the Warrant Officers point of view

#### Ingredients:

- 1 rushed, extremely early dinner
- 10 minutes of perfect uniform dressing
- 45 minutes of seat-belt holding, attention sitting, rush hour traffic
- 1 minute of fast paced, bag hauling walk
- 5 minutes of ever-changing training program checking
- 10 minutes of hunting down the Duties, Orderly, Ensign and Instructor NCO's
- 5 minutes of menagerie organising
- 1 minute of barking the same old order for parade to begin

#### Ahhh- quick moment to take a deep breath

- 2 minutes of tablet problem-wrestling, role-taking fun
- 3 minutes of pace-calculating, space-evaluating maths
- 10 minutes of Parade Commanding (hurry, the Officers will be marching on in 1 minute...)
- 10 minutes of saluting, Adjutant guiding, inspecting procession
- 5 minutes of Cadets being told the same lesson room allocation as the last 30 weeks

#### Ahh-quick moment to take a much needed seat

- 1 period of Duties Roster editing, Flight System changing, document writing, routine order printing...
- Add a dollop of teaching lessons here
- And a dash of PT leading there
- 15 minute break of routine order reading, notice notifying and perhaps a promotion or
- 1 period of Duties Roster editing, Flight System changing, document writing, flight points updating...
- 20 minutes of end of night activity organising, notice-notifying and the reveal of the anticipated flight board
- 1 minute of passionate cheering and chanting, accompanied by some egging-on
- 2 minutes of chatter and a mass of bodies swarming for the door
- 15 minutes of watch-glancing, issue-pondering, sweeping arch of comments from around the NCO room
- 1 minute to tussle for some long-awaited (homemade...?) cake
- 10-30 minutes... of important discussion, paperwork shuffle and Officers ramble
- 30 minutes of a dark drive home, with one weary Warrant Officer, ready to do it all again next Thursday...

## **Recruit Camp**

Basic Camp 2014 kicked off with a hiss and a roar. After everybody arrived at West Melton and was organised into barracks for the weekend, we kicked straight into the standing orders. This was then followed by Night-Ex, where everybody split into groups. Each group had a flag they needed to retrieve from an unknown location. Though, it didn't go too well. As the locations were of course unknown, everybody had quite a hard time finding them, despite the Officer's help 20mins out from the finish. After a quite unsuccessful Night-Ex, we had a warm hot



chocolate and started heading to bed for the night. Eight hours later, Warrant Officer Cotton woke us up for the delightful surprise of running and push ups. Showers and food later, lessons began for the day, consisting of drill, drill and more drill, later in the afternoon, moving into a few other activities. After dinner, games took over the remainder of the night.

Sunday morning, showered and eaten, we packed our bags, got into civvies and headed off down a back road where the army met us. They talked to us for an hour or so and told us about their training systems and weaponry they had. Shortly following, we took off for the shooting range where we shot our own rifles and headed back to the barracks for cleanup and final Parade.

#### **CPL Trenberth**

Recruit camp is one of my favourite camps, you get to learn new things, meet new people and have fun. This year I went to recruit camp as a proficiency cadet, which mean instead of learning drill we learnt things, like learning about RNZAF aircraft, terminology and procedures. We also got to do a tonne of fun leadership activities, like leading blindfolded cadets through obstacle courses and attempting to play football with our legs tied. We also got to meet a bunch of reserve soldiers doing training at West Melton. Overall recruit camp was extremely fun and I plan to go every year!

#### **CDT Unknown**



## **ANZAC Day, Christchurch Dawn Service**

I woke up that morning to the sound of my dad knocking on the door at 0515 in the morning. He told me to get up and get my uniform on. After getting my uniform on we hopped in the car still half asleep. We started driving in to town and the traffic was not the best and there was no car parking, but what can you expect for Anzac Day. I was looking forward to dawn service even though it was really early, I was just thinking of all the people that had died so I could be



alive and free today. After we arrived I got out of the car and began the hunt for 17 SQN, but I found some people from my juniors first and I talked with them for five minutes or so before moving on to find 17 SQN. Once I found them, I was right on time to form up and get ready to march on, we all just stood there in silence as the drill sergeant started to speak, he was too far away for me to understand him. But then I just heard a "Quick march" and we all started moving. The marching was absolutely horrible; everyone was out of time within three paces and for some silly reason they decided not to get back in time.



Once we stopped, we all stood there like statues for as long as we could with as little movement as possible. Some people couldn't handle it and they all started dropping like flies, just passing out one after the other, and then came the vomiters. They just stood there and let there stomach turn inside out on the grass in front of them. And then you have the vomiting collapses that first passed out and then turned their stomach inside out. I was lucky to be none of these and I managed to stand

through the entire parade. All the fainters and vomiters didn't take away from the memorial though. We still remembered those that chose to stand against tyranny and those that chose to go to war, to die on their feet instead of living on their knees under the control of harsh rulers. We all gave our thanks to the men who gave so much for what they believed in and to the families that lost their friends and family members to the horrible atrocity that occurred so far from home.

After the great service we were all dismissed. My parents wanted to go back to bed so we had to leave straight away, but luckily we got McDonald's on the way home for a second breakfast.

#### **CPL Cullimore**



## ANZAC Day, Christchurch Cathedral Citizen Service

Following the dawn parade on ANZAC day, a small group of us headed to the cardboard cathedral (which I found, disappointingly, comprised of other materials), for the citizens' service. Flight Sergeant Withers and I were tasked with escorting the New Zealand Flag, while other pairs escorted other flags and colours. At the beginning of the service, the flags were slow marched from the back to the front, with the opposite occurring at the close. Escorting the New Zealand flag saw us the privilege of being the last in and the first out and no practices and no

one before us to watch meant leaving the building was played by ear, with an interesting about turn, which would have not won any marks at the Davy Memorial Drill competition. However, the service went without any hiccups except for a little dance by Withers as he almost sat next to the wrong person who luckily put his hat on the seat forcing him to quickly move somewhere else. Other than flag bearing, the service consisted of the usual speeches and hymns, ending with the public leaving the building via a corridor of flag bearers and escorts. With film crews around, I even made it on the news, albeit the back of my head. This was my second citizens' service with ATC, and similarly to the previous one it was well executed, in a location other than the original cathedral where it used to be held, and full of people there to remember and commemorate those who have given their lives in and to service.



#### F/S Smith

## **Rock Climbing**



Through 17 SQN, about 12 lucky cadets got to spend the day rock climbing in the YMCA gym. The day began around 1000hrs, when we all met at the site. From there, we played a few warm up games and got our gear on. We were then split up into groups of three, where each tutor took a group and showed us the ropes. Each of us were watched as we climbed a simple wall, commented on our abilities and

told how to improve. We then moved into our rotations. First on the list was the abseiling. Each of us got a chance to head down the abseiling wall and try a few little tricks. This is built inside the gym, about 6 meters in the air. Second was the wall room. Here we played a few games with the other members of our group, testing our abilities climbing upside down and with limited holds to choose from. We spent

the rest of our time in the main climbing part of the gym. We climbed and then were given comments about our climbing habits. These climbs were always followed by slightly more difficult climbs where we could test the helpful hints and make climbing easier. All in all, this was a great day for all of those that attended and was enjoyed by everybody. Should this event be held again, I would recommend it to all.



#### **SGT Trenberth**

# **OFFICER TEAM**



# **NCO TEAM**



# **Exercise Top Squad**

On Friday night we had to meet up at the block at 1830 and then travel down to Ashburton to Top Squad. We found our barracks, set up our beds, got to know everyone in our barracks and then we had a meeting in the mess to find out what we were going to be doing over the course of the weekend, to also get standing orders and have supper. It was then time to go to our barracks and go to sleep, I lay there for a while and decided to put a lock on my phone at 10

o'clock at night and knowing myself I forgot it, I ended up locking myself out of my phone for 3 hours so I decided to go to sleep. We were lying waiting for a fire drill for a while, and then in the morning we got woken up for PT. It was fun because all we had to do was run in a circle and then do some push ups and some sit ups and then we were done. Catto ended up saving the day because she saw me putting my password into my phone the night before and it was right so I took my password off and left my phone be. We had breakfast then we had a rotation of activities either on a farm or on base. We were on base first and we had to do a stretcher carry with water and it was very difficult. Next we had to make a super-high flag pole and I think ours was pretty impressive. Then we had a shooting thing where we had to



throw tennis balls at bottles to get points. We also ended up losing a golf ball and spending about 30 minutes just trying to look for the golf ball and then we had to make webbing. We then had lunch. After lunch we went to a farm and we had another set of activities to do. We had to get 2 barrels into a safe pit because they were covered in toxic stuff. Then we had to do a mud run, which was so cold, and we had to search for "sand bags" which weren't actually there. We then had to walk down the river doing the observation lane to spot things that weren't actually



meant to be there. Then we did the observation gallery where we had to stand in a specific place and look at things that weren't meant to be there. We then did this puzzle thing and tried to form a certain puzzle with shapes. We went back to camp for dinner. Swain ended up losing Cattos cutlery and we never found it. RIP Cattos cutlery. We then had dinner and we got "happy birthday" sung to us because we got given nachos on a camp for like the 100th time, I think. We had a quiz night and found our team, the blue bunnies, was coming second overall. We went to bed and got up the next day. We did drill that day and then we had to do this run thing where there was a fox and he would chase us and if he caught up to us we had to give him our salt or pepper sachet. We then had to pull the van and try to be the fastest team to do so. We went to leave and we got like 30 minutes down the road when another team realised that we

had something of theirs, so we ha to go all the way back to the camp. Overall it was a great camp and we came second:)

#### **CDT Maikuku**

#### **Exercise Ardua**

#### Team Howlers Ex. Ardua 2014

Once again I found myself getting a ride down Old West Coast Road on my way to West Melton Army Range, a place very familiar to me due to many a camp being held there in the past. Ardua is a training camp for the Sparrowhawk competition, so comprises of the same activities. Friday night we were divided into four teams named after different primates (Go Team Howlers!) and thrown into our first two activities: a common knowledge quiz and a GSK and CFK test. The next morning we were up



before the birds sing for a grueling PT session. Lots of running, press ups, burpees and star jumps. If you weren't feeling faintly ill, you weren't pushing yourself. Following that the cadets were pushed through the showers and fed. Mealtimes are always a highlight on 17 SQN camps thanks to our kitchen staff. During the day the teams were rotated around different activities. My favourites were touch, first aid and top team, but others included stretcher run, drill and leadership. Our first aid scenario was a man who was choking and fell unconscious and a man who fell out of a tree and broke his arm. Later a "branch fell on and injured" one of our team members so we had to treat them as well. Top team is a time challenge with series of obstacles we have to complete as fast as possible; such as, jerry can run, fireman's drag, kicking a soccer ball around cones, the big feet, golf ball throw and the spider web. Night Ex was super exciting



this year because it had a Divergent theme and a capture the flag style, but with a twist. The aim was to use camouflage and concealment skills to find glow sticks in a field and return them to our team flag while avoiding the "divergent rebels". If you were caught not using camo and concealment skills you were captured and brought back to a central location before being released. Our team encountered bad luck because we found all 3 of the other team's flags before we found ours, taking up precious time. It was an intense and

exciting night. On Sunday we rounded the weekend off with shooting. As NCO I helped by coaching the cadets' shooting. Sunday was a really warm day so those of us coaching on the range were roasting in our DPMs! After all the cadets had shot, I had a turn. I didn't beat my personal record but it was good practice. The truly relaxed part of the camp was chilling out right

before our parents came, playing games and lying in the sun. We were all so worn out by then so we needed it! I don't know about anyone else, but I spent the next day at school limping around with achy muscles (stairs were a killer) from all the exercise done over the weekend. Conveniently though, I found that the Fun Run the following weekend was a breeze.

As a cadet if you're given the opportunity to attend Ardua next year or in the following years, definitely make the effort to come, even if you can't make it to the Sparrowhawk competition. it's worth it.





## **ABL Weekend**





# **Exercise Sparrowhawk**

Sparrowhawk was this year, again held during the middle weekend of the October School Holidays, at Burnham Military Camp. However, having competed in Sparrowhawk every year since I joined and the past 4 as a member of 17 Squadron Alpha, this year was shaping up to be a bit different as I was now team leader of Alpha. My team consisted of myself, SGT Swain, SGT Trenberth, CPL Langan, CDT Abbari, CDT Blair, CDT Williams and CDT Wilson. This year had a slightly different format, as some teams came to the competition with only 7 members. This meant that all teams had to run 7 members for each activity. We were forced to side-line 1 member for each activity, over the weekend.

Friday night began the competition with the GSK test, which turned out to be a lot kinder than the one which we were tested on during our training camp, Ardua, thank goodness! My team came in scoring 2<sup>nd</sup> in the GSK. We also had to complete TOET's testing with the Marlin XT Rifles, so we could be cleared to shoot on Sunday.

Saturday came with a 0600 start and a quick march around the corner, to the mess, so we could get a good hearty Army-style start to the day. For the day, we had 4 rotations; Leadership, Communication, First Aid and Rogaine, each 2 hours long, which allowed for all 4 teams in each rotation to get through. Alpha was tasked with Leadership first, which consisted of 2 activities. The first one was a minefield with 'bombs', in which a set number of team members had to stand in the minefield, equal distance apart from each 'bomb' to diffuse it and move on to the next. We got up to the last one before our time was up, which we thought was a decent effort first-up in the day. The second activity was an interlocking wood set, in which we had to follow the picture to get all the pieces in the right spot, making 3 overlapping squares. Despite some members of Alpha having done this task before, we could not get the set complete until the final minutes, so let's just forget about that one, right now...

Second rotation we had Communication. This involved a mis-matched grid of letters being communicated through different stations, via radios, with each station filling in the corresponding letters they had on their grid, so the end station could build a block wall with the letters in the correct place. Alpha all used proper Ratel procedures (yes, we were proud of that albeit what anyone else had to say...) and completed about three-quarters of the wall, finishing us about 6<sup>th</sup> place. Next up, we had first aid. We had all been training hard to brush up our first aid skills, so we were ready for whatever they threw at us. The scenario this year was very similar to last year, with some kind of tree chopping going on and patients being squashed by branches. I was very proud of my team, with everyone doing a full and complete assessment of their patients very quickly. We finished First Aid, in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, a mere 1 point behind 17 Squadron Bravo!

Last rotation of the day was Rogaine. This involved running to points on the base marked by coloured circles, which indicated where markers were. As is natural in Rogaine, we had a couple of markers which we set out to find but couldn't find them, so moved on, finishing us in 4<sup>th</sup>.

After dinner all teams were in for the famous Chain Gang night activity. Each team was given a rope in which all members had to be holding on to at all times, and a sheet of questions, which we had to find the answers to, all over Burnham Base. Having been a veteran of Sparrowhawk, I had a little bit of an advantage in knowing a few answers, or where they would be on the base, but it was just as fun as ever, as we ran/skipped along singing... We returned to HQ with some time to spare and only 2 wrong answers, giving Alpha another 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

Sunday was another early start, followed by some very forceful breakfast suggestions by myself, for my team to stock up on a big breakfast ahead of our very physical day.

First thing, we had shooting, which was a nice way to ease into the day and to get shooting out of the way. I chose to be the member whose score wouldn't count towards the team's total; however, I was still able to shoot. Murphy's Law came to the party, as I shot the best score I

ever had, but I couldn't count it. Typical! We still can't figure out how, but from some pretty dismal shooting we finished 4<sup>th</sup>. Next we had 3 games of Touch Rugby. I was proud of the effort and sportsmanship that Alpha showed throughout the games. CDT Williams became our casualty for the weekend when he got his hand stood on by the opposition, while trying to pick the ball up! However, he soldiered on and we managed to convincingly win all 3 games and only gave away 2 tries, giving us our only 1<sup>st</sup> in the competition.

After Touch, we got a few minutes to have our lunch and get ourselves pumped for Top Team, which was the epitome of the competition, in our opinion. We started with a roar and flew through the Bastard Barrel in less than 3 minutes, amid all the screaming from us girls, as we egged our bucketeers on and gasped for air under the stream of freezing water. We had great teamwork throughout Top Team and only stumbled twice on the Spider Web as we had to pass members through again, after just nicking the edge of the Web. We were stoked with our effort and finished up 2nd, again, just 1 minute behind Bravo!

Last event of the day was Stretcher Run. This year was very different as it was obstacle based through the trees, with 1 stretcher and a mannequin on top. Along the way we had to pick up a tyre, full Jerry Can, plank of wood and a barrel. It wasn't too long but required a big energy output by everyone. Again, we finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

After a well-earned shower and dinner, we headed over to HQ for the Quiz night. Unfortunately before we could even make a start, I realised my head was so sore because I had a migraine. This meant that I missed out on the quiz and lay in a dark room instead, while my team worried over who would command Drill the next morning...

Thankfully, Monday morning came and I felt well enough to partake in the Drill Competition. We packed up our rooms, and then waited for what seemed like hours, to get an iron to ensure we all had perfect uniform. After a couple of practices, we were up. This was it, our final chance to take out the competition! We had a solid routine and SGT Swain's creative fall in looked pretty cool. Then, hardly before realising, that was it, competition was over. Now we just had to play the waiting game.

All the teams chilled out until it was time to head to the mess for lunch and prize giving. By this point, I was shaking with nerves and feeling the pressure mounting on my shoulders. When Squadron Leader Cole told us that there had been a 3 way tie for second place, for the first time in Sparrowhawk competition, my heart sunk and I nearly hyperventilated. However, we were greeted by great news, and 17 Squadron Alpha was crowned winners for 2014, as it all came down to the Drill results. Well-done to 17 Squadron Bravo, 23 Squadron Nelson and 26 Squadron Oamaru, who were all very strong contenders throughout the whole competition, and who pushed 17 Squadron Alpha hard all the way. The competition this year was extremely tough and it was a well fought for weekend. Thanks to 17 Squadron Alpha for a great weekend! Good luck for next year.

#### W/O Cotton

## **Exercise Taiaha**



Taiaha 2014 started off with a fun bus ride to Kidson House where the lot of us from 17 Sqn, 2 from 24 Sqn and some 36 Sqn spent the next 3 days. Prof and Advanced headed off on a tramp and the Basics stayed back for lessons. This year we had a serious search and rescue exercise where Meuldijk and Saville went missing. We were put in teams to locate them and were and set off to put our skills to the test and safely bring them back to camp. What we didn't know was that it was actually not real and it was to test how we would react if we really had to go out for a search and rescue.

This year the bath near the fire pit was put to good use as F/S Withers and F/S Sutton shared a lovely bath together. With the great New Zealand bush as scenery, U/O Jones bringing them hot water and having an audience of the NCO team and officers I don't think they could've asked for a better way to spend their afternoon.





During a fire lighting exercise the cadets got to make hokey pokey. Cpl Pugh, Poulsen and I were helping one of the teams as the tin had become very hot. I instructed Cpl Poulsen to pour the hokey pokey however he thought I had meant to pour it into the fire, so he went to tip it in the fire. Cpl Pugh then managed to grab the tin and I think it was safe to say that making the hokey pokey was

a real struggle for not only the cadets but also the NCO's helping out. Taiaha is a really enjoyable camp even with the screeching owls at all hours of the night and sometimes not so great weather but I would defiantly recommend it for anyone to go.

#### **Cpl Catto**



## Junior NCO Course

The Junior NCO course was simply an awesome experience. When I first arrived at Burnham Military Camp I was as nervous as everyone else was. I didn't quite know what to expect. There were the faces of people I had never met before but that was all about to change. During the first evening conversation in the barracks and mess hall was awkward, but after that first evening we all began talking and meeting new people, who funnily enough had things in common with us. During the course we were taught many new skill that are required of a Junior NCO like squad handling, drill instruction, leadership and giving oral presentations. The course as a whole consisted of 39 cadets from all three Corps and we were divided into four syndicates, these were the people that we spent most of our time with during the day while learning new skills. During the course we were tested on each of these skills to decipher whether we passed or not, and lots of practise was carried out within our syndicate for each of the skills making the terminals feel less daunting! Some of the things I enjoyed on the course were the leadership scenarios, squad handling and the mess hall food :-). By the end of the 7 night course I had met some awesome people and learnt many new things. In contrast with my feelings at the start of the course, I didn't want to go home. This course was awesome and if you get to attend it I can guarantee you will learn lots and meet lots of awesome people!

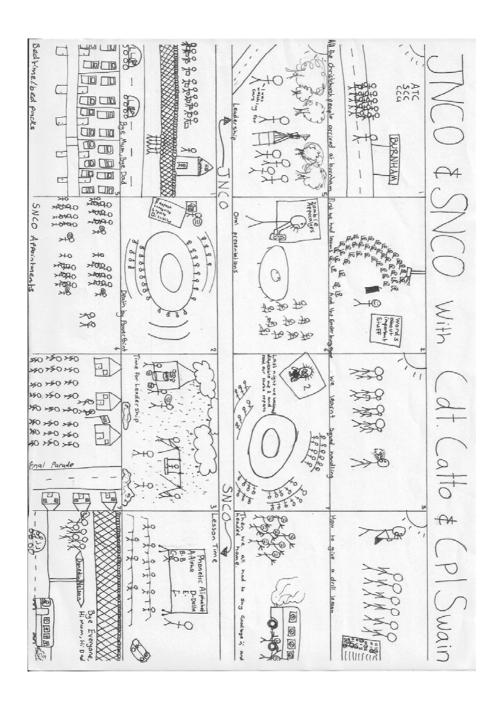
#### CPL. T. Warming-Smith

Junior Leaders Course 2014. well what can I say? I made 39 new friends over 5 very short days and gained lots of new skills that'll help me in my ATC 'career'. As soon as stepped into Burnham Military camp I knew this was going to be one hell of a week. For the first day we sat in the theatre learning theory all day long and expressed our 1...2...3... ENTHUSIASM about being on the course. I think everyone remembers the hectic



mornings; from the ten second showers to running around like a headless chicken dusting your room and helping others for barrack inspection. The next few days we'd started taking our 8 tests, 4 practices and 4 terminals: teaching a drill lesson, squad handling, oral presentation and leadership. The only way we could get through the course was taking it one day at a time. Looking back at it now it feels like it wasn't that bad, but during the course we were all under pressure, we had to keep our standards high in everything we did. Well, we all got out alive right? So we must've done something correctly. The last whole day of the course was ANZAC day, which was a humbling experience for all of us and was probably when all the sentiment started to form. The night before we returned home, numbers were swapped (no frat I assure you) and lots of "we'll keep in touch" exchanged. Throughout the course you learn so much about yourself. Honestly, I like to think of the course itself like going on a tramp. During the start, if you're like me, you want to go home to your couch and computer but in the end it turns out to be a fantastic experience that you'll cherish, I'd say 'forever' but it sounds too cheesy.

#### CPL Soni



# **NAC - Power Flying**

Powered Flying is one of the most amazing experiences I have had while at ATC. There is nothing like the feeling of being in control of a plane, weaving in and out of turns and coming in for take offs, landings and touch and go's. On the first day of course we arrived to a hot blustery north west. We were given our room keys and began unpacking our gear. On the second day we were introduced to our instructors, who would be teaching us the complex skill of flying. We did some Marshalling Drills as the Tomahawks and Cessna's taxied around the airfield. Our first flights of course were exciting. We would be shown the local area and various marking and radioing points. As we were coming in for a landing, we would get a rush of fresh cool air as the doors open from our glasshouse like cockpit. Throughout the course we learnt so much and had amazing experiences both in the air and on the ground. In our ground school we learnt about what we would be doing in our flight that day. When we weren't flying or in ground school, we would be going over our what seemed like endless checks, using the on base swimming pool or taking photos of the various Air New Zealand aircraft or the occasional Orion taking off and landing. The final surprise we got on course was the last night, when the Course Barrack Master decided to order 75 pizzas from the local eatery. We feasted and had the informal prize giving where we thanked our instructors for their amazing and generous efforts as well as reminisced over the last ten days' memories. Overall the course was an incredible experience I couldn't have got anywhere else.

#### **CPL Collett**

## Senior NCO Course

Seniors was one of the best courses I have ever been on. It kicked off on Saturday afternoon when we were dropped off at Burnham Military Camp gates for the course. We picked up our bags, and walked them into the facility.

Once we met our roommates, we immediately learnt how to set up our rooms for inspection and ate our dinner in the 800-man mess. When we returned, we set straight to getting everything ready for the next morning. Towels by the ends of the beds, unused blankets folded and gear properly put away, we had our hour of free time before we headed straight to sleep, ready for the week ahead.

We woke up the next morning to the sound of rushing footsteps heading towards the showers, which were situated at the end of the hall. The daily rush to get everybody ready in half an hour we got used to over the week, but we managed to get there with only a few minutes to spare on day 1, despite all of Under Officer Buick-Turnbull's yelling down the hall.

After breakfast and inspection, we began the week with lessons on the theory side of being a Senior NCO, which spanned the length of the day. The week later progressed with our practices and terminals for all leadership, teaching lessons and drill on the parade ground as a SNCO, which everybody became accustomed to. The constant rush became a hassle, but it was nothing that we weren't accustomed to by day 3. Our leadership practices commenced in the pouring rain, drowning all of our happiness in the matter of minutes. After the first few hours, we began to feel our hands again and warmed up slightly.

After that, most of the week was great in comparison! Everybody had fun and gained a few more tools to add to their toolbox of knowledge. I highly recommend the course!

#### SGT Trenberth

## **Under Officer Course**

Over the holidays between term one and term two, UO O'Connor, F/S Jones and I travelled, along with a few other Mainlanders, to Wellington for the Under Officer's Course. The course was held at the Royal New Zealand Police College located in Porirua about an hours' drive north from the airport. The course is usually held in January but was pushed back this year due to Cadet 150. There are only two NZCF UO courses held annually so there were personnel attending from Northern and Central Areas too.

The objective of the course is to prepare NCOs for the transition to UOs and eventually officers. Therefore we had lessons on the roles of UOs in their units such as assisting with planning, administration and stores. We also discussed time management, conflict resolution and parade appointments. However, what I think every attendee will take away the most was the importance of personal leadership. The importance of personal qualities was hammed into us. Qualities such as integrity; having the courage to stand up for what is right and discipline especially personal discipline. Although these are qualities that we learn about from the beginning of our Cadet careers I certainly came away with a deeper understanding of what these mean and how to apply them in practice.

To spice the week up a bit, we got opportunities to see how the police operate. We had a demonstration of police weapons, sniffer dogs and got to do the police fitness course. Visiting the course was Commander Glen Stokes (Commandant of NZCF) and Police Commissioner Mike Bush along with other high ranking New Zealand Army officers. These men spoke at various stages throughout the course and provided beneficial advice and insights into their ideas about leadership and decision making. Specifically how they go about making tough decisions. We also had the opportunity to ask questions of them and I must say some very good questions were asked.

Overall, I found the course enjoyable and made many new friends. For those NCOs who are unsure about the next step give the UO course a go. It has certainly rejuvenated my enthusiasm for ATC.

#### **UO Witcombe**



#### Warbirds over Wanaka

Wanaka consists of two key things:

- 1) having fun
- 2) an airshow

Wanaka would be the camp that contains the most social benefits, which makes sense because you are trapped in a van with people for 5 hours there, sleep in the same plastic structure with them and then you are trapped with them for a further 5 hours. There is also an airshow you get to explore with whoever you choose which is pretty cool, with all the planes and that. My favourite part was the RAAF display with the Hawks. I also got to go fishing, as well as swimming in the lake, puzzling world (I actually completed the maze this year) and have a shot, which is also pretty fun because you get to shoot each other with foam balls. Nothing really weird and eventful occurred this year, maybe just a couple of cadets that got a little carried away with the sugar, one of them was in my van, that was quite entertaining until they hit their low and crashed, which was also entertaining... Wanaka is a bunch of fun I'd recommend it to all ©

#### **F/S Jones**

# Cadet Votes 2014

Description	Cadet	NCO	Officer
Favourite	Abbari	O'Regan	Jones
Loudest	Donaldson	Langan	Pendly
Most charming	Parkinson	Vallance	Jones
Grumpiest	Nicholas	Vallance	Jacka. C
Funniest	Abbari	Smith	Jones
Smoothest	Abbari	Sutton	Jones
Best dressed	Woods	Pugh	Cole. K
Best smile	Parkinson	Yang	Cole. K
Bravest	Booth	Sutton	Cole. S
Most photogenic	Saville	Cotton	Cole. K
Brainiest	Killner	Withers	Beckett
Grooviest	Wilson	Stevenson	Ross
Dodgiest male	Trenberth	Langen	Farrow
Dodgiest female	Reiber	Ryken	Watson
Most accident-prone	Maikuku	Swain	Gardnier
Most approachable	Killner	Swain	Watson
Most likely to get married	Saville + Williams	Sutton + Lorde	Pendly + O'Connor
Best dance moves	Blair	O'Regan	O'Connor (box stepping)
Best hair style	Houston	Dickson	Pendly
Best singing voice	Blair	Pugh. R	Whitcomb
Action man award	Reiber/ Blair	Withers	Wech
Best leader	Booth	Cotton	Cole. S
Best drill instructor	Saville	Vallence	Farrow
Best classroom instructor	Williams	Withers	Wood
Best PT instructor	Bevan	Cotton	Whitcombe
Most likely to be next NCO	Simpson		
Most likely to be next WO	Woods	Saville	
Most likely to be a SQNLDR	Reiber	Sutton	Jacka. R

### Quotes

- "We're actually descended from molluscs." PLTOFF Farrow
- "This isn't just nitpicking, this is like... maths." CPL Poulsen Drill Team 2014
- "Don't show me your undergarments." F/S Withers
- "You catwach." SGT Vallance
- "You can never have enough babies." SGT O'Regan Sparrowhawk 2014
- "Real triangles have curves." CPL Poulsen Sparrowhawk 2014
- "Am I an ice queen? F/S Pugh, Well you've got a cold heart" SGT O'Regan
- "She eats all that food yet still maintains that perfect figure" O'Regan
- "I really really want to push someone off the top of this" O'Regan
- "Ow! Why does this hurt so much! O'Regan, Push it in harder!" Sutton (about name badge)
- "Stop harassing my cars" F/S Pugh

## Arrivals and Departures

17 Squadron thanks everyone who has recently left for their years of loyal service. We wish them the best of luck for the future!

## Officer Departures:

**PLTOFF Morris** 

UO Vincent - Transferred to No.19 (Auckland) SQN





**UO Andrew** 

UO Maikuku



**UO Varçoe** 



**UO Wootton** 



## Officer Arrivals:

- PLTOFF Lacy, transferred from No 38 (Wigram) SQN
- UO Wood, transferred from No 38 (Wigram) SQN
- UO Beckett, transferred from No 13 (City of Napier) SQN to attend Canterbury University

# Start Dates 2015

Current Cadets: 5 February New Recruits: 12 February



# **Acknowledgements**

17 (City of Christchurch) Squadron ATC would like to thank the following people and organisations for their support this year:

- Southern Area Cadet Forces TSU
- NZ Army CAPT A Rankin
- RNZAF F/SGT J Trevarton
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- RNZN CPO G Foote
- RNZAF SGT L Turner
- RNZAF SGT S Prosser
- RNZAF SGT M Inns
- Mrs Natasha Lutton
- Mr Neville Warsaw
- Mr Trevor Lord
- Mr Neil Wech
- Mrs Kathy Wech
- Ms Jenny Vallance
- Mr Corrie van der Zwet
- Mr Tim Coull

- Ms Megan Ross
- No. 17 SQN Support Committee
- Christchurch Cadet Building Trust
- No. 18 (Avon) Squadron ATC
- No. 38 (Wigram) Squadron ATC
- City of Christchurch Cadet Unit
- The Order of St John
- Mr Kerry Mitchell
- Royal New Zealand Navy
- New Zealand Army
- Royal New Zealand Air Force
- Christchurch Brevet Club
- Christchurch RSA
- Mr Edwin Lord RSA Liaison
- Air Force Museum of New Zealand
- Sean Galbraith

# And the following businesses:

- A to Z Engraving
- Blackmores Holden
- KiwiHost
- Pacific Simulators
- Screen Concepts

Please support these businesses with your patronage if possible.

Thanks to all the cadets, NCOs and Officers who supplied articles or photos for this magazine