



# 17 (CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH) SQUADRON

2017 MAGAZINE

# Warrant Officer's Wrap Up

What a year 2017 has been. Having completed over thirty activities, this year has been full on start to finish. How fast it has all gone by! We started the year off with recruitment camp, where the basics took a crash course on "how to be a cadet". They started as school kids and two days later, finished as trained cadets who could march, iron their uniform correctly and take part in a formal Dining In.

The following weekend, we all got to show off these newly learnt skills to the public, including the honourable Lianne Dalziel and the commandant of the New Zealand Cadet Forces, Lieutenant Colonel Grant Morris as the squadron celebrated its 75th Anniversary.

The formal dinner was held in the old RNZAF Officers' Mess, and just as we were about to pass the port, the Queen decided she'd had enough, and her photo tumbled off the wall. We all further learnt the meaning of ordered chaos where we crossed Donald Trump's wall into America during the Night Exercise. From fake passports to smuggling people inside tyres, the creativity shown surprised everybody.

Soon enough, it was time to take off to Frostybird. Once I'd found my way up the hill (whoops) we all settled in and the Proficiency cadets left us to go tramping. Despite the bad weather we persisted with rotations in the tents and built a fire, much to the Flight Sergeant's delight. That's all from me, Warrant Officer Debenham will continue the rest. Trenberth Out.

So this is where I start. At the end of term two, the current Warrant Officer Trenberth said take the wheel and decided to jump on a plane to the US on a three-week exchange returning as an Under Officer. Brilliant. My only mentor had high-tailed it out of the country leaving me to figure out what on earth to do with over fifty cadets and a bunch of NCO's. Roll call, parade-duties, cadets asking questions, officers wanting to know what the plan for PT was. I thought I was going to explode!

The first task at hand was to get the NCO team working as a whole and what better way than through the annual NCO ABL weekend. This year it was held in early August at Kidson Lodge, Arthur's Pass (Same place as Taiaha) - normally a lovely location close to the river with mountains in the backdrop - only this time it was FREAKING WINTER! Thank goodness for the lodge... Just kidding, here's two tents-set them up and sleep in them. Oh wait, the females' one hasn't got any poles. Ever heard of the game sardines? Yeah it's a lot like that only it's an eight-man tent to fit fifteen NCO's plus packs. Negative eight degrees is not a nice temperature to be out in let alone try and sleep! On the whole we developed as a team and managed to complete tasks to survive and avoid the pesky cowboys with the help of Big Chief Woopa Woopa aka FLTLT Jacka.



Juggling the various drill team weekend practices and shooting on Tuesday nights kept me on my toes. I have to say a big thanks to the drill team for winning the Southern Area Drill Competition and the Alpha shooting team for taking out the shooting competition. Two from two in the first term! Soon after, I was asked to represent the unit at the Cadet of the Year competition and although I didn't win (sorry team), it was a great learning experience - an opportunity I never would have seen myself attempt. It's not everyday you get to jump off the side of a Navy ship or meet the Vice-Chief of the Defence Force.



Our summer bushcraft camp, Taiaha, during Labour weekend, proved once again to be one of the best camps of the year. With everything from overnight tramps, to Unimog adventures and river crossing. This time the weather turned on a stunner of a weekend and our counterparts from 36 squadron in Greymouth even made the trip over.

Currently we are training for our much awaited and anticipated interunit Sparrowhawk competition this year held later, but the excitement and enthusiasm has far exceeded my expectations. Picking the teams was extremely hard as there was so much skill and potential. To anyone who didn't get in the team they were aiming for, be patient, work hard and next year you might get your chance. Alpha, Bravo and Charlie teams will represent our unit this year and hopefully we can once again bring home the trophy.



While it has been a steep learning curve for both of us, it has been very enjoyable and rewarding watching everybody grow. It was great to see the progress the cadets made within themselves and their own confidence in their abilities. It was also very rewarding to help the NCO's find their own paths within the unit. New Zealand Cadet Forces presents a lot of opportunities in many different areas. If there is one piece of advice that we could give you, it would be to take every opportunity that is available. Once you find your passion, take it as far as you can. That's it from us. Have a great holiday and bring on 2018!

UO Trenberth and CDTW/O Debenham

# Flight Sergeant's Debrief

## Flight Number One – Spitfire

I'd been in Spitfire flight my whole time here in 17 SQN, which is why, when I was promoted to F/S, I fought for the chance to lead Flight 1. I went into the start of the year with high expectations for all of the cadets, and I wasn't disappointed. Spitfire has improved immensely in drill, confidence, and effort both in the classroom and on the parade ground, which has let us lead the whole year round in terms of flight points. All the cadets have bonded well and worked coherently as a team in everything they have done together and have shown great pride in being a part of Spitfire flight. And although it may have been sub-par at the start of 2017, we've ended the year at a high standard of dress and bearing - one which I hope to see continued through next year as well. As a team, the cadets have shown the Squadron and myself that Spitfire truly is Flight #1, and that we're more than worthy of our namesake. Regardless of which flight ends up on top this year, Spitfire is a winner in my books.

CDTF/S Abbari



## Flight Number Two – Mustang

Already that time of year again where the flight points are closing in and the suspense is building. By the time you read this the victors would have been announced and the flight cup given to its new champions. Although winning the flight competition is always good I still believe I am the biggest winner! What?! Why you ask... because this year I was once again given the privilege to lead the greatest group of young people, the fam of Mustang #2 flight. Although it's been a tough year on points they always made me feel like a winner, whether it was McKenzie making everyone laugh, Jorgensen putting a smile on our faces or Buchanan showing off his life experiences and entertaining us with stories (all good ones obviously). This along with everyone else made me want to be the best flight commander I could. Overall, it's been an awesome year and I couldn't be prouder of the two flight crew on their hard work and progress throughout the year. Who knows maybe one of you will be filling my boots in the future, way to go team! Don't miss me too much!

CDTF/S Langan



### Flight Number Three – Harvard

G'day! My name is F/S Saville, and I am the commander of No. 3 Flight, Harvard! During the last 5 years at cadets, I have been in all the flights. I have only been in 3 Flight since term 2 this year, and have only lead since term 3, but that doesn't make me any less proud! I want to say a huge thank you to everyone for being awesome, and for working hard on their drill, uniform, and overall teamwork! It's been great to see everyone each Thursday night, working on their skills and growing in confidence. Congratulations to everyone who has completed courses and been promoted. I hope everyone enjoyed their time in cadets this year, and I am looking forward to seeing everyone, along with the new recruits, back next year!



### Flight Number Four – Hurricane

As coming from flight four originally when I joined cadets, it was a pleasure to be the commander of flight four for the majority of this year. Throughout the year, we lagged behind a bit in terms of the flight point's competition, however, towards the end of the year the determination to win kicked in and we began to close the gap between third and fourth place. Competition aside, it has been a pleasure to see the flight learn and develop as a team this year. From attending camps, courses and being rewarded with promotions, flight four has certainly had their fair share of success this year. It was great to see everyone begin to integrate with the new basics who joined the flight this year, and with the rest of the four flight team and squadron as a whole. I'm proud of the flight this year for taking on the many opportunities 17 Squadron has to offer, as well as constantly working hard to improve their drill, dress and bearing throughout the year. Overall, I would like to thank all of flight four for an enjoyable year, and I look forward to seeing everyone back next year, ready to build on the many successes from this year and to hopefully take out the 2018 flight point's competition.



CDTF/S Woods

# Gliding

In December 2016 I attended the National Gliding course at Matamata Soaring club. I was one of the three cadets not from the North Island, so I went on course not knowing anyone or very much about gliding. The course was four days long, and from the start we went gliding every day. We had pre-course workbooks so we all had a general idea of how the giant paper aircraft worked, but I don't think I have ever learned so much in such a short amount of time. We learnt pre-flight and pre-landing checks which are crucial in gliding, as well as learning how to steer and fly the glider. We also learnt what do if things go wrong. This included a demonstration from the instructor of how to recover from a stall, followed by repeating the stall and recovery ourselves. Gliding was hands down one of the best courses I've ever attended. On the course there was a range of cadets from second year cadet's right through to Under Officers, all learning how to fly gliders. I'd highly recommend this course to everyone even if you don't know much about aviation. 10/10 would glide again.



UO Catto

# Powered Flying

Being an Under Officer, I was a little apprehensive of attending the National Aviation Course, held at RNZAF Airbase Woodbourne near Blenheim. I felt I would be very out of place, considering that I was older than and outranked the cadet staff, CDTW/O Trenberth, who was going to be in charge of me for the fortnight. On arrival to the base, and despite it being mostly populated by corporals and sergeants 4-5 years my junior, I miraculously found several of my close friends I had attended Under Officer's course with, and my fears disappeared. The course was split into two – those learning how to fly a plane (powered flying), and those learning how to tell the pilot where to fly (Navigation), based on calculations using maps and rulers and mechanical computations about height, airspeed, fuel, direction, and anything else relating to navigation. Thankfully, I was in the former. A typical day on course started with a pre-dawn wakeup and a hearty breakfast served up at the mess. Then, a quick weather brief from the Chief Flying Instructor before heading off to the Flight Line. Once the planes were checked for structural and mechanical integrity (“yeah, the engine looks pretty much the same as it did yesterday”) and for fuel, the flying would start for the day. That is, unless you were in the group flying the Tomahawk with the hilariously appropriate registration “FML”, in which case you'd most likely have engine trouble and not be able to start it for a few hours. Thankfully, I was assigned a plane with minimal mechanical errors, and we were usually able to give our entire syndicate a lesson each before flying concluded for the day. After the planes were tied down, we made our way back to barracks, where the powered flying group could relax (but only after learning their checks!) while the navigation group had mountains of homework to complete on something like the intricacies of converting between true, magnetic, and compass bearings. The icing on the cake for the powered flying group is being given the chance to fly a circuit solo, and I was lucky enough to get an instructor insane enough to say I was prepared to fly the plane by myself. My solo flight was one of the most amazing and terrifying experiences of my life. Following tradition, once I had landed and disembarked, I was soaked by a bucket of ice-cold water—the bucket just happening to be held by the Commandant of Cadet Forces himself, who was paying a visit to the course. To any cadets reading this – if you want to be a pilot, or even have just a passing interest in aviation, I would highly recommend this course. The value of the lessons given is amazing, and even though I don't plan on becoming a pilot, this course is one of the best experiences I've ever had.

UO Dickson



# Bushcraft

For me, the year of 2017 began with the annual bushcraft course at Tekapo. This course consisted of lessons and tramping skills, as well as acting out scenarios for the officers that were learning as well. The course was held out at Tekapo Military Training Area and we had cadets from all over the South Island attend. Sea cadets, air cadets and the cadet corps were all there.

During the course, we had lessons on the importance of looking after the bush. We learnt some of the rules and key phrases about it, such as “leave only foot prints and take only pictures”. Another lesson was on mountain radios and how they had to be angled towards Christchurch from where we were to get the weather and anything to report. We also had lessons on how to pack your pack, and what should be in your first aid and survival kits.

We then went on a one-night tramp where our leadership and orienteering skills were tested. Everyone got a turn to take over the group as the leader and direct the team to coordinates given by the syndicate officer. This is where one of my fondest memories of the camp occurred, all of us singing 99 bottles of rum on the wall all the way down to 0.

We then had one night back at the camp before we departed for our three-night tramp. After three hours in the back of a Unimog we all hopped out and were immediately greeted by 120kmh winds. Some of our smaller personnel had trouble keeping grounded. Due to the weather we couldn't actually do our three-night tramp, so instead we did day tramps around the area. During these small tramps and walks we had to act out scenarios, such as fights and medical scenarios, to test out the officer's abilities to handle such problems in real life.

Overall, the 2017 bushcraft course has been my favourite course I've attended, because of all the skills learnt and all the fun and interesting scenarios that we had to act out. If anyone else ever gets the chance to go on bushcraft, do not miss the opportunity.

CDTCPL Prencipe





## Under Officers Course - January

The Under Officers course at the RNZ Police College in Porirua was the best course I have been on. Although I had no idea what to expect and there was plenty we needed to learn, 17 Squadron had prepared us well.

The course was very relaxed which meant we had lots of down time to ourselves. It did not always prove to be a good thing when we were still up at 2am. However, these people became lifelong friends.

The favourite part, aside from the classes, was the police show case day. It's not every day you get to experience skids in the police car, legally and strike your associates with handcuffs.

All things aside, I would strongly recommend everyone to go on Under Officers, I've never been this sad my whole time in Cadet Forces to leave an activity.

UO Anderson

## Recruit Camp

A drizzly Saturday morning on Recruit Camp didn't stop the first flights out at the West Melton Airfield. Proficiency and advanced cadets were eligible for either a physics or one-on-one flight. After only a few minutes of being at the airfield I found myself sitting alongside a flying instructor and two other proficiency cadets in a Piper Warrior aircraft. Listening to the phonetic alphabet and airfield circuit language that was used to communicate back and forth to Air Traffic Control gave me a perspective of how the content we learned at ATC is used in a real context. While flying, the instructor explained to us all the controls and dials in the cockpit. He also demonstrated the use of positive g-force, sweeping around the city of Christchurch, and negative g-force, making objects float. This was such an awesome experience and if there was another opportunity I would definitely take it.

LAC Debenham



# Air Tattoo

On the 23rd of February, a variety of cadets from around Canterbury met at the RNZAF Air Movements Terminal to attend the Air Force's 2017 Air Tattoo. The 2017 Air Tattoo was a public air show put on by the RNZAF to celebrate their 80th anniversary and our role was to assist with various tasks such as the set up and pack up of facilities and helping out with general duties around the event. Excited on the prospect of the current weekend, we all boarded the RNZAF Boeing 757 and made our way to RNZAF Base Ohakea. That afternoon and evening, we were briefed on the operations and our role in the Tattoo and were introduced to some senior personnel including Wing Commander Nick Olney, the Ohakea base commander.

The following day we woke right next to an Australian C-17 Globemaster. Throughout the day, more aircraft were being moved into position for the event meaning we could get a closer glimpse at the visiting F-15s, FA-18s and many other Aircraft from countries. Later that evening, just as the sun was setting, the two F-16s and a KC135 Air Tanker, making them the final foreign aircraft to touch down.

Then, after a day and a half of set up on our part, and over 8 months intense organising from the Air Force, the big weekend was finally upon us. Gates opened at 7am and by the time the flying displays had started at 10am, the airfield was packed, with over 30,000 people attending each day. All cadets were split into three syndicates to aid in the running of the air show. On Saturday, we were working from 4-8 pm, leaving us the bulk of the day to watch the displays. Sunday was much the same (in a good way), leaving us more time to speak to the foreign aircrews, collect patches or just chill back at base camp.

On Monday, after a successful Air Tattoo, it was time to pack up. All of our tents and the other stands from the Air Force had to come down so that the secondary runway which it was all set up along, could resume normal operations at 4.30 that afternoon. After all that was done, some of us made our way to the pool for a refreshing dip before heading back to our accommodation for some down-time and a movie.

The next morning, we packed our bags, said our goodbyes and all headed our own ways. I thoroughly enjoyed the weekend and it was a great chance to not only help out the RNZAF, but also to make new friends, catch up with old, and of course, to attend an incredible and unique event. Also, it served as a reminder to all to apply for the many fantastic opportunities within Cadet Forces, such as the Air Tattoo.

CDTCPL Ball



# Drill Team Training Weekend

The drill team weekend – purpose? To get everyone's drill to the same standard and to teach those who didn't know more complex DPTA drill movements. How were we going to achieve this goal? Well, with hours and hours of practice of course, but with a bit of banter on the side.

We kicked the weekend off with perfecting the basic movements of drill like ease and attention to get everyone perfectly in time, the task isn't as easy as it sounds but we got there. During our breaks, we spent our time eating and chatting and watching W/O Trenberth and F/S Debenham do level 3 calculus on the board. Up next came the more complicated stuff like the movements from the AP818 Drill Manual and the Ceremonial Stair Case which put even the best of us to the test. This was shortly followed by practicing DPTA drill, but unfortunately there were some of us who haven't been taught it before and had to learn it from scratch. Due to bad weather, we had to move the rest of the drill inside and continue in the lounge. Later in the evening we were joined by the tramping group for dinner and we feasted away on pizza and hot chips.

Moana! Everyone cheered when it came to movie time as we moved the couches and chairs from the lounge to lesson room one. Once everyone was comfortable and more food arrived the movie watching commenced. By the time the movie was finished it was 22:30 and the officers decided that it was time for lights out. The males fortified lesson room one with chairs and pillows for beds while the females took lesson room two. When we woke up in the morning we all knew the worst part of the weekend was to come... cleaning up and putting everything back the way it was. But, we were all hungry so breakfast came first. We ended up only doing half the cleaning at first and moved the couches and chairs back to the lounge. Then, we all decided to iron our uniforms, polish our shoes and watch memes. Everything was peaceful and quiet until someone found ice cream in the fridge and it became a mad rush for ice cream before it was gone.

Finally, it was the end of this amazing weekend and we had to finish the cleaning and making sure no one left any of their stuff behind. I rate this weekend 11/10 would definitely do it again; I can't wait for the next one.

LAC Basterfield

# ANZAC Harewood Service

ANZAC Day was on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017, and several services were held nationwide. This was to commemorate all Australian and New Zealand servicemen and women, killed in or returned from war. In particular, the 2,779 New Zealanders and 8,500 Australians who gave their lives in an attempt to capture the Dardanelles during World War One. Although the Gallipoli Landings were a military defeat, many New Zealanders recognise New Zealand's distinctive role as a nation to this day, despite having fought in the name of the British Empire during this troubling time.

On the early morning of ANZAC Day, a group of Cadets and officers from 17 Squadron joined the Harewood School community, and gathered in respect for those courageous men and women. It was a solemn ceremony, befitting a military funeral. Families gathered and watched the laying of a wreath beside the local Harewood Memorial, reading several names of those who had fought for country. Upon the ceremony's conclusion, we dispersed, and found the eternal phrase 'Lest we forget', echoing in our hearts and minds.



Lest We Forget.

LAC Roscoe

# Cranmer Dawn Service

On the 25th of April, all over New Zealand and Australia, Sea Cadets, Army Cadets and Air Cadets come together to acknowledge the men and women who died in the landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula in 1915. Among the dead on the Peninsula were 8500 Australians and 2779 New Zealanders. These people are the reason why we now acknowledge the term ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps). I attended the Central Christchurch Dawn service which is where people from all over Canterbury gather in Cranmer Square around 0600 hours. I was dressed in my neat uniform, with my polished shoes and wore my poppy on my right side, just above my name badge, to show my support. Each year we are joined by other civilian and military services marching from the RSA into Cranmer Square, where a band is playing and veterans are standing. We lined up in our groups beside the field of crosses. This day is special for me because being a part of something so big, makes me feel like I am part of a wider and supportive community. It also connects us to other ATC Squadrons such as 18 and 38. I love to hear the footsteps in time and along with the music it gives the illusion of what it would have sounded like for those marching off to war.



LAC Tait

# April Junior NCO Course

I first found out that I was going on juniors part way through term one and was thrilled to get the chance. The fact that I was going on juniors was not fully realised until I was issued with the uniform to go a couple weeks later. I was most excited about getting DPMs (which I decided to wear at home for half an hour on Friday, it felt surreal). In the last few days before the course I started to feel nervous but this was relieved once I arrived at Burnham. One of the first things that everyone was told on course was that we were not to go back to our units and say that juniors was a scary or tough course, in saying that there were still high standards for behaviour and uniform. During the course there was always something to do whether it being lessons, assessments, ironing or preparing for an inspection. The food on course started seemed alright at the start but having eaten the same scrambled eggs for seven days, it got a bit boring by the end. The biggest thing that I took away from juniors was that with confidence, leading and public speaking is not that bad.

CDTCPL Davies

## 2017 Promotions

### **To Corporal:**

LAC Davies  
LAC Lapera  
LAC Pugh  
LAC Basterfield  
LAC Rae  
LAC Tait  
LAC Macklan  
LAC Kingsley  
LAC McDrury  
LAC Sies

### **To Sergeant:**

CPL Haverland  
CPL Lange  
CPL Tham  
CPL Prencipe  
CPL Cotton

### **To Flight Sergeant:**

SGT Simpson  
SGT Woods  
SGT Saville  
SGT Abbari

### **To Warrant Officer:**

F/S Debenham

### **To Under Officer:**

F/S Catto  
F/S Vallance  
F/S Simpson  
W/O Trenberth

### **To Acting Pilot Officer:**

UO Pugh

### **To Pilot Officer:**

A/PLTOFF Beckett  
A/PLTOFF Langan

### **To Flight Lieutenant:**

FGOFF Wech

# April Senior NCO Course

It all started on a Saturday afternoon with a 40-minute drive out to Burnham. On arrival we marched into the base and around to Cadet Forces HQ to march in and officially join the course. After that we went to our barracks and met our new roomies, and got to know the 39 others on the course. It was really nice to see a few familiar faces from the Junior NCO Course last year. There were Corporals from all over the South Island, from Invercargill to Nelson, and three Corporals from the central area who brought a bit of North Island banter down with them. Come Sunday morning we started a big day of lessons. We learnt about how to teach both practical and theory lessons, and how to apply functional leadership to a situation. That night we got a demonstration of a practical lesson, which was on how to make a cup of tea. Dilmah, do try it. The next morning, we got straight into our leadership tasks, which was done out in the field with our syndicates. I was part of syndicate two, who were an awesome bunch to work with and over the week we all became really close. Tuesday was a very early start as we attended the ANZAC dawn parade on Aylesbury Road, which like most dawn parades gave us a great sense of pride and remembrance. That day we presented our practical lessons to each other and our practice theory lessons. We were definitely all looking forward to an early night. Then on Wednesday we had our terminal leadership tasks, which again were a great chance to get outside with our syndicates. On Thursday we did our terminal theory lessons and had our drill assessments in the afternoon, and that evening, with all the excitement and happiness of passing our assessments, we had a big dance party in the lecture room. The course theme song was "Can't Stop the Feeling". Finally, on Friday we had prep for our final parade and then after lunch we actually did our final parade. The Southern Area Coordinator, Captain Rankin was the reviewing officer for the parade. Sergeant Haverland was our flight commander. I was honoured to receive the leadership award, which was presented during parade. That night we watched a movie and relaxed, knowing that we had all passed the course and given it our all. On Saturday morning we said our goodbyes as we all headed back to our homes across New Zealand. Tears were shed, and lots of hugs were given. Overall, through all the ups and downs, the course was amazing and possibly one of the best weeks of my life.

## What I learnt on Seniors:

- First off, I learnt what it takes to be a Sergeant.
- Everyone wants the chocolate brownie in the lunch bags.
- How to iron in ten minutes.
- Confidence is key.
- A smile goes a long way.
- When something in the mess says spicy, it's really spicy.
- A week is actually not a very long time.
- All the lyrics to "Can't Stop the Feeling".
- Fake it till you make it.
- Help others and they will help you.
- It's not all about the score.
- Finally, there is always something to improve.



CDSGT Lange

Hope-Kiwi Tramp

We started the tramp on a very pleasant 4WD track. The weather was gloomy but our spirits were high as we started our walk. For half a dozen of the cadets, this was their first tramp. After ten minutes of walking, we reached a swing bridge that stretched across the Boyle river. I know, it doesn't sound great... but it was absolutely beautiful. The river was a stunning blue and there were giant rocks below, smoothed by the current of the water. As we each crossed one at a time we admired the swirls and deep pools of the water and the ragged stone cliff face. Once we had crossed over a couple of fences, gone up and down some slopes and walked through various mud puddles, we started to head into thick, New Zealand bush. The colours of green and the sounds of native birds chirping surrounded us. We slowly made our way through the forest, different conversations and laughter filling the air.

By lunchtime, we hadn't made it far. It had taken much longer than expected with all the small stops we were taking. There was no way we were making it all the way to the Hope Kiwi Lodge. We powered on, our minds set on the Halfway Hut. After a total of five hours walking, we finally saw the hut on the other side of a large clearing. Muddy boots and tired faces, we set up our campsite, complete with a bonfire and picturesque views of the river and the valley around us. We sat on logs around the glowing fire, telling stories and jokes, laughter and chatter filling the valley. I think my favourite thing was the night sky. No light pollution from busy city centres, just pure, New Zealand night sky. The Milky Way streaked over our heads and embers from the fire flew up towards it.

Since we didn't go to the actually lodge, Saturday was a free day, so we made shelters in the nearby forest and went down to the river to practice crossings. We also found a natural hot spring so we cleaned out the dead leaves and stones to see if it would clean up well enough for us to enjoy. Even though it was raining on Sunday we made great time, so what took us five hours on Friday only took us two or three hours on Sunday to get back to the car park. I was really proud of not only the basics, but all of us that went on the tramp, because sometimes it can be difficult to be motivated when you know that you aren't doing as well as you expected. I really enjoyed getting to know the others that went on the tramp and I know that the rest of the tramps will be just as good if not better.

LAC Rae



# Top Squad

On the 26th-28th of May two teams went to Ashburton to compete in the annual competition known as Top Squad. On the night of arrival, we were seated in the mess hall and given the camp's standing orders, but they didn't tell us anything about the activities as they wanted us to be able to think on the spot to create a solution to the problems that faced us.

On the first day we were woken up at six o'clock, got dressed, got fed, and then thrown straight into activities. One of the teams went off site whilst the other team stayed on site. The first activity we did was called observation gallery. You had to find hidden things in the bush just using your eyes, you weren't allowed to move forward and only a limited amount of space sideways. In the end, the scores didn't count as the weather was bad so other teams couldn't participate. Our next activity was fire lighting which also got called off as some teams couldn't do this because of weather as well.

After a couple of activities, the sun came out for a bit and we did the mud run. It was surrounded by gorse bushes and hurt a lot. It was also freezing cold, but in the end we did get given some biscuits and milo so I haven't got any complaints. When we got back we did a couple more activities, such as first aid (which we won), making a makeshift camp site and pitching a tent. The day was really tiring and in the evening we did a quiz which was pretty fun even though we didn't know a lot of the questions.

The next morning, we woke up to shouting and had to warm up for a run. The run was really tiring as we were trying to avoid getting caught by one of ACUs officers, and who ever made it back got points for their team. Even though we were all exhausted from the run we had to do as many crunches and push-ups as possible. After that, we did tug of war but we were tugging a van rather than other people, it was quite easy pulling it only 10 metres, but then they made us pull it 50 metres which was absolutely tiring. Overall, I enjoyed top squad and I definitely recommend putting your hand up for it next year.

CDT Wolland



# Frostybird

From the 2nd to the 5th of June SQN 17 attended the annual winter camp, Frostybird. This year it was more like Rainybird than Frostybird as our 3rd and 4th days were rainy. On Friday, we left for the campsite and had some games and activities with the NCOs when we got there.

Waking up the next day was the worst part of the trip as it was cold and damp, although we didn't have any frost this year. Basics did a variety of fun, educational activities including bushcraft, tent pitching, fire building, knot tying and cooking while the Proficiency and Advanced cadets went on day tramps. As night came, everyone was getting excited for Night Ex, this year it was a Star Wars themed activity. We were split into groups and told to find four clues within the overgrown tussocks and gorse bushes and then reach the enemy base, because we were pretending to be Jedi and these four clues were going to destroy the sith. We were taught how to be stealthy as there were NCOs wandering around acting as the sith. So, we were crawling, sometimes on our stomach, in the wet tussocks looking for small road cones which held the clues - this was one of my favourite parts of Frostybird even though we got soaked. My group managed to come first after the NCOs decided to move the base down the bottom of the hill that we had just crawled up. This was the night it started raining, and the Advanced were out in emergency shelters in the bush which made for some good stories.

On Sunday we did more activities, such as games, search and rescue and first aid. After lunch, we did a first aid simulation which was one of my favourite parts of the camp. Tonight's night ex was a murder mystery scenario, and most teams got the killer, weapon and motive correct. Afterwards we did skits and space jump, which was my favourite part of the whole camp as we got heaps of laughs out of it.

The last day was relaxed. We played a few more games, took down the tents and talked amongst ourselves. We played a fun game where the NCOs were 'terrorists' and we had to catch them all without letting them reach the lodge, which was a fun way to end the camp.

Overall, Frostybird was an amazing camp. The activities were fun and memorable, the food was delicious and I made so many memories and heaps of friends. I would highly recommend it to everyone. It was a blast!

CDT Musto



# July Junior NCO Course

## JNCO Course

Y K C L C O S Y K P H W V W I V O X R D  
C F A A M Y K I R U M F A T L L G I B Y  
G F M A D I S C I P L I N E H N K P Z R  
L O J T O C G N B A Q E A H F I E W F O  
I G A G N Z D R I L L D G N I T U O H S  
N Y T H V L Y H T Y E S V Q I D F I Q G  
Y E Z N C O L D X R R C B E P M Q J B B  
M K M L I W F N S S Z I R Q R I E R X T  
B X A X D C T H Y Q U L C W E T O A C X  
N D H Z Y O I N H H Z T C H S K F P A M  
O J N B W P D Q N Y E N K C E F C M E K  
I I R T C I J S Q K I J U N N J U V D T  
N G U X C M M M Q L A H H F T Z X Z V E  
O A B A Q P N W S Q C E Y E A P K D W A  
N Q T E Y Q Z Q B R A J K I T J B W W M  
W E L N J C I W I T E R H H I A U B X W  
S G T R A T V T E P E Z T X O S Y I F O  
L H N W U B N R U T H J S A N R N Q F R  
W R S N O S S E L G N O L U S I L N F K  
W Z I M A E B X V F A Q W Z S U G Z U F

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BANTA  
COLD  
FUN  
PRESENTATIONS  
TEAMWORK

BROKENHEATERS  
DISCIPLINE  
LEADERSHIP  
SHOUTING

BURNHAM  
DRILL  
LONGLESSONS  
SYNDICATES

# July Senior NCO Course

It all started Friday night, the same place we were the last course - juniors. This time a little less scary and knowing a few more people. The first few days were like any other course - classroom lessons and more lessons. We were taught lessons on how to teach lessons; yes, it was as long and boring as it sounds. Then we had days of putting into practice what we just learnt, which for me was a lesson on knots. I was teaching myself how to tie knots at the same time I was teaching others how to. The outdoor leadership days had surprisingly nice weather for a change and we had much more freedom and responsibility than on Juniors. After days of knot lessons, you would think we had some degree of knowledge on tying knots for leadership, but no, that job was of course given to the sole sea cadet in our syndicate. I had learnt several things on previous courses that gave me a bit of a heads up, like there is actually a thing called too early to breakfast, that dust is the equivalent to the plague and to never ever choose the ribs for dinner in the mess. The last part of the week was the testing of teaching classroom lessons and flight commanding which was mostly fun, despite it having to be done inside due to the rain. A group of us course students attempted to learn the cadet forces haka in the span of a couple of hours, for the course parade, which turned out pretty decent considering the time and the fact almost all of us didn't know how to do a haka. I was awarded the Teamwork award for the course which just added to the high of the last night. Overall it was such an enjoyable course, with amazing cadet staff and lots of banter. Courses are something everyone should be aiming to do as not only are they a lot of fun and an opportunity to meet cool people, you gain experience and knowledge that not only helps you in the unit, but in general life.

CDTSGT Cotton



# NCO ABL

Friday 6pm: blindfolded and taken hostage to be driven to a mysterious and daunting location in the wild wops of the New Zealand outback. That was the plan they had for us; they being the officers and us being the 17 Squadron NCO team. This was the start to a surprisingly short and cold weekend. We drove towards the wild west coast nearing our destined ABL campsite, when we crossed the bridge It came to my realisation that we were approaching the all too familiar Mt white Kidson Lodge. It's called Mount white for a reason... The weather forecast was good for the two nights we were there and yet we were welcomed by a thick layer of permafrost covering every inch of unsheltered ground. The same ground in which we pegged our one tent that had to fit 14 smelly teenagers.

The following morning, we were awoken at the crack of dawn by some derpy bandits to the sound of *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* playing in the background. This was the start to our weekend of team work activities, which pushed us to our limits physically and mentally, depriving us of food to see how we can cope under trying circumstances. We completed each activity in order to unlock the padlocks on the large, mysterious chest that taunted us. After a full on day with minimal breaks or time to rest, the last of the visible sun disappeared over the mountain shadowing our lowly plateau. We finally cracked open the mystery chest, hoping for gummi bears and chocolate after a hard day's work. In suspense, we were silent as the lid was opened slowly and our eyes fixed on the treasures inside...tarpaulins and rope. With that bombshell we had just been struck by, we were told that our accommodation for thus fine evening was going to be under said treasures, how excited and thrilled we were at the news!! Jk lol. For the next three hours we struggled to put peg to peg and rope to rope until the glorious, the almighty, the wise and all knowing Squadron Leader Cole wandered in and poured his wisdom upon us all and just like that ta da! Our fortress was made. It didn't even leak that much.... the rain that night didn't help.

The weekend was over and shattered we wanted to get home and sleep in a nice warm bed. All of us were glad we had this experience, it brought our NCO family closer together, showed us our strengths and weaknesses and were able to help each other through the thick and thin; all whilst enjoying some quality banter along the way. An experience well enjoyed 10/10 would recommend, just get promoted first ;).

CDTF/S Langan



# Ardua

Exercise Ardua was held on the 25 to the 27 of August at West Melton Firing Range. After we arrived we were shown to the rooms we'd be sleeping in and put our gear away. We then marched into the mess hall to await further instructions. After roughly ten minutes we were briefed and placed into our groups - Alpha, Bravo Charlie - and were informed about the areas we were not permitted to go into, as it was a military base. We were then taken outside for a brief but enjoyable game of spotlight.

The next morning we were abruptly woken up for PT, which included a strenuous run around the surrounding area. Our separate groups then split up into our rotations, such as shooting and first aid. The majority of the first day was taken up by these rotations. As the day drew to a close we were rounded up into the mess to be briefed on the night ex and informed of the clothing required. The scenario for the night ex was that there had been an explosion and one of the NCOs had been chemically injured. Our separate groups had to find clues to help assemble a cure.

Thankfully there was no PT the following morning. There was however games of "steal the eggs" and "capture the flag", both of which succeeded in tiring everyone out. The second half of the day mainly consisted of more rotations and an ongoing game of football. Various activities were arranged such as a memory walk, but were over by lunchtime. After lunch there was a large game of four square which continued on for quite some time. As it was not yet time to go home we had the privilege of being shown around a field where the Army was doing an exercise of their own. We were escorted around and allowed to ask various questions about the equipment. After this we were de-briefed and it was time to go home.

CDT Campbell



# South Island Drill Competition

The moment had arrived. As me and my car pulled up to Corsair Drive I was feeling terrified, nervous and excited for what was to come which was the South Island Drill Competition, which I was lucky to be a part of. Getting out of the car, I walked in the building and was met with friendly faces of my fellow team members.

We had a day to make sure our drill was perfect, which was exhausting, but everyone was so patient with the other two basics and I. We always seemed to get the stand at ease with the DPTA out of time, no matter how hard we tried. However, I could feel the improvement. More and more training, which was never boring as we were either focusing on getting it right, or laughing at failures. Then came the dreaded ceremonial about-turn, to be honest I had one of the easiest jobs standing in the middle and just mark timing slowly while turning. I could see how if we could get it right it would look very skilful. Then was lunch which was filled with more laughter and food. After the delicious lunch we were back at it again with the training. I could see how everything was coming together, it made me feel really proud of what we have had accomplished as team.

When the sun started setting we headed back inside. My limbs were sore, it wasn't unwelcomed though. Our hard work was rewarded with pizza and drinks, while watching 'Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl' I had never seen it before and it made my sides sore with laughter. When the movie came to a close we all headed to bed for some much earned rest.

It was here. I could feel the butterflies in my stomach, or maybe it was because we hadn't had breakfast yet, but all the same I was very excited to get started on the day. With breakfast out of the way, everyone got into uniform and was helping each other get ready for the competition. Once the other two squadrons and the judge joined us, we were ready to go. I felt like exploding with nervousness.

Marching on, I could see how everyone was a little tense and out of sync at the start. However, as the routine continued we relaxed and everything was going smoothly. After a particular right wheel we knew it was time for our ceremonial about-turn, which ended up going so much better than when we practiced. As we finished up everyone was congratulating each other, we even got a few comments from the spectators. While we were clapping for the last squadron, you could practically cut the tension with a knife. My fingers were crossed as first place was being called... it was us! Relief and pride flooded through me. We won by a narrow margin with the ceremonial about-turn putting us in the lead! Who knew how glad I would be that we practiced. After a photo with the trophies and some cleaning up it was time to head home. I was so glad I came and was a part of the 2017 National Drill Competition.

CDT MacDonald



# Jock Turner Shooting Competition

On the 16th of October 2017, two teams of six from 17 Squadron participated in the Jock Turner Shooting Competition. The competition was an inter-unit event held at Burnham's 25 metre range, and involved units from around the South Island. Every Tuesday two weeks prior to the competition, we had been polishing our marksmanship skills at the Paparua smallbore rifle range. (Probably) feeling prepared and well rested, we showed up Burnham at 12:30, ready to boast our shooting chops to the other units. The teams were mainly made up of NCO's with only 3 cadets, including myself, out the twelve of us. Many of the NCO's had been on inter-unit activities before, meaning there were a lot of reunions and catching up. I, on the other hand, with this having been my first inter-unit activity, felt very out of place and insecure. Unfamiliar faces, all here to show me up. I soon learnt that this wasn't the case at all. We didn't get into the shooting right away, which gave us a chance to chill out a bit and enjoy a game or two of touch rugby. I mostly watched, but still got to learn some names, which took away a lot of the intimidation. They were just people after all.



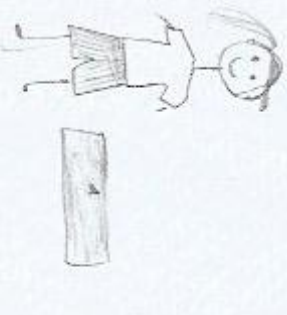

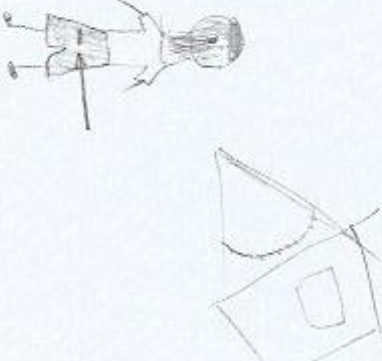


We took turns shooting in our teams, starting with a practice session that didn't count to the competition itself. It was the usual five shots grouping, followed by fifteen rounds application, topped off with five rounds snap. Exceptional shooting from everybody, with only a few minor hiccups that didn't leave any doubts in my mind that we weren't going to fail too miserably. After everybody had gotten their practice in, it was back to playing the waiting game. The game being touch rugby, and an afternoon chat of course. Then it was back to shooting, for real this time. We got different targets this time. Laminated, and half-blue with places to put our names and ranks. Again, it started with five rounds grouping, that we could look at and compensates our aim off. I took a look at my grouping, and realised it wasn't mine. Then I checked again... It was mine! Today it seemed the stars and planets had aligned to send down a holy magazine of laser-guided bullets. The grouping left me surprised and confused, with three or four bullets within a grouping the size of a gold coin. After studying our groupings, that was it. We weren't allowed to go back and check again, we just had to remember. It was fifteen rounds of application, followed by five rounds snap. You could feel the pressure now, in the form of delays between shots. Everybody was taking their time to aim, now that a trophy was on the line.

The shooting was followed by more waiting, before the subsequent reveal of the winners. To my surprise, the only Cadet Corps unit to show up came last. Their excuse being "suppressive fire". 17 Bravo came third and... of course... 17 Alpha came first. We won by only four points, just shy of a bullseye away from coming second. 17 Squadron has now been crowned the South Island champions of the Jock Turner Shooting Competition for 2017. I was proud to have been a part of 17 Alpha, and proud of the end result. Well done to the other members of Alpha. You all played a part in obtaining the trophy place for our squadron, with your exceptional marksmanship. Well done to the others who participated as well, as simply being deemed fit for competition level marksmanship is something to be proud of. But most importantly (to me), we proved that the Cadet Corps can't say too much about our "ATC aim".

CDT Liswoyo



# Taiaha

	<p>The trampers are sitting around the campfire</p>		<p>Lange is devastated</p>
	<p>Lange gets up to go to bed</p>		<p>Lange goes for a swim... the rip gets bigger!!</p>
	<p>Little does she know, there is a small rip in her shorts.</p>	 <p>At. Reavis Reiley</p>	<p>Lange decides it is time to part with her beloved shorts.</p>
<p>The next day</p> 	<p>At breakfast, Lange is made aware of the rip.</p>	<p>RIP SHORTS</p>	<p>A month later, Lange bought a new pair.</p>



# Cadet Votes

Description	Cadet	NCO	Officer
Favourite	McKenzie	Kingsley	O'Regan
Loudest	Ahn	Langan	Watson
Most charming	Downing	Abbari	O'Regan
Funniest	McKenzie	Kingsley	O'Regan
Best Costume	Scooby Doo (Group)	Macklan	Vallance
Most Banterous	McKenzie	Abbari	Beckett
Most likely to get Googled	McKenzie	Kingsley	Catto
Best smile	Mustoe	Tait	O'Regan
Most photogenic	Snoek	Woods	Catto
Brainiest	Falconer-Beach	Debenham A.	Trenberth
Grooviest	Elliott	Saville	Vallance
Most Salty	Robinson	Cotton	Pugh
Most accident-prone	Probert	Saville	Catto
Most approachable	Debenham	Prencipe	Farrow
Best leader	Mustoe	Langan	Cole S.
Sassiest	Buchanan J.	Prencipe	Pugh
Best Eyebrows	Jorgenson	Lapera	Catto
Most likely to join the Military	Robinson	Kinglsey	Withers
Best Puns	Elliott	Pugh	O'Regan
Best Hairstyle	Wheatley	Prencipe	O'Regan
Best drill instructor		Woods	Trenberth
Best classroom instructor		Woods	Sutton
Best PT instructor		Debenham A.	
Most likely to be next NCO	Mustoe		
Most likely to be next WO		Woods	
Most likely to be a SQNLDR	Debenham C.	Kingsley	Wech

## Quotes

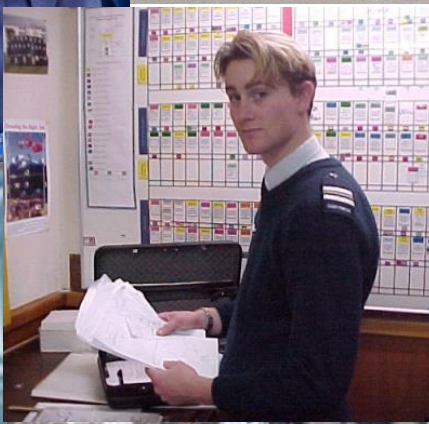
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SGT Cotton: "You make me craugh!"

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CPL Kingsley:	"I'm going to suck like no man has sucked before."
UO Watson:	"Take a sausage!"
SGT Ball:	"You may hate skiing, I may love skiing, but the one thing that cannot separate us is our love for Russians."
CPL Basterfield:	"Can I go get my boots?"
F/S Abbari:	"Rules are meant to be broken."
UO Trentberth:	"Hey look, I can fit five children in my pants!"
F/S Abbari:	"You need to re-enact the Sound of Music in a bear suit until you go to sleep."
F/S Woods:	"I'll send you a video."
FLTLT Jacka C:	"Stamina."
SGT Haverland:	"Whats a . . . Beef jerky?"
F/S Saville:	"Jerk that's beef?"
Maikuku:	"What's my mum's name?"
SGT Haverland:	"Wholegrain bread."
A/PLTOFF Pugh R:	"What's cooking?"
SGT Tham:	"You."
F/S Woods:	"I love homeless people!"
F/S Abbari:	"Stand them at attention in front of a tree."
CPL Campbell:	"And then drive a car into them?"
W/O Debenham:	"Kingsley, what can I do for you?"
CPL Kingsley:	"You can give me permission to suck the floor!"
W/O Debenham:	"Have a good night."
CPL Kingsley:	"I always have a good night sir."
F/S Woods:	"This is going to be a piece of piss."
F/S Woods:	"My tumbly is rumbly."
PLTOFF Beckett:	(to CPL Pugh) "You have turned out surprisingly normal."
Unknown cadet:	"I don't use DRS ABCS, I use common sense."
CPL Pugh:	*Drops drink bottle*
F/S Saville:	"Corporal! If you can't hold onto a drink bottle, how are you going to hold onto a leadership position?!"
SGT Lange:	"Wrong butt cheek, dammit!"
F/S Woods:	"I don't think you're allowed to bring dogs"
F/S Langan:	"We'll leave you at home then."

# 75 Years of 17 Squadron



# Acknowledgements

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- 18 SQN ATC
- 38 SQN ATC
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- Canterbury Touch
- A to Z Engraving
- Screen Concepts
- Rata Foundation
- Youthtown
- Christchurch International Airport
- Outdoor Education New Zealand

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