



The Magpie

Newsletter of No 17 Squadron (City of Christchurch) branch,
Air Training Corps Association of New Zealand Inc.
December 2014, Issue 03

Welcome from the Chairperson

Welcome to 'The Magpie' the newsletter of the Unit Support Committee of No 17th Squadron (City of Christchurch) Air Training Corps.

It is hard to believe that this is the final newsletter for the year with Christmas just round the corner! It seems that as soon as Term 4 starts someone pushes the 'fast forward' button and the rest of the year just flies by. It has been a busy old year.

Work on the flight simulator is progressing well and will hopefully be completed over the Christmas break. This will be a great asset to unit once it has been installed. Thanks again to Sean Galbraith for all his hard work in making this a reality.

The support committee has a few other initiatives they would like to introduce for next year. One being a 'Youth Development Fund' that will allow cadets to apply for funding to cover course costs or other activity related expenses. Read more on this further on. Much time and energy has gone into researching this and I would like to thank Stephen Espiner for his work in putting it together.

So much goes on behind the scenes. Funding for the maintenance and repair of the building itself is an ongoing issue. The various units and Cadet Trust are working together to find a long term solution. The 'Fun Run' held earlier this year raised around \$2500 but in reality the figure needed is much more. We are exploring various options, tapping into local businesses, donations from ex-cadet alumni and/or a possible joint fundraiser organized with outside help. If you have any ideas or contacts we would love to hear from you.

Support Committee



- Annette Pugh
- Neville Warsaw
- Neil Wech
- Ken Snook
- Edwin Lord
- Stephen Espiner
- Sharlane and Daryl Cotton
- Jenny Vallance
- Tim Graham
- Murray Debenham
- Kathy Wech

**The magpie was at one time the unofficial insignia of No 17th Squadron along with the motto 'Ever questing for Shiny Things' as evidenced by their quest to win as much silverware as possible!*

As far as maintenance and repairs go for 17th Squadron, we are very lucky to the services of Daryl Cotton, a parent on the support committee and metal worker extraordinaire. Daryl has recently made a replacement for the old BBQ table and cooktop. That, combined with the eagle eye of Squadron Leader Cole (who can spot a bargain a mile away) puts us in very good hands. Shane ensures that the unit has a ready supply of tents, cookers, back packs, emergency beacons and other assorted gear for your cadets to use for the various camps.

We are also lucky to have a dedicated and hardworking unit support committee. Camps just wouldn't be the same without Kathy, Neil, Jenny and Sharlane cooking up a storm in the kitchen. Neville keeps us on track financially, Neil sorts out the paperwork and keeps us supplied with photographs, Ed keeps us up to date with the RSA and Ken, Murray, Tim, Stephen and Daryl are ever present with their wise counsel.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for being so generous with their time, energy and expertise. They have worked hard and are deserving of a good break.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday and look forward to catching up next term.

- Annette Pugh



Addington Cup Day 2014

A big 'Thank you' to all who helped with the rubbish collection on Cup & Show day.

A special word of thanks goes to the 5 volunteers from 'Chorus' who chose us as their 'volunteer day' project for this year and to the 3 volunteers from Hohepa who also helped out on the day.

The huge number of cadets that turned up at the end of the day to do the final sweep was a very welcome sight indeed.



Event Calendar

Final Parade	4 th December
Red Flag (camp)	5 th – 7 th December
Santa Parade	7 th December
Movie Night	11 th December
National Aviation Course	January 2015
National Navigation Course	January 2015
Outdoor Leaders Course	January 2015

Reach for the Sky Youth Development Fund

A new initiative from the support committee is the introduction of the 'Reach for the Sky' Youth Development Fund. The committee would like to introduce this for 2015 as a way of supporting cadets to further their horizons/personal growth.

The fund will be open to both junior and senior cadets after a year of attending ATC. Applications can be submitted for funding of up to \$2000 to either supplement or cover course costs or expenses relating to a course or activity of the cadets choosing. This can be for an activity outside of ATC. Applications will open early next year. For more information please contact me at ang.pugh@xtra.co.nz



Parade of Significance

On a sunny Sunday morning on 9th November our cadets participated in the Christchurch NZCF Parade of Significance and Remembrance service. Along with the other cadet units from Christchurch and members of the RSA and accompanied by the NZ Army Band they marched from outside Christ's College to the Park of Remembrance to commemorate Armistice Day.

Parades were held across the nation with a special parade in Wellington that included 150 cadets made up of representatives from every cadet unit in the country to mark 150 years of Cadet Forces in New Zealand. 17th Squadron's representative in Wellington was Flight Sergeant Saville.

Flight Simulator

The Flight Simulator is progressing well. In the last weekend of the holidays a small band of cadets got to work stripping back and cleaning up the cockpit. Over pizza and coke components were gathered and stored for later refitting to the simulator. Power tools were used, things measured and items crossed off the list. Familiarization of the cockpit also took place.

Meanwhile, in a factory far, far away, a floor made of metal and other items of uncertain design have been crafted, awaiting final assembly.

The next job on the to-do list is the purchase of the big ticket items, namely the hi-tech computer and data projector. Over the holidays Sean will put together the final componentry and with a bit of luck we will see the installation of the simulator at the base early February.

Huge thanks again to Sean for all the time and effort he has put in to making this a reality.



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