



The Magpie

Newsletter of No 17 Squadron (City of Christchurch) branch,
Air Training Corps Association of New Zealand Inc.
2018, Issue 16

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.

Kia ora koutou,

It is hard to believe this is the end of Term Two with the July holidays just round the corner. April seems so long ago!

Our AGM in March was well attended and we welcomed several new members to our Support Committee; Caroline van Zoggel, Graeme Shepherd, Carolyn Newman, Lindawati Indarto, Rowena Cameron, Carolyn Yang and Matt Blackwell. We are delighted they have come on board and hope they will enjoy their time with us.

17 Squadron was well represented at the ANZAC Day commemorations around the city, with the usual services at Harewood School, Cranmer Square, the Transitional Cathedral and the Airforce Museum and this year also supporting the RSA at Templeton and with cadets attending the JNCO course, at Burnham Military Camp as well.

Queen's Birthday weekend saw many excited cadets head off to Exercise Frostybird, held at Mt Oxford, where a lot of fun was had by all.

This term we have also made good use of the Paparoa Shooting range in Waterloo Rd, with weekly shoots for cadets on a Tuesday night.

Several members of the USC also attended a public meeting last week on the possible formation of a cadet unit in Rolleston. Both the Council and Cadet Forces are still gauging public interest in this so nothing has been decided at this point.

On this, the last week of term, we look forward to our second ever, 'Formal Dining In', to be held at the RSA on Armagh Street. This is a great opportunity for our cadets to experience the formality and traditions of a military 'Dining In' and one not to be missed.

I wish you all a restful break and if you are lucky enough to be going somewhere, safe travels.

Until next time,
ka kite ano

Annette Pugh

Support Committee

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- Annette Pugh
- Neville Warsaw
- Neil Wech
- Ken Snook
- Sharlane Cotton
- Daryl Cotton
- Jenny Wech
- Murray Debenham
- Kathy Wech
- Rebecca Sewell
- Graham Shepherd
- Carolyn Newman
- Lindawati Indarto
- Carolyn Yang
- Matt Blackwell
- Caroline van Zoggel
- Matt Blackwell

Warbirds over Wanaka

Over the Easter weekend 17 Squadron made their biannual visit to Wanaka to attend the Warbirds over Wanaka air show. A beautiful sunny Friday afternoon kicked things off with a fantastic display down at the lake front including some low flybys and cannons. The air show itself on Saturday was fantastic as always, with the Air Force pavilion proving popular and we even got to see one of our ex cadets piloting the NH90 helicopter during the Royal New Zealand Air Force display!



The fun continued on Sunday with a trip to Puzzling World and its great maze, followed by swimming (by those brave enough) and an Easter egg hunt – with a few foil wrapped potatoes hidden as well - it was April 1st after all!



USC AGM

The USC wishes to thank all who attended our AGM evening and to warmly welcome all the new members who have joined us this year.

Poppy Day

The Friday before ANZAC Day saw teams of Cadets out collecting donations on behalf of the Christchurch RSA as part of the annual Poppy Day appeal. This contribution is a valuable part of the community service component to Cadet Forces so a huge thank you to all those who participated.

ANZAC Day Ceremonies

ANZAC Day is always an important part of our yearly calendar of events and this year we had Cadets in attendance not only at the Cramner Square dawn service but also Harewood School, the Transitional Cathedral, the Airforce Museum, the Templeton RSA and Burnham Military Camp.



Exercise Top Squad

In May a delegation of 17 Squadron Cadets spent the weekend at Staveley near Mt Somers. This weekend of training and competition is organized by the Ashburton Cadet Unit and is attended by other Units from all over Canterbury. It is a great opportunity for our Cadets to get some practice in before our own Sparrowhawk competition later in the year and also to socialize with Cadets from other units.



Back at Payton Lodge Cadets were kept warm by learning camp craft including; fire lighting (and making damper), first aid, and search and rescue.



Unit Dining In

The Unit "Dining In" is to be held in lieu of our normal parade night. This year we are holding the dinner at the Christchurch RSA Trenches Bar and Restaurant. This event is a good opportunity for our Cadets to learn some of the traditions and customs that come from Her Majesties service and we are hoping to make this an annual event.

One such custom is that of the "Passing the Port" (although in our case it will probably be grape juice). This is a ceremony where guests fill their glasses in preparation for the official toasts. After filling your glass, the decanter must be passed to the person to your left and should not touch the table until all the glasses have been filled. As the first of the toasts is always the Loyal toast to the Sovereign, the symbolism of the decanter never touching the table is that of an unbroken chain of loyalty as each person passes the port to their neighbour.

Exercise Frostybird

Queens Birthday weekend saw the whole unit once again up at Coopers Creek (Mt Oxford) at our annual Exercise Frostybird. As the name suggests this camp is a cold one and one of our more advanced tramping group even found snow!



Event Calendar

NCO ABL	6 – 8 July
Exercise Ardua	31 August – 2 September
Exercise Taiaha	19 – 22 October
Parents Evening	TBC
Cup Day Fundraiser	13 November

Coming soon:

Parents Evening

Watch this space and your emails! The USC is planning a parents evening for term three. We are in the process of organizing a guest speaker, and there will also be an opportunity to socialise with other parents and the unit officers over supper. Date and speaker TBC.

Cup Day Fundraiser

An important event on our calendar is our primary annual fundraiser held on Cup Day at Addington Raceway. It may seem like a long way off but this event allows us to achieve nearly all the fundraising we need to be able to provide all the awesome activities listed above in the one day (i.e. no weekly sausage sizzles or chocolate sales!). This is a really fun day spent collecting rubbish at the Addington races where you get to be part of all the festivities. More detailed information will follow closer to the time, but we encourage you all to consider participation as many hands make light work.

Reach For the Skies Scholarship

The 'Reach for the Skies' scholarship provides funds of up to \$5000 a year to help cadets pay for courses or activities that will further their personal development. Cadets must have attended ATC for a year. There are two funding rounds, March and September.

Previously we have received applications for the following activities:

- School trip to China
- First Aid Course
- Outward Bound
- Spirit of Adventure Voyage
- French Exchange

Application forms can be downloaded from the website or by application to the secretary of the unit support committee, Neil Wech

neilwech@extra.co.nz

Find us here:



www.17squadronatc.com



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