



The Magpie

Newsletter of No 17 Squadron (City of Christchurch) branch,
Air Training Corps Association of New Zealand Inc.
2018, Issue 15

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 and welcome to another year of fun filled activities at ATC.

The year started early in 2018 with Exercise Takahe taking place at Arthurs Pass in January, FLTL Kendyl Cole is to be commended on running such a successful event. WO Debenham and F/SGT Woods completed their RNZAF Flying Scholarships at RNZAF Base Ohakea and we also had a large number of cadets attend the National Aviation courses, both Powered Flying and Navigation, in Nelson.

There has been a changing of the Guard at Southern Area HQ as we bid farewell to Captain Alastair Rankin, our former Area Coordinator for the Southern Region and welcome in Major Karl Maddaford. CAPT Rankin has held this position for a number of years and we thank him for his time.

Two others who have also been honoured are our very own Unit Commander, Squadron Leader Shane Cole and Pilot Officer Deb D'Guild. Both have both been recognized for their long service to Cadet Forces. We are fortunate to have such committed people in our unit.

We welcome to our Unit Support Committee, Gerard Rooney, who is our new RSA Liaison. We work closely with the RSA and very much appreciate having a representative on board.

This year we had over 50 new recruits attend Recruit Camp, taking our number to well over 100. We look forward to seeing them thrive and grow throughout the year.

With new recruits come new parents and we warmly invite both new and existing parents to attend our AGM on the 12th April and consider joining the Unit Support Committee. It is not an onerous job and we are fortunate in having many long standing members. We meet monthly, on the third Thursday of the month, down at the block. Come along on the 12th April to hear what we have done over the past year.

Easter is fast approaching and with it a contingent of Cadets attending Warbirds over Wanaka. Soon after will be ANZAC day. This year we will again be helping the RSA with Poppy Day and on ANZAC Day will be involved with a record 5 ceremonies around the City.

Until next time,

ka kite ano

Annette Pugh

Support Committee



- Annette Pugh
- Neville Warsaw
- Neil Wech
- Ken Snook
- Sharlane Cotton
- Daryl Cotton
- Jenny Wech
- Murray Debenham
- Kathy Wech
- Rebecca Sewell

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YOUTHTOWN 

Exercise Takahe

NZCF Cadets on Outdoor Adventure Exercise

Whilst their peers were enjoying the final week of the Summer school holidays, 62 Cadets from around the South Island were participating in the inaugural Exercise Takahe, a week long adventure camp held in Arthur's Pass for Cadets from the New Zealand Cadet Forces.

The Cadets attending Exercise Takahe travelled from as far away as Invercargill and Nelson to attend Exercise Takahe. They were supported by 23 NZCF Officer and civilian staff who volunteered their time to instruct, support (and feed) the Cadets.

The Exercise aimed to encourage the Cadet's development through adventure based activities and inspire a love and appreciation of our outdoor environment. During their week, the Cadets went through Cave Stream, a underground stream which twists and turns for nearly 600m in the chilly dark before finding daylight at the other end.

This was a real challenge for the Cadets, and a significant highlight of the entire Exercise.



The Cadets also abseiled at Castle Hill, some brave ones even managing this blindfolded! They went on to fly over a river on a flying fox, treat some injured (not really) patients after a "bouldering accident", bond with their team on a low ropes course, and enjoy the novelty of a ride in a Unimog.



Instruction was given in basic map to ground navigation and Cadets were given plenty of opportunities to practice this. One afternoon was spent down at the river, learning and practicing their safe river crossing techniques and how to recover after an accidental fall in the river.



Then it was into the field for a two night tramp. During this time Cadets practiced their navigation, small group leadership, fire lighting skills, and emergency shelter building skills. An unpredicted storm with impressive lightning, thunder, rain and hail provided a bit of excitement but otherwise the weather all around was calm, and hot.

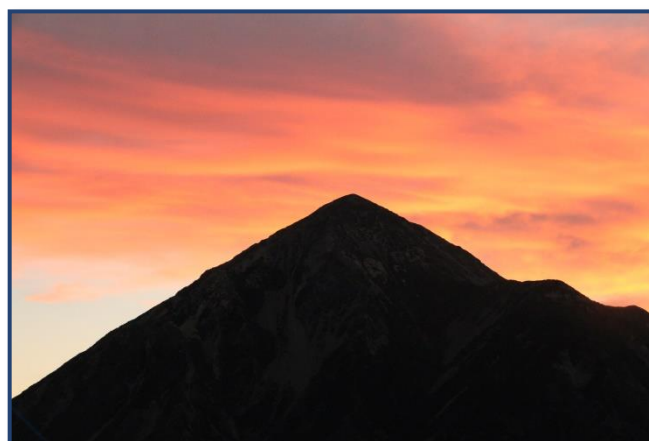


Back into Camp, there was a night of skits, awards and tearful farewells before heading home the following morning.

The differences in Corps, Unit, rank and age were forgotten on this Exercise and Cadets and staff alike went home with strong new friendships, pride in their achievements, and new skills that they can pass on to their peers. The Exercise would not have been possible without the support of the NZDF, Youthtown, Rata Foundation and Christchurch Airport. Thank you!



FLIGHT LIEUTENANT KENDYL COLE, NZCF
Takahe Exercise Commander
No.17 (City of Christchurch) Squadron, Air Training Corps



Changing of the Guard Farewell to Major Al Rankin



Captain Alastair Rankin, above, has been a familiar face round the block for many years, often presenting awards to deserving Cadets for various achievements. He leaves his position as Area Coordinator (Southern) to join the Reserved Forces as S23 2/4 Battalion. CAPT Rankin is replaced by Major Karl Maddaford, pictured below presenting the CFM to PLTOFF Deb d'Guild and SQNLDR Shane Cole. We wish them both well in their new positions.



Unit Support Committee

The Annual General Meeting of the Unit Support Committee will be held on Thursday

12th April 2017 at 7pm at the block - 43 Corsair Drive

Election of Offices will held followed by supper

Please note: all current incumbents are standing for re-election.

Medal Ceremony

Earlier this month was a very special parade. PLTOFF Deb d'Guild was awarded her Cadet Forces Medal.

"The Cadet Forces Medal is awarded for 12 years of continued loyal and dedicated service to both the New Zealand Cadet Forces and to the youth of Christchurch and is awarded to Pilot Officer d'Guild with effect from 2 October 2017"

Taken from the Citation for Pilot Officer d'Guild

SQNLDR Cole received the second clasp to the Cadet Forces Medal. The following is taken from his Citation.

“During the past 28 years, Squadron Leader Cole has completed all the available NZCF Officer Training courses and has also staffed and directed numerous Cadet Force Officer and Cadet Training courses around New Zealand, in particular has staffed bushcraft courses for the past 25 consecutive years.

Squadron Leader Cole has been a reliable and extremely dedicated NZCF officer for over 28 years and has provided exceptional support to the youth of both Canterbury and New Zealand. This support received recognition in December 2005 when Squadron Leader Cole was awarded the Commandant’s Commendation for devotion of duty and exemplary service to New Zealand Cadet Forces. His efforts were also recognised in December 2005, when Squadron Leader Cole was awarded a Chief of Air Force’s Commendation. His years of dedication were further and substantially recognised in 2008, he was awarded the Queens Service Medal, acknowledging not only his Cadet Forces service, but also many other facets of service to his community over many years.

Squadron Leader Shane Cole was awarded his Cadet Forces Medal on 10 August 2001, in recognition of 12 years’ service to the New Zealand Cadet Forces and his first clasp to the Cadet Forces Medal in August 2009. The second clasp to the Cadet Forces Medal was awarded on 10 August 2017 for an additional period of eight years’ service to the New Zealand Cadet Forces.

Therefore, in recognition of over 28 years of loyal and dedicated service to both the New Zealand Cadet Forces and to the Canterbury community, Squadron Leader Cole is awarded the Second Clasp to the Cadet Forces Medal”

What this all means, in a nutshell, is that your children are in good hands.

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@xtra.co.nz

Event Calendar

Term One 2018

Recruit Camp	16-18 March
Warbirds over Wanaka	30 March – 3 April
USC AGM	12 April
Poppy Day	20 April
ANZAC Day	25 April

Recruit Camp

On the weekend of the 17/18th March, we held our annual training camp for our new recruits.



With 50+ new cadets, this was our second-biggest group of basic cadets in recent history!

The new recruits learnt some key cadet staples such as drill, firearms safety, leadership, uniform maintenance and GSK (General Service knowledge)



We also managed to squeeze in some other activities too. Shooting, a trip to the Air Force Museum, a tricky inaugural escape room and night ex were some highlights for our new recruits.

We rounded the weekend off with a unit game of water-balloon volleyball.



Our older cadets we sent out to West Melton Aero club for our first flight of the year!



Even with some cooler weather, it was a fantastic weekend and we can't wait to get cracking into the full year.

For the full set of photos, check out our website.



Find us here:



www.17squadronatc.com



www.facebook.com/17SquadronATC



Secretary: Neil Wech
neil.wech@extra.co.nz



[Instagram.com – 17squadronatc](https://www.instagram.com/17squadronatc)