



The Magpie

Newsletter of No 17 Squadron (City of Christchurch) branch,
Air Training Corps Association of New Zealand Inc.
May 2015, Issue 05

Welcome from the Chairperson

'The Magpie' is the newsletter of the Unit Support Committee of No 17th Squadron (City of Christchurch) Air Training Corps. Greetings to you all from a very mixed weather May.

We had a very successful AGM in March and have had several new members join our committee. A very warm welcome to David, Andrew and Lindsay.

Earlier this year and after many months of planning, 17 Squadron was privileged to be part of the opening of the new RSA building in Armagh St.

The building itself is quite stunning and I encourage you all to call in and have a look around. During the opening ceremony an historic flag brought back from the original Gallipoli landings was presented with signatures of men serving at that time still visible; a very tangible piece of history.

Unit cadet numbers are looking good, sitting up around 100. Recruit camp was great fun. The cadets participated in various group activities with the highlight, as always, being the night exercise on Saturday night.

Anzac Day this year was a special one this year commemorating 100 years since the Gallipoli Landings. 17 Squadron had a strong presence at the Harewood Road and Cranmer Square Dawn Parades and were represented at services at the Transitional Cathedral and the Air Force Museum. Members also helped out afterwards at the RSA.

One lucky cadet got to fly on one of the last flights of the Iroquois helicopter and later this year two of our NCO's are off overseas through the International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) programme.

We also have our very first recipient of our newly established 'Reach For The Sky' Scholarship Fund so all in all a great start to the year ☺

Annette Pugh

Support Committee



- Annette Pugh
- Neville Warsaw
- Neil Wech
- Ken Snook
- Edwin Lord
- Sharlane and Daryl Cotton
- Jenny Vallance
- Tim Graham
- Murray Debenham
- Kathy Wech
- David Hill
- Andrew Were
- Lindsay Sutcliffe



Recruitment Camp

Recruit Camp this year was held at the West Melton Rifle Range. New cadets turned up to learn the basics of ironing, drill, how to work together and more importantly, how to keep eyes front and forward whilst standing to attention. NCO's did their best to distract the new cadets during this exercise. An epic battle of endurance ensued with an eventual draw being declared as the last two refused to yield!

They also successfully completed the night exercise, which is always a highlight of the camp, putting into practice their newly acquired orienteering skills. The drill displayed for the parents on Sunday showed a marked improvement from that at the beginning of the weekend. Thanks again to the fabulous kitchen crew of Jenny, Kathy, Neil and Annette who kept everyone fed and watered (And to Squadron Leader Cole who cooked a mean hash brown in the mornings!!).

Helicopter flight

After attending the National Aviation Camp in January of this year congratulations go to Cpl. Ali Abbari for winning the Navigation Prize. This won him a 30min scenic flight on an Iroquois helicopter before they were retired from service.



Reach for the Sky

The 'Reach for the Sky Youth Development Fund' has had its very first recipient! Sgt Emma Swain was successful in her application to help fund the cost of an Outward Bound Course later this year. We wish Emma all the best and look forward to hearing how it all goes.

International Air Cadet Exchange

This year 17 Squadron is lucky to have not one but two cadets selected for the International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) Warrant Officer Grace Saville is off to the United Kingdom and UO Rachel Pugh is off to Canada for 3 weeks. As well as having a look around and participating in various activities whilst in their respective host countries they will also be joined by other cadets from around the world and get to see how other units operate. We wish them both the best in their travels.



Lions Club Flag Ceremony

In the same weekend as recruit camp several members of 17 Squadron helped out with the Flag Ceremony during the opening of the Lions Club District Convention. During the ceremony Flags from Nations around the world connected with the Lions Club are presented. This included the flag of the United Nations. The Lions Club is one of the few organizations in the world to be able to present this flag.

Event Calendar

Term Two	23 rd April-2 nd July
Frosty Bird Camp	29 th May- 1 st June
Term Three	23 rd July~ 24 th Sept



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