



The Magpie

Newsletter of No 17 Squadron (City of Christchurch) branch,
Air Training Corps Association of New Zealand Inc.
November 2016. Issue 13

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.

Christmas greetings to you all as we look back on another very busy term. I hope you and your families are safe and well after the recent earthquakes and aftershocks.

I would like to say a huge 'Thank you' to all those who helped out at Cup Day, with a special thank you to the volunteers from Chorus. It was another successful day and well worth the effort. Thanks also to the Officers and cadets who helped out on Show Day as well.

Congratulations are in order, firstly to the 17 Sqn Drill Team who won the Southern Area Drill competition earlier this year, secondly to 17 Sqn Alpha Team who were the top team at Sparrowhawk at Burnham and last but not least, to our very own WO, Amy Vallance, who won the inaugural Cadet of the Year competition held up at Ohakea. Well done to all of them.

Exercise Taiaha, our annual camp at Arthur's Pass was enjoyed by all and more recently our cadets have been out and about in the community helping at the Clarendon School Fair, Armistice Day commemorations and next week will be marshalling at the Santa Parade.

Our Final Parade is coming up on the 8th December and this is a great opportunity to acknowledge those who have done well throughout the year. The Unit has also organized a Family Fun day out at Spencer Park on Sunday 11th December which I hope many of you will be able to come to.

Exercise Southern Falcon, a flying camp to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Cadet Forces, will also be held over that weekend.

Safe travels to those who are going away over the holiday break and I wish all of you a very merry Christmas.

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
- Debbie Boyce
- Shane Varga
- Jackie Sargent



Cup Day



Thank you so much to everyone that helped out on Cup Day and Show Day this year. It was a fantastic effort with lots of positive feedback. The weather was great and the general consensus was that there was less rubbish and better behavior all round. Certainly the punters seemed to have a great day.

We are very aware that Cup Day is a work day for most and greatly appreciate the help of those that are able to take time off. The \$10,000 that is raised by doing this certainly helps defray the cost of the unit activities and saves us all from endless weekends of sausage sizzles and selling chocolate!

Special thanks to the volunteers from Chorus and a few others who come along every year to help out even though they have no cadets in the unit.



Find us here:



www.17squadronatc.com



www.facebook.com/17SquadronATC



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

Final Parade

No.17 (City of Christchurch)
Squadron ATC

Cordially invites you to our
Final Parade

To be held at the block
43 Corsair Drive, Wigram
at 6.30pm on

Thursday 8th December 2016.



RFTS

The 'Reach for the Skies' scholarship was introduced by the unit support committee in 2015 and provides funds of up to \$5000 a year to help cadets pay for courses or other activities they might like to attend to further their personal development. There are funding rounds in both March and September. Application forms can be downloaded from the Squadron website or by emailing the secretary, Neil Wech

For the September round Cadet Pugh applied for and was successful in being awarded funds towards a school trip to
China in 2017

Cadet of the Year



In our last issue we congratulated WO Amy Vallance on her selection as the South Island ATC cadet for the inaugural Cadet of the Year competition to be held at RNZAF Base Ohakea. We are delighted to announce that, not only did she compete well, she won the competition to become Top Cadet of the Year.

This was no easy feat as she was up against the top cadets from all three cadet corps (Air, Navy and Army) from both the North and the South Islands and was also competing alongside the top reservists from the territorial forces.



Commandant NZCE, Lieutenant Colonel Grant Morris (NZ Army) WO, Vallance with her Award as Cadet of the Year.

The competitors were tested on various components including Speeches, General Service Knowledge, First Aid (with the use of amputees to make it more realistic), PT (physical training), Shooting, Masterchef using ration packs, Concentration and Memory Recall and something called an Observation Gallery involving a helicopter crash. Amy came first in many of these challenges and was in the top three in the others. She can be justifiably proud of a very well-deserved win!



Southern Area Drill Competition

We congratulate the Squadron Drill Team on winning the Southern Area competition earlier this year. At the end of October they travelled to RNZAF Base Ohakea to compete for the national title against the teams from 19 (Auckland) and 10 (Palmerston North) Squadrons. 19 SQN from Auckland won the day. Well done to all who competed.



Sparrowhawk

Sparrowhawk is an inter-unit cadet competition run by 17 Squadron for ATC cadets in the South Island. It was held out at Burnham Military Camp at the beginning of October. The unit had two teams competing and congratulations go to 17 SQN Alpha, pictured below who took out the competition for the 11th consecutive year (no pressure for next year!!)





Taiaha 2016

Exercise Taiaha was once again held at Kidson Lodge in Arthur's Pass over Labour Weekend. The weather was kind and the cadets enjoyed a weekend full of tramping, bushcraft and survival skills. Many thanks to Jenny Vallance and Kathy and Neil Wech from the support committee who ensured that everyone was fed and watered and the place clean and tidy both on arrival and departure.



Family Fun Day

The Unit has organised a Family Fun Day for all cadets and their families out at Spencer Park. This will be held on Sunday 11th December from 10am-4pm.

There will be a BBQ - the unit will provide the BBQ meat, and Cadets have been asked to bring their own sides/salads and non-alcoholic drinks.

There will be activities and competitions running throughout the day.

We hope to see you there.



Thank You

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all the members of the Unit Support Committee who have worked so hard throughout the year to support the unit. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Officers and Staff of 17 Squadron in the planning and implementation of the excellent programme they provide for your children and also to thank you, the parents, for getting your cadets to and from ATC and for helping out whenever we ask you. It is very much appreciated.

75th Anniversary

No.17 (City of Christchurch) Squadron ATC will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2017. To mark this occasion, the Squadron is planning to hold a reunion in Christchurch 24th-25th March 2017.

We will be holding a wing parade and have a dinner & dance at the Airforce Museum on the Saturday Night.

If you are interested in attending please complete the expression of interest form on our website.

We look forward to sharing this milestone with you!



Event Calendar

Term Four

Santa Parade 4th December

Southern Falcon 9-11th December

Final Parade 8th December

Family Fun Day 11th December

Term One 2017 Please check website