



# The Magpie

Newsletter of No 17 Squadron (City of Christchurch) branch,  
Air Training Corps Association of New Zealand Inc.  
July 2022. Issue 28

## *Greetings from the Unit Support Committee*

We trust you are all well and getting through winter ok. We are certainly having a better year than the last couple and things seem to be back to a bit more normality at Cadets.

As far as the Unit Support Committee are concerned, we have a couple of important events coming up. Our Parents Night in August and Cup Day fundraiser in November are dates to put in your diary, which are detailed in the newsletter.

The Magpie has traditionally been the medium for the Unit Support Committee to pass on information and news to the parents and caregivers. But now with the weekly noticeboard updates, emailed out each Tuesday, this has become a great way for the Unit to inform of upcoming events or news. If you as a parent are not receiving these emails, either let one of the committee know, or get your email address updated with the Unit administration.

At 17 Squadron USC Branch, we have a good mix of experienced and new members, with a well-resourced and financially stable base. We are always ready to welcome new members, so if you think this is something you would be interested in being part of, don't hesitate in reaching out to a committee member or drop in as a guest at a committee meeting. As a parent of former Cadets at 17 Squadron, I was very appreciative of what my daughters got out of Cadets and their values and personal development has put them in good stead today. It's always a great way to get some inside info on what's going on too, let's face it, our kids are not the best with keeping their parents up to speed!

It would be great to meet you at an upcoming event.

Darryl Cotton, Chairperson USC

## Support Committee ...

- Daryl Cotton
- Neville Warsaw
- Neil Wech
- Ken Snook
- Sharlane Cotton
- Jenny Wech
- Rebecca Sewell
- Linda Indarto
- Matt Blackwell
- Jodie Martin-Blackwell
- Melanie Koster
- Tania Doyle
- James Calder
- Ally Calder
- Colin Creighton
- Amber Clarke

## *Who are the USC*

A little background into the Unit Support Committee that you may not be aware of: it was written into the constitution of Cadet Forces in the 1970's, that each Air Cadet Unit is required to have a Unit Support Committee. That USC is the local branch of the Air Training Corps Association of New Zealand (ATCANZ). This came about from when Cadets were funded fully by the Defence Forces, to be partially funded and required each Unit to source their own funding. This is the primary role of the USC, as well as providing support and infrastructure to their Unit. The USC is traditionally made up of parents of present or past cadets, former cadets, members from the Defence Force, RSA or interested parties. So therefore, without a USC, a Unit cannot exist. Conversely, without a Unit, a USC is not necessary. So, it is very important to have an enthusiastic and organized USC, as well as a healthy working relationship with the Unit Commander and Unit.

## *ATCANZ National Council Meeting 2022 summary*

The ATCANZ AGM was held in Wellington on 28th May, which differed

from the usual venue of RNZAF Base Ohakea, due to restrictions of non-Defence Force personal on Base.

17 Squadron Branch USC was represented by Neville Warsaw, Darryl Cotton [and Neil Wech, as his role as ATCANZ Vice President and 17 Branch Secretary].

There were some very informative and interesting presentations from the ATCANZ President, Presidents of the Cadet Corp [army] and Sea Cadets, President of the RSA, Commandant of Cadet Forces – Commander Mark Henderson and Chief of Air Force – Air Vice- Marshall Andrew Clark.

As there were no nominations for new committee or officers for the Management committee and the incumbents willing to stay on, there was no need for the election process. While we are fortunate to have the historic experience and contacts in the Cadet and Defence forces of our long-standing Officers in the Management Committee, it is great to have several members that are also current Branch Unit Support Committee members as well. This is very important to keep a current viewpoint on what is happening at the coal face at Unit and Branch level and not just add another layer of bureaucracy.

The Sainsbury Award funding of around \$9000 was distributed between 7, 27,88 and 15 Squadrons. This funding is likely to increase to up to \$14,000 in coming years

with a change in investment and administration costs.

The financial statements were read and discussed, with the main concern expressed with the late lodgement of end of year financials of many Branches. Also of a concern, was the information required from the Branches by the Management Committee for auditing for the Charities Commission, was not accurate. This required extra work from Tristan Wills, the ATCANZ accountant, although it was a marked improvement on previous years. 17 Branch has received some criticism in the past from using our own Xero account and not the shared ATCANZ one. But it was pleasing and notable to hear from the accountant that the hard work of Neville to work in with Tristan to align the coding and inputs has made it pretty seamless to do the annual accounts. 17 Branch was mentioned several times as a model Branch with our financial reporting, so our appreciation goes out to Neville.

General business revealed some interesting discussions. Succession planning for Branch and Management Committees uncovered that most of the Branches struggled with this and there seems to be a large gap between committee members that stay on for years after their children finish in the Unit and new committee members that may only come on board for a couple of years. Certainly something 17 Branch need to discuss. An email address system for the Officers of each Branch, rather than

using personal email address was discussed and everybody agreed this was a great idea. The email address would be handed on to newly elected Officers, so the email history wouldn't be lost and enable Branch's to communicate easier between each other and the Management Committee.

Finally, the address from Chief of Air Force was quite insightful and revealed a testing time of the last Covid influenced year. The Air Force used between 1200-1500 personnel manning MIQ facilities, which meant training; exercises and recruitment were well behind schedule. The attrition rate within the Air Force dropped to a low 4% over the last couple of years, but is now up to 10%, which reinforced the need to recruit new personnel. Part of this process is to attract more females, with reaching their target of 20% in 2020, to meet the target of 25% by 2025. Operational wise, the Air Force assisted with operations and aid for the Tongan Volcano disaster, Mid Canterbury Floods and the first for the



NZ C130 Hercules

RNZAF, a medical evacuation from Antarctica during the winter with a C130 Hercules, with the flight crew using night vision equipment. The Orion surveillance aircraft are being phased out and replaced with the Boeing P8 over the next couple of years. The current C130 Hercules aircraft are also being phased out, with a replacement of the new generation Hercules C130J happening over the next 2 years also.

So overall, I found the day very informative and as this was my first participation in the Nation Council AGM, was a great way to gain more understanding on how the ATCANZ organization works, put some faces to names and network with other Branch committee members.

Thanks to the committee for the opportunity to attend and represent 17 Branch - Darryl Cotton.

## *Cup Day Fundraiser – Parents, save the date!*

**Tuesday 8th November 2022**

### **We need your help!!**

Our annual fundraiser has been confirmed. Over the past few years, we have been fortunate to work with Addington Raceway, to provide the rubbish clean-up service on the Cup and Show Day races (8th & 11th November this year).

The past 2 years Cup Days were very scaled back, and this had a big impact on our annual fundraising result. Fingers crossed, things will be back to normal this year and we have also been tasked with extra duties.



This is really our one and only fundraiser for the year and one day of decent effort eclipses the countless hours manning sausage sizzles and selling products. Without this funding, assets such as the Unit van, flight simulator and camp equipment, as well as the low cost of subscriptions and camp fees, would not be possible.

Although November seems a long way off, planning is underway. So please, if you can spare some, or all of Tuesday 8th November, your help would be greatly appreciated. So, put it in your diary for a day at the races.

We will follow up with more details and gather names of volunteers closer to the time, but if you need any more

info, or want to put your hand up now, feel free to contact me on 027 220 6566.

Darryl Cotton

## *Parents Night*

### **Thursday 25th August 2022**

With events conspiring against us for last year's parent's night, we are now looking forward to hosting this on Thursday, 25th August.

This a great opportunity for the parents and caregivers of new and established cadets, to come along and meet the Unit Officers and the Unit Support Committee, listen to some speakers, enjoy some supper, mix and mingle. A perfect time to ask any questions about Air Cadets, the Unit or any of the jargon your Cadet children come home with!

We plan to start the evening at 7.00pm, with an update of the year from the Unit Commander and short presentations from a couple of Cadets with some interesting experiences.

We have a guest speaker, who you will find very interesting. Des Lines resides in North Canterbury, next to his private airfield with hangers of vintage aircraft. Des learned to fly in the iconic Tiger Moth and went on to a career starting

on DC3 and finishing on long haul passenger jet aircraft. Des commits a lot of his time to youth and runs regular workshops based on learning around practical exercises, based around flight and personal development.

So, set the evening aside, we look forward to welcoming you to the Unit HQ at 43 Corsair Drive, Wigram.

Hosted by 17 Squadron ATC – Unit Support Committee.

## *Treasurers Corner*

It is now approx. 6 months since we introduced the "Store" for purchasing products such as the annual subscription, uniform bonds, camp fees etc. from the 17 Squadron.

### *Event Calendar*

#### **Term Two**

Unit Dining In 7<sup>th</sup> July

#### **Term Three**

Ex. ABL 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July

Parents Night 25<sup>th</sup> August

Ex. Ardua 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> August

#### **Term Four**

Ex. Taiaha 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> October

Cup Day 8<sup>th</sup> November

This is working extremely well. Particularly a new aspect of the Store with the ability for you to pay by credit card is proving quite popular.

I would just like to remind all parents/caregivers to please use the Store for purchasing products from the unit. The outputs from the "Store" are used by the Adjutant to ensure that the Unit has a record of which cadet has paid for what!!

There is the availability for you to select how you wish to pay, either by credit card or by using internet banking. If you select to pay by internet banking, please ensure you follow through with the payment, there have been a few instances where the Store shows a product has been purchased, but no payment has been received by the Unit.

17 Squadron is a "cash free" organisation and is requesting that all payments to the unit are paid via the Store, by credit card or internet banking.

Find us here:



[www.17squadronatc.com](http://www.17squadronatc.com)



[www.facebook.com/17SquadronATC](https://www.facebook.com/17SquadronATC)



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

## Farewell and Thank You

At our AGM in April, the USC bid a fond farewell to Annette Pugh. After many years on the committee and as past Chairperson, Annette saw all 4 of her children pass through 17 Squadron. Certainly, a family dynasty and Annette made a great contribution to put back into the organization that her children got so much out of.

Thanks for your commitment to the USC and 17 Squadron, enjoy your 'retirement' Annette!



Current Chairperson Darryl presenting Past Chairperson Annette with flowers on behalf of the USC at our April AGM.