



# MIGHTY 88 RADAR



## Term 3 & 4, 2023

### Promotions / Awards Term 3 & 4.

Congratulations to the following cadets promoted from:

#### **CPL to SGT**

SGT Bell

#### **SGT to FS**

FS Wafer

#### **A/CPL to CPL**

CPL

Buttle.A

CPL

Buttle.J

CPL Wells

#### **LAC to CPL**

CPL Palmer CPL Egerton

**Courses :** LAC Evans, LAC Linton – JNCO Course

#### **Shooting Badges :**

**First Class :** CPL Buttle A, CDT Dubois C.

**Competency :** CDT Close, FS Warwick

### Unit Commander's message

I've been asked to write a few words for this Radar newsletter about the last half of the year but find myself reflecting on the words and phrases from my draft End of Year speech that I have been working on. By the time most of you read this, I will have relinquished my duties as Unit Commander of Mighty 88 to FGOFF Micallef. FGOFF Micallef started as a slightly older cadet back in 2016 and has progressed up through the ranks. He commissioned November 2019 and has completed most of the Officer development Courses delivered by the

NZCF, as well as staffing many Officer and Cadet courses. I'm confident he will lead the unit well, bringing a fresh perspective and approach. And he does have an awesome team backing him.

It's not goodbye from me, I am simply stepping back, allowing others to keep the unit progressing forward and growing. It has been an amazing

journey for me over these past 8 years, being the Unit Commander of a very fast-growing unit.

Who knew how a simple idea would grow and fast become such a successful cadet unit in such a short time.

Watching the unit form and grow and achieve so much, has been a truly humbling experience. Named Mighty 88 for a reason! A huge team effort. There are so many people to thank, too many to name. I do wish to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who in some way or another has supported Mighty 88, from the Mayor, the RSA's, the Community, the Unit Support Committee, the wider NZCF, the dedicated Staff team, parents and the cadets.

So many young people have come



through the unit, most developing into confident, self-disciplined young leaders. They have given many, many, many hours of service to this awesome

Community, who in turn has given astounding support.

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to a few awesome members who have been with the unit for quite some time, particularly FGOFF Chapman, who will be moving out of uniform, but continuing his crucial role as our liaison with the RSA's. Barry has been with the unit since we were recognised. For the last few years his directives included acting as 2IC and Health and Safety Officer. He was delegated with the huge task of building and maintaining relationships particularly with the RSA's, as well as OiC for all key parades and Services such as ANZAC day. I would like to acknowledge and thank him for all the work he has done for the unit.

OFFCDT Lane will also be out of uniform next year, but will become Supplementary Staff, and continue to be a role model and mentor to our driven young adults.

W/O McCurrie is handing over the leadership of the cadets at the End of Year Parade.

He has been an excellent role model throughout this year. Next year will be a big turning point in his life, as he starts his new career in the NZDF. He joins many others from the unit who over the years have moved into careers in the military.

To all those moving on from the unit, I wish you all the best.

Congratulations to those who received promotions and awards, well done,





# MIGHTY 88 RADAR



well deserved, From an Officers perspective, it's sometimes hard to select just one who stands out that little bit more out of such an awesome group. Many names were put forward this year for nominations, so keep living up to those core values of Courage, Commitment, Comradeship and Integrity.

I would like to wish you all a safe, restful and happy holiday.

**Tania Mackinnon, SQNLDR, NZCF**

## Message from Warrant Officer

The latter half of this year swiftly passed, witnessing many Cadets engaging in several diverse activities and unique opportunities. Serving as the Unit's Warrant Officer over the past year has bestowed upon me the privilege to impart my knowledge and skills to the future leaders of Mighty 88.

Throughout my tenure, I have focussed on cultivating a team with high standards, integrity and dedication, which has been an immensely gratifying experience,



and I take pride in the remarkable progress of each individual in the unit.

Mighty 88 holds a pivotal role in the Waimakariri community, not just for our active involvement and contributions, but also for fostering an environment that nurtures growth and excellence.

Now as I finally pass on the responsibilities as the Warrant Officer of such inspiring Cadets, to the next leader, I carry a profound sense of pride giving back to the Squadron, reciprocating the dedication and effort I received.

Every Cadet in Mighty 88 should value the relationships forged, challenges conquered, and commitment to excellence – both in the past and future. Embrace the journey ahead and never forget to reflect on how far you have come.

**W/O Blake McCurrie**

## Message from the USC Chair

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of another year. As I look back on 2023, it has been nice to get through a whole year without social distancing or restrictions imposed by Covid. Whilst the Unit has been busy, so has our committee. It has been great to see the van being utilised for so many events, from camps to ANZAC Parades, to community service activities. This is a valuable asset that the Support Committee helps fund.

Our Committee has also been busy raising funds to help continue with our buildings and it is wonderful to finally see so much progress.

A huge thanks goes to those who have turned out rain or shine to help achieve these results, and especially to Keith Dekkers and OFFCDT Hamish Cook for the construction work. Your continued support is much appreciated.

It is with a sad note that we acknowledge Tia Warwick stepping down from her role as Secretary, to move back into uniform. We will miss

her and thank her for her time on the Committee.

With the change of Unit Commander, we are excited about the next chapter and how we can continue to support the growth of the Mighty 88. As we look forward to 2024, we are eager to see the Sir Peter Blake classroom completed, along with the continued improvement of the other buildings.

We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer break and look forward to 2024!

**Jo - USC Chairperson**

## Cadet's Highlights of 2023

**CDT Evans** – Ashley Gorge working bee was fun.

**CDT Austin-Wood** – Ex Phoenix

**CDT Kiddie** – December Shooting weekend

**CDT Timmins** – Basic Bootcamp

**CDT Webb** – Basic Bootcamp

**CDT Maley** – sour patch kids in the mince at basic camp

**CDT Pulley** – Basic Bootcamp



**CDT Dubois.I** – when CDT Austin-Woods ate dry cornflakes with a fork at basic bootcamp

**CDT Thomas** – Flying, shooting, basic bootcamp





# MIGHTY 88 RADAR



**CDT Vermeulen** – Shooting and all the learning

**CDT Emery** – flying a plane

**CDT Close** – Skills (and training for it), Ex Phoenix, Telescope visit

**CDT Bowler** – Skills, Ex Bloodspill, Telescope visit, planning the Santa Parade

**CDT Aldersley** – EX Phoenix, shooting weekends.

**CDT Yang** – Ex Phoenix

**CDT Parker** – getting a score of 81 in rifle shooting

**CDT Street** – Telescope visit, Ex Phoenix

**CDT Dubois.C** – First Class shooting badge

**LAC Linton** – Going on Juniors

**LAC Croteau** – Shooting weekends

**LAC Evans** – going on Juniors

**CPL Palmer** – Juniors, becoming a CPL

**CPL Egerton** – Juniors

**CPL Buttle.A** – Aviation skills and being promoted

**CPL Buttle.J** – Juniors

**SGT Bell** – Seniors

**SGT Ford** – Seniors

**SGT Kriel** – going Solo

**FS Wafer** – Skills, Ex Phoenix

**FS Warwick** – IACE

## Term 3 & 4 Activities

### IACE Inbound

I had the opportunity to meet with Cadets from South Korea, Australia, Britain and the USA. Finding out about the things they get to do as cadets made for a really cool and informative experience. My highlight of the evening was when we got to compete in outdoor activities together and use the 17 squadron's flight simulator. One of the things I learnt was how the USA Cadets get the opportunity to participate in mock drills with the USAF, having Fighter jets escort the Cadets to different locations.

### **CPL Palmer**

The greet and meet was an amazing opportunity to meet cadets from around the world and talk with them. I enjoyed talking to the different cadets, and learning more about how they work and what activities they get to do. Listening to their stories was fun, as they were all unique and very interesting. **CDT Yang**

### IACE Outbound

From the 13th to the 27th July, I had the honour of being chosen to represent our unit, the Mighty 88, on the International Air Cadet Exchange to Australia. One of the many highlights of the trip was flying from Canberra to HMAS Harman in a C-27 J Spartan. Although it was a bit cramped, our group loved the experience. We were even able to go up into the flight deck during the flight to talk to the pilots. Another highlight was partaking in a flight experience at RAAF Richmond. We had a 20 minute flight over Sydney and the Blue Mountains in a DA40. When not flying, we were able to try out the VR



machines in the Sqn building and speak to the pilots about job opportunities.

I am beyond thankful to have been able to partake in IACE. The memories and experiences I have had will definitely stay with me for the rest of my life. I highly recommend applying to go on the exchange, especially those that enjoy travelling, making new friends and learning about the cultures of other countries. **FS Warwick**



### Townsend Teece telescope

OFFCDT Lane arranged for the cadets to visit the Townsend Teece Telescope. The cadets loved this experience and have asked to visit again. Thank you to OFFCDT Lane for organizing.



This was a really enjoyable activity. We learnt about the night sky and black holes. We also got to use the telescope to look at different objects in the night sky. My highlight was looking through the telescope at the moon, because there was a really cool crater that we could see. I enjoyed learning about the black holes and a small black hole size



# MIGHTY 88 RADAR



comparison to the South Island. **CDT Street**

## Ex Bloodspill

Ex Bloodspill was a First Aid activity hosted in Ashburton by the local Cadet Unit. Throughout the weekend, Cadets participated in numerous First Aid lessons and practical scenarios.



Coinciding with this, a group of NCO's and Officers completed their St John First Aid Certificates on the Saturday. On Sunday, the

cadets were put through intense scenarios that tested the knowledge they had gained from the weekend. My highlight of the weekend was getting leadership experience in the First Aid situations, and seeing the cadets from Mighty 88 communicating and working together to solve problems. **SGT Ford**

**SGT Ford** – leading teams, Night Ex.

**FS Lawson** – First Aid course, having a fork stuck in my leg as part of a scenario.

**CPL Buttle.A** – putting skills into practice.

**CPL Buttle.J** – Night Ex

**CDT Vermeulen** – Night Ex, learning first Aid.

**CPL Palmer** -the teamwork shown.

## Aviation Skills

Aviation Skills is a regional competition where different ATC Units compete in multiple activities, including First Aid, shooting and drill competition. This year, I was part of the 88SQN team,

where we placed 1<sup>st</sup> in shooting and 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. My favourite activity was the First Aid activity, as it was an opportunity to use the knowledge I had learnt, and apply it to a scenario.



Overall, I really enjoyed Skills, and look forward to competing next year. **CPL Buttle.A**

This year I participated in the Skills

competition with the 88SQN team. Some of the highlights for me were the rifle shooting and amazing race, although I did enjoy every activity that we took part in. I also liked the training leading up to Skills, because we got to work on First Aid, GSK and PT. I would definitely encourage others to sign up next year. **CDT Close**

## Ex Phoenix

Ex Phoenix is a camp held annually, run by the Advanced year group. This year it was held at Cass Bay. A highlight for me was seeing our planning go into action. We put in many hours of planning, and it was great to see it all unfold, with the cadets getting engaged and having fun. One thing I feel I gained was valuable leadership skills by being able to adapt and overcome, whilst under pressure. I would recommend that cadets take the opportunity to attend Ex Phoenix, as it is a great



opportunity to have fun, whilst upskilling their abilities in a practical environment. **SGT Ford**

## First Aid Night

The unit held a First Aid night, which gave Cadets the opportunity to put into practice the knowledge gained from all of our First Aid theory lessons. It was a great way for some of the younger and newer Cadets to get an experience in what First Aid scenarios are like and how they can use the knowledge they gain from theory lessons to



use in real life situations. My favourite part of the night was the scenario with the open compound fracture and burn victim, because it was challenging to manage. Overall, I think that this was a very enjoyable night and I hope that there are more nights like this more often. **CPL Buttle.J**

## Shooting weekends



Cadets were able to hone their skills on two separate weekends. The first weekend (Sept) consisted of two days of shooting. The second opportunity (Dec) was a

one day activity, with a small group of Cadets. It was great to see





# MIGHTY 88 RADAR



Cadets improve their personal scores on both weekends. Cadets always enjoy the shooting weekends, it's an opportunity to try and improve their scores and skills. It also provides time to catch up with friends and for the NCO's to run some activities.

A big thank you to Mr Murphy who organizes the use of the Range for us. Thank you to the Officers who helped out.

## Dining In

The Dining In was held in November. It is an opportunity for the Cadets to take part in a formal setting, where traditions are recognized and upheld.

For those not used to eating



in a formal setting it can be a bit daunting, but it never lasts long, with everyone enjoying the opportunity to be part of the traditions and catch up with friends. This year we had Richie Barnett from the I am Hope foundation come and talk to the Cadets. This was very well received by all, and a big



thank you goes out to Richie Barnett, for giving up his time to

come and share his knowledge and experiences with the Cadets, guests and officers. Thank you to the USC for serving the meal and to the Officers who organized the whole night.

## Santa Parade

This year the Mighty 88 entered a float for the 2023 Rangiora Santa Parade.

We combined Snoopy's Christmas with



planes to make it relate to both Christmas and Aviation. I really

enjoyed taking

part in it and it was great to see so many people turn up to help decorate the van and trailer and then take part in the parade. I would definitely recommend others to come along to future Santa parades. The more the merrier. **CDT Close**

A big thank you to CDT Street, CDT Bowler and CDT Close for organizing and arranging the units participation in



this event. They made and decorated the planes, organized who went where on the day and ensured everything ran smoothly. Well done.

## Community Service

### Activities

### Armistice Day

On the 11th of November, a team of 5 cadets represented Mighty 88 at the Rangiora Armistice day Service. Cadets acted as Cenotaph Guards, as well as other duties, including wreath



laying. These Cadets were then welcomed back to the RSA for some complimentary food and drinks, as well as some socializing with the Veterans. It was humbling to be a part of this special day, by being able to support the RSA. **FS Wafer**

### Daffodil Day

On Saturday 27th August, I was one of the Cadet volunteers who collected donations for the Cancer Society outside Farmers in Rangiora. I enjoyed meeting and talking to members of our local community, who all gave generously for such a worthwhile cause. I would definitely recommend volunteering for this charity next year. **CPL Buttle.J**





# MIGHTY 88 RADAR



**CPL Wells** – being out in the community.

**FS Warwick** - giving our time to help others

**CPL Palmer** – the Daffodils

**FS Wafer** – supporting the Cancer Society.



## Oxford Fun Day

Cadets were asked by the Oxford Lions to once again help at the Oxford Family Fun Day. Cadets assisted in setting up, selling entry tickets, assisting with

games and rides. The Cadets represented the Unit with pride, turning out in neatly ironed uniforms

and displaying the core values of the NZCF. We

had lots of positive feedback from the public and members of the Lions. The



Cadets commented that they enjoy this activity as it is different from others they do, they get to have fun while helping. They have a sense of pride in being able to assist the Lions. Thank you to all those that helped on the day, including the Officers.

## Ashley Gorge Holiday Park

### Working Bee

Cadets had the opportunity to help tidy up the park, getting it ready for the Public opening of the new BBQ at the pavilion. Cadets assisted in spreading bark, trimming trees, removing gorse bushes, clearing drainage ditches and just a general tidy up. Jeane-Pierre, the owner was extremely grateful for all our help. The unit has developed a good

relationship with both the

Ashley Gorge Holiday

Park and the Ashley Gorge Track

group, allowing us to assist them with maintaining the grounds and walking tracks that the local and greater community use.



**CDT Bowler** – being outside

**CDT Pulley** – interacting with others and providing community service

**OFFCDT Lane** – being outside, talking to the cadets and catching up.

**CDT Street** – cutting back weeds

**FGOFF Micallef** – being outside  
**CPLButtle.A** – spreading bark

**CDT Vermeulen** – helping unload the truck

**CDT Harnett** – working hard

**LAC Croteau** – trimming trees, using leaf blower, clearing the ditch

**CDT Thomas** – clearing the drainage ditch

**CDT Emery** – trimming trees

**CDT Kiddie** – helping out

**CDT Parker** – trimming bushes, clearing Gorse bushes

**CDT Close** – the BBQ provided for lunch

**SGT Ford** – helping out

**PLTOFF Warwick** – being outside and helping tidying up.

## Unit Working Bee

On Sunday 3rd December, Cadets were due to take part in some flying, however the bad weather meant this was not possible. Instead the Cadets helped tidy up the unit, making it look neat and tidy ready for the end of Year Parade. Cadets spread gravel, filled ditches, cleaned and moved desks, painted some of the buildings. Many hands ensured we got a lot done, and the unit is looking great for our Final Parade of the year. A special thank you to OFFCDT Cook for all his hard work out of hours to ensure everything has been completed.

## Dog Agility Competition

Cadets once again helped at the Dog agility competition. The Cadets have made a good impression with previous



competitions and were asked back to help. This is not only a community service activity but also a fundraiser for the unit.

**CDT Harnett** – seeing all the dogs





# MIGHTY 88 RADAR



**CDT Austin-Wood** – watching the dogs compete

**LAC Evans** – all the cute dogs

**CDT Close** – the cute dogs, helping pick up the hurdles

**CPL Buttle.J** – watching the dogs, helping out

**CPL Buttle.A** – all the well behaved dogs, helping



**SGT Ford** – being out in the community

**FS Lawson** – skilled dogs and trainers

**CDT Kiddie** – helping

**CDT Timmins** – the dogs

**CPL Palmer** – how entertaining the badly behaved dogs were

**FS Warwick** - helping

## Term 3 Summaries

During Term 3, I did quite a few activities that I enjoyed. My favourite was probably Ex Phoenix. We went to Cass Bay for the weekend and did lots of activities. My highlight was the night activity, and being with friends. **CDT Austin-Wood**

This term has been filled with numerous activities and lessons, including Ex Bloodspill, the Townsend Teece Telescope visit, First Aid night and my favourite – Ex Phoenix. My

favourite part of Ex Phoenix was getting to know the Cadets in my team, and letting others have a go at leading the team. I am looking forward to the Aviation Skills Competition in Burnham that is coming up. **CPL Buttle.A**

Term 3 has been a really fun term with lots of fun activities and lessons. I really enjoyed the First Aid Night, the telescope visit and the glider building. I am looking forward to term 4. **CDT Bowler**

## SNCO Course

The SNCO is a 5 day course which allows Junior NCO's to gain the knowledge and skill required by a Senior Cadet. My highlight from this course was getting to work with other Cadets from around the South Island. Something I feel I gained from this course is greater self confidence as you are put into scenarios of both public speaking and trusting your prior knowledge. I would recommend this course to any Junior NCO who wants to expand their capabilities and further their progression in the NCZF. **SGT Ford**

## JNCO Course

Before my JNCO course, I was very nervous about messing something up and I didn't think I was going to make it through the whole course. But once I got there, those feelings really changed. Everything was a lot more fun than I expected, and yes I did make mistakes, but everyone there was always encouraging me to succeed. I got to meet cadets and staff from all over the country. They were all amazing people to hang out and learn with. Even though we only knew each other for a week, I felt I had built very close bonds with them. I feel as though I learned a lot of very important skills

on this course. I found learning the ideas of leadership easy, but putting it into practice was hard, due to my lack of confidence in myself. With all the help and support I received; I was able to become a strong leader while building my self-confidence. I recommend you to go on this course, because you become a better leader and it boosts your self-confidence. **LAC Evans**

## Innovation of the Year

From the 8-10th December, I spent my weekend up at Trentham Military Camp, for the NZDF/CF Innovation of the Year competition. Saturday was the big day, with

presentations from Defense Excellence as well as the Joint Defence Service Innovation Team. They talked about how they can make anything

possible, as well as showing us some of their current projects. They have some very impressive projects underway, which increases the sustainability and self-sufficiency of Burnham Military Camp. As well as a software which helps Senior and Junior leaders prepare for



presentations and a fully immersive driving simulator for the Army.

In the afternoon, we had our own presentations. My innovation gathered lots of interest from the Chief of Joint



# MIGHTY 88 RADAR



Defense Service – Brigadier Krushka, as well as personnel from the Defense Excellence team! We are currently in discussions about how we can make this a reality, as well as hosting a NZCF ‘Innovation Experience’ next year. It was a great day meeting people of such high rank, who are passionate about both making change and cadets in general. I had great pride in representing the NZCF as the only cadet



participating. I strongly encourage cadets to participate in this event in the future. **FS Wafer**

## CONTACT US

Please note when sending general enquiries and questions to the unit please use the email below. This email is monitored by all Officers.

Only matters of a private and confidential nature should be directly emailed to the Unit Commander.

Cadets are reminded that all absences are to be notified to he [88sqn@cadetforces.org.nz](mailto:88sqn@cadetforces.org.nz) email. As this is the only way that the duty officer and adj team can be informed of any absences.

## Unit Contact Details:

**Mobile:** 027 5766088

**Email:** [88sqn@cadetforces.org.nz](mailto:88sqn@cadetforces.org.nz)

**Website:** [www.88squadron.org.nz](http://www.88squadron.org.nz)

**Location:** Rangiora Airfield, Rangiora

## Facebook:



The Unit Support Committee has a Facebook page for parents / caregivers. This is updated regularly with important notices, cadet news, upcoming events and working bees.

**This page is for parents of cadets only.**

Our page is:

ATC 88 Squadron Support Team

Cadets can join the cadets Facebook page:

88 Squadron Cadet Groups

## Unit Support Committee (USC)

The USC manages the financial administration and runs the facilities for the unit. We also fundraise for the unit. We are a group of parents, ex cadets, ex Air Force members who meet once a month. We allocate funds where needed, organise working bees and support the unit. If you have any questions regarding the USC – please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Chairperson** – Jo Croteau  
[USCchair@88squadron.org.nz](mailto:USCchair@88squadron.org.nz)

**Treasurer** – Sean Buttle

[USCtreasurer@88squadron.org.nz](mailto:USCtreasurer@88squadron.org.nz)

**Secretary** – Petrina Austin-Wood

[USCsecretary@88squadron.org.nz](mailto:USCsecretary@88squadron.org.nz)

## Upcoming Activities 2023 & 2024

**7th – 13th January** - Ex Takahe – applications closed.

**15th – 25th January** – Powered flying & Nav. – applications closed.

**8th February** – First Parade Night

**10 & 11th February** – Dog agility Community Service – in planning

**24th February** – Ashley Gorge Carnival – in planning

**1st – 3rd March** – Basic Bootcamp – in planning.

**15 & 16th March** – Ashley Gorge Camp –in planning

**18th – 24th April (ATP)** – Cadet Bushcraft activity - applications close 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**20th – 26th April (ATP)** - JNCO & SNCO – Applications close 21st March

**8 & 9th June** – Dog agility Community Service– in planning

**27 & 28th July** – Dog agility Community Service– in planning.

