



Term 1, 2024

Promotions / Awards Term 1.

Courses :

JNCO Course - LAC Close, LAC Croteau

SNCO Course - CPL Buttle.J

Bushcraft – SGT Bell

Unit Commander’s message

Good day all,

As term 1 draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on an exciting start to our year; a term which has been filled with new opportunities for our unit and our cadets. Our unit has seen many new young leaders begin their journey within the Cadet Forces as well as many new staff members joining our efforts to train our future leaders of tomorrow.

88 Squadron’s focus this term was to set up and provide our cadets with the best possible toolkit for a stimulating 2024. Our Basic Camp showed great promise in our cadets. New Recruits were quick to learn the ways of the Cadet Forces, not only in learning drill and uniform care, but also the meaning behind the New Zealand Cadet Forces. The running of this camp wouldn’t have been possible without the support of our Unit Support Committee (who cooked absolutely amazing meals and provided an abundance of support to our staff), our Officer and Supplementary Staff who taught our cadets, and also to all you parents and guardians who support your children to attend, train and develop into future leaders of New Zealand.

Our current leaders in the unit took part in an exercise to further develop their leadership skills. The day

progressed with our cadets applying their theoretical knowledge in a practical environment, leading their team, and picking up skills throughout the day that they can apply to their day-to-day lives.

As their Unit Commander, I have been privileged to see the development of my team and our cadets throughout the first term, and their impact on our community. I look forward to our cadets’ attendance at ANZAC Day parades, to pay our respects to those who have come before us and those who have sacrificed their lives to give us the world we live in today.

Thank you again for all your support, to your children, to the unit and to our community. I hope you have a restful holiday period and I look forward to seeing everyone at ANZAC Day and Term 2! Until the next time!

FGOFF Jesmond Micallef, NZCF

Message from Warrant Officer

Term 1 has flown by, filled with exciting activities and community service opportunities.

Basic Boot Camp, held at Wigram, was a huge success for our unit. It was an action-packed weekend for all, with our recruits gaining new skills through many informative and enjoyable lessons. Basic 2 and above were able to focus more on developing their skills and delve into more complicated lessons to aid them with upcoming courses and leadership opportunities. I was honoured to serve as the camp Warrant Officer and witness our cadets becoming more confident throughout the weekend.

A huge thank you must be said to our officer team for organising the camp-

without you it would not have been able to happen, and a massive thank you to the wonderful USC team who kept everyone well fed throughout the weekend. Another thank you must be said to the NCO team- from taking lessons to running on the spot activities, you have all shown the unit's core values and have grown stronger as a team, and I couldn't be prouder.

Congratulations to our former new recruits- basic 1 flight; you are all important members to our unit and fundamental to our growth and development.

Ex. Scimitar was another highlight of the term, run by OFFCDT Cook and held at Ashley Gorge. Cadets were able to further develop their bushcraft skills, and for the basic 1's, it was an opportunity to learn new skills and bond with other members of the unit- which was highly enjoyed by all who attended.

Moving forward, I highly encourage all members of our unit to get involved in upcoming activities, camps and courses. You will have the chance to develop new skills and for those in higher year levels, there is the opportunity to share your knowledge and further strengthen connections within our unit.

Thank you for an excellent term, and I look forward to seeing you all ready and excited for term 2.

W/O Emma Warwick

Message from the USC Chair

This term we have been excited to work with our new Squadron Leader Flying Officer Micallef, after charge was handed to him at the end of 2023. We have already had a lot of great



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conversations and heard some of the ideas he has to implement to help keep the Mighty 88 grow in 2024.

This term has also seen significant movement on the Sir Peter Blake classroom with it being so close to completion. It has taken a lot of time and effort, blood, sweat and a broken nail or two from the dedicated USC and helpers to get it to where it is. We are now looking forward to get the next project under way soon. Part of the role of the USC is to provide and maintain the classrooms and buildings that are vital to the lessons every week. We have also the the flight Simulator installed and running, some. lucky cadets and officers have already had a go with it and feedback has been very positive.

We were pleased with the response to the bulb fundraiser that was held recently. Thank you to all the families that supported this.

We also recently held our AGM and disappointingly only current USC members and supporters turned up. Without the USC, our Squadron cannot exist (due to ATCANZ rules) and we rely heavily on fundraising to be able to subsidise camps, flying and provide buildings, power, internet and equipment. To be able to function well, we need the support of you all. Please keep a look out for future fundraising efforts and if you can, please put your hand up to help us out.

We are looking forward to seeing the Squadron represent with pride on ANZAC day and an action packed term 2!

Ngā mihi
Jo Croteau

Term 1 Activities

NCO and Cenotaph Training Weekend

NCO's, those going on JNCO and SNCO courses and those on Cenotaph had a day of training recently at the unit. Those going on courses were given the opportunity to practice their speeches and ask questions about the upcoming courses. Those cadets doing Cenotaph were given the opportunity to run through what their duty would look like, and spent time practising their drill. Overall a great day of learning for our cadets.

Basic Bootcamp

This year our basic bootcamp was held at Wigram during 8-10th March. This is not our usual space, but the Officers and NCO's managed to make it work. The activity started off with some ironing lessons for our basic cadets while other cadets settled in. Saturday was an action packed day with cadets learning



drill, how the NZCF works, our unit structure and navigation skills to name a few. Our basic two,

proficiency and advanced cadets went to the range to participate in shooting. During the evening the NCO's organised an exciting Night Ex out in the field. Sunday was completing lessons and ended in our new cadets being accepted into the unit with a parade for their parents.

Garden City Helicopter Visit

On the 4th of April Mighty 88 sent two year groups (proficiency and advanced) to visit the Garden City Helicopter facility based out at the Christchurch Airport. As we entered



and met Pete, our guide, we got straight into the plane spotting action by watching the arrival of a private jet. GCH has multiple divisions to its operation: They operate their own private jet service and provide hangar space to those with private jets who fly into Christchurch, as well as housing the Westpac Rescue helicopters. The cadets toured around these operations and spent 45 minutes chatting with the current on duty Westpac helicopter pilots. Here we got to explore the helicopters, ask questions, and look at their equipment. The team at GCH were





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incredibly welcoming and helpful with all our questions and have insisted that we return again later in the year to get a tour of their private jet.

Ex Scimitar

Ex Scimitar is traditionally run as a bushcraft / fun camp near the end of



Term 4. As our busy 2023 calendar filled up, we decided to delay Ex Scimitar '23 to run over the period of 15-17 March 2024. This year, for the first time, the exercise

was run out of the facilities at the Ashley Gorge Holiday Park. 88 SQN has a special connection with the Ashley Gorge, our unit has helped maintain the walking tracks in the area for a number of years and historically ATC Squadrons in the Waimakariri would have undoubtedly used this



place as a popular spot for their own camps. The gorge provided the perfect setting for activities such as river crossing, emergency shelter building, camouflage techniques as well other games and team building activities. We are very grateful to campground owner JP for the use of the facilities and to all our cadets whose energy made the camp so worthwhile. We are looking

forward to using this location again and to Ex Scimitar '24 later in the year.

OFFCDT H. Cook - Ex OiC

Community Service

Activities

Dog Agility

The Cadets had a great weekend watching the dogs at the agility competition. This has become a regular activity, where the cadets get the chance to help out their local dog club, while also raising funds for the unit. Once again, we had many positive comments about our cadets from club members and members of the public.



Ashley Gorge Carnival

Jeane-Piere, the owner of the Ashley Gorge Holiday Park, wanted to restart an old tradition at the park, a family fun carnival. The cadets were tasked with helping with the car parking, serving food, manning the bouncy castle and gladiator arena, and helping at the under 5's area. Once again, the cadets represented the unit so well, with lots of people commenting on their manners and helpfulness. The cadets had a fun day, and at the end of the day enjoyed having a go on some of the equipment. Thanks to all that helped on the day.

Ashley Gorge Track Maintenance

This has become a biannual activity for our cadets over the last five years. The walking tracks attract over 10000 visitors a year, and we

have plenty of comments on how well maintained the tracks are. The cadets spent the day clearing water culverts,

pruning back vegetation and fixing up steps on the track. A lot of hard work, with great satisfaction knowing that we are helping maintain a track that is used by so many people.

Poppy Day

On the 19th April, our cadets helped the Rangiora RSA sell Poppies outside PaknSave in Rangiora.



Cadets had shifts throughout the day, selling poppies from 8am until 16:30. There was lots of interactions with the public, listening to stories from those that have served or had relatives who served. This is an important day, where we can give



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our time to help raise funds for our local RSA.

P3 Orion Weekend

Over the weekend of the 20th and



21st of April, some of our cadets got the opportunity to help out at the Wigram Air Force Museum, who were holding an exhibition on the P3 Orion. Cadets helped with car parking, directing the public and taking photo's. This was a joined activity with 18 and 17 Squadrons, which gave the cadets the opportunity to interact with cadets from other units. The cadets really enjoyed the weekend, with a few of them commenting on how much they enjoyed interacting with the public, and of course getting the opportunity to see the P3 Orion up close before it goes into long term storage.

A message from the visitor experience manager of the museum: "I just wanted to say a massive thank you to yourself and 17, 18, and 88 SQN's for your huge support to the museum over the last few days. There is no doubt

that the success of the event and the experience our visitors had – from the moment they parked their car until they returned to it – was greatly helped by the awesome efforts of the Cadets. What a stellar bunch of people; friendly, helpful, and full of fun, it was really great to have them on site. We had 8928 visitors over the course of the open days, with each day busier than the last!"

Anzac Parades

Over the course of the 24th and 25th April, our cadets participated in Anzac Parades around our district – Woodend, Sefton, Kaiapoi Dawn Service,



Rangiora, Kaiapoi Civic, Oxford and Cust/West Eyreton. Thank you to all those that attended and represented the unit with pride. We had amazing feedback.

News about our past

Cadets

Congratulations to Christopher Elson, who so far has won 3 Gold Medals, 1 silver medal and two team Silver Medals (for swimming) representing New Zealand at the

Oceania Championships being held in Australia.

Congratulations to Hamish Lawson and Blake McCurrie who have both this year completed their basic training in the New Zealand Air Force. Hamish is now training to be an Avionics Technician, while Blake is starting his training as an Intelligence specialist. We wish them luck.

Warm Welcome

A very warm welcome to FGOFF Rita Gathercole who will be joining the unit as an Officer at the start of term 2. Rita was an Officer with 19 Squadron, then went on the non active list for a while and has now decided to join Mighty 88.

Another warm welcome to a new member of our Support staff, Scott McMillan. Scott was a cadet, then joined the Air Force and has now decided to give back by joining Mighty 88 as Support Staff.

We are sure that both Rita and Scott will be made to feel welcome at the unit.



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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 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

Website: 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

Treasurer – Sean Buttle
USCtreasurer@88squadron.org.nz

Secretary – Petrina Austin-Wood
USCsecretary@88squadron.org.nz

Upcoming Activities Term 2

2024

24 – 26th May - Top Squad – in planning

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

8 & 9 June – Shooting Weekend – in planning

TBC Flying day

TBC Ashley Gorge Holiday Park Working bee

TBC Winter camp at Ashley Gorge Holiday Park.

