

**NO. 6  
(NORTH SHORE)  
SQUADRON  
AIR TRAINING CORPS**



**Parent Information  
2023**

**Cadet Unit Commander: Squadron Leader Alex Koppenaal, NZCF**

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## WHO IS 6 SQUADRON?

6 Squadron is the premier youth organisation on Auckland's North Shore to provide opportunities for high school aged students aged between 12-19. 6 Squadron is part of the Air Training Corps, and through that, the New Zealand Cadet Forces, giving us the structure and support to offer a wide variety of opportunities and experiences.

We have a mix of theory and practical based lessons which are designed to complement each other. The practical lessons are often performed while the Squadron is in the bush either camping or tramping in one of several locations that we use.

All of the lessons taught are done so in a safe controlled environment minimising the risks to the Cadet to an acceptable level.

## LEADERSHIP WITHIN THE UNIT

The Squadron is led by a group of Officers and staff, most of whom have been cadets themselves and undergone a rigorous training process overseen by the Defence Force. Each officer is an adult *volunteer*, whose selection and promotion is based on a proven record of suitability as a youth leader and role model. The Support Committee of No 6 Squadron consider the unit extremely fortunate to have officers and staff who demonstrate a high degree of integrity.

## WHY JOIN 6 SQUADRON?

### From a teenage perspective,

There is opportunity to spend time away from parents' watchful eyes doing challenging activities in the company of peers and the opportunity to be involved in activities including

Firearm Safety	Navigation	Leadership Courses	Military Base Visits
Camping /Tramping	Abseiling	Community Service	Communications
Gliding	Sailing	Aviation Courses	Personal discipline
First Aid	Aviation Studies	Bushcraft Courses	

### For parents,

The ATC provides a relatively inexpensive opportunity to see teenage children involved in physical activities that allow them to extend themselves beyond the confines of family but in an environment that is structured, and monitored for safety and suitability.

Role models are found in those promoted through the ranks to become NCOs and officers, who appeal to teenagers, but are reliable and well trained to reassure parents. They, through example and guidance, demonstrate how to have fun while being socially responsible and, in doing so, play a major part in focussing the direction of teenagers at a very impressionable age.

The military orientated heritage of the NZCF provides a hierarchal structure that supports developing both leadership, and teamwork, while developing cadets into confident and mature members of the community.

### ***Feedback from some parents in the past year:***

*Thank you so much for all of the time and effort spent working with our son. He has reaped enormous benefits from a development perspective. As parents, we are very grateful for what it has given him and we will continue to promote the unit to our local community.*

*She has enjoyed her time and all her new learnings and experiences, and we know she has valued getting to know such a wonderful group of people. A big thank you to you and your staff who went out of their way to support her throughout her time with 6 Squadron.*

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

It is the intention of this Squadron that parents are kept informed and involved. This is achieved through newsletters, personal contact and social functions. Parents who have any queries or concerns, or who wish to discuss their Cadet's training, are encouraged to contact the Basic Flight Commander, or the Unit Commander. Cadets will also need to have a personal email address, which they will use to apply for activities, and a separate parental email address to approve the activity application (through the NZCF personnel database, known as "CadetNet")

## **SUPPORT COMMITTEE**

No. 6 Squadron Support committee meet between 7:00-8.30pm on the second Monday of the month during term - All Welcome

The Support Committee provides the financial, logistical and community support to help run the Squadron, and for it to conduct the planned activities. It's membership is open to parents of cadets, and interested members of the community.

## **FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:**

The ATC does not receive any direct financial assistance from Defence or Government, making No 6 Squadron entirely dependent on fees and fundraising.

Costs incurred as a cadet are not great. Fees for 2023 are based on projected running expenses.

Year 1 \$440 (includes Squadron T-Shirt, first camp and a refundable \$50 uniform bond)

Year 2 \$280,

Year 3 \$250,

Year 4 \$230.

Upon joining, first year cadets spend the first 6 weeks of the term as probationary members of the unit, and may pay their fees at the completion of this period, when they will be issued with their Record of Service booklet, complete their first training camp, and be issued their uniforms. (Please talk in confidence to the Unit Commander re financial hardship)

As the Committee is aware of the need to keep fees as low as possible, further fund-raising activities are necessary throughout the year to cover more major items of expenditure. Parents who feel unable (for one reason or another) to do their share with fund-raising activities are invited to make a financial donation in lieu of help.

Over and above the annual fee, there may be special fees for activities like gliding and certain camps, but the Support Committee endeavours to subsidize most activities to keep costs down.

## **CAMPING EQUIPMENT**

In the first year, parents may have the further expense of equipping their cadet for camping. We recommend hiring equipment in the first year.

Advice on likely costs & possible discounts can be sought from the Basic Flight Commander. Apart from providing food for their cadet, parents do not normally have any extra charges for standard weekend training camps.

Likely equipment that may be required includes:

Pack

Sleeping Bag, 3 Season

Cooking/Eating Utensils

Warm Clothes

Wet Weather Gear

First Aid Kit

Primus Stove

Boots

Foam Sleeping Pad

Cadets will be advised when equipment is required. (A full equipment list for parents is available.)

## **SUPPORT YOUR CADET**

- Read Conditions of Membership and Record of Service Booklet with your cadet, discuss the aims and activities of the ATC before you both sign.
- Ensure your cadet's punctual attendance on Parade Nights or early notification to the unit if unable to attend.
- Ensure proper care of both uniform and equipment issued to your cadet together with replacement for loss or damage.
- Encourage your cadet to show you notices handed out at Parade, which are intended to inform both of you about planned activities.
- Digitally approve cadet applications for planned activities on CadetNet.
- Make early inquiries regarding aspects of activities about which either you or your cadet have queries.
- Provide your cadet with equipment suitable for activities.
- Demonstrate an interest in your Cadet's training programme.
- Pay your fees Term 1 (or speaking in confidence to the Unit Commander re financial hardship)
- Attend "family" events, such as Public Parades, Dine-In, and Prizegiving.
- Get involved in fund-raising.
- Attend the Annual General Meeting in support of Officers and Committee.
- Be willing to serve as/or assist members of the Support Committee.
- Be available for the working bees needed to maintain the Squadron's headquarters for your cadet.

## **AIR TRAINING CORPS**

The AIR TRAINING CORPS is a non-profit, youth organisation. Its aims are to provide opportunities for youth to foster the spirit of adventure and team work. The focus of all training is the positive personal development of the individual in a team environment. The wide ranging programme provides cadets with an opportunity to start their adult life with a good grounding in leadership, self confidence, respect and understanding for others, through exposure to a number of structured activities delivered in a military-style framework.

The governing body for the ATC is the NZ CADET FORCES made up of also Sea Cadet Corps and the NZ Cadet Corps. The NZCF operates as a partnership between the community and New Zealand Defence Force (who provide the organisational framework, training programmes and courses). The NZCF is not part of the NZDF, but is directed by the Chief of Defence Force. The Defence link is provided by the RNZAF through training courses and other specialist support. We maintain balance between military and citizenship functions, and the success of this approach is measured by the number of cadets recruited and retained by the unit.

## **ATC PAST and PRESENT**

The ATC had its beginnings in England early in WWII and gave pre-entry training to prospective RAF recruits. In NZ since 1941, the ATC has undergone various changes until today where, as a youth organisation, there are 51 Squadrons located throughout the country (7 in Auckland) and cadets number some 2,500, overseen by approx 250 officers.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS:**

Traditionally close to the Air Force, the Squadron also receives a generous annual scholarship prize from the Brevet Club, an association of former aircrew of both military and civil airlines.

No. 6 Sqn enjoys a special bond with RSA's on the North Shore. Cadets collect on Poppy Day on behalf of the East Coast Bays RSA and attend the mid-morning Anzac Parade in Browns Bay, as well as the community Anzac Parade in Takapuna. Aviation scholarships for cadets are donated annually by ECB RSA.