

## HOWICK VOLUNTEER COASTGUARD 29<sup>th</sup> AGM PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ladies Gentlemen, Member & Guests

I would like to welcome you to the Howick Volunteer Coastguard's 29<sup>th</sup> AGM. I would like to make a special welcome to the life members present. I do apologise for the timing of the meeting which has resulted in being on a Thursday and very close to Conference. The executive were remiss in setting the date earlier and upon checking our constitution, realised that we were required to give 30 days' notice and have our AGM before CNZ's which is at conference on Sunday which only left tonight to hold our AGM.

We have had a reasonably busy year on the water with 192 incidents but to my recollection they have been rather mundane rather than of a real serious nature. However, those potentially serious incidents are why we need to keep highly trained and motivated and I am sure we will continue to be so. There will also continue to be the idiots and ill-prepared out there. Just last Saturday night in the middle of the rugby, 4 Coastguard vessels including Howick were searching for a kayaker off Waiheke who had gone out in extremely high seas with a life jacket.

In the last year our two rescue vessels have performed well with only the usual maintenance required. The tractor, however, required a major refit. Hopefully the very expensive paint system will ensure the tractor lasts a few more years yet.

We have had a good influx of new recruits this year and our training team are striving to get as many of them operational by the summer season. I wish to thank those volunteers who have resigned for their years of service and welcome back Steve Rowlands after his brief interlude in Australia.

As well as the 192 incidents, we have spent 1520 hours on search and rescue operations assisting 577 people, 198 hours fundraising, 2901 hours training, 1671 hours on administration, 1322 hours on education and 1886 hours on maintenance. That is a total of 9510 hours. That is a fantastic effort from all concerned.

Those number of volunteer hours has a real effect on others. Those are the partners and families who allow us the time to operate this organisation. Please pass on our thanks.

Personally I would like to thank the management team which makes Howick Volunteer Coastguard operate, these being

- Todd Forsyth, Vice President
- Paul Newman, Executive Officer
- David Steward, Secretary
- Steve Emmett ,Treasurer
- Steve Rowlands and Alan Martin, Operations Officer
- Colin Small, Immediate Past President
- Paul Bryson and Jim Follows MSA Safety Officers
- Mike Cole, Education Officer
- Craig Houkamau and Craig Williams, Training Officer
- Mike Kitchin OSH Safety Officer
- And the new Crew Liaison Position Alan Martin & Craig Houkamau
- Our skippers, Todd Forsyth, Steve Rowlands, Alan Martin, David Steward, Jenny Rowsell, Craig Houkamau, Mike Cole, Colin Small and Jim Follows.
- And our crews, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta..

A big thanks needs to go out to our sponsors and supporter members. Without their support we would not be able to operate this highly effective rescue organisation. These organisations include.

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Auckland Council           | • Half Moon Bay Marina Trust |
| • Coastguard New Zealand     | • Howick Club                |
| • Coastguard Northern Region | • Howick Lions Club          |
| • The Warehouse, Pakuranga   | • Half Moon Bay Rotary       |
| • ID Results Signs           | • Wiskerz                    |
| • Pub Charity                | •                            |
| • The Southern Trust         |                              |
| • Pakuranga Rotary           |                              |

Finally, to all of our members, I would like to personally thank you for your dedication and service. Howick Volunteer Coastguard is highly regarded Coastguard unit. We all need to continue to train and remain motivated to maintain the high standards of this and our parent organisation.

Thank you for your attendance. We will now hear from our Treasure Steve Emmett.

**Ian Gibson**  
 President  
 Howick Volunteer Coastguard