

HOWICK VOLUNTEER COASTGUARD 26TH AGM PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Your Honour, Mayor of Manukau, Ladies & Gentlemen, Member & Guests.

I would like to welcome you to the 26th AGM of Howick Volunteer Coastguard. We have, in fact been around for 53 years starting our life as Howick Sea Rescue.

It has been an interesting and at times frustrating year. In the last year we have attended 141 incidents, somewhat down on previous years but for good reason. During the last couple of years, we have had progressively more mechanical problems with our main vessel, Howick Rescue One's engine. The result has been an engine replacement this year. This engine replacement project which was to have taken 6 weeks regrettably kept us off the water for 4 months, with the project becoming a research and development project to achieve a satisfactory setup. I would like to thank those involved in the project, in particular Steve Rowlands, our operations officer, who is now greyer for the experience. I would also like to thank the members' patience and understanding with the cost of the project escalating and the vessel's return delayed several times while the setup problems were resolved. That is now in the past, with HR1 back in service and performing extremely well, even capable of higher speeds than ever before at around 40 knots. Let's enjoy the vessel this summer.

Our other big project for the year was our tractor refurbishment, also ably managed by Steve Rowlands. Another big thank you to all those involved

As well as these two projects, and the 141 incidents, we have spent 926 hours on search and rescue operations assisting 251 people, 489 hours fundraising, 2685 hours training, 1343 hours on administration, and 765 hours on maintenance. Another big effort, this year. Thanks team.

As always a huge thank you has to go out to the partners and families of the members who have to put up with our frequent absences, often at the most inconvenient times. Without you and your patience and acceptance, we could not possibly operate this organisation.

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

- Bryan Cartelle, Vice President
- Paul Newman, Executive Officer
- David Steward, Secretary
- Todd Forsyth, Treasurer

- Steve Rowlands, Operations Officer
- Colin Small, Immediate Past President
- Cameron Haywood, MSA Safety Officer
- Mike Cole , Education Officer
- Craig Houkamau, Training Officer
- Our skippers, Todd Forsyth, Cameron Hayward, David Steward, Jenny Rowsell, Bryan Cartelle, Craig Houkamanu, Jim Follows, Mike Cole, Colin Small.
- Our crews, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta and Echo.

A thank you also needs to go to our numerous sponsors and supporter members. Without your support we would not be able to fund the expensive machinery sitting in the shed downstairs. These organisations include.

- The Manukau City Council
- Coastguard New Zealand
- Coastguard Northern Region
- ID Results Signs
- Pub Charity
- The Southern Trust
- Pakuranga Rotary
- Half Moon Bay Marina Trust
- Howick Club
- Howick Lions Club
- Half Moon Bay Rotary

Finally, to all of our members, Howick Volunteer Coastguard continues to be one of the most highly regarded Coastguard units in the country as a result of 53 years of dedicated and capable volunteers. I am proud to be your President and ask the current members to continue to strive to ensure this organisation continues to be held in high regard throughout the country.

Thank you for your attendance and support.

Ian Gibson