

President's annual report to the Howick Volunteer Coastguard 22nd AGM, dated 6th September 2005.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members and Guests,

Welcome to the 22nd AGM of the Howick Volunteer Coastguard. We have just completed our 49th year of operation which has presented us with many challenges, which I will briefly highlight.

Firstly, a warm welcome to everyone, our members, guests, fellow coastguarders and supporters, I welcome you all.

Over the last year, as in previous years our achievements have been considerable, a firm tribute to our fantastic team of committed volunteers. Our annual statistics are always interesting, and I highlight a few as follows:

- Locally, within our unit, the achievements have been outstanding:
- Our Active Membership numbers have remained at around 40.
- The building extensions to house the new Monster Tractor were completed along with a lot of work to bring the existing boat shed up to council fire specs. Many hours of work were put in by members to complete this project with a big thank you to Jim McPherson and Bob Long who painted the whole interior. Thank to the ASB Trust for its financial contributions which made the extensions possible.
- Congratulations to those skippers who have worked through the COC process making Howick one of the first Hauraki Gulf units to have all skippers qualified.
- Our annual statistics for this year are up a whopping 150% on last years with Howick attending:
 - 122 call-outs, with over 552 people and almost \$7.7M of property assisted, consuming 2,201 hours. This equates to each Howick volunteer saving just under 5 people per call attended.
 - 50 Tuesday evening training sessions, 48 weekend training and duty days, consuming 4,425 hours.
 - 2,018 man-hours of Administration.
 - 766 hours of Repairs and Maintenance.
 - 306 hours fund raising
 - 147 hours of education.
 - A total of 9,863 hours volunteered. An absolutely outstanding effort and a credit to all the members who have diligently volunteered their time to make this possible.

- Finally, our spouses and families need special mention and thanks, for it is generally family time taken by our activities. I thank you for this, yet this seems inadequate for the contribution and sacrifices you make.
- These achievements would not have reached these levels had it not been for the special efforts of the Executive, the Office holders and the Portfolio holders of this Organisation. My special thanks to you all, especially:
 - Ian Gibson, our Vice President Training Officer, great to see the training working like clockwork and again Howick are leading the way with our professional standards. Well done Ian.
 - David Steward, our Executive Officer and Secretary, ably assisted by Basil Irwin in the change over. Not only keeping the electronics running smoothly but the office also, when do you find time to do your real job? A Big thank you to you.
 - Jenny Rowsell, our supreme Treasurer, who continues to control our finances fantastically and enable us to concentrate on saving lives at sea.
 - Ray Burge, our Operations Officer who has taken over this year from Trevor Taylor. Ray it's a pleasure to know that you have the machinery well oiled and ready to perform at all times.
 - Bryan Cartelle, our MSA and OSH Safety Officer ensuring a very cool head when the chips are down which we seem to have had to call on few times this year!!.
 - Our Skippers and Crew. Your dedication, commitment and support are a credit to you all, and the achievements of this Organisation are the result of your efforts. I thank you all for this.

I would also like to extend my thanks to all our loyal supporters, the Manukau City Council without whom we would certainly struggle to run our organisation, the ASB Charitable Trust, the Lotteries Grants Board, the community at large, who enable us to purchase the best gear available, Coastguard Federation, the Coastguard Northern Region, fellow Coastguard organisations, and all those individuals, groups and organisations who help to make our existence possible.

Every organisation has to look for ways to improve and grow and Howick is one of those units to whom change is no stranger. This year change has sought us out with more than our fair share of challenges. In the crew area we have seen a number of our long serving senior crew members stand down. This has meant a huge loss of knowledge and the need for some of the newer members to come forward and take up the challenge. During the

year we have had to regroup in to four crews whilst we rebuilt the experience in the crews and we are about to reform into five crews ready for the summer.

Notably our most trying challenge has been the fire damage to our number one craft HR1. This has been a particularly frustrating and challenging time for all the members particularly as the cause was a direct result of poor workmanship by the boat builders. But we are a stronger unit for this and we will have a DRV that is better in a number of ways. Firstly the rebuilding has given us the chance to fit improvements to the craft and we now have a much superior craft than we had before which I know is hard to believe. We are expecting the boat to be back in active duty this weekend and I know there are 40 excited members who can't wait to get our baby back. Secondly the lesson's learnt have been invaluable, not only to our unit but to Coastguard as a whole. There has been much useful discussion about life jackets and the practical training surrounding the use of them as well as fire protection systems on boats.

But Howick is not a unit to sit around or be knocked back by any event. The Howick unit as a whole picked themselves up and got rolling with the generous assistance of Adam Wickes from Rayglass with the loan of his personal 8.5m Rayglass Protector to continue our work. A very big Thank you Adam it has certainly made the last 4 ½ months easier being able to stay active and out on the water. We really like your boat but we can't wait to get back into our nice warm cabin!

Whilst all this has been going on a boat committee has been reviewing the options for the replacement of HR2. With a desire to be more effective in the area of our local beaches and Tamaki River a new boat will give us a much better platform than our current #2 craft for inshore and river work. There is a particular need for those smaller weekday jobs when the current HR2 is too small and HR1 is not really needed. Watch this space as we work this project over the next few months.

Finally, to all our members. You have helped create one of the most impressive CG units in the country. It is constantly confirmed that we are regarded by many Units as the 'Yard-Stick' of Coastguard Units, and that is not because of any one person or group of people, it is because of the input of you all. A finer group of volunteers you would not find anywhere. I am proud to be your President, and proud of this Organisation. I ask that you be proud of your achievements also, as you have all earned that right.

Again I thank you all for your attendance and support.

Colin Small

President.