

2nd September 2007

Howick Volunteer Coastguard 24th AGM – Presidents Report

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members and Guests,

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

In February this year we joined with past and present members to celebrate a milestone of 50 years serving our community. It was great to be part of the celebrations which saw many past and present members together swapping stories and memories and mingling with invited guests and the general public. One of the highlights was to see the original 1950's rescue boat outside the shed in all its glory and kindly loaned by Morrin Cooper. When we compare the craft that our colleagues went to sea in with the craft of today there is no comparison and I wonder how soft we have become? The evening function was marked by the presentation of letters from HRH The Prince of Wales to our longest serving members Brian Litten and Jim McPherson, quite simply an inspirational pair to see them both still active within the unit after 50 years, well done and long may you continue.

The other milestone this year was the building and launching of our new number two craft a 5.5m Naiad RIB powered by a jet. A huge amount of time was spent by the boat committee planning, building and finally commissioning the craft which I know will be a great asset at Howick for many years to come. The launching of this craft was made possible by the huge donation by Pub Charity which funded some 90% of the cost of the boat. This generosity enabled us to donate our old number 2 craft to CNR for use in the RYA boating education classes run at the Marine Rescue Centre. It is great to see the craft being put to good use in educating the boating public.

Yet another successful summer lottery saw us raise some 22% of our annual expenses through the sales of the national lottery tickets. This fundraising allows us to purchase uniforms and other capital equipment that would otherwise be unaffordable. This part of our funding has become an annual event which sees the unit pull together in a way no other unit in the country has emulated with Howick singularly and consistently selling 40% more tickets than any other unit.

Looking back over the last three years statistics makes interesting reading with our callouts consistently growing each year from 122 in 2004 to nearly double the number in 2007 at 207.

- Our Active Membership numbers have remained steady at around 40 volunteers.
- 3 more members qualified as COC Skippers, congratulations to Todd Forsyth, Craig Houkamau and Cameron Haywood who passed the newer more stringent COC examinations.
- As highlighted above we completed 123% more jobs this year which saw us attending:
 - 207 calls for assistance, assisting 489 people and \$14M of property, consuming 3071 hours.
 - 1265 man-hours of Administration.
 - 804 hours of Repairs and Maintenance.
 - 629 hours fund raising
 - 2977 hours of Training education.
 - A total of 8746 hours volunteered. Another 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.

All this activity just doesn't happen by accident and requires a dedicated crew behind it to keep the boats running smoothly, the training scheduled and the administration completed. Without the team these achievements would not have been possible and without individual members that step-up to take on the running of the organisation in addition to the on the water activity I would like to record my special thanks to:

- Ian Gibson Vice President
- David Steward Executive Officer and Secretary.
- Todd Forsyth Treasurer,
- Bryan Cartelle Operations Officer
- Cameron Haywood MSA Safety Officer
- Allan Martin our Training Officer
- Kevin Gaunt our Education Officer
- Craig Houkamau OSH Safety Officer
- And finally our Skippers and Crew. Without your dedication, commitment and support we would not be the unit we are today.

I would also like to extend my thanks to all our loyal supporters, the Manukau City Council and the community at large, who enable us to purchase the best gear available, Coastguard New Zealand, the Coastguard Northern Region, fellow Coastguard organisations, and all those individuals, groups and organisations who help to make our existence possible.

Again I thank you all for your attendance and support.

Colin Small

