

President's annual report to the Howick Volunteer Coastguard 23rd AGM, dated 19th September 2006.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members and Guests,

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

Over the last year our achievements have again been considerable, a firm tribute to our fantastic team of committed volunteers. Our annual statistics make interesting reading, and I highlight a few as follows:

- Our Active Membership numbers have remained at around 40 with new recruits coming through the crew training system to fill the gaps that inevitably happen during the year.
- Congratulations to those skippers who have worked through the Coastguard COC process making Howick one of the most qualified units in the Hauraki Gulf with 10 skippers currently holding this qualification.
- Our annual statistics for this year are up 137% on last years with Howick attending:
 - 168 call for assistance, assisting 428 people and almost \$13M of property, consuming 2,743 hours.
 - 50 Tuesday evening training sessions, 48 weekend training and duty days, consuming 3330 hours.
 - 1390 man-hours of Administration.
 - 613 hours of Repairs and Maintenance.
 - 433 hours fund raising
 - 141 hours of education.
 - A total of 8650 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:

- Ian Gibson Vice President
- David Steward Executive Officer and Secretary.
- Jenny Rowsell and more latterly Bryan Cartelle Treasurer,
- Ray Burge Operations Officer
- Bryan Cartelle MSA and OSH 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 be the unit we are. I thank you all for this.

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.

This year has culminated in the Howick Unit receiving the highest accolade from its peers as the recipient of the Unit of The Year, at last months Regional Awards Evening. This is a result of many years of hard work by all its members including a commitment to Boating Education which is part of Howick's culture. We hold regular Day Skipper, Boat Master and VHF courses, and public courses at our purpose built facility run by our own qualified CBES's tutors.

Community involvement is evident with participation in local events such as the Howick Christmas Parade, Sea Scouts, Howick Lions Club, the annual Howick mid-winter swim, Howick and HMB Rotary and regular contact/items in local papers, Eastern Courier and Howick & Pakuranga Times.

Fundraising - since the inception of the national lottery Howick has been consistently one of the top sellers. Last summer lottery we sold 3800 tickets - 3000 on the street and 800 from CNZ direct mail outs. This effort outstrips sales from any unit in the country by some 60% - the highest sales nationwide.

In summary, Howick is often held up as the benchmark to aspire to and is at the forefront of the Coastguard movement. Howick has a long and proud history dating back to July 1956 when 3 boys drowned of Howick Beach thus sparking the beginnings of the unit we have today. In true Howick spirit, funds were raised, a boat designed and built, crews organised, premises arranged and the boat launched within 7 months of the tragedy occurring. I would like to thank all those who have served before us and laid the foundations for the unit we have today. We look forward to the commemoration of our 50th anniversary with celebrations planned for February 2007, the anniversary of the launching of our first rescue boat. This boat which is still in use today as private vessel owned by Morrin Cooper, Howick's former Mayor who has kindly arranged for us to have this vessel here in Howick to be part of the celebrations.

Again I thank you all for your attendance and support.

Colin Small
President.