



Chairman's report for 2019 AGM

Welcome everyone to the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Community Patrols of New Zealand Charitable Trust.

He aha te mea nui o te ao (What is the most important thing in the world?)

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata (It is the people, it is the people, it is the people)

We all know or have heard the Māori proverb “He tangata - it is people”. This has been the focus of the CPNZ leadership over the past few years as we have toured the country with the training roadshows and the associated meetings with patrol leaders. While we needed to develop a training mentality and a solid base of consistency around the country we also wanted to get in front of the people that make up CPNZ; that is you the patrollers.

What we didn't know was just how fantastic it was to meet many hundreds, thousands, of patrollers in their home district and sometimes townships. We finished the roadshows off with visits to great parts of New Zealand, Greymouth and Invercargill.

I particularly want to thank the overwhelming number of patrols and the literally hundreds, of patrollers who have taken the time in recent weeks to personally contact me and other Trust Board members to indicate their support for me and my fellow Trust Board members. We are all in the same canoe paddling our organisation into the future. It is a team effort and it can be no other way. To be frank I was, at times, lost for words to express the comfort your calls and emails gave to me. I have tried to respond to them all. Thank you!

In some ways our constitutional documents don't recognise the patrollers of CPNZ due to the nature of our membership, i.e. the 'members' of CPNZ are the patrol itself and not the patrollers. Members of the Trust Board have made comment about this over time so I just wanted to reflect on this and recognise that without great patrollers this organisation would not exist. Let us not forget - He Tangata.

My use of Te Reo above is also consistent with the development of a Māori name for our organisation. 'Ngā Manu Tāiko o Aotearoa' translates to 'The Sentry Birds of New Zealand.' It reflects the nature of the guardianship of the community in a Maori context. It indicates the protective spirit which we as patrollers have for our communities, particularly for the vulnerable people that need our, often unseen, assistance that allows them to feel safe in their communities. It is likely that we will put some policies around the use of this name, but I think, generally speaking, it is for you as a patrol to decide what use you make of it.

Adopting a Māori name is part of the development of our Māori, Pasifika, Ethnic Support (MPES) programme that runs side by side with the Police section of the same name. It is often said that words are important, and I think that having these words will help us bond with parts of the community that we may not yet have connected with. We add Māori, along with our Ethnic support to our organisational development. We just need to consider how best to integrate Pasifika support and the initial conversation with Police has begun.

Things I am looking forward to in the upcoming year primarily sit around the work programme of the Trust Board that directly relates to our strategic planning. Each of the following sits with a specific Trust Board member working in collaboration with the CPNZ staff (most of who are also patrollers), the District Support Team Leaders (a valuable collaboration and consultation group of senior members of patrols) and in consultation with patrollers and patrols. I want to specially say how pleased the Trust Board was to receive all of the feedback from our original survey. There will be more and those who are inclined are welcome to get involved. The work areas are:

1. Organisational excellence: What do we do and how well do we do it?
2. Partnerships: Who do we or should we develop better partnerships with and at what level should this happen?
3. Empowering patrols: Decision making at the most important operational level that relates to how you patrol your community and how you interact with your community.
4. Training quality and consistency: We are off to a good start with the mandatory training, but where to in the future?
5. Health & Safety/Risk Management: How do we keep ourselves safe?

I would like to express my extreme gratitude to those patrollers or patrol leaders who also support the organisation by joining the District Support Teams. The work done by these people is extremely important to the development of the organisation, working collaboratively, consultatively and transparently with the Trust Board in giving this organisation direction. They effectively replace the committee which sat until a few years ago but with a redefined reason for being and a commitment which directly relates to patrol support. They also chair the district Annual General Meetings and most run their own patrol. Please make sure you know who is on your District Support Team and thank them for their efforts.

I have to make significant mention of the invaluable staff we have working for the organisation. I can say without a doubt that, at this current point in time, we have the finest group of staff we have ever had. As the organisation has grown we have needed people with unique skills, so at different times we have needed different people. We are currently considering the work carried out by each member and ensuring that they have an opportunity to participate fully and utilise their skills and knowledge for the best of the organisation and themselves. Without doubt they go above and beyond what they are employed to do and I feel most privileged to work alongside them and lead them when I can. Thanks to Cheryl, Morgan, Katryn, Deyne, and Toni.

Our staff will play an important part in our future and are already focussed on this. Areas we need to concentrate on are patrol support (which is why we are here, to support patrols), funding, communications, training, responding to patroller queries as well as the day to business of running an organisation.

I also want to thank those volunteers who spend copious hours on statistics, in storerooms, sorting screws and items for safer plates, and write articles for our website. It's hard to state in a few words who they are and what they do, but they are an important part of our team and their dedication does not go unnoticed. It just shows that you don't just have to patrol to be a volunteer for CPNZ. Watch out for more information on these folk on our website as it is developed!

Our Police partners have had a busy time with law enforcement and attending emergencies around the country. The National Manager: Prevention, Superintendent Eric Tibbott has been an important supporter of the development of CPNZ, in particular in providing the resources to locate our staff at Police National Headquarters. In the very near future we will expand our area into a CPNZ dedicated hub allowing up to four staff to operate together. Our relationship is sound and growing every year. Special thanks must also go to Senior Sergeant Brett Callander who, as our principal liaison officer at PNHQ, has provided dedicated support for our every need. He has now moved back to the Wellington District role but his time with us was very much appreciated.

Finally, I have to thank the Trust Board members who, over the past year and more have committed hundreds, if not thousands of hours of unpaid volunteer work for our organization. We intentionally maintain a straight forward flat structured organisation to minimise the cost and maintain efficiency. This means that Trust Board members are actively involved in the functioning of the organisation. This is very important with regard to the limited funding that volunteer organisations such as ours receive.

I started this report reflecting on patrollers. I end by stating my desire, and that of the other members of the CPNZ Trust Board and staff, to meet with you all again and share the bond which we all enjoy as volunteer patrollers working for the good of our communities. Your efforts in the communities do keep people safe and certainly make many people feel safe. You are a wonderful group of people and I look forward to working with you for a long time to come.



Chris Lawton
Chairman
Community Patrols of New Zealand

