

Thursday, 29 May 2014

# Waihi Ward Reflections

This advertisement is authorised by the Hauraki District Council



## Retired undergrounder gets second life

What underground burrower rarely seen in daylight has retired to a conspicuous position on Waihi's main street?

Answer: A mining bogger or loader, donated to the community by Newmont Waihi Gold at the end of its five-year working life in the Favona Mine.

The Finnish-made Toro 0010 was purchased new in 2006 for \$1.8million, with a further \$2.1million in total being spent on regular maintenance. Resembling a low-slung front end loader, it was one of four machines digging out coarse ore from the stope and dumping it into trucks to be carted to the surface.



FORMER LIFE: the bogger in the Favona mine, with operator Brian 'Batch' Donaldson. Picture: Newmont Waihi Gold

It was decommissioned in August 2011 after 20,700 hours on the job. Beyond this time, bidders generally become very expensive to maintain, says Newmont's underground manager Charlie Gawith. Normally they would then be scavenged for parts to keep other bidders operating, or sold for parts or scrap metal.

The mining company funded the refurbishment of Unit 6014 – minus its 400HP engine which was bought by a forestry contractor – and vested ownership in the Vision Waihi Trust. The Trust will now maintain it as a town landmark, in a similar way to the refurbished mining truck near the mine pit rim.

After more than two years in storage, the four tonne machine was last week lifted by crane onto an interim site provided by the Council, at the unsealed eastern side of the carpark next to the Salvation Army church. When the Gold Discovery Centre is built nearby, it's envisaged that a permanent site will be part of the proposed associated streetscape works.



AIRLIFT: the machine is manoeuvred onto its new site

For the immediate future, the not-so-gentle giant rests on concrete pads atop a bed of crushed rock; mounted on metal axle stands to keep the weight off its tyres. Boasting vital statistics of 11 metres long, 3 metres wide and 2.75 metres high, it has a lift-and-load bucket capacity of 16,000kg and a top speed of 27km per hour. "It's not your average tractor," says Vision Waihi Trust Chief Executive Mark Samson.

Nor is it as simple to drive. Operating such a powerful and heavy centre-articulated vehicle with limited visibility is a specialised skill, says Charlie. "Generally, operators need to have three to five years of mining experience before they get to control a bogger."

Re-homing the machine has been a collaborative effort. Edwards Transport moved the bogger from the mine and kept it in storage without charge. Hutchins Engineering has been involved from the start, and has done a great job stripping down the body and restoring and repainting it, says Mark. Carters Contractors prepared the new site, from the design stage through to constructing and installing a security fence. Ian Keys of Kauri Gold cleared the bank behind the site and planted 100 flaxes there.

On top of its other contributions, Newmont has met the costs of placing the bogger; and the Council is funding signage that will tell its story, the fencing, rear landscaping, and sealing of the surrounding carpark area.

"All the contractors and project partners have gone the extra mile," says Mark.



ON SHOW: the bogger in position in Seddon Street

## Waihi water supply - progress report

What's the progress on getting an additional water supply source for Waihi up and running?

We've recently appointed Opus Consultants to carry out the design and tendering works for the project that will extract raw water from the Ohinemuri River at Golden Valley Bridge for treatment at the Waihi Water Treatment Plant. Resource consents for this additional water supply source were recently received from the Waikato Regional Council.

This additional source of water will address the shortages of water over the summer period that has been experienced in Waihi.

Three tenders for this work were received and Opus Consultants were the successful tenderer and will undertake the work in cooperation with our own engineering staff.

They will also project manage and supervise construction and it is hoped that this work will be completed by June 2015. This work is being undertaken following a lengthy period of consultation with the community and Council has taken in to account their many comments it received through public meetings and submissions.

The Ohinemuri River raw water source will be additional to our current take from the Walmsley Stream.

## Chance to get free insulation

If you'd love to insulate your home but are restricted by a low income, you may qualify for 100% free insulation under the Warm Up Hauraki project – part of the Government's Warm up New Zealand: Heat Smart initiative.

Waihi and Waikino are current focus areas of the insulation retrofit scheme, which aims to provide insulation in as many low-income, high health needs houses in our District as possible. We're proud to help this happen in partnership with Autex Industries and the PowerShed Management Group (the Insulation Company).

Applicants need to hold a Community Services Card or be eligible for one, and live in their own home or a privately rented home built before January 1, 2000. Priority will be given to residents who have housing-related health needs, especially families with babies or children under 17, pregnant women, and seniors aged 65-plus.

To register, phone us on 0800 734 834 (from within the Hauraki District), visit a Council office, or email - info@hauraki-dc.govt.nz.



### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### HAURAKI DISTRICT CHANGES TO KERBSIDE REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

##### QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CHANGES

Due to Monday, 2 June 2014 being a statutory holiday, all Hauraki District kerbside refuse and recycling collections will be carried out one day later than normal.

Please see the schedule below showing the changes to collection days for the week of 2nd to 6th June.

Township	Collection Day
Whiritoa	Tuesday, 3 June
Kerepehi	Thursday, 5 June
Ngatea	Thursday, 5 June
Turua	Thursday, 5 June
Waitakaruru	Thursday, 5 June
Kaiaua	Thursday, 5 June
Waihi	Friday, 6 June
Waikino	Friday, 6 June
Karangahake	Friday, 6 June
Mackaytown	Friday, 6 June
Paeroa	Friday, 6 June

Ken Thompson  
District Engineer  
Hauraki District Council

## New spot, same friendly service

We've moved!

The Council's Waihi service centre shifted from upper Seddon Street in March, into a new building shared with the Waihi Library that has entrances from Rosemont Road and Silverton Road. However, some locals who haven't needed to visit our office in the past two months are only now finding out about the change.

Our helpful 'front deskers' Susana Leat, Elizabeth Lye and Leanne Hollis, with fellow team member Michelle Matich and Customer Services Manager Linda Norris, invite you to pop into the bright and fresh new premises even if it's just to take a look.

They say many residents have commented positively about the ease of access, especially with a carpark right outside the door in Silverton Road and an interior that's mobility scooter friendly. Customers have also enjoyed the convenience of having the library under the same roof, as well as pristine public toilets.

The service centre is open between 8.00am and 4.30pm from Monday to Friday. Notices will remain in the window of our 'old office' to redirect anyone who still heads there.

