



# Waihi Ward Reflections

This advertisement is authorised by the Hauraki District Council

Thursday, 26 May 2016

## Mining activity - putting the pieces together

The large failure of the north east wall of the Martha pit that occurred on 26 April is easily the most visible feature of recent gold mining activity in the Waihi area – but it's not the only one.

A month after two million tonnes of rock slipped from the wall, Mayor John Tregidga says he and senior Council staff are being regularly updated by Oceana Gold about any subsequent movement detected and its potential effects, just as we've been kept informed since the slip was forecast. As well, we're using the services of our own independent technical experts, to review the mining company's information.

"While it has had an impact on the pit rim walkway with the erection of safety fencing, we are satisfied that it poses no risk to the public," says the Mayor.

He has also been closely following increased exploration drilling activity around the District, and says people should be aware that permits for this are issued by New Zealand Petroleum & Minerals (a branch of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment) under the Crown Minerals Act.

Once a permit is issued by NZ petroleum and Minerals the approval of landowners is required before any exploration or drilling can occur.

"In most cases, the land is owned privately or by the Department of Conservation, and drilling doesn't usually require Council consent. However in sensitive areas or where there are off-site effects, resource consent must be obtained from Council. Given the smaller scale of the exploration activity they are generally non-notified."

At present, an area of 56 square km in the Hauraki District has been approved for drilling, with 20 to 30 target spots identified. "But drilling there doesn't mean mining there will follow," says the Mayor. Core sampling over an extensive area is a way of finding out where the mineral concentration is likely to be.

"It's like a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle. Drilling is taking place beneath 20 of them to get a feel for the big picture, and the places worth going back to in relation to the other pieces."

The Mayor says drilling itself is essentially no different from drilling to get bore water. "It doesn't harm the ecology or birdlife, and the sites must be rehabilitated. Drilling activity is increasing, but it isn't new. It's been taking place for more than three decades."

If a mining licence application is required, that's where the Council does get involved. "I've made it clear that while I believe a drill hole has minimal environmental effect, I stand firmly against all mining in the Karangahake scenic corridor on State Highway 2. It's totally inappropriate for such a unique and special area which is home to one of the most popular walkway networks in the country – and I believe the majority of the community supports this position."



## Ready, set... flow

Improved quality water – and more of it – is on track to flow from Waikino taps from the week of 6 June. That's when the switch to the new Waihi water supply is planned, after the associated works are commissioned and the controls set next week. The milestone comes in the wake of recent problems at the old Waikino water treatment plant, temporarily requiring drinking water to be boiled as a health precaution.

A 5.4km-long, 140mm-diameter treated water pipeline was constructed last year to bring treated water from Dean Crescent in Waihi along SH2 to Campbell Road, and then via Campbell Road and Old Waitekauri Road to Waikino. The \$645,000 project also included building a pump station near our Dean Crescent refuse transfer station, and a 200-cubic metre reservoir in Waikino, as part of a major Waihi water supply upgrade centred on the construction of a new water intake facility on the upper Ohinemuri River, directly upstream from the Golden Valley bridge.



The Waikino reservoir provides 200 cubic metres of storage – more than double the 90 cubic metres of the present supply. It adds up to enough storage to last 24 hours of demand.

resulting from higher water pressure, we've arranged to have a plumber on standby to adjust cylinder valves if necessary. This service will be provided at no cost to residents during the "settling in" period.

Anyone who experiences issues with the changeover should get in touch with the Council on 0800 734 834.

"The work was needed to meet new national drinking water standards," says Mayor John Tregidga. "The pipeline has been tested, and we can assure residents of the highest quality water. However people may notice a difference in taste, due to the different source."

At a recent public meeting, community members had the chance to hear about the new supply and raise any related queries with the Council's Engineering Services Group Manager Adrian De Laborde, the Mayor, and local Councillors.

In case there are any hot water cylinder overflow problems

## Waihi to roll out the red carpet Final call for award nominations

Ordinary people doing extraordinary things – they're the heroes we want to recognise when our 2016 Citizen and Young Achiever Awards are presented at a gala evening in the Waihi Memorial Hall on 31 August.

The closing date for this year's nominations is just around the corner, on Friday, 3 June. So if you know of a deserving volunteer, let us know!

Citizen Awards acknowledge the service of Hauraki residents who have committed substantial time and effort over a sustained period to benefit the community. Young Achiever Awards are a tribute to local 13 to 25-year-olds who have made a positive impact through community service, arts or culture, leadership or enterprise, academic fields, sport, or recreation.

Nominations can be made by organisations or by at least two individuals, on forms available from Council offices or on our website.

**THANKS FOR THE DIRTYWORK:** Waihi's Warwick Buckman, wearing just one of his volunteer hats, at work in the HELP (Habitat Enhancement and Landcare Partnership) nursery on the Waihi College farm unit. Last year he was one of two recipients of Outstanding Citizen Awards.



### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### KERBSIDE REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS FOR QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY

Due to Monday, 6 June 2016 being a statutory holiday, kerbside collections scheduled for that week will be carried out a day later than normal.

Please see the schedule below showing the dates for collections in the Waihi ward for the week of 5 to 11 June.

Township	Collection Day	What to put out
Whiritoa	Tuesday 7 June	Refuse and recycling
Waihi	Friday 10 June	Refuse and recycling
Waikino		Refuse and recycling

Collection days will be back to normal starting Monday, 13 June 2016.

Transfer stations will be closed 6 June 2016 - all other days will be as normal.

L D Cavers  
Chief Executive  
Hauraki District Council

## Gremlins in our phone system

If you've phoned our main office over the past few weeks and had difficulties getting through, thanks for your patience!

Intermittent external problems in the phone network most commonly resulted in connections repeatedly cutting out and back in. Some callers may have been able to speak to a staff member, only to have been seemingly hung up on. Others would have got the "no such number" signal.

We logged a number of faults with our phone service provider, but the fix-ups usually lasted only a few days at a time. At one stage, the issue was compounded by a major outage of our provider's network in Hamilton, lasting about three hours.

At times when we became aware of significant disruption, we diverted calls to our after-hours service even during the day. Unfortunately this process wasn't instant, so more people were affected before the diversion kicked in – some of whom used emails, online requests, Facebook, or office visits to get in touch. We apologise for any inconvenience and frustration caused.

Before any of these problems occurred, we were part way through upgrading our internal phone system to address exactly this scenario – by having both incoming and outgoing calls automatically switched to our Waihi service centre should our Paeroa connection be disrupted.

The connections and automatic switchover hardware are now in place in both offices, and are in the final phases of testing. We trust this will resolve the issue and avert similar ones in the future.