

NEWMONT WAIHI GOLD

ENVIRONMENTAL, HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The following list includes major initiatives undertaken by Newmont Waihi Gold (NWG) in support of environmental and community enhancement. Unless otherwise stated, the initiatives are not required by the conditions of NWG's mining licence or resource consents.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Dotterel Watch Partnership

The Dotterel Watch Partnership is an initiative with the Department of Conservation (DoC) and NWG, focused on assisting the survival of the endangered NZ Dotterel. It started in 1995 when workers at the Martha Mine observed dotterels nesting on the waste rock embankment's haul road. Since its inception, NWG has provided DoC funding, and a vehicle. The annual cost of the programme is \$60,000. In company records for the five years from 2001 to the start of 2006, the funding provided by NWG to the project totals around \$210,000 or \$3,500 a month.



Bridge to Bridge Riparian Planting Project



Started in 1995, this 10-year project involved fencing and planting the riparian margins of the Ohinemuri River and tributaries between the Golden Valley Rd and the Coronation (SH2) bridges. In total, some 5km of river riparian margin were planted. The total project established 200,000 native plants and cost about \$2 million. A walkway was also created, partly alongside the planted areas, to provide access to the summit of Black Hill. Maintenance in these areas continues.

Habitat Enhancement and Landcare Partnership (HELP)

The HELP project aims at raising environmental awareness in children through engaging them in planting programmes and involving community groups as well. NWG has supported HELP since it was initiated in 1995. Since then a significant amount of staff time has been donated by the company as well as financial assistance and thousands of trees and shrubs. In 2005, \$32,500 was spent on sponsoring HELP's activities. In company records for the five years from 2001 to the start of 2006, the funding provided by NWG to the project totals around \$95,000.

KauriBank

In recognition of the historic loss of kauri trees through mining and forestry activities around the Waihi area, NWG started its KauriBank project in 2003. The aim of the project is to plant one kauri for each person-year spent in the modern mine. This project has seen the provision of 3,200 kauri as at the end of 2005 for a cost of over \$95,000, not including planting and maintenance costs. Each grove of trees planted is counted and entered into a KauriBank register, map and aerial photograph. The database is updated regularly as the growth of each grove of trees is monitored.



Waihi Walkways

NWG has supported the construction and maintenance of public walkways in the Waihi area through funding and in-kind contributions including direct involvement with construction and project management. (Records detailing the level of support for this initiative were unavailable at the time of reporting)

Tui Mine

NWG first offered assistance to Environment Waikato in 1997. Since that time, the company has provided in-kind support by making available the technical expertise of its staff and using its leverage with its contractors and consultants to provide pro-bono services. NWG believes that the first positive steps towards a solution to the clean up of the Tui site occurred in 1997 largely due to the mining experience that the company and its advisors brought to the project (Tui mine closed in 1975 and little real progress had been made in the intervening period). The company continues to be involved with MfE, EW and Matamata-Piako District Council in working towards a solution.

Others

NWG supported the three-day EnviroSchools Expo in 2004 and 2005 with a manned interactive teaching activity and display. The 2005 event included a \$1,000 donation towards running costs for the event. The organisers of EnviroSchools are currently assessing the status of this event.

As part of its progressive rehabilitation on site, NWG plants 20,000 native trees and shrubs per year (rehabilitation is a requirement under NWG's consents, but the conditions are silent on the type of planting).

HERITAGE

Heritage Brochure

Historic Places Trust issued a new brochure of the archaeological and heritage sites between Waihi and Paeroa with assistance of \$3,000 from NWG.

Cornish Pumphouse



In order to comply with its regulatory obligations to protect this historic building (Mining Licence Condition 46) NWG spent \$4.2 million in 2006 relocating the pumphouse to a safe site. Now a long term sustainable community asset to Waihi, it represents the town's rich mining heritage, regaining its place as a memorable icon, and is the springboard for a range of promotional initiatives.



Victoria Battery

NWG assisted the Victoria Battery Tramway Society in setting up a display area within the transformer building of the Victoria Battery. More recently, NWG has offered to assist DoC with its upgrades to the Victoria Battery. To date, no proposal has been received and recent assistance has been limited to providing a crucible for display.

Waihi History - General

NWG provided a local researcher a \$10,000 grant to complete research on the dams and water races associated with the historic workings areas around Union Hill commencing January to June

2003. This was extended and Stage 2 was to further carry out research and liaison with various personnel to the value of \$10,000 as well.

In 2005, NWG gave a further grant of \$30,000 for researching the historic mining features in and around Waihi.

NWG has, at the request of HPT, cleared vegetation away from archaeological/historic relics to remove the danger presented by trees etc to the roasting kilns and old concrete structures on Union Hill. More recently, the company also cleared vegetation from around the relics on Union Hill to enable the completion of archaeological surveys. This work cost approximately \$90,000.

Oral History Project

IN 2005, NWG embarked on an oral history project that involves interviewing miners who worked in the historic Martha Mine and other Waihi personalities from that era. The driver for this project was the recognition of a gradual, but accelerating loss of history as those involved with previous mining passed away. The intent is to allow the audio/video records to be donated to the National Archive and to the Waihi Museum for public use. NWG expects to use some of the material in documentaries, conference papers and other community projects.

To date (March 2007) 35 interviews have been completed. Further interviews are planned in 2007 with existing NWG staff and contractors as well as pre-1952 subjects.

COMMUNITY

Waihi Gold Mining Education Trust

In 1992, NWG set up this Trust for the benefit of Waihi College. The company donates \$25,000 per annum; \$20,000 to the school and \$1,000 to each of the top five bursary students for assistance with their tertiary education. Up to 2005 the Trust had given the school and its pupils a total of \$350,000. In 2006, the annual sum increased to \$40,000.00 - \$2,000 for each scholarship and \$30,000 for general educational enhancements.

Martha Mine Tours

NWG runs tours of the Martha Mine, and approximately 10,000 people a year take the tour. The presence of the mine provides a tourist attraction with economic spin off for the town. The company doesn't charge for the tour, but encourages donations from all visiting groups except school groups. A different cause each month is nominated to receive the donations made by members of the public. The amount of tour donations allocated to community groups usually amounts to approximately \$10,000 per year.

Primary School Grants

NWG asks participants of the mine tours for a donation. Between 1997 and 2005 the proceeds for the first six months of each year have been given to the six local primary schools, sometimes topped up by NWG to provide a more substantial amount. Over this period, these grants total approximately \$45,000.

In 2005 and 2006, NWG made \$10,000 donations to each of the six Waihi primary schools (total \$60,000 each year) instead of the tour donations as described above.



Martha Mine Open Days

NWG has run six open days, and received about 35,000 visitors and approximately \$100,000. Open Day requires closing the operation for a day, and erecting displays and activities that are manned voluntarily by staff. An entry fee is charged and all proceeds are distributed to local charities through Waihi Lions Club. In 2005 and 2006, NWG has scheduled its open day to coincide with the town's Life and Soul Festival. As the main attraction, the objective of combining the events is to bring visitors to town and give the community a chance to display the other features of Waihi.

In 2005, half of the proceeds were set aside for tsunami victims (\$10,000). Newmont Mining Corporation pledged to match any employee donations to the tsunami appeal by 2:1, effectively creating a donation of \$30,000 to the tsunami appeal.



Lions allocated proceeds from 2006 open day - approximately \$30,000.00 – to the Waihi Fire Service to enable them to purchase a water tanker.

Education Centre

Since June 2000 the Education Centre has been providing curriculum-linked educational programmes to teachers and students from new entrants to tertiary institutions. About 5,500 students a year attend sessions of 1½ hours duration. The facility was recognised internationally by Newmont with the presentation of the Newmont Chairman's Award in 2004. The education centre and the resource material it distributes are also the reason behind the mine being featured in several national examinations, including the NZ University Bursary Geography Examination in December 2003, where 50% of the paper was based on a resource booklet about the Martha Mine.



There is no charge to schools to participate in the Education Centre programmes. The Education Centre is staffed by two NWG employees, one of these is a professional and experienced teacher.

Golden Legacy Centre

The Martha Mine is recognised as a major tourist attraction for the Hauraki District. NWG employs one person whose responsibility it is to man and manage the centre. The centre is open during Business hours, and is manned by voluntary NWG staff during the summer holiday weekends. Each year approximately 20,000 people visit the Golden Legacy Centre adjacent to the mine's viewing platform. Many more visit only the platform. The tourist attraction provided by the mine and the Golden Legacy Centre is thought to have significant economic spin off for the town and region.

Waihi Community Vision

NWG set up a community forum, now called Waihi Community Vision, as a means of communicating with the community. This group now has a mandate to formulate a direction for Waihi using the pending closure of the Martha Mine as a springboard. The objective of the group is to implement community projects that will supplant and exceed the contribution to the economic and social fabric of Waihi that is currently provided by the mine. The WCV operates through an independent facilitator, funded by Newmont. The annual cost of this initiative is around \$250,000 with further funding provided to four separate groups that grew from the WCV process. NWG has elected to complete a number of projects itself without other funding.

The four separate interest groups formed from WCV, each have a specific focus:

Sport 'n Action Waihi has combined the efforts of 35 member sporting groups into a single entity headed by a Trust. The intention is to increase efficiency in sporting activities and facilities by eliminating duplication of effort within the member organisations and reducing costs. The Trust will hire a paid coordinator to provide a "one stop shop" for visitors and new residents interested in sports. The group is heading towards the development of a combined sports centre that will provide a venue for all of the Waihi's sporting requirements now and into the future.

The **Social Development Group** is progressing down a very similar line, its ultimate objective being a "village" providing a centralised and efficient hub for social and health services in Waihi.

Creative Arts Waihi is working towards the creation of an arts precinct centred around a dedicated arts centre catering for all forms of fine and performing arts as well as trades and crafts.

The **Heritage** group is focused on protecting and enhancing cultural and natural heritage features in and around Waihi.

Property Support

In December 2001 ground subsidence into historic underground mine workings and subsequent investigations into the stability of other areas in Waihi led to the identification of low, medium and high hazard zones. The risk posed by potential future subsidence within the hazard zones rendered a number of homes unsafe and residents were required to move. A second group of homeowners living adjacent to the hazard zones became concerned about their property values which they perceived to be seriously devalued due to their proximity to the hazard zones.

As a measure of goodwill, NWG purchased the properties at market value (assessed prior to the identification of the hazard zones) and assisted the affected residents to move, including relocating a number of houses to different sites within Waihi. The total cost to the company of this initiative was around \$6 million.

Other

In addition to donations and sponsorships outlined above, money is allocated monthly from an annual budget of \$150,000. Some of the more notable recent donations are:

- Waihi Railway - \$5,000 to support the 2006 centennial celebrations of the Waihi Railway.
- Waihi Beach Surf Life Saving - \$10,000 in Jan 2005
- Westpac Rescue Helicopter - \$15,000 in 2005 and 2006
- Waihi Beach Mardi Gras - \$6,000 in 2006 and 2007
- Life Education Trust - \$5,000 in 2005
- Waihi Community Resource Centre (WCRC) - \$10,000 a year towards support for youth programmes in 2006 and 2007.
- Oresome Wearable Arts -Newmont Waihi Gold has been principal sponsor of the local Wearable Arts event since its inception in 2002. Sponsorship is \$5,000 for each event.

In 2006 approximately 100 community organisations received monetary donations to assist with particular projects, in line with a similar number of recipients in previous years.

As well, the company is involved in many community events on an in-kind basis. Some of these are:

- Photocopying and other support for Life and Soul Festival, Waihi Information Centre and various other organisations' newsletters.
- Support providing our minibus to transport sports and recreational groups to venues outside Waihi.
- Land made available for use by a mental health group to run a market garden.
- Provision of a rent-free house to encourage another doctor to move to this area.
- Support for foodbanks, pensioner firewood, staff time, man-power and expertise for various community projects.

