## **Amenity Effects Program Payments**

Payments for the latest Amenity Effects Program (AEP) cycle have now been completed. Over 220 residents have received payments in excess of \$115,000 total for the 2021 January to June period. For any questions related to the AEP, drop into the Project Information Office at 86 Seddon Street between the hours of 10am – 2pm, Monday to Friday or phone 0800 924 444.

## Have you been to Union Hill lately?

If so, you might have noticed the parking area off Kenny Street has had a bit of a revamp, as well as the Evase over the Trio Vent Shaft.

Ēvasē (ay-vass-ay), meaning "widened at the top, as a vase or chimney flue" is the technical name for the structure that sits above a vent shaft.

Believe it or not, it's very warm in the underground mine at Waihi. Two large fans draw fresh air into the portal from the surface, and the air begins its descent through the labyrinth of underground tunnels. As it travels, it gathers warmth from the surrounding rock, mining equipment, and any heat emitted from blasting. By the time it gets to the bottom of the mine, the air particles are now



around 27° Celsius. It has also acquired water, as the air pressure increases with the change of depth.

After the air arrives at the bottom of the mine, some 320 m below the surface, it begins its ascent back to the surface through a network of shafts that sit beneath the Trio Vent Shaft. The Trio Vent Shaft itself is about 140 m deep but connects to several more vent shafts below. By the time the warm air enters the Trio Vent Shaft, it is becoming less dense and creating water droplets as it ascends toward the surface — at around 65 km/h!

That's why you may see steam (not smoke!) rising from our vent shafts on cold days, as the hot, moist air from underground exits the shaft and mixes with the cooler air on the surface, turning it to vapour.

With multiple paths in the area as well as unique mining artifacts like the Pachuca Air Agitation Tanks (often called the 'Cyanide Tanks') and the Waihi Battery site, Union Hill is well worth a look, and a great place to exercise or see some of the historic mining relics that helped make Waihi what it is today.



