



# 1,103 STEPS

**The Sky Tower Challenge** is still a way off, but the training and fundraising have begun in earnest. The hard physical part is when you climb 1,103 stairs in full gear and BG4. But there's lots of hard work to do before that, and a big part of that is fundraising. You can help.

In 2018 the combined OceanaGold Waihi and Macraes Mines Rescue Teams raised close to \$25,000 for the Leukaemia and Blood Cancer charity. At the Awards Dinner OceanaGold was

awarded third place in the 'teams over 10 members' fundraising category.

You can help the team to help a worthwhile charity.

For details go to:

<https://secure.leukaemia.net.nz/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=112454#&panel1-1>



## A different kind of long drop

The new portal in the Martha open pit has a refuge unit next to it on the pit floor. This unit is designed to be used in emergencies and has been constructed out of a 40 foot container that was left in the pit after the 2016 slip. Recently members of the OceanaGold Waihi Mines Rescue Team abseiled into the pit to take a fibre optic cable from the surface down to the refuge unit. This cable will be used to provide communications to the container. The 200-metre abseil is relatively easy. Climbing up a 200-metre rope is a little more demanding.

## Back to the GRIND

Kauri Gold staff visited the Waihi Arts Centre and Museum recently, but didn't even go inside.



Their attention was on the berdan pans on display in front of the museum. Over the years the timber frame holding the heavy pans had deteriorated and become dangerous.

OceanaGold was approached for assistance. We got Kauri Gold involved. A plan was developed to replace the supporting timbers one at a time. This avoided the need for a crane, and instead involved a lot of creative thinking and several bottle jacks. Berdan pans are circular grinding pans which were used to crush rock to a fine powder before mercury was added to extract gold. They had one large iron ball which ground the rock as the pan rotated. In this respect they are an early and very simple example of a ball mill, similar to the one we use today to grind ore.

“creative thinking and several bottle jacks...”

## MINERS REUNION tomorrow

Each year for the last two decades we have hosted a gathering of miners who worked on site prior to 1952. In the early days we needed three buses, and they were full. With the passing of the years we are now reduced to one small bus. Tomorrow the early miners will tour the site before travelling on the Goldfields Railway train to Waikino for lunch. If you would like to find out what gold mining was like in the early days, come and join us.

## BEACH HOP NEXT WEEK!



We are pleased to once again be the major sponsor for the Beach Hop Warm Up Party, and our Drag Race team has been in secret training for some time now. Each year the team has shown how well each member can run, but they still need work on the hula hoops and handbag passing. If you see grown men in hi viz shirts on the street playing with hula hoops and handbags, rest assured they really are training.

## PROJECT MARTHA

OceanaGold staff escorted people who live near the north wall of the Martha open pit on a familiarisation tour recently. Four separate tour groups were taken into the open pit and travelled around the perimeter road. Plans for laying back the north wall and restarting work in the open pit were explained to each group. A few weeks earlier we met with residents above the Rex vein to update them on activities now that the required consents have been granted.

