



# WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF MINING in a post Covid-19 world?

As we emerge from lockdown and a 'once in a hundred years' event we are all asking: 'How will my life change?' 'Will I have a job, and if I do, has it changed?' and 'How's our community doing, and what does the future now hold for us?'

At OceanaGold Waihi we have been asking the same questions.

## THE PAST

**Mining started in Waihi over 140 years go.** It has survived two World Wars, the Great Depression, the Spanish 'Flu. Throughout all of these major events gold mining played an important role in providing employment and financial stability. More recently, gold mining continued during the Global Financial Crisis 12 years ago and effectively cushioned both the town of Waihi and the Hauraki region from some of the worst effect of the financial downturn. Environmental practices have changed a lot since these earlier times. As a modern miner, OceanaGold has a proven track record of operating responsibly in New Zealand. We are incredibly proud of our people, what they do, and the legacy they will leave.

## THE PRESENT

**Returning to work at the mine in a post Covid-19 world** has required us to change *how* we do things, but it has not changed *what* we do. Our management of the tailings storage facilities, our stewardship of the environment and our contribution to the local community remain unchanged and unaffected by recent events. Currently we have a gap in production now that Correnso has finished, apart from some narrow vein mining. Before the end of the year we will start producing ore from our Martha underground mine. This Project Martha work, both on the surface and underground, is expected to last about ten years, providing employment and financial stability. Before production starts, we will continue to develop the infrastructure needed underground to mine the ore, monitor and maintain our two tailings storage facilities and operate the Water Treatment Plant. Our sponsorship of local community projects will continue.



We have recently taken delivery of a new Sandvik DD421-60 Jumbo. This machine forms part of our plan to ramp up to develop 12 kilometres of tunnels a year to bring the Martha orebodies into production.

## THE FUTURE

**We will continue to contribute** to the local, regional and national economy in an environmentally and socially responsible manner as the country recovers from the impacts of Covid-19. We will continue to develop projects and actively explore for gold in and around Waihi, and further afield. We will continue exploration drilling at Wharekirauponga, 10 kilometres north of Waihi. If further geotechnical, environmental, social and cultural studies show that these deposits can be safely mined, we will be able to offer continued employment during mine construction and operation beyond that currently provided by Project Martha.

Like the gold mining industry of old, OceanaGold is a partner in our region's success, and we believe we can continue to do so long into the future.

Visitors in pink hardhats are shown how much smaller a narrow vein mining drive is.



## On the STRAIGHT AND NARROW

Mining at Correnso using five metre by five metre tunnels and large stopes ended in March. While the techniques used from now on will be the same, the tunnels are half the size, the cuts made by the drilling jumbos are smaller, and the stopes (the areas we blast and extract the ore from) are smaller too. This is known as narrow vein mining.

The narrow vein mining will take place at the top of the Correnso ore body, so it is very likely that residents will continue to experience some level of vibration when we blast the stopes. This work is expected to start in the next month. AEP will continue to be paid to qualifying residents.

## THANKS Waihi



**Thanks Waihi. We couldn't have done it without you.** While the Mines Rescue Team was working with Waihi Salvation Army to deliver food parcels to needy local families, you were also helping in so many ways.

Just over \$8,000 was donated through the Give a Little page by 85 donors. These people came not just from Waihi, but all around the country, and some from overseas. Another \$5,500 was donated to Waihi Salvation Army to help with the project, so in total you contributed over \$13,500.

On top of that local people regularly dropped off

fresh fruit and vegetables for us to distribute. This was a real help.

We also had a number of individuals, organisations and businesses who went out of their way to help. In particular, we would like to acknowledge Harvey Till, members of the Waihi Lions Club, Waihi Community Forum, Gary Alway from LJ Hooker Waihi Beach, Craig McLeod from MAK Distribution, Bhavesh Ranchod, from Accounting for Success, and Gilmours Wholesale Food & Beverage.

Thanks to you all. We couldn't have done this without you too.