



PROJECT MARTHA HEARING

The resource consent hearing for Project Martha started in the St James Presbyterian Church Hall on Monday 12 November and finished just over a week later. There were five and a half days of hearings during which the commissioners heard from OceanaGold New Zealand, Waikato Regional Council, Hauraki District Council, Ngati Hako, The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand, Fish and Game New Zealand, the New Zealand Transport Agency and others, including a number of local individuals. All this evidence is available on Hauraki District Council's website.

The three commissioners who are assessing the application asked questions of many of those who spoke. During the hearings the commissioners also took the opportunity to visit areas adjacent to the North Wall and above the proposed Rex area. Two of the commissioners also visited the Correnso underground mine earlier this week.

The commissioners will now review all the information presented to them before making their decision, possibly before Christmas.

EXPLORATION DRILL RIG near Cornish Pumphouse

The exploration drill rig reported in last month's *Update* is now in place at the eastern end of the Cornish Pumphouse viewing area. It is sharing this space with the Waihi Armistice 100 peace Wings which were dedicated on 9 November. This drill rig will be in place for up to a year as it improves confidence in the Project Martha targets. Access to the Cornish Pumphouse and the Pit Rim Walkway will not be affected. You will be able to watch the rig in operation from the section of the Pit Rim Walkway, seen on the right of this photograph, which is next to the poppet head on Seddon Street.



Happy Birthday Waihi Memorial Hall

This year is the sixtieth anniversary of the Waihi Memorial Hall being constructed. The site was given to the community by the Miners Union. Next time you walk past the hall, have a look at the plaque, pictured here, on the right-hand side of the main doors.

In reporting on the 1976 Miners' Reunion, the *Ohinemuri Journal* states:

'The Memorial Hall was free of charge for the Reunion. When the Miners Union ceased to exist in 1952 the residue of their funds was donated to the Memorial Hall Fund with the proviso that the Hall was to be rent-free for any official Miners gathering. This was the first time since 1952 that this proviso has needed to be honoured.'



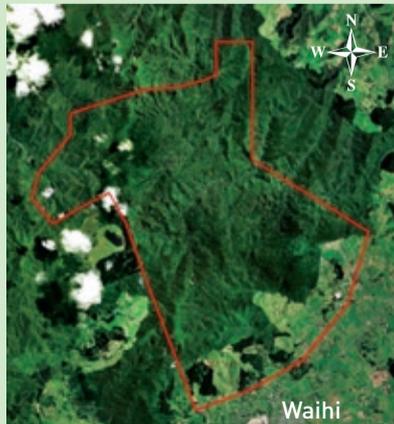
To the best of our knowledge, this is still the only time that a request for free use has been made for 'any official Miners' gathering'.

The cake pictured was cut as part of the recent Waihi Armistice 100 commemorations.



LIDAR

Lidar stands for 'Light Detection and Ranging'. It is a surveying method that measures the distance to a target by illuminating the target with pulsed laser light and measuring the reflected pulses with a sensor. Differences in laser return times and wavelengths can then be used to make digital 3D representations of the target. The technique is commonly used to make detailed high-resolution maps. Lidar data is often collected from the air, although it is now being increasingly used to map underground areas using drones and robots.



OceanaGold has commissioned a company called Aerial Surveys to undertake a Lidar survey of the area to the north of Waihi shown outlined in red in the accompanying aerial photograph. To complete this survey an aircraft will complete a number of parallel flights across the area, flying at 1750 metres above ground elevation. The resulting data will provide us with a detailed topographical map of the area. With the aircraft flying at almost two kilometres above the ground it is not likely to be noticed.