

The Waihi Community Forum (WCF) was formed after the announcement of the proposed Golden Link Project in 2011. This included the proposed Correnso underground mine in the east of Waihi. The Golden Link Project was not approved but a smaller project area focusing on the Correnso Underground Mine was.

Through roles given to the WCF in the October 2013 Correnso Extensions Project Area (CEPA) consent and the goodwill programmes initiated by Waihi Gold Company Ltd ((WGC) trading as Newmont Waihi Gold at the time of writing), the purpose of the WCF is to:

- administer the Property Purchase fund through the Independent Review Panel (IRP), appoint and manage IRP members and review IRP performance and property purchase criteria;
- consult with the community on IRP property purchase criteria;
- consult with the community and WGC to develop and implement initiatives that will be funded through the Streets Ahead Programme; and
- report, receive and respond to comments from the community on issues relating to WGC's operations in Waihi.

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

*A lot has been happening behind the scenes with the Forum since the last newsletter.*

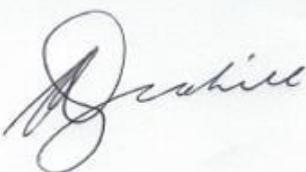
*The Forum unfortunately had to say farewell to Anne Marie Spicer. Anne Marie brought a lot of positivity and enthusiasm to the Forum and her contribution will be missed. The Forum is currently in the process of appointing the right person to that role.*

*Your current WCF representatives are:*

- *Community: Michael Scahill (Chairman), Bhavesh Ranchhod (Deputy Chair), Belinda Burke and Tara Parker*
- *Newmont Waihi Gold: Andrea Durie (External Affairs Manager) and Donna Fisher (Company Liaison Officer)*
- *HDC Waihi Ward: Harry Shepherd and Max McLean*

*As you will see in this newsletter, our current focus is on a new Streets Ahead project and the next round of Independent Review Panel (IRP) property purchases.*

*The WCF meets regularly and minutes of these meetings can be found on the WCF website. We always value and appreciate your support and feedback.*



**Michael Scahill | Chairman  
Waihi Community Forum**

## IRP PROPERTY PURCHASES

A condition of the above mentioned Consent is a commitment of \$4m to purchase properties as recommended by the Independent Review Panel (IRP).

It has now been three months since the start of production blasting and the Forum invites applications for the next purchasing round, which opens 1 October 2015, and will close on 30 October 2015:

This programme has been put in place to acknowledge that there may be some people in extraordinary circumstances that need to move away from the area and may be finding it difficult to sell as a direct result of mining activity.

An Independent Review Panel (the Panel) has been selected from outside of the District to make recommendations to WGC on properties to be purchased. They will be basing their recommendations on the circumstances of the people applying to have their property purchased.

Applicants will need to provide supporting information to assist in the consideration of applications. There are three set criteria:

- **the property is within Waihi East; and**
- **the property is currently on the market and actively being marketed; and**
- **the property must be set at a fair price (as deemed fair by an independent valuer).**

Outside of these criteria the Panel will be basing their recommendations to WGC on guidelines determining the well-being and/or financial hardship of the applicants in the first instance.

The Panel is being supported by a Coordinator who will collate all applications and present them to the Panel. Both the Coordinator and the Panel will treat all information in the strictest confidence.

If you need assistance after reading the application guidelines please write to IRP Coordinator at: P O Box 54, Katikati, 3166 or contact [wcfinformation@gmail.com](mailto:wcfinformation@gmail.com). The Waihi Community Resource Centre is available to assist with the completion of the application form by contacting Jan Smeaton, Manager, on 863 7555 to make an appointment.

It is the intention to hold further funding rounds. How many rounds and when these will occur is yet to be determined.

### Important Dates for Applicants

<b>Applications open</b>	<b>1 October 2015</b>
<b>Applications close</b>	<b>30 October 2015</b>
<b>Interviews, if required</b>	<b>23-27 November 2015</b>
<b>Recommendations confirmed</b>	<b>18 December 2015</b>
<b>Property purchase process begins</b>	<b>February 2016</b>

## STREETS AHEAD – WE NEED YOU!

The WCF has been working with WGC to find suitable land for use for our pilot community garden growing healthy organic vegetables, herbs and fruit trees.

We have had a few keen gardeners approach the Forum advising that they would like to help with this project once the land has been found but we would still like to hear from anyone interested in getting involved in this exciting new project, particularly if you have green fingers, good building skills or simply want to meet others in the community.

The community vegetable and herb gardens and fruit trees will be available to all residents at any time of day. We would like to hear from anyone in the local community interested in joining a community garden subcommittee to help set up and run the gardens. Please contact the Forum at the details provided below.

## SIGN UP TO OUR EMAIL UPDATES

If you would like to hear more from the WCF please email the Forum at [wcfinformation@gmail.com](mailto:wcfinformation@gmail.com) with the subject title 'sign me up', or write to WCF, PO Box 54, Katikati 3166.

All subscribers receive regular updates, invitations to workshops, notifications of updates to our website, digital copies of WCF newsletters and press releases.

