

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Being a part of the opening ceremony at the new community green space in Waihi East was a great way to start my role as Chairperson of the Waihi Community Forum. Forum members have spent many months overseeing this Streets Ahead project, and any time they give outside of Forum meetings is done so voluntarily; I'd like to thank them all for their hard work on this and other Forum initiatives. We've received a lot of positive feedback on the community space and with the new playground, barbecue, and the school's own recent bike track addition, the grounds really do feel like the heart of our local community.

The Forum has been operating for four years. It was established after the announcement of the proposed Correnso Underground Mine in Waihi East, and I

like to think of it as a bridge between residents, our Council and the Correnso consent holder. The Forum's purpose is to "contribute towards a thriving and sustainable community for those residents in the Correnso Extended Project Area" - your feedback is important; it ensures we are doing the best we can to represent you.



**Anne Marie Spicer | Chairperson
Waihi Community Forum**

STREETS AHEAD SCHEME

Voluntarily funded by OceanaGold Waihi, Streets Ahead is designed to enhance Waihi East; the area of the Correnso Underground Mine.

The Forum has overseen two Streets Ahead projects to date: an \$850 Home Improvement grant or solar panel starter kit for each home in Waihi East in 2014, and the recent community space in 2016. We chose both projects after feedback from residents.

Finding suitable land for our latest project was a challenge, but we were eventually able to partner with Waihi East School, moving the project onto school grounds. The school already encourages the public to use the grounds after school hours, and the community space adds to what the school offers. As part of the partnership, the school will now be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of this space, including the new state of the art playground, scooter track, barbecue, barbecue table and benches.

The balance of the Streets Ahead fund is about \$150,000 and the Forum is looking for a third Streets Ahead project. If you have an idea that you think could improve our local area we would like to

hear from you! Ideas received so far include an external Home Improvement grant for each home, educational bike track, safer crossing across Kenny Street, free internet and use of the Boyd Road Theatre. The Streets Ahead fund could also be used to support other projects aimed at enhancing the Waihi East area.



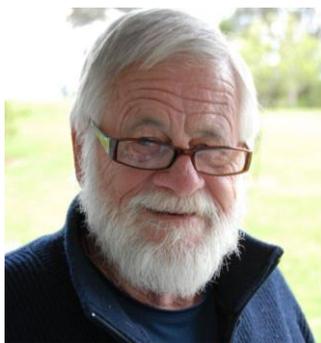
PROPERTY PURCHASES

The latest Property Purchase round was completed earlier this year. Our Independent Review Panel (IRP) received 14 applications from people wanting to have their house purchased by OceanaGold Waihi. Six homeowners withdrew their application during the process because their properties sold privately. The remaining applicants were assessed based on Consent requirements and the Forum's Property Purchase guidelines (made in consultation with the community).

The IRP recommended eight purchases to OceanaGold Waihi. OceanaGold Waihi accepted five of the recommendations and declined three because owners did not live at the property. Of the five who were accepted, three have now settled, and two withdrew from the process.

Now that the three properties have been purchased, the balance of our property purchase fund is being finalised. We need your feedback on how and when you think we should manage purchases in the future - should we wait a while for the next round? Do we scrap purchase rounds altogether and let people apply at any time? We have a limited budget and Consent could last over eight more years. We'd like to know what you think.

THANKS MICHAEL



Michael Scahill recently stepped down as Chairperson and community representative on the Forum. Michael had been Chairperson from the Forum's beginning, playing an instrumental role in the Forum's set-up.

From the announcement of the proposed Correnso Underground Mine, Michael has been passionate about making sure residents in Waihi East are well supported during the lifetime of the mine. We'd like to thank him for all he has done for the Forum and our community, and we wish him all the best.



MEET DEB

For those of you who are new to the area, we'd like to introduce you to our Forum Coordinator, Deborah Wilson.



Deb has been with the Forum for over two years and is your first point of contact should you wish to get in touch with us.

Deb also works with the IRP supporting the panel during property purchase rounds.

Deb regularly sends out Forum updates, if you would like to receive these you can email her at wcfinformation@gmail.com or write to her at WCF, PO Box 54, Katikati, 3166

FORUM MEMBERS

Anne Marie Spicer, Community Representative, Chairperson

Bhavesh Ranchhod, Community Representative, Deputy Chairperson

Belinda Burke, Community Representative

Tara Parker, Community Representative

Michelle Tai, Community Representative

Harry Shepherd, Council Representative

Max McLean, Council Representative

Kerry Watson, OceanaGold Waihi Representative

Donna Fisher, OceanaGold Waihi Representative

Deborah Wilson, Forum Coordinator (non-voting position)

PHOTOS OF OUR COMMUNITY SPACE OPENING

