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Waihi Welcomes Another Successful Tourism Venture

Newmont Waihi Gold supported another successful Waihi tourism venture at ANZAC weekend when the town hosted hundreds of visitors here for the inaugural New Zealand stage of the Anaconda Adventure Race.

Waihi's Vision Waihi Trust recognised the tourism opportunity staging the event would present to the town when Anaconda organisers scouted for potential venues in 2009 for a New Zealand leg to the popular Australian multi-sport series. The support of Newmont Waihi Gold enabled Vision Waihi Trust to underwrite the costs associated with running the Anaconda event in Waihi. Newmont, along with contractor Macmahon Contractors Ltd also contributed equipment, staff time and expertise in preparing the site for the event.

It appeared accommodation was booked out for several days and the town's cafes did a roaring trade as they catered for the influx of enthusiasts – competitors and supporters.

The race began (appropriately) at Anzac Bay, Waihi Beach, with a 1.6km swim followed by a 14km ocean paddle. Competitors then ran a 14 km coastal trail to the top of Golden Valley before mountain biking a 25km course through private farm land and Newmont Waihi Gold's rock embankments site. A 2km run inside the Martha mine open pit led to the finish line at the iconic Cornish Pumphouse.

Held as part of the five event Anaconda Adventure Race International Series, this event has been run for the past five years within Australia and is the most popular on the Australian multi-sport calendar. The newly added New Zealand leg is unique because of the opportunity to stage some parts of the course on a gold mine site and it also features areas of outstanding coastal scenery and native bush.

Anaconda personnel are enthusiastic about plans to run next year's event in Waihi, partly due to the many favourable comments from competitors and supporters. They felt the small town atmosphere presented a welcoming friendliness. At the same time outstanding organisation and good infrastructure ensured the event went off without a hitch.