

Waihi Ramble

April 24, 2022

*Gilmour Lake, Blackhill and Mill
Stream Walkway, Union Hill
Heritage Trail, Pit Rim Walkway*





Getting steeper, a bit harsh, some panting
Let's keep up, stay firm...we will make it!
Blackhill Mountain Track, not that high, not that tough
We still can be, even at this time of our life...
Hurry, let's run, run for our life, to see what's up there.
~250M above sea-level, at an elevation of barrier-free Waihi, all
the way through the spotless sky
Quite a good weather, with occasional shower, not bad, still
...a stretch of Waihi Basin, a development of early settle till now
Quite a charming outlook, we all take a shot of where we are, at
the summit of early settlers.
Head back to where we are, downhill...
At the junction, turning right, rolling down the trackless hill,
through the gorse-fed slope...Further down, we saw the Blackhill
MX Track, a new development, a trendy act...
Along the replanted bank of Ohinemuri Stream, via The
Tunnelling Company Memorial and back to Ohinemuri Lake.



Strolling in the Union Heritage Trail, following the Mill Stream, we come across the lovely Butterfly Garden.

Although a bit not that neat and tidy, plants are flourishing actively in the playful garden.

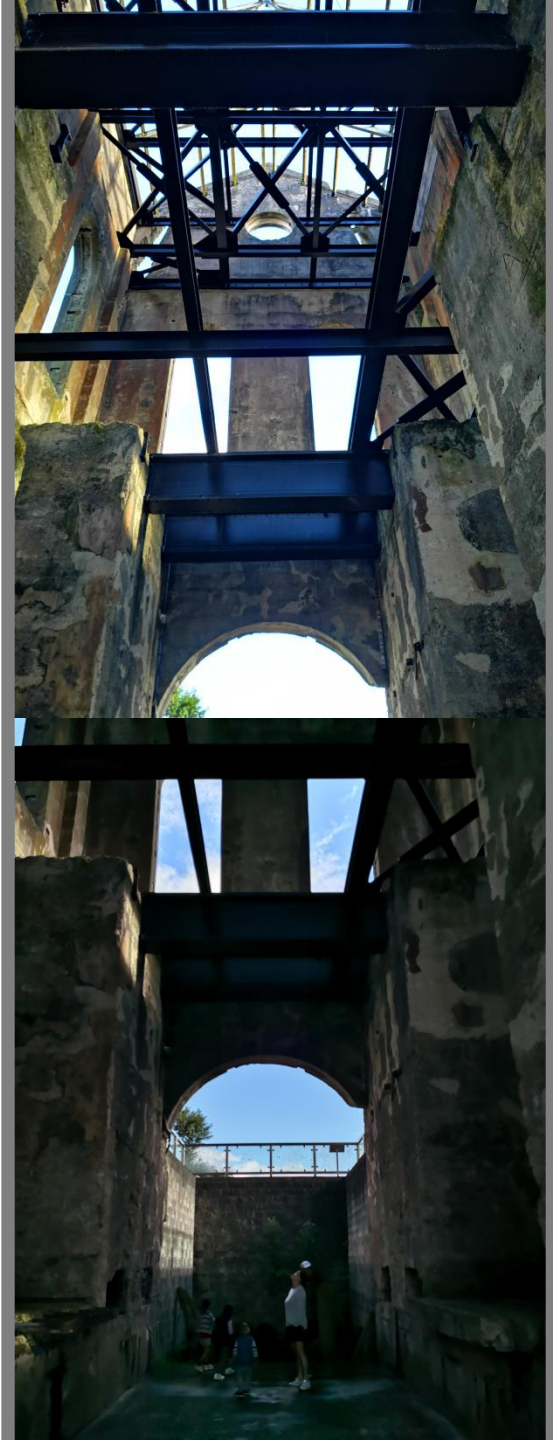
Back to the van, we are then dropped off to see the most famous iconic Pachuca tanks of Union Hill

With technical and engineering advance at the time, the tanks constituted the cyanide process of gold extraction from ore - was a pride of New Zealand mining engineers...

Protruding like big chimneys, the concrete-tanks stand sturdily with time, looks brand-new and strong

Surrounding with regenerating bush, we roll by, Waihi Battery and other remains of historical mining activities, the largest gold and silver processing mill in NZ (1980 - 1998), with ore from the famous neighbouring Martha Mine.

Time through time, we go round the tanks and others, surveying on what these simple structure be. Not at all, we are not expert but only can recall what is history from the story telling man...



That's here...so huge...by the rim of the mine, Martha's Pit.

A bit blackish, torn but reinforced and restored to a certain extent - the Cornish Pumphouse

In the hollow of time, there was a point in time, a move in time, a purposeful action,

water pumping, acting in extracting, tracking in money earning, getting the glitter gold for benefit

In the skeleton of this pumphouse, there the kids wonder - what the time can be, how big can it be...

in the midst of moment, there flies flights of time, in the era of early exploration, in the search for gold, in the era of gold rush

We step forward, look aback to what had been

What do you think?

...rundown, pioneer, early settlement, a monument, a remain of what has been...

A reminiscent of time...



Anti-clockwise Pit Rim Walk, starting from Kenny Street, near the Waihi Junction Store, where the ore conveyor belt is...

Through the walking path, first glimpse of the mine is the relocated Grand Junction Refinery Building behind the wire mesh on the side of the walkway (not open to public). Pretty well preserved and confined, with a historical cart nearby.

Meandering through the track with native bush...comes the eye-catching never ending swirl of path...

with concentric path marking the open cast Martha Mine, the "Heart of Gold" in Waihi - the whirlpool of Martha's Pit...

A slip in the North Wall, all Mine operations comes to an interruption - a standstill under the autumn sun.

A breathtaking view of the historical Mine comes up at the highest point on the north wall.

Not far on the west comes the Waihi Goldmine Lookout...

Taking 30 years for timely filling to form a lake...That's thirty years of development for recreational purpose, Martha Open Pit Project, a rehabilitation for later generations.

