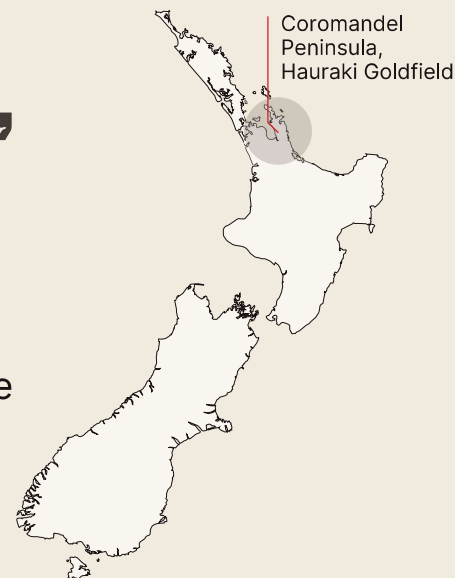


Epithermal Gold in the Coromandel Peninsula, New Zealand

The Coromandel Peninsula's epithermal gold-silver deposits, within the Hauraki Goldfield, have yielded 12 million ounces of gold, with 75% sourced from the world-class Waihi vein system. Underground mining continues at Waihi, and a new underground mine is planned 10 km north at Wharekirauponga.



History

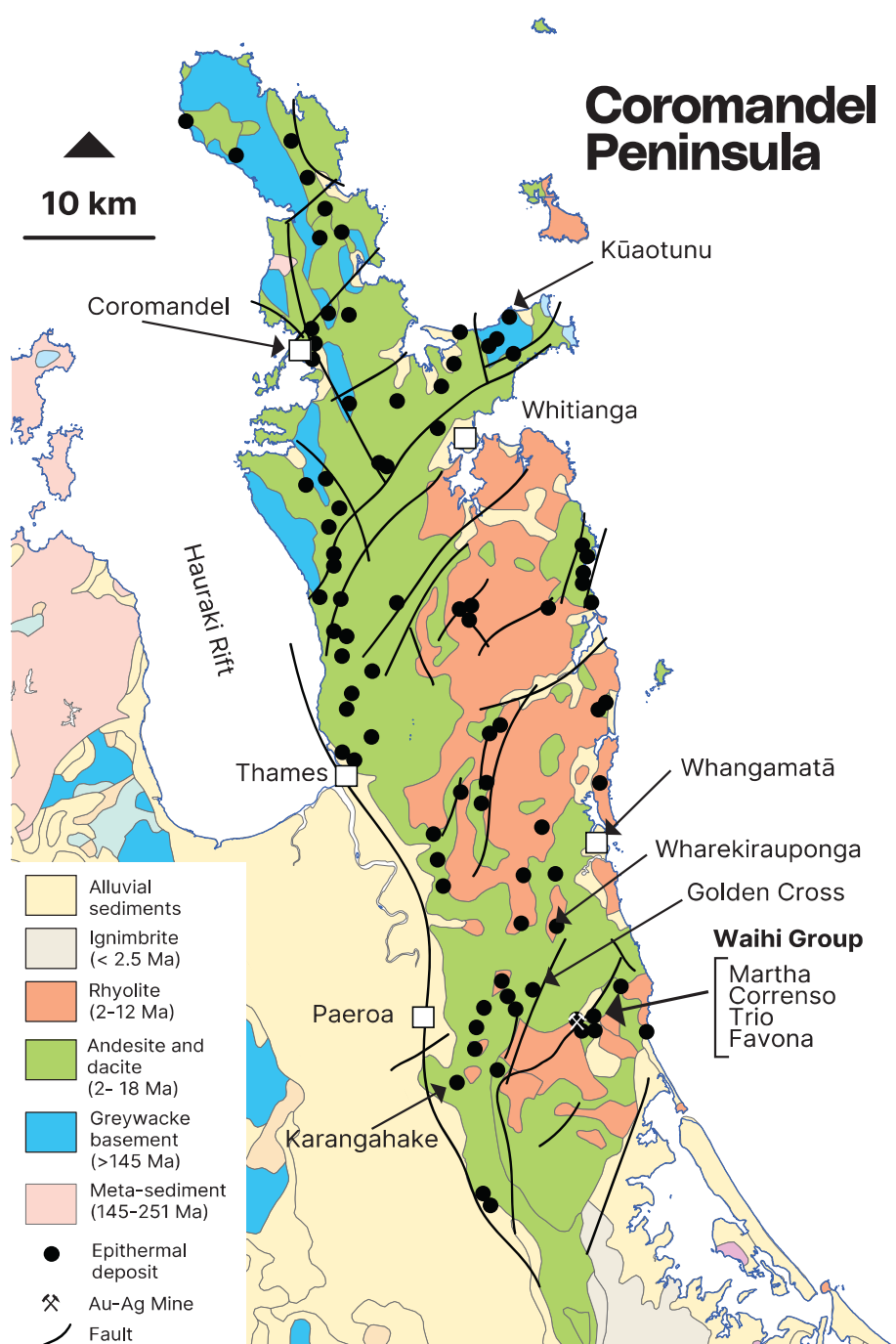
Gold was first officially discovered in New Zealand in 1852 at Coromandel. While early placer deposits were small, they led to the discovery of rich hard-rock quartz veins, with underground mines operating since 1862. The Martha Mine in Waihi, the largest underground mine, closed in 1952, before reopening as an open-pit mine in 1988, then subsequently through underground mining. Elsewhere, modern operations included mining at Golden Cross and Karangahake as well as resource definition at Wharekirauponga, the latter on track to become the next underground mine.

Regional Geology

The geological foundation of the Coromandel Peninsula consists of Jurassic-age greywacke, overlain by Miocene to Pliocene subaerial volcanic rocks that were deposited over the last 18 million years as part of rifting at the developing modern Australia-Pacific plate boundary. The region's volcanism, dominated by andesites, dacites, and later rhyolites, ceased around 2 million years ago, shifting southeast to the Taupō Volcanic Zone.



The region has high quality geological maps that are also available as rich GIS digital datasets.



Mineral Deposits

Gold deposits formed as epithermal quartz veins in volcanic-related geothermal systems. The veins, typically 1 to 5 m wide, are steeply dipping and record multiple mineralising events. The Martha vein system at Waihi is the largest, extending 1.5 km long, 500 m wide, and mined to 600 m depth, with individual veins reaching 30 m wide. These, and other nearby vein sets collectively form the larger Waihi vein system, a major contributor to New Zealand's gold production.



Banded quartz vein at Golden Cross (Photo: Tony Christie).



View southeast of Martha open pit (1988-2015) in the town of Waihi (photo: OceanaGold).



Exploration Data and Surveys

Exploration and mining in New Zealand require government permits, with exploration data publicly available at www.nzpam.govt.nz. Key datasets include:

- airborne geophysical surveys;
- rock, stream and soil geochemical analyses;
- drill core data from key prospects.



Investment and Development Opportunities

The Coromandel Peninsula remains highly prospective for new gold discoveries and resource expansion. Recent finds at Favona, Correnso, and Wharekurauponga highlight the district's continued potential. Explorers can leverage extensive open-file geological data and reinterpreted models to uncover new targets. Joint venture opportunities may also exist within current permits, making this an attractive destination for investment.

Infrastructure and Accessibility

The region is well-connected, with key towns including Thames (population 7,630), Whitianga (6,440), Waihi (5,870), Paeroa (4,640), and Whangamatā (4,500). The peninsula features coastal and interior road networks, with major transport hubs at Auckland (international airport), Hamilton (airport), and Tauranga (airport), each about a 1 hour drive from the peninsula. Additional infrastructure includes ports in Auckland and Tauranga, as well as rail freight services from Hamilton and Tauranga. There's also small port facilities at Coromandel town, servicing the large aquaculture industry.



Liquid gold at Waihi mine (Photo: OceanaGold).

Key Features



Significant gold-silver potential with multiple prospects



Strong regional infrastructure supporting mining activities



Recent discoveries at Favona, Correnso, and Wharekurauponga



Opportunity for discoveries beneath post-mineral cover



Continued production from a world-class gold deposit at Waihi



Established mining operations with ongoing investment



Extensive government-held open-file geological and exploration data

With its proven gold resources, ongoing exploration successes, and favourable mining environment, the Coromandel Peninsula offers exceptional opportunities for investment and development in the gold sector.