

# our news

MARCH 2022

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## Business update

Tēnā koe,



Happy New Year and I trust you had a relaxing holiday period with friends and family.

As announced at the end of last year, I have recently taken over as the Managing Director of Methanex New

Zealand and am enjoying the transition to the new role. I've been with Methanex for a number of years and was, most recently, the Director of Finance and Head of Global Marine Fuel, Market Development.

Last year, our Safety Case was approved by Work Safe New Zealand. As part of this work, we will be sharing with you a brochure to inform you of the potential hazards from our operations and what to do in an unlikely event of an emergency. Operating safely is our key focus and our team work hard to ensure that our good safety record

is maintained. I thank them for their hard work in this area.

We have much to look forward to in 2022 with a big year of maintenance for our plants to ensure they are reliable and safe to operate. We invest a significant amount each year on our maintenance programme that supports hundreds of local contracting jobs on top of the work undertaken by our own staff. When we last measured it, our operations contributed around 10% of the region's economy and helped keep Taranaki "a place like no other".

Thank you for your support towards Methanex and I look forward to updating you in the coming months.

**Noho ora mai.**

**Stuart McCall**  
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# turnaround

## 2022 MOTUNUI



## Upcoming shutdown and turnaround

Methanex's Motunui facility will become a hive of activity come May when it embarks on a major maintenance project.

A distillation train turnaround will start in May followed by a methanol plant turnaround a month later. During the May work, the distillation project, one of the methanol plants will be shutdown. It's expected to take four months to complete.

The work is a regular event in any chemical and petrochemical production facility's lifetime with Methanex completing these projects every five years.

Manager, Projects and Planning Christo Janse van Rensburg said between 500 and 600 local contractors will be on site alongside Methanex's employees.

"Due to the borders being closed and associated MIQ requirements, we

can't rely on overseas resources for assistance," he said about our usual practice of using employees from other Methanex sites.

Porta-coms have already been moved on site to house the hundreds of workers.

With the two maintenance projects separated means Methanex can spread resources over two events.

Covid also presented logistical challenges with shipping. Christo said the team placed orders much earlier than previous projects to allow sufficient time for spares to be delivered in time.

Christo said the turnaround is important as it provides Methanex with the opportunity to verify that equipment condition is safe to continue operating.

"It is an important part of the toolkit to

ensure safe and reliable operation," he said.

"The good reliability achieved by the Motunui plants over recent years is partly due to the good work achieved in the 2017 and 2018 turnarounds."

Neighbours to the plants might notice the following occur on and around the Motunui site:

- Increase in flaring when plant is decommissioned to release gas in the pipes so work can be done safely
- Less noise – parts of the plant will be shut down for maintenance
- Increased traffic – traffic management will be in place around the entrance way of the Motunui site

These changes are completely normal procedures to ensure the projects are completed safely.





## Methanex key in murals at school

The native birds represent the three houses at Huirangi School and emblem reflects the school's community.

Methanex is behind the local community by investing in Huirangi Primary School's breath-taking murals.

The organisation funded the school's two murals to showcase its identity on the outer walls of a classroom block, situated south of Methanex off Waitara Road.

Local artist Michael Montgomery and screen painter David Moore painted the two murals.

Principal Natalie Looney said the exterior of the school needed a well overdue uplift by adding some colour.

"But also to reflect our bicultural community and surroundings," she said.

The mural on the northern end of the building represents the school's three houses: Pukeko, Tui and Kiwi.

"I asked Michael to draft some different designs for us and as a staff we collectively chose the one we have."

While featuring the native New Zealand birds, Mount Taranaki and korus are present.

At the southern end, the Māori tohu (emblem) was designed in May last year. Looney said she worked with children and local design and manufacturing clothing company Game Changer.

"A tohu was created for is that reflects Kairau Marae, the Waitara River and the manaia that runs through the middle of the tohu represents our community looking down over us."

The tohu will also feature on the school's hoodie.

Montgomery, who has painted around the world, said the students are amazed to see the progress made to the murals every time they come to school.

"They always come and have a look; I get some of them to do some painting

as well. It's nice that they can feel part of the process," he said.

"There is now a bit of competition between them about what bird looks the best."

Looney said without Methanex's contribution, both murals would not have been painted.

"The cost for things like murals aren't included in our budget, so we are truly grateful to Methanex for the financial contribution.

"These murals will be part of our school for a long time to come."

Originally, the murals were due to be finished in time for the school's 150th jubilee, but that has been postponed until Taranaki Anniversary next year, because of Covid-19.

## High angle rescue training completed

Members of Methanex's emergency response team (ERT) train monthly and were involved in a high angle rescue exercise.

A purpose-built platform was built in the Motunui plant's firehouse for these types of exercises using a dummy and plenty of ropes, pulleys and carabiners.

ERT member Kris Moller said the training is vital to prepare the team for any situation.

"We have a lot of employees and contractors working at heights around our facilities and should something happen to them and need to be brought down, we will have the skills and equipment to bring them down safely."

He said Methanex invests in safety equipment to ensure they have the best possible resources should a rescue occur on site.

Methanex also houses plenty of firefighting equipment in the unlikely case of an emergency. These include two Mack foam tenders – one at each site – ute with a hose trailer, rescue van and hazmat trailer.

Motunui and Waitara Valley plants have firewater ponds and hydrants and water cannons are strategically place around the facilities.



A dummy is used during Methanex's high angle rescue training weighing close to 70kg.



# Interns share experiences from summer programme

Methanex's 11 summer interns had a chance to sum up their time working for the company.

The interns, from a number of universities around the country, spent the last three months accumulating practical hours to complete their qualifications. They were assigned to work within many different departments across the business and are mostly studying engineering at university.

The interns presented their experiences and skills developed virtually in front of Methanex employees, including members of the leadership team.

They also took questions from the audience about their findings and observations.

The students were involved in the following.

- Abi Rajagopal and Jeffery Luo: Joint presentation and discussed reformer

tube life management program and reformer tube data analysis.

- Ryan O'Bryne: Discussed PLC software logic diagrams.
- Rebekah Fitz Patrick: Studied entity calculations for intrinsically safe equipment.
- Fraser Eade: Developing the reformer tube inspection economole tool and re-writing software.
- Kate Couper: Creating a ranking and prediction system for piping at risk of CUI and SCC.
- Dunbar Sloane: Was involved in plant information (Pi) vision transition from Pi process book software, daily production summary and an effluent plant revamp.
- Janie Clarkson: Worked on the greenhouse gas emissions inventory and templates and effluent plant revamp.

- Fletcher Miles: Investigated ethanol profile in distillation refining columns and developed a tri-methyl amine model.

- Wil Smith: Designed and analysed a piping system for an efficiency improving and updated line class specifications.

- Arsheen Hasolkar: Experienced and exposed to elements of process safety and reviewed many assessments and processes.

Human Resource Coordinator, Erin Roche, said the students did well to present their findings virtually and that she learnt a lot herself about the various projects shared.

"They all presented their experiences at Methanex over the summer really well. The projects they were involved in will help them to complete their qualifications."

Plant Manager, Alistair Simmers, said the intern programme is beneficial to Methanex.

"The projects we ask you to do benefit us as an organisation. The effort that you put in is very valuable for us. Hopefully along the way you've learnt a bit about us and gained some skills for the future" he told the group.

This summer's intake had 170 applications and the programme has been running for 20 years.



Methanex interns Kate Couper and Wil Smith at their desks during their summer programme.

**We welcome your feedback**

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