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Images clockwise from top left: Jeff Lowe with David and Denby from Woodleigh School who took the supreme award for their entry 'Solar City' at the PSANZ Science Fair; The Methanex team in Round the Mountain Relay; Waitara Valley operations; Blessing at Motunui with Ngati Rahiri hapu and staff; planting day at Waitara Valley

Business Update

Brian Ropitini
Director of Manufacturing



Tena koe,

It's hard to believe Christmas is almost upon us again. It's been another busy year at Methanex. We're proud and grateful to all our staff, who have worked extremely hard on the extra maintenance work that's been underway to make our plants run efficiently and reliably. We also appreciate the support we've had from dozens of local contracting companies, many of whom had to rearrange their priorities to accommodate Methanex projects. Well done.

Along with everything that's been going on at our sites it's been pleasing to progress in other

areas, such as our occupational health and other safety programmes. It's also been great developing a closer relationship with Ngati Rahiri. We've all learned a lot through engaging with them to monitor excavation work being done to replace the lining of bunded areas surrounding some methanol storage tanks at Motunui.

Have a safe and relaxing break over the Christmas and New Year period.

Noho ora mai
Brian

Methanol blending opportunities in New Zealand

Blending methanol with petrol is the way of the future for hydrocarbon-powered transport, says Methanex NZ Managing Director Kevin Maloney.

The company is seeking to include methanol under a review of the Fuel Specifications, underway by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment for methanol blending with petrol in New Zealand.

"Methanol is economically competitive with oil products and it is a cleaner burning fuel," he told a Transport Fuels & Fleet Management Conference in Auckland on October 21.

Fuel blending largely occurs in China and, today, represents 10% of the global methanol market. Estimates suggest that, on average, methanol is blended in gasoline in China at a rate of 6-8%.

Methanol is also needed in making biodiesel, which represents about 4% of the global methanol market.

The other fuel that methanol plays a part in making is dimethyl ether (DME), a product with similar properties to LPG/propane. Again, most demand for DME is in China where it is used as a cooking fuel or blended with LPG or reticulated town-gas.

Methanol has several benefits as a transportation fuel.

"First of all, it's a liquid fuel with similar properties to gasoline," he says. "The logistics systems – the tanks, vessels, barges, railcars, trucks, you name it – used for methanol are identical to gasoline."

Kevin says methanol is a high octane fuel, so is a cheap way to upgrade regular petrol to more premium grades.

Methanol also has the potential to provide more energy security and fuel competition in New Zealand, which is one of the largest global producers of this product.

"We produce about 3 billion litres of methanol, which is half the amount of petrol consumed in New Zealand on an energy basis," he says.

Image: Methanex New Zealand Managing Director Kevin Maloney presenting at the Transport Fuels conference in Auckland



Methanex Safe Days helps keep Coastguard buoyant

Staying safe at work for Methanex NZ is helping to keep people safe at sea.

For each incident-free day, the company gives \$150 a day to a charity selected by committee for a quarter of the year.

The latest recipient is Coastguard Taranaki, which received \$13,350.

President Lee Drummond says the money will be used for the relocation of their gear shed and to update safety equipment.

"Everybody is a volunteer – the motto is 'charity saving lives at sea,'" he says.

All of the Coastguard's money comes through donations and fundraising, so the support from Methanex is invaluable, Lee says.

Coastguard Taranaki has many strings to its bow, including operating Channel 61, which the boating community uses to report comings and goings, plus how many people are on board. There were 12,800 trip reports last year.

The organisation also deals with serious incidents at sea, most of which relate to break downs and boats that cannot make it back to shore.

"We have also looked for kite surfers, kayakers, over-due boats – all sorts of scenarios," Lee says. "We have had some perilous situations. The last really serious one was the Paritutu tragedy."



Image: The Todd Energy Coastguard Taranaki boat gets called out to help people at sea

There are 336 supporter members of Coastguard Taranaki and 33 volunteers, who do various jobs to keep the public safe at sea.

"We see every day the risks that some people take and I became involved in the Coastguard to make a difference, to help," Lee says.

Health support integral to staff well-being

Every year Occupational Health adviser Christine Scott devises a new health promotion plan for Methanex staff.

Last year it was a bladder cancer screening programme, of which 83% of staff took part. "We did not have anybody with cancer, but six people needed a follow-up and one person needed surgery," she says.

There is no national screening for bowel cancer so, in 2013, staff were screened for this illness. In New Zealand each year, about 3000 people are diagnosed with bowel cancer. Screening for this cancer will be offered again in 2016.

A big drive this year has been fatigue management. "We have put a whole lot of systems in place and have areas for sleeps and naps and people have been educated on healthy sleep regimes."

Methanex employees have embraced the programme because they realise fatigue has a big impact on illness and injury. This is particularly important because staff sometimes face unplanned work and many teams work on shifts.

The latter are susceptible to several types of cancer and have higher rates of heart disease.

High performance nutritionist and sleep scientist Richard Swinbourne has been called on to help people with fatigue training, weight management and heart health.

Immunisations are another area of focus for Christine. "We did whooping cough vaccines last year and now we are looking at offering the shingles vaccine".

Flu vaccines are also offered to both employees and their spouse, along with skin checks and smoking cessation support.

All staff and family members including children are given the opportunity to be trained in first aid. "We've had a really good uptake for that," Christine says.

"We're really passionate about health and having it involved in all aspects of the business."

Image: Occupational Health Advisor Christine Scott at the medical centre on site at Motunui



Image: Te Kupenga Ritai watches soil being removed at Motunui

Hapu on hand to monitor excavations

A ground-breaking project has seen Ngati Rahiri hapu monitoring on-site at Motunui for the first time.

Monitors from the hapu are overseeing an area of the plant bunding, which is being dug up and relined to meet new regulations.

Ngati Rahiri Land Liaison Officer Maryjane Waru says this is the first time the hapu has been involved in a partnership with Methanex NZ on an excavation project at the site.

"It's the whole acknowledgement of mana whenua," she says. "For us it's so important."

Four monitors, who work on rotation, are the first eyes on the land being excavated. "So if anything surfaces the tangata whenua are the first to be there," she says.

"They are there to provide cultural protection for the area and the works on that site."

The project began on October 12 with a blessing or karakia and conversation.

"For our people it was just unbelievable and there were stories told on that morning of how families used to ride their horses and walk along the beach," Maryjane says.

It was special for the families to be monitoring and working on their land where their ancestors once stood and planted food. There were a lot of gardens in this area.

The hapu monitors have cultural and historical knowledge, along with understanding of health and safety practices, which enables them to work confidently at the Motunui site.

There are weekly and daily debriefs with the monitors and regular contact with Methanex Project Manager Teri Limmer, who says the monitors have worked really well with the rest of the crew.

Methanex Director of Manufacturing Brian Ropitini says it's been a successful project. "It's been great for Methanex and Ngati Rahiri to work alongside one another. We've learned more about the history of the land and it's also helped build and strengthen our relationship with local hapu. We look forward to more opportunities to work together in the future."

Maryjane says this project is a template that can be used for future partnerships. It's also enabled hapu members to work on the land and they have all learnt new skills.

So far, no artefacts have been unearthed during the excavation.

Community Support in 2015

Methanex is committed to participating in and improving the community in which we operate through providing sponsorships, grants, gifts in kind and staff volunteering. This year through our Social Responsibility programme we've been proud to support the following organisations:

Image: Methanex summer vacation students India Aston and Charlotte Ralphs help out for the day at the Urenui Playcentre



Foundation Partner to the Taranaki Health Foundation, supporting the We Heart Taranaki campaign for a new Angiography Machine and Suite.

Alpine Cliff Rescue

Bayley's Mountain to Surf Marathon

Cancer Society of Taranaki for Daffodil Day & Relay for Life

Coastguard Taranaki

Devon Intermediate School Twilight Gala

Egmont Village School Gardening Competition

Energy Sector Fishing Competition

Fonterra Taranaki Science and Technology Fair

Fostering Kids New Zealand

Francis Douglas Memorial College & Sacred Heart Girls College Hillary Challenge event

Heart Foundation New Zealand

Huirangi Primary School for an environmental school trip & gala day

Inglewood and Districts Health Trust

Inglewood Primary School Fun Run & camp
James Bailey Memorial Scholarship Adriana Hunt and Ashley Cash

Kai Rau Marae Trust for Te Ra O Maehe

Kaimata School & Districts 125th Jubilee

Kids Can Santa Run

Malaghan Institute of Medical Research

Manukorihi Golf Club Seniors tournament

Manukorihi Intermediate School Computers

Manukorihi Intermediate School for Duffy Books in Homes

Manukorihi Pa Trustees photocopier for Owae Marae

Methanex Bell Block Aquatic Centre
Major Sponsorship

Methanex Family Fun Ride

Methanex Maths Spectacular
Major Sponsorship

Methanex Non-renewable Scholarship
Adriana Hunt

Methanex Renewable scholarships: Miriam Chadwick, Cameron Megaw, Adele Parli & Dilan Wilson, Waitara High School

Methanex Undergraduate Scholarships in Engineering; Kate Kleinsman and Vinati Chaudhari

Migrant Connections Taranaki

Naki Run Amuck Sponsorship

New Plymouth Boys & Girls High Schools for the Hillary Challenge event & Quiz night

New Plymouth Boys' High School Magazine

New Plymouth SPCA

Ngati Rahiri Hapu Marae Project

NP Riding for the Disabled Sponsorship

NZ Fire Service Skytower climb

Petroleum Skills Association Science Fair

Puke Ariki Book in Every Back Pack programme

Puketapu School Gala

Rerekapa Hut Supporters

Roadsafe Taranaki

Ronald McDonald House

Sailability Taranaki

Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Conference

Spotswood College Can Am Science Competition

St Johns Ambulance Service

Stratford Community Childcare Centre

Stratford Companion Animal Assistant Trust

Taranaki Disaster Relief Fund

Taranaki Hearing Dogs

Taranaki Hospice

Taranaki Puanga Festival

Taranaki Regional Council 2015
Environmental Awards

Taranaki Rescue Helicopter Trust

Taranaki Under 18 Girls Hockey first aid supplies

Taranaki Whanau Maori Rugby
League first aid supplies

Taranaki Women's Refuge donation, gifted computers and clothing collection

Urenui Boating Club Boat

Urenui Bowling

Urenui Playcentre

University of Canterbury

Urenui Volunteer Fire Brigade tornado relief

Waitara Alive Christmas in the Park

Waitara High School Wood Technology, 3d Printer, first aid supplies, PTA & Quiz night sponsorship

Waitara kids Christmas party

Waitara Kindergartens safety seats for transport van

Waitara Lawn Tennis Club replacement of flood lights and covers

Waitara Lions Christmas Parade

Waitara Rugby League Football Club mouth guards for club players

Waitara Squash Club equipment

Waitara Surf Casting & Angling Club for Take a Kid Fishing

Waitara Town and Country Club Christmas Celebration

Welbourn School resources

WISE Better Homes Waitara