



Top left: Students from Waitara High and Inglewood High Schools visiting the Motunui plant; Bottom left: Roy Blake, left, volunteers at the East Taranaki Environment Trust (ETET) who are introducing kōkako back into the region; Middle: Distillation columns at Methanex's Motunui Plant; Right: Gary Rielly assisting ETET with weeding at Purangi.



Business update

Brian Ropitini
Director of Manufacturing

Tena koe,

As we move towards the holiday period, it's a good opportunity to reflect on our 2017 to date, to report on what's happening at Methanex NZ right now and to look ahead to a 2018 with a well populated 'to-do' list.

For any large organisation like ours, a calendar year covers a great deal of activity.

While there isn't enough room to discuss everything, one highlight from 2017 has been the excellent work of our employees as part of our social responsibility programme.

It makes me proud to see how staff have given their own time to local initiatives like the Waitara Take a Kid Fishing event, metalwork classes at Waitara High School and the Special Children's Extravaganza. You can read more about our 2017 social responsibility work on page 4.

As I write this column our summer intern programme is about to begin. This year we have 10 university students coming to work with us in various departments until mid-February. Being able to provide these young people with work experience is very satisfying for our organisation.

Finally to 2018, the early months of which will be spent finalising our 'safety cases' for submission to WorkSafe. A safety case is a new process where we demonstrate to WorkSafe that we are operating our plants safely. We're preparing a case for each of our sites, at Motunui, Waitara Valley, Omata and Port Taranaki.

Work has already started on these documents and we see this as an opportunity to identify improvements to ensure our processes are robust and can be depended on to keep our employees, contractors, neighbours and visitors safe.

Noho ora mai
Brian



In this edition

- Business update
- Endangered birds returning to remote Taranaki forest
- On the road (in the air) again
- Here, there and everywhere - Methanol in our lives
- Diversity alive and kicking at Methanex
- Social responsibility about more than money

Endangered birds returning to remote Taranaki forest



First kiwi and now kōkako, East Taranaki's Pouiatoa forest is a haven for the regeneration of threatened bird populations – and Methanex New Zealand is proud to be playing a major role.

The company has partnered with the East Taranaki Environment Trust (ETET) to reintroduce 40 kōkako to the conservation area that lies alongside the upper reaches of the Waitara River.

ETET Chair Karen Schumacher says: "We are creating a legacy with our kiwi and kōkako protection.

Ten pairs of threatened kōkako will return to East Taranaki next year.

"We can't do it alone, it will take a community to ensure the kōkako becomes a thriving population and we are thrilled that Methanex and its employees have committed to be a major partner on this exciting journey."

The first major milestone of the journey will be the release in 2018 of 10 male/female pairs of kōkako, currently living in Pureora forest east of Te Kuiti.

The three-year Methanex partnership will support the relocation costs for the birds as well as continued pest control measures and the creation of public access to the release area.

"The Pouiatoa forest is truly magnificent – it's one of the last remaining untouched areas of Taranaki," says C Shift Team Leader and Methanex project representative Roy Blake.

Roy recently visited the 13,000 hectare site with representatives from ETET and the Department of Conservation, plus two scientists from Japan who are looking to implement a similar pest control system for mongoose on Okinawa island.

In a five-hour tramp, Roy and the group walked along two trap lines in the heart of the kōkako release area.

"The traps are gas-fired and situated every 50 to 100 metres depending on the target pest," says Roy. "You hardly notice them but they are very effective.

"I feel honoured to be the company representative on such a worthwhile initiative.

"It's appropriate that Methanex is playing such a key role in a project that can enhance the ecosystem around the Waitara River."

On the road (in the air) again

With a few hundred thousand kilometres of Methanex travel already under her belt, New Plymouth's Vanessa James is hitting the road once more.

The global corporation's most senior Kiwi, Vanessa has travelled extensively across the Methanex family of sites and will relocate to the Vancouver headquarters before Christmas.

The travelling isn't glamorous but it's a privilege to have experienced so many different countries and cultures, says the former New Plymouth Girls' High School student who joined the company's Auckland office as a business analyst in 1995.

It won't be Vanessa's first spell in Canada, having enjoyed her first overseas posting in Vancouver from 2003 to 2008. A five-year stint in Dallas, running the company's North American marketing business, was Vanessa's next move before she came back to New Zealand with her husband and three children in 2013.

"There has always been a strong New Zealand influence in the Methanex group with representation at an executive level, and I am proud to be a part of that," says Vanessa.

Methanex New Zealand is the most beautiful setting of all the company's sites around the world, adds the Senior Vice President Global Marketing and Logistics. "We have the mountain on one side of the plant and the Tasman Sea on the other – there's really nothing like it anywhere in the Methanex family."

Among many highlights of her time with Methanex New Zealand, Vanessa looks back with pride on the company's contribution to the opening of the angiography suite at Taranaki Base hospital in June last year.

"We were part of something really positive and long-lasting within our community," she recalls. "I particularly remember how the



Much-travelled Methanex executive and New Plymouth local Vanessa James is leaving NZ for the company's Vancouver headquarters.

Methanex staff got engaged with the campaign, making it so much more than just a cash donation."

Her Methanex NZ colleagues are not the only thing Vanessa is going to miss, having just resigned from her position on the board of Venture Taranaki Trust (VTT). She says: "VTT is a model for regional economic growth and tourism agencies in New Zealand and I have really enjoyed being part of an organisation that does such a great job for our province."

As she and the James family leave for a second Canadian adventure, Vanessa's heart will always remain in New Plymouth, where she'll leave behind her mum, brother, two sisters and five nephews and nieces.

"We are going to miss this place and all the colleagues, friends and relations we have here," she says. "But I've no doubt we'll be coming back."

Here, there and everywhere – Methanol in our lives



The animation shows how methanol is used in hundreds of everyday items.

Did you know that every day you probably use or see products that were made using methanol?

From clothes to carpets and transport to technology, methanol is an essential ingredient of modern life, as shown by a new animated video now viewable on the Methanex website.

“Methanol is used as a building block to produce hundreds of everyday consumer and industrial items,” says Public Affairs Manager Juliet Larkin.

“The animation reveals the wide range of uses and it also covers how methanol is made, both here in Taranaki and at other Methanex sites around the world.”

A few methanol facts (for even more watch the three-minute video at vimeo.com/methanex/MethanolNewZealand) ... →

Methanol:

- Is a clear, colourless and biodegradable liquid that’s a key ingredient in the materials used to construct and insulate our homes, making them energy efficient.
- Is used to make the fabrics, carpets and clothing that style our lives and the technology that keeps us connected.
- Is found in countless familiar items, including flat screen TVs, cellphones, furniture, silicone caulking, pillows, car steering wheels and solar panels.
- Is used to fuel cars, buses, trucks and ships.
- Is emerging as a clean-burning fuel for power generation in remote communities.
- Is made by combining natural gas with steam to produce synthesis gas, which is then converted and distilled into methanol.



Methanex operators Annette Lamb and Sally Fleming.

Diversity alive and kicking at Methanex

In a traditionally male-dominated sector, the forward-thinking approach of Methanex is being demonstrated by a growing number of women in non-administrative roles.

A good example are the company’s five female operators who help to control the plants at Waitara Valley and Motunui.

The organisation achieved a notable milestone recently when panel operators Keely Lister and Steph Cameron-Miller controlled the Waitara Valley plant during a 12-hour night shift. “We think this was the first example in Methanex New Zealand history of a women-only team being in charge of a plant control room,” says Operations Manager Alistair Simmers.

Diversity in the workforce, be it through gender, age or ethnicity, is a real positive for the company says Human Resources Manager Lara Barton.

“The more ideas and viewpoints we have on the team, the better.

“A diverse group of employees – younger and older, experienced and inexperienced, locals and those from elsewhere in New Zealand and overseas – combine to provide a wide range of perspectives, approaches and ideas. It minimises the risk of silo thinking, generates a broader outlook and really helps us to be a high-performing business.

“I think that women are increasingly realising that some of the traditionally male-dominated positions are viable career options for them, which is fantastic to see.”

Motunui field operator Annette Lamb has thoroughly enjoyed her role since joining Methanex in 2011. Her male colleagues are extremely open to working with a female operator and she enjoys a great rapport with her co-workers, she says.

“There are a few challenges, particularly if you’re not into cars or fishing, but I think a good team takes all sorts and I really value the experience and learnings I get from the people around me.

“From a female perspective I like to think I bring empathy to my team, the sharing of a different perspective and sometimes even making people think before they speak! It’s good being able to offer the balance of a different perspective and a different skill set.”

One of four female operators at Waitara Valley, Sally Fleming enjoys the diverse working environment.

“Methanex is an excellent and diverse company to work for,” she says. “Since the Waitara Valley restart in 2013, Methanex has supported my colleagues and me in numerous ways with developing our skills and knowledge and together we’ve grown as a team.

“In that respect, as a female operator, I don’t want or expect to be treated any differently from my colleagues. I am part of a close team, in which each of us bring our own personalities and strengths to make the team its own unique unit.”

Social responsibility about more than money

From schools to marae and beach clean-ups to Vietnam veterans, 2017 has been a year of great variety for the Methanex NZ social responsibility programme.

The company provided more than \$10,000 in grants to 12 local community organisations, adding to sponsorships worth more than \$390,000.

But the support is about much more than money, according to John Winter, Chair of Methanex NZ's Social Responsibility Committee which determines grant recipients. "Increasingly we are trying to be proactive and engage more with the organisations that we're supporting," says John who manages the company's Motunui warehouse.

John counts a visit to July's Special Children's Extravaganza in New Plymouth among the highlights of the year. "It was great to spend a few hours there and see the benefits of our funding first-hand."

Women's Refuge was another grant recipient and the committee enjoyed a visit from the charity to share how the funding had been used to restock safehouse kitchens. Other 2017 recipients have included New Plymouth Riding for the Disabled, Rerekapa Hut Supporters, five local schools and the Waitara Foodbank, which recently received an extra donation after being burgled twice in 10 days.

Methanex has three areas of focus for social responsibility initiatives:

Partnership with Employees

Methanex partners with employees who contribute financially or as volunteers to organisations in their community. This partnership can be in the form of matching financial donations, providing corporate support for fundraising opportunities, or coordinating volunteer events at which other Methanex employees can participate.

Responsible Care

Initiatives in this area include community outreach activities and programmes related to health, safety and environmental initiatives.

Education

Scholarships are a vital part of Methanex's social responsibility programme. The organisation provides undergraduate and graduate scholarships, co-op opportunities and summer employment to students who are pursuing studies in engineering, environmental studies, marketing, public affairs and international business. Funding academic research in areas aligned with Methanex business is also an important part of the education portfolio.

Sponsorship funding is fully committed for 2018, however, for information on how to apply for a grant (up to \$1,000) call Methanex Reception on 06 754 9700.



Waitara Foodbank was among the numerous local organisations to receive Methanex support during 2017.

We welcome your feedback.

Please call Public Affairs Manager, Juliet Larkin, on 06 754 9700 or email us at nzpublicaffairs@methanex.com