



Clockwise from left: Delivering jackets and gumboots to Waitara East school, fundraising for Women's Refuge and work inside the refining towers at Motunui.

Business update

Brian Ropitini
Director, Manufacturing

Tena koe,



Collaboration is something we are proud of doing at Methanex, whether its internally across business functions, with other Methanex manufacturing sites or with other organisations.

We've recently completed some large maintenance projects, such as inspection and repairs to the inside of both refining towers to

improve their efficiency, and it was great to see staff pulling together for a successful outcome.

Having recently returned from a trip to Trinidad we've also been focussing on how we work with our other manufacturing businesses, globally, on technical issues, managing big events such as turnarounds, sharing learnings and continuing to improve how we manage our plants.

In this newsletter we cover working with the Port on emergency response, strengthening iwi engagement and some of the community events and initiatives we're involved with.

We hope to see many of you at our public open day at our Motunui site coming up on September 21. It's part of our ongoing commitment to be open with the community and a great opportunity to take a bus tour, talk with staff and learn about methanol.

Noho ora mai,
Brian

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Iwi monitoring reveals history

Stones used for pounding flax and a pathway and steps have been uncovered during the trench digging for the OMV cable project, which went across Methanex Land.

Iwi monitors have identified stones that have been shaped by Maori, who previously lived in the area.

Ngati Rahiri hapu monitor Kris Marsh says some pounding stones were found. "It fits a male hand, it's heavy and flat on one side and you can see where it has been shaped with a groove so a hand can hold it comfortably. They would use it for softening harakeke (flax) for nets and fishing lines and there's a sharpening stone as well."

She said the findings, including the remains of a pathway and steps, adds to the hapu knowledge of the area.

She said there is pa site where the Methanex Motunui site is now situated and nearby at Pohokura is where food gardens were. Iwi monitoring was first carried out at Pohokura in the early 2000s when the land was being excavated, and the remains of houses and cooking areas were uncovered.



Iwi monitor Kris Marsh with a marker stone and pounding stones uncovered during trench digging

Owae Marae visit

Methanex Managers and leaders enjoyed visiting Owae Marae in Waitara in May to grow awareness and understanding of Maori culture and the history and stories of local land and people.

The visit is part of a programme aimed at building cultural understanding and strengthening relationships.

Educators Damon Ritai and Tiri Bailey, from Ngati Rahiri hapu, facilitated the hui, which included a tour of the marae, hearing stories about the carvings within the wharenuī/meeting house, and key concepts in Maori culture.

Methanex stakeholder support Jan Spanhake, also of Ngati Rahiri hapu, says she felt very proud to host the team at Owae Marae. "It was a rewarding day and we all came out with a greater appreciation of Te Ao Maori."

The Waitara Maori Women's Welfare league catered a dinner during the visit, which supported sending several young leaders to their national conference.



Exploring mechanical careers

One of the many visits to Methanex this year has been from a group of high school students studying metal technology.

Mechanical Technician Tony Martin hosted a group of Year 12 students from Waitara High School, explaining what the Maintenance Department does and where a mechanical trade could take them in the future. The students were shown the work involved in completing a job safely, including permits, job hazard analysis and site rules.

“It gave the students an insight into the variety of work Methanex does and also helps back-up the safety aspect to their school work,” says Tony.

Tony’s been working with the metal technology teacher, Pramesh Chand, over the past five years, through our maintenance department, to support the class with protective equipment (ppe) and safety advice. As a former student and with a son at the school, he enjoys being involved and seeing positive changes.

“It’s good to know they have the right PPE and do their work safely, and that’s setting them up for success in the future,” he says.

Excellence in Emergency Response

Methanex Port Supervisor Brent Sharp got a surprise recently when Ricky Hann from Port Taranaki presented him with a 2018 Port Taranaki Annual Special Recognition Award for Excellence in Emergency Response.

Over the last couple of years, Methanex has initiated and carried out several emergency exercises focusing on how they would respond to the unlikely event of a major methanol spill on a vessel. These have involved Port Taranaki, FENZ (Fire Emergency NZ), Methanex and a visiting methanol tanker.

Brent said “The learnings from these exercises have been invaluable in defining best response strategies and the incident leadership structure across our organisations. We intend to continue delivering these exercises on a regular basis.”



Methanex Maths Spectacular

A record number of intermediate and secondary students came together last month to challenge themselves in maths.

At the Methanex Maths Spectacular, held at the Plymouth Hotel, over 90 teams took part in a quiz testing their speed and ability to solve a range of problems from Pythagoras theorem and algebra to statistics, as well as logic type questions.

Organiser Kim Goodey said the quiz was a great success and the prize winners were very pleased with their awards and prizes. “It’s a great event to be part of, celebrating these top mathematicians,” she said.

Methanex has sponsored the event for more than 25 years to encourage young people to enjoy and develop a passion for maths, which may lead to a career using it.

The winners were –

Year 7 1st

Devon Intermediate: Sage Jones, Joel Penno, Aiden Chen, Tony Andrews

Year 8 1st

Highlands Intermediate: Matt Rawinson, Qingcheng Du, Olly Foy, Thomas Hope

Year 9 1st

Sacred Heart Girls’ College: Inês Palma, Heidi Johns, Bethanie Luke, Lucy Howarth

Year 10 1st

Frances Douglas Memorial College: Felix Van Hattum, Johann Torres, Jackson Corlett, Reuben Chan



Methanex

Open Day



Saturday, September 21 • 10am – 2pm

Bus tours • Interactive stalls • Activities for children



Visit our Motunui site and find out about what we do, how we keep safe and everything you need to know about methanol

To join a bus tour RSVP
nzpublicaffairs@methanex.com
or call 754 9700
(fully enclosed shoes required)

409 Main North Road,
SH3, Motunui

