Tena koe,

We’re pleased to report we’ve had really strong results in safety, with no lost time safety incidents, and our methanol facilities have been running reliably.

It’s a good position to leave the company in as this will be the final update from me. I recently announced my resignation and will be leaving Methanex soon to embark on a different chapter of my life. It’s been a rewarding journey - 34 years of service to Methanex, and prior to that Synfuel - and I’ve been fortunate to work with so many amazing colleagues.

Hard to believe how quickly time has gone by since I started at Motunui as an apprentice fitter and turner in 1985, the final year of construction of the Motunui site.

So much has changed over the years, especially the increased focus on how we keep ourselves safe and ensure the safety of everyone at our sites. Technology and better tools have enabled us to work smarter and also requiring less physical activity.

There is a greater focus on wellbeing, encouraging people to think about safety in the home, as well as maintaining work life balance. Changes in safety have also been backed up by stronger health and safety laws, which means we need to demonstrate we do what we say.

Some career highlights for me have been the restarting of the methanol plants in 2008 and 2013 after several years of plants being idled. It was rewarding being part of agile start-up teams working to get things up and running again. Also memorable is the 18 months I spent in Alberta, Canada as the Plant Manager of the Methanex Medicine Hat facility, a time where I made some special friendships and was immersed in a different culture.

A big thank you to the community – neighbours, iwi, local Government, local businesses, contractors and suppliers – for your ongoing support, enabling Methanex to operate and thrive in Taranaki.

ka kite ano,
Brian
Thanks to everyone who came along to our community open day at Motunui on Saturday, September 21st. We had about 350 visitors attend and more than 50 staff helping out, as well as Community Advisory Panel members.

NZ Managing Director Dean Richardson said it was great to see so many employees, families, neighbours and community friends attend on what was a beautiful spring day.

“I was inspired by the engagement at each of the stalls, where teams displayed their role in the plant processes. A highlight for me was spending some time with representatives from Ngati Rahiri hapu and East Taranaki Environment Trust, who ran stalls. Some fantastic pictures of the local lands from the past and present gives perspective on where we are working.”

Open Days are held every few years as part of Methanex’s ongoing engagement with the community.

Puanga Festival popularity soars

A three-day festival in Waitara celebrating Māori arts and culture continues to increase in popularity.

The annual Puanga Festival, held October 31-November 2, involved a record 68 kapa haka performing groups, coming from all parts of Taranaki and beyond.

Organiser Clive Tongaw’ikau says the festival, which is in its 15th year, involved a ‘tsunami’ of people coming to watch the performances.

“It was absolutely excellent. It has exploded again this year in terms of number of people attending and participating.”

This year the festival, named for Puanga, the star constellation first seen by Taranaki which marks the new year, was held at the new sports and community hub at Clifton.

Methanex has supported the Puanga Festival for several years including this year sponsoring a trailer to help with the set-up and removal of festival gear.

Methanex Public Affairs manager Juliet Larkin says it is great to see the festival go from strength to strength. “So many people turn out to support it and it has become a must-do for school kapa haka groups, who put their heart and soul into the performances.”
We said farewell to four of our longest-standing Community Advisory Panel (CAP) members at a meeting last month. Wayne Parker, Alison Pettit, Elma Honeyfield and Peter Wilson have retired after being part of the group since it formed in the late 1990s.

Elma Honeyfield says her involvement with the Motunui site dates back to 1980 when a gentleman from Wellington knocked on her door and said there was going to be a gasoline plant built next door and he’d like to buy their farm. She said while this was a huge shock and there were challenging times to begin with, it was great to see how things had changed for the better and how a positive relationship had developed between the community and Methanex.

The retiring members have represented various community groups including the Waitara Fire Brigade, Rural Women, Women’s Institute, and Waitara First Response.

The Community Advisory Panel meets every quarter and is a way to keep the community informed about Methanex as well as being transparent and responsive to any community concerns. If you are community minded and interested in becoming a CAP member please call Public Affairs Manager Juliet Larkin on 06 7549821.

A Methanex Asset Framework project is using data analytics to better run and monitor our methanol plants.

Senior Process Engineer Franco Branca recently presented at a Process Information (PI) Osisoft Conference in Auckland about the project and received a lot of positive feedback. “Many other companies were curious to see what we are doing, and it is good to see we are at the forefront of what can be done in this area.”

The project involves automatically monitoring the data from operating plant equipment, capturing when design limits of equipment are exceeded. It provides real-time analytics and graphics, providing important information about anything going wrong so issues can be picked up before they become an event.

Franco says he hopes to leverage the project across all Methanex sites globally.

“This is just the start of using our data to operate more safely and efficiently. It’s an amazing time to be an engineer in terms of data analysis and the tools we have – a few years ago you had to be a good programmer and statistician to be able to do what we are doing now with some of the new software,” he says.

Community panel members retire

Making the most of plant data

Senior Process Engineer Franco Branca presenting at a Process Information (PI) Osisoft Conference in Auckland

Retiring CAP members from left: Wayne Parker, Alison Pettit, Elma Honeyfield and Peter Wilson
Community Support

Methanex is committed to supporting and investing in local Taranaki communities through sponsorships, grants, scholarships, gifts in kind and staff volunteering. We look for initiatives resulting in social outcomes in the areas of health & safety and environment, education and community development. This year we are proud to have supported the following organisations:

- Arts Festival Charitable Trust
- ASD Connex
- Bell Block School
- Brain Injured Trust
- Cancer Society
- East End Surf Lifeguard Club
- Energy Sector Fishing Competition
- Energy Skills NZ
- Engineering Scholarships — Hugh Barlow, Aynslie Kemp
- Experience Purangi (East Taranaki Environment Trust)
- Fostering Children
- Give a Little Fundraiser — Gumboot Friday Appeal
- Inglewood Golf Club
- James Bailey Memorial Scholarship — Brooke Reid, Steven Collingwood
- Kahikatea Kindergarten
- Kawaroa Park Squash Club
- Kidsafe Taranaki
- Lepperton Primary School
- Life Education Trust Taranaki
- Lions Club of Waitara Charitable Trust
- Mahia Mai a Whai Tara
- Manukorihi Golf Club
- Manukorihi Intermediate School
- Manukorihi Primary and Spotwood Primary — Duffy Books in Homes
- Methanex Bell Block Aquatic Centre
- Methanex Maths Spectacular
- Mimi School
- National Heart Foundation
- New Plymouth Mountain Bikers
- Nexans Fun Run/Walk
- Ngati Rahiri Hapu
- North Taranaki Special Olympics
- Owae Marae
- Parafed New Zealand
- Puanga Festival
- Riding for Disabled
- Royal NZ Plunket Trust
- Special Children’s Extravaganza
- Spotwood Primary School
- St Patricks Inglewood School
- Taranaki Air Ambulance
- Taranaki Health Foundation
- Taranaki Hunting and Fishing
- Taranaki Regional Council Environment Awards
- Taranaki Rescue Helicopter Trust
- Taranaki Science Fair Committee
- Taranaki Toy Library
- Taranaki Women’s Refuge
- United Women’s Empowerment NZ
- University of Canterbury College of Engineering
- Waitara Alive
- Waitara East School Bike Park
- Waitara Foodbank
- Waitara High School scholarships — Ben Lilly, Sophie Lovell
- Waitara Kayak Club
- Waitara Maori Women’s Welfare League
- Waitara Soccer Club
- Waitara Swimming and Surf Lifesaving
- Waitara East School
- WITT Process Operations Scholarships - Julot Van Lierde, Jessica Stevenson
- YMCA Taranaki
- Zeal Taranaki

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