



Clockwise from left: Open Day at Methanex, Retiring CAP members, Franco Branca presenting at a software conference and New Plymouth Boys' High School kapa haka group performing at Puanga Festival.

Business update

Brian Ropitini
Director, Manufacturing

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

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Open day at Methanex

Plenty of children enjoyed face-painting and learning about what Methanex does at the Open Day

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 Tongaaw’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.”



New Plymouth Boys’ High School kapa haka group performing at Puanga Festival

Making the most of plant data

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.



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

Community panel members retire

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.



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
 Kawarua 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 Spotswood 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
 Spotswood 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



Methanex summer intern students help out at Urenui School



East End Surf Life Saving Club nippers with new body boards from Methanex



Maintenance Manager Greg Dollimore awarding a scholarship at the Waitara High School prize giving.

SEASONS GREETINGS
from Methanex

We welcome your feedback.

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