



From left: Methanex volunteers on a beach clean up from the Waitara river mouth to Otaraoa Road, Worksafe CEO Nicole Rosie and staff visit Motunui, Methanex employees take part in the Relay for Life event at Pukekura Raceway



Business Update

Brian Ropitini
Director of Manufacturing

Tena koe,

Summer is well and truly over with the end of daylight savings upon us. We have a busy programme ahead of us in the coming months, with increasing contractors on site as we prepare for a sustained programme of maintenance and inspections at our Motunui site.

At our latest Stand Up for Safety Talk with staff and contractors in Waitara we had entertaining guest speaker Dr Tom Mullholland, aka Dr Global, an emergency department doctor and GP who is on a mission to educate people about how they can improve their health and not end up an emergency department statistic. He

spoke about the importance of looking after ourselves and about emotional and mental wellbeing. So many incidents at home or work can be because of being distracted by personal issues, tiredness, stress or strong emotions. He introduced some tips for identifying negative thought patterns, which is all good food for thought as we head into a period of high activity at our sites.

In this edition you can read about our involvement with talented engineering students and the new multi-sports and community facility underway at Waitara, which we're proud to be supporting along with recipients in our Safe Days programmes.

It's been busy with a steady stream of visitors to our sites in the last few months including our Vancouver-based CEO John Floren and the Minister of Energy Judith Collins. As part of our community engagement efforts we've also had two busloads of Auckland University students tour our site and the Maintenance team hosted senior Metal Technology students from Waitara High School. We look forward to holding meetings later in the year for those interested in learning more about our sites, operations and safety systems, following on from our Visitors Day last year.

Noho ora mai
Brian



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Awardees aim for energy careers

This year's Methanex New Zealand engineering scholarships are awarded to two from Taranaki, Charlie Boon and Paul Stephenson. They attended New Plymouth Boys' High School and are currently in their third year of engineering study at Canterbury University.

Charlie, from Waverley in South Taranaki, is specialising in Chemical and Process Engineering. He says his passion for science began when he was at Huntley School, where he was always the student asking the most questions and eager to find out how everything worked. "My ambition upon completing my degree is to develop a career in the energy field. To get out into the industry and learn from engineers who have many years' experience is something I am excited to feel part of."

Paul, from New Plymouth, is studying mechanical engineering. He says his parents work in the gas and petrochemical industry, which has helped foster his interest in it. "While I have a number of years of my training left to complete, my career goals are to work in an industry where there are constantly new challenges and the opportunity to stretch myself and develop my skills and experience. I think a role as a mechanical engineer in the oil and gas sector would provide these challenges as there is always a need to develop improvements to equipment or processes which can give greater efficiency or reduce costs."

Methanex NZ offers two \$5,000 annual scholarships for Future Leaders in Engineering as part of its aim to support the development of skilled labour and recruit talent into the industry. Engineering students may be specialising in the areas of Electrical, Mechanical, Process, Control Systems, Reliability, Health Safety and Environment and Process Safety Management. The scholarships are for second year University Students that are entering their third year of study at a New Zealand university.

Charlie Boon and Paul Stephenson signing their scholarship papers at Methanex



Niki Allerton, Steven Francis and Stefan Webling outside a tank being inspected with a robot camera

Innovative tank inspections reduce risk

A home-grown design innovation is improving the safety of inspecting tanks by reducing the need for people working within enclosed spaces.

A recent tank inspection at Motunui was carried out with a robot camera, which crawls up and down the interior walls, taking photos and relaying information on the thickness of the walls and roof.

Methanex Senior Plant Inspector Steven Francis says the robot camera eliminates having to construct scaffolding inside the tank, which means risk is reduced and there is less time spent in an enclosed space. It also provides better information and makes the tank inspection process faster.

"We did a trial on a tank at Omata, and this is the first tank we've used it for and we're looking at rolling it out across all our tank inspections," he says.

Christchurch company, Invert Robotics, designed the device initially for use on stainless steel dairy tanks for the dairy industry. The camera sticks to the wall by a series of magnets and is operated via a computer with joy stick controls, the same as used in computer games.

There are more than 20 tanks of various sizes at Methanex sites, holding methanol, water and other substances. Tanks require inspections about every 10 years to ensure the tank's structure is sound and ensuring the integrity and thickness of walls, roofs and floors.

Waitara multi-sports and community hub takes shape

Developments are well underway towards Waitara's long awaited Community Sports & Recreation Centre, located at Clifton Park.

Construction of the multi-million dollar facility, led by North Taranaki Sports & Recreation Incorporated (NTSRINC), is expected to be completed by September with the gym sports building finished by May in time for the national gymnastics competition. The facility will also include covered netball courts, basketball courts, changing rooms, a skate park and administration offices.

Methanex is funding \$180,000 towards the development of the new community administration building within the centre and supporting the competition to name the facility.

Methanex's Director of Manufacturing, Brian Ropitini says, "We're thrilled to be able to support the development of this important community facility. It's an exciting project involving a wide range of sports and community groups, and we're confident having an accessible multi-use centre will contribute to the long term health and wellbeing of those in the Waitara and Clifton area. It's also positive for North Taranaki as it will attract sporting and community events from further afield, helping our vibrant region."



Brian Ropitini and Howie Tamati at the Clifton Park facility building site

North Taranaki Sport and Recreation Incorporated Chair Howie Tamati has welcomed the support from Methanex and says he is pleased with the progress being made on the build.

The next task is to find a name for the centre. A competition is underway for schools, teams or organisations to come up with a name, which represents the spirit of Waitara and a facility aimed at fostering community cohesion, recreation opportunities and cultural connections.

Research Partnership forges ahead

The partnership between Methanex NZ and the University of Canterbury is forged in metal. Not only does the university have the Methanex Professor of Metallurgy chair, held by Milo Kral, it also has students heavily involved with the metal used in the making of methanol.

Student Alice Young did her final year project looking at what happens to catalyst pellets used in Methanex's reformers. She then spent the summer of 2015-2016 as an intern at Methanex NZ in Taranaki looking at stress corrosion cracks in stainless steel piping.

This year, Alice is being supported by Methanex to do her PhD, based at the university in Christchurch.

Again, her topic will be related to the high-temperature stainless steel tubes used in the reformers.

Peter Tait, a global expert in static equipment at Methanex, says the relationship between the university and company began with alumni – himself – working for the company since 1982.

But it wasn't until 1994 that the first mechanical engineering student undertook a final year project supported by Methanex. "Pretty much all those years since we have been a sponsor," he says.

Peter says Methanex runs reformers at high temperatures, which means suitable materials are necessary. "The materials have not

changed in 20 to 30 years and we are constantly working to improve their lifespan."

That has led to the engagement of engineering researchers doing masters or doctorate studies to look at solving these problems.

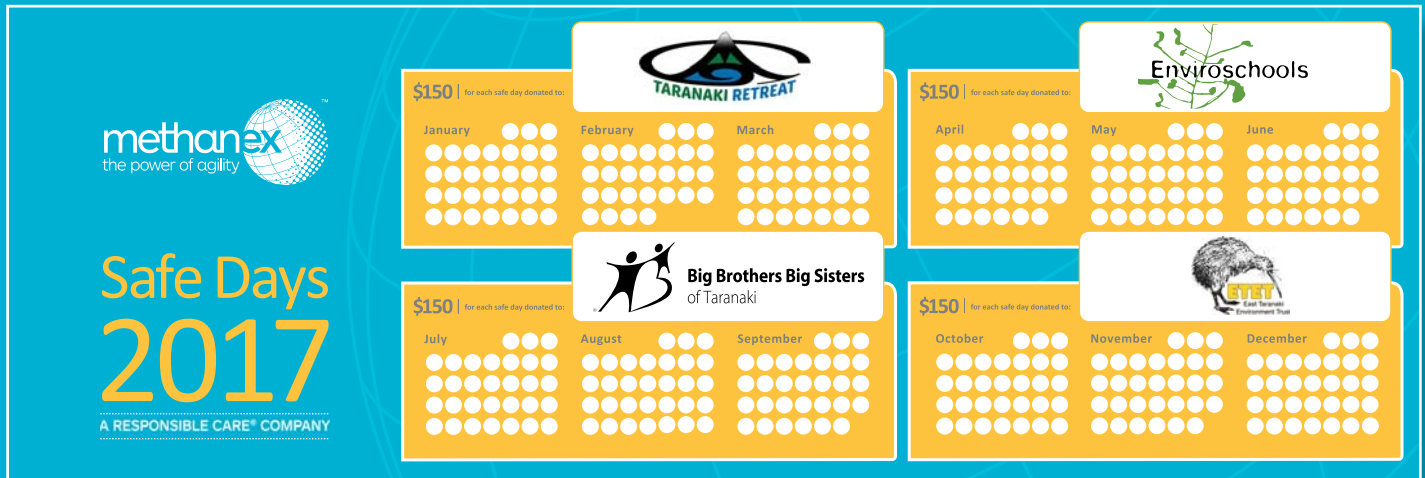
To ensure continuing the strong link with Canterbury, four years ago Methanex funded a chair at the university.

Milo Kral says the link with Methanex is an ideal partnership. "At the university our business is to create and disseminate knowledge - that's my mission. In engineering there's no better situation than being able to work in industry on a relevant topic that helps people."



He has seen a number of students do their final year projects with Methanex support and go on to do their PhDs, which take three to four years. "For Alice (Young) it's been a chance for her to get real industry experience as an intern and on her final year project. That gives her a chance to use her university education in the methanol business."

PhD engineering student Alice Young at work on her research



Safety scheme helps community wellbeing

At-risk young people, vulnerable families and environmental projects are set to benefit from Methanex's Safe Days campaign for 2017.

The Taranaki Retreat, EnviroSchools, Big Brothers Big Sisters and the East Taranaki Environment Trust have been selected by staff as the recipients for the 2017 programme, whereby, for every injury-free day, \$150 is given to an organisation, adding up over a quarter of the year to support a particular project.

Billboards at Motunui and Waitara Valley sites highlight the 'safe days' with a green dot, which aims to celebrate safety and get staff and contractors mindful of their behaviours. Speakers from the selected organisations talk about their projects at staff meetings.

Public Affairs Manager Juliet Larkin says for the first quarter of the year \$13,200 is going to the Taranaki Retreat. It has helped enable the completion of a purpose built house where individuals and families in need of some time-out and support dealing with crisis and the impacts of suicide can go.

"It's great to be part of the huge community support behind the Taranaki Retreat, led by Jamie and Suzy Allen. The retreat will help make a difference to families needing support,

dealing with trauma or loss, and we're proud to have helped contribute to it along with hundreds of individuals, businesses and organisations."

Jamie Allen says the retreat is focused on suicide prevention, and the core of the retreat's philosophy is about providing a sense of hope. "The kaupapa of the Retreat is significantly about the safety and well-being of our community - and so this is an excellent match for your brilliant scheme for safety within Methanex," he says.

An open day of the Retreat was held on March 11 with the retreat now open for business. Families can stay for up to three weeks. Meals are provided and counselling and other support services on hand. To find out more about it go to www.taranakiretreat.org.nz



Mental health advocate and comedian Mike King speaking at the formal opening of the Taranaki Retreat

We welcome your feedback.

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