

METHANEX NZ NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2023 | PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE METHANEX NEONATAL UNIT

#### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Bringing back Kōkako
- Meet our team
- Celebrating & learning with our Waitara community
- Nurturing Taranaki talent
- Keeping our community informed
- Taking care of Taranaki's tiniest patients
- Did you know?
- Sponsorship opportunities

#### **Business Update: September 2023**

Kia ora.

In this update, we'd like to share the work our team and community are doing to make Taranaki a better place to live. We're fortunate to be able to partner with our local schools, charities and organisations who work hard to make a lasting difference to the place we are all proud to call home.

With our 230-strong team, everyone here at Methanex is connected to our communities in some way, and we try to support them as much as we can. We encourage each other to support the causes that matter most. Last month our team raised over \$11,000 for the Breast Cancer Foundation, as well as getting their boots on to help the East Taranaki Environment Collective protect our native North Island kōkako.

Volunteering and fundraising are important ways we can serve our community, but

we're also proactive when it comes to investing in Taranaki's future generations. I'm delighted to share the work our schools and youth development organisations are doing to nurture the potential of Taranaki students that will keep our region thriving well into the future.

As a member of our own community, you'll have noticed quite a bit of extra activity happening on our site over the past couple of months. We've nearly completed our planned maintenance and decarbonisation projects and I look forward to sharing our results from this work with you in future issues.

Ngā mihi nui, Stuart McCall

Managing Director Methanex New Zealand



Here for the future Kei konei mō te wā heke mai



North Island kōkako are gradually being brought back from the brink of extinction through the work of the East Taranaki Environment Trust. (ETEC).

They have a vision to fill East Taranaki forests once again with the sounds and sights of these endemic blue-grey songbirds, and it's a vision we fully support.

In 2018, we helped them translocate 20 of the birds to the Pouiatoa Conservation Area. This year, we're helping to keep kōkako protected through our latest sponsorship

agreement and volunteering. When they asked us to get stuck in and help with pest control, we didn't hesitate. Our finance team went bush for the day, learning about pest control before getting stuck in to trap setting and monitoring.

It'll take time to establish a thriving, robust kōkako population, but the latest bird census results have been encouraging, a sure sign that we're making progress toward restoring Taranaki's forests for the generations to come.

"Our finance team went bush for the day, learning about pest control before getting stuck in to trap setting and monitoring."

## INSIDE METHANEX – MEET OUR TEAM

In this and future issues, we'd like to introduce you to the people who make up our business.



Mandy Rutherford, HR Manager

First, let's meet Mandy Rutherford, HR Manager. She has a big job here, with more than 230 people to look after, but it's a challenge she welcomes.

"We have a great team culture here. Everyone is very open to learning and growth, and we look out for each other," she says. Each month, the team celebrates their shared values of respect, integrity, professionalism and trust, sharing how their workmates are bringing these values to life. "People are actively looking for ways to acknowledge the hard work and ethics of their colleagues, to lift each other up." To keep the team thriving, Methanex has introduced a revitalised approach to wellbeing, based on Te

Whare Tapa Whā – an initiative that's taken them to the finals of the 2023 Energy Excellence Awards.

"Taking a holistic approach means taking care of all aspects of wellness, not just being physically healthy but taking care of our whānau, our wairua (spirituality) and hinengaro (mental and emotional wellness). It's when we actively embrace wellness that we start really flourishing."

For herself, Mandy fills her own cup by spending time with her puppy Cleo, and enjoys the outdoors. "I love being able to work for a global company from right here in Taranaki, next to the ocean, the mountain, rivers and native forests."

### CELEBRATING AND LEARNING WITH OUR WAITARA COMMUNITY











Nicholas Rattenbury explains star formation. Celebrating Puanga Matariki ki Whaitara at Ōwae Marae

More than a hundred people were welcomed into the wharenui at Ōwae Marae last month to celebrate Puanga Matariki Ki Whaitara.

We were honoured to be among the many supporters of this enlightening and engaging community event. After the pōwhiri, Waitara taiohi (youth) led us through games and interactive quizzes, then into the new wharekai, where we shared a hangi. Then we gathered together to learn about the history and significance of this time of year from prominent guest speakers. Mitchell Ritai traced the

stories and meaning of Puanga/Matariki in beautiful detail, illustrating the power of karakia as a narrative and instruction, a key to unlocking deeper understanding. Astrophysicist Nicholas Rattenbury brought the story into scientific context, explaining how the Matariki

"family" of stars were indeed formed from the same stellar nursery. Finally, we joined in a Hikoi Maumahara (Walk of Remembrance) to the riverside, finishing the night with a bang – an impressive fireworks display.

# NURTURING TARANAKI TALENT

Taranaki is teeming with talent, and we love supporting initiatives that incubate young people's potential.

It's important to start when children are young. Sparking an early love of reading is critical to developing literacy skills. We sponsor Duffy Books in Homes for Spotswood and Manukorihi Primary Schools and have just opened the Methanex Whānau Corner at Waitara East School. We see nurturing STEM talent as a key priority, which is why we back the WITT Taranaki Science Fair and Waitoriki School Sustainable Entrepreneur project with financial and professional support, sending our top engineers as judges.

At intermediate level, we're supporting Ngā Mātāwaka Hapai, a mentoring programme for Waitara youth. For our local high school students, we foster potential through scholarships, working together with the First Foundation. And when it comes to students at tertiary and graduate levels, we invite them on site to learn directly from our highly-skilled team. Last month, we hosted 70 Auckland University students, giving them real-world experience with theoretical concepts. Their professor said, "It has inspired many of them, and will have a positive impact on their academic and professional careers." Students are then invited to apply for our three-year Graduate in Training programme, where graduates are furnished with on-the-job skills through a three-year programme that will give them a head-start in their chosen careers.

# KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED

We have welcomed two new members, Craig Williams and Tony Bedford, to our Community Advisory Panel.

Craig is the owner and operator of New World Waitara, with strong connections to local community groups including Waitara Pataka Kai (Foodbank) and the business community. He says, "I'm looking forward to working with Methanex, building a strong relationship so we can all continually move forward together with the local business community."

Tony is a Trustee of Taranaki Electricity Trust, Waitara Community Board Member and a Councillor for the New Plymouth District Council North Ward. His background in real estate, sports development, local government and even plumbing gives him a broad range of knowledge and experience to draw from.

We'd like to acknowledge the contribution of previous members Jeff Jones and Dave Allerton who have become Alumni.

This advisory group meets four times a year, and it helps us keep connected with our local communities. Communication flows both ways; we share our own updates and take the opportunity to hear about the issues impacting people in our rohe (area). If you have concerns or opportunities you'd like to discuss with us directly, please get in touch with our team: nzstakeholderrelations@methanex.com.



We believe in making Taranaki a better place to live by having a positive impact on people's lives. We're investing in future generations - from birth to adulthood.

Through our primary partnership with the Taranaki Health Foundation, we support Taranaki's newest and tiniest patients, helping to fund state-of-the-art neonatal care for all the families who call Taranaki home with the Methanex Neonatal Unit. One of these treatments is Neonatal Hypothermia Therapy, which uses specialist equipment to cool the

baby, helping to prevent potential neurodevelopmental deficits caused by a lack of oxygen – and saving a baby's life. Many of us have strong personal connections to this cause and are passionate about helping to equip the Methanex Neonatal Unit with treatments like this, to give every newborn in Taranaki the best possible start in life.

Please join us in supporting Taranaki's tiniest patients by donating today. https://thf.org.nz/taranaki-deserves-the-best/neonatal/

### **DON'T MISS OUT**

We'll be switching to digital newsletters in our next issue, to reduce our paper usage.

Digital newsletters will be available on our website and via email. If you'd like to keep receiving print newsletters or would like us to email you directly, please let our Stakeholder Relations team know by emailing nzstakeholderrelations@methanex.com or calling us on 06 754 9700.

## DID YOU KNOW?

You could be keeping cosy with Taranaki-made methanol right now. Methanol is used in fleece clothing, couch cushions and carpeting.

Ready for the game? Methanol is on your team! It's used to make everyday sports equipment, including textiles, making it possible to fabricate the stretchy material of your team jerseys and other athletic wear.

Learn more about how methanol is essential to everyday life: https://bit.ly/3MYVRtE



# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

If you're part of a community group working to make the future better for Taranaki, you're invited to request support through Methanex sponsorship or donations.

Our next funding round (for 2024) opens on 1 November, 2023. Application forms are available from our website, or you can request one from nzsponsorship@methanex.com



Christine Wilkinson (Methanex), Krystle George (Methanex) and Taranaki Breast Cancer Foundation specialist nurse Nikki Spedding.



Sue Rine (Enviroschools), Adam Sallman (Waitoriki School), Adam Hinton (Methanex) and the winning team: Hannah Jones, Jorja Tamblin and Scarlett King (absent: Gavin Procter)

