



our news

METHANEX NZ NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2026 | PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE METHANEX NEONATAL UNIT

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Business Update: August 2026

Kia ora,

It's been a big few months for our team, and I'm pleased to share some of the highlights with you.

The standout moment for me has been the opening of the Methanex Neonatal Unit. It's hard to put into words what it means to see our name on a facility that will care for Taranaki's smallest and most vulnerable patients for generations to come. This partnership has been years in the making, and it wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of so many people. I'd like to thank everyone who has joined us in supporting it along the way.

We've also safely completed our planned winter outage and returned our Motunui 2 plant to full operation. A shutdown like this involves months of careful planning and inspection, and I'm proud of how our team approached it with a strong focus on safety throughout. The plant is now running reliably as a result. It's detailed, sometimes unglamorous work, but it's what keeps our operations safe and dependable for our employees and the community around us.

It's also now been a year since we welcomed new colleagues and operations into the Methanex

team through our acquisition of OCI's methanol business in Texas. That integration has gone smoothly, and it's given us a stronger, more diverse global business heading into the years ahead.

Internationally, disruption in the Middle East has reduced the amount of methanol reaching global markets, and with supply tighter than usual, prices have risen. This situation, although having many negative effects, has increased demand for methanol, therefore supporting our local manufacturing outlook more strongly than we'd predicted earlier in the year.

Here in New Zealand, there are real challenges ahead, with the Māui gas field expected to reach the end of production in the near future. This will undoubtedly have a significant effect on our own operations as well as other companies reliant on natural gas for their process. Although we know that change is inevitable, our focus remains the same: the safety of our people, and our ongoing support for our community and our team.

Noho ora mai,

Alistair Simmers
Director,
Manufacturing,
Methanex New Zealand.





A NEW START: THE METHANEX NEONATAL UNIT OPENS ITS DOORS

On June 29, nine of Taranaki's tiniest new arrivals made a very special journey.

In a careful convoy, hospital staff wheeled babies in incubators from the old neonatal unit into the brand new Methanex Neonatal Unit, marking the beginning of a new chapter for families across our region.

Just days earlier, the six-storey Te Rau Mātāpuna o Taranaki building had officially opened its doors. The name, gifted by Ngāti Te Whiti, references the many springs and waterways flowing from Taranaki Maunga, and the health and wellbeing they sustain.

The new building brings together maternity, neonatal, emergency, radiology, intensive care and laboratory services in one modern facility, designed to support families from the very beginning of life's journey.

A Partnership Years in the Making

In 2022, Methanex committed 10 years of support to the Taranaki Health Foundation to help bring the new neonatal unit and its life-saving equipment to the families of our region. Four years later, that vision has become reality.

The new Methanex Neonatal Unit has space for 12 infants, and, for the first time, every family has their own room. These private rooms allow better infection control while giving parents precious privacy during what can be one of the most challenging and emotional times in their lives. Whānau rooms and a dedicated procedure room create a space designed not just around clinical care, but around the needs of the whole family.

“Every member of staff at Methanex should be incredibly proud of what

they have achieved,” says Grant Carter, General Manager of the Taranaki Health Foundation. “Methanex's generosity has meant every newborn in Taranaki will be able to have the best start in life. Thank you from the Taranaki Health Foundation and from hundreds of families.”

A Community Welcome

To welcome the first families into the new unit, Methanex gifted 32 care packages - one for every year the company has called Taranaki home.

The packages were thoughtfully curated by employees whose own babies spent time in the neonatal unit, bringing personal experience to every item included. Most of the items in the packages were made here in Taranaki and assembled with great care by local artist collective The Collaboration.

That personal connection has shaped our partnership with the Taranaki Health Foundation from the beginning. Over more than 30 years in Taranaki, many Methanex families have relied on neonatal care. Alongside the care



Images clockwise: Taranaki Base Hospital's new East Wing Building. One of the new rooms inside the new neonatal unit. Taranaki babies will now receive state-of-the-art neonatal care without having to leave the region.

packages, our team has volunteered their time, made personal donations, and raised tens of thousands of dollars, along with their heartrates, through the annual Million Steps Challenge.

A Place of Hope

The journey that began with nine babies is just the beginning. As more babies begin life in the safe hands of the team at the Methanex Neonatal Unit, we're delighted to celebrate alongside everyone who helped bring this vision to life.



SAFETY CASE SUMMARY

The work that goes into every planned outage is just one part of how we keep our people, neighbours and the environment safe. Our Safety Case Summary explains how we design, maintain and strengthen the many layers of protection that help prevent major incidents.

If you'd like a printed copy, please contact Stakeholder Relations, or read it online here: [MX-A-Safety-Case-Summary 2026](#)

WINTERFEST SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

More than 525 students from seven local primary schools packed the house for a performance of MOON at this year's Winterfest Schools Programme, supported by Methanex. Several schools brought their entire junior classes along, giving hundreds of tamariki the chance to experience live theatre together.

STAFF PROFILE: PHILLIPPA PARSONS

Phillippa remembers collecting two dollars from all the shift operators to buy cheese, crackers and sausage rolls for shared morning tea every Friday at the Waitara Valley plant. That was the early 1990s. More than three decades later, she's still the person making sure everything from executive support to community events runs smoothly, with the thoughtful touches that bring people together.

Phillippa's career as an administrator has woven through almost every part of the business. There aren't many people who know Methanex New Zealand and its people as well as she does. She had already been working at the plant for five years when Methanex purchased the site in 1993. One of her first jobs following the acquisition was typing up the original process procedures for the plant.

Since then, she's supported the operations, technical, finance, procurement, IT, maintenance and stakeholder relations departments. Today she's Executive Assistant to the Director, Manufacturing - a role that's brought her full circle with a colleague she first worked alongside in 1995, when he was a process engineer and she was the operations administrator at Waitara Valley.

Methanex's opportunities for growth and expansion have kept her with the company, as well as the relationships and connections with people. For her, that's the best part of the job. "It's the people you connect with — their character, their knowledge. They become like a second family."

Over the years, her warmth and generosity have extended well into the local community. Phillippa has stepped up to support local schools, Taranaki Women's Refuge and Waitara Foodbank and has been a keen supporter of the Taranaki Health Foundation since Methanex became a foundation partner in 2015. Visiting the newly opened Methanex Neonatal Unit, she was proud to see the names of so many colleagues on the sponsorship board alongside the company logo. "It wasn't just what we did as a company. It was neat to see so many names of people from our team."

Her advice for anyone starting out in administration is to find a good mentor and embrace change. "Be prepared for change. Things are constantly changing — technology, people, ways of working," she says. "But what comes with that change is the opportunity to learn and grow."



Phillippa Parsons, Executive Assistant, Methanex New Zealand.

"I feel privileged to be in a role that can help the community."

– Phillippa Parsons.

Outside work, you'll find her on e-mountain biking trails ("not the hard ones!"), taking her "grandfurbaby" Winston for a stroll with one of her two daughters, or curled up with a murder mystery well past a sensible bedtime. Most days end with a walk on the walkway with her husband Murray. "It's a good way to unwind. It finishes the day and prepares you for a relaxing evening."

MĀNAWATIA A MATARIKI

Methanex staff came together to celebrate Matariki and Puanga with a week of activities organised by Te Haerenga ki te Kotahitanga, our Māori-focused employee resource group. Activities included daily learning sessions, a hāngī for the whole team, and a reflection board where staff shared memories, messages and hopes for the future.

"What really resonates with me about Matariki is that it reminds us to pause, reconnect, and truly appreciate what we have. Remembering those who have gone before us, giving thanks for the people and places that enrich our lives today, and looking ahead with purpose and intention all offer us the chance to step into the new year with renewed purpose, optimism, and a deeper sense of connection to one another."

- Vanessa Bradley, Service Desk Lead and Chair of Te Haerenga ki te Kotahitanga.



1,000 DAYS: THE LONG GAME OF PLANT RELIABILITY

Ask most people what a plant shutdown is like, and they'll picture the plant going quiet. For our Maintenance Manager Niki Allerton, it's the opposite. Shutdown is when months of rigorous inspections and careful planning finally pay off, kickstarting an intensive period of repairs and upgrades.

"I love shutdowns and turnarounds," Niki says. "It's the challenge. You come across a problem, pull people together, work out how to fix it, and get it all done – within a tight time frame."

This winter, months of preparation culminated in an impressive milestone. After pausing production to support the energy sector over winter, the plant returned to service having passed 1,000 days without an unplanned outage (plant trip) – more than 400 days beyond the previous record.

An achievement like that doesn't happen by chance. It's the result of detailed planning, incredibly high quality standards and a whole-team commitment to keeping the plant running safely and reliably.

On Site, Every Day

Every day, our Operations team is out on site, closely monitoring pipework and equipment to make sure even the tiniest of defects are detected early and escalated to our Inspections team.

During an Operator's routine round, he identified steam vapour permeating through insulation on a section of pipe. Niki notes that, earlier in his career, a

leak like this might have prompted a hands-on investigation. "Technology is our friend nowadays," he says. "We have the technology to monitor things from a safe distance, rather than needing to do intrusive investigations."

The area was barricaded off, keeping everyone safely away from high-pressure steam, which reaches temperatures of 300 degrees celsius. The team used acoustic monitoring to detect any change that might indicate the defect was growing. That careful monitoring gave us confidence to operate until the plant was shut down, 150 days later, and we could safely remove the insulation and repair the pipe underneath.

Forty Years of Knowledge

What they found was a tiny, 3mm corrosion hole.

"We knew that part had served us for 40 years; it was a foregone conclusion that we'd replace or eliminate it," says Niki.

That confidence comes from decades of experience and a 40-year library of maintenance history that the team can draw on when making decisions. Every major asset has a lifetime of maintenance records, helping the team understand not only what they're seeing today, but how that equipment has changed over four decades.

Years of daily inspections, planning and historical data mean there are few surprises. But they're inevitable, Niki says, thanks to the age and location of the plant. "Being located so close to the coastline, the effect of salt spray on the

equipment is something we always pay close attention to."

It Takes a Team

None of this is the work of one team alone. Planning, operations, engineering, maintenance and Responsible Care teams each play a critical role, from defining the work scope and designing safe work instructions to carrying out repairs. Formal checks such as permit reviews and Job Hazard Analysis audits (JHAs) are one part of the picture; the other is the safety conversations happening every day.

"Before a job starts, the team gets together and talks through the work, the risks and hazards, and the controls we've put in place to protect people. If anyone has questions about whether a job is being done the safest way possible, we stop and have that conversation," Niki says.

This year's outage, despite being a relatively small one, recorded more than 1,150 safety conversations, well above our target of 700. For Niki, that's the true measure of success. "Everyone went home safely every day," he says.

After nine weeks of repairs and upgrades, it was time to "bring the plant back to life." Steam and flaring are the visible signs of energy being reintroduced into the system. With the plant safely back in operation, the quieter work of inspecting, monitoring and maintaining it continues, supporting safe, reliable production every day.

ONE YEAR ON: REFLECTING ON THE OCI ACQUISITION

It's been a year since Methanex completed the acquisition of OCI Global's methanol business, bringing new facilities in Beaumont, Texas and the Netherlands into the fold, and expanding the company's capabilities in methanol, ammonia and low-carbon products.

As well as bringing around 250 new colleagues into the business, adding valuable skills, experience and

perspectives across global operations, the acquisition has also strengthened our global production network and increased Methanex's total methanol production capacity by more than 20 per cent.

A shared commitment to safety, Responsible Care and operational excellence has been at the heart of that work. These values helped guide the integration from the outset and

were reflected in the strong safety performance.

One year on, many of the systems, relationships and ways of working established during the integration have become part of our day-to-day business. The integration has broadened our capabilities and positioned Methanex well to support customers around the world for years to come.

Your questions answered

Want to know more about our operations?

Or to read our latest [Sustainability Report](#)? Go to www.methanex.com

If you have further questions, please email nzstakeholderrelations@methanex.com or phone +64 6 754 9700.

