

Methanex leading corporate sponsor of angio technology

By Virginia Winder

Methanex New Zealand cares greatly about the hearts and healthcare of Taranaki people. So much so that the company is partnering with the Taranaki Health Foundation as the leading corporate sponsor for a new angiography machine and suite.

Methanex NZ manufacturing director Brian Ropitini says staff will also be contributing through fundraising events. Staff will be fundraising through pay-roll gifting, department-driven fundraising efforts and by volunteering at Womad, where they will be doing bucket collections.

How ever much staff members raise, Methanex will match it. That's because the company believes the angiography machine is vital for the whole community, including members of its own 250-strong workforce in Taranaki. "Not only will it benefit staff and their families – some of whom have had to go to Waikato for treatment – but the impact will be felt right across Taranaki with improved access and cardiography treatment services," Ropitini says.

"When we found out a new angiography machine wasn't eligible for full Government funding, we decided it would be a great project to support."

Methanex is a Responsible Care company, which means adhering to a set of best practice principles. Responsible Care is an integral part of the Methanex culture with pillars ranging from product stewardship, environmental protection, health & safety programmes, to training and creating positive impacts in communities it operates in.

Ropitini says the angiography sponsorship is a good fit for Methanex as a Responsible Care Company. "We have a long standing sponsorship programme. It is a signature partnership that aligns with Methanex core values and is a significant investment to help improve the health and wellbeing of the whole community," he says.

"Many of our Community Advisory Panel members are excited to hear we're going to be part of this, as it has so many benefits to people. It's long-lasting equipment that will have benefits to practising health here and dealing with the growing issue of health disease."

It also helps build a vibrant community with lots of key services, which the Base Hospital is part of, and the new machine will cut down travel and lost work time cutting stress for patients and family members.

Methanex, which is partnering with the Health Foundation as a Foundation Partner, is committed to helping the Taranaki Health Foundation reach its goal of finding the final \$1.2 million in funds needed for the angiography machine and suite.

"We are partnering with the foundation because of the angiography project, but we see it as a long-term relationship," Ropitini says.

"They are a strong organisation with a track record of getting things done and the projects they are engaged in have such a wide effect on the community."

Methanex is a key sponsor and says the cause fits in with its three pillars of funding – responsible care, education and partnering with employees. "It's about making a difference in the lives of our community."



Image: Celebrating the launch of WE HEART TARANAKI: Foundation Chairperson - Michael Joyce, Brian Ropitini - (Methanex NZ), Tony Foulkes (Taranaki DHB), Vanessa James (Methanex NZ), Stratford Mayor - Neil Volzke and Cardiologist, Dr Ian Ternouth (TDHB).

Methanex...

1. Is the world's largest producer and marketer of methanol.
2. Makes methanol, a clear, colourless liquid petrochemical made primarily from natural gas, which is produced from three trains in Taranaki, two at Motunui and one at Waitara Valley.
3. Is a Canadian company that employs 250 staff in New Zealand and 1100 people worldwide.
4. Is estimated to contribute \$440 million to the Taranaki GDP, \$650 million to the New Zealand GDP annually and sustains the equivalent of more than 1200 jobs directly and indirectly (2013 BERL economic report).
5. Methanol is a product widely used in products of every-day life, from the paint on walls to polyester and nylon in carpets and furniture. You will find it in clothing, cellphones, silicone sealants, pharmaceuticals and more.
6. Increasingly, methanol is being used as a source of energy and fuel, in biodiesel, used as a cleaner burning transportation fuel, in biodiesel, and in fuel cell batteries.
7. Has a Community Advisory Panel made up of community representatives for ongoing dialogue and feedback, and a committee of staff who assist in giving out grants.



3.6 Million Ways To Help Save Lives

FAQ:

- How much will it cost?** \$3.6 million. Of this \$1.2 million is coming from both the Taranaki District Health Board and the Taranaki Electricity Trust. There is a further \$1.2 million to raise.
- Why is it necessary?** So Taranaki people with cardiovascular needs can be seen within their region and not have to travel to Waikato for diagnosis and treatment.
- When will it be up and running?** By the middle of this year.
- What are we fund-raising for?** An angiography machine and specially fitted-out room of a standard equivalent to an operating theatre.
- How can we support the fundraising campaign?** For more information email bry.kopu@tdhb.org.nz



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Foundation: Time to open hearts

By Virginia Winder

Everybody has a heart, says Taranaki Health Foundation (THF) chairman Michael Joyce. Now he wants the community to open theirs to help Taranaki people look after their own hearts.

The foundation is spearheading a fundraising campaign for a new \$3.6 million angiography machine and purpose-fitted suite at Taranaki Base Hospital. The Taranaki Electricity Trust (TET) and Taranaki District Health Board (TDHB) have each given \$1.2 million to the project, which will have a huge impact on improving health care in the region.

Now the final \$1.2 million is being sought, with Methanex New Zealand leading the way.

Joyce, a South Taranaki farmer, says he and wife Vivienne have donated \$3000. He now challenges other farmers, small businesses and families to match their donation – or go as high as they can or even better it – to support the angiography machine and suite.

"Here's your opportunity to really get in and support health care in Taranaki," he says.

That's the role of the Taranaki Health Foundation, which was set up in 1998 to receive health care donations.

It is the driving force behind finding \$10 million for the ongoing Project Maunga. This money will pay for the extras the Government does not provide for in the new Base Hospital and includes items like TVs in the wards and visitor beds in some of the patient's rooms – and much more.

"One of the biggest things we continue to celebrate is the \$4.5 million that came from the TSB Community Trust and that was the biggest one-off level of support that the trust had ever given in its 25-year history," Joyce says.

Joyce says the foundation works closely with the TDHB to decide the next most significant project to work on and the new angiography machine and suite came out "top of the pops".

"Everybody agreed that it was the next project that would have the most benefit for healthcare in Taranaki."

The angiography machine will be used for coronary diagnosis and treatment, plus other conditions, including removing stones from the bile duct, treating clots, doing epidurals and putting in tunnel lines for renal dialysis.



This project goes right to the heart of what matters to people, Joyce says.

"If you ask people what's their No 1 priority, most people talk about health and happiness and often the happiness comes from enjoying the best possible health," he says.

"If we can collectively, as a community enhance what we have got in Taranaki, well beyond what we have currently and from Government funding, then that's going to make a big difference to everybody in the province."

Because of that Joyce is also asking bigger businesses to join in the fundraising drive for the angiography machine and suite. The new technology will mean people in need can be diagnosed and treated in Taranaki rather than travel to Waikato or other hospitals outside the region.

That will mean their employees will have less time off the job, minimising lost work hours. Also, having the best technology available for health care will help attract and retain high calibre staff, support the Taranaki economy and ensure Taranaki is a vibrant place to live and visit.

Every time a patient has to go out of this region for treatment to another district health board, the costs are footed by the TDHB. So if fewer people have to travel and can be treated in Taranaki, then the money saved can be used for other health services, Joyce says.

"It will also minimise the impact on the patients and their families."

Community-minded organisations are also coming on board to help lend support to the foundation's fundraising efforts for the new machine and suite.

"Everybody in Taranaki is going to be touched by this project – everybody has a heart," he says.

FAQ:

- Of the 110,000 people living in Taranaki, 41,000 are at risk from heart disease. Having just one person close to them means 82,000 people are affected.
- Heart disease is the biggest killer of New Zealand men and women aged over 40 years.
- Maori and Pacific Islanders are three times more likely to suffer from heart disease early.
- Heart disease is very treatable but we need access to diagnose the problem correctly.
- Each year about 400 Taranaki people visit Waikato Hospital for cardiology services. That number will be reduced significantly with the new angiography machine and suite.
- An angiogram is a 40 minute diagnostic test, but when it cannot be done locally it is not only disruptive but very expensive for families.

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There are multiple ways you can support the campaign

- Visit www.wehearttaranaki.nz to find out more information, to download a 'pledge' form or donate online.
- Visit any TSB Bank branch in Taranaki to make a donation or use TSB Bank Online.
- You can donate online at givealittle.co.nz Keyword [Taranaki Health Foundation]

For more information: For more information on our projects please check out our website: www.taranakihealthfoundation.org.nz or contact General Manager, Bry Kopu on 06 753 8688 or bry.kopu@tdhb.org.nz