



## Message from Origin Energy

Welcome to our new-look community newsletter.

As always, we have lots to update you on. 2008 is quickly coming to a close but it's been a year of significant progress.

The offshore campaign was completed to schedule in May. The campaign heralded some significant New Zealand and international firsts, which you can read more about in this newsletter.

Now our focus is on completing the onshore works – including the Production Station at Manaia.

At the Production Station, we are almost 80% complete with most of the main pieces of equipment now in place and the buildings and roads mostly completed. The site is really taking shape, but there is

a lot of work still to do to finish installing pipes, electrics, mechanical instruments and vegetation.

Commissioning of the first systems is expected to start soon and continue until the start-up of the plant in mid 2009.

We are delighted with progress to date, and can't emphasise enough how grateful we are for the support we have had from the community. It is this support that has enabled the Project to run so smoothly.

In recognition of the support the community has given us we are pleased to announce that applications have opened for our 4th annual Community Grants Programme. This year another \$50,000 is available to support voluntary or charitable groups that benefit or support the long-term wellbeing of the South Taranaki Community. You can read more about that over the page.



Thank you all for your ongoing support and interest in the Project.

Peter Ashford, Project Director

## Successful offshore campaign completed

The successful completion of the offshore campaign earlier this year was a considerable milestone for the Kupe Gas Project.

The offshore campaign heralded some significant firsts – including the world's longest shore crossing using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) technology and the first rigid pipeline and umbilical installed in New Zealand by a specialised offshore pipe-lay vessel, the Apache.

### The offshore facilities include:

- The unmanned wellhead platform
- Three production wells
- 30km of under-sea gas pipeline and utilities umbilical
- The 2.2km underground shore crossing

### The wellhead platform

The wellhead platform was designed and built by Thai Nippon Steel in Thailand, and shipped and installed in two parts – the substructure or 'platform jacket' and the topsides.

The four-level, 37 metre high topsides house the wellheads, preliminary gas processing equipment and a heli-deck. The 51 metre tall substructure supports the topsides and connects the wellheads to the sub-sea pipeline.

### The production wells

The three production wells were drilled through the wellhead platform using the Ensco 107 rig – a Singaporean rig weighing



16,000 tonnes and measuring 157m tall and 63m wide.

About 100 drilling team members and their support staff worked and lived month on / month off on the Ensco 107 during the drilling campaign.

The campaign took five months and was completed at the end of May, 2008. The wells are now ready for production once the onshore facilities are complete.

### The undersea pipeline and umbilical

About 30km of main gas pipeline and controls umbilical run along the seabed from the offshore platform to the shore crossing.

The pipeline and umbilical were laid by the Apache, one of the most advanced pipelaying vessels operating in the offshore oil and gas industry. The Apache allows pipeline, that has been welded together onshore, to be reeled off the back of the vessel and laid on the seabed quickly and easily.

The pipeline will connect the gas and liquids taken from the three Kupe production wells to the Production Station onshore.

The controls umbilical, which runs parallel to the subsea pipeline, contains utility lines and a power cable to transfer chemicals, power and fibre optic from the shore to the platform.

# Fourth annual Community Grants Programme underway

The Kupe Gas Project is pleased to announce that applications for this year's Community Grants Programme have opened - with another \$50,000 in funding available for activities that benefit the local community, particularly around Manaia and Hawera.

It is the fourth year in a row that the programme has been run, with more than twenty organisations benefiting from the grants over the last three years.

The Grants Programme is part of a successful partnership the Project has with South Taranaki District Council.

Last year 11 South Taranaki projects received funding from the Kupe Gas Project Community Grants programme. They were:

Bishop's Action Foundation, Cape Egmont Lighthouse Trust, Hawera Intermediate School, Hawera Volunteer Ambulance Group, Kiwi Clubhouse Learning Centre, Manaia & Districts Lions Club, Manaia Volunteer Fire

Brigade, Ngaruahine Iwi Maatua Whangai, Rangitaawhi O Te Taihauauru, South Taranaki District Museum Trust, Surf Life Saving Taranaki.

If you are involved in an organisation that could be eligible to apply, please fill in one of our application forms which are available online and from the South Taranaki District Council. Applications close on the 17th of November and recipients will be announced in December.

## Origin in Brief

### Origin Energy partners with Taranaki Rugby Football Union



Taranaki Rugby Football Union (TRFU) and Origin Energy are joining forces in an innovative partnership designed to support the development of young people in Taranaki. Under the arrangement, TRFU will lease and

operate a South Taranaki dairy farm from Origin Energy. Origin will in turn become the TRFU's Community Rugby and Volunteer Partner.

Origin Energy New Zealand's General Manager Chris Bush says the partnership offers a very practical way for Origin and its joint venture partners to contribute to the community.

A Taranaki Community Rugby Trust will be set up to ensure farm revenue directly supports the TRFU's non-professional, community-based programmes.

### Origin Energy purchases Swift assets

Origin Energy has invested \$110 million in the purchase of Swift Energy's New Zealand assets. Through this purchase, it acquired the Tariki, Ahuroa, Waihapa and Ngaere (TAWN) fields; Waihapa Production Station; Rimu, Kauri and Manutahi fields; Rimu Production Station; separate oil and gas pipelines from Waihapa production station to New Plymouth and offshore exploration permits. Fifty-six Swift staff have transferred to Origin Energy, which has established its New Zealand office in New Plymouth.



**Above:** Manaia Volunteer Fire Brigade's new van – bought with Kupe Community Grants Programme funding.

### Volunteer Fire Brigade

One of the recipients of last year's Kupe Gas Project Community Grants Programme was the Manaia Volunteer Fire Brigade.

The Manaia community depends on 18 volunteers for fire protection and for emergency responses to incidents such as car crashes. On average the fire brigade attends 60 to 90 callouts each year.

Safety is paramount to the team at the Kupe Gas Project so we are pleased to be able to support the work of the Brigade and help to keep the community safe through our Community Grants Programme.

Funding of \$7,500 donated last year from the Grants Programme has helped to buy a replacement van for the brigade's fire support unit, to help provide a rapid response to emergencies in the surrounding districts.

## Our People



### Chris Bush

Based in New Plymouth, Chris Bush is General Manager of Origin Energy New Zealand. Chris has responsibility for overseeing Origin's growing exploration and production interests in New Zealand. This includes:

- Preparing the Kupe Gas Project for commissioning and operations.
- The development of the assets acquired from Swift Energy.
- Overseeing a wide portfolio of offshore prospecting licences in Taranaki, Canterbury and Northland.
- Leading representation of Origin Energy with Government, regulators and energy industry associates in New Zealand.

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