

2006

[Waihi Gold granted prospecting permit over area around Thames](#)

24 August 2006 - Waihi Gold Company Ltd has been awarded a prospecting permit around the town of Thames in the southwest of the Coromandel Peninsula.

[Minerals and Coal exploration and prospecting spending jumps 88% in latest year](#)

22 August 2006 - Spending on 'Greenfields' minerals and coal exploration by mining companies has risen dramatically in New Zealand over the past year.

[Notice of area unavailable for priority in time permit application - Offshore Canterbury](#)

18 August 2006 - Any acreage within that area in respect of which a permit is revoked, surrendered or otherwise terminated, or in respect of which an application filed before the date of this notice is withdrawn or declined, shall also be closed to Priority in Time applications.

[South Island Company has new petroleum drill rig capacity](#)

17 August 2006 - A Timaru-based drilling company Washingtons Exploration has entered the oil drilling market and recently drilled the Sharpridge Creek well in Southland for L&M.

[Glass Earth's first Taupo volcanic drill identifies large gold mineralised system](#)

17 August 2006 - Wellington-based gold exploration company Glass Earth Ltd's first exploratory drill hole on the volcanic region of the North Island has discovered a broad zone of anomalous gold in a major new epithermal system, the company says in a release to the Toronto Stock Exchange.

[Oceana Gold plans merger with Climax Mining](#)

17 August 2006 - New Zealand's biggest gold producer Oceana Gold Ltd is to merge with another gold mining company Climax Mining Ltd with operations in the Philippines.

[2006 AusIMM NZ Branch annual conference in Waihi](#)

14 August 2006 - The New Zealand Branch of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy is holding its 2006 conference in Waihi from 29 August to 1 September 2006.

[Frontier exploration moves into deepwater](#)

9 August 2006 - Associate Energy Minister Harry Duynhoven today announced the award of a large petroleum exploration permit in the Outer Taranaki Basin, the first ever in the area.

[Petroleum mining permit granted for the development of the Cheal and Cardiff accumulations](#)

1 August 2006 - Austral Pacific and joint venture partners have been granted a 30.3 sq-km mining permit for the development of the Cheal oil and Cardiff gas/condensate accumulations.

[Opening of bidding round launches race for oil and gas in Great South Basin](#)

31 July 2006 - Associate Energy Minister Harry Duynhoven today announced the much anticipated opening of bidding for new petroleum exploration permits in the Great South Basin off the south-eastern coast of Otago and Southland.

[Solid Energy looks to restart mine on large Matura lignite field](#)

27 July 2006 - Solid Energy buys land around Matura lignite mine on New Zealand's largest coal deposit.

[Greymouth Petroleum plans more sidetrack wells, and new Moturoa well and acquires a second rig](#)

27 July 2006 - Greymouth Petroleum plans series of sidetrack wells in Ngatoro and Kaimiro fields and new well into Moturoa oil field using imported rig.

[TAG Oil plans large NZ drill programme over next 18 months](#)

27 July 2006 - Calgary-based TAG Oil plans large well drilling programme over next 18 months.

[L&M plans three more Southland wells after the promising Sharpridge Creek well](#)

27 July 2006 - L&M Petroleum plans more western Southland wells following tests showing oil and gas at its Sharpridge Creek well.

[New Zealand coal production exceeds 5 million tonnes for the third consecutive year](#)

25 July 2006 - New Zealand coal production reached a record level during 2005, with 5.267 million tonnes being won from 28 mines.

[Todd plans Te Kiri-2 well in onshore west Taranaki permit](#)

13 July 2006 - Todd Energy plans to drill Te Kiri-2 onshore well into Moki and Kapuni sands west of Mt Taranaki.

[NZ oil and gas exploration continues to grow](#)

12 July 2006 - Associate Minister Energy Harry Duynhoven today announced the results of the Taranaki/Wanganui bidding rounds with three offshore exploration permits awarded to Greymouth Petroleum, Highland Exploration Corporation, and Hugh Green Energy.

[Notice of Area Unavailable for Priority in Time Permit Applications - Offshore Taranaki](#)

11 July 2006 - From Tuesday 11 July 2006 an area of offshore Taranaki identified in the attached map is closed to Priority in Time petroleum permit applications until further notice.

[Draft Practice Statement for Consultation](#)

7 July 2006 - Draft practice statement for Section 41 is open for consultation. Consultation closes Monday 7 August 2006.

[Kupe Gas Project Gets Go-Ahead, a \\$980 Million Investment](#)

4 July 2006 - Kupe gas condensate project gets construction green light with final investment decision approved.

[OceanaGold to Sell Larger Share of Gold on Spot Market](#)

3 July 2006 - New Zealand's largest producer of gold OceanaGold Ltd is to reduce the amount of gold it sells on hedge contracts from 80% to 45%.

[Glass Earth Drills First of 14 Defined Gold Targets in Taupo Volcanic Region Permits](#)

30 June 2006 - Glass Earth begins first gold exploration drilling in new permits near Taupo, while Canadian gold explorer St Andrews Goldfields increases interest to 34%.

[Bounty Decision and Notes for Industry](#)

29 June 2006 - The High Court released its decision in Bounty Oil & Gas NL v Attorney-General on 27 June 2006. It is the first time the courts have considered an appeal from a decision to revoke a permit under the Crown Minerals Act.

[Notice of Area Available for Priority in Time Permit Applications - Offshore East Coast](#)

29 June 2006 - From Tuesday 1 August 2006 an area of offshore East Coast previously unavailable for priority in time applications will be available for priority in time permit applications.

[High Court Decision Opens the Way for Petroleum Exploration in Great South Basin](#)

28 June 2006 - Ministry of Economic Development announces High Court dismissal of appeal by Bounty Oil & Gas.

[Crown Minerals Releases Discussion Document on Reporting Regulations](#)

22 June 2006 - Discussion paper sets out proposed changes to reporting regulations, and reasons for the changes. The closing date for comment is 20 July 2006.

[Maari Field Has Potential for More Oil, Says Project Partner](#)

21 June 2006 - The 49 million barrel Maari oil field under development has potential for additional production, says project partner Horizon Oil.

[L&M Completes Offshore Seismic Survey in Solander Basin](#)

19 June 2006 - L&M Petroleum completes offshore Solander Basin seismic survey to close five-basin seismic campaign around New Zealand for Pacific Titan.

Eastern's Cascade Coal Mine in Buller Lifts Output Substantially

15 June 2006 - Eastern Corporation's Cascade coal mine in Buller expected to substantially lift production for the year ending June, but have not yet reached the company target of 100,000 tonnes a year.

Auzex Resources Focuses on West Coast Granite Gold Associated Mineralisation

13 June 2006 - Auzex Resources focuses on West Coast granite mineralisation containing gold and other minerals such as tungsten, tin, molybdenum and bismuth.

Aurora Minerals Drills into Gold Quartz Veining in Northland

13 June 2006 - Gold explorer Aurora Minerals intersects epithermal style quartz/pyrite veining in first drilling of its Backyard prospect in Northland.

Comments Sought on Proposed Timings for Great South Basin Blocks Offer

12 June 2006 - Comments sought by 21 June 2006 on proposed timings for Great South Basin Blocks Offer

Comments Sought on Proposed Timings for 2006 East Coast Basin Blocks Offer

12 June 2006 - Comments sought by 21 June 2006 on proposed timings for 2006 East Coast Basin Blocks Offer

Australasia Gold's Initial Drilling at Wetherstones Field in Otago

8 June 2006 - Australasia Gold completes initial drilling to test paleoplacer gold deposit at Wetherstones in Otago gold fields.

GRD Sells 50% Interest in OceanaGold

8 June 2006 - OceanaGold's majority shareholder GRD sells out most of its shares to institutional investors.

NZOG Involved in Seven Offshore Wells over Next Year

8 June 2006 - NZOG participating in seven wells offshore Taranaki over next year - its largest continuous programme.

Extra 1 Million Barrels May Flow from Tui Oil Fields Reconfigured Wells

1 June 2006 - Tui oil field may yield extra 1 million barrels of reserves with reconfigured production wells, AWE says.

Technip Preferred Lead Contractor for Whole Kupe Project

31 June 2006 - Technip awarded preferred contractor status for offshore as well as onshore parts of Kupe gas project construction.

Swift Energy Completes Two Successful Wells in Taranaki

31 May 2006 - Swift Energy completes two successful Taranaki wells in latest quarter.

Award of New Permit Adds Impetus to Frontier Exploration

22 May 2006 - The Associate Minister of Energy, Harry Duynhoven, today announced the award of a large offshore exploration permit to Pogo New Zealand off the East Coast of the North Island.

Austral Pacific Acquires Seismic in Offshore Canterbury and Onshore Taranaki

22 May 2006 - Austral Pacific acquires seismic over Whaler prospect in offshore Canterbury and over Cheal and Cardiff fields in onshore Taranaki.

Exploration Funding to Boost Onshore Petroleum Developments

22 May 2006 - The Associate Minister of Energy, Harry Duynhoven, today announced that the \$6 million funding provided from last week's Budget to acquire geotechnical data to support exploration in New Zealand would be partly used to fund work aimed at gaining a greater understanding of the known fields within onshore Taranaki.

Marsden Point Refinery Expansion Now Due for 2010

21 May 2006 - Expansion of Marsden Point refinery production now planned for 2010 start up.

OceanaGold Reports Positive Supreme Drill Results at Reefton

17 May 2006 - OceanaGold reports positive drill exploration results from Supreme prospect 2.5 km south of Globe Progress mine at Reefton project.

Newmont Indicates Potential for Favona Ore Extensions

18 May 2006 - Newmont reports on potential for Favona orebody extensions and 17% decline in Martha gold sales for first quarter.

Further Acreage Now Available for Great South Basin Petroleum Blocks Offer

17 May 2006 - The holders of PEP 38225 have applied to surrender the permit. This surrender has been accepted to take effect from tomorrow – 18 May 2006.

Coalbed Methane Finds Promising Coal Seam Gas Flows at Huntly

8 May 2006 - Coalbed Methane Ltd's initial tests at Huntly coal field indicate promising quantities of coal seam gas.

OceanaGold Sets Record Quarterly Output for Macraes Gold Mine

4 May 2006 - OceanaGold sets record quarterly production for Macraes gold mine in 2006 first quarter.

Glass Earth Joint Ventures with Newmont to Explore Waihi Permit

4 May 2006 - Newmont to form joint venture with Glass Earth for its Waihi west permit next to Martha mine with plans to spend \$1.5 million in exploration.

Turangi Petroleum Permit Highlights Ongoing Potential of Taranaki

1 May 2006 - Associate Minister of Energy, Harry Duynhoven, today said that the award of a permit to Greymouth Petroleum to produce oil and gas from the Turangi discovery confirmed that onshore Taranaki will continue to have a major role in New Zealand's energy future.

Approval Given for Mining of 5 Million Tonne of Coal on Stockton Ridge

1 May 2006 - Approval given to Solid Energy for mining 5 million tonne of coal on Stockton ridgeline after conservation measures put in place.

TAG Oil's New Interest in Radnor and East Coast Permits

1 May 2006 - TAG Oil to earn third interest in Radnor mining permit in onshore Taranaki by paying for two thirds of new sidetrack well.

Mighty River Power to Add 45MW Gas Turbine to Auckland Cogeneration Plant

1 May 2006 - Electricity company Mighty River Power to install new gas turbine at Auckland gas-fired cogeneration plant.

Austral Pacific Plans to Bring Cheal Oil Field Onstream in Late 2006

1 May 2006 - Austral Pacific plans to bring Cheal oil field onstream in late 2006 with 2000 barrel a day capacity production station.

Eastern Establishes Foothold in Southland's Ohai Coal Fields

1 May 2006 - Queensland-based coal miner Eastern Corporation establishes presence in Southland coal fields with purchase of Straith mine.

OceanaGold Total Gold Resources Rise to Record 7 Million oz

21 April 2006 - OceanaGold's total gold resources rise 14% to record 7 million oz.

Exploration Drilling at Globe Progress Locates Additional Gold

21 April 2006 - OceanaGold says additional drilling increases gold resources at Globe Progress mine.

Parker Drilling Reports NZ Rigs in Use 100% of Time in 2005

19 April 2006 - Parker Drilling's rigs in Taranaki drilled full time in 2005.

Crown Minerals Seismic Survey a Resounding Success

7 April 2006 - Crown Minerals has successfully completed an offshore seismic survey, off the southeast coast of the South Island, as part of a blocks offer planned for the Great South basin later this year.

5 April 2006 - Technip Preferred for Kupe Onshore Production Station

Kupe gas project awards Technip Oceania preferred tender status.

[Methanex Secures More Natural Gas for Waitara Plant](#)

5 April 2006 - Methanex secures additional 6 PJ of natural gas for Waitara Valley methanol plant.

[AWE Commits to Nine Wells Offshore NZ over Next Year](#)

5 April 2006 - AWE commits to drilling nine offshore wells in Taranaki and Canterbury over the next year.

[Eastern Starts Drilling at Whareatea West](#)

3 April 2006 - Queensland-based Eastern Corporation begins coal exploration drilling at Whareatea West in Buller coalfield.

[Roa Mining and Solid Energy Sign 10 Year Transport Deal](#)

3 April 2006 - Roa Mining signs 10 year transport agreement for export of coal from West Coast mine.

[Solid Energy Records Half-Year Surplus After High Export Prices](#)

29 March 2006 - Solid Energy makes record net surplus for first half on the back of high export prices.

[Former Newmont Australia Head John Dow on Glass Earth Board](#)

29 March 2006 - Glass Earth appoints former Newmont Australia managing director John Dow to its board.

[Great South Basin Petroleum Exploration Permit Blocks Offer Notice for Consultation](#)

27 March 2006 - The Great South Basin will shortly be opened for a blocks offer. Because of the scale of acreage on offer and the anticipated level of industry interest, the proposed application process is being released in draft for industry comment.

[Tui Field Operations Will Separate Oil from Water](#)

27 March 2006 - Tui oil field operations in offshore Taranaki will separate oil from high volumes of water, project director says.

[Coal Seam Gas Deliveries Within a Year](#)

23 March 2006 - The L&M Mining Group may be delivering gas from coalbed methane deposits in Southland to Dunedin, Queenstown, and Invercargill within 12 months.

[Exploration Showing a Good Success Rate](#)

23 March 2006 - A strong reflection of New Zealand's prospectivity for oil and gas has been shown by the substantial lift in exploration wells drilled since 2000, and particularly in the past two years.

[Maui Life Extension?](#)

23 March 2006 - The Maui field, which has been the backbone of New Zealand's oil and gas supply, may now have an extended life beyond 2009.

[Integration of NGC's Gas Business Pays Off for Vector](#)

22 March 2006 - Energy networks operator Vector says it is gaining significant benefits from full takeover of gas pipeline company NGC.

[NZ Refining Company Profit Jumps 43%](#)

22 March 2006 - Marsden Point refinery profit up 43% to a record \$140 million with almost 40 million barrels of crude oil processed.

[New Exploration Company Arrowhead Energy](#)

22 March 2006 - Claire Energy and IRM form new company Arrowhead Energy to operate New Zealand exploration interests.

[Tanker Pacific Wins Maari FPSO Contract; Ensko to Drill](#)

20 March 2006 - FPSO vessel contract for Maari oil field goes to Singapore-based Tanker Pacific Offshore Terminals. Ensko to conduct development drilling.

[TAG Oil and Austral Pacific Acquire More Onshore Taranaki Assets](#)

20 March 2006 - TAG Oil and Austral Pacific acquire more onshore Taranaki interests.

Swift Energy Plans Over NZ\$60m of Exploration in 2006

20 March 2006 - Swift Energy budgets over \$60 million for capital expenditure in Taranaki in 2006.

OceanaGold Raises Extra \$10m for New Developments

16 March 2006 - OceanaGold raises more funds for Macraes and Reefton developments.

Martha Mine Yields Record 163,000 oz for Newmont

16 March 2006 - Newmont's Martha mine produces a record 163,000 oz of gold in 2005.

Solid Energy Just Short of Achieving Environmental Target

13 March 2006 - Solid Energy had environmental achievements in 2005 but just missed goal of having a positive net environmental effect.

Great South Basin Digital Well Logs and Enhanced Well Data Now Available Online

10 March 2006 - In preparation for the Great South basin blocks offer Crown Minerals have made digital well logs and enhanced well data sets available online free of charge.

Mitsui Increases Stake in Tui Oil Field to 35%

28 February 2006 - Large Japanese trading house Mitsui increases interest in Tui area oil project in offshore Taranaki to 35%.

Austral Plans Cardiff-Cheal 3D Seismic Survey; Heaphy-1 Dry

28 February 2006 - Austral Pacific plans 80 sq km seismic survey in Cardiff-Cheal area but finds Heaphy-1 well dry.

TAG Says Different Techniques Yield Gas at Sole Risk SuppleJack

28 February 2006 - TAG Oil says under-balanced perforation techniques yields gas instead of water in completion work at its sole-risk SuppleJack South-1A well.

Swift Energy Earns Higher Prices from Gas and Oil

28 February 2006 - Swift Energy earns higher gas and oil prices in latest quarter.

Notice of Area Available for Priority in Time Permit Applications - Northland and Outer Taranaki

27 February 2006 - From 12 pm Monday 27 February 2006 the area of offshore Northland and offshore Outer Taranaki Basins previously unavailable for priority in time applications will be available for priority in time permit applications.

Notice of Area Available for Priority in Time Permit Applications - Onshore East Coast

27 February 2006 - From Monday 20 March 2006 the area of onshore East Coast previously unavailable for priority in time applications will be available for priority in time permit applications.

Future NZ Car Fleet May Drive on Hydrogen from Coal, Scientists Say

9 February 2006 - New Zealand's future vehicle fleet could be powered by hydrogen derived from country's large coal resources, scientists say.

34 Wells Drilled During 2005

7 February 2006 - Thirty four wells drilled in 2005 as exploration activity remains buoyant.

Rick Webber Replaces Dave Bennett as Austral Pacific CEO

3 February 2006 - Austral Pacific Energy appoints Rick Webber to takeover as CEO following resignation of Dave Bennett.

Award of New Permits Set to Open Up Northland for New Oil and Gas Exploration

3 February 2006 - The Associate Minister of Energy, Hon Harry Duynhoven, today announced the award of two large offshore exploration permits in new exploration investment in the Northland region.

AWE to Operate Tui as Transworld Becomes Minority Shareholder

3 February 2006 - AWE becomes operator of Tui Area oil field in share swap deal with Transworld group.

Kupe Drilling Contract Awarded for up to 6 Offshore Wells

2 February 2006 - Origin Energy awards contract to ENSCO to drill up to six wells with newly-built jack-up rig for Kupe gas-condensate field project.

OceanaGold Moves into Higher Grade Ore in Frasers Deposit

1 February 2006 - OceanaGold begins mining higher grades in large Frasers pit at Macraes gold mine.

Glass Earth Buys HPD Gold Interests and is Granted Six Exploration Permits

26 January 2006 - Glass Earth acquires HPD New Zealand's extensive gold interests and is granted six new exploration permits in central North Island.

Solid Energy Invests in Major Pilot Project to Store CO2 Underground

24 January 2006 - Solid Energy invests in trial Australasian project to sequester CO2 greenhouse gas deep underground.

Transport Consortium to Ship Pike River Coal from Port Taranaki

24 January 2006 - Pike River Coal awards transport a consortium contract to export from Port Taranaki terminal serviced by two new coastal ships from Greymouth.

TAG Oil Assumes Sole Risk on SuppleJack South-1A Well Testing

18 January 2006 - TAG Oil assumes sole risk on SuppleJack South-1A well testing.

Tap to Operate Its First Offshore Taranaki Permit

18 January 2006 - Tap Oil to operate its first offshore Taranaki Basin permit near the Pohokura gas-condensate field.

NZ Sets Up First Post-Grad Petroleum Geoscience Course

16 January 2006 - Post-grad petroleum geoscience course being established in Wellington to help meet need for more oil and gas exploration specialists.

Australian Company Clough Wins \$180m Maari Platform Contract

16 January 2006 - Australian-based engineering and construction firm Clough wins NZ\$180 million contract for "innovative" Maari offshore platform.

OMV Sets Ambitious Global Oil and Gas Production Targets

16 January 2006 - OMV sets ambitious global oil and gas production targets for 2010.

Newmont's Martha gold mine output down

24 August 2006 - Gold ounces sold from Newmont Mining Corporation's Martha mine at Waihi decreased 34% in the three months to June 30 compared with the same period in 2005, the Denver-based company says in its second quarter report.

Austral Pacific plans 1900 bopd output from Cheal oil field

25 August 2006 - Austral Pacific Energy Ltd has announced that it plans to bring the onshore Taranaki Cheal oil field into a full production of approximately 1900 barrels a day by the second quarter of 2007.

Swift Energy tests Goss and Trapper wells

25 August 2006 - Houston-based Swift Energy Company says in its second quarter report that it has begun testing the Goss and Trapper wells in its TAWN fields.

Value of minerals and coal production rises over 17% to NZ\$1.346 billion during 2005

28 August 2006 - For the fourth year in a row, statistics collected by Crown Minerals show the total value of coal, metals, and industrial minerals mined and quarried has increased to record levels.

First gas flows from new Pohokura field development

4 September 2006 - First gas and condensate has begun flowing from the Pohokura field development in offshore Taranaki, the joint venture owners Shell, Todd and OMV have announced.

Anzon joins offshore Canterbury Cutter-1 partners to drill next month

4 September 2006 - A fourth Australian company Anzon Australia Ltd is to join the joint venture partners for drilling the offshore Canterbury well Cutter-1, likely to spud in early October.

Second oil prospect at Maari to be drilled Horizon Oil says

4 September 2006 - The Maari oil field partners plan to drill the adjoining Manaia oil prospect at the same time as the Maari production wells are being sunk in 2007-8 in offshore Taranaki says Horizon Oil, one of partners.

Methanex Waitara plant starts up again

5 September 2006 - Methanex Corporation has announced it has re-started its 530,000 tonne per year methanol plant in the Waitara Valley in Taranaki.

NZOG acquiring Felix-Opito prospect onshore-offshore seismic

6 September 2006 - New Zealand Oil & Gas Ltd, Wellington-based exploration company is embarking on an onshore-offshore transition zone seismic survey of its Felix-Opito prospect in the North Taranaki PEP 38729.

NZOG announces decision to invest \$147 million in the Kupe development

6 September 2006 - Tony Radford, executive chairman of NZOG, says in the report that his company would contribute NZ\$147 million to the total Kupe gas project development costs of NZ\$980 million.

Pike River Coal's new mine access tunnel to begin

8 September 2006 - Driving of the access tunnel for the Pike River Coal Ltd's new coking coal mine on the South Island's West Coast is expected to commence in September, parent company New Zealand Oil & Gas says in a release.

Eastern looks for further New Zealand coal projects

8 September 2006 - Brisbane-based coal company Eastern Corporation Ltd says in its June 2006 quarterly report it has several other operating projects under consideration in New Zealand in addition to developing its Whareatea West exploration permit on the Buller coalfield and its prospecting permits near Ohai in Southland.

Oceana Gold reports 60,000oz resource at Reefton gold mine

12 September 2006 - The Supreme prospect at the Globe Progress mine due to start production in December, contains an inferred resource of 60,000 oz of gold, Oceana Gold says in its half year report to June 30.

Macraes gold output rises 26% to 100,000 oz in first half

12 September 2006 - Gold production at Oceana Gold's Macraes mine in east Otago increased by 26% over the first half of 2006 to a total of 100,160 oz, compared to 79,380 oz for the same period last year.

Genesis 385MW gas-fired power station nears completion at Huntly

14 September 2006 - The next major downstream user of natural gas Genesis Energy's new 385 megawatt combined cycle plant is nearly finished construction at Huntly and is expected to begin commissioning in December 2006.

Pogo and 50% partner Mighty River plan well in 2007 off Taranaki

14 September 2006 - Houston-based oil and gas explorer and producer Pogo Producing Company and its 50% partner Auckland-based energy generator and retailer Mighty River Power are currently planning to drill their first well next year in one of the three offshore Taranaki exploration permits they jointly hold.

Contact uses more gas in generation, expects higher gas prices

15 September 2006 - Contact Energy, the largest user of natural gas for electricity generation, was able to increase generation from its flexible gas generation plants by 41% in the year to June from the previous 2005 year.

AWE to explore large oil prospects during a nine well offshore campaign

21 September 2006 - Sydney-based Australian Worldwide Exploration Ltd's nine well offshore drilling programme is expected to start next month and includes some large potential oil prospects, the company's September website presentation indicates

L&M Coal granted coal exploration permit 50km south of Auckland

25 September 2006 - Christchurch-based L&M Coal Ltd has been granted a coal exploration permit at the northern end of the Waikato coalfields about 50km south of Auckland.

Eastern opens Timaru base for marketing coal from new South Island mines

26 September 2006 - Coal company Eastern Corporation plans to establish a blending and distribution plant in Timaru approximately halfway between its newly acquired Southland and West Coast coal mines.

Crown Minerals seismic survey DUN06 now available

26 September 2006 - GNS Science has completed processing for DUN06, a seismic survey acquired in the Great South Basin by Crown Minerals earlier this year. The survey was acquired to assist in the promotion of the Great South Basin Blocks offer that is currently open, and due to close on the 31st of March 2007.

L&M plans full feasibility study on lignite to diesel project

28 September 2006 - New Zealand company L&M Lignite Ltd plans to start a full feasibility study next year on a proposed US\$3.7 billion coal-to-liquids plant based on large lignite fields in Southland, South Otago or Central Otago.

Grey River dredge to start up again in early 2007

28 September 2006 - The Grey River gold dredge plans to begin operating in February next year following the recent increase in gold prices

Southland's biggest lignite mine purchase agreed by Solid Energy

29 September 2006 - Coal producer Solid Energy has reached a conditional agreement to buy 100% of the privately-owned Southland lignite producer New Vale Coal Company Ltd.

Origin awards Kupe contract to Technip

5 October 2006 - Origin Energy Resources (Kupe) Ltd, operator of the Kupe gas condensate project in offshore south Taranaki, has confirmed that the French-based engineering company Technip has been awarded the \$305 million (US\$200 million) contract for the overall development of the project.

New survey published on NZ mineral deposits

17 October 2006 - A new survey of New Zealand's mineral deposits has been published summarising the results of key mineral exploration and research carried out over the past one and a half decades.

Glass Earth granted two Coromandel permits

17 October 2006 - HPD New Zealand Ltd, the wholly owned subsidiary of gold exploration company Glass Earth (New Zealand) Ltd has been granted two gold exploration permits on the Coromandel ranges north of Waihi in the North Island.

Maari oil field equipment construction in South East Asia well underway

17 October 2006 - Construction for the Maari oil field project is 20% complete and on schedule for production start-up in late March 2008, one of the Maari partners Horizon Oil reports in a project update.

Aurora Minerals granted third Northland exploration permit

18 October 2006 - Australian-based exploration company Aurora Minerals Ltd has been awarded a third exploration permit for gold in Northland.

NZOG sees further add-on prospects at Kupe field

18 October 2006 - The Kupe gas condensate field now under development contains a number of additional prospects, New Zealand Oil & Gas Ltd says in its 2006 annual report.

Newmont expects more gold

19 October 2006 - The Favona underground gold mine under development near Waihi by Newmont Waihi Gold has increased its reserves of gold.

Todd undertaking large Taranaki drilling effort - offshore and onshore

31 October 2006 - Todd Energy is planning late next year to drill two offshore wells— a new Moki sands oil prospect potentially containing 100 million barrels in the south Taranaki Basin and a well in the Karewa gas prospect in north Taranaki waters.

Mighty River Power joins L&M Petroleum for West Southland well

31 October 2006 - Christchurch-based oil and gas explorer L&M Petroleum Ltd has entered into an agreement with North Island-based downstream energy company Mighty River Power Ltd to jointly explore one of L&M's onshore permits in the Western Southland Basin.

Shell says E&P activity in NZ at highest ever levels

31 October 2006 - Shell New Zealand's activity levels in its exploration and production business was at its highest level ever in 2005, the company said.

Notice of area unavailable for priority in time permit applications - Offshore Northland

9 November 2006 - From Wednesday 8 November 2006 an area of offshore Northland identified in the attached map is closed to Priority in Time petroleum permit applications until further notice.

Government secures exploration data with Court settlement

10 November 2006 - The Government, ExxonMobil and Fugro-Geoteam AS have today settled a dispute in relation to the provision of seismic data to the Crown in relation to acreage in the Great South Basin.

Solid Energy's record sales, production and \$85m profit

13 November 2006 - Coal company Solid Energy New Zealand Ltd produced record sales in the latest year of \$570 million up 42% from \$401 million in 2005 on record production of 4.67 million tonnes, up slightly from 4.46 million tonnes in 2005.

Australasia Gold undertakes more drilling in Otago

13 November 2006 - South Australian-based junior gold explorer Australasia Gold Ltd plans to undertake further drilling at its Wetherstones palaeoplacer gold prospect near Lawrence in Central Otago before the end of 2006.

Oceana Gold's gold price up 41%.

13 November 2006 - Oceana Gold Ltd achieved an average gold price of A\$805 oz for its Macraes mine gold production in the third quarter to September 30 — 41% higher than the A\$571 oz price for the 2005 third quarter.

Globe Progress gold mine begins commissioning in December

13 November 2006 - The Globe Progress gold project at Reefton on the West Coast of the South Island which is operated by Oceana Gold has begun mining ore and will commence dry commissioning in December.

Eastern awarded two Southland coal prospecting permits

13 November 2006 - Queensland-based coal company Eastern Corporation has been awarded two prospecting permits for sub-bituminous coal in Western Southland through its subsidiary Rochfort Coal Mining Pty Ltd.

Spring Creek underground coal mine to be expanded

15 November 2006 - Coal producer, Solid Energy has decided to go ahead with development and expansion of its Spring Creek underground coal mine just north of Greymouth on the West Coast of the South Island.

Methanex and Ballance both secure additional gas supplies

20 November 2006 - Vancouver-based international methanol producer Methanex Corporation announced it has secured additional natural gas supply to keep its Waitara Valley methanol plant in Taranaki operating until the end of March 2007.

Austral Pacific locates oil in first well into northern Cheal field

20 November 2006 - Wellington-based exploration company Austral Pacific Energy Ltd has located oil-bearing sands in the first well probe into the northern extension of its onshore Taranaki Cheal oil field.

Glass Earth expands exploration acreage on Taupo Volcanic Zone

23 November 2006 - Wellington-based gold exploration company Glass Earth has expanded its exploration permit holdings in the Taupo Volcanic Zone.

Origin wins second offshore Canterbury permit and locates large lead off Dunedin

5 December 2006 - Australian oil and gas exploration company Origin Energy has been awarded a second large offshore Canterbury Basin petroleum exploration permit largely in deepwater.

[Auzex to drill for tungsten, gold with new joint venture partner NZ Minerals](#)

5 December 2006 - The Australian and New Zealand mineral explorer Auzex Resources, which is searching for gold, tungsten and molybdenum prospects on the West Coast of the South Island, has been awarded three mineral exploration permits.

[Downstream gas users secure additional Maui gas to 2014](#)

5 December 2006 - Additional Maui gas contract agreements totaling 275 petajoules have been secured through to 2014 by Contact Energy and Vector.

[Solid Energy to survey Southland-Otago for potential underground CO2 storage sites](#)

5 November 2006 - Coal producer Solid Energy is to survey potential land-based carbon dioxide storage sites in Otago and Southland, a project that is part of a 20-year, \$100 million investment the company is making in clean coal technology.

[Swift brings onstream new Waihapa oil well in Tikorangi limestone](#)

5 December 2006 - Swift Energy has successfully drilled and is now producing oil from the Tikorangi limestone formation in its Waihapa field in onshore Taranaki.

[Trans-Orient to explore fractured shale plays in two onshore East Coast permits](#)

11 December 2006 - Vancouver-based Trans-Orient Petroleum Ltd has been awarded two large petroleum exploration permits in onshore East Coast Basin in the North Island.

[Tap's offshore Canterbury well finds gas shows but main target water wet](#)

11 November 2006 - Tap Oil reports that its Cutter-1 well offshore from Oamaru in the Canterbury Basin has been plugged and abandoned after finding its primary objective Shag Point sandstones were water wet.

[Origin Energy carrying out seismic surveys in Northland permits](#)

14 December 2006 - Origin Energy plans to carry out large seismic surveys of its two offshore Northland exploration permits over the next three months.

[Solid Energy puts large effort into proving coal reserves](#)

14 December 2006 - Coal producer Solid Energy is putting in substantial effort into proving up new coal reserves drilling 44 km of test holes in the year to June 2006.

[Third successful Cheal-B development well finds oil in two zones](#)

14 December 2006 - Wellington-based Austral Pacific Energy Ltd has discovered oil in two payzones in its third successful development well at its Cheal-B site in its onshore Taranaki Cheal oil field in PMP 38156.

[Newmont Waihi mining jobs expected to reach highest level yet](#)

14 December 2006 - Newmont Waihi Gold expects more people to be employed in gold mining by the end of this year in the Waihi region than at any other time in the company's operations.

[Holcim examines future cement manufacturing options](#)

20 December 2006 - Cement firm Holcim (New Zealand) Ltd is investigating options for expansion of its New Zealand production to meet increasing consumer demand and production shortfalls.

[Glass Earth begins exploration of new Mamaku gold region](#)

21 December 2006 - Wellington-based gold exploration company Glass Earth is to carry out exploration this summer in the Mamaku-Muir region of the Bay of Plenty which the company has previously described as a new epithermal gold province.