

NZGA Special Interest Group – Update March 2013

SGGG Special Interest Group

Structural Geology and Geothermal Geomechanics Community Comes Together at the NZGW - A significant gain was made for the Structural Geology and Geothermal Geomechanics (SGGG) community in November 2012 when the New Zealand Geothermal Workshop hosted three dedicated sessions. This is the first time the NZGW has hosted session specific to structural and geomechanical issues. The sessions brought together national and international contributors hailing from industry, university and crown research institutes. Contributors presented papers on a variety of SGGG topics from the microscopic to regional scale, and with applications in geothermal exploration, permeability mapping, well stimulation and drilling optimisation. Because of the multi-scalar and multi-disciplinary nature of structural geology and geomechanical problems, community interaction such as this is invaluable. This year the SGGG community is again offered the opportunity to pull together at the NZGW, as structural geology and geomechanics is offered as a topic, and workers in the field are encouraged to contribute (abstracts due 31 May). SGGG is one of the NZGA Special Interest Groups. For any queries please contact Irene Wallis (Irene.Wallis@mightyriverpower.co.nz).

NZGA Environment and Legislation Interest Group

The Environment and Legislation Interest Group has received keen interest from NZGA membership and now comprises 16 members. In the last 3-months we have made a submission to the Northland Regional Policy Statement (see here) and also had input to the Emerging Issues; *“The Sustainable Carrying Capacity of New Zealand”*, for the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Tricia Scott has led this group in its first term and we have run this on an as need be basis so that people are not asked to attend meetings or conference calls without specific need. It is great to have a group of knowledgeable people willing and able to have input to these regional and national legislation matters. It can be hard to find the time with all the other demands of work but I think it is essential that we each contribute to this to keep in touch with the bigger picture, and to make sure that informed decisions are made for the betterment of New Zealand as a whole. Tricia has now stood down from this role and we are very grateful for the role she has played in establishing the group and ensuring it was active in a number of submissions on key environmental issues. Stephen Daysh (Environmental Management Services) has now agreed to take over the leadership of this group. Welcome Stephen.

The Geothermal Heat-pump Association of New Zealand (GHANZ)

The Geothermal Heat-pump Association of New Zealand (GHANZ) is an NZGA Special Interest Group working collaboratively across the geothermal heat pump industry in New Zealand.

GHANZ was established under the New Zealand Geothermal Association (NZGA) in 2012.

The [August 2012 GHANZ Newsletter](#) focuses on the following:

- Introductory Guide to Geothermal Heat Pumps
- Joint AU/NZ Standard for geothermal (ground-source) heat pumps.
- Geothermal Heat Pump Installers and Installations.

See also the following GHANZ past events:

- [Geothermal Heat Pumps - An Australian Perspective](#)
- [Geothermal Energy Workshop](#)
- [Geothermal Energy Workshop](#)

See the [GHANZ web-site](#) for more.

Generation and Industrial use

We have had a slow start to this Group. In August last year, a small team met in Rotorua to discuss ideas on how this Group could develop, and to identify some activities to get the Group started. We have had a steady building of interest from NZGA members over the past 6 months.

The Group was involved in providing the NZGA Executive Officer (Brian White) with some feedback on the proposed Electricity Demand and Generation Scenarios (EDGS). This Group provided a broader collection of the NZGA membership to support Brian in preparing a submission for this document.

The goal for the next few months is to focus on developing a list of achievable goals for the group. These may include:

- Providing the NZGA Executive Officer with support in preparing submissions on generation and industrial documents
- Providing some type of forum to allow for the sharing of above ground, technical information. This may be in the form of an internet forum, or it may utilise an existing system (such as Linked In)
- Develop a technical expertise resource that can be accessed by the NZGA membership
- Encouraging members to present above ground technical papers at conferences.

We welcome any NZGA members who wish to join our group to contact me at chrism@mtlnz.co.nz

Tourism

Andy Blair of GNS Science and Enterprise Great Lake Taupo has agreed to take the lead for this group, so watch this space. Welcome Andy!

Geothermal Reservoir Modelling Interest Group

A reservoir modelling theme has been chosen as the focus for the NZGA Seminar this year.

Service Providers and Finance Group

No developments to report for the Service Providers and Finance Group. Hot topics for discussion are welcome.

Direct Use

No update available.

Iwi and Landowners

No update available