

# **NZGA Newsletter for September 2005**

## **Dear Member**

It is now nine months since the last Annual General Meeting and only six weeks away from the New Zealand Geothermal Workshop, NZGA Seminar and the next AGM. A lot has happened since the last newsletter and we have a lot of activities coming up.

## **Combined NZGA Seminar and Auckland University Geothermal Institute Workshop**

I hope you are able to attend the combined NZGA Seminar and AUGI Workshop. Details appear at the back of this newsletter.

## **Change in Board Composition**

We were sorry to receive the resignation of Alison Jappinen in July from the position of Secretary, due to changes in her employment situation. Alison has been a very active and vocal member of the NZGA and her input will be sadly missed. Mike Glucina has generously offered to take over the Secretary role.

## **Membership**

Since January the membership has increased from 119 to 130 individual members. A Corporate membership has also been introduced as an option, and Environment Waikato has taken up this option.

## **Donations**

Last year a number of organisations generously provided funds (ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000) for a more active Association, to support the role of the Executive Officer and to support representation of New Zealand geothermal interests in the International Geothermal Association. These functions continue, so the NZGA will shortly be approaching organisations once again to support these initiatives for the coming year. Please consider the support your organisation could make to the successful operation of your Association.

## **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES SINCE THE MAY NEWSLETTER**

### **GST Registration**

Because of the increase in turnover of the NZGA we are required to register for GST. This was actioned by Bruce Carswell in August and from now on we will include a GST component on all invoices, including subscriptions. The level of the subscriptions will be an item for discussion at the AGM, to be held late on the afternoon of Thursday October 27th.

### **Meetings and Contracts with EECA**

Early in the year Alison Jappinen, Brian White and Colin Harvey met with EECA including an introductory seminar to EECA staff (Selwyn Blackmore, Fiona Weightman and Elizabeth Yeaman) to raise their awareness of the activities of the NZGA.

Arising from these meetings, with continued input from Brian, NZGA has now completed two EECA-funded contracts each of \$10,000 to:

1. Update the NZGA website, with a particular emphasis on provision of useful information on geothermal energy for public education purposes. The Board had decided that an earlier geothermal booklet project would instead be redirected to loading relevant information on the website. Make sure you see the updated website at the same address

as before: [www.nzgeothermal.org.nz](http://www.nzgeothermal.org.nz). It has a lot of useful links to other sites. The puffing well has not completely disappeared, although it is now a page footer and has lost its puff.

2. Research the geothermal energy industry's personnel capability needs to meet current and future expansion requirements. As part of this project, EECA wants an updated contact list for consultants and service providers within the industry. Please visit the EECA website and register your details with them.

(<http://www.eeca.govt.nz/es/directory/searchdirectory.aspx>)

Presentations were made to EECA on these two projects. Some aspects of the personnel capability report are still subject to review and revision, but it will be added to the NZGA website as soon as possible.

3. EECA, through the NZGA, also sponsored \$4,000 for a local body officer, Katherine Luketina from Environment Waikato to attend the World Geothermal Conference in Turkey. Katherine will present her report on her visit to EECA.
4. In addition EECA will also support the NZGA seminar and workshops with a donation of \$5,000.

### **Drilling Seminar by Dr. Stephen Bauer of Sandia Labs, USA**

This was an initiative of Colin's in which Stephen Bauer of Sandia Labs was brought across to New Zealand to talk on aspects of geothermal wells. Stephen's travel is being covered by NZ Trade and Enterprise through their World Class New Zealanders programme, with the assistance of Steve Tritt. The seminar was enriched with input from Keith Lichti and Paul Bixley. Invoices and receipts for the event have been sent out.

### **Interaction with Government**

NZGA continues to be a focal point for Government interaction with the geothermal industry. As a consequence, the Board and Executive Officer have been actively consulted on a number of documents before their publication. Input has been provided to two EECA documents, including a geothermal fact sheet that EECA has prepared to raise the industry profile. There has also been discussion and input on aspects of carbon charge.

### **Environment Bay of Plenty**

Environment Bay of Plenty has recently sent a copy of the latest Rotorua Monitoring Report, and NZGA has advised that it will be interested in providing input on the Rotorua Management Plan which is currently under review. EBOP will be arranging meetings in the near future.

### **Environment Waikato**

We continue to monitor geothermal issues with Environment Waikato's Regional Plan and its Policy Statement. We note considerable progress since the initial draft presented last year. Some aspects are being heard by the Environment Court from 12 September. NZGA plan to provide further input on Te Kopia in future with a view to its being transferred to the "development" category.

### **New Zealand Clean Energy Centre**

Some of you may be aware of (or directly involved in) the New Zealand Clean Energy Centre which has been proposed to be established in Taupo. This is an initiative linked to the Lake Taupo Development Company, and aims to establish a centre with strong links to geothermal (particularly direct use) and biomass energy sources. Some of their plans mesh in well with

the Action Plan developed at the 2003 NZGA Seminar. The NZGA continues to monitor progress, but was pleased to provide a letter of support to NZ Trade and Enterprise.

### **Endorsement of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual National Power New Zealand Conference 2006**

NZGA has signed an endorsement agreement for Terrapinn's National Power NZ conference to be held 1-3 March 2006 at the Hyatt Hotel, Auckland. This provides a high level view of the New Zealand electricity scene, and is advertised as a gateway to the country's senior energy decision-makers. A direct benefit to members is a 15% discount off the conference registration price.

### **Media Releases**

The NZGA has made several media releases, in cooperation with Mighty River Power and Contact Energy.

In May, the NZGA released a media statement on the New Zealand contingent attendance at the World Geothermal Congress, and the potential that geothermal energy will play in our future energy mix.

In July, an announcement was made about the transfer of geothermal assets at Kawerau from the Crown to Mighty River Power, and the back-to-back transfer of assets to Ngati Tuwharetoa Geothermal Assets. This was defined as a change from a caretaker phase to a development phase.

In September a media announcement was made about the Contact Energy binary plant.

### **Contact Energy Binary Plant Opening**

In September, Brian White, Bruce Carswell and Colin Harvey attended the opening of the Contact Wairakei 15 MWe Binary Cycle plant. This was described by Contact Energy as a first step in a much larger contribution from geothermal energy to our future energy mix.

### **Award of Carbon Credits to MRP at Kawerau**

A recent public announcement that some of you may have missed has been appended to this newsletter. It is good to see that geothermal energy is being seen as part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

### **Annual General Meeting**

Members are advised that this will be held late in the afternoon of Thursday 27th October at the Park Heritage Hotel, Rotorua. If you have agenda items can you please forward them as soon as possible to Brian White at [brian.white@eastharb.co.nz](mailto:brian.white@eastharb.co.nz)

An agenda will be circulated to all members in late September.

Thanks for your continued support during 2005

Colin Harvey and Brian White on behalf of the NZGA Board.

## **KAWERAU GEOTHERMAL PROJECT'S KYOTO BOOST**

Tuesday, 6 September 2005, 1:05 pm

Press Release: New Zealand Government

### **Kawerau geothermal project's Kyoto boost**

The government has awarded over 1.2 million internationally tradable emissions units to Mighty River Power's proposed 70 MW Kawerau geothermal electricity scheme. The steam for the proposed scheme will be drawn from under land owned by the Putauaki Trust and Norske Skog Tasman under agreements with Mighty River Power.

"Climate change is a direct threat to New Zealand's economy, environment and way of life. Our ratification of the Kyoto Protocol means that the government can award emissions units to projects such as this that would otherwise not be financially viable at this time," says Convenor of the Ministerial Group on Climate Change Pete Hodgson.

Under the government's Projects to Reduce Emissions programme, units are awarded to projects that lead to a net reduction in emission against business as usual and that would not otherwise be financially viable. Units are awarded through a tender process. New Zealand's net emissions position is improved as under the programme fewer emissions units are awarded than the total amount of emissions abated.

"Kyoto and the Projects programme are enabling hundreds of megawatts of generation to be brought forward and millions of tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions to be saved. Our economy, business and the environment all win."

Mighty River Power's proposal is for the project to come on stream at the end of 2007 with an anticipated life of 25 years. The project is subject to the normal resource consents process.

## **Combined NZGA Seminar and Auckland University Geothermal Institute Workshop**

I hope you are able to attend the combined NZGA Seminar and AUGI Workshop whose details are as follows:

### **NZ Geothermal Workshop/NZGA Seminar**

Venue: Park Heritage **Rotorua** (in Rotorua, not Auckland).

- Special 1-day Short Course - Basics of Geothermal Technology for non-experts: Wednesday, 26 October.
- Geothermal Workshop: Thursday 27 October
- NZGA Seminar (Theme- Direct Utilisation of Geothermal): Friday 28 October

See website for more information and registration:

<http://www2.auckland.ac.nz/gei/Wshop-2004.htm>.

Accommodation:

Park Heritage Rotorua \$135 (+GST)/night.

### **Important NZ Geothermal Workshop deadlines for presenters:**

- Abstracts (1-page or less) are mandatory and due Friday 14 October (send to [sf.simmons@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:sf.simmons@auckland.ac.nz)).
- Full papers (published on CD) are optional and due Tuesday 25 October (send to [sf.simmons@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:sf.simmons@auckland.ac.nz)).

As the Workshop Programme is only 1-Day, intending presenters should contact Stuart Simmons as soon as possible with a title to secure a place in the programme:

Stuart F. Simmon - Associate Professor  
Mail: Geothermal Institute & Geology Dept  
University of Auckland  
Private Bag 92 09  
Auckland  
NEW ZEALAND  
Phone: +64-9-373-7599 ext 88710  
Fax: +64-9-373-7435

**Short Course: Basics of Geothermal Technology (26 October)**  
**27th New Zealand Geothermal Workshop (27 October)**  
**New Zealand Geothermal Association Seminar (28 October)**

**Registration Form**

*Use this form to register for all three events.*

Email or send the information below to: Stuart F Simmons  
Geology Department  
University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019  
Auckland, NEW ZEALAND  
FAX 64-9-373-7419  
PH 64-9-373-7999 extension 88710  
email sf.simmons@auckland.ac.nz

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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**FEES** (including GST)

	<u>Before 15 October</u>	<u>After 15 October</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Short Course Basics of Geothermal Technology (Wed, 26 October)	\$350.00	\$400.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 27th NZ Geothermal Workshop (Thurs, 27 October)	\$125.00	\$175.00
<input type="checkbox"/> NZGA Seminar (Fri, 28 October)	\$125.00	\$175.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Combined Geothermal Workshop/NZGA Seminar (28-29 October)	\$200.00	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Dinner (Thur, 28 October 6:30-10:00 pm)	\$75.00	\$75.00

Total Amount \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT**

- Cheque (Payable to the "New Zealand Geothermal Association")
- Please send invoice

**SORRY, NO CREDIT CARD FACILITIES FOR PAYMENTS**

***You can register with "Please Send Invoice" by 15 October and get all discounts. Final Payment by cheque due at the Short Course, Workshop and/or Seminar***