

NZGA Newsletter for December 2005

Dear Member

As 2005 rolls to a close the following summarises the activities of the Association over the past three months.

The Workshop and Seminar

The one day Training Workshop, New Zealand Geothermal Workshop and NZGA Seminar were held in Rotorua late in October.

The occasion attracted a very satisfying attendance from members. There were almost 80 at the Geothermal Workshop and 70 at the NZGA seminar while another 19 attended the training day. To have attracted this many from a total membership of about 130 was indeed gratifying and reflects the very active geothermal scene. We were most grateful for the sponsorship from EECA for the conference and for the support from NZ Trade and Enterprise through Steve Tritt to bring John Lund here from the Geoheat Centre in Oregon.

The seminar was opened with a Powhiri and welcome from the Mayor of Rotorua, Kevin Winters. The NZGA dinner, held on the Thursday evening was also particularly successful. We had almost 80 attendees and the highlight of the evening was the presentation of life memberships by John Lund to two former Presidents of the NZGA, Brian Jones and Ian Thain. I don't think many of us were aware till that evening that Ian initially came to NZ to work on the feasibility of building a nuclear power plant. Luckily for us he saw the light and switched to geothermal.

The NZGA Annual General Meeting

The NZGA Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, 27 October 2005. Copies of the minutes are enclosed separately but the major issues discussed were:

- largely because we now have to be registered for GST, the annual subscription for 2006 has been raised to NZ\$50 (inclusive of GST).
- the success of workshops during 2005 was acknowledged and we hope to arrange more for 2006,
- the high quality of the SKM geothermal capability report was acknowledged,
- the NZGA is in a healthy financial state but we still require ongoing sponsorship to continue the excellent work of Brian White as Executive Officer.

Subscriptions

Bruce Carswell will shortly be sending out reminders for the 2006 subscriptions of \$50 (including GST).

Ideas for Workshops and Seminars for 2006

Practical Level Workshop on Heat Pumps:

When John Lund was here he said that if we wished to have one of his engineers come to New Zealand to do a series of workshop, he would support it.

Is this something we should consider? Perhaps in collaboration with other agencies such as EECA, IPENZ?, or BRANZ? Perhaps visit the main centres plus Tauranga? With the focus on energy saving - would we attract sponsorship from power companies or the Electricity Commission?

Neville Dench

Sadly, Neville Dench has recently passed away. Neville was a founding member of the NZGA and had been active in the geothermal industry for much of his working life. It is most pleasing that Manfred Hochstein and Dick Bolton are co-operating on an obituary that will be inserted in the next IGA News. This will suitably honour a key individual within our geothermal community. Please watch out for this issue of the IGA News early next year.

The Contentious World of Geothermal

Colin wants to share a statement that came across his desk from one of the members:

"I am still curious as to why the world of geothermal is so contentious. It is like we are all eating each other rather than pulling together for the good of the industry and the nation. The way things are at the moment, the only winners are the lawyers (and consultants I guess). It shouldn't need to be like this. Does the wind energy association face similar issues of intransigence amongst its members?"

Is this an issue that could be aired at a workshop or forum? If we put this up for a half day or one day forum, would we perhaps bring in a facilitator or arbitrator??

We will bring this up at the next board meeting but contributions from members are welcome. Please send them to Brian at Brian.White@eastharb.co.nz

Professor John Lund (President of the IGA and head of the Oregon Geoheat Centre)

Everyone at the conference was delighted that John Lund was able to join us. John Lund is the acknowledged world leading authority on low temperature geothermal energy use. As head of the Geoheat Center in Oregon USA (and current President of the International Geothermal Association) he has pioneered the direct use of geothermal in the US and had a profound influence in its utilisation worldwide. John knows these systems from the basic engineering principles through to planning, process economics and installation. He has the ability to communicate at the political, professional and end-user level. This combination of skills and an ebullient

personality well qualified him for the task of communicating the benefits of low temperature to a broad audience.

With New Zealand's current energy situation there is tremendous opportunity for greater use of the abundant low temperature geothermal that is spread throughout the country. Indeed as one GNS scientist recently stated, the high heat flows throughout New Zealand mean that New Zealand can be considered to be one enormous low temperature geothermal system. Currently there is a very low level of utilisation of low temperature geothermal in New Zealand with the exception of limited domestic heating, greenhouse heating and hot pools. There is some use of higher temperature resources for process heating including at the Kawerau mill and for timber drying at a number of locations.

John was invited by the NZ Geothermal Association and the Geothermal Institute (University of Auckland) but his visit would not have been possible without the generous financial support of NZ Trade and Enterprise. These organisations, in combination with visits to the Lake Taupo Development Company (who are proposing the Clean Energy Centre), attendance at a German Sustainable Energy Trade Mission, meetings with EECA and NZ Trade and Enterprise staff and participation in the Geothermal Institute Workshop and NZ Geothermal Association Seminar meant that the New Zealand geothermal community was able to fully engage John for the nine days he was here, in Auckland, Taupo, Rotorua and Wellington plus a scenic trip to White Island.

John's schedule included:

- Tuesday 25 Oct: Meetings/visits to low temperature geothermal sites and operations.
 - Dinner Talk in Taupo to the local geothermal community and Lake Taupo Development Company (Clean Energy Centre)
- Wednesday: Workshop and meetings/visits to low temperature sites and operations -Taupo
- Thursday: Presentations at the New Zealand Geothermal Workshop, NZGA Annual General Meeting and NZGA dinner.
- Friday: Presentations at the NZGA Seminar
- Saturday: White Island visit
- Sunday: Wellington
- Monday/Tuesday: Wellington - meetings with EECA, NZ Trade and Enterprise and German Sustainable Energy Delegation.

The NZGA would like to sincerely thank NZ Trade and Enterprise for their generous support to bring John to New Zealand. We are convinced that this will lead to opportunities for many New Zealand businesses, particularly in the Bay of Plenty and Taupo regions to develop strategic partnerships and to tap into John's global network of specialists. John also is open to strengthen links with his team of specialists and New Zealand. We have discussed a possible visit by one of his team to carry out a series of public workshops in key centres to spread the word on the use of Heat Pumps. The experience developed over the past 20 or 30 years in Oregon should enable New Zealand engineers to build knowledge networks of best practice. This also should include facilitating contact between interested parties at a Government agency level and at a business level. This visit has opened the door to what, we sincerely hope, will be a long term and fruitful commercial and research-based relationship between the NZ geothermal community and the Geoheat Center at

Klamath Falls, Oregon. Indeed there is a Sister City relationship between Klamath Falls and Rotorua which is entirely appropriate. For your information, the Geoheat Center website address is <http://geoheat.oit.edu/>

The Green Energy Handbook

A number of you may have used the old "New Zealand Energy Information Handbook" (1993) edited by James Baines. CAE is in the process of updating this useful summary of energy options for New Zealand. Brian Lovelock and Jim Lawless have now provided an update of the geothermal section on behalf of NZGA. The new edition is likely to be published early in 2006.

Geothermal Research

We would draw your attention to the recent email forwarded from CAE concerning geothermal research. Research is occurring at a range of levels within the wider geothermal community from pure science to very applied assessments of field potential. We would encourage members to fill in the CAE online survey form which focuses on near-commercialisation projects (see their website: http://www.caenz.com/RE_Survey/RE_Letter.html).

This project is being undertaken for New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

To all members, thanks for your continued support.

We would like to wish you a happy Christmas and a safe and enjoyable holiday prior to a busy 2006.

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