

NZGA Special Interest Groups – Update August 2013

SGGG Special Interest Group

The SGGG Special Interest Group have a structure and geomechanics sessions planned during the New Zealand Geothermal Workshop (NZGW) and MRP have kindly helped us sponsor Dr. Colleen Barton an international expert in this field as a key note speaker for this session.

Preparations of the 35th NZGW (Rotorua 18-20 November) are underway with 125 abstracts approved. We are currently receiving the manuscripts from authors which will be reviewed by a panel of experts from the New Zealand geothermal industry. The Organising committee of the NZGW wishes to thank all the experts for their valuable assistance.

Generation and Industrial use

Gearing up to make contact with group members. No activity to report since March 2013.

Tourism

The Geothermal Tourism group is currently developing a database of nationwide geothermal tourism operators, including the following information; operator/owner contact details; commercial or non-commercial entity; location (GIS coordinates and districts); use characterisation e.g. primary use bathing, secondary use heating; year the operation started; source of fluid i.e. natural spring or drilled well; and source temperature. This information will be used to gain a better understanding of the NZ geothermal tourism landscape and will form the basis of an engagement plan with the industry. The database development is being done in conjunction with regional councils, local economic development agencies and the GNS Science Geothermal Research programme. This work is due to be completed at the end of July.

Geothermal Reservoir Modelling Interest Group

13 reservoir modellers attended the inaugural Two day PyTOUGH Training Course, held at Contact Energy's Wairakei Power Station. The course was taught by Dr Adrian Croucher, sponsored by Contact Energy Ltd, and the University of Auckland.



PyTOUGH is a Python library for processing TOUGH2 files, developed by Adrian Croucher at the University of Auckland. Python is a free and open source programming language, and PyTOUGH is available as a free download from <https://github.com/acroucher/PyTOUGH>.

Evidence from TOUGH2 modellers at the 2012 TOUGH2 Symposium in Berkeley, CA, is that the development of PyTOUGH has been timely, and it has been received with enthusiasm in the international modelling community.

Photo and report by Juliet Newson (PyTOUGH

Course organiser), Contact Energy Ltd.

This Training Course was made possible with sponsorship from the following organisations:



NZGA Environment and Legislation Interest Group

The Environment and Legislation Interest Group comprises 39 members from the NZGA membership. Tricia Scott led this group until March 2013 and did a great job. Noel Kortright (Environmental Management Services Limited) has agreed to take over leadership of the group from August 2013. With proposed changes to the Resource Management Act, other environmental legislation, policy and standards that could impact on geothermal it is anticipated that the Group will be reasonably active. Noel, as the new convener will canvas group members soon to discuss functioning of the group and key areas for the Group / Association to focus on.

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

Following the release of Issue 3 of the GHANZ newsletter in March 2013, members held a teleconference meeting in April to recap on the first year of the association and plan for the year ahead.

In 2013 GHANZ have been involved in the Proposed Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan hearings, presenting a submission seeking a more supportive policy framework for open loop, ground water geothermal heat pump systems. GHANZ are also working with Australia to develop an Australasian chapter of the International Ground Source Heat Pump Association (IGSHPA); this will help to increase training opportunities and technical capabilities in this part of the world. With the support of EECA and GNS Science, a visit from an international expert is planned for Christchurch later in the year, to help feed important information in to the rebuild process around the potential for geothermal heat pumps. A strategic planning process has also been initiated to guide activities in the coming years.

Service Providers and Finance Group

No activity since March 2013.

Direct Use

No update available.

Iwi and Landowners

No update available.

Education and R&D

See the Geothermal Reservoir Modelling Interest Group