

## **NZGA Special Interest Group Updates – July 2012**

### **Generation and Industrial Use Interest Group**

A number of indications of support from individuals and generation companies have been received. We are now in the process of contacting these individuals to agree on a way forward. Contact Chris Mann, Group leader at [ChrisM@mtlnz.co.nz](mailto:ChrisM@mtlnz.co.nz)

One of the first projects moving ahead under this group is the review of geothermal drilling code and regulations.

### **Geothermal Heat-pump Association of New Zealand (GHANZ) / Interest Group**

The Geothermal Heat-pump Association of New Zealand (GHANZ) is continuing to grow with 27 active members from across the geothermal and related industries. GHANZ recently formed as a sub-group of NZGA with the goal of promoting the use and development of geothermal heat pumps (also known as ground source heat pumps) in New Zealand.

The GHANZ website (hosted by NZGA) is now live and can be accessed here: [www.ghanz.org.nz](http://www.ghanz.org.nz). The website contains general information on geothermal heat pumps and the role of GHANZ, including the GHANZ charter and membership lists.

In the coming months GHANZ will be hosting a series of regional meet-ups in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin to bring together professionals from across the industry including installers, architects, engineers and planners. The meetings will seek to promote and showcase geothermal heat pump technology and its potential for New Zealand.

A joint Australia New Zealand Standard for geothermal heat pumps is also in development. Lyall Smith (Central Heating NZ) is the GHANZ representative on the Standards Committee which held an inaugural meeting in May 2012. A written draft will be made publically available for comment, with a completed standard expected in early 2014.

Membership to GHANZ is open and free to any current member of the NZGA, and membership of NZGA is a prerequisite for membership of GHANZ.

### **Environment, Legislation and Regulation Interest Group**

The NZGA has identified the need for an Interest Group to reflect, review and have input on environmental matters which are relevant to its core role, which is 'To promote the reasonable and appropriate use of Geothermal with a focus on New Zealand and international linkages'. Tricia Scott has offered to lead the Environmental Group for the NZGA for the first 'chapter'. This idea is a seed at the moment and we will need three to six others to get a mix of perspectives and skills to identify specific policy documents or matters where we could provide useful input. The key word for the Environmental Interest Group will be 'appropriate' (as highlighted above). One of the first tasks on our list will be to review and comment on the Northland Regional Policy Statement, which is currently in the pre-consultation phase, with notification scheduled for September 2012 (2 months away).

Another task will be input into the “sustainability” paper being prepared by the Royal Society of New Zealand. Any members who would like to be part of the inaugural Environmental Interest Group please email Tricia at: [tricias@nzenvironmental.co.nz](mailto:tricias@nzenvironmental.co.nz)

### Service Providers and Finance Interest Group

Alex Daniels of MacDow, who is currently based at the Te Mihi Geothermal Power Project in Taupo, has offered to lead the Service Providers and Finance Interest Group. Looking at the NZGA membership make-up, it appears that a number of members fall into this category. Bearing in mind the various confidentiality and commercial issues that service providers and contractors need to be mindful of, Alex is happy to organize an informal catch up in Taupo, open to anyone interested in participating in this group. If you are interested, please contact Alex directly at [alexander.daniels@macdow.co.nz](mailto:alexander.daniels@macdow.co.nz).

### Education and R&D Committee (consisting of two Interest Groups)

#### Structural Geology and Geothermal Geomechanics (SGGG) Interest Group

There have been moves to establish a Structural Geology and Geothermal Geomechanics (SGGG) working group. This aims to bring together those in the geothermal community actively working on structure, stress and rock mechanics related topics in New Zealand. The organiser and contact person is Irene Wallis ([irene.wallis@mightyriver.co.nz](mailto:irene.wallis@mightyriver.co.nz)).

#### Geothermal Reservoir Modelling Interest Group

Dr Juliet Newson is proposing a Reservoir Modelling Interest Group. Reservoir modelling is a rapidly evolving specialty, and the aim is to stimulate discussion and exchange ideas on topics that are of practical interest to those working in this field, and to conduct workshops on specialized aspects of modelling. The contact person is [juliet.newson@contactenergy.co.nz](mailto:juliet.newson@contactenergy.co.nz)

In response to these proposals, the New Zealand Geothermal Workshop in November this year (see Events Section) will include special sessions on both topics (structural geology and geothermal geomechanics and geothermal reservoir modelling). The sessions will be a launch of both of the interest groups. The NZGA Education & R&D Committee is interested in facilitating the formation of other interest groups of our members.

### SEEKING YOUR INVOLVEMENT

The NZGA Interest Groups are for members by members and their success will be driven by your involvement. Currently there are no restrictions on how many groups you can be involved in. The NZGA membership application form has been modified so you can indicate your level of interest (none, observe, want to be active, ready to lead) in the various sectors. If any or all of the groups are of interest to you fill in the form – it may even be time for you to update your contact details anyway. The completed form can be sent to [anne.phiri@eastharbour.co.nz](mailto:anne.phiri@eastharbour.co.nz)

Link to the form [here](#). Feel free to offer any further thoughts that you may have in an email when you send in your form.