New Zealand Well Represented at the Eastern Australasian Basins Symposium

The most distant parts of the Australasian sector are well and truly emphasised at the Eastern Australasian Basins Symposium (EABS) with the featuring of papers from New Zealand and the offshore limits of Australia.

New Zealand is offering 13 papers in all, only seven of which are in the New Zealand section. Representatives from New Zealand's Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (IGNS) feature strongly in the New Technology section. Richard Sykes is talking on the petroleum potential of coaly source rocks, David Darby and his co-authors evaluate overpressure in compressional regimes using geo-mechanical modelling, while Ray Wood and Derek Woodward examine 3D modelling of sedimentary basins.

The Frontier Basins session also leads off with Chris Uruski of the IGNS and Peter Baillie of TGS NOPEC discussing the results of the recent TGS NOPEC freelance seismic survey of Deepwater Taranaki Basin. Data collection was only completed in July and the paper will be a fresh look with early interpretation by the two authors. Earlier surveys confirmed the presence of over 3.5 km of sediment in the basin, which is a geological continuation of the producing Taranaki Basin. There is also the prediction by some researchers that structures may well be larger and more continuous than even the 4 Tcf Maui field closer inshore.

Also in this session is an interesting study of the sediment-rich Cook Strait area by Holdgate and Shaw, a further trans-Tasman co-operation from the University of Melbourne and IGNS. Another Australia-New Zealand link, this time going back to the Cretaceous, is being presented by Peter King on the Cretaceous rift basin evaluation in southeast Australia and New Zealand; a truly conference generic paper on southeastern Australasian basins.

The seven papers comprising the New Zealand session deal mainly with regions where there will be blocks on offer in the nearshore and onshore Taranaki Basin and Deepwater Taranaki Basin. The papers span a range of topics covering thermal history models, migration, reservoirs, and potential of the basins. There is also a distinctly Taranaki paper on the effects of magmatism on the North Taranaki Basin petroleum system by Vaughan Stagpoole and co-authors at IGNS.

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