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8 July 2010

Jan Abel – Wonderful Treasurer and dear friend of CPAG

It is with great sadness that we let you know of the death of Jan Abel last Friday 2 July. Jan has held the voluntary position of CPAG Treasurer for many years-a task which she performed with outstanding proficiency. Jan was passionate about CPAG and was a kind and dear friend to all of us who worked with her. An inspiring social activist, representative Bridge player for New Zealand, Jan was a much loved and loving wife of Neil and mother of Stephen and Kate and grandmother of Sophie. Our thoughts and appreciation go to Jan's family at this sad time.

*Kia hora te marino,
Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana,
Kia tere karohirohi i mua i tou huarahi*

*May calm be spread around you
May the sea glisten like greenstone
And the shimmer of summer dance across your path*

AGM Monday 26th July 7 p.m.

This year's AGM will be held at the St Columbia Centre, 40 Vermont St Ponsonby. We will cover the business side of the meeting first and move to our guest speaker Sue Bradford. Out of parliament, but still in politics and always engaging and informative, we are very pleased that Sue has agreed to be with us on that night. This AGM is also a significant one for CPAG as our Director, Janfrie Wakim, will be standing down from that role after ten years. Please come along and join us.

Honour for Susan St John

We were all delighted that Susan received the Queens Service Medal for services to social policy in mid - year Honours list. Her concern for the wellbeing the nation's most vulnerable children led to the formation of Child Poverty Action Group in the early 1990's. She has remained on the Management Committee and been the CPAG economics spokesperson since that time. The award is so well deserved and recognises the important policy work Susan has done in a range of areas in addition to child poverty - retirement policy, taxation, ACC etc and in which she continues to work tirelessly.

Gathering for younger CPAG members: 17 August 6pm

CPAG is pleased to invite those aged 18-35 to an event on **17 August at 6 p.m** at the Auckland Medical School. The evening will provide an opportunity to share information and to hear from ideas from those attending as to how they would like to further their involvement in CPAG. An invitation is attached to this newsletter with all the details and we encourage you to spread it around your networks.

Alternative Welfare Working Group

CPAG's Mike O'Brien is to chair the above group which has been set up to redress the narrow focus of the official group. Susan St John will be acting as advisor to the group. Read about its aims and the people involved at this link: [Alternative Welfare Working Group](#)

10th Annual Post Budget Breakfast

This was held on 21st May in Auckland and was attended by over 110 people. At the same time, the Wellington branch of CPAG organised a very successful breakfast with the Public Health Association which was equally well attended.

The presentation from the Auckland event is available on our website and can be accessed here: [Accounting for Children](#).

Susan St John commented:

"This Budget is a very significant shift away from progressive taxation and has serious implications for our children.....this is the very time we should be committing to make sure that our children are protected by a strong welfare state- but that is not the focus of this budget."

Alan Johnson spoke on why inequality is the issue," the housing "crunch" and the "elephant in the room" i.e. the aging population and its claims on the welfare budget. Significantly, New Zealand has experienced the fastest growth of inequality in the OECD which Budget 2010 only exacerbated. NZ has twice the number of children living in poverty compared with the 1980's.

Welfare Reform

The Welfare Working Group held a two day forum in June. Professor Innes Asher's presentation can be viewed here: [Child Health and Government Policy](#). The Terms of Reference for this Group are narrow and focus on removing dependency and welfare to work policy.

It has been decided to hold another Forum with a much wider scope where speakers from Australia will join with their colleagues in New Zealand to discuss long term welfare policies. CPAG is pleased to join with the Retirement Policy and Research Centre and the Department of Sociology at Auckland University in organising this important Forum. The proposed title is "Welfare for the 21st Century: Beyond the Terms of Reference". Please note the date for this is 10th September 2010 at the Business School, University of Auckland. Final details will be available shortly but you may register your interest at admin@cpag.org.nz.

Quiz Night – "Fun"draiser!

Thanks to the generosity of CPAG supporters-Gillian and Kevin- we are very pleased to invite you to participate in a quiz night on 27 August. It is rare for us to call upon members to support us in this way and with this quiz night we are offering an evening which will be entertaining while providing CPAG with much needed funds. The evening will begin at 7.30 and is at the Fickling Centre, Mt Albert Rd, Three Kings. Tickets are \$25. We encourage you to take a table for eight, create your own theme, bring your wit and wisdom and, your wallets! We will have a cash only bar and supper will be provided. Please email Julie at admin@cpag.org.nz to book your tickets.

New Face at CPAG

We welcome Helen Bull as our new Treasurer. You may have met Helen when she ran the registration at the Post Budget Breakfast in Auckland. Helen brings her accountancy skills and concerns for social justice to this role – thank you Helen for being willing to take on this important task.

<i>Dates for your diaries!</i>	
<u>26 July:</u>	AGM
<u>17 August:</u>	Meeting for younger members
<u>27 August:</u>	Quiz night
<u>10 September:</u>	Welfare Forum