

NEWSLETTER March 2017

CHAIRPERSON

Hello everyone



While we turn our clocks back this weekend I am looking forward to another year of being part of Citizen Advocacy Auckland. I am hoping you all managed to spend time over summer with family and friends. Sadly on January 15th, Kevin Rogers passed away after an illness. Kevin will be missed for his huge personality and heart and energy for community building. He was a CA Board member for 25 years and a strong advocate with a lifetime of contribution. He is deeply missed. Our condolences to Annette, Fran and the Hartnett family.

I would like to acknowledge Janet Klee's generosity for facilitating an afternoon for CA at Jules' home. The discussion was very inspiring and rich. Janet led a conversation around practical strategies for enduring relationships. Once again our Christmas party was a huge success and I would like to thank you for coming along and celebrating. We were honoured that our patron Peter Cartwright and Dame Sylvia Cartwright were able to join us. The Board has met and we have plans for two events - one social and one training event. Details are in the newsletter and the potluck dinner is on Facebook. Jules has been working to increase our profile on Facebook so please remember to place a comment and like us. We are endeavouring to keep our new website current and interesting. If you have photographs or feel like writing a short piece we would love to hear from you. It is always so interesting to know what people are up to. It reminds me of Susan and Sue's snow escape adventure we enjoyed viewing at the Christmas party. Hoping to see you all at the planned events - we do appreciate your attendance and support at these events.

Debbie Espiner

Invitation - Citizen Advocacy Auckland Pot Luck dinner



Sunday 23 July 5pm

Enjoy an evening of friendship and fun!

All Saints Church, corner Ponsonby Rd and Cowan St,
Three Lamps, Ponsonby.

Advocates please come with your protégé.

Friends of CA - please come along and bring a friend
who might like to become involved in CA Auckland.

Please bring a plate of food.

RSVP: Jules. ca.akld@ihug.co.nz
09 625 7994 027 625 7994

COORDINATOR

Greetings to advocates



I know several of you have been taking a great deal of action on behalf of your protégés who have been facing serious issues in their lives and you have been making life better for them. It is my role to support all of you in any way I can so please do contact me.

It was inspiring to hear Janet Klees at her workshop and thanks to Imagine Better she kindly facilitated an informal conversation for Citizen Advocacy. Janet spoke about the importance of relationships and how to increase the likelihood of relationship occurring. I will write about this in another newsletter. A key, Janet said, was to be clear on the person's vision and to make decisions in reference to this vision.

Where there is no vision, the people perish Proverbs 29:18

When a potential advocate is in orientation, I stress how important it is for them to have a vision for their protégé. People with intellectual disabilities have generally been set low expectations, had fewer opportunities, been excluded from experiences we would consider very ordinary, had little stimulation, and had no one to protect and defend their rights. So much has been denied them solely because they have an intellectual disability. By looking at the person with fresh eyes and an open mind, one could ponder what might have been, had the person been accorded high expectations, and enjoyed the usual opportunities, experiences and stimulation; and then consider: what might still be possible for the person with a clear vision, creative thinking and strong, committed advocacy?

It is never too late to create a vision with your protégé. Rather than take on every area of life, one can start with a single domain e.g. creativity if your protégé is interested in painting. Many people are working toward their visions, even though their visions might not be articulated. A vision for a vulnerable person has to be created intentionally and involves much more than a wish list or a timetable of activities. Working towards and achieving our vision bestows meaning and fulfilment on our lives. Your coordinator is here to support you in this.

Jules Garland

**Invitation -Training event for Citizen Advocates
August (date to be confirmed)**

Building negotiation skills and confidence for people advocating on behalf of disabled persons

Carol Powell, Lawyer, Mediator, trainer

Practical, interactive and skills based training specifically for Citizen Advocacy. All scenarios will come from the area of disability.

