

PositiveMoneyNZ



Newsletter #35 – Spokesperson for Auckland and a potential referendum in Switzerland on monetary reform

Welcome to our 35th newsletter. Here is a link to [previous newsletters](#).

We are pleased to introduce Michael Blakely as our new spokesperson in Auckland. Michael lives in Glen Eden and has been standing up for the little man (and woman) all his life. A minister of the cloth, he stood for parliament in Whanganui and was instrumental in the founding of the Alliance Party. Those in and around Auckland, please contact Michael (021 297 7791 michaelstewartb@yahoo.com) and help him spread the word.

Our sister organisation in Switzerland (MoMo) is launching the “[Vollgeld Initiative](#)” on 7th June to reform the Swiss banking system. In Switzerland anyone can bring about a national referendum on changes to the Constitution by collecting 100,000 signatures within an 18 month period. Please [contribute to their cause](#).

[Max Keiser interviewed Ben Dyson](#), the founder of Positive Money UK. Max is a very influential commentator and the interview started at the 12 minute 30 second mark.

During May we:

- Included David Collett from [Fair Money Australia](#) on our weekly spokesperson Skype calls.
- Talked to the person running [Sensible Money](#), the Irish equivalent to Positive Money. He is moving to Christchurch shortly and is keen to help us out.
- Posted an item on the [BNZ's record profit](#). The BNZ is making close to \$400 million in six months. It is ironic that the Christchurch City Council is shy of \$560 million for the rebuild - a little over eight months profit for a bank with the title "Bank of New Zealand".
- Posted an item on [Peer to Peer lending](#).
- Posted a four minute clip from the recent [Positive Money UK conference](#).
- Posted an [overview of the book "Modernising Money"](#).
- While there has been a lot of talk about the latest (OECD) report showing house prices out of kilter with rents, [Shamubeel Eaqub](#), chief economist of the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research, says it supports his view that price rises were not being driven by a physical shortage of housing.
- Posted a very good [interview by Max Keiser](#). He interviews Steve Keen who talks about the housing bubble and the recent reports from the Bank of England and before that the IMF Working Paper *The Chicago Plan Revisited*. The interview starts at the 14 minute mark.
- Posted an [article by David Smellie](#). He wrote in the Dominion Post that a new home buyer on the average wage could be paying more than 60 cents in the dollar to service a mortgage by 2018.
- Posted a link to [a very good slideshow](#) put together by Amanda Vickers, titled Money Creation and the New Zealand Economy.
- Attended a meeting of the [Auckland Diocesan Peace and Justice commission](#) and handed out Positive Money NZ fliers, including one to the Catholic Bishop of Auckland.

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- Posted [a link from the Guardian](#). The Governor of the Bank of England said that capitalism is at risk of destroying itself unless bankers realise they have an obligation to create a fairer society.
- Posted a link to a book review from The Guardian on [Capital in the Twenty-First Century \(577 pages\)](#). That capitalism is unfair has been said before. But it is the way Thomas Piketty says it – subtly but with relentless logic – that has sent rightwing economics into a frenzy, both in the UK and in the US.
- Posted a link to the [Scottish Campaign for Monetary Reform](#).

Cheers and remember to [join up](#).

Don Richards and Sue Hamill