
LETS Community NEWS © 2005

(Incorporating LETS REVIEW & LCNZ Newsletter)

Issue No. 09/05

Thursday 15th September 2005

Golden Bay H.A.N.D.S.

* We have opened a HANDS Shop at the Green Village Hall in Takaka, sharing the hall with the Golden Bay Environment Centre, a Second Hand shop, and some Craftspeople. It's created a space with attractive goods that members can conveniently browse through and buy for HANDS and where they can display their crafts and artwork or other items they make or grow.

* Following months of updating our members' contact details and skills lists, we recently published our first directory since early 2003. We have about 200 member numbers, with about 260 individual members. Now that we have an easy to update database that will make printing future directories simple, we decided to print smaller numbers of new editions possibly every six months.

* Our quarterly fee for members was increased to 6 HANDS while all the work was being done; now that it's complete, we have reduced it to 4 HANDS.

* Even though we now have an up-to-date directory, the HANDy messenger is still available to help anyone trying to find a product or service.

* Our H.A.M.M. (HANDS Annual Membership Meeting) will be held in October, when Christoph is visiting Golden Bay. At that time the members will decide about H.A.N.D.S joining LETS Connect. A few days later, Christoph will present a one-day version of the course he has taught in Christchurch, Economics as if All Life Mattered.

* One of our members is putting H.A.N.D.S. online with CES, the free LETS software from the South African New Economics network.

* Our committee is working on policies and guidelines for our new HANDS currency, hoping to launch at the October market.

Joanna

TATS

Hello fellow LETSters! It has been a quiet month here in Timaru. It looks like we've seen the last of the frosts, and our spring flowers are starting to bloom, so soon this weather will start to invigorate our members into their gardens, or start to build things, to get motivated again once the winter hibernation wears off!

Of late, we have only held markets for our members to attend, to try to get members familiar with other like-minded people but after our meeting with Peter North we have been inspired to hold a Public Market on the 8th of October. We intend to use this Market as a Promotional Tool, and hope to gain some new members.

We are finding the CES program a lot easier to use, although sometimes the link-up between NZ and South Africa is slow and this can be frustrating, especially if you only want to put in one or two transactions. I know, I could wait until I have a lot of transactions to put in, but I find I only access the computer at 'quiet times' in my busy schedule so I am not inundated with LETS work. It will be great when a few more members start activating their own accounts.

Looking forward to Motueka's Regional Meet. If there are any North Islanders coming over, could you please bring some small pebble sized pumice, about a shoebox full would be great. These are needed to go around small indoor cacti. Thanks.

Marion Veenings-Utiger

TARNAKI LETS 2006 Conference

The agenda is well underway. Please tell us any ideas. What do you want to learn about?

Do you have anything of interest to present to us all? Slots on the Saturday afternoon are still available for consideration. We want this to be a full Conference of thinking, learning and fellowship. Everyone to go away with new motivation to achieve all the new ideas and ways of thinking that is learnt at our Conferences.

Agenda and registration out in the next few weeks. It is your Conference, so please feel free to offer your

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contribution. Email at taranaki_letsnz@yahoo.co.nz or phone 06 754 6166.

Spending in our community seems to at a downturn. How can our systems help? Maybe time for promotions of our system!!!

Our markets are slow as far as members go. Some stalls taking more cash from the public than LETS. Come on members it is your system and it takes more than a few to really make it work and get it out there to the public .

The sun is still shining here, so keep smiling and keep trading!!

Anne

Living Economies

On the weekend of 10 and 11 September, the board of Living Economies met for its annual meeting, held in Lyttelton this year. Living Economies works in the field of complementary currencies and is engaged in networking internationally and bringing new ideas to New Zealand, as well as supporting local projects throughout the country. The LETS movement was strongly represented by Helen Dew, Carolyn Hughes and Christoph Hensch. LETS is currently the only major complementary currency used in NZ. For more information about Living Economies, please visit the website at <http://www.le.org.nz> or email to info@le.org.nz if you are interested in participating in Living Economies' activities.

PLEBS

On 28 August, PLEBS held this years AGM. The formal meeting was preceded by a market and a presentation by Christoph Hensch on LETS and the place it has in this world. About 45% of the

membership attended. There was a consensus that, after having witnessed a strong drop in membership in recent times, a radical renewal of the exchange is an absolute must. The membership gave a strong mandate to the new incoming committee to guide the exchange through this renewal. The main points of the renewal will be: a) adopting a new image, including a new name; b) working on a new ethos, vision and purpose; c) sorting the imbalance in the accounts; and d) updating its operating principles and tools. Please watch this space for progress reports of what has been achieved!

S. I. Regional Meeting 14-15 October

Dear friends,

Organisation of the South Island LETS regional meeting is well underway with a good representation of South Island exchanges.

All activities will be held at the Motueka Community House at Deck's Reserve in the town of Motueka.

We'll kick off at 6pm on Friday 14th October with a welcome dinner at Motueka.

Saturday will start with a LETS market from 8.30 to 11am so please bring lots of items to trade. Trading sheets will be available on the day using the credit notes each of you brings with you. This will be followed by lunch and we'll start our meeting at 1pm with a catch up from all groups of your activities since the National Conference.

Christoph will talk to us about the new on-line trading system developed in South Africa which several exchanges have already joined and Murray from HANDS in Golden Bay will talk about the system of vouchers being introduced there. Carolyn will summarise the work done by Dr Peter North on LETS systems in New Zealand and some of the other

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LETS Connect NZ Members and their Balances.

LCNZ0100. Management .	+23.00	LCNZ0112. Taranaki LETS	+982.80 y	LCNZ0118 Nelson CELTS	+261.66 y
C/- 48 Mountain View Rd., TIMARU		P.O. Box 5015 NEW PLYMOUTH		27 Boundary Road NELSON	
LCNZ0105. Thames	-3,268.40 y	LCNX0113. PLEBS	-1,176.80 y	LCNZ0119. REBS	-2,025.99 y
P.O. Box 229 THAMES		PO Box 21 102, CHRISTCHURCH		C/- 81 Swiss Avenue WANGANUI	
LCNZ0106. TATS	+2,988.05 y	LCNZ0115. MOSS	+ 542.90 y	LCNZ0120 WEST	+2,088.05 y
C/- 40 Heaton St., TIMARU		P. O. Box 350 MOTUEKA		2 Tui St., Kumara, WESTLAND.	
LCNZ0108. Wairarapa	+959.90 y	LCNZ0116. WINGS	+374.00 y	Y equals sub paid N equals sub not paid	
108 Bannister St., MASTERTON		121 Charles St., BLENHEIM		Groups in Debit (-) need to SELL .	
LCNZ 0109. CAPS Wellington	-2,459.40 n	LCNZ0117. IBES	+548.85 y	Groups in Credit (+) need to BUY .	
C/- 6 Beauchamp St., WELLINGTON		P.O. Box 7087, INVERCARGILL		Groups under 1000 (+ or -) can do EITHER	

initiatives nationally. Somewhere in there will be afternoon tea.

About 5pm Jurgen Heissner will talk about the reasons and consequences of rising fuel costs and what we can do to help ourselves and our communities. There will also be an optional screening of "The End of Suburbia" for those who have not seen it followed by discussion.

Dinner will be at 7.30 and will be followed by an evening of entertainment.

The Motueka Sunday market is held on Sunday morning outside the Community House.

For those who still wish to register please do so immediately so we can plan meals.

If there are any particular issues you would like to raise for discussion at the meeting please let me know now.

Looking forward to welcoming you to Tasman Bay!

Carolyn Hughes, Coordinator, Motueka Skills Swap

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LCNZ Committee

NEW SOFTWARE

The new Software is working very well and is attracting a lot of attention. The groups now involved are shown at the bottom of page 2 in green. Apart from LCNZ there are 4 Groups that are able to use it. TATS was set up at the end of July and became operational on the 1st of August, TSCT was set up about the middle of August and has members installed and Offers showing, WEST and REBS have just been set up and will very shortly be installing members etc. TATS members can now view what Taranaki is offering and will be able to view WEST and REBS Offers as soon as they are installed, and vice versa.

WINGS and Wairarapa have agreed to use it but have not supplied the necessary details or asked to be set up yet. Golden Bay will consider Joining LCNZ at there Annual Meeting next month.

Eight Groups have not yet accessed their LCNZ accounts. They need to do this as all Intertrading has to go through these accounts from now on. Intertrading Cheques no longer need to be posted to me but can be entered directly into your accounts on LCNZ at <<http://lcnznewzealand.org.nz>>. (Please note no www.) Ignore the login in the top right corner, look down the centre column for the Green LCNZ login. Enter your Member number and password. Have a look around and contact me (Jim at

jpmmc@paradise.net.nz) if you are not sure of anything.

S.I. Groups especially need to do this as the transactions from the Regional Meeting will come through in a little over a month and you will need to access your LCNZ account to see who you have to Credit or Debit on your own System.

Groups wishing to use this Software can supply Christoph with the following information:-

- Full name of the exchange: ?
- Short name of exchange (for drop down menu): ?
- 4 letter code: ?
- Name of administrator:?
- Email of administrator ?
- Name of currency: ?
- Code for currency:?
- Logo file (picture): ?

If you don't have a logo, then we can always make up a simple logo with the letters of the 4 letter code.

The 4 letter code will be the prefix to your account numbers. The account numbers will be 4 digits and can incorporate your existing numbers.

The short name on the drop down list is important for people intertrading, as it facilitates finding the right exchange.

It is absolutely essential that all your accounts balance to Zero. If you have members who've left without balancing the account, you had best open a 'Bad Debt' account. I can advise you on this if you wish.

You will also have to ensure that the LCNZ Balance on your System matches that on LCNZ, but opposite.

If you have a current name for your currency you can use that.

Christoph will send the above information to Tim in South Africa and it should only take a few days for it to be set up, when that happens your login will be on the web site under your 4 letter code.

The administrator will have a special login that will give full access. He/she will then be able to start entering your members details and Offers and finally their balances, check with me before you do the balances as they have to be done in a special way.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Credit notes are essential for the S.I. Regional Meeting and Limits, both Credit and Debit, will be enforced. Any trades going over the limit at the end of the day will be deleted.

Trading Totals

There were no trades during the past month.

Jim McCaughan