
LETS Community NEWS^{© 2005}

(Incorporating LETS REVIEW & LCNZ Newsletter)

Issue No. 05/05

Sunday 15th May 2005

NEW ZEALAND LETS.

Conference 2005

The 2005 Conference of New Zealand LETS was held, 15th to 17th April 2005, at the Raincliff Youth Camp, situated 30mins drive inland from Timaru.

Forty-one members representing LETS groups from around New Zealand, lived in and enjoyed the excellent facilities of the venue and the superb catering team led by TATS Timaru.

The Conference started on Friday evening with introductions and registrations. Saturday morning opened with a market in the main hall. 19 Stalls representing many varied crafts and interest groups, traded goods and services using trading sheets, provided by LETS Connect.

Conference business opened at 11am on Saturday with a presentation of ideas that had been discussed via email on LETS NZ Discussion Group, involving ways to improve Intertrading between LETS systems in New Zealand.

The thrust of the discussion was to examine ways to simplify trading between LETS Exchanges, at present operating through the LETS Connect NZ system. This resulted in Conference passing a motion that the incoming LETS Connect NZ Committee, investigate a software accounting system named 'Cyclos,' being developed in Holland, to see if this program could be used to record transactions between Exchanges.

A second proposal asked the incoming LETS Connect NZ Committee to add a 'Skills and Goods' directory to the LETS Connect NZ web page. This is to give a wider customer spread to LETS members wishing to trade nationally. This proposal set much of the tone of the Conference business and speakers added to a mood to lift LETS into a trading organization, comparable to existing web based trading offered by existing commercial sites, but using LETS principles of sustainability and interest free currency.

Emphasis was placed on LETS Connect NZ being a tool, enabling communities to manage their skills and resources by exchanging Goods and Services using interest free currency.

Conference closed Sunday at midday, on a positive note of lifted expectation that LETS will contribute to community resource sustainability and management, having

a profile of renewed integrity born out of our experience over some 15 years of working in New Zealand.

Brian Duxfield

Report from PLEBS

After being housed temporarily in our treasurer's home for some months, the PLEBS Office has now shifted to a Community Centre, which enables us to share resources, like photocopier, etc., with other Community groups. Recently, PLEBS has received a \$1000 grant from the Canterbury Community Trust. The grant helps to pay running costs. Membership is still steadily decreasing and currently hovers around 50.

The 3 members that visited the Conference in Timaru last month have brought new perspectives back home and will hopefully engender new discussions and efforts to revitalise the exchange.

Having been named LETS Connect Coordinator for PLEBS, I expect to increase both the flow of information and actual trading between PLEBS and the wider LETS community of New Zealand.

Christoph Hensch



Most of the Conference attendees

THANKS TATS

We would like to congratulate TATS on a well run and productive Conference. The weekend was a feast of information and friendship, not to mention the food; yes lets mention the food! what a great team of cooks!

We are looking forward to the trading changes proposed at discussion time and to be investigated by the LCNZ Committee. Trading outside the immediate group can only be beneficial to everyone. Well done Timaru!!

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Mel and Joy Scott, IBES

A BIG THANK YOU

To all the TATS members who organised the 2005 Annual Conference and especially the "Kitchen Hands": for their never-ending supply of wonderful food. As usual there was a great deal of useful discussion throughout the 2 days and I left with the positive feeling that LETS Connect will move forward in the coming year.

The acceptance of and support for the new Nelson CELTS group by all at Conference was very encouraging and although the decision to split from N.G.D.E. was difficult to make I am sure it was the right one. Nelson CELTS' first monthly shared lunch and trade meeting will be on Sunday 22nd. May 2005 at Enner Glynn Hall, Tuckett Rd., Nelson from 11.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. All members of other LETS / Green Dollar groups are welcome to join us if they are in the area. For more information please contact me:-

Linda Cleary Co-ordinator Nelson CELTS
ph. 03-539-0058, e-mail prusmum@clear.net.nz.

TARANAKI

The 2006 Conference is 7th, 8th and 9th April. A centre out in the country has been booked. It has plenty of space to walk and even swim if you wish. We are arranging a bus to sightsee the Mountain, weather permitting.

Our 2005 AGM will be at the TDRC 28 Young Street, New Plymouth on Friday the 24th of June. Starting at 6pm with a potluck dinner, followed by our AGM at 8.00pm. DR. Peter North from London will be our guest speaker. Everyone from other Systems welcome.

Had a great time in Timaru and learnt heaps both at the Conference and about the District.

Thanks **Anne**

Conferences and Regional Meetings

TATS has now hosted two Regional Meetings and a National Conference. I can safely say that although they are a lot of work, they are also of great value both to local Members as well as most visitors.

Many LETS Groups are having problems with falling Member numbers and there is a tendency for Managements to become discouraged. The best way to counter this is to attend a Conference or Regional Meeting, better still is for your Group to Host one.

There are many people that cannot travel to the other Island to attend a Conference, so a Regional Meeting at approximately 6 months after a Conference is very useful otherwise it's two years between Conferences for some. Far too long.

In the South Island we are firmly into having this regular contact and those in the North Island need to give this some serious thought. It will be to the advantage of all concerned.

Jim

The New LETS Committee

Chairman, Christoph Hensch. PLEBS

Secretary, Carolyn Hughes, MOSS

Treasurer, Jim McCaughan, TATS

Rest of Committee, Bryan Duxfield, and Anne Dixon, Taranaki LETS, Neville Miller WINGS and Dave Robbie, IBES

Trading Totals

G\$5051.20. Conference Trades were 282 for G\$5001.20, of this G\$937.50 or 19% was from the Mystery Auction, this has been donated to MOSS who will host the next S.I. Regional Meeting.

Jim McCaughan Editor.

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LETS Connect NZ Members and their Balances.

100. Management .	+23.00	Taranaki LETS	+1,207.80 n	118 Nelson CELTS	+86.50 y
C/- 48 Mountain View Rd., TIMARU		P.O. Box 5015 NEW PLYMOUTH		27 Boundary Road NELSON	
105. Thames	-3,268.40 n	113. PLEBS	-1,176.80 n	119. REBS	-2,025.99 y
P.O. Box 229 THAMES		C/- Worcester Street, CHRISTCHURCH		C/- 81 Swiss Avenue WANGANUI	
106. TATS	+2,797.21 y	115. MOSS	+542.90 y	120 WEST	+2,294.05 y
C/- 41A Heaton St., TIMARU		P. Box 350 MOTUEKA		2 Tui St., Kumara, WESTLAND.	
108. Wairarapa	+959.90 n	116. WINGS	+309.00 n	Y equals sub paid N equals sub not paid	
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