



Maleny LETS News

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Website: www.community-exchange.org

Editor: Gay Liddington ~ Email: visionpower@aapt.net.au

June 2008

PLEASE ASSIST!

Your assistance is requested at the

Maleny LETS Stall
World Environment Day
21 June 2008
at
Sunshine Coast University

Please phone the LETS Office on 5494 3113



Energy flows where attention goes.

James Ray
"Parallel Universes"

POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES!

NEW INTERNET BASED EXCHANGE SYSTEM

Our LETSsystem has served us well for twenty years but the time has come for LETS to move with the times embracing and taking advantage of internet technology along with the opportunities it brings.

Those on our email list (approximately eighty members) have already received detailed information as to how they can access this system. It is simple, easy to manage, and presents the opportunity to interact with other LETSsystems - you have ready access to goods and services offered by the wider LETS community. For instance, some members of BrisLETS offer professional services that do not exist through our own membership. Also, if you intend to travel, you can check out offers that might benefit you, e.g., accommodation.

Another benefit the new system offers is that the newsletter will be viewed online - a big saving in mailing and administrative costs, also staff time. Of course, the newsletter and noticeboard will still be mailed to members not online.

If you do not have easy access to the internet or email, or if you need support with navigating the new system, please contact the office and we'll provide you with assistance and advice on how to participate in the Maleny Local Energy Trading System (MALO), your local exchange of the SANE Community Exchange System (CES). The Maleny Library also offers computer access. For those members not connected to the internet and those who like the system 'the way it was', we will still operate in the 'old way as well.

Here's a snippet from the Warranwood LETS Newsletter, April/May 08, accessed through the online Community Exchange System (you can also read newsletters from other countries):

Jasminka's Experience of inter-LETS Trading

I want to tell you about my recent trading experience to inspire you to look beyond your own LETS group. I had a wonderful experience trading with one of the members from Central Coast LETS.

I received an email request for one of my angel mobiles. She had found them on our CES website. Unfortunately I did not have a photo to send her but after a few emails backward and forwards we organised the payments for the materials and postage. She received my angel mobiles in good time before Christmas and used them for presents. During our email exchanges we also discovered that we both had an interest in Steiner education. The token exchange was simple and easy, all happened automatically. I suppose it takes some effort to find products we can exchange but I am sure it can be worth it. ~ Jasminka Ward-Matievic

Feedback on members' experience in using the new system will be great for the next newsletter. Please email Gay on visionpower@aapt.net.au with your comments.

Happy trading!

MEMBERS' PAGE

Please contribute to your newsletter!

I invite letters/feedback to the editor, a favourite recipe, a poem/story/anecdote or special quote. Have your say - this is your space.

Hello from member Alex Mitchell

I am pleased you have gone online. It will be so much easier to keep in touch now I have moved to Buderim. Congratulations!

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to give feedback about LETS and the Woodford Folk Festival: I love being able to use my LETS at the Chai Tent. Yes, of course it would be great to have other venues, but the Chai Tent is such a central place, it's great to use as a place to find each other. I really enjoy feeling abundant and being able to buy my friends coffee and a snack, and my kids know it's the only place in the festival that they can order whatever they like without mum worrying over the money.

Hopefully I'll get to the next market to catch up with a few Maleny faces.

THE TALE of the COUCH by Gay Liddington

It was a happy, cheery, Gold Coast day just prior to Christmas. Fairy floss clouds drifted across a background of blue, while a gentle breeze lifted leaves and an orange-burst sun shared its warmth. My daughter had just moved into a town-house but was short on furniture. Fortunately, there was an op shop situated over the road from the unit but it was midday, Saturday, and we arrived just as they were closing. We quickly found our way to an awning out back of the building discovering a great looking two-seater couch and, the colours even matched the carpet in the unit! How much? Twenty-five dollars! Oh, but that wasn't all, it was half price day! A lounge for twelve dollars and fifty cents! How exciting – thank you very much. We paid the woman then looked at each other questioningly as the ladies closed the doors. In our enthusiasm we hadn't thought of how we were going to get the two-seater back to the unit!

Fortunately, the couch was on wheels and so we managed to steer it down the long, slightly sloping driveway to the edge of the footpath. Then daughter of mine said, "I'll go home and get the car." Enter the hatchback. We jiggled and manoeuvred but to no avail – the bloody thing just wouldn't fit! So, what next? "Well," I said, looking across to the main thoroughfare with cars buzzing every which way, "We will just have to get it across the road." I felt that this was definitely going to be a strong mother and daughter bonding experience.

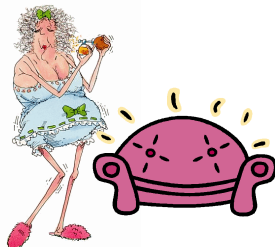
We picked up the couch, waited for a space in the traffic and scurried across the road (as best one can scurry carrying a two-seater couch) and set it down on the footpath. In that moment, an impish grin flashed across my daughter's face. "Well, I'd better go – need to take the car home." She began her retreat to where we had come from just minutes before. And there I was, left standing with the twelve dollar fifty couch on a footpath that flanked a main suburban road. By this time I had positioned myself so that my back was to the road and with hands placed firmly on the back of the two-seater, I began to push. My thoughts were stuck like a broken record... *I don't live here, no one will recognise me. I don't live here, no one will recognise me...*

The couch moved with ease along the cement path. I was on a roll until I heard someone gleefully beeping their horn at me. Should I look, and risk 'being seen'? I furtively turned, only to see the child of my loins driving by, waving madly, a big grin plastered across her face. My thoughts turned to revenge!

I wheeled this thing that was beginning to look quite unattractive to me, into the driveway of the unit complex. I was relieved to be away from the traffic and curious glares of passers-by. My self-respect was trickling back. I dared to look up. My eyes were met by the gaze of two blokes wearing stubbies and singlets. They were standing outside their unit each sucking on a cigarette. Their faces told of utter disbelief at this woman in her fifties who had just come through the gate wheeling a two-seater lounge! I stopped, placed my hands on my hips, looked them straight in the eye and said, "What a mother won't do for her daughter, huh!" They smiled and came across to me. "Would you like a hand?" they offered, "We're furniture removalists." I gratefully accepted as their sinewy arms picked up the piece of furniture and carried it to its new home.

By this time my daughter had put the kettle on - she reasoned that a nice cup of tea would quell any tongue lashing that might be imminent! We laughed and reminisced the mornings' event as the two-seater couch snuggled into the corner of the lounge room - its new home.

It was still a happy, cheery, Gold Coast day just prior to Christmas with fairy floss clouds drifting across a background of blue while a gentle breeze lifted leaves and the orange-burst sun shared its warmth. All that being said, I still haven't worked out my revenge.. it won't happen over night, but it will happen!



LETS: The Economic System of Giving

www.glasswings.com.au/utopia/lets.html



The Problem of Money

As Sholom Aleichem, Jewish fiction writer and humourist, once wrote: "Money is round and rolls away." The conventional dollar economy is in many ways a creation of the Industrial Revolution, and has never been properly re-interpreted in the light of the changing world-view of the Information Revolution. The flaws in the current economy are becoming more and more obvious.

Money was invented to get around the biggest flaw of barter, the previous method of trade, which was that you couldn't always find someone who wanted what you had to offer in exchange for what you wanted from them. Money has solved that problem, but it has introduced new ones, principal among which is that it has become a limited resource in its own right. In a monetary economy, you no longer have to worry about having something worth trading; everyone takes cash. But if you don't have any money, no-one will trade with you.

Thus we have the problems of social welfare (redistributing wealth so that poor people have some money to keep themselves alive), easy credit, fast-money entrepreneurs, credit squeezes, interest rates, inflation, and all the other problems that stem directly from the idea that money is a limited resource and we can charge more money for the use of it. We even have games like forex trading where people play with numbers for a while and then agree who has "made" money and who has "lost" it.

The Problem of Work

A related problem of modern industrialised societies is the definition of work, a subject which has often been addressed in the last decade or so (see *Sleepers Wake* by Barry Jones, for example) but to little avail. Work is currently defined as what one does to make money, and thus many things are considered work which are negative and destructive to the environment, society or the human soul. Conversely, many useful, positive and constructive things that people do are not classed as work because they do not earn money.

A long-standing problem is that much of the labour that women do has traditionally been unpaid (housework, for example) and thus does not fall into the current definition of "work" and is not measured in the present economic system. This is sexist and unfair, but has proven highly resistant to change.

Finally, as discussed in *Sleepers Wake* and elsewhere, the increasing mechanisation of industry is decreasing the amount of "work" available and making it harder for people to earn the money they need to live. But preventing mechanisation is no solution when doing so retains less efficient production methods and the most repetitive and soul-deadening jobs. The solution is to redefine work and it is my contention that in order to do that it may also prove necessary to redefine money.

LETS - The Additional Economy: Theory

LETS provides a means by which people can continue trading, can continue working, without having to wait for the social lubricant of money. Everyone creates their own currency. They can continue trading as long as their word is good, thus allowing the local economy to keep moving even when hardly any cash is available.

The general idea is that any person's interaction with society includes both production and consumption. Both of these roles are essential to the economic functioning of society; there must be people who consume more than they produce, or there would be no customers for those who produce more than they consume. It is no social stigma to be a net consumer; indeed, it is expected of a fairly large portion of society (the young and the old, as well as students and the sick).

In a LETS system, every member of the community agrees to offer goods and skills of their choice to the community in return for an agreement from the rest of the community to do the same for them. A few people perform the administrative functions of recording transactions, issuing statements and publishing a newsletter and a trade directory listing all the goods and skills on offer (and desired) within the community.

LETS in Practice: A Step-by-Step Example

You are a new member of a local LETS group and you decide to buy a bag of apples from another member using LETS units. You negotiate a price with them (for example, ten units) and sign a notification slip to the LETS administration to authorise them to record the transaction. The recipient then drops the slip into the nearest LETS drop-box (or mails it to the administration).

Now you are ten units in commitment to the community, and the other member has ten more units commitment from the community. You agree to assist other members of the community to the best of your ability to the value of ten units at some time in the future, and the community as a whole agrees to assist the other member to the same value.

Later you will receive your statement which will list every transaction you have made since the last statement, just like a bank statement. If your records disagree with the statement you will be able to cross-check with the administration and the other party to the transaction.

The Successes: Landsman, Maleny ~ LETS has been in existence for over ten years now and already the system is being used internationally. One single mother in the original Canadian LETS system wrote to tell her story. She had been able to get all sorts of work done around the house during the recession there in return for cooking home-made frozen lasagna for the local community. The LETS system enabled her to get many things done that she could otherwise never have afforded. It also allowed her to contribute her skills and feel a valued member of the community.

Such luminaries as Bill Mollison support it as a working example of a "permaculture economy". There are dozens of active LETS groups in Australia, the most notable being Maleny in Queensland, where they have also opened a community credit union in conjunction with the LETS system.



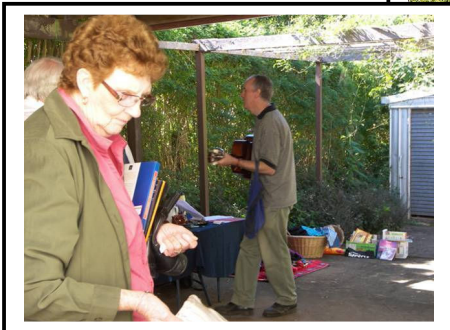
MEMBERS' MARKET

A successful LETS market was recently held at the home of Marcelle Holdaway. A cuppa was made available to members while they took the opportunity to browse the many and varied bargains on offer.

I visited the market with a friend, an out of town visitor, who was amazed at this cashless system. I was able to treat my friend to a pair of new, leather boots and some other treasures while our very own roving troubadour, Tommy Leonard entertained us. Not to be left out, I purchased a hand knitted scarf, a CD and assorted bit and pieces that I just had to have!

There were books, CD's, clothing, bric-a-brac and items too numerous to mention including Tommy Leonard's guitar!! All for bunyas!

We look forward to our next market and await the offer of a venue. Please phone the office if you would like to host a LETS Market. You won't have to do any work as everyone brings what they need to set up. Take the opportunity to share your home, yard, or carport with members for a time of sharing, fun and friendship.



Please consider...

LETS members have often said that they miss having a regular market where goods can be traded. So, would you like to offer your place for a Members Market? If only six members provided a venue twice a year we could hold a monthly market. Or, you may wish to provide the space for a one-off market. Phone the office on 5494 3113 if you wish to participate in creating a regular LETS Market.

LETS COMMUNITY KIOSK
Maleny Community Centre



Saturday ~ 9am to 12 noon
Date yet to be decided

If you can spare an hour or two to assist with the next stall it would be greatly appreciated.
For more information phone Laurel on 5435 2333 or the LETS Office on 5494 3113

**LETS MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL - DUE JUNE 30TH**



World Environment Day 2008 - New date

Helpers needed to assist on the LETS Stall

Presented by the Sunshine Coast Environment Council, together with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, the University of the Sunshine Coast and SEQ Catchments is the World Environment Day 2008 celebrations - Small Footprints, Big Steps.

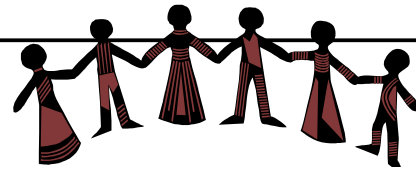
Sunshine Coast council together with co partners Sunshine Coast Environment Council, SEQ Catchments and the University of the Sunshine Coast have postponed the World Environment Day festival scheduled for 31 May due to extreme wet weather conditions.

The event will now run on **Saturday 21 June**, 9am to 4pm, with the same great line up.

The event will feature speakers and forums, green technology exhibits, wildlife presentations and displays, live music, entertainment, performances celebrating and inspiring sustainable communities, farmers market, food and more!

Mark 21 June on your calendar for the World Environment Day festival and keep listening, reading, watching for event updates and promotions.

For further information check the [Sunshine Coast Environment Council website](http://www.sunshinecoastenvironmentcouncil.org.au) or contact Sharon Stott from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council on 5441 8259.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS...

Franklin BRUINSTROOP	Ph: 5499 9685	# 5104
Chris OKANE B Com (Appl Psych), Hons Dip Craniosacral Therapy, Dip Remedial Massage, Member PACT Craniosacral therapy; Counselling & voice dialogue; Therapeutic & rhythmic massage; Relaxation & meditation; Stress management	Ph: 0437 744 088	#7152
Betty RINGER	Ph: 5494 3117	# 3117
Carol LOWE Sell: Oral histories; Editing/proof-reading; LP's transcribed to CD's; Worm juice; Accommodation. Need: Dog walking/care; Computer skills; weeding; House cleaning. Email: caroljlo@bigpond.net.au	Ph: 5435 8223	# 1943
Veronica KIRKMAN Creative Art Therapy – 50% bunyas; Graphic Design – 50% buntyas. Email: hughesveronica@hotmail.com	Ph: 0402 372 453	# 146
John WRIGHT Creating/editing short movies for internet presentations; Band (duo) performance – 50% bunyas.	Ph: 5429 6572	# 1310
Margaret WILLIAMS Illustrator – Tuition. 100% LETS. Email: margwilz@yahoo.com.au	Ph: 0433 916 451	# 1821
Deborah & Terry BISHOP Computer/Typing; Sandplay Counselling Session; Talk or Spending Time (Listener); Babysitting; Shopping	Ph: 5499 9109	# 9180
Felicity WALSH Baby/kid sitting; mowing. Yard work; Knitted toys and jumpers	Ph: 0429 399 451	# 376
Philip TIETZE Photos to DVD Presentation; Gig demo CD's mixing; French polishing/restoration; Gardening & pruning	Ph: 5494 2486	# 4816
Ami PELUCHETTI	Ph: 0434 647 808	# 6008
Nicole MURRAY & John THOMPSON (CLOUDSTREET) Celtic Flute Lessons; Singing Lessons & Workshops; CDs (part bunyas); Dance up the Sun; The Fiddleship; Violet Sarah & Muckle John; Swallow the Concertina. Check out www.cloudstreet.org	Ph: 5499 9891	# 8464

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 Email: barung@sun.big.net.au

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 (Kitchen opens 7.30am)
 Evenings: Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat

MUSIC! MUSIC! MUSIC!

Monday, Friday and Saturday nights

WATCH OUT

**FOR
 "RATHER BIZR'S"**



100% BUNYA BASKET

**From the
 EDITOR's DESK**



What an exciting time for
 LETS! The Community
 Exchange System (CES)
 literally brings the world of
 'local trading' into our homes via the internet!

Since Maleny LETS has joined CES I have had many fun
 times... hours... checking out what other LETS groups
 are offering and thinking about how I might benefit. I
 have looked at offers of accommodation which would
 be a great cash saving when travelling. BrisLets offers
 numerous goods and services that I could easily avail
 myself of - again, a great opportunity for cash saving.
 My thoughts also leapt forward to Christmas shopping
 while perusing the many offers of arts, crafts and
 numerous other potential gift items.

It was also most interesting to be able to read
 newsletters from the greater LETS community...
 Australia, New Zealand, South Africa. The newsletter
 articles, news, ideas, could be a great resource for our
 local LETS community.

Since being a part of CES I feel a greater sense of
 global connection. I encourage you to explore CES and
 become part of this exciting global energy.

Following are some statistics taken from the home page
 of CES.

Community Exchange Network Statistics

The Community Exchange Network is the first and
 only global network of complementary currency
 exchanges. The breakdown of exchanges by country
 is as follows:

- Argentina (1)
- Australia (17)
- Canada (3)
- India (3)
- International (2)
- Ireland (1)
- Israel (3)
- New Zealand (19)
- Norway (1)
- South Africa (22)
- United Kingdom (1)
- United States of America (11)
- Vanuatu (4)
- Zimbabwe (1)



Number of countries: 14
 Number of exchanges: 89

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Submissions for the next newsletter need to be at the
 office (if you are not online) or emailed directly to
 Gay at visionpower@aapt.net.au by 13th August.



- BUNYA CLASSIFIEDS -



FOR SALE

Please make use of this space!

FOR LEASE

Vege plot for lease for 100% bunyas. Fertile soil, freshly weeded. Approx. 30 x 50m. Could use all or part. Access to water could be negotiated. Call Helen Rosenbaum on 03 5356 2254.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CASHLESS TRADING?

Trade with LETS!
(Your friendly Local Energy Transfer System)

Avail yourself to goods and services including Arts & Crafts, Labour, Professional Services, Creative Skills, Market Stalls and much more.

*For more information:
Phone 5494 3113*

SERVICES

This column is made available free to those members offering a SERVICE for 100% Bunyas

ORGANISING PUBLIC EVENTS
for COMMUNITY GROUPS
100% bunyas
Laurel Wilson ~ Phone: 5435 2333

DOG WALKING



NATURE WALKS

WILDLIFE ADVICE

Call Susie & Barry



Phone: 5429 6622 ~ #1910

Helena

Reiki

Massage

Meditation

Foot Massage

Phone: 5435 2389

SERVICES

This column is made available free to those members offering a SERVICE for 100% Bunyas

Bowen Therapy with Ingrid Mozart. Ph: 5494 2520

***Consultation** on ecologically sustainable building and renovation. Ph: Karin - 5494 4660

* **Editing**, 30B per hour
Mary Garden – Ph: 5494 9797

***I.T. Services**: Ph: James on 5429 6589

FOR HIRE

BOX TRAILER 100% Bunyas

50B – day OR 75B – weekend

Ph: Alex on 5445 6386
(Buderim)
#6664

100% BUNYA TRADERS

If you would like to be included on this list please phone the Maleny LETS Office

Chris OKANE B Com (Appl Pych), Hons Dip Craniosacral Therapy, Dip Remedial Massage, Member PACT – Ph: 0437 744 088: Craniosacral therapy; Counselling & voice dialogue; Therapeutic & rhythmic massage; Relaxation & meditation; Stress management ~ # 7152

Margaret WILLIAMS – Ph: 0433 916 451: Illustrator – tuition ~ #1821

Kathy SHACKLEFORD – Ph: 5439 9573: Hawaiian Massage and other therapies ~ #1405

Mary GARDEN – Ph: 5494 9797: Editing – 30B per hour ~ # 75

Susie & Barry DUNCAN/TRAILL – Ph: 5429 6622: Dog Walking; Nature Walks; Wildlife Advice #1910

Alex MITCHELL – Ph: 5445 6386 (Buderim): Cheap second-hand kids clothes 0 - 4; Box trailer hire # 6664

Ruth DONNELLY – Ph: 5435 2246: Meditation Cushions #107

Tommy LEONARD – Ph: 5435 2246: Troubadour; CD – Spiral of Change # 107

Clare & Paul RUSSELL – Ph: 5429 6662: Handmade cards (general, Christmas) # 9953

Robin CLAYFIELD – Ph: 5494 4707: Gifts for Wild Women: Book 30B; Set (Book & Cards) 70B # 7171

Helena WILSON: Ph: 5494 4294: Massage – full body and foot massage; Reiki – hands on healing; Meditation ~ # 865

RATHER BIZR – Maple Street, Maleny: Check out the 100% Bunya basket ~ #2402

YOU MUST BE A LETS MEMBER TO ADVERTISE IN THIS NEWSLETTER
While it is preferred that you trade in 100% bunyas, part bunyas/part \$\$ is acceptable

LETS Newsletter Advertising

Classified Rates...

Lines Ad	2 B per line
Single Column	1 B per cm
Double Column	2 B per cm
1/4 Page	15 B
1/3 Page	20 B



LETS KIOSK

Maleny Community Centre

Saturday (date to be advised)
9am – 12 noon

LETS OFFICE HOURS

MON	11.00am - 3.00pm
WED	11.00am - 3.00pm
FRI	11.00am - 3.00pm

The LETS office is still located in the back room of the Hinterland Business Centre. Please use the side door to the right of the building now that the art shop is at the front.

If you wish to leave something for LETS out of the above office hours, please place your notice in an envelope marked 'LETS' and put it in the file folder which is located on the bench to the left of the side door.

MONTHLY LETS MEETINGS

Usually the second Wednesday of each month (confirm with the office). The next meeting is
11 June – 3.00pm at Maple 3

POSITION VACANT

LETS Admin Assistant
Full training provided

Payment in Bunyas



Four hourly shifts available
once a week or once a fortnight

Do you have something to sell?
(Bunyas or part Bunyas)
Is there something you want to buy?

Is there a service you seek?



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located at

The UpFront Club

Please present your ads clearly and neatly and
remove them when the ad is no longer valid

LETS GIFT VOUCHERS

Treat your friends
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Give a Gift Voucher!



Available at the LETS Office

UPDATE! UPDATE! UPDATE!

Please update your details
Personal details, offers and wants can be
updated via the office (Ph: 5494 3113) or
through your account with CES.

LETS NEWLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS - This is your Newsletter...

All contributions are welcome (subject to space and the discretion of the editor). Tell us about your special events - birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Share anecdotes, recipes, affirmations, poems and stories. Promote LETS. Contact Gay Liddington: Email: visionpower@aapt.net.au