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# *LETS Community NEWS* © 2005

*(Incorporating LETS REVIEW & LCNZ Newsletter)*

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## **TARANAKI LETS**

I am still waiting for more market dates for the list to be published. Thanks to those who have sent them.

Wanganui [REBS] has theirs 9-11am on the second Saturday of the month except January which they miss out. Held at the Druid Legionnaires hall. You can email Anne Hulme for more details. <annehulme@paradise.net.nz>

Christchurch [PLEBS] hold their markets every second Wednesday each month at Waltham school hall, Hastings Street east, off Waltham. Contacts to Christoph Hensch.<cmhensch@gmx.net>

Taranaki LETS hold theirs on the last Saturday or Sunday of the month except November and December. Contact Anne at Taranaki Lets email address for further details. <annedixon@clear.net.nz>

July Saturday 30th 9am

August Sunday 28th at 12noon bread making demo.

September Saturday 24th spring garden talk and display.

October Sunday 30th at 12noon

December 17th 9am with Santa and Xmas buying.

All held at the St. Johns Ambulance hall in St Arbyns street, New Plymouth.

Our public meeting with Dr. Peter North did not draw a lot of the public which was really disappointing. However we had an interesting evening with Peter and took note of what he had to say. I am doing a short report and will send it to Jim for publishing in the newsletter when he has the space.

Our last market did not draw many members but had plenty of public and the few stalls did OK with a little cash from them. I sold out of scones in no time!!!! So enjoyed the company of those present over a cuppa!!

If anyone has any ideas for speakers or topics they want discussed at the 2006 conference, then please let us know. It is your Conference. We will be just running it on everyone's behalf and aim to do our best with your participation.

**Anne Dixon.**

## **NOTES ON PETE NORTH'S TALK.**

Just a few notes to share with you from jottings that I made. It does not matter how small a group is. Make the most of the Connection, Community and Friendship. Trading that is friendly and community sharing. Wages are now lower to hours worked.

Seek out new members from places like the Environmental centrer, Farmers Markets and any green like group.

Must offer value for money computable with the going prices at the time in the wider community .eg. Local food prices.

'Make Poverty History' At his uni in the UK students wear bracelets saying just that.

They are creating community housing for themselves so as to have cheaper housing. More like a commune. Also looking at ways to make their lives sustainable as they are cash stripped as students.

Also bulk buying and selling on.

When Argentina had a big financial crisis 2002-03 folk lived off green dollars. Thousands of people joined. Everyone had to produce the items for sale themselves. Produce, Art and Crafts. They printed out credit notes and handed out a set amount to each new member to get them trading. One would need to be careful with fraud. The local council health rules did apply and folk got out and got what was needed to sell their produce or cooking etc.

Share your knowledge and look after each other. Do what we are best at and trade. Learn new skills and share and pass it on freely to others. They will then share with extended families and then pass into the whole community. Enjoy the small group atmosphere and be prepared for any bad times.

**Anne Dixon**

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## Balancing the Accounts

Last time I wrote about how you can determine the value of the credits in your exchange. Now, if your debits do not correspond to your credits, what can you do? The balance between the two is crucial for the proper functioning of a LETS. Here is a list of measures that can be applied, but not every measure might be appropriate for your particular situation:-

- Clarify and balance the books. Improve the monthly reports with relevant figures
- Get systems-account in order and open several Admin accounts to make management easier. (bad debts account, NZ\$ exchange account, etc.)
- Balance the G\$ budget (Admin. account should be moving within similar limits as any member account! Also the Admin account needs to go through zero regularly! Recommended limit: average 3 months income)
- Get former members who left the system without settling their account to pay up and chase up their debts.
- Introduce credit limits (should be same as debit limits!)
- Introduce a 'circulation incentive' on positive account balances, (1% per month, higher for those beyond the credit limits), paid into the Admin account. Done correctly, this will over time help to balance the Admin debt as well as pay for unrecoverable bad debt. This measure is only necessary when there is a gross imbalance between credit and debits on active trading accounts in the system.
- The other alternative to get rid of the extra credit is that everyone pays a set fee.
- Educate all committee member and office holders

in the exact working of the exchange. Everyone in a decision-making position needs to be able to understand debit and credits, and needs to be able to read the monthly Treasurer's report.

**Christoph Hensch**

## 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 three members that visited the Conference near 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 NZ 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**

## CELTS

As Co ordinator of the new CELTS group it was my pleasure to again host Leah O'Driscoll (Chairman of WEST) and her family last weekend. This was the second time that Leah, Terry and Jasmine have stayed with me on Green Dollars since I was billeted with them for the last South Island Regional Meeting in

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### LETS Connect NZ Members and their Balances.

100. <b>Management</b> .	+23.00	<b>Taranaki LETS</b>	+982.80 n	<b>118 Nelson CELTS</b>	+261.66 y
C/- 48 Mountain View Rd., TIMARU		P.O. Box 5015 NEW PLYMOUTH		27 Boundary Road NELSON	
105. <b>Thames</b>	-3,268.40 n	113. <b>PLEBS</b>	-1,176.80 y	119. <b>REBS</b>	-2,025.99 y
P.O. Box 229 THAMES		PO Box 21 102, CHRISTCHURCH		C/- 81 Swiss Avenue WANGANUI	
106. <b>TATS</b>	+3,053.05 y	115. <b>MOSS</b>	+542.90 y	120 <b>WEST</b>	+2,088.05 y
C/- 40 Heaton St., TIMARU		P. Box 350 MOTUEKA		2 Tui St., Kumara, WESTLAND.	
108. <b>Wairarapa</b>	+959.90 y	116. <b>WINGS</b>	+309.00 y	Y equals sub paid N equals sub not paid	
108 Bannister St., MASTERTON		121 Charles St., BLENHEIM		Groups in Debit (-) need to <b>SELL</b> .	
109. <b>CAPS Wellington</b>	-2,459.40 n	117. <b>IBES</b>	+548.85 y	Groups in Credit (+) need to <b>BUY</b> .	
C/- 6 Beauchamp St., WELLINGTON		P.O. Box 7087, INVERCARGILL		Groups under 1000 (+ or -) can do <b>EITHER</b>	

Kumara.

CELTS arranged their monthly lunchtime market for that weekend and Leah came with goods to trade and also a shopping list of goods to purchase and take back with her for the next WEST market. Several of our members expressed interest in her offer of G\$ accommodation on the West Coast and she was able to take a parcel of garments I had made for one of their members. How I appreciate the opportunity to trade around the country through LETS Connect.

CELTS trading is steady and the energy level high, as are the temperatures and sunshine hours in Nelson the Sunshine Capital of New Zealand.

**Linda Cleary** - Co-ordinator Nelson CELTS  
ph.03-539-0058 e-mail [prusmum@clear.net.nz](mailto:prusmum@clear.net.nz).

## REBS

Michael, our Winz worker, started mid April and is getting to grips with our REBS system. We have had a number of resignations but this has been balanced out by recruiting seven new members.

REBS AGM is to be held on the 10th September.

Our market day this month was on the 9th July. We normally set up the hall on a Friday night so it was decided at the June Committee Meeting that we would have a Pot Luck Tea. Numbers were thin on the ground but it was a good get together, and we will have another Pot Luck tea the Friday before our August market. If anyone is in the area on the 12th August and wishes to attend please let us know.  
Regards **Ngaire** Treasurer.

## TATS

Hey! Hey! Hey! TATS is now on line!

E mail address is [timtats@kol.co.nz](mailto:timtats@kol.co.nz) timtats is easy to remember ... want a break? have a timtats! come and visit us down here in crispy Timaru; warm beds and cocoa a must in the -8c winter mornings!

Our office address is now 40 Heaton Street TIMARU. The phone number remains the same:- 03 684-9902. Ring in the afternoon, you will only get the answer phone in the morning, better still use the e-mail.

**Marion**, TATS Office.

## LCNZ Committee

The Committee are now looking at another Software package. This has been developed and used

in South Africa for a number of years and it seems to be just what we need. This is web based and has built in Intertrading capability. Members in a Group can access all members in their own Group or any member in any of the other South African Groups using the same software. If looking to purchase a particular item they can search all Groups and can arrange a transaction directly.

They can place or change their own Goods and Skills offers and include photographs. Wants can also be included.

Balances are updated immediately a transaction is recorded, so those with access can see the position of their account at any time and don't have to wait for a statement. This would be a big advantage for the members of those NZ Groups that only produce Statements occasionally or not at all.

There would still be a need for Transaction Recorders to handle the details and transactions of those without web access.

The Software produces a wide range of Statistics, probably more than any software currently in use in NZ and would give Management much more information and control over the health of their System.

The Software will eventually also give access to any systems in Australia using it. Planning a trip to Oz and looking for LETS accommodation? Then this could be the answer.

If the LCNZ Committee decide to go ahead with this and at the moment there seems to be no good reason not to, then this would become available to all Member Groups.

At the last Conference, LCNZ was required to investigate this type of Software and also to put in place a web based Goods & Skills list that would make Intertrading work better and be available to all those wishing to Intertrade.

This Software package will do all that and more.

## Trading Totals

There were 4 trades for a total G\$276.84

There are three Subs outstanding. Trading is suspended for those Members.

Jim McCaughan Editor.