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# LETS Community NEWS © 2005

(Incorporating LETS REVIEW & LCNZ Newsletter)

Issue No. 08/05

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2005

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## TATS

It's been a busy month for TATS, the Office has been shifted from one side of the road, to the other, and if anyone even thinks of asking Marion where things are, watch out!

In between moving, we have been pulling our hair out with trying to apply for COGS funding on line, and if any of you have been in the 'same boat' then don't panic, COGS have been inundated with frantic emails and calls for help, from all sorts of groups, as they handle dealing with this first year of on-line applications, and they inform me that due to the hassles of their program, the close off date has been extended for a short time. Hope this gives someone on your system applying for funding a bit of encouragement.

At the time of writing this, our Jim has been flat out putting all of TATS members onto the CES program. We have invited all our members with computers to contact us with their on line details, and given them step by step instructions on how to trade and enter their trading details on line.

Our non computerised members haven't been forgotten, they have been assured that our commitment is still to them and that the Office will still process their completed transaction forms. As TATS turned 15 years old in July, it is exciting to know that once again we are helping to lead the way into a new era.

I can't wait to have a big catch-up in Motueka for the next South Island Regional Meeting and am anticipating enjoying myself trading at the Market.

**Marion**, TATS general dogsbody!

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## REBS

The Annual General Meeting will be held on September 10th at 11.30am after the stall at the Legion of Frontiersman's Hall.

Nomination forms were sent out with the last Newsletter. All members and friends are encouraged to attend.

The pot luck tea went well with 8 members and children. We will continue this and the next one is on Friday 12th of August at 6pm at the Legion of Frontiersman's Hall. Please bring a plate. All members and friends welcome.

Courtesy of REBS Trader.

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## Report from PLEBS – August 2005

The next AGM has been announced (28 Aug. 2005, 3pm). It looks like this could be a decisive moment in PLEBS history. The membership has dropped below 50 now, which is the number some believe is the minimum for a viable exchange. It is expected that some major policy changes might be adopted, one proposed course of action being the winding down of PLEBS. There are also 5 committee members and 2 trustees to be elected.

Taking advantage of Pete North's visit to New Zealand, PLEBS had an informal gathering with him to discuss issues regarding the future of the exchange. More than 20% of the membership attended and there seems to be a undercurrent of optimism that with considerable changes PLEBS might be able to blossom again.

At a recent market, the 2 millionth P\$ was traded and in a little ceremony the people involved acknowledged this. A picture and an article made it into one of the local papers.

Future tentative market dates are: 28 Aug, 14 Sep, 12 Oct, 9 Nov and 14 Dec 2005.

**Christoph Hensch**

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## LCNZ Committee

### New Software

As requested at the recent Conference the Committee has evaluated online systems to handle transactions and Goods and Skills. The first system, Cyclos, was Dutch based and seemed to be a recent development and still had some way to go. We then checked out the South African Community Exchange System (CES), a system which has been operating in that area for some time. Although it is still under development it seemed to be working very well and had most of the features that we required and any additional requirements that we

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wanted, could and have, been added. So the decision was taken to use it. All LCNZ members have been installed on it and the first trade has gone through. At the same time TATS agreed to change and from the beginning of August all transactions have been processed on the new System, some by the members concerned and the rest by the Transaction Recorder. It is very easy and user friendly to use. To date the feedback from TATS members has been very positive.

At least two other Groups Taranaki and WINGS are in the process of setting up and the Software is on offer to all LCNZ member Groups. The cost is nil, all that is required is a computer with a Browser (I recommend Mozilla Firefox not Internet Explorer) and an internet connection.

The amount of work involved in the change over will vary according to the size of your system but it is well worth while. The statistics the system provides are impressive and will give Managements much greater control over the health of their System.

This is the basis of a National System, that still allows local Groups to maintain their autonomy and continue to operate in their own way, it will allow Intertrading in a much simpler way than the old System where trades could take up to two months or more from point of sale to final buyer debit. Ultimately transactions between any two individuals anywhere in the country can be completed instantly.

In the meantime Transaction Recorders handling Intertrades can process them as usual on their own System and then go on line to their own LCNZ account and debit the Buyers account, no more envelopes and stamps and finding the time to post the Transaction cheque to the LCNZ Transaction Recorder. Balances are updated instantly and statements can be checked at any time. Therefore

monthly Statements will no longer be produced.

An online demonstration is available at [www.ces.org.za](http://www.ces.org.za) For further information contact Christoph at <[cmhensch@gmx.net](mailto:cmhensch@gmx.net)> or Jim at <[jpmc@paradise.net.nz](mailto:jpmc@paradise.net.nz)>

## NEW WEB PAGES

LCNZ now has its own Domain name and consequently is able to offer Web pages for each of the Members at no cost, if you go to: <http://lcnz.letsnewzealand.org.nz> you get to the login page for the LETS Connect online system.

Go to <http://tats.letsnewzealand.org.nz> and you will go to TATS login page.

Same for <http://tsct.letsnewzealand.org.nz>

Try <http://moss.letsnewzealand.org.nz> - if and when MOSS decides to go online with CES - that's going to be their login page and this goes for all members.

<http://wings.letsnewzealand.org.nz>  
<http://ibes.letsnewzealand.org.nz> - try any of them (REBS, WEST, Wairarapa, PLEBS, CELTS, etc.)

These sites are easy to edit and you can use them as you see fit. Additional pages can be added if necessary.

## NEW MAIL GROUP

This is a discussion for people who are/will be running CES in the function of administrator/coordinator or Transaction Recorder and may have questions (but not for the ordinary members of your exchange). Please provide names and e-mail address to Christoph <[cmhensch@gmx.net](mailto:cmhensch@gmx.net)>

## Trading Totals

There was 1 trade for a total KTS\$65.00

Jim McCaughan

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### LETS Connect NZ Members and their Balances.

LCNZ0100. <b>Management</b> .	+23.00	LCNZ0112. <b>Taranaki LETS</b>	+982.80 y	LCNZ0118 <b>Nelson CELTS</b>	+261.66 y
C/- 48 Mountain View Rd., TIMARU		P.O. Box 5015 NEW PLYMOUTH		27 Boundary Road NELSON	
LCNZ0105. <b>Thames</b>	-3,268.40 y	LCNX0113. <b>PLEBS</b>	-1,176.80 y	LCNZ0119. <b>REBS</b>	-2,025.99 y
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LCNZ0108. <b>Wairarapa</b>	+959.90 y	LCNZ0116. <b>WINGS</b>	+374.00 y	Y equals sub paid N equals sub not paid	
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