
LETS Community NEWS^{© 2006}

(Incorporating LETS REVIEW & LCNZ Newsletter)

Issue No. 03/06

Wednesday 15th February 2006

New Kids on the Block...

A new group is almost ready to start operating in the Big South. As soon as tax exemption for the bank account comes through everything will be all go. The group will be known as MATES and will become part of the LETS family. It is hoped to be all in operation before the next newsletter when more details will be available.

Watch this space.....

Joy Scott

HANDS

H.A.N.D.S. Questionnaire: Responses in Brief

147 members (40 of whom have partners who are also members) were interviewed between June 2004 and July 2005. This is a brief summary of the 16-page file. Please email Joanna at rojoanna@ihug.co.nz if you'd like the file in its very detailed entirety.

Q: What services or goods do you need from HANDS members?

A: Most often named: food (94, mainly veges, fruit & eggs); seedlings & plants (31); work— gardening (39), work on home and land (about 90), a variety of other skills (49, with many wanting car mechanics, chainsaw work & firewood, sewing, and haircutting); tuition of various sorts (25, with 8 for computer tuition); massage (18) and other healing therapies (22); markets (18).

Q: If you have children under 18, would you like them to have a sub-account from your account?

A: Of 50, yes: 21, no: 23, maybe: 6 (N/A 97)

Q: What is your experience with HANDS? Or do you have a story to share?

A: Markets are good. Tendency to use more when a new member. Good social system. Frustrations getting what one needs due to unavailability of members, members needing cash, can't use for petrol, living expenses, etc. Tendency to like and support it in principle even when not using it. Appreciation of receiving things that would not have been possible otherwise.

Q: When was your last trade?

A: Anywhere from today, recently (significant) to the last market (significant), a few months ago (significant), to a long time ago (significant) and everything in between.

Q: How often do you trade? (not asked of everyone)

A: Anywhere from every few days to hardly ever – no amount significant.

Q: Do HANDS fulfil your needs?

A: It's helpful, up to a point, depending on each member's

situation.

Q: What do you expect from HANDS/? What would you expect from HANDS in an ideal sense?

A: Generally, ability to use more. Samples of frequently expressed views: that it works as designed—to keep things circulating in GB without money and make things easier financially; willingness of members to trade, members available, variety of offerings, quality offerings, easy to trade both ways, broader, more people, more active, not just an alternative—fill more of our basic everyday needs; friendlier and more integrity than conventional system; taken seriously, more integrated into community, food, tradespeople, and real merchants participating; need to keep it going especially if there's a crash, healthy model, that it will grow & succeed, good will, people to believe in it, transparency, fairness.

Q: Do you have any suggestions for the newsletter?

A: Mostly complements for the newsletter – it's enjoyed and read with interest. Suggestions for layout ranged from simpler to more jazzy, and there was a variety of one-off suggestions for content and distribution.

Q: Do you have any suggestions for improving the HANDS system?

A: Suggestions are grouped by topic:

What people would like to be available on HANDS: tradespeople, shops, businesses, food and other necessities, Organic Shop, more people and more choice

Markets: more markets (12), combine with Takaka weekly market (4), Collingwood market (4), several other suggestions about markets.

HANDS Shop: Suggested by 6 members. [Note: We opened a Shop at the Green Village Hall, but we can no longer use the hall and we need another venue.]

HANDS at Organic Shop: more regularly

Directory: a number of good suggestions some of which have been implemented and the rest will be considered.

Transactions: suggestions include more clarity on the transaction slip and publicise statistics on trades

Exchange Vouchers: overwhelmingly favourable

Website: desire for a full-feature interactive website, which we now have.

HANDShake: ideas to increase participation

Increasing awareness of/use of the system: encourage more trades and more people getting involved, more education,

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information on offerings and wants more easily available, ideas for higher profile,

Concerns: don't over regulate, bad debts, why it works for some and not others, need to keep the system strong through active trading, time bank system is fairer, one response suggesting maximum 500H limit with conditions for reactivation if reached. Information to members: suggestions for more updates on offerings and how to publicise

Positive feedback about H.A.N.D.S.: email updates are handy, having a HANDY messenger is great, members are generally happy with the system and appreciate all the behind-the-scenes work being done.

Candidate for LCNZ committee

I've been nominated by my exchange, PLEBS, as a candidate for the LETS Connect NZ committee again. I served this committee for 2 years now, the last as it's chair. The work for the committee has been rewarding and interesting, and I am very motivated to create a successful future for LETS in New Zealand.

Currently I'm involved with PLEBS (as treasurer) as well as nationally with the Living Economies trust (as a trustee). This, plus some other not-for-profit work, plus my regular work plus my family (our daughter is one year old, now) makes that I have only a limited number of hours to put into LCNZ. I therefore prefer not to be chair of LCNZ in the next year and to leave that position of leadership to someone else.

Christoph Hench

LETS Connect NZ Committee

As there is only the one nomination for the LETS Connect NZ Committee the rest will have to come from the floor, this is very unsatisfactory as it does not give the Delegates an opportunity to evaluate the candidates and seek instructions from their Committee. Delegates that are bringing nominations should carry a written nomination from their Committee. Nominations can only

come from Member Committees, individuals cannot nominate them selves.

Nominees should also consider if they have any conflict of interest before allowing their nomination to go forward.

TREASURERS COMMENTS

As can be seen below all of the old LCNZ balances have been zeroed. They have not just gone away but can be seen in the menu "This Group" under the Intertrading Balances. This allows all groups to see and keep track of any intertrading and it also allows Groups to manage their Intertrading balance.

Groups with a negative balance need to buy from another group to lower that balance. Groups with a positive balance need to sell to another group to lower that balance.

Encouraging your members to buy or sell to other groups as required will improve your intertrading balance.

For large balances Managements should consider bulk buying or selling from other groups to lower a high balance quicker.

Blocking Intertrading completely will do nothing to improve the situation and will only disadvantage individual members.

Next month you will have a new Treasurer and a new Editor.

Jim McCaughan

Retiring Treasurer and Editor.

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LETS Connect NZ Members and their Balances.

LCNZ0100. Management .	0.00	LCNZ0112. Taranaki LETS	0.00 y	LCNZ0118 Nelson CELTS	0.00 y
C/- 48 Mountain View Rd., TIMARU		P.O. Box 5015 NEW PLYMOUTH		27 Boundary Road NELSON	
LCNZ0105. Thames	0.00 y	LCNZ0113. PLEBS	0.00 y	LCNZ0119. REBS	0.00 y
P.O. Box 229 THAMES		PO Box 21 102, CHRISTCHURCH		C/- 147a Ikitara Rd, WANGANUI	
LCNZ0106. TATS	0.00 y	LCNZ0115. MOSS	0.00 y	LCNZ0120 WEST	0.00 n
C/- 40 Heaton St., TIMARU		P. O. Box 350 MOTUEKA		2 Tui St., Kumara, WESTLAND.	
LCNZ0108. Wairarapa	0.00 y	LCNZ0116. WINGS	0.00 y	HANDS	00.00 y
108 Bannister St., MASTERTON		121 Charles St., BLENHEIM		P.O. Box 156 Takaka.	
LCNZ 0109. CAPS Wellington	Closed n	LCNZ0117. IBES	0.00 y	Y equals sub paid N equals sub not paid	
C/- 6 Beauchamp St., WELLINGTON		P.O. Box 7087, INVERCARGILL			