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# LETS Community NEWS © 2006

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## Fees of LETS exchanges

Members of different LETS exchanges pay vastly different fees for the privilege to be part of a local trading circle. A recent questionnaire sent to 13 different exchanges revealed that some members pay as little as \$20 and others as much as \$126 a year (both in Green and Kiwi\$). Mostly, the fees are a combination of a yearly subscription (in K\$) and a monthly or quarterly account fee (in Green\$). Some do not have a yearly subscription at all (Wellington Talent Exchange and Golden Bay H.A.N.D.S.); some pay up to \$30 for membership.

There is a similar spread in monthly or quarterly account fees. Some do not have any account fees at all, but charge instead a 4% levy on transactions. Others pay between \$2 and \$8 per month.

Cheaper is not necessarily better. An exchange needs both Kiwi\$ and Green \$ to run. The survey didn't take into account what quality of services a member gets in return for the fees. Besides the obvious hard-currency expenses like Telecom, rent, stationary, postage and maybe internet access, etc., there are also the soft-currency (Green \$) expenses for services bought locally from the membership. Some exchanges pay hourly rates to members for work done for the exchange as well as a honoraria to committee members.

*Christoph Hensch*

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## PLEBS, Christchurch

The date for the next AGM has been set for 3 September. There will be some important decisions to be taken. For one thing, the membership will vote on a name change. We are also looking revising the membership character and to abolish the yearly subscription.

A new account fee proposal put forward aims to run the exchange with a Zero balance Green \$ administration budget. In other words, a flexible fee structure combined with transaction levies, seeks to cover the administration expenses month by month, and not let the 0000 account go into debt. That means that the fixed account fees will be calculated monthly to cover any costs that haven't been covered yet by transaction levies.

The purpose of the proposed changes is that people who use the system often also pay more than those who are either low-volume traders or are inactive for a period of time.

*Christoph Hensch*

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## Taranaki LETS news.

We had 9 stalls plus the kitchen at our last market. Not many transactions at each stall, about 6 or so. Maybe some of us are not offering what the members want. However the kitchen went well with tea and sandwiches proving

popular.

2 new members proving to be very motivated, hoping for more new members in the near future to boost things along.

The cold nights are keeping members away from meetings, so the next 2 months we are having only day meetings and see if attendance improves. We had 12 members attending each meeting up until June. Next market is 30 July at 12noon on a Sunday.

*Anne*

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## Golden Bay H.A.N.D.S.

New happenings:

\* We are now sending all accounts to emailers monthly instead of quarterly, as it is so easy with CES.

\* We had a thriving market on 25 June with many stalls, shoppers, robust trading and great food, and two well-attended workshops free to members: Local Biofuels & the Radical Work of Byron Katie.

\* We are beginning to work on a proposal to encourage more businesses. The project is called "Business at HAND."

\* Russel Norman, Green Party Co-leader, is visiting 3 August.

\* Our new directory is due out in August.

*Joanna*

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## S.I. Regional Meeting

Golden Bay H.A.N.D.S. will be hosting the LETS Connect South Island Regional Conference, 22-24 September. It's the weekend of our Spring Market, so our visitors can attend. We also have an ideal venue for the conference: The Nook guesthouse in Pohara, which is managed by H.A.N.D.S. members Cathy & Dennis Sage. Accommodation, meals, and get-togethers will all take place at the Nook: <http://www.thenookguesthouse.co.nz>.

We hope our guests will arrive by late afternoon on Friday for an early dinner, reports etc Friday night, work bee at the Nook Saturday morning (to help defray expenses), Equinox Festival (probably)/HANDS market Saturday, possibly a property visit to a H.A.N.D.S. member later in

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the afternoon, a get-together Saturday night, breakfast Sunday morning. All meals will be self-catered at the Nook, preorganised by H.A.N.D.S. and prepared with help from delegates and H.A.N.D.S. members. Accommodation price will be about 20\$/H per person per night, depending on numbers and less if the work bee happens, and the food price is to be determined. We are working with Cathy & Dennis and our system to enable delegates to pay a substantial amount of their food and accommodation costs in Green dollars. I'll send more details at the end of next week.

> Costs for September 22-24 South Island LETS Regional Meeting in Golden Bay:

- Accommodation: 20 per night, half Green \$. This includes a one-hour work bee; in lieu of the working bee, the cost is an additional \$5 per night. If there are enough people, the cost could be less than 20 per night.

- Food: 35 Green \$ for Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and dinner, Sunday breakfast and lunch. Saturday lunch will be bought at the market.

- More information about the Meeting weekend and a registration form to follow.

## TATS

Greetings from Timaru TATS.

In June we held our AGM, with over half of our membership attending. The Presidency has been handed over to Marion Veenings-Utger, giving our previous President, Geoff Rutland a well deserved rest. As Jim is no longer spending all his time dealing with LCNZ business we have been fortunate that he has once again taken on our Treasurer-bookkeeper role, giving Marion a well earned break from the paper work! Geoff, Joy, Tracy and Eric remain on the committee.

One of the first things we have organized is for TATS to host the next South Island Inter-group Market.

DATE: Saturday 19 August 2006

TIME: Arrive and set up by 10.00am, Market opens 1030. Public invited. Bring pen and K\$ cash float.

COST: Unfortunately due to our lack of K\$ a cost of K\$5.00 per stall will be required, in order to cover Hall expenses.

VENUE: The Gleniti Baptist Church and Community Centre, Gleniti Road, Timaru. (Main Highway into Timaru, to Wai-iti Road lights, Follow up Wai-iti Road, thru the roundabout, staying on Wai-iti Road, turn Right into Gleniti Road. Gleniti Community Centre is about a k up the road on the left hand side. Look for the TATS signs).

CLOSING TIME: We envisage the market will finish by 2pm.

For those who are travelling over 2 hours to get to Timaru, we have some members who are offering to BILLET those interested in attending.

Please contact Marion on 03 6849902 or email me on [utiger@kol.co.nz](mailto:utiger@kol.co.nz) asap so that this can be organized.

We are all looking forward to not only this Market but to meeting you all again up at the South Island Regional Meeting, to be held in September up over the Takaka Hill, Golden Bay.

Marion



## Upcoming Events

30 Jul: Taranaki LETS market, New Plymouth  
19 Aug: Inter-group Market, Timaru  
3 Sep: PLEBS Market and AGM, Christchurch  
22-24 Sept: S.I. Regional Meeting, Golden Bay  
23 Sept: HANDS market

*(If you like to have your events listed, please inform the editor of the NEWS.)*

## Inter-trading Balances

All inter-trading balances are now available online on CES. Please consult the 'Group Balance' report.

### Exchanges that need to buy (as of 14 June):

WEST Westcoast:	+2,421.90 (n)
WAIS Wairarapa:	+2,198.40 (y)
TATS Timaru:	+2,181.70 (y)
MOSS Motueka:	+1,762.45 (y)
TSCT Taranaki LETS:	+1,712.30 (n)
IBES Invercargill:	+764.71 (y)
WINGS Blenheim:	+288.75 (y)

### Exchanges that need to sell (as of 14 June):

Thames GDE:	-4,074.90 (n)
REBS Wanganui:	-2,969.99 (y)
PLEBS Christchurch:	-1,039.25 (n)
H.A.N.D.S. Golden Bay:	-933.45 (y)
WTE Wellington:	-420.90 --

### Exchanges that haven't traded (as of 14 June):

WEBS Wanaka	(y)
NZCE NZ Community Exchange	--

*('y' and 'n' refers to who has paid yearly sub to LCNZ)*