
LETS Community NEWS © 2006

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Taranaki LETS

I went to the S.I. regional conference in the hope that I would learn new skills and ideas on how to keep our Taranaki LETS system motivated and going forward. I did learn some new ideas and will be putting them into place after our committee meeting on Monday night. After consent of course!!!

I learnt that what YOU put in, is what YOU get back. Maybe some members are no longer willing to put anything into our system and finding it hard to accept that they are not getting much back! ALL people are different and we need to accept that and respect them and carry on the best way that we know how. While a project is still feasible-Carry on! Also believing in the concept of the system goes along way!

Golden Bay has a different community to other areas but I believe the needs are the same. Housing, Food and community spirit for the survival of the soul! Are there more motivated folk sharing the workload of running their system?? Do they have more time or is it that they believe in what they are is right for their community?? Does the system work better for their personal needs than the \$NZ money system?? Can we further advance our LETS systems by offering even more of our time, skills and products? More listings to be offered and used to create a more vibrant system and local economy. WE CAN DO IT!!!

Our October Market Saturday 28th, 9am at the St. Johns Ambulance hall in New Plymouth.

Anne, Co-ordinator Taranaki LETS

REBS Wanganui

Not much activity for REBS Wanganui. We held our AGM in September and have a new president in Chrissi Barnett, and a couple of new faces on our committee.

In July we sent out a questionnaire to all our members to gauge the general feeling of members as we now have more unpaid members than we have paid up members. One general thing to come out of the questionnaire has been for a change of venue for our markets - so with this in mind we have changed from the Legion of Frontiersman hall in Dublin Street to a venue fairly near to the market by the waterfront. There were 4 stalls for our first new venue and had more public through.

Ngairé, REBS

IBES Invercargill

As IBES was having their AGM on the weekend of the regional conference we were not able to attend. We as an exchange at the moment are trying to encourage new members to join. We are following up a few contacts that

have come via the Web Page. We have lost a few that have said they are not renewing their membership this financial year. We have a new President (Pauline De Paauw), myself as Vice President, Secretary Sharyn Robbie, PR Margaret Perkins and Myself. Our next market will be our Christmas get together. Looking forward to the next Conference in Christchurch.

Dave Robbie

LETS South Island Regional Meeting

The 2006 LETS South Island Regional Meeting took place in Golden Bay, 22-24 September, with sixteen guests from both islands. MOSS, WEST, WINGS, and CCD were represented from South Island, as well as WAIS and Taranaki from North Island. Everyone stayed at The Nook guesthouse in Pohara, which is managed by H.A.N.D.S. members, and all meals were prepared by H.A.N.D.S. members.

On Friday evening delegates shared reports and discussed LETS-related issues, and a H.A.N.D.S. member gave a talk on biofuels and their place in a local economy. Most guests participated in a one-hour work bee on Saturday morning, which reduced their accommodation cost.

The H.A.N.D.S. Spring Market began at noon at the Golden Bay Community Organic Gardens in Takaka. The market featured entertainment and workshops on yurts, aromatherapy, and seed saving, as well as stalls and good food. In the late afternoon there was a community Spring Equinox celebration followed by a shared meal.

The Saturday night get-together included more sharing and discussions, and "The Money Myth Exploded," a skit written by Murray and performed by seven H.A.N.D.S. members. The skit, comical but with a point to make, was based on the classic story about the damaging intrusion of interest on the inhabitants of a previously peaceful and sustainable desert island.

Other highlights of the weekend were the Sunday morning panel discussion with active H.A.N.D.S. members and a site visit to a member couple who sell garden produce, artwork, and music for HANDS.

Delegates paid a substantial amount of their food and

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accommodation costs in Green dollars. H.A.N.D.S. members were pleased to have this opportunity to meet other LETS members from around the country.

by Joanna, HANDy messenger

Community Resource Exchange

Last issue, I wrote about complementing LETS with a Time Bank. LETS are designed to encourage ongoing trades with members' goal to move their balances back and forth through a zero balance. Time Banking would complement ongoing trading by providing an opportunity to "save" and use the collateral for individual and community ventures.

I also suggest that a Community Resource Exchange (CRE) be considered as an interim community reserve for locally produced and distributed resources. LETS, Time Banking and a Community Resource Exchange can work together for a cooperative, sustainable local economy.

The CRE would be an integral part of a cooperative, sustainable Community Bank interconnecting with each local LETS system and possibly a Time Bank. The interconnection would be synergistic, where the whole community sustainability network is greater than the sum of its parts. This financial/resource network would operate with no interest and be inflation free.

The Reserve Bank of NZ acts as a national regulator of Kiwi currency. It attempts to tune the NZ economy by setting national interest rates and making other structural adjustments. A Community Bank would be owned and operated by local residents and with the CRE would invigorate the local economy to remain vibrant and healthy without the influence of the Reserve Bank. The CRE working with local resources, both natural and locally produced and distributed, would design exchanges of goods and services to enhance robust trading and savings in Kiwi\$, Green\$ and other community resources.

One example of a structure for a Cooperative Community Bank that would work in New Zealand is under the umbrella of an affiliation of Charitable Trusts.

In every democratic country including NZ, both central and local governments have failed to represent the electorate. Representative democracy has failed to deliver in real political terms as well as economic, social and environmental terms. We the people need to build a sustainable local community through an alternative financial network. It's our livelihood, our community, and our money.

by Ro, H.A.N.D.S. member



Market at a new venue in Wanganui. Photo: Ngaire, REBS

Upcoming Events

28 Oct: Taranaki LETS market

9 Nov: CCD Christchurch, Waltham 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 September):

TATS Timaru:	+2,338.40 (y)
WAIS Wairarapa:	+2,056.90 (y)
WEST Westcoast:	+1,866.90 (y)
MOSS Motueka:	+1,274.75 (y)
TSCT Taranaki LETS:	+1,270.30 (y)
H.A.N.D.S. Golden Bay:	+1,101.05 (y)
IBES Invercargill:	+764.71 (y)
WINGS Blenheim:	+162.75 (y)

Exchanges that need to sell (as of 14 September):

Thames GDE:	-4,074.90 (n)
REBS Wanganui:	-2,969.99 (y)
CCD Christchurch:	-1,275.95 (y)
WTE Wellington:	-428.90 --

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

WEBS Wanaka	(y)
NZCE NZ Community Exchange	--

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