
LETS Community NEWS © 2006

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Taranaki LETS

Last Saturday 11 Nov, four of us shared a stall in the Community Market that is held monthly in a car park in the City. This was the first use of our new sandwich sign board.

It was not one of our better days weather-wise or in what we sold, but this is a public market that is reasonably well support on fine days and exposure is what we want. A few questions were asked but it is a start.

Our idea is to establish a presence alongside the regular community market. I believe we should be able to demonstrate a useful process whereby all members of the community trade using NZ dollars or Talents as a matter of choice.

We have decided to obtain more exposure, by participating in the Christmas Parade, using our new signs.



Bryan

Taranaki Sustainable Communities Trust

H.A.N.D.S.

Closing Accounts of Former Members

Our Member Agreement states, "Any member who leaves the district or intends to resign from H.A.N.D.S. must inform the committee and bring his/her balance to zero before leaving." This is important because a balance other than zero is an unmet obligation or expectation with the H.A.N.D.S. community. Members leaving with a debit owe that amount to the community, while an unused credit stops the flow of HANDS.

We had a list of over 60 former H.A.N.D.S. members who had not brought their balances to zero before leaving the system in the past approximately ten years. Most had left Golden Bay, and a few were still here. Some were in credit and needed to spend their remaining HANDS; some were in debit and needed to earn HANDS, provide goods for the Committee to sell for them, and/or pay Kiwi\$. Some of their credits and debits were small, but others were substantial. Our HANDY messenger, Joanna, undertook to find as many of these lost members as possible and work

out ways they could close their accounts properly, for the good of the H.A.N.D.S. system.

Through people these former members know and whitepages.co.nz, she was able to contact nearly half of the former members by phone, email, or post. Many were willing to work with her to find the best way to bring their account to zero, and most have completed their agreements.

The total debit of those Joanna couldn't contact is 1188-, nearly 800 of which is owed by just two different former members. The total credit of those she couldn't contact or who didn't follow through is 1835+, of which over 1000 belongs to one person.

Excluding seven people whose account closures are still in progress, the totals for unbalanced accounts remaining are approx 1835+ and approx 2542-. Obviously, account closures need to be taken seriously, and the Committee now does everything possible to ensure that people who leave Golden Bay or H.A.N.D.S. earn or spend as needed to have a zero balance before leaving.

Sweeping away a debit with besom brooms

One former member has been making besom brooms to sell for HANDS to clear the deficit in his account when he left Golden Bay. He brought 15 of these special handmade brooms to us several years ago, and they all sold quite quickly. Now he's brought over 14 more, which once sold will bring his account to zero. He wrote, "... they're at a crazy price, 25 HANDS, so I can more quickly service an embarrassingly large debt that I still hold." He makes these wonderful brooms from trees he plants, coppices, harvests, and crafts himself.

HANDS tool & equipment coop

The H.A.N.D.S. committee is hoping to organise a HANDS tool & equipment coop. The H.A.N.D.S. system could buy for HANDS items that members need to use only once or twice a year and rent them to members for HANDS, earning back the purchase price and perhaps doing some HANDSraising after that. Storage, maintenance, helpers, guidelines for borrowing items, and possibly liability will be foremost considerations. This is a new initiative that's currently in the initial, conceptual, stage.

Joanna

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MATES

MATES has now received the CES info to enable them to trade online. Those members who want to trade on the internet are getting a list together of which things are suitable to trade this way and will be entering them soon. The number needed to enable the group to become incorporated is also growing. More details soon. Joy Scott, acting co-ordinator. Till we get a permanent secretary inquiries can be made to southmates@hotmail.com Thanks Jim for your offer of help setting up the online details should we need it.

Joy

(Welcome to this new group! Editor)

WAIS

Jingle composed for Wairarapa Green Dollar re-launch.

Things are coming together very nicely for our re-launch. The special G\$ jingle composed by Heather Jones and sung by Stefan Brown will be played during the Masterton Christmas parade and will also feature in the interview on Arrow (community) radio.

A grant has been obtained to meet the cost involved with the promotion. A feature article in the Wairarapa News (the local free weekly) will go to every home in the district.

We'll wear green polo-shirts featuring our G\$ logo at the Parade on 2nd Dec. During the parade we'll distribute G\$5 vouchers that can only be spent on goods, services or the monster raffle at our Christmas market on 9th Dec. The vouchers also promote a public 'information' meeting the night preceding the market, and advise that there will be no charge for joining the Exchange between now and April 2007.

Helen Dew

CES

A message from HANDS about a problem you might also have encountered:

Day-out-of-synch account statements

Perhaps you noticed that your most recent transactions, those submitted a day or two before Murray sends out the account statements, aren't included even though the statement is dated after the transactions were submitted. If you check your account online at the same time he sends them out, those transactions are included. We asked Tim Jenkin of SANE (South African New Economics network) about this. Tim created the CES website and administers LETS online for all NZ exchanges and many others

overseas. He replied:

"The problem is caused by the fact that when the administrator instructs the program to send statements to everyone, it doesn't send the data from the actual web server but from a backup server where the data can be up to 24 hours out of date. If a user or the administrator instructs the computer to send a single statement it gets the data directly from the actual CES web server. If the administrator instructs the computer to send statements to everyone, it uses the backup server in order to reduce line usage on the real server which has to be paid for with national currency. The backup server is in another place and is paid for with CES currency so the extra bandwidth used in doing a mass mailing is covered.

Unfortunately the backup server is only backed up once a day, immediately after midnight South African time. For this reason, if some trades are entered on your side and then the administrator requests statements for everyone, the recently entered data may not be on the backup server from which the statements will be sent."

The time difference between South African and New Zealand increases the gap.

Upcoming Events

19 Nov: CCD Christchurch, New Brighton Market

26 Nov: WEST Inter-trading market, Kumara

9 Dec: WAIS Christmas market, Wairarapa

13 Dec: 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 November):

TATS Timaru: +2,338.40 (y)

WAIS Wairarapa: +2,086.90 (y)

WEST Westcoast: +1,858.90 (y)

MOSS Motueka: +1,274.75 (y)

TSCT Taranaki LETS: +1,240.30 (y)

H.A.N.D.S. Golden Bay: +1,161.05 (y)

IBES Invercargill: +764.71 (y)

WINGS Blenheim: +170.75 (y)

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

Thames GDE: -4,074.90 (n)

REBS Wanganui: -2,969.99 (y)

CCD Christchurch: -1,235.95 (y)

WTE Wellington: -482.90 --

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

WEBS Wanaka (y)

NZCE NZ Community Exchange --

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