
LETS Community NEWS © 2006

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Taranaki LETS



Taranaki LETS had an enjoyable evening with first taking part in the New Plymouth Christmas parade to make us more visible in the community. Stuart handed out 80 leaflets with all the websites etc for people to research community currency. These were handed to adults only. Then we all went out to dinner.

Our Christmas market will take place on the 16th at the St. Johns ambulance hall. Start 9am. Anyone from other systems welcome to come and have a stall or just call in and shop. Email Taranaki_letsnz@yahoo.co.nz to book a table.

Does anyone out there have seeds to sell to John, a member of Taranaki LETS? Thanks to those who have already supplied him. But more varieties are being sought. Carrots being one!! Email me if you can help John. Seasons greetings to all and many merry trades!!

Thanks, Anne

MOSS

MOSS members met up recently to re-energise an exchange which, at 15 years old, had run out of the youthful enthusiasm of its early years.

The outcomes were:

- to rename the exchange TALENTS (Tasman Area Local Exchange Network Trading System) to show that we are open to members and trading outside the Motueka township
- to hold regular working bees, the first one being last Saturday in Lynda Hannah's garden. In true permaculture tradition the snails were fed to the chooks...
- to have stalls at the Motueka market on 21st January

- with both produce and activities like massage on offer
- acceptance of a promotional article on TALENTS by the local newsletter Community for People and Planet
- a local radio interview on TALENTS which will be broadcast in early January
- Lynda has taken over the broker's role to help match needs and offerings
- Although we'll continue to take subscriptions for the first quarter of 2007, members have agreed to look at introducing demurrage if trading gathers pace.

Carolyn Hughes, Coordinator

TATS

Greetings and seasonal wishes everyone.

It is suddenly the end of the year and people are getting ready for their own festive activities, I know that time is of the essence now so I won't bore you for too long!

Last month, Jim, Noeline, Carl and I attended the Inter trading Market held over in Kumara. What a nice bunch of people! Nothing was too much trouble, the beds and the food catered too, the rain dispatched (till after the market!) and some sightseeing attended to. The Market was held at a members house, and was very informal, so we got to speak to many of their supporting members. It was a great pity that Christchurch was unable to attend the day, as the idea of Inter trading Markets appears to have sparked a joyjerm for WEST as they no longer feel on their own, LETS wise. THANK YOU KUMARA, we had a ball!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all other LETS/CES groups within New Zealand a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Trading Year.

*Marion Veenings-Utiger
TATS President*

**Reserve the dates for the next national
LETS Conference in Christchurch:
13 - 15 April 2007**

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Secondhand Dealers Regulations

Associate Justice Minister Clayton Cosgrove announced fine-tuning of regulations under the Secondhand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2004. The changes will have little or no effect on people who buy or sell secondhand goods from or to secondhand dealers.

The new regulations will waive the requirement for secondhand dealers to verify the identity of the retailer when purchasing new or used goods from a retail outlet, as this has not been found to assist the Police in tracing the original owner.

Where secondhand dealers receive items for free, they will no longer be required to keep a record of the transaction or to verify the identity of the donor. This is because stolen goods are very unlikely to be disposed of by giving them away free to secondhand dealers. This exemption will reduce compliance costs for recycling operations and encourage recycling activities.

For information on requirements, please go to the Police website at <http://www.police.govt.nz/service/info4traders/>

On LETS

One of my neighbours who has never used LETS would be able to live well for a year on the implicit and unrecorded credit from the work he has insisted on giving freely to people around him – based on his trust in those who have paid his bills promptly and in full in the past. He likes to work for those who have proven to him in this way he can trust them - its just he isn't really financially motivated and has all he needs. His example proves that just as energy states exist in empty space, credit money exists implicitly through favours earned even without explicit recording.

This argument is really about the centralising power of the bank isn't it ? But there is also the issue of IOU acceptance risk, which is probably why we make the choice to use bank money in the first place. The Swiss Wir bank seems to have balanced the 2 needs (1 for avoidance of central authority and 2 management of commitment acceptance risk) in the sense that with the existence of WIR the Swiss SMEs can choose con money or Wir money, while without WIR they don't have this choice. One thing WIR has proved which LETS hasn't yet is the ability to sustain operations for a period longer than perhaps a decade and a half at a scale sufficient to cover operating costs and to be able to accept the existence of and afford to write off financial losses. Has any LETS achieved this ?

For various commercial reasons, commercial barter organisations have been more successful marketing their services to businesses, (probably due to more active brokering) and for various bureaucratic and legal reasons, local government has found it difficult to engage

substantially in LETS. This has left the post-tax person to person economy able to benefit from LETS too small to sustain the services and writeoffs needed to keep things active for longer than the periods we have seen in practice.

It's all very well to go on saying that putting more resources into marketing, software and networking development of LETS will enable things to take off, but while these investments may be necessary they are not sufficient. Sufficient (in my mind) requires wider social involvement, including a determination starting at local government level to build a more decentralised, green, equitable and sustainable economy from the ground up, combined with a willingness to exert enough pressure on central government to force this level to accede to locally organised and coordinated requirements for legal and financial change. In my view it is time to learn from the limits of what we have discovered and move on to where the real barriers need to be removed, but have we fully identified what these are ?

It might be useful to know our agenda before the next big financial house-of-cards collapse wakes the apathetic majority up from its corporate-induced slumber.

Posted on IJCCR by Richard Kay" rich@copsewood.net

Upcoming Events

13 Dec: CCD Christchurch, Waltham Market
16 Dec: Taranaki LETS: Christmas Market, all welcome
21 Jan: MOSS Market, Motueka

(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 12 December):

TATS Timaru:	+2,391.55 (y)
WAIS Wairarapa:	+2,086.90 (y)
WEST Westcoast:	+1,788.15 (y)
MOSS Motueka:	+1,282.95 (y)
TSCT Taranaki LETS:	+1,240.30 (y)
H.A.N.D.S. Golden Bay:	+1,052.55 (y)
IBES Invercargill:	+764.71 (y)
WINGS Blenheim:	+170.75 (y)

Exchanges that need to sell (as of 12 December):

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 12 December):

WEBS Wanaka	(y)
NZCE NZ Community Exchange	--

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