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# LETS Community NEWS © 2007

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Issue No. 04/07

12<sup>th</sup> April 2007

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## Editorial

*Dear Reader,  
this issue is the last one I will be editing and producing. Even though I've had that job for only one year now, mainly family commitments require that I drastically cut back on my voluntary engagement in community work. This is one of several jobs I will be resigning from. My role as LCNZ committee member is another role I will hand on to someone else at this conference.*

*After not receiving any contributions (except for the advert sent by H.A.N.D.S.) this month, I was actually wondering if I even should produce this issue at all. Doubts about the usefulness of this newsletter have been voiced in the past, and the very few reactions to articles published here suggest that it is not read by many people at all. It will be up to the conference to decide what will happen to this newsletter and who will carry on.*

*However, I'm using this opportunity now to make this newsletter a conference info-sheet, as well as writing this (opinionated) editorial!*

*I wonder where LETS in general and the LETS Connect NZ in particular is headed. Last year we had a big discussion on how to continue LETS Connect, since its usefulness as an inter-trading facility became obsolete with the introduction of CES. We decided to transform it into an association of local exchanges. However, LCNZ hasn't lived up to this new role during the last year at all. I don't think a single relevant initiative was undertaken that would help and support LETS in this country. LCNZ has failed to take on the leadership role envisioned in the LETS movement.*

*Issues were LCNZ failed to follow up on are the idea of an inter-trading convention, and the creation of the NZ Community Exchange. We also failed to even issue a policy recommendation on how to deal with high inter-trading balance of the Thames exchange. Since I was member of this committee I certainly also shoulder part of the blame.*

*Is this inactivity symptomatic for LETS in general? I'm concerned about the future of LETS and it's lack of grounded vision and direction.*

*For reasons like this I'd like to hold a short workshop on Saturday afternoon of the conference to look at the longterm outlook of what we are doing.*

*I still believe that there could be a powerful role for LETS in this society – however, we also need to make a serious effort to live up to such an opportunity!*

*Christoph Hensch, outgoing editor*

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

**Grain & Flour needed.** We have some very keen organic bread bakers here who are selling their bread for HANDS. They would love to buy their grain/flour for Green\$. No grain is grown in Golden Bay YET. Can anyone supply wheat, dinkel, and/or rye grain or flour for Green\$? Please contact me at [<rojoanna@ihug.co.nz>](mailto:rojoanna@ihug.co.nz).

*Joanna,  
HANDy messenger*

## Discussion topics for Conference

- The use of CES and some suggestions on how it could be improved. (like the search function for offerings, etc.)
- Food sales at markets, and what restrictions we might need to respect.
- The Charities Commission, and how we need to register, individually or as a group, of if at all.

## 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 April):

TATS Timaru:	+2,470.75
WAIS Wairarapa:	+2,086.90
WEST Westcoast:	+1,804.55
MOSS Motueka:	+1,271.95
H.A.N.D.S. Golden Bay:	+1,235.55
TSCT Taranaki LETS:	+1,078.90
IBES Invercargill:	+764.71
WINGS Blenheim:	+195.75

### Exchanges that need to sell (as of 12 April):

Thames GDE:	-4,074.90
REBS Wanganui:	-2,969.99
CCD Christchurch:	-1,367.15
WTE Wellington:	-482.90

### Exchanges that haven't traded (as of 12 April):

WEBS Wanaka	
MATES	
NZCE NZ Community Exchange	--

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# LETS Conference

## Christchurch 2007

### Full conference program 2007

Friday, 13 April	4pm – 6.30pm	Arrival, registration and welcome
	6.30pm	Dinner
	7.30pm	Opening session, reports from local exchanges (members only)
Saturday, 14 April	9 am – 10 am	Discussion session
	10 am – 1 pm	Market (open to the public)
	1.30 pm – 5 pm	Workshops and Presentations with discussions (open to the public)
	1.30 pm	Katherine Peet: 'Sustaining our Communities', Sustainable Otautahi Christchurch
	2.30 pm	Chris Twemlow: 'Lyttelton Timebank', Project Port Lyttelton
	3.30 pm	Sharon Torstonsen: 'Making Connections in Social Service Organisations', COSS
	4.30 pm	Christoph Hensch: 'The Future of LETS', CCD
	6 pm	Dinner
7.30 pm – 9 pm	Entertainment	
Sunday, 15 April	9 am – 10 am	Meeting at St Albans Community Centre, discussion session
	10.15 am – 12 pm	LETS Connect AGM
	12.15 pm	Lunch
	1.30 pm	Closing and end of conference

#### Conference organising team:

Organisation, registration:	Christoph Hensch 0210 77 12 44, 348 8363
Catering:	Jennifer McCartney
Accommodation:	Diana Gadd
Market Coordination:	Sally Peterson
Entertainment Coordination:	Ian Butcher
Various:	Nigel Weston

#### Locations:

Please note that the conference will be held at the St Matthews Anglican Church (145 Cranford St) on Friday and Saturday, and that we will meet at the St Albans Community Centre (1047 Colombo St) on Sunday morning.