

LETS Community News



Oct/Nov 2007

Hi there to everyone in the LETS Community,

Last time I requested some photos from the Exchanges to go with next months submissions, but now I'd just like to see anything coming in from the Exchanges!

A big thank-you to H.A.N.D.S., who always have excellent notes & articles to contribute and sent in a photo from their Winter market as well this time.

Maria Hayward, CCDE 0038

Correction of email address for Porirua Conference details:

Jan Machin

E-mail machin@clear.net.nz

Apologies for getting the address wrong last month.

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New Feature in CES

We have added another new feature; one has been requested for a long time!

It is now possible for users to hide some fields of their contact details so that they cannot be seen by other users.

Every exchange should insist that when new users register, they should provide their full contact details. Failure to do so suggests that they are only joining in order to take and not to give. However, some users feel uncomfortable with their contact details – especially their physical addresses – showing on the internet, even though the CES is a closed community.

Users can now go into their personal profiles and select which fields of contact information should not be shown to others. Thus if they tick their physical address lines, these will not show when others call up their profile.

You will now see checkboxes next to a number of fields in the member records in the admin interface, and each member will see the same in their personal profiles from their accounts – [My Record] button.

Please advise your users, either by means of an email notice or in your newsletters that this is now possible. For those who never access their accounts, the administrator can hide users' details by accessing their records in the admin interface.

Christoph Hensch, CCDE 0055

News from the Exchanges

H.A.N.D.S. Community Service Account

The H.A.N.D.S. committee has created a Community Service Account to pay H.A.N.D.S. members who do volunteer work that serves the community. We will withdraw exchange vouchers from 400, the EV account, and transfer them to a new account, 444, to be called the Community Service Account, from which to pay nominated members. The 444 account would have an initial limit of 500H, just like any other account, and it can be credited by donations from members.

Dedication & Recognition

Some members hesitate to buy unless they have a credit balance. But keeping a constant balance, either in debit or in credit, is not helpful for other members or the system and is discouraged. There is no penalty for going into debit; on the contrary, only going into debit makes the system possible. H.A.N.D.S. doesn't have interest, either way. Unlike the conventional money system, H.A.N.D.S. works best when as many traders as possible trade to bring their account balances through zero as often as possible, going from credit to debit and back again. Ideally approximately half the members will be in credit (recognition) and the other half in debit (dedication). Therefore, trading involves continual earning and spending – it is the act of exchange and the resulting satisfaction that creates wealth, not the keeping of a high balance.

To ensure that a return to zero won't become too difficult, H.A.N.D.S. does have debit and credit limits — 500H, extended to 1000H when the members has shown an ability to both buy and sell actively, and in special circumstances the limits may be further extended by arrangement with the Committee.

As long as you have an intention of earning in the future and a way to earn, it is perfectly OK to spend if you have a negative balance, keeping in mind the limits and that Going Through Zero is the ideal.



H.A.N.D.S. Winter Market

HANDy Messenger

The role of the HANDy messenger is to facilitate and encourage trades. Members contact her by phone or email when they need help finding goods or services through H.A.N.D.S. She's the one who knows who's most likely to be available or she may know of new members not in the directory who can offer what's needed. Members also contact her with updates to their contact details and skills and products offered — new ones and those no longer offered, as well as one-off offers and anything H.A.N.D.S.-related that may be of interest to other members. She gets this info out to members by email updates (to 191 addresses, about 2/3 of our members), the H.A.N.D.S. noticeboard in town for non-emailers, our quarterly newsletters, and the annual directory.

CCDE, Christchurch

Living Economies have joined our Exchange this month. You can visit their website:

<http://www.le.org.nz/tiki-index.php>

Maria Hayward, CCDE#0038

New Exchanges

Some of you may have noticed that the newest exchanges to join the CES are in Vanuatu, in the Western Pacific. Three new exchanges have been created for the islands. This is of particular interest to our Australian and New Zealand exchanges.

Their aim is to increase international trade on the CES. If you go to the offerings page select 'Vanuatu' from the 'Country' drop-down list. Then choose an exchange and look at what they have on offer. Some of their offerings are quite exciting. You should also check the 'Latest Offerings (all exchanges)' list regularly.

The administrator there is Gilles Manguilio at ipcadvisors@gmail.com. Write to him there if you have any queries.

Conference details...

From Jan Machin

Elsdon Camp, Porirua

From 12 noon, 11 April till 5 pm Sunday

The bunk house booked holds 48 and there are camp and caravan sites available with the hall and kitchen booked.

There are twin rooms and men's and women's shower rooms.

Accommodation is basic but clean and tidy and will cost \$40 kiwi.

We need someone to run the kitchen.

There will be fund-raising to get speakers and we need help from Wanganui, Wairarapa, and Wellington.

Registration of interest for the Conference needs to be sent to Jan by the end of February at the latest.

Correction of email address:

E-mail machin@clear.net.nz

Committee for conference Jan Machin and Denis Ley (accounting)

Logo design

The LETS Committee would like any graphic designers/artists in the Exchange to submit ideas for a modern eye catching Conference logo aimed at catching the younger generation's imagination

Are you interested in downloading this newsletter from the internet?
Are you curious to see some other newsletters from other groups internationally? The CES website offers a small selection of LETS newsletters from NZ, Australia and South Africa at: <http://www.ces.org.za/cen/index.htm>