

LETS (LOCAL EXCHANGE TRADING SYSTEM) UNLOCKING THE VALUE OF OUR COMMUNITY

ISSUE NINE
WINTER 2009



ANNUAL FEES TO BE REPLACED BY A TRADE LEVY FROM 1ST JULY

Why?

The CES, which runs our trading system and others world wide, has introduced a fee for its service to cover the costs of the organisation. This is to be paid as a percentage of all trades from our community. Consequently, from July we will be introducing a percentage charge on all trades in line with the CES ruling.

Is this fair?

Unlike GST of 10%, our "tax" will only be set at 4%. Better still, we will be removing the 20 shells annual charge. (There will remain a small cash charge.) For members who only trade a little they will actually be better off under this system, while those who use LETS extensively will pay a little bit more. We think every one will agree that this is fair.

How will it work?

If something is traded for 20 shells: the buyer would pay 20.8 shells, the seller would earn 19.2 shells. Admin would earn 1.6 shells. From this we would pay our dues to the CES and the local Administration costs.

Are there any problems?

Over all there are very few drawbacks to the new system. It will save a huge amount of time for the administration team and will produce a similar outcome. The only issue is that members MUST NOT try to REFUND items as they will be charged the levy twice.

Instead, of attempting to pay back shells the recorded transaction must be deleted. This is very simple for you to do.

Is there more information?

If you wish to know more, please come to the meeting prior to the Woy Woy Trading Day on Sat 13th June.

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YOUR LETS NEEDS YOU!

At our last Admin Meeting, the committee discussed the rapid growth in membership of the Central Coast chapter of LETS, which now stands at over 300. Central Coast LETS is not only huge, it has the highest rate of trades in any LETS chapter in Australia. What this means, logistically, is that some people will always need to travel some distance to attend Trade Days and meetings.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADMINISTER A NORTHERN AREA CHAPTER? We are looking for Expressions of Interest from suitable LETS members interested in creating and managing a Northern Area group of the Central Coast chapter. We would all still trade as one group, but have separate North and South Trade Days. Administering a Northern Area group would require someone who can grow membership in the Wyong/Lakes area, recruit a committee and secure and manage venues for Trade Days.

If you are interested, please let us know. We welcome everyone's feedback on the idea of creating North and South sub-groups.

We are also planning events for 2010. ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HOSTING A TRADE DAY IN 2010? You need to have an accessible property with undercover areas.

We realise that everyone is busy with kids and sports and, if you're really unlucky, work on the weekends. Would you attend mid-week Trade Days if they were available. We would love your ideas on availability of members to trade mid week. We think this might work particularly well for themed Trade Days. Please let us know your thoughts.

A gentle reminder that Trade Days are for Shells Only. Please don't bring your cash items to Trade Days as it causes confusion.

Korina Ivatt & Fiona Thornycroft

korina@centralcoastlets.org

fiona@centralcoastlets.org

TRADE DAY NEWS!

If a non-member approaches you to buy something at Trade Days, you should explain to them how LETS works. We'll make sure that Trade Day Supers have a supply of pamphlets to give out. If they are keen, send them off to the Super to sign up. They are now **FREE TO TRADE**.

When completing trade sheets, new members should write their full name clearly and in place of a member number, they should write "NEW". Shells will not be available for a few days, whilst we administer the new account.

KARIONG TRADE DAY BOOKINGS

Calling for Kariong Trade Day Stall Holders - 12th JULY 2009.

Theme - Home made | Hand made

There have been some changes made to the Kariong Trade Day for stall holders.

Anyone who has attended these will know they are a hub of activity and to make it all run smoothly a lot of organising goes into the preparation and running of the day.

Therefore, we have introduced a stall holders "contribution" to help cover Admin running costs".

NB This only applies to Kariong Trade Days.

If you book:

from now till 4th July	10 sh
In the week before 5th to 11th July	20 sh
and on the day (if spots are available)	25 sh

cont'd

Please note that this contribution will be debited by Admin regardless of whether you proceed with the stall on the day or not. So, now is the time to start thinking about what goodies you'd like to make or create and bring them along to trade... book in early to secure a spot! More detailed information will be emailed to you once a stall is booked. Thank you.

Tanya Gilham 4gilhams@cirruscomms.com.au

Kariong Trade Day Competition

Spend up big as you could "win back your shells"

We have many crafty and talented members who will be bringing along their goods to the Kariong trade day and offering them at 100% shells. Shop cash free and treat yourself without dipping into the weekly budget!

Come along on the day and you'll get the chance to "win back your shells" from your days trades (to the value of 100 shells).

It's also a great day to mingle and meet other members.

(Please note: stall holders are unable to enter the Trade day competition.)

Tanya Gilham

MEMBER STORIES:

When I first joined LETS I hoped to be able to get rid of some surplus "stuff" from around the house; I didn't think I would get as involved as I have, or that I would discover such great benefits.

My first shells were earned selling the "stuff" and participating in working bees. I cleaned a few cars and sold fire wood when a tree fell in our gully. Then I started doing administration work on a regular basis.

What do we spend our shells on? Our best buys include tree climbing spikes; carpet cleaning; plans for an extension; and advice, plans and help building a tree house. We have free range eggs delivered each week and we organised two amazing birthday parties for my kids (*Aqua-Fun* and *Felt Craft*).

When Guy started working from home, we bought an office desk and chair. This winter I have clothed my eight year old and supplied all the needs for our new baby thanks to LETS.

In addition there is the social aspect, which cannot be understated. I have met many like-minded people through trades and LOGG Spots.

When I joined LETS, Guy was sceptical. A year later we can both see the benefits.

Fiona Thornycroft

Would you like to tell us YOUR STORY?

Send your stories to the Editor (lmtkelly@bigpond.net.au)

COMMUNITY CARE FUND

Hi LETers. For those who don't know me yet, my name is Shauna Norman and I have recently taken over the Community Care Fund. This is a venture I am very excited about and I am sure my long history in Social Work will come in very handy.

Already there is some notable news to share. In the last 8 weeks we've had a wonderful donation of almost 400 shells. Additionally, we raised 85 shells at the April Market Day from a quickly organized raffle – first prize approximately \$100.00 worth of books won by the wonderful Kim Gillespie (more about the raffles toward the end), and we have four successful community assistance projects almost completed i.e. we had a new mum who appreciated a donation of clothing and linen for bub, a lady requiring labouring assistance with yard work; a 14 year old girl assisted with clothing and a 6 month old boy will hopefully receive a winter wardrobe. How exciting is this?! *donations gratefully accepted and/or you can contact me direct with sale for shell offers shauna.lets@gmail.com

Back to our new monthly LETS raffles: this is an exciting fundraising initiative that you may want to sponsor – great way to advertise your business. The May raffle was rolled over to June due to a few last minute hiccups, my apologies – Please see ANNOUNCEMENTS on homepage for all Prize and buying instructions.

I look forward to meeting more and more LETers and if the Community Care Fund can assist you or someone you know of in the community, please contact me direct on 4392 2823. NB. They do not have to be a LETS member.

Blessings

Shauna Norman

WINNER: SHELLS

The lucky winners of our Shell Competition were **Beth and Luke Dunn**. Congratulations to you both!

WE GOT QUITE A SPIKE IN TRADES ON OUR COMPETITION DAY, SO STAY TUNED FOR MORE!

FROM THE TIPS TABLE:

Have you ever accidentally entered a trade twice and been unsure as to what to do to rectify the situation?

The answer is simple: **DELETETHETRANSACTION**. To delete a transaction, login to your account and go to Your Statement.

Click on the green part of the transaction entered incorrectly and then you will have the option to delete it.

If you have any problems let your administrator know.

If you have been debited twice for something, please **DO NOT** debit the other member's account for the extra charge, you need to contact that member and ask them to delete the transaction as above or contact your administrator.

This practice of deleting transactions, rather than arranging a debit from the other party, will become even more significant when the **TRADE LEVY** is introduced.

HAPPY TRADING!

Korina & Fiona

TAROT

The first part of this column is a Tarot card and its meaning. The card meanings are not within the context of a reading.

Card: The Hierophant

Traditional ways, captivity, service, ritual, wounds within, learning from experience.

Archetypes: *The Hierophant year is about habits and healing.*

Meaning: The Hierophant's meanings come back to one thing: the wounds within. These are the wear and tear and personal sorrows we suffer in life, the blows to our communities and countries, the sorrow we feel for the pain of loved ones and strangers.

The most obvious and immediate blow to our communities this year is the after-effects of the **global financial crisis**. This problem also affects us personally, with stresses about money and fear for the future.

But **fear can be a habit** and, in this case, a habit that is holding us back. We retreat into our warm shells to wait out the storm, but sometimes we retreat too far and don't notice the storm is not quite as bad as all that.

In short, this is a very good year to **tackle any over-indulgence issues**, to finally knock them on the head, to change old habits that may once have been helpful but now only curtail our desires and forward motion in life.

Anne Stevenson
CCAU 0198

Look for my sun sign at Pamper Days.

NATIONAL LETS CONFERENCE

23RD-25TH OF OCTOBER

Sydney, NSW, Australia

<http://www.auslets.org/sydney/>

LETS Etiquette

Please do not debit shells prior to the completion of a trade (good or services being received), unless you have permission to do so.

Please list a maximum of five new items per week. One of these listings may ask people to look at your older listings, to be found on the lower half of the offerings page.

The response time from Admin may be up to one week. Please be patient. If you have an enquiry that needs an immediate answer due to a deadline, please mark your e-mail as urgent and Admin will attempt to reply within 24 hours.

Jumping Castles and Rides Hire

Now available from 50% shells
50% cash.

Some castle/rides available for more shells component.

We have small to large castles, Sumo Suits, Sticky Wall, Gladiator Joust, A Space Ball Ride and more.

We also hire out Giant Games and Fun Sports Games and Activities.

Also available for shells/cash.

JoJo's Circus
Phone: 43554053
email info@circusstuff.com.au

[CCA0163]
www.circusstuff.com.au

LETS RECOMMEND

Did you know there is a Recommendations Section on your home page that allows you to express your thoughts on a service you have received from a LETS member?

It's a great way to find out what members are actively offering with their services, and you may even read of a few services you never realised were on offer.

There's no harm in asking...

After you have completed a service, you may like to follow up with your client and ask for Feedback, or a



"recommendation" if they were happy with your service.

Feedback is always a great opportunity to perhaps enhance your service(if you choose), and a recommendation gives a helpful reference to other members of your previous work.

Tanya Gilham

COMING UP

TRADE DATES

Saturday 13th June

Meeting: 10am to 11am

Trading: 11am to 1pm

Location: Woy Woy Environment Centre, 267 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy

Sunday 12th July

Trading: 10am to 2pm

Location: Kariong Eco Gardens & Hall, Dandaloo St (off Woy Woy Rd)

Theme: **HOME MADE & HAND MADE**

Featuring: Face Painting (5 shells) and balloon animals (2 shells) by Natalie

COME PICK SOME FRUIT WITH US

For Local Organic Growers Groupies

Dear LOGGers,

We have been invited to pick Kiwi Fruit at a Farm near Ourimbah any day this long weekend.

For further details please visit the LETS Organic Grower's Group Home Page.

Our family is planning to go on Monday, hope to see you there!

Getting Greener All The Time

Karen, Peter, Candice, Tommy, Mike & Ruby

Circus Classes

Circus Classes available for all age groups at our venue in Tuggerah.

Starting on Tuesdays from May 6.

After school classes from 5 to 13yrs, and 14yrs to adults are held each Wednesday.

Skills offered will include:

tightwire, stilt walking, juggling, unicycling, balancing and more.

We are also running **Self Defence Classes** on a Wednesday evening (suitable for 12yrs to adult), and **Fire Staff and Poi** on a Monday night.

Kinder Circus Classes will also start on May 6, in the mornings - 6 shells + \$3.

Please contact Jo for more information 4355 4053 or 0425 270843.

[CCA0163]
www.circusstuff.com.au

99 Red Balloons – www.99redballoons.com.au (website is currently incomplete but will be slowly updated over the next few weeks)

Balloon Bouquets – Select, order & pay online available

Complete decorating service – Weddings, Events, Parties

Comedy Balloon – Grams Deliveries by Scooby, Micky, Winne the Pooh, Gorilla Guy/ Gal and more.

Prices will be on our website and LETS members can pay with half shells.

99 Red Balloons is located on the cnr of Gavenlock Road and Morton Close, Tuggerah.
Ph: 43554053

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

On reading last newsletter's editorial, I was shocked at how righteous I was. I was in the grip of my self healing phase I guess. Today things are a little more laid back. I've softened my approach somewhat and also slipped back into some old habits but still, I've made some changes for the better. Changing to decaf (whenever possible) has had a huge impact. No longer am I staring at the clock for hours waiting to fall asleep and I've also started to dream, even while I'm napping on the lounge. I could never recall dreams before, so I guess I'm getting a much deeper sleep. Apart from that, I guess I'm just human after all, and I love my comfort food in winter. Thanks for everyone's well wishes!

Well, the cold has certainly hit and it's a good time to get in touch with nature and feel the seasonal change. Amber Burns told me about a trip she made with her family to Treetop Adventures and what a fantastic day out it was.

Well, don't let the cold months slow you down. Have a garden clean up, there are heaps of people listed as being up for working bees and it's a great time to clear out the garden, ready for spring's new growth. I've still got to lay those sleepers I got from Greg and erect that fence that Tanya transported for me. Those are my garden projects for this winter.

Lisa Kelly
[CCA0292]