

11th Australian National LETS Conference 2006

Bairnsdale Victoria
hosted by East Gippsland LETS
November 2006

Report on the Topics Discussed at the Conference

The following Report is a compilation of notes made by Graeme Sweeney (Warranwood LETS VIC), Jenny Millar (Diamond Valley LETS VIC), Julian Randell (Canberra LETS ACT) and Sue Lloyd (North East LETS Adelaide SA).

This compilation has numbered sections and lettered sub-sections which can be used to identify any section on which you may wish to comment and refer that comment to another member or LETS group, citing this Report compilation.

In addition there are Reflections and Remarks submitted by Ann Jupp (Maleny QLD), Ann Wensley (Sunshine Coast QLD), Anne Sutterby (Dandenong Ranges VIC), Audrey Porter (East Gippsland VIC), Rosemary Johnson (Warranwood VIC) and Anne, Jenny, Noela, Stella and Yvonne.

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1. Attendance

VIC East Gippsland, Diamond Valley, Dandenong Ranges, Moreland, Mt Alexander (Castlemaine), Orbost (potential group), Warranwood.

NSW Hunter, Moruya (Lower NSW Coast).

ACT Canberra.

QLD Maleny, Sunshine Coast.

SA North East.

2. References

- a) *The Slow Movement*
- b) The Australian Institute (Canberra)
- c) Books: *Affluenza, Corporate Pornography*.
- d) the last chapter of Bill Mollison's book *Permaculture* sets out how groups such as LETS will be badly needed if and when society really starts to unravel in years to come.
- e) search engine ourcommunity.com.au

3. National Register of LETS Groups

Each LETS group needs to email BrisLETS brislets@lets.org.au with their current name, postal address, email address, website address (url) and any other pertinent information.

4. LETS Travel Booklet

Each LETS group present agreed to contribute 100 standard LETS units to Dandenong Ranges LETS to be given to the two authors of the LETS Travel Booklet in return for their on-going work in keeping the booklet going.

5. Computer Systems

Castlemaine are happy with their Access Database system

A South African system with an online member interactive trading component, was said to be very good.

LETSAssist was used by various groups but none were very enthusiastic about it.

Diamond Valley were happy with their custom built system.

6. Reviving Energy Within Your LETS Group

- a) **persuading** members to take some action on behalf of the whole group, e.g., letterboxing LETS newsletters, doing minor organising, e.g., bringing flowers to decorate a get-together meeting
- b) **organising** a mentoring system for new membership
- c) **helping** a new member make his or her first transaction
- d) **sending** personal invitations to members to go to a LETS activity and an offer to 'pick them up and take them'
- e) **organising** enjoyable social activities which include children
- f) **establishing** a section in LETS specially for children—KIDLETS
- g) **gardening** round-robin groups as well as general gardening working bees
- h) **Gathering Days** rather than Market Days
- i) **realising** that committee members need not do all things themselves, it is not the only way of getting things done—learn to delegate small, easily achieved tasks, often giving members a choice will encourage them to do at least one of the tasks needing to be done
- j) **restricting** newsletters to a single sheet which is more likely to be read than a bigger newsletter, no matter how worthwhile the bigger newsletter might be
- k) **writing** about successful member trades
- l) **giving** gift vouchers for new members
- m) **using** name tags
- n) **organising** local conference calls to make telephone trees work more easily or to cope with some committee matters thereby avoid having to have a meeting
- o) **changing** key positions annually, more frequently if necessary as members come and go and enthusiasm is variable. The suggestion was to have a maximum tenure on positions for consecutive occupation, e.g., two years and advertise so all members are aware that workload needs to be shared. This reduces 'burnout' and restriction of knowledge and experience which can make groups vulnerable if key members leave.
- p) **planning** succession for administration positions for continuity and to avoid a position being left unfilled.
- q) **mentoring** each new member so that the new member can be 'followed up'.
- r) **creating** a Trading Committee with a 'Trading Broker' to match offers and requests but don't define committee too closely.
- s) **organising** more social events to create a sense of community.
- t) **planning** a yearly program because members like to know the group is organised.
- u) **providing** a smart, clear, durable name badge for each member of the group, this will go some way to increase a sense of belonging.

- v) **giving** small, regular administrative jobs to members it spreads the work load and is group inclusive and
- w) **using** your newsletter to profile new members which will help integrate the new member into the group.

7. Promotion, Display and Exposure of your LETS Group

- a) Centrelink will put LETS notices on their notice boards
- b) there is a Centrelink ruling wording which Ann Jupp from Maleny LETS will share
- c) universities are potential sources of young LETS members. Relevant university departments are their sections which provide, careers, vacation jobs, counselling and food cooperatives
- d) in the suburbs, people who are already members of food and housing cooperatives, community gardens and orchards, land care, environmental, gardening, sustainability, Permaculture and Green groups are potential LETS members
- e) nothing beats one-to-one contact where an enthusiastic LETS member shares his or her enthusiasm for LETS
- f) getting an article in the local newspaper about an unusual activity, e.g., a LETS group cleaning up after a house fire or a LETS group helping clean up the garden of a person who has had an accident or bereavement
- g) profiles of new members in your newsletter
- h) give every member a name badge
- i) LETS units for referrals
- j) community chest
- k) working bees for someone who isn't a member
- l) Australian national LETS logo to be designed and approved
- m) use of magnetic name badges that don't require pins
- n) notices with 'tear off' phone number strips on community notice boards
- o) promotional boards circulated around council offices, libraries, neighbourhood houses, U3As and shopping centres and
- p) talks on LETS to local groups such as Rotary, Lions and Probis.
- q) use all communications means available, email, phone, notice boards, etc
- r) contact 'aged' groups, they always want speakers
- s) National LETS Website to be user friendly, with email hot links, contact and details
- t) use 'tear off' phone number strips (MS Publisher has template for this) when making up and placing a flyer advertising your LETS group

- u) most service clubs have regular speakers—Rotary, Lions, apex, Kiwanis and Probis—and they are not all ‘aged’. They are usually locally based so this increases the ‘community’ aspects of LETS.

8. Relevance of LETS Today in Light of Changes in Society

- a) LETS still has relevance today despite the changes taking place in society.
- b) Members can be of any age.
- c) Universities are fertile ground for finding new members.
- d) One member suggested that active members of LETS have reached the top level— ‘self actualisation’—in Abraham Maslow’s ‘Hierarchy of Needs’. It was then suggested that active LETS members and groups could aim for enrolling new members from Maslow’s second level, ‘love and belonging’.
- e) A yearly check carried out on a group of persons’ work attitude has shown that money accumulation was valued least but appreciation of their role and some control over their work was valued most.

9. Range of Annual Subscriptions and Administration Levies

- a) Subscriptions ranged from \$10 to \$25.
- b) Administration levies ranged from 5 units per month to 50 units per year.
- c) Names given to currencies: Auras, BACs, Bunyas (MA), Deuas, Ecos (BMT), Devas, Diamonds, Frasers, Gems, Mollys, Pods, QBees (ACT), Rays, Shells, Tokens, Ululas, Units, Sapphires, and Snowies.

10. Public Liability Insurance

- a) Public Liability (PL) insurance can be expensive and it appears that most LETS groups, if not all, do not have PL insurance.
- b) If an individual LETS member does have household insurance they have can have PL insurance ‘tacked on’ at no great expense, and therefore the member would have PL cover should any other member sue for injury occurring on the householder’s property.
- c) However the consensus at the conference seemed to be that, because of the expense of buying PL insurance, most LETS simply put trust in each other.

11. Incorporation and Public Liability

- a) Trust is the keynote of LETS systems.
- b) 'LETS is like a dating service', LETS puts people together, it doesn't control what they do together.
- c) Most members at the conference did not see the need to incorporate their LETS group and indeed were functioning quite well without incorporation, some of which are already under an 'umbrella' organization.
- d) Advantages in incorporating:
 - i) grants for equipment—local council, state or federal grants, which are offered to community groups yearly or from time to time, are possibly more likely to be granted to incorporated groups
 - ii) only incorporated groups can apply for Commonwealth grants
 - iii) it gives structure to the group as incorporated groups are obliged to keep accurate financial and membership records, must form a committee, must hold an AGM, have their account books audited annually and complete and submit an 'annual return' to the local registrar-general
 - iv) the group can draw up their own 'rules' or constitution (based on 'model' rules), and, if the group is large and sees the need, a set of By-Laws;
 - v) incorporation can help the group survive the hard times;
 - vi) incorporation may be of benefit when attracting new members except that the minimum age eligible for membership of incorporated bodies is 18.
- e) require some discipline from the group. The structure, once set in place, means that members may come and go but the group can still function as long as the required positions are filled. The group may feel that it has lost some spontaneity and community feeling. Incorporation doesn't necessarily mean that the group will flourish, only that it has a structure and an elected committee from which it can plan, activate, apply for grants, apply for and take out a lease on premises, amongst other things;
- f) one advantage is that groups can apply for grants
- g) a group can always un-incorporate
- h) myth – it was asserted that it is only a myth that individuals can be sued
- i) Diamond Valley only got various government grants because they were incorporated
- j) it would pay to find out what philanthropic groups might give grants to LETS groups
- k) two 'musts' for LETS groups—they must be community owned and must be accountable to its members.

12. Generalities

- a) ourcommunity.com.au website has all sorts of information about community groups.
- b) LETS is one of society's change organisms.
- c) the concept of 'critical mass' is as relevant to LETS as to any organisation.
- d) it is important for committees of all organisations to plan for succession by delegating.
- e) Toastmasters has a system for giving constructive criticism to members about their speaking, it is called PIP: first, a Positive comment is made, second, an Idea or suggestion is made as to how the speaking could be improved and third, another Positive comment is made.

13. Nature of LETS members

- a) Some people are natural givers and some are natural takers. The former sometimes need help to be a good taker of services, and the latter sometimes need help to become a good giver of services.
- b) Members with excessive debit or credit need help.

14. Helping Members Who Cannot Think of Services to Offer

- a) suggest working bees
- b) suggest work in the house which most know how to do
- c) suggest they join a Lets Do It work gang
- d) ask them what do they like or love doing
- e) Dandenong Ranges has a member (in a wheelchair) who acts as a broker.

15. Why Members Stay in a LETS Group - Morale

- a) personal contact to encourage trading
- b) caring for members
- c) building self-esteem
- d) PIP—on contact with new members give a point of Praise, and Idea and end on a Positive note.

16. A New National InterLETS System

Copied from Maleny LETS newsletter (undated)

‘Each LETSsystem has a single InterLETS account for all non-local transactions. Any LETS member may trade with any other LETS member anywhere—they just need to carry I.D. or proof of current LETS membership.

When a trade occurs an ack[nnowledgement] slip is given to the ‘home’ LETS member to put in to their bookkeeper by the ‘away’ member.

The ‘home’ LETS member is credited for sales or debited for purchases to their account from their InterLETS account.

The ‘away’ member goes back to their LETSsystem and puts in a slip to their bookkeeper to debit their account for purchases (or credit for sales) from that LETS single InterLETS account.

There is no need to send each other statements—this option is only advisable if you ... have a large volume of trades ... with a particular LETSsystem, e.g., Conference, Festival.’

‘The National LETS Conference back in November agreed to trial a new InterLETS System over the next year. Designed to eliminate the hassles of cross-checking and balancing every InterLETS transaction, the new system relies very heavily on trust.

For the system to work, all InterLETS transactions must be recorded on two identical slips, one to be handed into each persons home LETSsystem.

For example, if I (Robin, Maleny LETS Member) were to trade with you (Harry, Nambour LETS Member) for two juicy lettuces that I bought from you at the Woombye Market, I would fill out a slip to hand into Maleny LETS, debiting my account for five Bunyas.

Maleny LETS has a new account for all InterLETS transactions, No.9090. This account would get the credit of my transaction and my account would be debited. Harry would hand in his slip to Nambour LETS and they would process it through *their* new InterLETS account. Harry would be credited from this account and the Letshine InterLETS account would be debited.

There is no cross checking or interaction between each LETSsystem on each transaction anymore so, I repeat, two forms must be filled in, one by each person, and each person must hand their slip into their own system.’

17. Suggestions for Future Conferences

- a) **It would be advisable to send** a ‘How to Get Here’ map—showing location of closes shop or supermarket—together with the application form.
- b) **It would be important to have**

- i) a Master of Ceremonies with overall control of the Conference
 - ii) a Facilitator who is not a LETS member but has good knowledge of LETS systems *or*
 - iii) a Facilitator who *is* a LETS member but does *not* participate in discussion nor offer any ideas on the topic but merely helps the group to arrive at the best topic outcome
 - iv) two members appointed as note taking ‘scribes’ for the conference
 - v) one member appointed to write up a Conference Report based on the ‘scribes’ notes and distribute to all LETS groups
 - vi) some established ‘norms’ in the first session of the conference
 - vii) a printed form wherein each member can print their name, LETS group number, LETS group, home address, email address and phone number
 - viii) access to a photocopier
 - ix) two whiteboards with whiteboard markers of two different colours
 - x) a small bottle of methylated spirits in case someone inadvertently uses a permanent marker on a white board
 - xi) at least ten sheets of ‘butcher paper’ on which to write—using a broad tipped fibre pen—the topics to be discussed
 - xii) ‘blue tack’ to stick the butcher paper up on the wall
 - xiii) a timekeeper is appointed for each different session and the session timekeeper instructed on how you want the timekeeping done.
- c) **It would be nice to have** a group digital photograph(s) is taken of all members attending the conference.
- d) **It would be best to share** any housekeeping and other chores around conference members so the ‘locals’ also have a chance to participate in the conference. This should be a stated expectation and not reply on people to offer.
- e) **It would be useful to provide each member attending with:**
- i) a name tag, made up with name of member, their LETS group, email address and if space permits, the host LETS’ group logo
 - ii) a plastic folder with the Conference Program, a list of Conference members attending (see below), local information, e.g., a map, a local guide, shop opening hours, local events, local markets, and any other information pertinent to the Conference
 - iii) a list before conference starts of who is attending and what groups they come from. It is easier to match up faces with names if you have a list beforehand and also for repeat attendees to know who they will catch up with
 - iv) an idea of dress standard and
 - v) costs involved for extra events.

f) **It would be helpful to have available for members to buy:**

- i) several A4 hardcover notebooks or
- ii) several A5 softcover notebooks and some pens.

g) **It would save time if:**

- i) there is a running sheet/timetable so everyone is aware of time session times
- ii) one member of the Conference Committee would, on receipt of the returned Conference Registration forms, make up a list of the names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and LETS group names of members attending and provide copies of this list to all members.

h) **It would be wise to:**

ask members to switch off their mobile phones during Conference sessions.

18. A Vote of Thanks

Audrey of East Gippsland LETS who put in a lot of work to get this year's conference up and running and has now given us the impetus to keep our annual conferences going and
Jenny from Diamond Valley who did lots of emailing with interstate members and organised transport and accommodation in Melbourne for quite a few interstate visitors.

19. Next National Conference

The 12th National Conference will be held on
2nd, 3rd and 4th of November, 2007 and will be hosted by

Hunter LETS Group,

location 147 Km north of Sydney.

This is a Melbourne Cup weekend and it was thought that there would not be a Federal election timed for a Melbourne Cup weekend.

20. Conference Resolution:

Australian National LETS Web Site and State Liaison Members

The Conference members pass a resolution that:

- a) the following persons agree to be the Liaison Member for their State for the National LETS Web Site:

ACT	Julian Randell	<i>Canberra LETS</i>
NSW	Margaret Perger	<i>Moruya LETS</i>
NT	to be advised	-
QLD	Ann Jupp	<i>Maleny LETS</i>
SA	Sue Lloyd	<i>Adelaide LETS North East</i>
TAS	to be advised	-
VIC	Rosemary Johnson	<i>Warranwood LETS</i>
WA	to be advised	-

- b) each State to pay \$10 + 50 points per annum to the Website host
- c) *Brisbane LETS* will host and maintain The Australian National LETS Web Site and appoint a 'standby' Website person to maintain the Site should this be necessary
- d) the domain name will be in control of and protected by *Brisbane LETS*.

21. Reflections and Remarks

Thank you, Bairnsdale. We are Queenslanders who visited your delightful town for three days in November to attend a LETS (Local Energy Transfer System) National Conference.

We were most impressed with the holiday park where we stayed in cabins overlooking the Mitchell River. What a delightful spot! Mists on the river when we woke on a brisk morning!

We found your town very different and interesting, especially the beautiful old buildings. The courthouse – how lovely – why not a plaque about its history?

On our last afternoon we visited your unique Aboriginal Keeping Place. What a sobering display so professionally done! We also went on a boat trip on your beautiful Lakes to Sperm Whale Head National Park.

What a delightful three days.

Thank you.

Ann Jupp and Anne Wensley, Caloundra, Queensland.

* * *

Anne Wensley of Sunshine Coast LETS, QLD very kindly sent me (Rosemary Johnson, Warranwood LETS, VIC) the following piece that sums up the conference. People may like to use this to put in their own newsletters.

11th National LETS Conference 24, 25, 26 November 2006

About 30 LETS members attended this conference, hosted by East Gippsland LETS in Bairnsdale, Victoria.

There were members from all states except Western Australia & Northern Territory.

We stayed in cabin and tent accommodation in the Mitchell Gardens Park, on the banks of the Mitchell River. Most meals were included in the price (\$105 & 50 InterLETS units).

We shared many exciting new ideas, especially the new InterLETS system which allows us to trade with any LETS member in the world, as long as they have an up to date membership card.

There was spirited discussion for and against incorporation, insurance, debit limits, the value of a unit, and the rainbow (black) hole system.

We talked a great deal about saying LETS is a cashless trading system (not a barter system) that puts people in touch with other members who have goods and services they wish to trade.

Other topics discussed were markets, flagging membership, publicity ideas, LETS Travel, National Register of LETS Groups, membership fees (some as low as \$5), getting businesses involved, encouraging more participation, caring for our members and a LETS broker to broke skills with users.

The 12th National Conference will be held at Newcastle by Hunter LETS on 2, 3, 4 November 2007.

We finished the three days with a visit to the Aboriginal Keeping Place museum and a boat trip of Lake Victoria.

Anne Wensley, Sunshine Coast LETS, Queensland.

* * *

Dear Rosemary,

January 22nd 2007

I have received a copy of the report already from Julian Randell (10 pages).

I think you said that your group uses the LETSAssist program. Most of those using it seemed to be having the same problem as I do, not being able to back up data. Margaret Perger from Moruya said that she knew how to get around this problem. Did you get this information from her? I haven't emailed her because she said she was going away, but of course she may be home again by now.

LETS has been put on hold here for the past 6 weeks, must get back to it. Weather is much more pleasant even if we haven't had much rain, about 2mm yesterday. But fires are being contained, we are just hoping for a few days of steady drizzle drifting in from the east as it sometimes does here.

Was good to talk to you again. I'll attach the copies of Anne Wensley's article and letter to the editor,

Best Wishes

Audrey Porter, East Gippsland LETS, Victoria.

* * *

L.E.T.S (Local Energy Transfer System) held a conference recently in the Neighbourhood House in Bairnsdale.

There were participants from Queensland, NSW, ACT, South Australia and Victoria.

Participants shared many varied ideas on how systems are working in different areas and exchanged ideas on the many different ways they kept their members interested and involved.

LETS is a community-based cashless trading system. It is a means of putting people in touch with other members who have goods and services they want to exchange. It also keeps account of people's transactions with one another.

East Gippsland LETS provides a framework for local groups in Bruthen, Bairnsdale and Lakes Entrance districts. As a result of the Conference, a new group is being formed in the Orbost area. For further information about LETS, a contact number may be obtained from East Gippsland News.

Audrey Porter, Secretary, East Gippsland LETS, P O Box 1294, Bairnsdale 3875.

Phone 5152 7622; Tanya Garland, Newsletter Editor Phone 51575081; Pam Tatti, 275 Nicholson St, Orbost, Ph 0400 085 191.

* * *

Hi everyone,

This email is to check that I have everybody's email addresses correctly. If any are incorrect they will bounce back to me and I will ring the person. If anybody knows their email address is about to change please email me. Once I know all addresses are correct I will email you an Excel spread sheet of everybody's name, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

Thanks to Graeme Sweeney (Warranwood LETS VIC), Jenny Millar (Diamond Valley LETS VIC), Julian Randell (Canberra LETS ACT) and Sue Lloyd (North East LETS Adelaide SA) a report on the conference has been drawn up, which is fantastic. Once I know that all the email addresses are correct, I will send this report to everyone. By just hitting reply you can have correspondence with everyone if you wish. There are seven members who are not on email so we will organise to send the report in the post.

I have just spoken with Gaynor Berthon from Hunter LETS. She will be having a meeting very shortly with her group to make plans for the November National Conference. She is really excited about Hunter LETS hosting the conference. The dates of the conference are 2nd, 3rd & 4th of November 2007.

I will be in contact again soon. Cheers,

Rosemary Johnson, Warranwood LETS, Victoria.

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The 11th LETS Conference Bairnsdale Nov. 2006

It was time for the Australian LETS community to gather again, this time, hosted by East Gippsland LETS, from the community house, near the Mitchell River in Bairnsdale. It may have been a humbler affair than the 2000 conference at CERES in Brunswick, but the 30 or so participants represented the still beating heart of the ancient collective ethos of sharing and trading our skills, goods and ideas. Like fish swimming up stream against the economic tide we set off to cover the 5-hour journey to meet

with the founders and carriers of this collective wisdom and were not disappointed.

For Stella, Yvonne and Noela there was anticipation of the unexpected moments and inspiring insights, that had made the wholistic, alternative lifestyle experience at Ceres, so memorable. For Jenny and Ann it was their first time and Ann felt it showed her the value of LETS to the community that was to be even more apparent to us all, in a country town battling bushfires and drought.

A small band of East Gippsland members organized the workshops, eating, and events, at the Community House comfortably situated next to the 'Aboriginal Keeping Place'. This was quite an undertaking especially for the main organizer, 78 year old Audrey, whose quiet steadfastness astounded us all. She confessed after the weekend to what seemed to be the source of her commitment; a grandfather who wanted to live out his socialist ideals, in a country that had no royalty or class system, so he brought his family to Australia in 1912.

The two main facilitators of the discussions and workshops were the two Annes: impassioned women devotees from Maleny, Queensland where they had been involved from the beginning of LETS in Australia in November 1987. They began by addressing the whole gathering about how? when? where? why? it all started. As the discussion groups got going the voices of equal commitment emerged from individuals from Diamond Valley, Canberra, Castlemaine, South Australia, Warranwood, Hunter Valley, Moruya, Sunshine Coast and Moreland LETS groups. Everyone agreed that with our mainstream systems breaking down, LETS will be even more important in the future, and needs to survive the current difficulties.

Some of the ideas that came out of the workshops on how to support members and keep groups going were:

- Small groups are better, ownership brings energy
- Self-responsibility for keeping transaction records doesn't work. Blue Mountains LETS, once the biggest in Australia, folded after this was introduced
- National Register, Website, lets.org.au maintained by Brisbane LETS, needs to be supported by LETS points from all other groups
- Need for 'Buddies', 'Brokers' and a Care for Members Coordinator (Sunshine Coast)
- Need to delegate if one person becomes overloaded
- If incorporated, can apply for grants
- Need to promote LETS, through story-telling and writing about experiences

- LETS Travel must be up-to-date via internet
- Insurance needs to be covered by premises cover
- InterLETS trading clarified
- Advice on grants – www.ourcommunity.com
- Connect with other groups and local Member of Parliament, maybe through photo-copy facilities.

Between eating and talking there was the refuge of the Caravan Park where members could catch up on sleep, take a quiet walk along the river or visit the neighbouring cabins. Saturday night was at the local RSL club with a large room just for our group.

By Sunday morning the discussions had got down to the nitty gritty of InterLETS trading and Travel LETS which was nicely balanced by a visit to the Keeping Place and a boat trip on the Lakes. Some then left for the trip home, others stayed on another night. Stella and Yvonne got to know Audrey better over a dinner of leftovers. The morning meant pack-up time but we didn't leave before a swim in the Park' pool—highly recommended. We left feeling positive.

Ann, Jenny, Noela, Stella and Yvonne

Next Conference – Hunter Valley LETS, Maitland, NSW, to be held November 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 2007, Melbourne Cup Weekend.

Contact Gaynor 02 4933 2696.

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The 11th LETS Conference Bairnsdale VIC November 2006

My first LETS conference showed me the value of Dandenong Ranges LETS in our community. It was lovely to share the experience with Jenny, Stella, Yvonne and Noela.

Thanks go to East Gippsland girls for organising the weekend. The next conference will be in Hunter Valley NSW in November 2007. The two women from Queensland who mainly facilitated the workshops were superb, passionate devotees of the exchange system and feel that, maybe with our known systems breaking down in the future, helping each other could get us through trying times, therefore it is important to keep LETS alive. How to do this was discussed at a couple of workshops and it was great to hear the enthusiasm from Diamond Valley, Canberra, Castlemaine South Australia, Warranwood and other groups.

Maybe in Dandenong Ranges LETS we just need to hold that energy quietly in our hands and allow the rebirthing to happen in its own time. I came away more positive about our own DR LETS.

Anne Sutterby, Dandenong Ranges LETS

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