



# SISLETS NEWSLETTER

(Southern Inner Suburbs Local Exchange Trading System)

c/o Clarence Park Community Centre, 74 East Terrace, Black Forest 5035  
website: [www.geocities.com/sis.lets](http://www.geocities.com/sis.lets) email: [sislets.coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:sislets.coordinator@gmail.com)

October 2008

Editor: Pam Marshall

Next  
**SISLETS  
Markets**

**Saturday 4 October &  
1 November**

**10.30am-12.30pm**

**Clarence Park Community Centre  
74 East Ave Black Forest**

- ☺ Second-hand goods, crafts, massage, homemade food, plants, and more!
- ☺ Food Co-op and Fresh Food Co-op also open for business
  - ☺ Café open offering freshly brewed organic coffee, teas, homemade food, etc.
- ☺ EVERYONE WELCOME – join in the friendly relaxed atmosphere and do some trading!

**Sites & trestles are free for SISLETS members!**

Enquiries & Stall Bookings: Peter 8276 9621

**SISLETS Christmas Market**

**6 December - 10.30am-12.30pm at the  
Clarence Park Community Centre**  
(Adelaide LETS and South LETS are also holding Christmas Markets.  
See page 3 for details)

**Many Hands Make Light Work!**

*Please help us on Market day by dismantling/stacking your trestle/s, chairs and removing rubbish.*

*Many thanks.*



**SISLETS  
New  
Member**

**SISA0283 Mahima Parkside**  
Ph 8272 9057 [mahimalight@gmail.com](mailto:mahimalight@gmail.com)

**Offers:**

Bach & Californian Flower Essences  
Holiday and day care - small dog minding (at my home)  
Chiron Energy Healing

**Wants:**

Help with gardening  
Loan of sleeping bag for October 08  
Watering garden in October 08



Visit the ...

**Community  
Café**

at the SISLETS Market  
**from 10.30am to 12.30pm**  
Clarence Park Community Centre  
74 East Ave. Black Forest

- ♦ **Organic coffee & herbal teas**
  - ♦ **Relaxed friendly atmosphere to talk and meet**
  - ♦ **Homemade cakes and produce – muffins, slices, quiches & more!**  
(All half units/cash)
- Enquiries: Pam 8374 2531



# How to Trade

## 1. FIND WHAT YOU WANT

Choose from the listings in the 'Offers' and 'Wants' on the website: [www.ces.org.za](http://www.ces.org.za) OR from the SISLETS Newsletter OR by 'word-of-mouth'.

## 2. CONFIRM CURRENT

**MEMBERSHIP** (of the member you are trading with) by viewing the date on their membership card or checking they are listed on the current SISLETS Membership List (in last Newsletter) or check the web-site. Only trades with current financial members can be credited to your account. It is your responsibility to ensure current & financial member status before accepting a trade.

## 3. AGREE ON A PRICE

It's up to both of you to decide on a price (it may be straight LETS units or part units/part dollars). It's often a good idea to think of what you would normally charge in dollars and negotiate from there. Always make sure you both agree on the price so that there are no discrepancies.

## 4. PROCESS THE TRANSACTION

The **seller** is responsible for ensuring the transaction is entered into the trading system via [www.ces.org.za](http://www.ces.org.za). The system ONLY accepts seller transactions – not buyer transactions – so it's difficult to 'put in' an incorrect transaction. If you do not have access to the internet – ask another member to help you (see list page 4).

## 5. CHECK YOUR STATEMENT

All email recipients will receive email notification when the transaction has been processed. However it's a good idea to check your statement to ensure all entries on your account are correct. Mistakes can occur. Please report accounting irregularities to: [sislets.coordinator@gmail.com](mailto:sislets.coordinator@gmail.com)

**SISLETS Transaction/Check-books:** If you would like written documentation of the transaction please ask the buyer to fill in (and sign) a LETS check and give to the

seller to process (via the inter-net). (The buyer has a record via the check-book). This will avoid any discrepancies if they arise.

**Trading at Markets:** Stallholders will have available a 'Trading Sheet' on which your purchases are entered. This is considered sufficient written documentation. Buyers – please fill out your details clearly and carefully.

**Accessing the CES System:** Every member has been issued with an individual password – you will need this password to access your account via [www.ces.org.za](http://www.ces.org.za). If you do not know or have lost your password you'll need to re-apply to SISLETS for a copy. When you first access your trading account please change your password to one of your own choice.



## Accessing your Account

1. Go to [www.ces.org.za](http://www.ces.org.za)
2. At bottom of screen type in your account name (i.e.SISA0???) and your password
3. Press Enter: You will have in front of you '.....'s Trading Account'

## How to Process a Transaction:

1. Go to the middle column of the page.
2. From the list of options choose 'Enter Single Transaction'
3. Open it up and fill in the boxes (buyer, amount, details, etc.). The system is already set up in SISLETS' Exchange. (If you are trading with another system you'll need to transfer to that system to find the buyer). Press 'Enter'.
4. You will be asked to confirm the transaction. If OK. Press 'Submit'.
5. If you have 5 or more transactions you can use the 'Enter Multiple Transactions' section.
6. You cannot make a mistake as the system only allows you to do transactions as the seller (which, for example, is what your market transaction sheet contains).
7. If you have a transaction as you - the buyer (and another person the seller) you will have to refer it to the seller as you are not able process it.

**Happy Trading!**



# SISLETS Noticeboard

Advertising in the SISLETS Newsletter is free for SISLETS Members. It's the ideal way to reach all members with your comments, offers and wants. Next deadline: Nov 21<sup>st</sup>



## For Sale

(All in LETS units)

1. General Electric juicer – carrots, fruit, veg. etc. Well used but in good order. 20 units.
2. Leadtec video capture computer card DV2000. (Cost - \$100). Watch TV on your computer, transfer your video tapes to DVD. 40 units.
3. Wireless optical mouse. 10 units. (unwanted bonus from Dell)
4. Four port usb hub. 10 units.

John SISA0110 Ph 8179 5644.  
jrg@internode.on.net

## Wanted:

Pressure Cooker - Electric Piano  
Dianne SISA0260 8354 2724  
[dihopkins@internode.on.net](mailto:dihopkins@internode.on.net)

## Yoga Classes Wanted

(group would be fine)

Offer: Help to set up free blog.

SISA0275 Margie Clovelly Park  
Ph 8177 0693  
[margiegoodchild@internode.on.net](mailto:margiegoodchild@internode.on.net)



## Mobile Phone

for sale. Lets units only  
Louise SISA0185 Pasadena  
Ph 0413 642 864

## Massage Wanted

(Hills area)

David SISA0176 8388 6594



# LETS Christmas Markets

## Adelaide LETS

Sunday 23 November  
From 11am-1pm

At Hillcrest Community Centre,  
Queensborough Ave, Hillcrest.

Lunch, tea and coffee, raffle

To book your free stall please call Sue  
8266 2757 or [adelaidelets@hotmail.com](mailto:adelaidelets@hotmail.com).  
Stallholders receive a lunch voucher and  
small Xmas gift.

## South LETS

Sunday 30th November – 11-2pm  
Aldinga Institute, Aldinga

*"We'd like to invite you all along as it is also the celebration of our 18th birthday. We will have a small marking of the occasion with a brief speech by the chair and a cake cutting by the longest standing member there on the day. Anyone who would like to have a stall is most welcome and there will be no fee as usual for visiting LETS Members. Hope to see you all there at Aldinga Institute on the day".*  
Liz – South LETS

## SISLETS

6 December - 10.30am-12.30pm  
at the Clarence Park Community Centre

Second-hand goods, crafts, massage,  
homemade food, plants, and more!

Food Co-op and Fresh Food Co-op also  
open for business

Café open offering freshly brewed organic  
coffee, teas, homemade food, etc.

Come and join in the Xmas celebration!

## Firewood Wanted

*I'm always buying firewood for my slow  
combustion wood heater. If you are  
trimming or cutting down trees please give  
me a call and I will collect. Wood needs to  
be in manageable sizes to fit into my car.*

Pam SISA0130 St Marys  
Ph: 8374 2531 [theshoppe@chariot.net.au](mailto:theshoppe@chariot.net.au)



## Join LETS World

I invite you to join a new group on Flickr called **LETS World**.

It's a forum for discussion and sharing ideas, questions, photos. Simply click on the following link (or copy and paste it into your web browser). Then you will see what this group is all about!

<http://www.flickr.com/welcome/31931515/427472/>

See you there!

Liz, LETS South

## Need assistance with your on-line accounting or Offers & Wants?

Contact one of the following people for assistance: Julie SISA0236 - Milton SISA0024 - Katy SISA0262 - Lay Lee SISA0252 - Pam SISA0130 (Please check Membership List for phone numbers)



## Community Fair

(and opening of a new community garden)

66 Ridley Grove Woodville Gdns  
Sat 18th Oct (10am - 2pm)

Public launch and opening by Sophie Thomson from ABC's Gardening Australia. Community fair with an 'enviro focus'. Lots of environmental/ community/gardening stalls, entertainment, food and talks on gardening etc. Contact: Alan Shepard: [alanjshepard@hotmail.com](mailto:alanjshepard@hotmail.com)

### Don't Forget!

**Next Newsletter deadline: November 21<sup>st</sup> for advertising your Offer & Wants in the SISLETS Newsletter.**

## \*\*Public Meeting\*\*

Sunday, 2 November, 2008  
2.30 pm start

Catholic Church Hall, 39 Wakefield Street, Adelaide

### 'Growth: A bad economic policy and a destructive environmental policy'

Dr Philip Lawn, Senior Lecturer in Ecological

Economics, Flinders University

*Dr Lawn's presentation will aim to demonstrate why 'growth' is making us worse off, apart from destroying the planet, and why the transition to a steady-state economy is necessary to achieve sustainable development.*

Also for discussion:

- (a) the role and limitations of markets;
- (b) policies to facilitate the transition to a steady-state economy; and
- (c) the debunking of a number of pro-growth arguments.

Come and join this lively discussion, let us know what you think about these issues

**Gold coin donation on entry**

**Afternoon tea available**

## 'SA Federation of Animal Societies' Parade for the Animals

Friday October 4<sup>th</sup>

Meet Hindmarsh Square South West (opposite the RAA)

Drivers assemble by 11.30. Walkers: 12.30. Leaving 1.00 pm - returning to the Square by 2.00 pm

For further information, and if driving, contact SAFAS phone 8370 8539



## VEGAN FESTIVAL

**Sunday November 16th 10am-6pm**

Glenelg Primary School. Entry: gold coin

Lots of great vegan stuff to buy.

Food and products stalls, cooking demos, live entertainment, kids area etc, close to bus and tram, ample road side parking. **Come for the day, bring family and friends,**

[www.veganfestival.info](http://www.veganfestival.info)

# Travelling with LETS

(by Maleny LETS members Laurel and Bob)

After nearly three weeks in a campervan touring Western Queensland and Central Australia, we figured we'd be ready for some creature comforts in Adelaide so we looked around for some affordable accommodation, preferably in something that wasn't on wheels! Maleny LETS had only recently gone 'on-line' so I thought I'd search the database for anything that might be suitable and there it was, under AdelaideLETS – Sue and Geoff offering accommodation at their Adelaide home for only 15 units plus \$10 per person per night. They're on a public transport route, not far from the city centre and, they'll even pick you up from the airport if necessary. Our hosts provided breakfast and other meals are available too. The bed was very comfortable and the doona was the best one I've ever slept under!

As you might expect from fellow LETS members, Sue and Geoff are interested in 'alternatives' and their very comfortable hebel brick home was built with energy efficiency in mind. A lovely combustion heater helps warm the house and is also used to boil the kettle and heat the pressure cooker. They save all of their rainwater (yes, it does still rain in Adelaide), and have veggie gardens surrounding the house. These are at waist level and are kept supplied with compost by Geoff, the compost specialist. Bob (who aspires to be our compost specialist) took away a few tips. They also have a variety of fruit trees and Sue does her own drying, with the aid of a solar fruit dryer. I sampled some yummy dried plums.

There are some very pretty silver and gold bantams in the yard and three 'retired battery hens', who lay very well, probably in gratitude for being rescued. Another rescuee is their delightful greyhound, Tavia, who was pretty quick in her day, but is now content to lounge around and look elegant.

## Sue and Geoff's place



Sue, who is the joint Administrator for Adelaide LETS, said they enjoy having LETS members stay, as they generally have interests in common. As with our system, there are a few active and many 'passive' members in the Adelaide system, with some members with an abundance of units and not enough scope for spending them. Well, we've found a great way to spend some of ours.... and I've just looked up Sydney LETS and there are a few accommodation possibilities there. Maybe around Australia on LETS, or even around the world? I'll keep you posted.  
Laurel Wilson

## HOW TO ACCESS ACOMMODATION:

Look up the website [www.community-exchange.org](http://www.community-exchange.org)  
If you're already registered as a user, log in (i.e. click 'Enter' after putting in your Account number and password). Next, click on 'Offerings', then go to the line which says 'Exchange', scroll down using the 'down' arrow until you find the geographical area you're interested in (in our case, this was Adelaide LETS). Then, look for the categories - in this case, 'Accommodation and

space', click on it and hopefully, one or more offerings will appear. You then make contact with the person making the offer – there is usually an e-mail address. If you're not registered as a user, just give the Maleny LETS office a call, I'm sure the staff there will be able to advise you.

Happy hunting, Laurel Wilson

# LETS grow together!

A unique cashless trading system called LETS offers more than access to goods and services, says **Mark Mann** – it also reduces waste and builds community.

**I**t's Sunday morning and a dozen people are labouring in the garden of Korina Ivatt and her partner Hieden. About half of them total strangers to the NSW Central Coast couple. Some are using sledgehammers to smash the old concrete driveway, wheeling away rubble to a skip at the end of the yard. Others are ripping out tentacles of lantana and lopping away overgrown branches. Three hours later, the garden is transformed.

Yet not a cent changes hand for all this toil. This is a LETS working bee – and it offers a glimpse into how a green economy might work. LETS (which stands for Local Exchange Trading System) puts some key green economic principles into practice. It's local. It builds community. And it facilitates such things as recycling and growing food in your backyard rather than simply making money.

When Michael Linton set up the original LETS on Vancouver Island in 1982, however, his aims were more social than environmental. Following the closure of a timber mill, unemployment was crippling local communities. Linton realised people had skills, capacity to work and needs. They just lacked money to pay each other.

## Less waste, less impact

### LETS

Visit [www.lets.org.au](http://www.lets.org.au) to see if there is a LETS group near you, or [www.community-exchange.org](http://www.community-exchange.org) to find LETS groups using the online system. If there's no local group, you can start one using the Community-Exchange website.

Michael Linton's original LETS Manual is also online at [www.gmlets.u-net.com](http://www.gmlets.u-net.com).

### FREecycle

Got some perfectly good stuff that you don't need? Try Freecycle. Originating in the US, the concept of free online trash and treasure has expanded globally. Go to [www.freecycle.org.au](http://www.freecycle.org.au) to find cool stuff, or to give away yours.

### THE COMPACT

Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/thecompact/> to go beyond recycling by taking a pledge not to buy anything new for a period of time. See p12 for one Australian woman's experiences of the highs and lows of compacting.

Linton's solution was to invest his own money. His bartering system allowed people to keep providing services for each other, recording trades in a notional local currency.

There have been thousands of LETS groups since, in the UK and US, to Japan and Ecuador. The first Australian LETS was set up in Maleny, Queensland, in 1987. Today there are some 50 LETS groups active around the country.

"LETS trading is subtly different from normal money," explains Ivatt, the coordinator of Central Coast LETS. "Because you can only spend LETS credits locally, it encourages people to look harder at the skills and resources already in the local community, rather than just buying new stuff. I see that as very green: building self-reliant communities and encouraging reuse and recycling.

"Our members trade unwanted furniture, clothes, toys or fruit and vegies from their gardens. And we've set up a tool exchange, where people can hire things like drills, lawnmowers, mulchers from other members. Again, that's more sustainable than everyone buying things that end up sitting in their garage."

Ivatt admits these things could be done outside LETS. You can recycle on Freecycle, for instance. But while Freecycle is a one-trick pony, LETS builds a local network that can support all sorts of green initiatives. "I'd like to introduce a local food exchange to trade homegrown organic fruit and vegies, chook eggs and so on," Ivatt says. "With LETS, we've got a ready-made network and trading system to do it."

"A lot of LETS members have green knowledge, too, such as permaculture, or how to repair things, and can offer advice and training to other members.

"LETS is also fantastic for helping people integrate into a community," Ivatt says, noting that while LETS trading is mainly between individuals, most groups organise regular market days where members can get together.

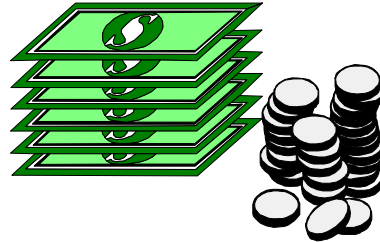
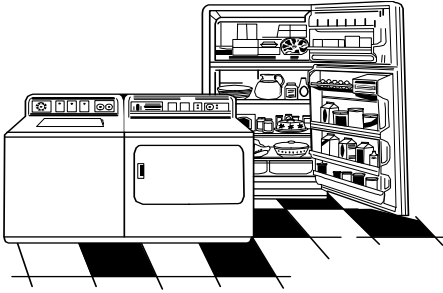
In the last year, many Australian groups switched to an online system, [www.community-exchange.org](http://www.community-exchange.org). This reduced the administrators' workloads – a major growth constraint.

"On the old system I would have had to record 500 transactions last month alone, leaving me no time or energy to do anything else," Ivatt says. "Now the trading takes care of itself online and I have time to nurture and expand the group."

"With the new website, I think we're going to see a real boom in LETS in the next few years." **G**

MARK MANN is author of *The Little Green Guide*.

# MONEY MATTERS 16



**WHEN:** Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> October – Thurs 4th December 2008  
9.30 am – 12.30 pm

**WHERE:** Marion Life Community Services  
887 Marion Rd Mitchell Park 5043  
Ph 8277 0304

Free childcare available. Bring along a friend.  
Please enrol by phoning MarionLife Community Services

## **PROGRAM**

**WEEK 1.** Introduction, beliefs about money, saving on energy, goals, money tins and budget sheets. Tracking your spending. Needs and Wants.

**WEEK 2.** Beliefs, mentoring your children, spend less/save more, lifeline

**WEEK 3.** Bite the bullet, assertiveness, dealing with anger, budget projections. Pocket money.

**WEEK 4.** Affirmations, expenditure sheets, making money. Scams.

**WEEK 5.** Budget Projections, medium and long term goals, poverty traps

**WEEK 6.** Goals achieved, Centrelink issues, getting organised, planning for Christmas, summary, evaluation, close.

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