

# LET\$ LETS TALK



Information Bulletin of the  
Richmond Valley Local Energy Transfer System  
July/August 1995



## EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

RIVLETS is a member of SWALETS, the state LETS organisation, of OZLETS, the national body and InterLETS with neighbouring systems. You see, we can't escape having the way we live and the thoughts we have affected by the global village. Where does "local" exactly end and "global" start? And what is "personal" for that matter? These different spheres of reality merge into each other, blurring the distinctions between far and near, other and same, culture and economy...This radically simple economic system started in a small town from British Columbia and has become a global phenomenon comprised of international, national, regional and local networks. The growth of LETSsystems has been patchy, tentative and of little global significance so far.

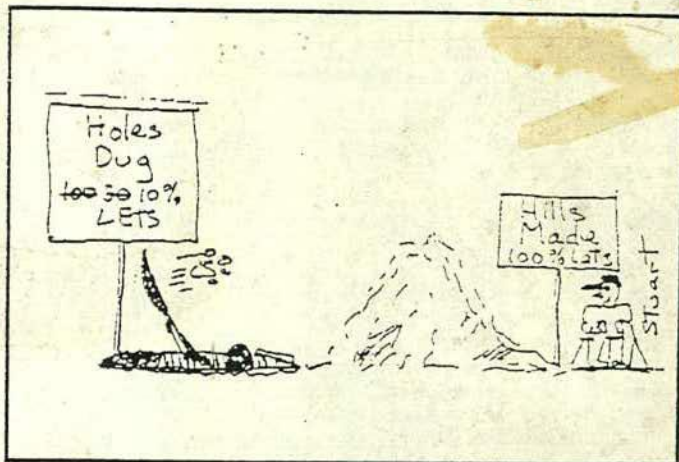
With increasing government acceptance, the time may be ripe to examine the lessons learned from the past decade of alternative money systems in the world (mostly in Australia and New Zealand). I am beginning to believe that LETS trading rests on values so different from those ruling mainstream economic systems that it is excusable to find the transition from wariness to trust hard to manage. It is possible that acceptable LETS trade practises may need to be codified in a moral charter, a "LETStiquette" so to speak. The present agreement signed by all members is rather vague on moral issues. Give us your thoughts on what is reasonable to expect from both parties in a transaction. Do also think carefully about what you are prepared to commit yourself to offer in the 95/96 directory that will be published in early September. It will have a new format and additional features such as listing by local areas, a wanted section for those with predictable and well defined requests over the year, a 100% Locals Club, a 10L/hour labour exchange and business listings. Again, be sure to accept requests for the services or goods you are offering as repeated phone rebuttals create disappointment and frustration (see Stephen Gunther's letter).

Choose to join the 100%Locals club and/or the 10L/hr labour exchange (or none!) Is there something you want to lists as a regular request? A one-off? Looking for something unusual?

LETS can be a very empowering tool for many of us and I would like to hear your experiences (good or bad) and any suggestions that you may have to improve the ways RIVLETS can assist YOU.

PS Lets face it - computer money is here to stay so the least we can do is to help make it as human friendly as possible.

Jamil Rahal



**LETS**  
**4TH AUSTRALIAN**  
**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
AUGUST 18 - 21, 1995  
The humpback whales visit  
Hervey Bay in August  
**WHY DON'T YOU?**  
LETS meet, LETS learn, LETS  
grow, LETS play, LETS care,  
LETS go!  
Registration: \$25  
Contact the Office if you are  
interested in going, or send something with those who are.



## LETS TRADING DAY!

Look for the LETS stall at  
**LISMORE**

**HERITAGE PARK MARKET**

**SUNDAY JULY 30TH**

Bring Yourself, your Fun, & Your Goodies  
down to buy, sell, give & trade!

ALSO RIVLETS AGM at Lismore Workers  
Club at 5pm on this day. All members are  
cordially invited.







15/6/95

## Letter to the Editor:

I am an avid supporter of LETS, both in principle and practise. I have recently been frustrated with the system, and I believe this shows up some holes which somehow need to be attended to in order for it to work properly.

I have been trying to get someone, anyone, to do some basic work (at the Vistara school) - painting, landscaping etc. This does not require any greatly specialised skills, and the time it can be done is quite flexible. There is quite a lot of work I am willing to spend LETS on, and it is a nice environment to work in.

Yet, despite several months of efforts, contacting everyone on the lists including people on previous directories, I have only been able to get one person on two occasions.

This is frustrating, given I have built up a healthy LETS account, and am trying to finally spend it.

The thing I have been most successful at spending LETS on is massages, and Alexander sessions; in this respect the system has been working for me.

The problems I have been experiencing seem to fall into two categories:

1. The size of the potential pool of labour. This is not large enough that at any one time there is availability in even basic areas such as low skilled labouring.
2. People who advertise availability of their labour do not always match this stated public position with their willingness to do LETS work. One person I phoned was very abrupt and declared they weren't the least interested in LETS work as they had lots of paid work. Others gave a similar reply in more polite terms - cash is always the priority, and LETS work appears to be seen in the category of 'if I have some spare time'. Although I can certainly understand the practicality of this position, I think there also needs to be a shift in attitude amongst LETS members. Not charging interest is all very fine, but one problem is that there remains only a moral incentive to keep one's LETS moving.

Thus to some degree LETS appears the domain of the unemployed, as when someone gets a job they are no longer willing to take on LETS work. Some professionals such as myself accept LETS in the course of our work, but when people work for an employer and LETS work must be done out of work hours, there is a reduced willingness to take it on.

LETS is supposed to free up the flow of goods and services, and in some ways it does. In other ways it appears there may be some stagnancy in this flow within the system itself. I do not know the remedy, other than a larger pool of members, but I do think this is a problem that needs somehow to be addressed, and a least discussed. Otherwise others who are less keen than myself will likely be put off not being able to spend their LETS when they want to.

Stephen Gunther

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Many Thanks to all contributors!  
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B.Y.O.  
Gourmet Vegetarian  
& Seafood Cuisine  
Mon. - Saturday from 5.30pm  
Every day for snacks from 10am  
49 Cullen St Numbur Ph: 891119

## Manager's Report



It's a busy though exciting time for RIVLETS right now. Partly as a result of the free plug for LETS in the Social Security "Update" newsletter we decided it was a good time to raise our profile. A number of avenues have been explored for gaining assistance, primarily to promote LETS in the community. For the third year running we have made an application for assistance under the Area Assistance Scheme for a "LETS Development Officer", a part time position for 12 months. We would have to be "long odds" to get approval for this one.

Currently, with the assistance of the Lismore Skills Centre, we are working on a training scheme under the New Work Opportunities program. The program would involve trainees in Marketing Promotion of the LETS concept.

Good news for LETS members in the Byron Area! Plans are afoot to set up a new pro-active agency at the Byron Environment Centre. A number of the Environment Centre staff are keen to get it happening. Their first project is to send a questionnaire to all active and 'sleeping' members in the Byron area.

Our A.G.M is scheduled for Sunday 30th July after the trading day at Heritage Park Market. The venue is the Lismore Workers Club at 5pm. We encourage all members to try and attend. Your input is always valued.

Happy Trading, Ray

Are you currently unemployed and registered at the CES? If you have been unemployed for 12 months or more you may be eligible for case management service, or perhaps CES has contacted you and you are currently a case managed client.

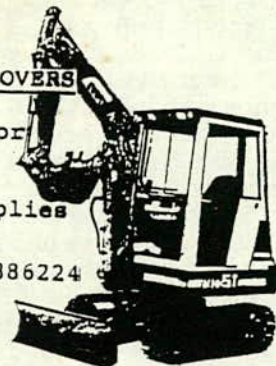
If you have been notified by CES for a case management interview then contact LETS admin for advice on how to benefit of an exciting LETS promotion.

### TOM THUMB MINI EARTHMOVERS

- \* 2.5 Tonne Excavator
- \* Mini Bobcat
- \* Trencher & Auger
- \* Sand & Gravel Supplies
- \* 3m<sup>3</sup> Tipper
- \* 25% Locals

Tel. 886224

Terania Ck. Rd.  
The Channon.





# DIRECTORY UPDATE

## Add This Page to Your Current Directory!



Anger Management	886	MARION BROWNLIE	241793	LI
Animal Sitting\ Care	889	BODHI ENGLISH	213347	LI
"Apple Sale,Support, Serv. (Reg.)"	583	LIGHTFORCE COMM.	858796	BB
Art (oil paintings)	888	TRINA MINTER	884035	BB
Astrology	62	JANE JENNINGS	242991	LI
Astrology Charts	886	RICHARD YOUNG	241793	LI
Baking	885	PENNY BURROWS	891645	LI
Beer Producing	760	MIKE BIRCH	891135	NI
Biodynamics Advice	402	IAN CAMPBELL	801229	MU
Bookkeeping	886	RICHARD YOUNG	241793	LI
Bush Camps with a difference	169	HARMONY HOLIDAYS	331325	KY
Bush Regenerator	620	JOANNE SLOANE	220966	LI
Car Transport	779	BILL ARTUR	337030	NI
Child Care\ Baby Sitting	889	BODHI ENGLISH	213347	LI
Childminding	884	RHONDA QUARESMINI	284259	LI
Clerical/Word Processing	620	JOANNE SLOANE	220966	LI
Color Scanning	583	LIGHTFORCE COMM.	858796	BB
Communication Solutions	583	LIGHTFORCE COMM.	858796	BB
Cooking/Catering	884	RHONDA QUARESMINI	284259	LI
Counselling	402	IAN CAMPBELL	801229	MU
Crocheted Wool Caps	629	LISA YEATES	213278	LI
Cushions	888	TRINA MINTER	884035	BB
Editing/Proofreading	885	PENNY BURROWS	891645	LI
Environmental Consultant	629	LISA YEATES	213278	LI
Fabric	888	TRINA MINTER	884035	BB
Farm work	886	RICHARD YOUNG	241793	LI
Fire Performance	889	BODHI ENGLISH	213347	LI
Firewood Delivery	779	BILL ARTUR	337030	NI
Flute Tuition	884	RHONDA QUARESMINI	284259	LI
Gardening	888	TRINA MINTER	884035	BB
Gardening	531	ALAN COOK	891729	NI
Gardening	889	BODHI ENGLISH	213347	LI
Green Politics	629	LISA YEATES	213278	LI
Hairwraps	889	BODHI ENGLISH	213347	LI
Handyman	531	ALAN COOK	891729	NI
Hawaiian massage	807	EWA	897231	KY
Holistic Pulsing	807	EWA	897231	KY
House Cleaning	392	JULA MALLABY	88 623	DU
Housekeeping\ Cleaning	889	BODHI ENGLISH	213347	LI
Hypnosis Therapy	886	MARION BROWNLIE	241793	LI
"Internet, WWW connectivity"	583	LIGHTFORCE COMM.	858796	BB
Joy Flights	618	IAN CROME	834303	LI
Kids Hobby Horses	392	JULA MALLABY	88 623	DU
Kinesiology	402	IAN CAMPBELL	801229	MU
Landscape Gardener-Trade Qual.	620	JOANNE SLOANE	220966	LI
Landscaping/Labour	885	LUKE RHODES	891645	LI
Market Food Stall	857	TASTE TEMPTATIONS	832011	CO
Massage	857	TASTE TEMPTATIONS	832011	CO
Massage-100% Local\$	62	JANE JENNINGS	242991	LI
Mechanical Work	531	ALAN COOK	891729	NI
Mowing-Ride-on	882	MANDY HALLINAN	884380	BB
Multi-Media & Desktop Publishing	583	LIGHTFORCE COMM.	858796	BB
NLP Counselling	886	MARION BROWNLIE	241793	LI
Organic Food	885	LUKE & PENNY	891645	LI
Pamphlet/N'letter production	886	RICHARD YOUNG	241793	LI
Party Catering	763	ERIK BIGALK	NIMBIN	NI
Past Life Regressions	886	MARION BROWNLIE	241793	LI
Pedal-powered Juices	548	NADARIA & SAM	MULLUM	MU
Permaculture Consultancy	402	IAN CAMPBELL	801229	MU
Permaculture Consultant	620	JOANNE SLOANE	220966	LI
Postnatal Support	624	ANNA KING	222507	LI
Pregnancy Massage	624	ANNA KING	222507	LI
Psychic/Spiritual Healing	886	MARION BROWNLIE	241793	LI
Respite Care	884	RHONDA QUARESMINI	284259	LI
Sewing	760	JAN GOODRIDGE	891135	NI
Sour Dough Rainbow Bread	763	ERIK BIGALK	NIMBIN	NI
Spiritual Healing	764	LENA MCGREGOR	891529	NI
Stonemason	531	ALAN COOK	891729	NI
Structural Balancing	62	JANE JENNINGS	242991	LI
Teaching-Remedial	760	MIKE BIRCH	891135	NI
Tutoring Humanities to Yr. 12	885	PENNY BURROWS	891645	LI
Van & Driver	885	LUKE RHODES	891645	LI
Vegan Food Preparation	888	TRINA MINTER	884035	BB
Woodmaking	885	LUKE RHODES	891645	LI
Word Processing	886	RICHARD YOUNG	241793	LI
World Wide Web Publishing	583	LIGHTFORCE COMM.	858796	BB

**GEORGICA**

**EARTH BRICKS**

Mitchell Road  
Georgica 2480

066 888 272  
013 665 624

Gary  
Atkinson

### 1995/96 DIRECTORY ENTRIES

Please list here the services and/or  
goods you wish to offer:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

For *INSPIRATION* you  
may want to check the previous  
directory and its updates.

*ALSO:*

**NEW!** You now have the chance to  
hunt for one-offs or advertise  
recurring services that you will be  
needing over the year.

**REQUESTS:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

*AND!*

☐ Show your confidence in LETS  
and join the "100% Locals"  
Traders' Club. (tick box)

☐ If equality is your thing,  
consider sharing your time with  
others in the Ten Locals p/hour  
Labour Exchange. (tick box)

Any Listings you want to have in  
the Business Directory?

What? \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form to:

**RIVLETS**

P.O BOX 402 LISMORE 2480

**ANY MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED UP RECENTLY NEED**

**TO CONTACT US TO UPDATE THEIR SKILLS - OTHERWISE PREVIOUSLY LISTED SKILLS  
WILL BE USED.**



# NOTICEBOARD/CLASSIFIEDS

**GENERAL SKILLS,  
SERVICES & LABOUR**  
KY Clothing Renovations.  
Mending, Patchwork Items  
made to order. Tree Planting.  
Secretarial/ Typing 170  
wpm/Desktop Publishing.  
PHONE 339138 AFTER 5pm.

NI Automatic transmission  
Specialist servicing most types  
of automatics. Phone Yarp on  
897513

## PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS CONSULTANT

BB Michel & Jude Fanton.  
Consultant on Property &  
Acreage  
#442 Ph 856624. Also Available  
The Seed Savers Handbook.

NI DESKTOP PUBLISHING  
Newsletters, Posters, Business  
Cards, Typing, Typesetting &  
Word Processing. PH: 897  
533 Melony Browell

## GUIDANCE/COUNSEL/ THERAPY/HEALING

KY Hawaiian Massage in  
Kyogle with EWA. Call 897231  
or 897467 for info and  
bookings.

LI Personal Growth Groups,  
Family Therapy, Gestalt  
Counselling with Stephen  
Gunther. PH 880100

LI Massage, Reiki 1 & 2,  
Tutoring. PHONE 243647  
50% LETS PRI

LI/NI Rebirthing Sessions,  
Aura Balancing, Spiritual  
Alignments & Past Life  
Regression. Individual  
Sessions at Lismore & Lillian  
Rock. MELONY BROWELL  
(066) 897533

## GOODS & GENERAL SUPPLIES

BB Sweet, Refreshing Sugar  
Cane Juice at local markets. L  
100%

## WANTED

DU Workers for rainforest  
regeneration project -  
weeding and planting. 15  
Locals per hour. Lunch  
provided. Ring Ray on  
886100 or 886307.

Available: Small digging job at  
Tuntabla Falls. Lisa Yeates.  
#629.

Accommodation in Lismore 3 - 4  
days/wk for male mature age  
uni student. rent 7-10  
LETS/day. Phone Gary (071)  
8571245 weekends.

Woman & 5.y.o girl want  
unfurnished granny flat or  
similar. We are responsible,  
eco-friendly & running out of  
time! Call Nikki if you have  
suitable space on 886 258 LETS  
or cash!

NI/LI INVERSION TABLE  
(For Back Stretching) Can pay  
Part Cash. Ring Melony



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LISMORE 2480

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PLEASE NOTE!

IF YOU HAVE A RED CROSS ON  
YOUR NEWSLETTER, YOUR \$5  
MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION  
FOR 1995/6 IS DUE NOW!!!  
THIS IS YOUR LAST  
NEWSLETTER UNTIL PAID UP.  
WELCOME TO ALL NEW MEMBERS!

Starting this financial year (i.e NOW!)  
RichmondValley LETS can only process  
transactions in which BOTH  
people/parties are current trading  
members.

Starting in the next newsletter, we will list  
all people who are currently trading while  
dormant, or non-current members. We will  
be unable to process trades involving one,  
or two dormant, or non-current members.

For your own benefit, trade only with  
others who are current, encourage others  
to join or renew subscription.

Trades/transactions in which either person  
is dormant will not be processed at all.  
Your membership card is the key to  
showing you are a current trading member.

We have increased the yearly subscription  
in "locals" from L5 to L10. Cash cost for  
initially joining Richmond Valley LETS is  
still \$15.00.

SEND CHEQUES/LETTERS TO:

P.O. Box 402 Lismore 2480

OR DROP IN AT:

The Neighbourhood Centre

13 McKenzie St, Lismore

Thur & Fri 9:30 - 5pm

PH: 222 776