

LET'S TALK

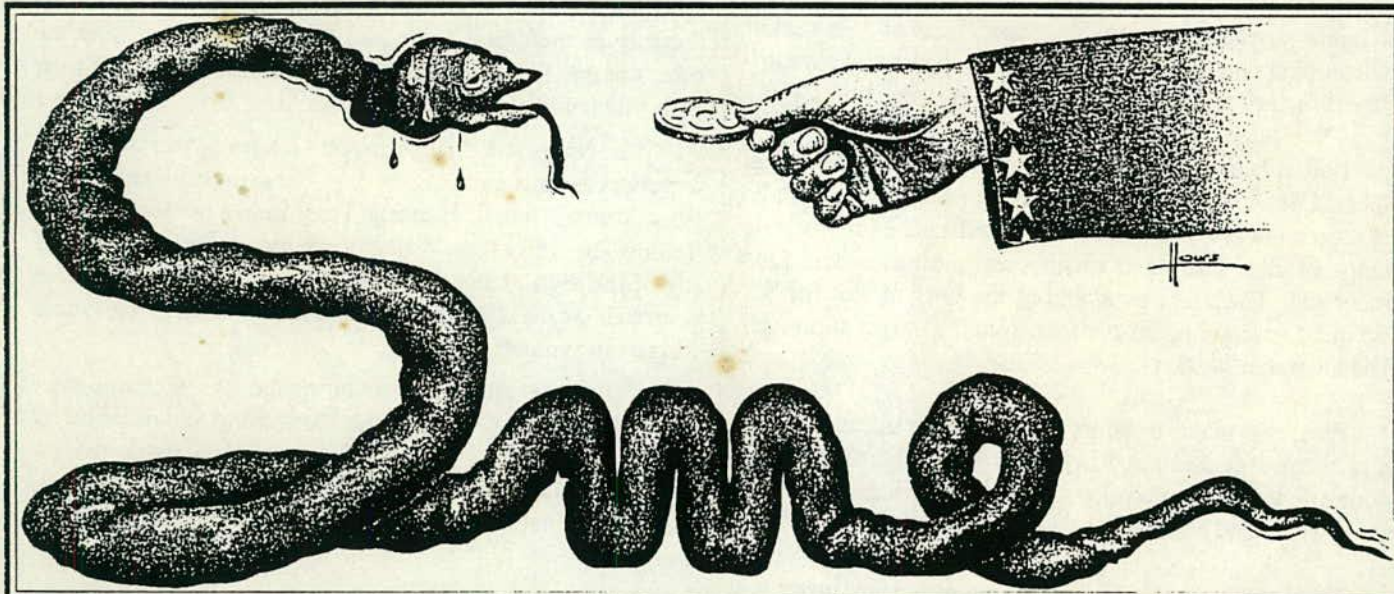


Well, the big news for this bulletin is the 2nd National LETS conference that was held near Adelaide. Members of a LET System are pioneering a very powerful tool for social change manifesting itself in very varied shapes and forms.

It is comforting to see some state governments taking on the job of establishing systems in small communities in W.A. and N.S.W. (latest ones are around Newcastle). What is less comforting is the roller-coaster of the global economy. One bank in Japan managed to sink the Australian dollar to a seven year low single handedly! That is how fragile it is out there...

ELEPHANTS WALK OUT

Meiji-Life, one of Japan's major institutional investors decided to take on the Australian dollar. Within minutes, other Japanese bankers followed. As one commentator said: "The heavyweights of Japanese finance are like a herd of elephants. It takes a lot to move them but when they decide to go they do it quickly and all together". What a strange world we live in!



IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?

...so by helping to build the foundation of a less fickle and a more equitable economic system, no matter how small your contribution, you are working for the future of this one and of following generations treading on this earth.

How you do it could be no more involved than swapping school roster days or typing a letter for a neighbour... Why you do it is for you to work out in the privacy of your conscience, but please, share your insights in this, your bimonthly communication bulletin. I would appreciate reading other people besides Ray and his manager's report. Come on out there! I am sure that you have things to say. How about a grudge?

Jamil Rahal

FAT CATS AND FAT SNAKES

The European currency snake has grown fatter (+ & - 15%) and they are all accusing each other but there is one currency that you can still trade at parity with and that's the INTERLETS one (eg: 1 Bunya = 1 Local). Sorry, no room for speculation here! It's great for stability though. What would you rather?

LET'S TALK

Editorial team: Jamil Rahal & Ray
Desktop Publishing: Anthony Pearsall
Published by Richmond Valley LETS
Hindmarsh St, Lismore. Ph. 222 776

Thanks to the contributors and advertisers of this issue - please send articles, letters & other contributions for future issues to this above address.



MANAGER'S REPORT

OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
1993



BALLINA AGENCY OPENS

Since our last newsletter we have established an agency in the Ballina District Community Information Centre at 30 Tamar St, Ballina. This came about as a result of an approach from Lyn Greening, a part time volunteer at the centre. Lyn recently moved to this area from Victoria where she was involved with the Dandenong Ranges Letsystem. We expect to hold a public information night in Ballina soon to publicise LETS and the new agency.

'LOCALS' TRADING

Our 'Locals' trading figures are holding steady at about 15,000 per two monthly period. I feel confident that this figure will begin an upward trend as an effect of the recent organisational changes introduced, particularly the more up-to-date directory and the \$5 compulsory subscription.

I often hear complaints from members that they want to spend Locals at the markets but don't know which stalls are Lets members. We do have laminated Lets signs for sale to help market stalls and businesses publicise their Lets membership. These are available at the Lets office, for \$1, \$1.50 or \$2 (depending on size), or from the information stall at The Channon Market.

Please do make an effort to advertise in the newsletter. The rates are still cheap at 1 Local per line. Advertise details of your offered skills or workers wanted or perhaps you have some second-hand goods for sale.

There have been a number of requests from members to include family names (or surnames) in the directory listings. If you have any objections to this please let us know. If there are not too many objections we will investigate the possibility of altering the computer program to allow for the inclusion of a second name. Members will have the option, of course, to request only their first name to be published.

A SURE WAY FOR ENGLAND TO RAISE THE VALUE OF THE POUND...



MARGARET VS LILLIAN

I found an article in the Byron Echo discussing the notion of prosperity, then I came across a booklet written by Lillian Lawson Geddes. They look at the same issue of housing and wealth, but from radically different angles. I could not help but gather these two in one article, although they may not want to be left together on an uninhabited island!

"If having enough money means that you get all of the material things that you desire, how come only 1% of Australians ever achieve true wealth while the other 99% dream on towards an old age of scarcity and need?"

"According to Margaret Robertson of PRD Realty Byron Bay, two of the wealth secrets that 99% of people simply ignore, are high capital growth and security of income linked to inflation. And it's right under most people's feet most of their living days. Here in Byron we have the opportunity of a lifetime. There are now many young people who are investing in local second and third houses, using the security of their first home and the rental income from the others to pay them off as fast as possible and to secure their own financial freedom." Byr. Echo 11/8/93.

In contrast Lillian Lawson Geddes writes about her experiences as a campaigner for the establishment of the First Mutual Benefit Housing Trust in her booklet "Where Telling The Story Now". She is concerned with the well-being of the 99% struggling financially, while Margaret concentrates on the 1% that are already rich anyway. Guess where my sympathies lie!

"Everywhere I travelled during the 80's, the same story emerged. The people doing the blockading and other direct action protests, were forsaking careers, paid work, ownership of housing and other property for the long term investment into a natural world which would hopefully be worth living in."

Lillian has developed a model that attempts to secure housing for 'ageing greenies'. "The principle is simple. The cost of a house is divided into 100 lots. Supporters of the Trust subscribe what they can afford, and they are the co-owners of the Fund which buys the house. The house is occupied by people that the supporters wanted to see housed, and their rent is used to buy out the supporters who want to leave the fund. After that, a lot of various conditions can be applied, depending on the who and why of the Housing Trust."

"Why do I say - Never mortgage? When a house is mortgaged, the house is used as security for the loan. The equity held by the 'apparent owner' which is you, takes the brunt of all losses and all rise/fall in the market. For the first four years or so, the capital reduction is minimal, with most of your payment going to the mortgagee as interest. After ten or twelve years there might appear to be gains, but the interest you paid in the meantime would add up to the value of the house anyway. You have given away one house while you think you are getting this one".

Classifieds

GENERAL SKILLS, SERVICES & LABOUR

DU French tuition at all levels, in a group or individually.
Call Jamil on 895300 or 222776 Thursdays.

DU FORBIDDEN FRUIT NURSERY - ph: 882296.
Fruit, nut & permaculture plants, 50-100% locals at Sun-
day markets: Brunswick Heads, Byron, The Channon,
Uki, Bangalow. Price list available.

DU REPAIRS - Fridges, air cond., hydraulic, any appliances, pumps, motors, alt. energy, etc. Call Peter on 464014. (travels regularly to Lismore area)

LI Lawns mowed in Lismore area from 15 locals. Call Robyn on 220231.

GOODS AND GENERAL SUPPLIES

LI Gardening, Permaculture design, labouring, building assistance, baby sitting, housework - 100% Locals. Call Janna 221456.

BB Seedsaver's Handbook available from the publishers.
\$18 + 5L. Call Michel or Jude on 856624.

DU Hard-Wearing Crocheted Backpacks, Handmade Shoes Sandals and Boots. Original Designs with a Guatemalan Flavour 50%L. Also gardening 100%L. Ph: Jenny Love 891133

DU Hoop pine trees for sale, 30 to 50 cm tall 50 cents + 1.5 Locals each. Discount for 20 or more. Ring Ray on 886307 (or 222776 Thursdays).

LI Massage Tables made to order, strong, light, portable - also adjustable height and solid timber models. Guaranteed. Shiva's Body Couches. (066) 216400.

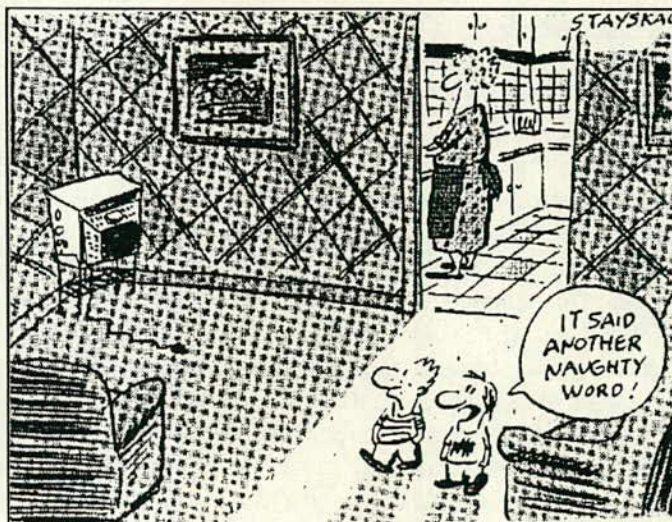
WANTED

LI Wanted to buy - guitar, tape recorder, set of drawers and small bookcase. Phone Ben Woodman on 218357.

DU Person to assist with bush regeneration project for one or more days near The Channon. L12 per hour plus transport costs (\$). Lunch provided. Tel. Ray 886100.

DU Wanted:- Person to repair 35mm camera, old Yashika semi-automatic, probably needs back resealing. Tel. Ray 886100.

**LINK TV is currently broadcast-
ing Saturday and Sunday on UHF
68 and you can access air time
on locals if you want.
Ring them on 214220**



THE CHANNON **SWEET** BRUNSWICK HEADS
CREPES
SAVOURY

BYRON BAY LISMORE BANGALOW

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Gilbert and Marie France Marchand
"Balyarta", Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park, NSW 2481
Phone (066) 85 3375

Deadline for contributions, display ads and classifieds is the last Friday of the even month.

LETS TRADE

**Advertise your skills,
services and products
in**

- LETS TALK -

Classifieds:
1L per line
Display Ads:
Business card 15L
Sixth page 20L
Quarter page 30L

Classification Codes

General Skills, Services & Labour - 000
Professional, Business, Consultant - 001
Guidance, Counselling, Therapy, Healing - 003
Land Management & Land Labour - 008
Building Design & Construction - 010
Goods & General Supplies - 100

Local Produce & Food Preparation - 200
Shelter, Land & Accomodation - 300
Tools & Equipment (Hire) - 400
Transportation - 500
Shows, Sports, Societies, Events - 600
Wanted - 700

Your Classified Advertisement

Name:	Number	Date	Code
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This ad to appear in: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 Issues (circle)

Member's Profiles

For this newsletter, I have contacted two people who trade with one another. As you may have guessed, this is the sort of information that I would like to see in the directory, thus making it more personal. Do you remember the adds about a parallel personalised directory? It could easily be done if you want it. Contact me at the office on Thursday afternoons for a chat about this P.P.D.

JENNY LOVE

Jenny Love joined RIVLETS at the Nimbin market about three years ago. She thought then that she would have no problem earning "locals" but soon found out that it is easier to spend them. (Funny enough, some members have the opposite problem!). This is surprising to me as Jenny is one of the few people offering goods as well as services, like doing rostered school days for Margaret Smith. Jenny spends her "locals" on stall fees at The Channon Market, Ice blocks and fallafel rolls. She sometimes buys fruit trees from "Forbidden Fruit" nursery and dreams about "getting a massage sometime". If she manages to earn more "locals", Jenny might treat herself to weekly massages and an occasional babysitter for her four daughters in order to get some free time. One day, she hopes to be able to pay her car's rego on LETS, knowing too well that this won't happen overnight! Jenny offers wonderful hand woven and hand dyed hats, boots, shoulder bags, vests and more on 50% "locals". You can call her on 891133.

MARGARET SMITH

Margaret Smith joined RIVLETS in January this year. Although she has known about it for years, she put the idea aside until she started her business near the old Butter Factory in The Channon, offering a range of alternative therapies using Bach Flowers, herbal ointments, oxygen, tea-tree oil and such, specialising in Chemical sensitivity allergies and liver conditions. In the past, she has earned "locals" with her typing skills and is spending them with Jenny Love doing her pre-school commitment days.

Margaret accepts 100% Lets on consultations and takes 10% on the products. She is planning to hire the services of a gardener and is also looking for someone to paint her room. However, as she just returned back from overseas she has other priorities at the moment.



Mike Peters - United Feature Syndicate

MONEY'S TOO TIGHT TO MENTION

"Money" is not a good conversation piece. Ask anyone about their sources of income, the amount of their wage or the value of their assets and they will start to feel uncomfortable as if you were prying into their most private intimacy. "Money" is one of the last taboos. To some people, even the mere mention of the word is offensive.

Subject of scorn and repulsion but also of desire and veneration, money elicits contradictory passions. There often is a degree of mistrust towards a prosperous merchant, a successful industrialist or a wealthy inventor. However, this is a complex sentiment mixing envy with disgust, jealousy with moral condemnation... Curiously enough, winning the lotto and being a millionaire star is acceptable while becoming very successful in one's trade and reaping the rewards for hard work and dedication is considered "bad"!

In any case, it is never going to be easy to deal with the concept of "money". A shift has occurred, moving away from "money" as simply a means of exchange to "money" as a measure of personal value. This mirror is handed out by society to each and every one and we do not like to see a deformed image of ourselves, whatever our perception of money, be it "good" or "bad".

Thus, one of the most challenging tasks that we have to face as members of LETSsystems is to re-evaluate our understanding of what "money" means, slowly accepting totally new ways of approaching it. For example, since having joined RIVLETS I have come to believe that being in debit is "good" as you have issued money that others can then spend while being in credit for a large sum is "bad" as you are hoarding money and preventing others from using it. This of course is debatable and I would like other members to share their views, especially if they happen to differ from this one.

Jamil Rahal



CHRISTINE DAVIE
Member of AUSTAT, STAT

Teacher of the
ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE

(066) 21-4885

NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT

The man who only lives for making money
Lives a life that isn't necessarily sunny.
Likewise the man who works for fame,
There's no guarantee that time won't erase his name.

The fact is, the only work that really brings enjoyment
Is the kind that is for girl and boy meant,
Fall in love you won't regret it,
That's the best work of all if you can get it.

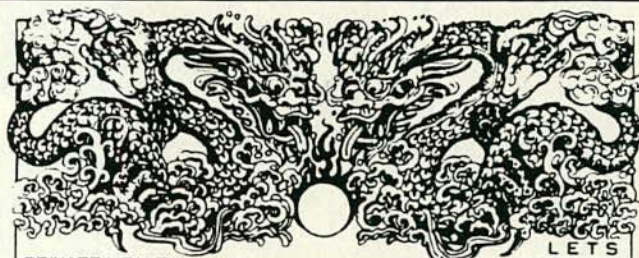
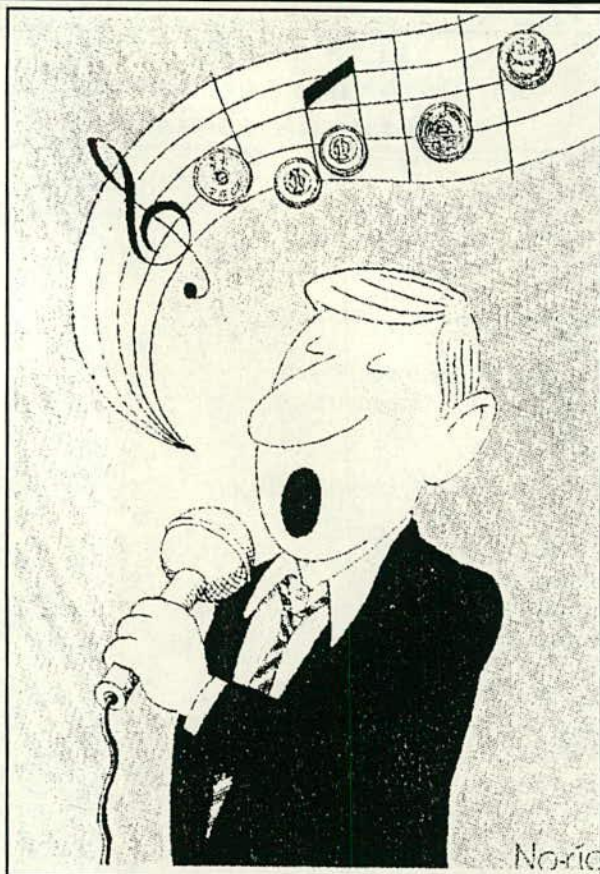
Holding hands at midnight,
'Neath a starry sky,
Nice work if you can get it,
And you can get it if you try.
Strolling with the one girl,
Sighing sigh after sigh,
Nice work if you can get it,
And you can get it if you try.

Just imagine someone
Waiting at the cottage door,
Where two hearts become one
Who could ask for anything more?

Loving one who loves you,
And then taking that vow,
Nice work if you can get it,
And if you get it,
Won't you tell me how?

How?

Words by Ira Gershwin 1937.



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LET'S
ACCEPTED

Modification to Richmond Valley LETS Membership & Resource Info

Please fill out the coupon on page 6 with any changes or modifications
to your **MEMBERSHIP** or **RESOURCE INFO**:
(change of address; change of phone number; corrections; misspelling;
offers; requests; changes or corrections to or deletion of listings; etc)
and drop it into the LETS office, or post it to the address below.



Richmond Valley LETS (RiVLETS)
P.O Box 402, Lismore, NSW 2480

or

Hindmarsh Street, Lismore, NSW 2480
Phone: (066) 222776 Thursdays or Fridays



**LETS TRADE
RICHMOND VALLEY LETS
DIRECTORY UPDATE**

DIRECTORY & CLASSIFIED CODE
 LI - Lismore BB - Byron Bay
 MU - Mullumbimby DU - Dunoon
 KY - Kyogle NI - Nimbin

Resource	Mem. No.	Name	Contact	Location
Acupressure	581	RUDI	217176	NI
Advocacy	718	WALLY	891692	NI
Art Tuition	717	PHILIPPA	221356	LI
Art Work (Painting, Drawing)	717	PHILIPPA	221356	LI
Artist	784	RUSSEL	891559	NI
Assistant Editor 16mm/35mm	784	SASHIA	891559	NI
Astrology-charts&relationships	750	NORM	886357	DU
Babysitting	473	CECILY		LI
Beadwork	695	BISCUIT	891308	NI
Book:Raw Food & Enzyme Concept	783	MICHAEL	221952	BA
Bread Making	473	CECILY		LI
Building Labour	736	DISSON	335216	KY
Building Labourer	488	IAN	895049	DU
Building Labourer	735	STIRLING	321667	KY
Calligraphy	2	RAY	886307	DU
Childcare	695	BISCUIT	891308	NI
Childcare	709	LEELA	282243	DU
Childcare - Available O/Night	705	COLLETTE	218142	LI
Cleaning	695	BISCUIT	891308	NI
Cooking	695	BISCUIT	891308	NI
Cooking - Vegetarian	705	COLLETTE	218142	LI
Cooking/Catering;Vegeta/Ethnic	785	AVINASH	631435	LI
Counseling Adolescents/Family	785	AVINASH	631435	LI
Decorative Candles	767	SAM & ANT	241354	LI
Dressmaker-Creative	545	SUSAN	849208	LI
Farm Labourer	488	IAN	895049	DU
Feldenkrais Practitioner	364	SU	07209386	LI
Freelance Journalist	784	SASHIA	891559	NI
Furniture Renovating	705	COLLETTE	218142	LI
Gardening	488	IAN	895049	DU
Gardening	473	CECILY		LI
Gardening	735	STIRLING	321667	KY
Gardening	736	DISSON & DIANE	335216	KY
Gardening (Permaculture)	785	AVINASH	631435	LI
Gardening - Tree Planting	705	COLLETTE	218142	LI
Graphic Design (Cert)	709	LEELA	282243	DU

Modification to Richmond Valley LETS Membership & Resource Info

Name: _____ Mem. No. _____ Phone No. _____

Current Address: _____

Modifications/Offers/Requests: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

LETS TRADE **RICHMOND VALLEY LETS** **DIRECTORY UPDATE**

DIRECTORY & CLASSIFIED CODE
 LI - Lismore BB - Byron Bay
 MU - Mullumbimby DU - Dunoon
 KY - Kyogle NI - Nimbin

Housecleaning	736	DIANE	335216	KY
Ice Cream Stall at Markets	491	JOEL	841998	MU
Labouring	695	BISCUIT	891308	NI
Labouring	735	STIRLING	321667	KY
Lantana Hacking	735	STIRLING	321667	KY
Massage	601	KATHY	886357	DU
Massage teaching	581	RUDI	217176	NI
Massage. remedial	581	RUDI	217176	NI
Massage-Remedial/Accupressure	705	COLLETTE	218142	LI
Mending	695	BISCUIT	891308	NI
Metal Sculpture	782	PAUL	216099	LI
Modelling -Life	709	LEELA	282243	DU
Murals. etc.	782	PAUL	216099	LI
Painting & Drawing	709	LEELA	282243	DU
Patternmaker	545	SUSAN	849208	LI
Permaculture Design	158	RICHARD	842008	
Photography (Assoc Dip)	709	LEELA	282243	DU
Plastering & Gyprocking	158	RICHARD	842008	
Political Campaigner	784	SASHIA	891559	NI
Political Campaigner	784	RUSSEL	891559	NI
Radio Journalist	784	RUSSEL	891559	NI
Raw Food Seminars	783	MICHAEL	221952	BA
Reflexology	581	RUDI	217176	NI
Reiki	581	RUDI	217176	NI
Remedial Massage	713	MICHELLE	222652	LI
Residential Yard Clearing	488	IAN	895049	DU
Silk & Textile Art	709	LEELA	282243	DU
Temporary Accommodation	717	PHILIPPA	221356	LI
Tractor Driver	488	IAN	895049	DU
Transport (Van)	717	PHILIPPA	221356	LI
Typing	782	NICI	216099	LI
Typing (Word Processing)	473	CECILY		LI
Weeding	695	BISCUIT	891308	NI
Wood Work	736	DISSON	335216	KY
Woodwork, Sm. Projects/Repairs	249	ROBYN	215494	LI

HERBALIST **Margaret Smith**

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 52 Terania., Ph: (066) 88 6139
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 (opp. Tavern)

GAIA TRANSLATIONS

100% LOCALS

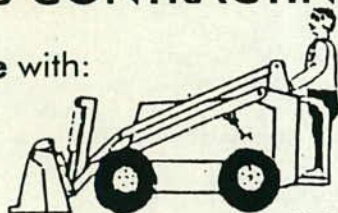
- | | | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|
| • JAPANESE | • GERMAN | • ITALIAN |
| • FRENCH | • THAI | • DUTCH |
| • MALAY | • SPANISH | • INDONESIAN |
| • TOGALOG | • PORTUGUESE | • HUNGARIAN |
| • ENGLISH | • CZECH | • FARSI |
| • RUSSIAN | • TURKISH | • POLISH |

Jeff Mather - Management & Co-Ordination

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Number.....

Preferred Name (1)..... (2).....

Last Name (1)..... (2).....

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I have read and undertake to abide by,
the Richmond Valley Letsystem agreements.

Signed.....Date.....

SKILLS AND SERVICES OFFERED
(please keep it brief)

Member (1)

Member (2)

1.....				
2.....				
3.....				
4.....				
5.....				