



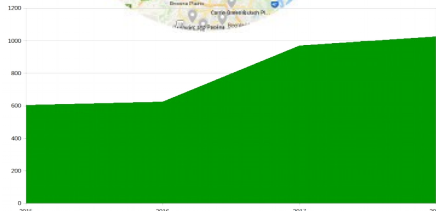
Fireworks

There are currently over 50 Australian exchange groups registered with the Australian CES, and 750 groups trading on the global CES server. Brisbane is trading well, just behind the Far North Qld LETS.



Events report 2018 By Andrew Gaydon (BLCE1498)

- **Trading Days:** Since February 2018 our Trading days have been held at the Albion Peace Hall, it is a great space for Talks/Workshops, the numbers of people attending have been steady at around 20 - 30. Some people are of the opinion that it is not central enough we acknowledge this, however (IMO) until our numbers increase TDs at other locations would only dilute the numbers further. We have also introduced themes to our trading days to give them a focus.
- **Local Hubs:** Recently we held a Social day at one of the local hubs, we will be encouraging this around the regions to be held on the first weekend of the month, so as not to coincide with our trading day. The aim of this is to encourage social networking in your local community, get to know your neighbours then trading will occur naturally.
- **External Promotion Events:** Recently promotion stalls were held at the Winter Solstice at Northley street and the St David's neighbourhood centre, as a result new members have joined. We need to 'Piggy back' external events to promote ourselves to the wider community.
- **Emails:** This year we introduced Mailchimp, it delivers the Events Update, the quarterly Newsletters and recently the NewsLET. One of the advantages of using Mailchimp, is that we can monitor not only WHO clicks, but WHAT they click. We have currently 267 subscribers and an open rate that averages 25-35%. While this seems low, at least it gives us something to work with (it can only get better). We have never had access to this sort of information in the past.



BrisLETS 2018

Changes

YOUR COMMITTEE

President: Simon Cole BLCE4104

Secretary: Jen Acevido BLCE1308

Treasurer: John Tennock BLCE1472

Website Administrator: Jeni Lewington BLCE1381

CES Website Administrator: Alison Bird BLCE0022

Membership Secretary: Helen Shaw BLCE0303

- 6 management committee
- newsletter phased out - now web based news format
- upgrade the website so more active and newsy, in units by OzCES
- CES website now has a member map
- bought a PayPal Card Reader
- Survey done by Andrew Gaydon and Simon Cole
- Restructuring proposal
- working on graphic image to show accept BrisLETS units
- Member activation drive phone tree.
- online team collaboration platform, Slack
- dumpster diving
- regular Trading Days at Albion Peace hall
- sponsorship month - 8 new members
- Memoir & pattern making workshops
- National Conference in Adelaide 20 people attended
- Northey Street Winter Soltice Festival

BrisLETS 2018

Jill Jordan, Founder of LETS in Australia, passed away 8.1.2010



After I'd been living up here for about a year I sat on a knoll up at the top of the valley up here. It's a funny thing to say, but I swear that the land spoke to me and said, "You need other people here to help you look after this." And it was at that stage that I decided that I would form a community.

GARRY CRONAN: One of the best ways of motivating people is to show them success. And I think that is part of the success of Maleny. I think they started off small, they kept focused, and they had initial success and they demonstrated that the model worked and they moved on to apply it to a number of different other needs.

And our next need, after setting up the successful food co-operative, was the need for money, and so we set up, in 1984, the credit union. A credit union idea is to take the money of the community to enrich the community. On that first day we got about 60 members joining the credit union. Now there are just under 5,000 members, and instead of all being members of the food co-operative, they're now a huge range of people.

BILL MOLLISON: I was astounded to find they had invested 33 million in that little community and that they had a lot of money left over - now, I think it was 13 million or 14 million. And that blew my mind. There's no town in Australia that's used its own money and invested 30 or 40 million in itself. There isn't any, except Maleny.

GARRY CRONAN: I think Jill would say that leadership is not that important and the leadership of one person is not that important, but I think it is. I think it can be. And I think Jill has been the catalyst around which many of the people in Maleny have gathered in terms of making these co-operatives successful. Jill helped form 19 Co-operatives in Maleny.

Jill said "It is the underlying culture not the legal framework that is important in building the culture of co-operation. It is being able to work together that makes us successful and it makes good economic, environmental and social sense."

Exerpts from Australian Story 2001 Maleny LETS Newsletter Feb 2010 and Hinterland Grapevine 2005

Australasia

- Australia, in 1989 allocated \$50,000 for the development of LETSystems, including the running of state conferences, the production of software, a LETSystems Training Pack, and assistance to Michael Linton to visit Western Australia. By 1995 there were 250 LETS systems in Australia, with [Western Australia](#) having 43 separate systems serving a population of 2.3 million (although actual participation is by only a tiny fraction of that population)^[1] making it then the region with the highest LETS coverage in the world. [South Australia](#) also pioneered an "InterLETS" allowing members of one system to trade with members of other systems.
- The green folder has a list 104 LETS in Australia in 2000.
- From around 2007, many Australian LETS groups started trading online using the [Community Exchange System](#). The [Community Exchange System](#) allows new members to sign up directly, list offers and wants, and enter trades without assistance from the administrator.
- By 2011 Australia had become the most active country on the [Community Exchange System](#), prompting [Tim Jenkin](#) and Annette Loudon to set up the Australian Community Exchange System ^[8]

1988 - 1992

- Russel Preston #0025 and Gerd Herrmann #0003 attended the original lecture at the Relaxation Centre by Jill Jordon who used a beer barrel in the presentation demonstrating money flowing out of the local economy.
- This was following a visit by Michael Linton from Canada, who also spoke at the first National LETS Conference at Yarrahhapinni in NSW. Anne #0009 and Pat Scott #0061 attended the Conference with Russell. The original couple #0001 who later moved to Cairns had set up BrisLETS in the West End area.
- Wayne Palmer #0027 was the inaugural President, His wife Valerie was treasurer and Russell took on the membership officer role. Rob Sullivan, a dentist was involved.
- Between 1988-94 Russell was away with work so took on the Ombudsman Role to resolve disputes. Russell also attended the first formation meeting of OzLETS at Maleny convened by Ann Jupp (Jill's sister).

1988 - 1992 cont.

- Kathryn (now administrating Aust. Accom. Exchange), Maree #135, Liz #138 and Marg C #157 joined in 1990 and Adrian #267 joined in 1991.
- Kathryn remembers being PR and having the meetings at Wayne & Valerie's home at Ashgrove. Sister Margaret won her membership in a raffle held at the Festival of Body, Health & Harmony at the RNA grounds. The organisers joined BrisLETS and charged BrisLETS 500 units for a stall at the festival and spent those units with members who were cashiers, cleaners etc at the Festival. It was a fun weekend.
- We also had a stall at a West End Market, held a Spring Market a couple of times in a park in the Red Hill area. That was well attended.
- Maree went along to a meeting early in 1990, joined and immediately took on the job of producing the newsletter. The biggest problem was finding sympathetic photocopier owners to copy the monthly newsletter. Liz joined in mid 1990 and in 1992 she and her daughter Imogen were producing the newsletter. In those days there were no clever programs, such as publisher, and cut and paste meant using scissors and glue.
- Maree remembers there was a Brisbane East Side group covering the Bay side suburbs, and she provided accommodation for Michael Linton on a visit he made to Brisbane.
- Wayne Palmer (original President) had a room built on to his house using a Lets architect and builders where he planned to deliver training and natural therapies.

1998 - 2002

- In 1998 BrisLETS celebrated 10 years with a Market day at Captain Burke Park (under the Story Bridge – contacts were Katy & Jo with a notice in Quest papers – had trading goods, sausage sizzle, and fresh produce. It was very well attended especially by children.
- Activities included the West End Street Festival at Boundary St, Green Fair at Redhill, trading days north and southside. Attended Permaculture Expo – entry in LETS, BOGI Fair, West End Festival, Pallara Stat School Fete, shopping centres during the Centenary of Federation Celebrations and Waves of Change Community Festival at Inala and Riverview Community Market.
- Discussion about Ithaca Money as a way to support small business succeed locally against the world economy. Another article in the pathfinder.
- In 1999 Jasmine, Chair of Hervey Bay LETS, organised the LETS chat room on Monday nights .
- Alex bought the Lets.org.au domain name.
- There were 104 Australian LETS groups
- They held trading days, working bees, furniture restoration workshops, information nights at Benarrawa , Acacia Ridge and Redhill Paddington Community Days, talked to NHW and other groups. At the AGM they had 4 LETS caterers and LETS auction where over 700 units were traded.
- Article from Michelle #1206 in 2000 newsletter – Benarrawa (a community member of LETS #882, combining it's resources with LETS and the tool co-op resulted in people getting to know each other, acquiring clothes, books, plants, food, kids stuff, recycled timber and a brick barbeque shifted to it's new home. The management committee were amazed that all this happened and no money was exchanged.
- Kevin made beautiful notice board for use at promotional venues and events.
- GST was introduced and received a grant for a computer, printer and scanner etc.
- Newsletters changed from A4 to A5, and marketing tent was hired out.
- The had the Telstra Telepath 0500 phone number diverted to members, and most members signed up online.
- Crystal Waters held the 10th National LETS Conference. Permaculture Institute Design offered 50% units.

2003 - 2007

- Discussed declining members, joined QLETS, newsletter online.
- Brisbane Extra story on James Taris world tour attracted 4 new members
- Had a working bee, picnic in Moorooka park, stall at Info fest at Michelton Fair and BOGI Fair. Southside Community Centre became a member organisations.
- Marg had 2 successful street markets – full of energy and trading. Had a stall at the Permaculture Fair at Davies Park West End. Trading Day Oct at Annerley & District Community Centre, 8 Waldheim St Annerley and a Fiesta at Holland Park. Had a stall at the BOGI Fair
- Could no longer meet at New Farm Neighbourhood Centre after BrisLETS decided not to have Public Liability.
- LETS conference in Newcastle by Hunter LETS, had 30 people attend, very positive feedback. Hugh discussed the buddy system with Ann Jupp from Maleny LETS. Discussed Interlets transaction process.
- 05500 phone number discontinued.

2008 National LETS Conference hosted by BrisLETS

The conference subcommittee of Hugh, Fred, and Marg, fundraised at Chandler Markets.



I remember the very yummy food
at the Conference – thanks to

MEMBER's memoirs

We couldn't exist without you!!