

NEWSLETS | SEPTEMBER 2019



NewsLETS is BrisLETS' monthly roundup of events, achievements and plans

The main stories in this newsletter are in the Newsfeed on the website: <https://brislets.com/news/>

New president appreciates committee's work

It's only by face-to-face conversations and the latest flurry of info leading up to the AGM that I even began to understand all that the outgoing committee has achieved. I think many others would be in the same boat. It certainly means a lot less work for the new committee, and I hope that you will continue to input ideas for keeping BrisLETS serving members.

So thank you to the following people for your support and contribution to BrisLETS — some over many years and roles.

- Simon Cole: Chair; CES website admin; trading facilitator; drop-off-point (DOP) host; BrisLETS website editor
- Jeni Lewington: Secretary; LAC south
- John Tennock: Treasurer
- Judith Shaw: Membership secretary; LAC West
- Andrew Gaydon: Planning and

- tech support; east LAC; event co-ordinator online; events update email publisher; BrisLETS website admin; Mailchimp email publisher; opening and closing hall etc.
- Paul Wildman: CES Australian liaison
- Isabelle Derouet: Events co-ordinator onsite
- Ishka McNulty: Social media moderator
- Josephine Brown: *NewLETS* editor
- Robert George Vidovic: Special events co-ordinator
- Bianca Baptista: LAC
- Amanda Kelly: LAC
- Storm Furness: DOP host; social media moderator
- Amanda Fannely: DOP host
- Sylvia Blayse: DOP host
- Hugh Dickson: DOP host
- Jacob Saini: Events update email copy editor; *NewsLETS* copy editor
- Rosemarie Severin: Librarian. ◇

—Jessie Scott, President

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DEADLINE

for next *NewsLETS* stories, notices and reports:

Mon 23 Sep 2019

for publication on
Mon 1 October 2019



A happy day at the BOGI Fair

Had an awesome stall at the BOGI Fair on Sunday 25 August.

Lovely spot under the overpass outside the Peace Hall, beautiful day and fantastic team!

In the week following the AGM, these arrangements for our presence at the BOGI Fair were made:

- Suzanne Gallagher and Sandy Gunder provided a gazebo and tables.
- Adrian Vos provided tables.
- John Tennock and BrisLETS' new Treasurer Kelly Watts paid the stall fee.
- New President Jessie Scott lodged the application.

- Elizabeth Shaw and Jessie updated the BrisLETS brochure.
- Members were asked to provide items for the stall and be on the roster for it.
- Liz Stanhope talked to around 30 of the 190 inactive BrisLETS members. Her excellent members-activation skills netted a plumber and a handyman. (Folks had been asking whether there were tradies within the BrisLETS' membership.)

At the BOGI Fair:

- Suzanne collected, presented and sold items from Liz Downey, pottery; Jessica McDonald, heat packs; Joanne Nelson, quilts, etc.; as well as Suzanne's own beautiful hand-crafted soaps, cards, etc.
- Judith Shaw printed the

brochures out and helped lots on the day.

- New Secretary Sally Peters gave an splendid massage.
- Membership Secretary Ishka McNulty was present by phone for decision-making.

First management meeting

It was fantastic for the BrisLETS management to get together and hold our first meeting. The BOGI raffle items gave us word-of-mouth advertising. As mostly first-timers were at the BOGI Fair stall, it was a learning curve, and we realised we need a check-list for organising similar future events.

Engaging with our prospective members

Sally Peters and Suzanne Gallagher showed they were



Lovely spot under the overpass outside the Peace Hall, beautiful day and fantastic team!

great engagers.

They have requested a script about LETS benefits, to support their efforts at future stalls.

Thanks, ladies.

We learnt we need to have the laptop or phone open all the time to sign up new members immediately.

Good to see you!

We welcomed founding members Gerd Herrman and Russell Preston, whose jam was sold before we even knew it had been put out.

We'll need more of that next year, Russell!

Good to see Byron Mengel again; thanks to Kelly for helping Byron with his account by using her mobile and the mobile-friendly CES site.

Promotion

We appreciated the efforts of Simon Cole, Andrew Gaydon and other helpful people on the immediate past committee.

They established a great set-up with the pull-up banner, brochures and pamphlets in display stands, and by having these items stored so handily in the Peace Hall's cupboard.

We loved the business cards and would like to have more of those.

Thank you to everyone involved in the design and printing of the

flyers, posters and brochures, which looked great. Your work made it very easy for people to engage.

We also learnt that we need to carefully position our advertising (the banner, flyers, posters and brochures) at different levels, so that as people move closer to our stall, they see more.

Your story in a benefits book

To benefit prospective members, we have a book of members' stories for them to browse – about how, when and why they joined, and some relevant photos of the LETS journey.

This will be on display at every BrisLETS Trading Day or "away" day at places like Northey Street City Markets and the BOGI Fair.

You're invited to write a story on one A4 page about your personal experience of BrisLETS, to show prospective members what the physical, emotional or financial benefits of membership can be.

Please send it to President Jessie Scott (jessie50@live.com.au) to print and include in this book. ◇

—Jessie Scott, President



New members joining in August 2019

- **David Richardson BLCE 1403, Sunnybank, offers life coaching, handyman work and help with Wordpress websites.**
- **Swapu BLCE0045, Waterford, offers business startup consultations.**

Please send in your contribution on any helpful topic relating to our organisation. Words and pictures both accepted!

Deadline for stories for next NewsLETS: 23 September.

Email:
josephinembis@gmail.com

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead,
American cultural anthropologist

Envisioning our thriving, buzzing, energetic BrisLETS group

What would a successful BrisLETS look like FOR YOU?

You know what they say: Fail to plan; plan to fail. So your management committee is planning a special session where YOUR ideas to strengthen our organisation will be listened to.

This will happen at our next Trading Day on Sunday 15 September, at the Albion Peace Hall.

What exactly is a vision?

Lillian Geddes will be taking us through the visioning process, which is different to a mission statement and a strategic plan. (See sidebars.)



TELL US what you want for our BrisLETS! Register now for the Visioning Workshop on Sunday 15/9 by texting Liz Stanhope on 0414 603 528.

A vision is a picture of the success we want for BrisLETS—at a particular time in the future.

On an individual level, it's a vivid description of what "success" looks and feels like for you—what you are able to achieve, and the effect it can have on your fellow-members in whatever role you play.

A vision is an idea of our actual destination.

Vision workshop details

Lillian will start the workshop punctually at 12 noon.

Please bring finger-food in containers to pass around the table so we can eat and work at the same time.

We will follow this timeline:

- Work from 12:00 to 12:30 = 30 minutes
- Comfort break 12:30 to 12:45 = 10 minutes

- Go on working from 12:45 to 1:15 = 30 minutes
- Comfort break from 1:15 to 1:25 = 10 minutes
- Go on working from 1:25 to 1:45 pm = 20 minutes.

This will give us time to pack up and get ready for trading from 2:00 pm.

Strategic planning

Strategic planning is an organisation's process of defining its strategy or direction, and making decisions on allocating its resources to pursue this strategy. It may also extend to control mechanisms for guiding the implementation of the strategy. Wikipedia

Mission statement

A mission statement is a short report of why an organization exists, what its overall goal is, identifying the goal of its operations: what kind of product or service it provides, its primary customers or market, and its geographical region of operation. Wikipedia

Total focus!

We want total focus, so please leave the setting up of your trading tables until 1.45 pm. Trading will be 2–4 pm.

Lillian suggests that members donate Units to her for the workshop, as that would reflect her ability to help BrisLETS meet members' needs.

Start envisioning now!

Lillian has prepared worksheets for the session, so if you want to be included by phone, please text **Liz Stanhope on 0414 603 528** to ask her to send the work sheets to you by messenger, before the day, for you to work along with us.

Ishka kindly supported Liz to be at the AGM via messenger; we could do a similar thing for the Visioning workshop, so people at home could use their worksheets to have the same info as those at the workshop in person. They could just tell someone what to write on the



coloured paper and they could pin it up.

Lillian uses coloured Post-It sheets for people to write their thoughts on.

People who don't feel confident in speaking up will get their say, and people who are normally quick to speak will have to think about their answers and then write them down.

These will be posted up on the wall for everyone—workshop participants and those who come

afterwards to trade—to discuss them during the trading session, or even during the following month. This process will let us find out what members' skills and values are, so we may draw on them.

Steps to achieve our vision

Step 1: Register your attendance now with presenter Lillian Geddes by texting her at 0400 174 530.

Lillian says that **Step 2** will be the workshop on 15 September.

Step 3 will occur at the next Trading Day in October, with a follow-up session to bring all the ideas together.

We want members—especially YOU—to talk to others during that month to see what ideas, opportunities, possibilities etc. percolate up.

Whatever you want BrisLETS to be, you need to ask for it.

Don't ask, don't get! ♦

Active trading—the life-blood of BrisLETS

What happens when you put a tourniquet on a limb ... and then forget to take it off? Nothing good! After just two hours, it can cause neurovascular damage and tissue death.

Trading within BrisLETS is rather like keeping your blood circulating and maintaining good health.

So are YOU trading regularly? If not, do you know what's stopping you?

Would it help you trade more if you talked to an experienced member who knows many traders?



By asking someone's advice about trading, you'd not only help yourself, you'd also help that person feel fulfilled by being meaningfully engaged.

The new BrisLETS committee wants to find out why folks are not trading, then work with them as a group to get them trading. This will generate community capacity, a sense of inclusion and lead to the discovery of another depth of skills

not tapped.

Meanwhile, here are ways for you to help yourself, help other BrisLETS members, and indeed, help the organisation itself to keep on keeping on.

Keep in touch

Long-term members know that meaningful

engagement and fulfilment result from belonging to the BrisLETS community—through coming to the trading days, accessing BrisLETS' Facebook pages, having contact through trades at home, and simply by helping others via phone conversations.

Offerings and wants

Are you trading to save up for a holiday? Think of what you need and what you've got that you don't need.

Do you want to find accommodation during an event you are passionate about, like the Woodford Festival?

Do you want to declutter your home to free up space?

Or clear out the house before sale?

Check out the Offerings and Wants to see who's doing what, and what details they give. Then perhaps you'll feel encouraged to try it yourself.

Tap a tradie on the shoulder

Know any tradies? Tell them about the benefits they'd find in BrisLETS. (More below.) Invite them to become members. They'll be in good company.

By having members *like you* identify tradie needs, this could inspire other tradies to come aboard. If they see that BrisLETS members have a number of jobs available, they'd realise this is a way for their individual pressures to be eased.

How to let them know? Post it as a **Wants**. Everyone wins!

One member's success story

In the three years since Suzanne Gallagher realised the potential of being a BrisLETS member, she's traded 3,234.00 units by creating bath bombs, soaps etc., and in turn she's sought electrical and other services.

(Altogether, this has also generated 129.36 units for BrisLETS Admin.)

Suzanne supports vulnerable people (that is, they have some form of disability or mental illness, and are at high risk of homelessness) in a Level 3 facility. She receives no government subsidy for

this, but must meet the same criteria as funded facilities, which means lots of money.

But by being a BrisLETS member, she has formed networks that helped her fulfil some of the needs of the facility residents in ways she never imagined.

Her pressures were complying with WPHS legislation, and sourcing quality tradespeople who also felt fulfilled helping other people meet their basic needs.

The tradespeople had pressures of their own: to pay their bills, and to establish themselves as a business. Amazingly, they found that word-of-mouth references gave them a better return than money spent on advertising and competing against others.

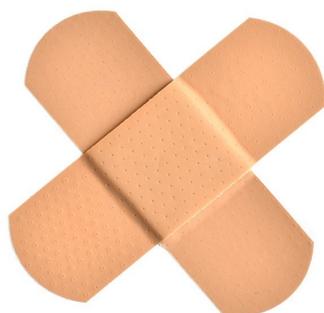
Suzanne has kindly put her hand up to be a trading mentor, to help you get the trading habit. You can contact her on 0405 887 052. ♦

—Jessie Scott, President

“Trading within BrisLETS is like keeping your blood circulating and maintaining good health.”



Workcover



If you, as a private individual, employ an individual (not a business) to work in or around your home (cleaner, ironer, gardener, labourer etc.) you would be wise to consider household worker insurance. This is about \$50 for two years and is issued by WorkCover Queensland. This can be organised over the phone by calling 1300 362 128 or online via <https://ols.workcoverqld.com.au/ols/public/newBusiness/hhw.wc>

Committee contacts to use:

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