



BLCE NewsLETS June 2021

BrisLETS' monthly roundup of events, achievements, and plans.

May Trading Day

Imagine a BrisLETS trading day combined with a working bee and a wonderful Vietnamese feast - what a combination! That is what we did last month in Highgate Hill, at the home of Russell Preston, one of our earliest members. In the sunshine and shade of the front garden, were a few trading tables, and was a most enjoyable day for everyone.

Russell's wife Minh Nguyen had prepared traditional Vietnamese cuisine for us, and it was absolutely delicious. I admit I had more repeat servings than I usually do at home! The very substantial vegetarian main dish, called Pho' (pronounced "fur") was served from a seemingly bottomless pot, with all the appropriate condiments and fresh herbs. The spring rolls were delicious, including some made with rice-paper especially for the gluten-sensitives. We lingered around the dining table, enjoying a great discussion with young neighbours from Colombia and Slovenia, and expressing our thanks to Minh.



Past President Adrian, Russell and prospective member Bob wielding secateurs and long-handled hedge-cutters had trimmed back the neighbour's trees and vines which were encroaching onto the back of Russell's property. Others loaded the pruning's onto Russell's trailer, down at the front of the house. (Continued next page)



June Trading Day

Will be held at the Peace Hall on Sunday 20th 2021 from 1-4pm. Please bring items to trade, services on the day, some jokes and stories to share! Lets have some fun! See you there!

IN THIS ISSUE

May Trading Day

June Trading Day

Bogi Fair

Lynettes request

Structures

Members can help.

This Trading Day

Sun 20th June 2021

Albion Peace Hall

1-4pm

Following Trading Day

Sun 18th July 2021

Holland Park Library 1-4pm

Deadlines

NewsLETS stories, notices, advertising and reports:

Sun 5th July 2021

BOGI Fair

Being held 2 weeks after the AGM on 29th August 2021, we applied for a stall, and need members for a roster and contribute items to sell at the stall. We may also do a demonstration - please feedback how that might look and the role you are willing to play. We will be online to sign-up members.



All were both friendly and useful but that seems to be the case with all the LETS folk I've met, here and in Perth and Auckland where I have previously been a member.



Another task we did for Russell was sanding timber slats from the balustrade around the deck, preparing them for repainting.

Russell says everyone did a splendid job, and it was topped off by the arrival of another past-president, Michael Cahill, who helped clean up the back yard, traded a couple of items, and gave away a treasure for which he had no further use.



(Story and photos by Lynette Loffel - thank you!)



Ishka had a lovely day and really appreciated the delicious spring rolls that kept coming and a delicious soup with Tofu and other things and bits & pieces after, created by the fabulous cook Minh who was in the kitchen the whole time. It was a very multicultural group of members and non-members. Quite a bit of work was done in the back yard with tree trimming. Helen and I did some sanding on stair rail slats; Sally gave me a very nice haircut.

Lynette Loffel, BLCE 1402 would like to get some things done too after her recent experience!

I would like to invite one or two BrisLETS members to join me for a couple of hours in my Everton Hills garden while the weather is cool. The back yard is mostly sloped, so you need to wear closed shoes or boots, please. I'm asking for help with light tasks that seem too awkward for me to do alone.

You might help me make bamboo handrails or frames, which is easy but needs more than my two hands.

You could pass materials to me while I'm securing the soil around a new plant.

Maybe you could share the question of where to plant some of my shrubs which would like to get out of their pots.

I'm thinking of a short session, either morning or afternoon, and come another time if you enjoyed it.

Payment in LETS units, to be agreed. I'm in Everton Hills, with a 360 bus stop nearby, or I'll collect you from a train station such as Oxford Park or Alderley or Eagle Junction.

Feel free to contact me - I don't like putting my email or phone number in Facebook, but members can find me in the members list on our website -

<https://brislets.com/> and under Users, select User Search.

Or message me through Facebook Messenger. :-)

Structures

Water follows the line of least resistance in a riverbank - and it takes work to leave that structure.

Mainstream community focuses on the structure of when I ___ I have to go to school, uni etc. to get the piece of paper before I become _____.

I have to lose weight to be pretty and accepted.

To be useful, I have to have a job.

The structure of being worthy is hard work, having all the "in" things - regardless of whether the stress of doing something we don't like to have things or do things that make others accept me.

We are giving our power away by letting other people's expectations dictate our lives.

I can't do / have what I love until I feel / look better, earn more, meet the perfect person, get the dream house etc. Ads are aimed at making me feel better when.....

Money is construed as a measure of who I am. It's personal.

BrisLETS comes from a different structure - it's about being who you are now (your lived knowledge, skills, and passions), helping someone - you are doing what you can now, thinking of the big picture to help the community, being appreciated for what you can do now!

I have the opportunity to have what I love now - have help in the home, have holidays, specialized tutoring, emergency accommodation, access to learn hobbies, learn crafts etc.

While living in the mainstream structure, we can also start living a stress free life, transitioning to the structure of living a life we love - taking money out of the picture, and thinking of what really gives me joy and what I really want to achieve.

It's the tension of what I want and what I need to do to get it that motivates us. Always having another goal to move onto helps move us over the lulls when we almost get what we want - to keep going.



Planning a holiday and working out the steps needed to get there motivates us. However not having money doesn't mean we can't have anything.

What does having a holiday mean? Is it the sea, mountains, certain people, being away from where you are daily, going for a reason?

Living a life you love means you don't need to get a break from your normal life but you can just love being by the sea.

What happens after a holiday? Are you satisfied or just snowed under by the extra work it creates?

Creating another thing you love, gets the tension back to move on.

At Trading Days and online in the Members Forum, or talking to neighbours about LETS, we are creating relationships and community that helps create the life you love!

Units are a measure of what people want to pay for the services you provide - not a judgement of who you are!

Talking creates your local community hubs

Early in BrisLETS' 32-year history, members talked to one another to get what people wanted to put in the paper list of offers and wants, about the stories for the newsletter, and people wrote about what happened or they hoped to happen.

Members shared what they saw happening to achieve what they wanted.



There was the physical talking to organize the trades by phone, as well as catching up at the trading days or seeing each other at the local shops etc.



Today's world has seen less local shopping, internet-based updating offers and wants, and fewer members at meetings, but a bigger base across Brisbane as the internet allows us to gather in the groups that have folded as we move online etc.

Sally has been very surprised when she rang to get a service to find it wasn't available, but when asking further questions, that the offering wasn't what they were really interested in doing and moved the conversation in a whole different direction.

Recently there have been quite a few emails bouncing and ringing those members I experienced the same thing. When what they are really interested in is acknowledged, you can hear the energy in their voices, and are more likely to be actively involved.

So we are asking members to start looking at the members around their area, and making calls to introduce themselves, ask about the other members offerings, and ask questions about where they are in their time of life - with the aim of creating local communities hubs. As we saw with the Covid shutdowns at the beginning, local communities play a very important role.

By finding members who can provide what you need locally, you are more likely to use LETS - and trading is what keeps LETS going.

And those relationships lead to finding other people who may use your services and goods or provide what you need either paid for with units or \$ or a combination.

Our AGM is coming up in August

Sally is only doing one term, so we need a President, Web admin, Newsletter producer, Promotion's people at least as Jessie (Sec) and Kelly (Treas) will nominate again. As we are all at different stages in life and without the same time to do all the different roles that we have been playing, please talk and get others to nominate. Nomination forms will be sent out in July like we do the newsletter, wants and offers.

No new members this month.

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