

# BLCE NewsLETS July 2022



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

## Notice of the AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022 at 2pm

The August Trading Day will be at the Albion Peace Hall at 102 McDonald Road, Windsor, under the bridge, 1-4pm.

We will set up for trading, hold the AGM at 2pm, then continue trading. There is a group that comes in at 4pm so need to be packed up and out by 4pm.

The Proxy and Nomination forms will be sent out in the notification email & be uploaded to the Members Forum on Facebook in July, with this newsletter to give the 1 month notice. We need to have those forms returned by Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> of August 8pm, to Jessie, [secretary@brislets.com](mailto:secretary@brislets.com). You could photograph them or scan them. If no nominations are received for a specific position, nominations will be taken from the floor on the day. Proxy forms go to the secretary for documenting, but you nominate on the proxy form who you want to vote on the day for you and / how you want to vote, if you can't attend the AGM in person.

In the notification sent out prior to the August AGM & Trading Day, the 2021 AGM minutes, 2022 Agenda for AGM including the nominations received and motions for the AGM, Cash & Units spread sheets. These will also be uploaded to the Members Forum in Facebook.

At the AGM, the president, secretary, membership, webadmin, social media, promotions, and CES reports will be presented. The treasurer presents the financial reports. The committee stands down and a chair takes the meeting to elect the new committee.

Jessie won't be taking any roles on this year but will ensure that all members taking on whatever role, get the support they need to fulfill that role. She is endeavouring to have a checklist for each role so that anyone can do any role at anytime - they know what to do, when and how. The cash & unit excel sheets are also laid out so it is clearly visible what \$/U is due, when and to who, what money and units that have been flowing this last year, to build on next year.

## IN THIS ISSUE

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## 2 Trading Days in July

3<sup>rd</sup> Sat 16<sup>th</sup> July 1-4pm hosted by  
BLCE1457 Jodi Glasson  
283 Colburn Av, Victoria Point  
04 4743 3304

3<sup>rd</sup> Sun 17<sup>th</sup> July 1-4pm hosted by  
BLCE1440 Jennifer Corlett  
3 Matthew St, Scarborough  
04 1324 4063

**August Trading Day**  
Sun 21st August 2022  
Albion Peace Hall, 1-4pm,  
**AGM is 2pm.**

## Deadlines

*NewsLETS* stories, notices,  
advertising and reports:  
Sun 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022

for publication on  
Sun 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022



**Attend and make your  
vote count.**

## Underlying perspectives of Trading in BrisLETS

**BLCE1498 Andrew** is letting members who can't attend the AGM, know how he is voting, so they can give him their proxy votes if they desire. The motions will be sent out with the Agenda next month.

Andrew is supporting Motion 1 - to remove the upper trading limit of 2000 units (in black or debit) for both existing and new members

Andrew is supporting Motion 2 - to impose a - 200 unit limit on new members (in red or credit), for a period of 12 months. (They can seek special permission from Management Committee to have it removed eg. Long term member transferring from another exchange). The existing members retain the existing - 2000 unit limit (in red or credit).

Andrew is supporting Motion 3b - to reduce the current 4% levy on transactions (applies to buyer and seller as can't change that in CES), to 1% levy (applies to buy and seller).

Andrew is supporting Motion 4 - removing the perceived debit limit so the management committee can use the administrative account as it sees fit. (So can pay all committee roles or outsourced services for the work they actually do, regardless of the balance of the units in the admin account BLCE0000. The management committee would determine the work to be undertaken).

Andrew in previous articles, has expressed his belief that BrisLET would flourish if we focused on on what we need from other members. We need to give and receive, and to start that, all the people taking on roles need to be paid for what they actually do. Those members that get on well, tend to drop the trading recording altogether.

In his book, LETSaholic Twist, written after his world travel, James Taris, talks of thinking of units as favours. That by thinking of trading as a way of doing things for friends, allows you to find more thoughtful caring and creative ways to trade with others.

**Thank you new member BLCE1468 Eleanor - for this story.**

### Behind the Trading Unit

—The value of energy and how to keep it flowing.

The idea of Community Exchange was a revelation to me when it first arrived in the form of LETS in the nearby town of Bellingen NSW in around 1989. I signed up straight away. Many people like



me, were trying to increase their self-sufficiency and create a more fulfilling and sustainable life for themselves and their children. Money and paid employment was generally in short supply but human energy - in one form or another - was always available.

At the time I was surprised at the limited number of people who signed up, and, out of those that did, the few took action to start trading. Now I understand that many don't feel comfortable with new unfamiliar ideas, that they'd have to interact with people they didn't know, or that the idea of offering your hard-earned skills without monetary return might have felt too risky.

Unfortunately the exchange came into trouble because the people with the most popular offerings, such as the car mechanic, became unit-millionaires but couldn't find what they needed within the system. The movement of energy became blocked.

My life has been enriched in so many ways through exchanging energy ever since - and sometimes saved, especially during lean or crisis times. It's all the more important now, especially as the world turns and global markets and long-distance supplies become more expensive and less

reliable. Luckily for us traders, we have one of the most important tools for resilience at our fingertips. Community. Through strong community we can support each other psychologically and physically. Socially, creatively and spiritually. And how does this happen? By exchanging energy.

So I believe it is important to explore ways we can ensure that this energy flows freely and realises its true value. I have come across various 'blockages' during my on and off involvement in trading, creating and maintaining community exchanges over the last 30-plus years and I'd like to share two of the approaches that have had some success in getting things moving again.

### 1. How best to get your energy 'out there'.

When you join an exchange, you try to think of what you would like to offer. It might be an item, a skill, a service. At this stage, you might not have met any other traders or seen an offerings list, so might not know what's needed. Unfortunately, many traders get the impression that 'this is it'. You've completed the process. But it's actually just the beginning. Sure there is the 'Wants' section, but in reality, there are unlimited ways you can share your energy.

The energy contribution that has been the most valuable for me has been 'a hand'. Usually something different each time. We ALL need a hand with one thing or another, at some time or another. I believe that helping each other out is the most important element of a resilient community. Perhaps everyone should be encouraged to offer A Helping Hand. Obviously they can't detail every little skill, experience or physical action they can help with but they can clarify the type of assistance that definitely *isn't* suitable, for example, physical lifting, driving or technology.

### 2. Valuing your energy.

At one stage, the management of my local exchange created many new roles for the administration of the system. They decided that the previous team hadn't put enough focus on office work. Units were created to pay for the large team carrying its work, and even more paid work was needed to raise the funds needed for all the new stationary supplies, furniture and equipment.

At the same time, a dollar component became part of nearly every exchange. Perhaps it started off reasonable enough, perhaps a crafts-person wanted to cover the cost of their materials, or a local business was brought on board offering a discount to LETS members. But it spread. After all, if you have to include \$\$ in your payment, why shouldn't you do the same to your own customers?

So, what happened?

The trading dwindled and a large number of traders dropped away. The main energy exchange seemed to be from the Admin account to the Admin staff, whose energy was taken up in the

office instead of offering energy to other traders. Many traders expressed that they felt a disconnect with the Admin team and the committee who made important decisions without consulting them.

The value of the unit plummeted. More and more services were offered as a \$ discount for traders rather than from energy that had been exchanged elsewhere. In the end, it was mostly only the few traders who didn't charge \$ that were active.

Later on, when I became involved in the Admin again, we discussed these and other issues with the traders and it was decided that \$ costs under a certain amount should not be claimed in \$. Likewise for costs involved for those working in Admin. After all, most traders' energy came with some monetary costs, somewhere along the line. Information on the many benefits of trading without \$ was shared with traders, both existing and new, including the particular benefits for businesses.

Admin unit costs had to balance with the Admin levy. Dollar spending was a last resort. Raffles were organised and everyone encouraged to purchase a small number for \$, then choosing whether to sell-on to people they knew, who may not be members, or keep them for themselves. Of

course, by then, the system could be managed online and we didn't need to be incorporated so the bureaucratic and admin work was minimal. The main running of the system only really required a group of 2 -4 people. We encouraged everyone to volunteer to be part of a sub-group or working group to help develop and maintain a successful exchange. This, in turn resulted in more traders connecting and 'owning' their exchange.

Food for thought!

### We will have 2 July Trading Days!

**On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1-4pm BLCE1457 Jodi** will host her day at 283 Colburn Av, Victoria Point.

Jodi can't attend the trading days on Sunday as she has her stall at the markets, where she sells soy candles. Others have said the same thing, so this is a chance for those people to meet up.

If it is raining, there will be cover for it. Please bring a table and chair. Jodi is putting up posters in the local area, so would love experienced trading day members to attend and help her out please! Could you let her know so Jodi gets an idea of who will be coming.

**On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1-4pm BLCE1440 Jennifer** will host her day at 3 Matthew Street, Scarborough.

Jennifer has been a member in other LETS, is very creative and has lots of items available for trading. Jenni is putting up posters and is engaging locals, so is asking for members for support & to bring items for trading to showcase BrisLETS to increase membership.



### We seem to be organically creating Local Area Coordinators now

Rosie & Jessica are meeting socially for North Brisbane members to engage more members and trading, outside of the official trading days. Sarah, Jennifer and other northsiders are keen to get trading at markets.

James is interested in permaculture and keen to generate interest locally in the Gold Coast. Once Jessie has time, she will be more available for Logan activities.



### CES News Update

Rita is the new admin person for Australia.

<https://www.communityexchange.net.au>

### Workcover Insurance



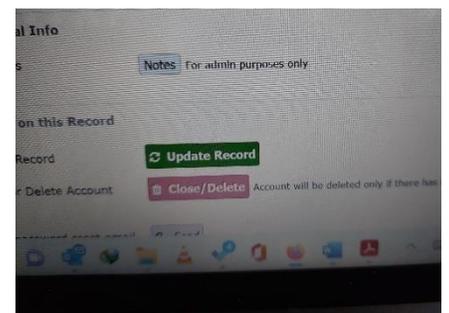
\$50 for 2 years to cover individuals working in your house. Phone 1300 362 128 or <https://ols.workcoverqld.com.au/ols/public/newbusiness>

### When you pass

A sort of LETS 'Will' so that the Admin can make the changes to the LETS account when the time comes.

In the members account at the very bottom of your profile in your CES account is Admin Notes. Members can nominate their next of kin. Please give name, address, phone number & email address & what you want done with their credits when you can no longer manage or pass.

Only the Admin is able to type in the Notes field so members need to send the instructions to Admin via email to add to the account notes. Not visible to anyone.





Please welcome new member:

**BLCE1468 Eleanor - Laidley Offers:** Online support, resume development, fiction writing skills

**Wants:** Pots, tools and groundcover cuttings.  
We thank Eleanor for the above article.

### Great May Trading Day hosted by Michael & Isabelle

We had a great conversation around possible motions to go to the AGM to help generate membership and trading.

We met new member Jennifer who showed her very creative talent where she wove old T-shirts to create very colourful practical art in the form of mats or wall hangings.



### The conversations continued at the June Trading Day



Ishka does the journals made of vegan leather created from the toilet rolls. Also water kefir.

Jessica makes fun gardening bags from pet feedbags, recycling and making useful items.



Rosie had gorgeous avocados and pizza.

They are encouraging other North Brisbane members to join them for social get togethers outside of the trading day. Catch up with them at our next Trading day in July to discuss social activities and trading.

### Social media ads

A very big thank you to Jodi for putting together some ads and putting them on the Facebook groups and page, and creating the posters for the July Trading Days.

As with the newsletter, it's really hard to come up with content, and a bit easier to create the image etc.

### Would you like to host the September Trading Day?

**Brisbane Organic Growers Inc**  
**Organic Fair**  
 Sunday 28 August 8am - 2pm  
 102 McDonald Road, Windsor

- Learn all about growing organically "For the Kitchen Garden"
- Free Demonstrations and talks
- Free gardening advice
- Free animal nursery
- Stalls selling herbs, books, seeds, plants, jams, tools and much more
- Relax with friends in the BOGI Café
- Browse the produce from member's suburban gardens
- Stay for the Auction of competition entries

enquires email: bogifair@gmail.com  
 phone: 0417 574 149  
 website: www.bogi.org.au

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### Bogi Fair

The weekend after the AGM, the Bogi Fair is held at the Peace Hall.

We have paid for the stall under the overpass, same as last year through convenor, Chris.

Members are asked to donate items to sell and roster to be at the stall. Sell to members for units, \$ to non members. 10% of sales goes to BrisLETS as fundraising.