

Upcoming Events

Sunday 16th March 2014

Rob and Kay Vidovic invite members to their house at 170 Park Rd, Woolloongabba, from 2-5pm. With good street traffic it will be a great opportunity to showcase BrisLETS. Please bring a chair, items to trade and plate to share.

Sunday 13th April 2014

Fred Olsen will host on the 2nd Sunday due to Easter the following weekend. Fred is doing a massive declutter so bargains for everyone at 35 Deagon St, Sandgate, from 2-5pm. Please carpool or bring a trailer for lots of goodies. Also bring items to trade and a plate to share.

Sunday 17th May 2014

Kris Brittain at 8 Alkira St, Sunnybank Hills, will host from 2-5pm. Come along with your trading items and a plate to share.

Sunday 22nd June 2014

Refugee Festival

Annerley Recreation Fields from 9am until 5pm. This major event is always heaps of fun. BrisLETS may have a stall there. See page 2 for more information.

Did you know you can earn 50 units for hosting a trading day?

We have vacancies for the June, and August trading days. The AGM in July will be in a library. To register your interest, contact Liz (see page 3).

**Trading days are the
3rd Sunday of the month**

Christmas Party & Dec Trading Day

The afternoon drew a good crowd at Michael and Isabelle's new house and, along with Rob and friends, we celebrated the end of 2013 with good music and food. New and old BrisLETS members enthusiastically welcomed members from other LETS groups and visitors to spread the word.



Calling all gamers!

New member **Andras (BLCE0955)** is looking for players to play fantasy/sci-fi role-playing games. If you don't know what role-playing games are, think Dungeons and Dragons. It's sort of like that, selecting a character to play and rolling a dice to determine actions.

Andras is happy to host gaming sessions at his place in Taringa on a Saturday evening, either fortnightly or monthly. If you've played them before Andras has quite a few role-playing games he'd be willing to run, but if you want to run your own that's fine too.

If you're interested, email Andras directly on danskmacabre@googlemail.com.

January Trading Day

Marg welcomed old and new members to her wonderful backyard for our January trading day. A very relaxing and peaceful few hours were had by all with lots of great bargains!

February Trading Day

New members Storm, Andras and family warmly welcomed the BrisLETS family at their Taringa property in February. Lots of information was shared and new friends and members made.



March trading day

All are welcome to Rob and Kay's place this Sunday for our monthly trading day. If you enjoyed the drumming at the Christmas party, be prepared for more fun! Rob will also have tables for your trading, afternoon tea and cake, and there is room for kids to play.

Call for volunteers

We are excited to announce that, thanks to our Promotion/Publicity Person (PPP), Rob Vidovich, we 'may' have a spot at this year's Refugee Festival on Sunday 22 June from 9am until 5pm. Watch this space for a call for volunteers to help person the stall in shifts of two hours. If you would like to help, please contact our secretary, Liz (contact details on page 3).

Our April trading day is in Sandgate

AFTER 44 YEARS OF HOARDING, FRED NEEDS TO "DE-SQUIRREL"

Sunday 13th April

35 Deagon St, Sandgate 2-5pm

An Aladdin's cave of treasures with 50 tables of bargains will be waiting for you in Sandgate in April. There will be something for everyone.

Bring your friends and family and car pool. It'll be a fun afternoon and everyone is sure to leave with lots of bargains.

Be prepared to be surprised! It will amaze you what Fred has stored away.

There are carpet squares, building materials, paint, a range of gardening items, plants, as well as a wide range of knick knacks.

Bring your trading items, a plate to share and come and bag some treasures!

And remember, you will be helping Fred at the same time!



Welcome to our new members

A very big WELCOME to our new members who come from a variety of backgrounds and who will add their own energy to BrisLETS!

The committee would also like to acknowledge all the hard work Kate Barzdo (BLCE0628) has undertaken in building up the Samford LETS community. Thanks Kate!

Abdul Adam (BLCE0961) Woolloongabba, 0411 675 369
Handyman

Jennifer Steward (BLCE0962) Windsor, 0414 401 781
Light gardening, dog care/walking, sewing, cooking

Fay Benjamin (BLCE0964) Samford Valley, 3289 1879
Organic vegie gardening, sourdough starter, computer help, pet minding, Steve Brady stock saddle

Beth Jane Vassallo (BLCE0965) Albany Creek, 0424 070 012
Elderly companion, Reiki

Robert & Agnes Mude (BLCE0966) Woodridge, 0470 527 693
Mechanic, handyman, African cooking & gardening

Offerings

Amanda Kelly (BLCE1306) Coopers Plains, 0432 595 598
Electric wok, ironing, waitressing, home help, gardening/weeding

Fred Olsen (BLCE0888) Sandgate, 3269 4395
Building materials, carpet tiles, paints, gardening items etc (see page 2 for more details)

Jeni Lewington (BLCE1381) Woodridge, 0420 212 610
Yoghurt maker 20 units, small electric heater 5 units

Wants

Abdul Adam (BLCE0961)
Help to practise conversational English

Robert and Agnes Mude (BLCE0966)
Learning Australian cooking and gardening, professional painting and roofing/guttering

Beth Jane Vassallo (BLCE0965)
Singing lessons, portable record player, help starting a vegie garden

Amanda Kelly (BLCE1306)
Please contact Amanda if you have jobs you need to be done. Amanda's account is locked so she needs to earn units.

Storm Furness (BLCE0955)
Looking for a sunlounger and help from a piano removalist to pick up and move a piano up their stairs.
stormdkoz@gmail.com Taringa

Trading Figures

Dec 2013 – 88 Trades
Totalling 4417 units
Av Trade 50.19 units
Admin Levy – 353.36 units

Jan 2014 – 48 Trades
Totalling 3243 units
Av Trade 67.56 units
Admin Levy – 219.44 units

Feb 2014 – 57 Trades
Totalling 2432 units
Av Trade 42.67 units
Admin Levy – 194.56 units

Remember to enter your trades online in the month they're generated.

There are 185 active and 7 locked members so please check who you can trade with, who you can buy from (or help hold a trading day) to help them become unlocked.

To be an active user, you must have at least one current offering. You can choose to display your offerings and wants for up to 12 months.

Please update your offerings and wants regularly to keep current and to be included in the lists of offerings and wants, which are emailed to members once a month.

Current Committee Contacts

President
Adrian Vos (BLCE0267)
3266 8007 or 0408 882 711

Secretary/Treasurer
Liz Stanhope (BLCE0138)
3391 4331 or 0414 603 528

Newsletter Editor
Jessie Scott (BLCE1422)
3808 7990 or 0401 198 829

Web Admin/Newsletter Proofreader
Jeni Lewington (BLCE1381)
0420 212 610

Promotions/Publicity
Rob Vidovich (BLCE1434)
3166 8201 or 0424 291 348

Workshop for SEQ LETS groups

A weekend workshop for South East Qld LETS group members is being held on 4–6 April to plan improved interaction between the various LETS groups.

Caboolture, Woodford, Maleny, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane LETS will be doing brainstorming sessions on various topics including developing interLETS communications, succession planning and using social media to attract members etc.

The workshops will start at 9.30am on Sat 5th and run through to 11am Sun 6th April, with social activities planned for Friday and Saturday nights.

Location: Julie Emery's house (132 Sudholz St, Verrierdale – a rural property near Yandina).

You will need to provide your own tent or a mattress to put in the shed, your own chair and bedding, and also your own food and a shared meal for Saturday night. Carpooling is highly recommended. The cost will be a unit donation to the host.

Please RSVP to Ann Wensley on ph 5437 0011 (preferred) or email annewensley@gmail.com.

Feel good websites

Freecycle.org is a very successful website where you can offer to give away items or pick up what someone else is giving away. You can meet some amazing people. Did you know? You can offer free items on BrisLETS too!

Retrash.com is upcycling at its best. Artists make and sell art out of recycled objects, thereby reducing landfill and supporting two charities; the first (FINCA.org) aims to reduce poverty and the second (Helen Bamber Foundation) supports survivors of genocide, torture, trafficking and rape.

The Plastic Bank (plasticbank.org) is an organization designed to remove plastic waste from the world's oceans, beaches and waterways while simultaneously empowering people living in poverty to raise their standard of living.

Their goal is to establish 'Plastic Banks' strategically located in impoverished areas with an existing abundance of plastic waste. The Plastic Bank will offer people both education and the opportunity to exchange recyclable plastics for credits that can be used for the printing of 3D products, repurposed necessities and/or micro-finance loans.

Update on AUAE

You may have noticed that the popular Australian Accommodation Exchange (AUAE) is no longer appearing in our drop-down list of exchanges. We recently discovered that the administrator, Kathryn Spencer, will be travelling for the next couple of years so she decided to close the AUAE.

What does this mean for you?

If you want to travel using the extensive LETS network within Australia or New Zealand, you will need to arrange your accommodation yourself from now on.

However, if you think you'd have a little time to maintain the AUAE database, please contact Annette Loudon (annette@niftycorp.com) for details.

Something to think about

The BrisLETS AGM is coming up in July.

In preparation, I located the following links, which might help members to visualise how you want BrisLETS to evolve – in 12 months, in five years, in ten years even.

- <http://mindvalleyacademy.com/featured/theory-of-awesomeness>
- <http://mindvalleyacademy.com/featured/theory-of-awesomeness-infographic>
- <http://www.mindvalley.com/flow#sthash.GAz9zDaq.GmN9br0M.dpbs>

Long-term members know how LETS benefits in unexpected ways, but how can we share and promote the many benefits of BrisLETS with others?

Jessie Scott

Have your say

The website www.lets.org.au is up for renewal in August 2014. For this domain, hosting and maintenance is currently paid by BrisLETS at a cost of around \$50.00 bi-annually for the domain name, 125 units for hosting and 240 units for maintenance per year.

Prior to making a decision about renewing, we (the BrisLETS committee) would like to seek your opinion on the usefulness of this site. We have prepared a short ten question survey that should only take five minutes to complete.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PZT6V7M>

Please complete the survey before **Fri 18 April 2014**.

I bet you didn't know this!

Tim Jenkin, who set up the CES database that LETS works on, was one of these two men.

Incredible story of how two white anti-apartheid freedom fighters broke out of South Africa's toughest prison in the 1970s with keys they made from wood.

<http://tinyurl.com/qz8tf6m>

(Article from the Daily Mail online)

Trading makes CENTS

Community Exchange Network Tasmania pools resources

By ARYELLE SARGENT

THE Wynyard Community Food Collaboration has taken on a whole new aspect — CENT.

Netty Schrammeyer took her project to another level when she became a trader with the Community Exchange Network Tasmania.

This program that initially started on the North-West Coast two years ago, has now spread to the rest of the state.

CENT is a network of people trading goods, services and skills — without the need for reaching into your wallet.

As a trader, Mrs Schrammeyer sees the direct benefit the program has for the community.

"If [community members] don't have an income, or have a very low income and require things done, but don't have the money for it, this gives them a process," Mrs Schrammeyer said.

Some of the examples of trade Mrs Schrammeyer has seen at play is gardening, academics offering interpretation of forms or editing assignments, sewing and knitting services, accounts management and oil changes.

"There are people asking for these services, in fact someone is looking for a buck rabbit to mate with their doe rabbit," Mrs Schrammeyer said.

The way it works is you offer your services online by the hour, and as you perform these services you build credits, which you can then use to "purchase" services.

"When you become a member everyone can see what your trade



Netty Schrammeyer cooking up sauerkraut in her kitchen. Mrs Schrammeyer is a trader on the Community Exchange Network Tasmania, where people trade goods, services and skills.

is and everyone who joins has to put something up for offer to trade," Mrs Schrammeyer said.

The program had already made a positive impact on the community, according to Mrs Schrammeyer.

"A single mum I know has made contact with a lady and done her gardening, the lady has really

enjoyed her company," Mrs Schrammeyer said.

"This mum has been [gardening] regularly and saving up her credits, meaning she could get her car taken to the mechanics."

Mrs Schrammeyer said this trading system was not to be confused with the old-fashioned bartering system and said there

was a lot of trust involved.

"It is an extremely good social capitalist system," Mrs Schrammeyer said.

"The trust builds a completely different relationship with the person you are trading with."

■ To get involved visit www.nwcents.org and select register for CENTs on the left.

Source: Coast to Coast section of The Advocate Today,
Obtained via CENTs Tasmania's Facebook page



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 \$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 <http://www.workcoverqld.com.au/insurance/do-i-need-a-policy/household-worker-insurance>

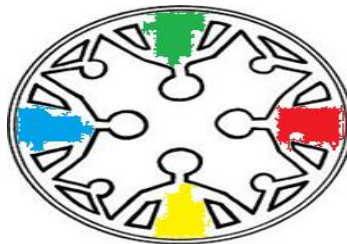
Articles for the newsletter

Please send articles, offers and wants to the editor, Jessie, or suggestions/ideas for the committee to the secretary, Liz. The deadline for the Winter BrisLETS News is **25 May 2014**.

Make use of recommendations

Show your appreciation for a fellow LETS' member's services by leaving an online recommendation. Login > Buyer actions > Recommendations > Give recommendation > Select user > brief description > Submit. Simple and effective!

BrisLETS



News

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