



Bega Valley LETS

Bega Valley Local Employment Trading System

NEW ADMIN SYSTEM FOR BV LETS

Bega Valley LETS started in 1989 with a manual paper based administration system and in June 1998 progressed to a computer based system called LETS ASSIST. In 2000-1 the BV LETS Co-ordinator, Paul Parker, instigated, with the programming skills of Murray Hopkins, local improvements to our LETS ASSIST with the creation of LETS REPORT. There were no updates available for the original Canadian based LETS ASSIST programme. LETS ASSIST & LETS REPORT have served us well and with today's technology is now outdated.

A new on-line system has been developed called the Community Exchange System (CES) Network, www.community-exchange.org, where all admin functions are done online and from any computer with internet access. The CES Network does everything that LETS ASSIST did and more. Members access their account details online (balances and transactions) and enter their own transactions online just like Internet Banking. Those who do not have computers can go to their local area co-ordinators, who act as local 'branches of the bank'. Others go to internet cafes, libraries, schools etc. Your info is secured with your Username & Password. New members can join LETS and current members can renew their membership and change or add to their OFFERS & REQUESTS. All this can be done from any computer with Internet access. All LETS info will be up to date all the time.

This will reduce the work load significantly on the Co-ordinator and other admin staff and there will be less drain on our Sapph & dollar resources.

For members who do not have internet access, or who do not want to use the on-line system, the normal paper based system can still be used as before. So non on-line members will still have the level of service they had before. On-line members will have increased levels of access and improved trading opportunities.

In fact, through the CES Network, you can trade with any other group within the CES Network. The CES Network has groups in Australia, New Zealand and Internationally. You can use your Sapphs with any CES Network Group anywhere in the world. *i.e Accommodation in New Zealand* It is proposed that the new CES Network will be implemented as soon as this Spring Newsletter is published when all current member info is up to date.

For the majority of members the transition will be seamless and you will be kept informed of progress during the implementation.

The new CES Network will enable Bega Valley LETS to expand and provide a higher level of service to members at no extra cost and a reduced work load on the administration. For a lot more detail you can get more info at

http://thebegavalley.org.au/fileadmin/bega/registrations/community/LETS/docs/CES_INFO.pdf .

Any members who want to know more or have input about the CES Network can contact Kym Mogridge by e-mail to info@adobewebs.com or call 02 6494 1051.

Here is what other LETS systems in Australia are saying:

"We are rapt in the site (CES) as it gives members access to change their offers, put points on for services they have..... We were using LETS ASSIST but were frustrated with limitations of this system." Rosemary Johnson (Warranwood LETS)

"We too were using the old LETS ASSIST but had many problems. 2 other Lets systems in Adelaide we also use the CES online system. Its great. Members now take responsibility for their accounts and enter their transactions so the workload doesn't all fall on a few people. Offers and Wants and Notices are all done via the net so there are no costs for postage, etc."
Sue Andrews, North East Adelaide Lets

"It (CES Network) is fantastic and I just can't recommend it enough, it takes such a huge pressure off the administrators of LETS. The members we have without computers still post their cheques or have the buyer help them enter the transaction on their behalf. I'm also arranging training sessions for those not really up with the internet although I've had a lot of people come to me and say what an easy system it is to figure out and use."
Korina, Central Coast LETS

"It (CES Network) allows members to list & delete their own offers, wants and which all takes a lot of pressure off the administrators of groups. our members and our administrators all think it is fantastic. Our members are not all 'techno savvy' but anyone who can access a computer through a library or community centre etc could use this system. and certainly makes keeping listing updated a lot easier."
Susan Lloyd North East LETS

Following is further information about the CES Network in more detail.

- APPENDIX A details the Administrative functions available through the CES Network. This range of functions exceeds that available in LETS ASSIST.
- APPENDIX B details the comments and communications I have had from a number of other LETS operating in Australia. My "enquiry" e-mail went out to 59 LETS around Australia and I have had no negative comments about CES Network.
- APPENDIX C details the communications I have had with Tim Jenkin, the CES Network Administrator.
- APPENDIX D lists the 12 LETS Groups in Australia & 13 LETS Groups in New Zealand using the CES Network.

APPENDIX A

Each CES exchange comes with its own sophisticated Administrative Interface. This is the 'backend' of the site from which the administrator manages the exchange.

The following functions are currently available from the CES Administrative Interface:

Members	Offerings	Statistics & Reports
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve Registrations 2. Create New Account 3. View/Edit Accounts 4. Print Membership List 5. Print Address List 6. Search for members 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add Offering 2. Edit Offerings 3. Edit Offering Categories 4. Delete Expired Offerings 5. E-mail Offerings List 6. Offerings List (by category) 7. Offerings List (by member) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group Statistics & Reports <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trading Statistics View the real-time trading position of this exchange 2. Trader Activity View members' balances and when they last traded 3. Trader Statistics View the real-time statistics about the traders of this exchange 4. Balance Report View summary of accounts in credit and debit 5. Trading Activity View trading statistics for a selected time period 6. Balance Report View detailed summary of accounts in credit and debit 7. Member Balances View balances of all traders of this exchange 8. Access Details View when members last accessed their accounts 9. Balance of Trade View "balance of trade" of all exchanges 10. Membership Statistics View the real-time membership statistics of this exchange 11. Balance of Trade View "balance of trade" of all exchanges in this country 12. Membership Growth View the real-time growth in membership of this exchange 13. Transaction Report View trade details for selected period of time 14. Exchange Rates View the "exchange rates" between the various exchanges 2. Local Area Co-ordinators 3. Print Membership List 4. Print Offerings List 5. Print Wants List
Transactions	Wants	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enter Single Transaction 2. Enter Multiple Transactions 3. Paste Transaction Data 4. Inter-Account Transfers 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add Want 2. Edit Wants 3. Delete Expired Wants 4. E-mail Wants List 5. Print Wants List 	
Publications	Announcements	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Send Newsletter 2. Send Update/Notice 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Add Announcement 2. Edit Announcements 3. Delete Expired Items 	
Control Panel	Management	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Edit Group Settings 2. Edit Administrator Details 3. Edit Membership Co-ordinator Details 4. Edit Invitation Letter Text 5. Edit Home Page Text 6. Edit Welcome Letter Text 7. Edit Sub-Areas/Groups 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. E-mail Account Numbers & Passwords 2. Print Account Numbers & Passwords 3. E-mail Statements of Account 4. Print Statements of Account 5. Transfer Funds to Administration Account 	

APPENDIX B

Below are some extracts from e-mails I received during my research into the CES:

Warranwood LETS, Victoria

Hi Kym, Jenny Millar forwarded this to me. Your website looks great. We (Warranwood LETS, Vic) have just gone onto the CES site for our administration needs. We are rapt in the site as it gives members access to change their offers, put points on for services they have performed and it certainly would make interLETS alot easier. The website is www.ces.org.za. You can get onto the site and have a play around. There are no costs involved in membership of the site and it is backed up remotely. We were using LETS assist but were frustrated with limitations of this system. You can also post future events on it so other groups can see what you're up to as well as your own members. In our group Keith Talbot has put in a lot of time and effort in uploading members info, etc. You could ring him on 03 9876 1846 or email him at talbot.keith.e@edumail.vic.gov.au. All the best with it. Cheers, Rosemary Johnson (Warranwood LETS), rosemaryjohnson@aanet.com.au, 9872 4895 (H) 0412 046 270

North East Adelaide LETS

Hi All , I'm Sue Andrews, co-ordinator of North East Adelaide Lets. We too were using the old Lets Assist but had many problems. Along with the 2 other Lets systems in Adelaide we now use the CES online system. Its great. Members now take on responsibility for their own accounts and enter their own transactions so the workload doesn't all fall on a few people. Offers and Wants and Notices are all done via the net so there are no costs for postage, etc. The CES people in South Africa are very helpful. Their website is www.ces.org.za. cheers, Sue, nelets@hotmail.com

Central Coast LETS, NSW

Hi Kim, Have a look at www.ces.org.za It is fantastic and I just can't recommend it enough, it takes such a huge pressure off the administrators of LETS. The members we have without computers still post their cheques or have the buyer help them enter the transaction on their behalf. I'm also arranging training sessions for those not really up with the internet although I've had a lot of people come to me and say what an easy system it is to figure out and use. Go to the demo site and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or go directly to Tim who is the administrator of CES, tim@ces.org Korina , Central Coast LETS, korina@centralcoastlets.org

North East LETS, Adelaide SA.

Hi Kym, I am on leave this week and have time to answer your email. 3 groups in South Australia , North East LETS, SIS LETS and Salisbury have all converted to using the CES System at <http://www.ces.org.za/> This has the facility to list offers & wants and you can access other groups world wide who use the system. It allows members to list & delete their own offers , wants and transactions (actioned by seller) which all takes a lot of pressure off the administrators of groups. Tim in South Africa has been never endingly useful to Deni Odium who took the time to research existing systems and then set up this for our groups. It does have the same risks of any computer system that it should be backed up in case of failure but so far has caused no grief to our members and our administrators all think it is fantastic. Our members are not all 'techno savvy' but anyone who can access a computer through a library or community centre etc could use this system. It appears to meet your needs, be compatible with the existing groups and certainly makes keeping listing updated a lot easier. Cheers Susan Lloyd NESAO162 08 8365 2996 (home) 0421 791 821 (mobile) sanddll@adam.com.au

APPENDIX C

Details of the communications I have had with Tim Jenkin, the CES Administrator.

16/07/2007 Dear Kym, We have transferred many other LETS groups in Australia and New Zealand to CES and it sounds as if it will be possible to import your data too. There is currently no way to do it yourself, but if you send us your data in Access, Excel or as comma/tab delimited text (in fact, just about any format will do!) we can import it into CES. This means that you will be able to carry on as before, with all members having the correct details and account balances. The Demo site does not show you the backend to the website (called the administrative interface), which is even more extensive than the user interface. There is every possible tool that you can require. The list detailed in Appendix A.

There are two other management interfaces: one for a membership co-ordinator that has all the functions in Appendix A that relate to membership management (e.g. adding them to the system, adding wants and offers etc.); and another for co-ordinators. A co-ordinator in the CES operates as a 'branch of the bank'; meaning that they are trusted members who can input information on behalf of others (e.g. those who do not have computers).

The CES database is probably much more extensive than what you currently use. We have never found a field in any other LETS group's data that has not been accommodated. If you require a special field we can create that for you.

CES is currently a centrally-managed system and the software is not available for download. This means it is not in the public domain. It is like this for historical reasons and not out of choice. We are in fact busy creating CES version 2 that will be in the public domain and the software will be available for download. However, we have found that most administrators are not really that keen on having software they can download. Most groups just want something that works and don't want to be bothered with code and web servers etc. If you start off with the current CES you will be able to run it from your own server when the public domain code becomes available (that's if you want to!).

Each exchange on CES has its own entirely separate database but everyone shares the same interface code. Each group can customise the site for its own use and many groups have registered their own domain names so that CES runs off their own web sites. The main domain name for CES is actually www.community-exchange.org so you won't have to show your users the www.ces.org.za address.

All exchanges are networked, meaning that it is possible to trade between exchanges wherever they are in the world. If you were to travel to New Zealand, for instance, you would be able to get accommodation there and 'pay' for it with your locally earned credits.

We understand that it is scary to have your database so far away but we can send you backup copies of the database as often as you like. We do this with a number of the other groups. The data is also heavily backed up at our end so there is little chance of it all getting lost.

I hope that answers your questions! Regards Tim Jenkin CES Administrator

18/07/2008 Hi Kym, We look forward to receiving your registration. If you want us to import your data then just send it to us and we will convert it to CES format. It is difficult to say how long it will take because we would need to see the data first in order to determine how much work is involved. Usually we find that trading data sent to us does not add up and so we have to jiggle the figures! You will have to stop your recording while we get your site up and running. This might take a few days. Regards Tim Jenkin CES Administrator

19/07/2007 In CES members are able to manage their own accounts so the administrative burden is enormously reduced. Here in Cape Town we have over 2,500 members and practically everyone does their own inputting of trades, offerings and wants etc. Those who do not have computers go to their local area co-ordinators, who act as local 'branches of the bank'. Others go to internet cafes, libraries, schools etc. I am the administrator of the Cape Town Talent Exchange and hardly ever enter any transactions! You will probably have a traditionalist backlash when you tell the older members to manage their own accounts, but with your new members you should get them used to the idea that they manage their own accounts. We never had that problem so for our admin the burden is the same now as it was at the start. This means the group can grow to any size, whereas with traditional LETS the limit was soon reached. It was the point where the administrator couldn't handle any more!

Tim Jenkin CES Administrator

APPENDIX D

LETS GROUPS IN AUSTRALIA USING THE CES NETWORK

1. Bega Valley LETS AU
2. CC LETS AU
3. Goulburn Valley AU
4. Katoomba AU
5. Logan AU
6. NE Adelaide AU
7. Perth Northern Suburbs AU
8. Rainbow Region LETS AU
9. Salisbury Adelaide AU
10. SISLets Adelaide AU
11. Tuljun Boolaroo AU
12. Warranwood LETS AU

LETS GROUPS IN NEW ZEALAND USING THE CES NETWORK

1. IBES Invercargill NZ
2. LETS Connect NZ
3. MATES Murihiku NZ
4. NZ Community Exchange NZ
5. REBS Wanganui NZ
6. Steiner Lower Hutt NZ
7. Taranaki LETS NZ
8. ThamesG\$E NZ
9. Timaru LETS NZ
10. Wairarapa LETS NZ
11. WEBS Wanaka NZ
12. Wellington NZ
13. WEST Kumara NZ