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LETS GEMS

MARCH 2005

Transaction Totals Report for the
 Period
 19/11/2004-17/02/2005
 Count of Transactions 272
 24, 540 sapphs traded

Next meeting: Sunday March 13th
Newsletter Deadline: Monday May 16th

Thank you Judith
 Welcome Sue

LETS/PERMACULTURE WORKSHOP & MEETING
SUNDAY 13TH MARCH 2005

Grey water reuse workshop. Kim Mogridge and Phill Gall will be there to give their expertise but we also want input from all.

Learn about different methods of grey water reuse and how to distribute water into your garden. Bring information about your own experience to share. We will discuss which plants to use and how to effectively water them with grey water

**PAUL PARKERS PLACE
 PANBULA ST CANDELO**

From Bega, cross the river and turn left towards Wyndhan. Take the first turn right into Panbula St. It curves to the right, go to the end past the no through road sign and keep going into the block.

Bring lunch, drinks chair, hat, grandmother etc

LETS Meeting & Trading	11:30
Lunch	12:30
Greywater	1:30

Valley Local workgroups
Contact people

Brogo - Helene & Claude Marmoux
 64927357
 Bemboka - Sukalpa Goldflam
 64930325
 Tilba, Bermi, Cobargo - Anna Walker
 64936746
 Tathra Kalaru Tanja - Lizzie Doyle
 64941401
 Wolumla Shane Arden

A big 'hello' to all LETS members. My name is Kerrie and I live at Candelo. For some time now I've had the pleasure of being a team worker in the Brogo monthly 'Working Bees'. I've met some wonderful people and have had the opportunity to try my hand at various work activities, learning much along the way.

The Brogo Workgroup will be coming to Candelo on Sunday 20th March to assist me in construction of a fishpond and watergarden.

They have kindly offered to assist in establishing a Workgroup in Candelo.

Anyone interested in forming a Candelo workgroup come along on the day, meet a great group of people, dig some dirt or move some rocks if you feel inclined, earn some sapph's, share a meal and learn how and why the Brogo community have such a great, supportive and 'happening' workgroup.

Hopefully, together we can achieve the same success in Candelo!

PLACE: Kerrie Obray's

DATE: Sunday, 20th of March, 2005

ADDRESS: 4 Wolumla Road Candelo.

(The 4th house on the left as you enter Wolumla Rd at the Candelo Rural Fire Station - I will hang some balloons from trees in front yard)

PHONE: 64932140

TIME: 8.30 - 9.00 start

Hope to see you on the day!

PERMACULTURE

COURSES IN THE BEGA VALLEY – 2005

72 hours Permaculture Design Certificate Course – July 3 to 14 at Mumbulla School in Bega. Tutors John Champagne and Darren Doherty with friends.

Weekend Introduction to Permaculture Courses at Brogo Permaculture Gardens.

March 19 & 20

May 15 & 16

November 5 & 6

Tutor and inquiries
John Champagne 64 927306

Welcome to New Members

Christine Hourigan #612 Tathra

Michelle Marley #613 Cobargo

Yogavarnam #614 Bega

James Cook and

Mary-anne Barker #615

Donna Lea Meyer and

Daniel Stirling #616 Rocky Hall

Donna Lea #617 Lochiel

Colin Sagar #618 Wallaga Lake

Odette Bellicanta #619 Merimbula

David Clarke #620 Jellat

Ray and

Sanne Stewart #621 Candelo

Anatara Wright #622 Bega

Apologies to Rowena McConnell – her phone number has not appeared in the active members list – computer glitch that we are tending to. Her phone # is 0405 288 295

And further apologies to all new members above, your phone numbers have not been processed for this newsletter. I will get it right next issue!

For those members living 'up north' I have a copy of the latest Moruya LETS offers booklet. Interlets trading (trading between LETS systems) is possible. Ring me if you'd like to know more. Judith 64932026

OFFERS

Accommodation-In Bega.

A Carpeted Shed suitable for over-night stays or part-time living with shared kitchen and bathroom.

Yoga

-classes, private or group.

-wholefood cooking tuition

Shiatsu massage

Cooking-Yogic Wholefood Vegetarian

Can cater for retreats/workshops,

Large groups or private functions,

Can cater for food intolerance or allergies.

Yogavarnam. New member #614

Co-ordinators Report

Here I sit, after a little confusion I must admit, as BVLETS Co-ordinator.

THANKYOU, THANKYOU to Judith over the past few months for her very thorough training of me and for her leaving the BVLETS administration office so efficient! Without the work she has put in over the last year the transition between co-ordinators would not have been as smooth or the system as functional. We are all quite bedazzled by what she has accomplished.

The only other changes are that I have passed on the role of New Member and Renewal Secretary to Anatara Wright. Recently there seemed to be a rise in interest in BVLETS and quite a few New Members joining so Anatara will be in the LETS administration office once a week on Thursdays from 10 am. It seems word is getting around! If you have questions or need assistance she can be contacted that day on 64923 134.

The last combined LETS Meeting/Trading and Permaculture Day was really exciting.

Thankyou John Champagne for hosting the meeting and for bringing the amazing Robin Francis down to inspire us about the possibilities for LETS and to Pam Lythe for her in-depth workshop on Geomancy.

The whole day was a great reminder for me of all the skilled people we have in the Bega Valley LETS and Permaculture community. (see the minutes if you couldn't make it)

The next meeting is at long time LETS member and past co-ordinator wiz Paul Parker's place and will focus on Greywater systems. Please come along to network, trade and just enjoy. Sue

E-mail trial run—Kim Mogridge will be sending out a trial of the e-mail newsletter in the near future, One thing to be aware of when this happens is that it can take a long time to download a big document if you have a slow internet connection. If this is your scenario, you may want to decide whether this method suits you right now. Give it a try and see what happens.

MINUTES LETS MEETING 12 Dec 2004 11am at John & Sharon Champagnes Home Brogo

Present 32 members & non members

1. All agreed to have Patricia Shand and Sue Hill as signatories for Bega Valley LETS bank account with IMB
2. Coordinators Report: Sue Hill will be officially taking over as coordinator in Jan 2004. Training is in progress. A manual of operations is being compiled by Judith to assist with all LETS procedures. Judith & Paul Parker will be available as support for Sue.
3. Group acknowledged Judith's contribution over the past year.
4. All agreed to the proposal to reduce the frequency of mail outs from once every two months to once every three months to correspond with the Lets meeting which will now be held at the start of every season (three monthly). Advantages of doing this:
 - will free up coordinator's time to focus on creating the future of BVLETS.
 - The savings on postage and printing costs can provide a cash buffer, as the budget has been tight over the last two years. Therefore no necessity to raise membership fees.
5. Discussion arose re the possibilities, cost savings etc of electronic (e-mail) mail outs. Many members felt quite strongly that we should 'give it a go'
Kym Mogridge offered to coordinate a 'pilot run' for 2 mail outs, (newsletter only) Decision was made to go ahead with his offer.
6. Robin Francis was invited to speak about the NimbinLETS experience. She told of Nimbin LETS operating with 100% IT (that's right—no mail outs!! Hmm) Advantages 100% IT—very low \$\$ costs involved, very low energy/time component to coordinate the system. She showed us the printed LETS currency that is currently circulating in her area. All in all very enlightening. Instead of a LETSNewsletter, they have a regular column in one of the community newsletters.

Thanks to Robin
7. Next meeting to be held at Paul Parkers place in Autumn
8. Meeting closed.

FOR SALE

- Stove/oven Simpson Nova electric very good condition 30saphs+\$30
Free Hoover top loading washing machine, working but looks a little aged.
Accommodation at Helen's Beach House at 30 Pambula Beach Road
3 bedroom house, 2 bathrooms, 2 living areas, large deck with views to ocean and forest.
Check it out on ozstays website. Will accept part payment in saphs - % negotiable.

Helen Williamson #316 Ph 64957802

- Two Single mattresses. Excellent condition .
One pine bed also good condition.
Three young geese 4 months old .
Kick wheel for ceramics
An amazing old mechanical weaving loom for the technically minded to finish renovating
Lizzie D 64941401

WANTED

- Paint stripper gun needed to hire
Judith Horton 64032026
- Queen mattress for visitors' bedroom
Lizzie D 64941401
- Workers Will pay 50% \$ and %0% Sapphs to any one wishing to help paint a large ceiling in
Candelo Carol Holden 64932325

Do you have any ads for sale, trades wanted, jobs you need done or businesses that trade in LETS. Please contact Lizzie Doyle prior to the next issue

PERMACULTURE CONVERGENCE

It was way back in 1997 at Robyn's place that the Australasian permaculture community gathered for a convergence. It's on again in Melbourne this April with a program full of quality. Speakers include David Holmgren, Prof Stuart Hill, Josh Byrne from ABC show Gardening Australia and author Jenny Allen.

Lots of workshops and site tours with the second day taken up by 'Permaculture people tell their story.' For the first time this session is open to the general public and its where permies from all over Australia give a talk as to the work their involved in.

For more information and registration forms, go to www.apc.org.au . Anyone interested in car pooling, contact John Champagne on 64 927306.

BEND

Bega Eco Neighbourhood Developers have now put to council their DA for a 21 block sub division with a community building.

This unique development under Community Title will set precedence for developers in the Shire in terms of resource allocation and putting in place design features to accommodate living more lightly on our patch of planet Earth.

Membership to BEND is \$10 which keeps you informed and offers the opportunity of involvement. Those interested in purchasing a block can talk to Jenny or Chris or Verity or Barb or John or Pete or---

HOURS

In association with
Gunther & Colleen
"Antiques and Collectables
to the Gentry"

We open 4 days
weekly:
Wed. to Sat.
plus
1st Sun. ea. month

9.00 to 5.00

Gunpowder Trading Post

Continues to trade in
Sapphs and \$

For 4 days per week plus Candelo Market Day

Make your way there to check out the bargains that can be acquired

Member No. 111

GUNPOWDER
TRADING POST
Candelo Rd. Wolumla



FOR

RECYCLING
COLLECTING
BROWSING

WANTED Goods for sale on consignment.
Almost anything goes. Earn good Sapphs when sold.

TERMS All stock at the Trading Post (but not from
"Antiques & Collectables") available at 100% Sapphires.

Organic Gardening Project at Vietnam Friendship Village Ha Tay Province, Vietnam

Background

A project to promote organic agriculture in Vietnam was launched last May by John Berlow at Vietnam Friendship Village, a residential treatment center for victims of Agent Orange, which is located in Ha Tay Province, 35 minutes from downtown Hanoi (see www.vietnamfriendship.org, the website of the U.S.-based support organization). At any one time, there are approximately 120 children and 30 war veterans living there.

The project has been funded by generous contributions, monetary and in-kind (materials, advice and labor) from individual and organizational donors. These gifts are gratefully acknowledged by the project.

The aims of the Vietnam Friendship Village Organic Gardening Project include:

- Providing healthy produce for the Village
- Developing meaningful activities for some of the children, including the learning of skills useful to them outside the center
- Creating a viable source of income and increasing publicity for the Village by growing and marketing produce in Hanoi
- Heightening consumer and farmer awareness of organic agriculture
- Bringing attention to the tragic, long-term consequences of war, particularly chemical warfare

The plan is for the vegetable garden, orchard and fish ponds to be economically viable and ecologically self-sustaining within three years. Several well-known Hanoi restaurants have already agreed to feature Friendship Village vegetables; in addition, plans are in progress to set up a farmers' market to sell vegetables which remain after the Village has been fed. The project estimates that eventually one-half of the produce will feed the Village and one-half will be sold to continue funding the project.

Despite its newness, the project has been featured on national and Hanoi television and radio as well as in Vietnamese and English-language newspapers and on radio (see, for example, the archived article from Vietnam national English-language daily *Viet Nam News* at vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/2004-11/17/Stories/14.htm).

It is clear that the contrast of organic farming with use of chemical herbicides as an act of war has resonated with many Vietnamese people and media and will help increase awareness of the benefits of organic agriculture in that part of the world.

To fund this year's activities and to fund current and additional staff members, the project is seeking \$50,000 in donations. Information for making tax-deductible donations in the U.S. and Australia is given at the end of this report

What's Been Done So Far

Beginning in May 2004, a plot of land measuring approximately 1/3 acre was weeded and tilled. Compost was made from locally-obtained rice husks, bran, weeds, pig and chicken manure. Vegetables, including tomatoes, cabbage, various mustard and other greens, green onions, broccoli, cauliflower, kohlrabi, squashes and beans, have been planted and tons have been harvested since that time. Papaya, banana and sapodilla seedlings were planted along the borders.

Plans for the New Year

Increase Vegetable Garden

Volunteer Training and Children's Garden

Orchard and Undercrop

Peace Garden

Fish Pond Extensions

Contributions

Your help is urgently needed to continue and expand this work. Tax-deductible contributions can be made in both the U.S. and Australia. Donations can also be sent directly to Vietnam Friendship Village's bank account. When making a donation to any of these destinations, please inform the project by email (to johnberlow@seaop.org) that a donation to one of these addresses has been sent.

In the U.S.

Send donations to:

Buddhist Peace Fellowship
S.E. Asia Organics Project
P.O. Box 3470
Berkeley, CA 94703

Make checks payable to Buddhist Peace Fellowship and write "S.E. Asia Organics Project" in the memo line

In Australia:

Send donations to:

Rainforest Information Centre
Box 368, Lismore 2480 NSW
(02) 66213294

Make checks payable to Rainforest Information Centre and write "S.E. Asia Organics Project" in the memo line.

You may send donations directly to the Vietnam bank account for Vietnam Friendship Village.

Make transfers to:

Vietnam Friendship Village
Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
Tu Liem Branch
Hanoi, Vietnam

Account Number: 431101000239

Please indicate: "For organic gardening project"

Bank telephone: (+84 4) 834 8810

Bank routing numbers:

VBAAVNVX
411-322VBA-VT

Contact Information

John Berlow
Coordinator, Organic Gardening Project, Vietnam Friendship Village

If undeliverable, please return to:

**BEGA VALLEY LETS
PO Box 110 BEGA 2550**

Surface Mail Postage Paid Australia

Print Post 255003/05352
