

SECTION 8:

CURRENT LETSYSTEMS

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There are currently many LETSystems operating in WA. Any LETSystem can be approached for information, although one should be warned that some systems are, naturally enough, larger and more successful than others, and it is a good idea to contact a number of systems before starting your own.

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|------------------|---|
| Albany | - Contact: Peter Linehan Phone:(098) 413 442 3 Melrose Street, Albany WA 6330 |
| Armadale | - Contact: Sheryl Martin Phone:(09) 399 3831 Skill-Share, P.O. Box 260, Armadale WA 6112 |
| Bunbury | - Contact: Marie Whitley Phone:(097) 217 938 42 Winton Street, Bunbury WA 6230 |
| Bridgetown | - Contact: Jill Watson Phone:(097) 612 030 P.O. Box 122, Bridgetown WA 6255 |
| Boyanup | - Contact: John Vukovich Phone:(097) 315 412 c/- Post Office, Boyanup WA 6237 |
| Busselton | - Contact: Peter Watson Phone:(097) 524 625(w) 531 030(h) Toad Hall, Central Arcade, Queen St, Busselton WA 6280 |
| Collie | - Contact: Jenny Busniak Phone:(097) 344 237 P.O. Box 303, Collie WA 6225 |
| Cunderdin | - Contact: Lyn Turner Phone:(096) 351 444 Community & Family Care, Post Office, Cunderdin WA 6407 |
| Denmark | - Contact: Basil Schurr Phone:(098) 481 644 P.O. Box 142, Denmark WA 6333 |
| Donnybrook | - Contact: Sue Dennis Phone:(097) 311 605 P.O. Box 298, Donnybrook WA 6239 |
| Fremantle | - Contact: Angie Lyndon Phone:(09) 335 2137(w) 335 5747(h) Environment Centre, 13 Queen St, Fremantle WA 6160 |
| Harvey | - Contact: Clare Smith Phone:(097) 291 899 12 Harvey Street, Harvey WA 6220 |
| Mandurah | - Contact: Julie Eastwood Phone:(09) 537 1798 11 Indiana Pde, Singleton WA 6210 |
| Manjimup | - Contact: Karin Nieman Phone:(097) 712 148 20 Hospital Ave, Manjimup WA 6258 |
| Margaret River | - Contact: Jenny Brett Phone:(097) 573 280 (h) LETS Office, Old Hospital, Tunbridge St, Margaret River 6285 |
| Mundaring | - Contact: Peter Brandt Phone:(09) 295 2801 2115 Stoneville Rd, Stoneville WA 6554 |
| Nannup | - Contact: Rosco Bartrop Phone:(097) 561 322 c/- Post Office, Nannup WA 6275 |
| Northern Suburbs | - Contact: Carole Sein-Thet Phone:(09) 349 4781 P.O. Box 730, Mirrabooka WA 6061 |
| South East Metro | - Contact: Margie Crocker Phone:(09) 470 1230 38 Saleham St, Lathlain WA 6100 |
| Swan-Hills | - Contact: Philip Crockford Phone:(09) 375 2442 95 Lakes Road, Hazelmere WA 6055. |

There are also a large number of LETSsystems around Australia which have information and experience to share with you if you are interested in starting your own system, or in dealing with problems or difficulties which may have developed in your system. In particular, you should contemplate contacting Maleny LETSsystem, in Queensland, the first in the country and still a clearing house for much information on LETS Richmond Valley LETS, in New South Wales, (sometimes referred to as RIVLETS) is also worth contacting, as they are with 650 members at 2 September 1992, arguably the biggest LETSsystem in Australia. You may also find it worthwhile to contact LETSsystems which are similar to your own - perhaps Brisbane if you are an urban system or a system in a rural, pastoral or mining locality in another state if your system is in a rural, pastoral or mining area of Western Australia. You may also, in contacting other systems check on the date they started, how they are organised, how many members and what is the value of current trading, and any innovations adopted or problems accounted by these other systems. If you want to find out how a 2 system InterLETS works, talk to Brisbane and Maleny, or to the South Australians, who have had an InterLETS from the beginning.

Although this list of contacts was prepared in August 1992, it was out of date almost immediately as it currently appears that there is a new LETSsystem starting, somewhere in Australia, each week.

New South Wales

- Albury/Wodonga - Contact: Peter Shadbolt Phone:(060) 24 7333
Council of Further Education, 59 High St
(P.O. Box 776), Wodonga NSW 3690
- Armidale - Contact: Penny Stockley Phone:(067) 71 2593
62 Bilga Road, Armidale NSW 3250
- Bega Valley - Contact: Leonie Harrison
P.O. Box 2550, Bega NSW 2550
- Bellingen - Contact: Sue Sloane Phone:(066) 55 2250
c/- Blue Phoenix Bookshop, Church Lane
Bellingen NSW 2425
- Bowral - Contact: Janie James
P.O. Box 722, Bowral NSW 2576
- Braidwood - Contact: James Travis
62 Monkittee Street, Braidwood NSW 2622
- Carolyne - Contact: Phone: (044) 651 261
c/- Post Office, Kangaroo Valley NSW 2577
- Hawkesbury Valley - Contact: Elle
P.O. Box 27, Kurrajong NSW 2578
- Karuah Valley - Contact: Pauline Garland Phone: (049) 94 5189
22 Erin St, Stroud NSW 2425
- Murwillumbah - Contact:
c/- Community Aid, Railway St, Murwillumbah
- Illawarra - Contact:
Old Council Chambers, 328 Princes Hwy, Bulli NSW 2516
- Newcastle - Contact: Annette Rudd Phone: (049) 69 5659
74 Lindsay Street, Hamilton NSW 2303
- Queanbeyan - Contact: Stina Kerans Phone: (06) 297 7472
3 Young Street, Queanbeyan NSW 2620

- Richmond Valley - Contact: Ray Flannigan Phone: (066) 21 8371
Room 4, Summerland Arcade, Woodlark St
P.O. Box 402, Lismore NSW 2480
- Sydney - Contact: Cynzia Guaraldi Phone: (02) 519 6327
1st Floor, 36 Parramatta Rd, Stanmore NSW 2048
P.O. Box M26, Newtown NSW 2042
- Taree - Contact: B. Davies
Ford Street, Elands NSW 2429
- Young - Contact: Penny Gibson
P.O. Box 561, Young WA 2594
- Upper Clarence - Contact: Judith Lindsay
c/- Post Office, Drake NSW 2470

Queensland

- Brisbane - Contact: Phone: (07) 371 5869
P.O. Box 10253, Brisbane Qld 4001
- Cairns - Contact: Phone: (079) 51 4953
Gazebo, Tropical Arcade, 4 Shields St,
P.O. Box 678, Cairns Qld 4870
- Crows Nest - Contact: Avril & Willis Phone: (076) 51 4953
M.S. 1073, Crows Nest Qld 4355
- Granite/Stanthorpe - Contact: Rob Davies Phone: (076) 81 1621
Stanthorpe Neighbourhood Centre
P.O. Box 607, Stanthorpe Qld 4380
- Gympie - Contact: Helyna Phone: (074) 82 6223
24 Lawrence Street, Gympie Qld 4570
- Hervey Bay - Contact: Inga Atley Phone: (071) 25 2734
c/- 35 Garden Drive, Torquay Qld 4655
- Laidley - Contact: Anne Foley Phone: (074) 65 1741
c/- Lot 6, Laidley-Rosewood Rd, Laidley Qld 4341
- Mackay - Contact: Phil Armit
c/- 2/1 Scantell Ave, Slade Point Qld 4740
- Maleny - Contact: Phone: (074) 94 3113
Bunya House, 28 Maple St, Maleny Qld 4552
- Nambour/LETShine - Contact: Phone: (074) 459 7005
c/- Environment Council Shop, 23 Howard St
Nambour Qld 7005
- Mooloolah - Contact: Carol Crossman Phone: (074) 94 7545
c/- 26 Brandenburg Rd, Mooloolah Qld 4553
- Redcliffe - Contact: Peter Pollard Phone: (07) 284 0501
c/- Garnet St, Scarborough Qld 4020
- Rockhampton - Contact: Lillian Geddes Phone: (079) 27 9162
37 Stanley St, Rockhampton Qld 4700
- Tablelands - Contact: Watson Phone: (070) 91 3733
Neighbourhood Centre, 38 Mabel St, Atherton Qld 4883
- Wynnum Manley - Contact: Anne Edwards Phone: (07) 393 5290
10 Boondara St, Manly West Qld 4179

Tasmania

- Burnie - Contact: Brenda Rosser Phone: (004) 38 4185
c/- RSD 431A, West Calder Tas 7325
- Circular Head - Contact:
c/- Council Chambers, Goldie St, Smithton Tas 7330
- Cygnets - Contact: Phone: (002) 95 1708
c/- Phototype, The Porthole, 99 Mary St
Cygnets Tas 7112
- Deloraine - Contact: Deb, Sally Phone: (003) 62 2713
Deloraine House, Emu Bay Road, Deloraine Tas 7304
- Flinders Island - Contact: Margo Welsh
P.O. Box Whitemark, Flinders Island Tas 7255
- Kentish - Contact: Trishala Shub Phone: (004) 91 1663
P.O. Box 157, Sheffield Tas 7306
- Lonnie - Contact: Andie Toll Phone: (003) 32 2802
c/- Adult Education, 51 York Street
Launceston Tas 7250

South Australia

- S.A.LETS - Contact: Phone: (08) 231 6976
110 South Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000
- Clare - Contact: Ulrika Phone: (088) 43 4387
P.O. Box 89, Clare SA 5453
- Hills - Contact: Nicky Phone: (08) 398 2543
15 Hill St, Mount Barker SA 5251
- Hindmarsh - Contact: Gwen Jones Phone: (08) 346 3842
c/- BBCG, 19 Green St, Brompton SA 5007
- South LETS - Contact: Mary Phone: (08) 323 8094
3/20 Gloucester Terrace, McLaren Vale SA 5171
- Statewide - Contact: Cia Phone: (08) 390 3637
P.O. Box 127, Norton Summit WA 5136
- Whyalla - Contact: G. Hewitson Phone: (086) 45 7559

Victoria

- Walwa & Talangatta - Contact: Elizabeth Phone: (060) 25 6419
P.O. Box 616, Albury Vic 2640
- Alexandra - Contact: Phone: (057) 72 1238
- Anakie & District - Contact: Bernie Bourke Phone: (052) 69 4316
R.S.D. Box 52, Bacchus Marsh Vic 3340
- Bacchus Marsh - Contact: Carol Arnold Phone: (053) 67 1061
B.M.A.E.C., P.O. Box 309, Bacchus Marsh Vic 3340
- Bellarine - Contact: Kim Phone: (052) 67 1729
45 Parakoola Drive, Clifton Springs Vic 3222
- Benalla & District - Contact: Phone: (057) 65 2319
Forum Adult Education Centre, 23 Nunn Street
Nenalla Vic 3672

- Bendigo - Contact: Phone: (054) 47 0505
P.O. Box 762, Bendigo Vic 3550
- Box Hill Tallentshare - Contact:
P.O. Box 22414, Melbourne Vic 3001
- Cranbourne - Contact: Lesley Nelson Phone: (059) 69 7394
140 Sladen St, Cranbourne Vic 3977
- Creswick - Contact: Rod May Phone: (052) 45 7342
RMB 7299, Blampied Vic 3364
- Dandenong Ranges - Contact: Phone: (03) 752 5272
P.O. Box 572, Belgrave Vic 3160
- Diamond Valley - Contact: Phone: (03) 434 6717
47 Lamborn Rd, Watsonia Vic 3087
- Eastern Group - Contact: Pam Phelps Phone: (03) 888 8845
P.O. Box 409 Canterbury Vic 3126
- Gellibrand - Contact: Phone: (03) 391 0444
101 Hudson Rd, Spotswood Vic 3015
- Glenhunty - Contact: Phone: (03) 572 2033
1213 Glenhunty Rd, Glenhunty WA 3163
- Goldfields - Contact: Trevor Wheeler Phone: (054) 76 2286
c/- Trevor Wheeler, Newstead Vic 3462
- Mansfield - Contact: Phone: (057)
c/- MACE, 145 High St, Mansfield Vic 3722
- Melbourne - Contact: Brett Constable
Melbourne City Council, GPO Box 1603M
Melbourne Vic 3001
- Mt Evelyn - Contact Phone: (03) 736 1457
P.O. Box 101, Mt Evelyn Vic 3769
- Northcote & District - Contact: Marisa Phone: (03) 481 3573
160 Beaconsfield Pde, Northcote Vic 3070
- North Melbourne - Contact: Ross Phone: (03) 328 1126
58 Errol St, North Melbourne Vic 3051
- Numurkah - Contact: Bev Noy Phone: (058) 62 2249
City Learning Centre, Numurkah Vic 3636
- Pakenham - Contact: Phone: (059) 40 1051
P.O. Box 326, Pakenham Vic 3810
- Pines Frankston - Contact: Helen Phone: (03) 786 0648
2 Candlebark Cres, Frankston North Vic 3200
- Plenty Ranges - Contact: Chari Jolly Phone: (057) 97 8434
P.O. Box 128, Kinglake Vic 3763
- Rutherglen - Contact: Phone: (060) 32 8049
- Richmond & District - Contact: David Farrow Phone: (03) 429 8348
102 Rowena Pde, Richmond Vic 3121
- Shepparton - Contact: Marg Wayman Phone: (058) 21 9650
Self Help Group, 60 Newton Street
Shepparton Vic 3630
- St Kilda - Contact: Phone: (03) 525 3384
1st Floor, Inkerman St, St Kilda Vic 3182
P.O. Box 1042, Windsor Vic 3181

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| Snowy | - Contact: | Phone: (051) 54 1369 P.O. Box 263, Orbst Vic 3888 |
| Stony Creek | - Contact: Annette | Phone: (03) 314 7713 16 Adeney St, Yarraville Vic 3013 |
| Upper Murray | - Contact: | Phone: (060) 37 1366 c/- Post Office, Walwa Vic 3709 |

From the experience of a number of these systems, it would seem that successful LETSystems have certain features in common. Some of these are --

1. Personal commitment of organisers must be strong. LETSystems that have got into trouble seem to be located in those areas where Trustees, Board of Advisers or organising committee have too many distractions to give the system the energy it deserves.
2. It may prove helpful to have a sponsoring organisation which understands L.E.T.S, and which is committed also to the system. Sponsors can provide assistance with accounts, can help with photocopying trading sheets, and can assist with postage. A sponsor also provides a fixed point where people can go for general LETS information or particulars on new skills or services. There is also a "down-side" to the ideas of sponsors. They may have other goals which interfere with your LETSystem.
3. LETSystems which thrive go out of their way to welcome new members and introduce them to long established traders. A "buddy" system or "twinning" of well established with new members may be useful in getting new members to start trading. Armadale LETSystem has instituted a monthly new members night (a Bring Your Own barbecue, rotated at different venues), with photos of the event being published in their regular LETSystem newsletter.
4. A number of very successful country LETSystems have a regular (weekly/fortnightly) market or trading day. People come and exchange home-made crafts, pickles and jams, as well as other goods and services. The numbers who come varies widely, but by making it a regular event it keeps people in touch with each other.
5. The most successful LETSystems go out of their way to recruit local businesses. This not only bridges the rift that exists between LETSystems (which are seen as social welfare arrangements) and the fast growing commercial barter networks, and can generate federal dollars (especially, if the system charges \$100 and 100 LETS Credits for such business membership), which can be exchanged for LETS Credits through a Revolving Loan Fund to capitalise small projects.
6. Some Eastern States metropolitan LETSystems have Area Coordinators, who act as first point of reference to local members, seek to enrol services that are needed but not yet available to their LETSystem, and who go out of their way to welcome new members. A Community Chest, in which members are encouraged to make a regular donation, is a useful way to organise small grants to worthwhile community projects through your LETSystem.
7. Some LETSystems have started a bonus system (giving a bonus of a number of LETSystem credits) for members who introduce new traders to the system, particularly if those new people provide new skills or services long requested, but previously unavailable to members.

8. A useful innovation is to include a "brokerage fee" paid in local currency, to individuals who successfully introduce a trader to a customer. This fee rewards "brokers" and also those who trade independently without needing a go-between. In any case, the LETSystem benefits from the increase in transactions.
9. A LETSystem which encourages innovation, and regular meetings between Advisers and Trustees tends to thrive, maintaining morale and generating new ideas and new approaches.
10. Some Eastern States LETSystems also make their newsletter and trading sheet (with phone numbers deleted) available for sale through local newsagents. Not only does this provide a useful source of federal dollar income to the LETSystem, but it also keeps the system in the public eye, gives advertisers access to a wider market, and helps recruit new members to a system.
11. The Northern Suburbs LETSystem has a regular Christmas Party, open to all members (complete with a visiting Father Christmas!)

A LETSystem needs continual rejuvenation. This is only possible if members take the effort to continually publicise their system and make sure that meetings are fun, and that such issues as child-care and sharing food are incorporated into LETSystem events.