

**Addendum: Brainstorming discussion participants' notes for the presentation
Identifying the Synergies & Shared Ethics between CES with Notes - Tania Brookes,
2015 National LETS Conference**

Colin & Robin – networking among groups

- synergistic effects between groups
- often unanticipated – positive and negative
- SWOT analysis used on potential synergies
- BURN OUT common threat

Strengths

- common cohesion
- opportunity to meet like minded people
- many hands make light work
- diversity – multiple skills, multiple mindsets/personalities
- delegation – avoid burn out
- succession plan
- bring out individual potential
- skills enhancement
- reveal new ideas

Weaknesses

- burn out – rely on few individuals
- control freaks
- becomes inward looking rather than expansive
- lack of resources
- individuals may abuse the system
- exclusivity – stop linking up with other groups
- people's motivations
- lack of capacity of skill sets – basic services

Opportunities

- address hierarchy of needs
- team builds
- skill enhancement
- relocalisation eg: transition town linked to LETS
- joining services – eg: accommodation
- new ideas
- access to resources
- new paradigm business multiple bottom line
- revisit old ideas that worked well (eg: small business with good values)
- ethical business
- build bridges between groups values and purpose

Threats

- lose what you started off with
- burn out
- ATO
- Control freaks
- Government won't like it?

1. Observe and Interact

Natural Permies – do PC own evolvement

Refugees – differences – interactions & evolving relationships “no right or wrong only different”.

Learning from different people in community.

Messy gardens – prize for messy & fertile.

2. Catch & Store Energy

Working Bees.

Preserving Fruit.

LETS units

Wants & Offers listings.

3. Obtain a Yield

Working on what you like doing for group.

Sharing of info – yield.

Recycling of organic waste.

Diversity of people, ideas, resources.

Growing food.

4. Apply self regulation & Accept feedback

LETS -

Not accumulating too many units or debt

Conversations about to spend credits

Contradiction of Ethic 3 is selling everything

Accept feedback for improvements

5. Use & Value Renewable Resources

Trading renewable resources (eg: manure)

Recycling (eg: banners)

Gardening – self seeding

Use abundance of neighbours – swapping

Abundance leads to surplus to swap/trade

6. No Waste

Recipes

Seasonal storage/preserves

Sharing (networks)

Distribution

Compost

Resources

Trans Purpose

7. Design from Patterns to Details

Look at patterns around us – patterns of communication, thought, habit, behaviour.

Who does it?

Relax. Help Nature. Have fun.

Work with framework we have.

What can we do/I do?

We have to get it right – the compost, planting, communication

Let go, let nature, love nature

How to connect, learn, cross communicate between BD, Permies, Transition

Where to from here?

8. Integrate rather than Segregate

Reciprocal memberships – Permies, Chamber of Commerce, etc

Working Bees

Community gardens – Kariong, Malanda – trading space, workshops, kitchen, food

Community centres – resources, space, equipment

What can we do for you?

9. Use small and slow Solutions

Central – large group

Burnt out after last conference

Admin changes/burn out

Need for keen admin

Secret to previous success monthly trade days cover large area

Drop off points could be a good idea

Do need strong administration

Hubs within large system

Many small systems make more than one

10. Use and Value Diversity

Need more diversity of ages

Need more diversity of specialties eg: trades

Diversity of ages eg young cook for older, frail aged instead of meals on wheels (younger help the older)

Grandmas help young mums – mind kids, mend, etc

Older pass on wisdom - mentors

11. Use Edges and Value the Marginal

Looking at patterns in nature and around us

Nature's way – we ----- patterns ----- of thought and behaviour

Patterns of behaviour

How to connect, learn, carry over things from BD, permaculture, transition, community gardens etc

Letting go and let nature

What can we do, how can we work within framework, pattern, harness energy of the different groups.

We have to get in right communication

Concern about getting it right – planting, compost

Communication and co operation issues but different groups

12. Creatively use and respond to Change

Be open minded to the change

Don't just accept it but utilise it

Examples

Using LETS online – visit your snail mail people personally and help them, be supportive of them taking their time.

Computers have enabled LETS to thrive

Record keeping

Stop doing things that stop working

Revisit & recycle things you have stopped, they may work better with the changing dynamic

Smartphones – the future

Focus energies to get max return for effort

Continual re-evaluation and renewal