

CONTACTS

Mail: FNQCES, PO Box 440
Malanda Qld 4885

Phone: (07) 4096 6972

E-mail: fnqces@gmail.com

LETS Website: fnqces.org

CES is where members list their offers and wants and record transactions:

communityexchange.net.au

and on your mobile device, use:
m.communityexchange.net.au

facebook.com/groups/
tablelandlets

Bartle Banter is printed FREE OF CHARGE at Shane Knuth's Office, Silo Shopping Centre Atherton. This edition is compiled and edited by Cate Adams and Bel Moore, with contributions from CES users. Newsletter submissions are always welcome.

STATISTICS

FNQ CES / Tableland LETS Users have traded approximately **131,068 Bartles** over the past 12 months. An average of 12 trades per day are recorded by TBCE Users on the Community Exchange.

We have over 850 active accounts, but a huge 718 Users have NO Offerings listed on Community Exchange. Hundreds of expired Offerings have been deleted by Bel recently - were some your Offerings? Please login and check your account.

We are still the most active Community Exchange group in Australia, with BrisLETS, CENT (Tassie), Adelaide LETS and Hunter LETS being the next most active groups.

Congratulations to the team who keep us trading!

Admin Report

Hello! It's been a great year for LETS in FNQ with some fun trading events, workshops and working bees. The weather disrupted a couple of working bees, so a special big THANK YOU to those who persisted... hosts and workers! Working Bees are a win-win event - earning, learning, trading, sharing, achieving goals together and normally lots of fun for all.

Katrin has been busy tidying up unused LETS accounts. Many Users have not logged into their account in years (some never). It's been some time since we tidied up unused accounts. If you haven't used the Community Exchange in awhile, log in today to keep your account active and open. Accounts are charged 12B per year admin fee, whether they're being used or not, so make sure yours isn't just sitting there accumulating fees...

22 accounts are currently over limit - 9 having spent more than their 1000B limit and 13 having earned more than their 1000B limit. Some business and farm accounts, and other selected Users (based on their trading history) have a higher Bartle limit to facilitate the size and volume of trades they make. These accounts are closely monitored by Admin to make sure they are being used effectively. Remember, we are all aiming for ZERO. If your account is over limit, and you have transactions to enter, please do so. Please also add Offerings or Wants to help balance your account. If Bel has attempted to contact you about your account, and you haven't responded, please get in touch, especially if we can assist you with trading.

*Katrin has been offering FREE info sessions about LETS and beginners courses in the Community Exchange System and using the website. Maybe you are an existing member but still need a few questions answered, or don't feel confident adding your Offerings and Wants, for example? Or you haven't joined up yet and would like to know what our LETS/Community Exchange group is all about? No need to book or RSVP. The next session is **Monday 25th June at The Access Place Atherton 10-11.30am.***

Katrin's workshops have been very popular. Within 1 hour the existing and potential members attending understood the LETS principles, how to navigate the online site, received info about trade days, working bees and workshops and where to find our Drop Off Points.

Katrin would like to help you enjoy this fabulous community group!

Her workshops are free, but please support the café by purchasing a drink.

Keep in touch, Bel and Katrin xx

ADELAIDE
LETS
Local Exchange Trading System

I have \$50



and fifty LETS units.

I exchange ten units for



and forty for

through the community exchange

and I still have \$50.



LETS community news & updates

New Mareeba Drop Off Point Needed!

Cate has moved to be closer to her family. Seamus will be at their house for a short time yet, but we REALLY need a new Mareeba Drop Off Point (DOP). Cate says the only traffic is a couple of parcels a week, it's not bedlam by any means. A DOP could be a signed shelf or table in your carport area, it doesn't need to be very intrusive. Do you live in an easily-accessible place in or around Mareeba? Please contact us if you can help!

Forgotten an Order?

Have you ordered something to be delivered to a DOP and forgotten about it? Please help avoid clutter at our DOPs by arranging collection promptly.

Working the Wants list

To take full advantage of the system, look at your weekly budget and discover new ways to make LETS work for you... add Wants to Community Exchange. Do you regularly spend on: take-away, childcare, car wash, ironing services, a gardener or cleaner, music lessons, plants, baked goods, fresh produce, clothing & other items for growing children, gifts, soap, cleaning products...? Perhaps you can free up some of your \$\$ and spend more Bartles on everyday expenses?

Recommendations

Have you ever left a recommendation for someone after trading with them? Or have you read the recommendations before using a service or trading with a person. Recommendations are useful for both new and old users of the system and a great way to give a shout out to someone who has done an excellent job.

communityexchange.net.au/recommendations

Housekeeping

Add fnqces@gmail.com to your contact list - or our emails may go into your junk/spam folder. If you have no email, add a phone number to your account please.

When you have sold your offering please delete it as soon as possible, others don't know it's gone if the listing is still there. If possible please respond to any other emails you get with a sold message – don't just ignore the buyers' email or enquiry if your item has already been sold.



BrisLETS

Subscribe to BrisLETS Newsletter to see what's happening in our capital city! See:

<https://brislets.com/home-2/newsletters/>

BrisLETS is excited about recent national stats showing we are the second most active Australian exchange (tying with Adelaide LETS) after FNQCES - not that it's a competition! Is there something about Queensland ...?

We still hold one central trading day each month (with the occasional exception) and lately we have had a theme for each event. Every time there also has been a cooking demonstration by Isabelle using "rescue" ingredients (salvaged from a skip outside a shop) and a discussion on Admin topics led by the president, Simon. Trading day is becoming quite hectic because we also pack in a workshop each time with a member teaching an interesting skill - making sauerkraut, measuring up to make your own personalised sewing pattern, getting started to write your memoir, and so on.

Remember, if any FNQCES members are visiting the big smoke please come along on 3rd Sunday of the month 2-5pm to the Peace Hall in Windsor. You are very welcome! <http://brislets.com/>

Julatten Pamper Day is Back - in July!

Put 7th of July in your calendar! We need more therapists. Please contact Lyn Gore: 4094 1431. So far we have a massage therapist, reiki practitioner, hairdresser, astrologer and a chef. Looking for other ideas, eg: person to do nails, facials, foot massage, etc. Beautiful location in Julatten. Last time was amazing. Be part of this great day!

Freedom Friday - A new food offering

Chelsey and Pat are offering curry (meat/Veg/vegan), rice, pappadums, organic muffins and fruit syrup drink delivered frozen or fresh to Irene's DOP in Atherton. 15b + \$7 per adult 12b + \$5 per child serve inclusive of all of the above.

For upcoming delivery dates and more info, contact chelseyreis@gmail.com or text on 0438008371

What is the highest value entered on CES for a trade between FNQCES members?

2385B for catering at the National Conference in 2015 - Admin paid to Leeandra & Scott Norman.

Other high amounts (1000 to 2000B) have been paid for building and construction work, cooking ingredients, 251 Davidsons plum tree seedlings, a car, a commercial dough mixer, antique furniture and so on. Some of these big figures represent trades by LETS in business and others were private sales.

Conversion Rates for Timebanks

Our online accounting system, CES, is used by hundreds of complementary currency trading exchanges around the world, including LETS groups and time banks. Time banks use time (say hours) for units to keep score of trading, whereas our LETS units are roughly based on the national currency. When Australian groups started using CES, Tim Jenkin from Cape Town Talent Exchange (who created the software) set up a conversion between the time banks and mutual credit groups at 25u/hr based on the median wage. It has been creeping up over the years and now it is 35u/hr, updated on 1/1/2018. This means that when a BrisLETser

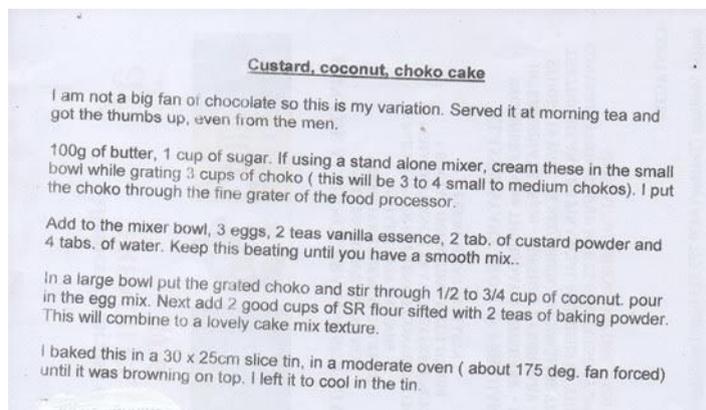
(or member of another mutual credit group) trades with a time bank user and is charged 1hr, the amount debited will be 35 units of the local currency. This is the source Tim used for estimating median wage
<http://www.salaryexplorer.com/hourly-wage.php?&loctype=1&loc=13>

from Alison Bird BLCE0022

Privacy

If you put your contact details into the description box of your Offering or Want, they will be visible to anyone because non-members are able to browse anonymous versions (with contact column hidden) of our lists, just to give them an idea of what LETS is about.

Choko Cake



Recipe sent in by Sheila Tait



Your Offers & Wants in other exchanges

We can post remote Offerings and Wants on CES to appear in any group Australia-wide including the Anywhere in Australia Community Exchange (AACE) and the timebank (TCMP). This works well, especially if we have services that can be delivered by skype or email, or for items that are easily posted. Go to the Add Want or Add Offering page

and simply select the exchange from the drop-down menu. Our online software converts BrisLETS units into the local credits when we trade.

Another hint for offering your goods and services to other exchanges - you can use keywords at the bottom of your listing to make it easier for people anywhere to find you in a search. Put in "global" as well as relevant search terms such as "skype", "email", etc.

by Alison Bird BLCE0022 (founding member of TBCE)

BALANCED TRADING

Source: CES HELP manual.

There is no stigma in having a negative balance as it is required by our system that the sum of all amounts 'in the red' has to be equal to the sum of all amounts 'in the black'. Best is to have a balance hovering around zero over the long term because this indicates that you have a healthy balance: you are getting as much from the system as you are giving to it. If your balance remains in the red for a prolonged period and is steadily increasing (negatively) then it is time to do something about it. You need to make more sales and fewer purchases to rectify this situation. Consider adding new offerings and/or revising your old ones.

Your overall balance is reflected in your 'Trading Record' and the 'User Balances' function, which everyone can see. Other users will notice if you are running a heavy negative balance and this may put them off wanting to trade with you.



CES on Smartphone

The mobi site is handy and functional for traders on the go, at an event or anywhere. With this site you can log into your CES account for most of your usual actions.

Bookmark it on your phone

<http://mobi.communityexchange.net.au/>

HINT: whenever you want to go back to the main menu remember to use the arrows within the program, (not your phone's back arrow because this logs you out).

by Alison Bird BLCE0022



NENA

NQ Symposium:

<https://www.neweconomy.org.au/nq-symposium-2018/> - More and more people across Australia can see that 'more of the same' is not the answer. Increasing numbers of people are working to create new, diverse economies and better ways for our society to live, work, play and care for the environment.

National Conference:

<https://www.neweconomy.org.au/conferences/2018-conference/> October 2018, Melbourne.

OUR NEXT HUGE TRADE EVENT:

12-2pm - 9 June 2018

Kewarra Beach

We started off 2018 (in February) with a BANG of a trading event in Atherton with our New Year's Revolution Event.

Ilona will offer 100% Bartles catering - pizza, hot drinks, fruit smoothies and cake! There will be entertainment by our Bartle Buskers, drumming, a Kids' Corner, a Clothing Exchange, face-painting, and possibly micro-workshops, demonstrations and other displays.

Of course there will be TRADING too - so bring along your wares, or information about your services, and meet other FNQ CES Users. Access local food, buy recycled/regifted/repurposed items, improve your budget and meet new people!

Carpooling encouraged! See Facebook!

Contact Ilona

TBCE0418 for address

Phone / sms - 0438 759 711



Irene's Clothes Stall at Kewarra Beach Event

Men, women and children! It's time again to check your wardrobe - to part with those items of clothing that you haven't worn in ages, or that you will never fit into again! Irene will sell your clothes at NO Commission BUT: you must label each item with your trade number and price. Shoes and jewellery also welcome. There will also be a load of brand new clothes from a local shop which closed down. All selling for Bartles only! So get organised as the big day is June 9th!

The Mount Molloy Market Crowd is Growing

In May we had Caroline, Ying, Linda and Russell, Cat, Carol and Aleigha, Ulla and Peder, Ash and Marie, Tiffany, Jennifer and ourselves offering a wide range of items to buy. They included honey, eggs, fruit, veges, clothes, shoes, yarns, delicious food (Cat's slice was heavenly) and plants. This coincided with World Labyrinth Day so we had a shared lunch at our place with other members before the walk at 4.30pm. Ash and Marie are from Melbourne so it was nice to connect with Southern LETS folk.

The market is on in the dry season on the first Saturday of the month and begins around 8am. However trading is fierce early on and if you want to catch things like honey and eggs, it is best to be there as soon as it begins.

Caroline often makes Indian vegetarian food for bartles but if you want to go to the 'dark side' as Reece calls it, then the CWA breakfast of eggs and bacon etc will have to be paid in hard cash. Cat does tarot readings and I am in the process of asking her to offer these for bartles each month.

Stay tuned.

Photos of the walk can be found at www.jamarr.org.au which is the web page for the local residents and ratepayers association.

8 years LETS and loving it!



by Katrin Schreiber

I moved with my family to Malanda 8 years ago, and shortly after ran into the LETS stall at the markets. First I was sceptical but decided to give it a shot as it promised to be another trading platform for second hand goods. I'd better mention that I absolutely love second hand goods! I get all excited if I discover a new op-shop, spot a stall at the market with bric-a-brac, come across a garage sale sign or even better - give me a whole flea market!

It took me a couple months until I was ready to attend a trade night. This turned out to be more than trading second hand goods. I shared a dinner with some lovely people, had great conversations and got my first real understanding of community. Sure, I also left with a pocket full of imaginary Bartles and a bag full of food and bric-a-brac. At home I told my husband all about this trading and how easy it was to make our first 100 Bartles. I was hooked!

The first two years I went to many trade days but also visited the notice boards on the online CES site. We didn't have that many LETS users yet and I earned and spend about 700 Bartles in that time.

In 2012 more people joined and my family and I traded crazily and earned and spent 3600 Bartles within that year.

I placed offers but also wants. To be honest I constantly placed wants. I wanted heaps of things, And when I got them I wanted more. It worked so well with the wants that I made a real effort to ask for everything that came in mind. My husband first was sceptical but soon followed. We wanted bird baths, toy cars, food, plants, plumbing services, building services, gumboots, party bag fillers, clothes, drinking straws, scrap paper, car seats, a ride on mower, heavy metal music, screws, nails, babysitter services, a cleaner, a gardener, yoga lessons, stationary, DVDs, holiday accommodation, manure... Except for a few things we got it all. It took a few weeks, sometimes shorter sometimes longer but with enough patience somebody on Community Exchange had what we were looking for.

In 2013 we doubled our spendings and earnings and since 2014 our family spends and earns around 8000 Bartles each year.

We make use of the many Drop off/Pick up Points in our Exchange and are mostly able to find a transport service for goods that need to go to another member.

My children are growing up with LETS and are turning into perfect little traders. They place their own wants and sometimes even offer something. They enjoy trade events as they can hang out with other kids or attend interesting kids' workshops.

In 8 years my family and I have accomplished a turnover of over 83,000 Bartles. The 40,000+ Bartles we spent on goods and services through LETS helped us save thousands of dollar\$. We also received luxury items through Community Exchange which we would have not had the dollar\$ for. But most of all we became part of a great community. We made new friends and joined a network of people with an abundance of knowledge and skills that loves to be supportive.

Our Exchange

FNQ Community Exchange is the only active exchange in the Far North, and at present the group covers a vast geographic area, including the city of Cairns, and the coastal communities of Cooktown, Innisfail and Tully. In each town is a LETS "hub" with a Local Area Contact (LAC). Most hubs enjoy monthly trading events. The LAC system is a great way to spread the admin workload and also focus the activity of members in each neighbourhood.

Atherton

TBCE0070 Irene Chapman
TBCE0003 Sheila Tait (treasurer)

Cairns

TBCE0091 Lorna Buckley
TBCE0418 Ilona Heindl

Cassowary Coast

TBCE0482 Bernie Holden
TBCE0058 Mellissa Watson
TBCE0571 Michael Pascal

Herberton Area

TBCE0243 Leeandra Norman
TBCE0010 Louise Cross

Julatten/Mt Molloy

TBCE0636 Lyn Gore
TBCE0635 Casey Willetts

Kuranda/Koah

TBCE0390 Blake Hudson
TBCE0449 Tonielle Christensen

Malanda

TBCE0102 Katrin Schreiber (admin)
TBCE0032 Mary Lucker

Mareeba

TBCE0226 Miranda Reis
TBCE0914 Seamus

Millaa Millaa

TBCE0391 Kate Martignier

Ravenshoe Area

TBCE0488 Kathy Larsen
TBCE0254 Melinda Mahon

Tarzali

TBCE0001 Bel Moore (admin)

Yungaburra

TBCE0314 Melitta Lewis
TBCE0815 Chelsey Reis

Other

TBCE1234 Community Fund (Sheila)
TBCE0814 Kam Lewis (mediation)

General pointers to remind all traders:

- Check the user agreement & other terms & conditions
- Trading is always optional
- Be clear with prices and terms
- Say up front if you are expecting part \$ payment
- LETS is as good as the relationships within; respect and kindness will help
- If you are happy with an experience leave a recommendation for the trader
- Speak up straight away if you are not happy with a trade

If ever you feel uncomfortable about a trading arrangement please talk to admin



FNQ Community Exchange stall

Will be inside the Cruise Liner Terminal building.

See us for a chat, get info or sign up on the day to join our great LETS community.

This event is hosted by Cairns Regional Council and is a great fun day out for the whole family: Immerse yourself in a day of stellar performances, workshops and a massive expo of green-tech and sustainable living solutions.

Enjoy eco-entertainment for the kids, tropical eats and new creative connections to your community. - <http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au/community-environment/sustainability/ecofiesta>

Sometimes, LETS looks like...

LETS member Patrick Tonks earns Bartles helping Kate Martignier develop new raised vegetable gardens Lucky Creek Farm, near Millaa Millaa



on

LETS AND CES related videos -- from Kathryn Spencer

- 7 CES Videos:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?feature=edit__ok&list=PLq7CuDbXorp25EiMqbdx48VPoSjnqxodE
- The Community Exchange System in Sth Africa:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koK2wUwj2l8&t=39s>
- Tim speaking: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JNtfeUGiS9Q>
- TEDxLeiden - The power of complementary community currencies
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yoD-Z5yVtI>
- Complementary Currencies: A Beginner's Guide: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdsbxEjAiPo>
- This short clip from Today Tonight covers the Swan Hills Local Exchange Trading System (LETS) in Perth. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-O2iGwLWAw>
- Asheville LETS Orientation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyosmaQW6Us&t=18s>
- Interview with Tim Jenkin - Founder of the community exchange system.
<https://youtu.be/Aa6NiAj- Nw>
- What Makes Tableland LETS Great?
<http://www.cesaaustralia.org/single-post/2016/05/06/What-Makes-Tableland-LETS-Great>
- Local Currencies - Replacing Scarcity with Trust <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aflp7jC1Yuw>
- A 700-member local exchange system in Vermont <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMdvfYye1Ko>
- LETS does it: Ingrid Thys at TEDxUHowestSalon <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdsFiujOO5U>
- How local currencies give value for money: Simon Woolf at TEDxBrixton
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8X2WIfyoWM>
- The Future of Money: Todd Hirsch at TEDxEdmonton
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kon3BGId9nU>
- Escape from Pretoria: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oWyeAaYjlxE>
- Complementary Currencies: A Beginner's Guide: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdsbxEjAiPo>
- LETS Local exchange and Trading Scheme explained:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqUTDXk-dAA>
- Community trading with the LETS system: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_SeffUDEg8
- Local Exchange Trading System (LETS) in WA
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-O2iGwLWAw&t=10s>
- LETS Network Cork, Ireland: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXOH53xmXDM>
- Introducing the principles of Community Exchange in Action. Letslink Scotland:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1OBpTq1Okko>
- The Cape Town Talent Exchange: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q22dGdgg7vM>
- Re: Tim Jenkin - he's the guy who programmed the Community Exchange System (CES), the online trading system that we use to run our local trading groups.
<https://www.facebook.com/annette.loudon/videos/g.132726700158459/10152535720081486/?type=2&theater&ifg=1>

Atherton Drop Off Point - the busiest hub of FNQ LETS

A huge thanks to our hosts there for their space & transport!



Our Atherton Drop Off Point (DOP) has seen a few changes including additional tables and a change in the unwritten policy of what can be displayed for sale in the Sshhhhop part of the DOP. Why is it referred to as a Sshhhhop? Strictly speaking we cannot operate a shop in a residential area, and should a neighbour lodge a complaint with Council we would have to shut that part down. The only items currently acceptable for selling at our Atherton DOP are fresh garden produce, eggs, and plants. I feel it is more appropriate for all other items to be offered for sale at Trade Events.

Update - that retro cafe

After four and a half years of trading, "that retro cafe" is changing hands and sadly, I will no longer be hosting trade days at the cafe.

People often ask how can I afford to trade in Bartles when everything costs dollars. "Can't pay rent in Bartles right?" Well let me tell you, my connections with LETS has proved invaluable in the operation of the cafe! Through LETS I was able to use the services from a bookkeeper, a plumber, two electricians, a few baristas and other awesome hard working staff. I have been able to buy fresh and dry produce. I even had help in setting up online shopping for my chai! Workshops hosted by LETS members at the cafe brought in customers who had not been before, all of it made a difference and made it possible to trade for Bartles. This system really does give back what you put in.

I would like to send out a huge heartfelt thanks to those in LETS who have supported the cafe with trading goods and services for Bartles. Not forgetting the support in loyalty from customers through our wonderful network of people who



came not just to trade for Bartles but came on other days spending dollars bringing with them friends and family. Thank you for your custom, support and promotion of my business. Too many to mention individually, you all know who you are – thank you.

My journey does not end here though, we are moving again and will be hosting kid-friendly trade days at our new digs. I will have more time to participate and have lots to

trade as well as projects to finish. Anyone got a scoby? I will be brewing kombucha to share, making slices for my trade days so we can share our abundance together. I have built strong friendships through LETS and can't wait to catch up with you all again properly, as well so many new members I have yet to meet.

I am still making Chai and once we are settled (life after the cafe) I will likely be popping up with a stall near you.

See you all soon x

Melitta Lewis

The Sustainability Of LETS

UNCONFERENCE 2018

ADELAIDE - by Alison Bird



On 8 March I attended the Adelaide Unconference, a one-day national LETS meeting. An unconference is a participant-driven meeting and it's rather low key and less formal than some of our previous national gatherings. It has the advantage that there is less work for the organisers. About 20 people attended, including 4 from interstate, representing Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Tasmania. The venue was Hopes Cafe in a beautiful old stone church building - quiet and cool on a day with temperatures over 35 degrees.

First there was a LETS market with some beautiful local goods on offer. This was followed by talks by delegates and there was a good range of topics about community exchange issues so I picked up some valuable ideas. In the afternoon we split into smaller groups for skill-sharing demonstrations.

A highlight of the event was seeing the beginnings of a partnership between Adelaide LETS and The Spire Community which is a Uniting Church collaboration. They provide very real support to the community, especially refugees, and they are looking at ways that LETS can be of use to their organisation and community members. There's also a strong connection with the Anti Poverty network and an invitation for Adelaide LETS to join in the Anti Poverty conference later this year. The Spire provided the venue and catering for the unconference at Hopes Cafe where customers pay what they can afford in LETS units or in cash. The cafe provides hospitality training to volunteers as a way of helping them gain employment. They connect isolated people to relevant services and run several other inspiring projects.

Adelaide LETS meets regularly to trade at the One Planet Market which not only includes LETS stalls but also a Freecycle stall, ordinary stalls for cash, a food swap and so on. It sounds like a very interesting collaboration between community groups who have similar intentions to share resources and build a more ethical economy.

South Australia seems to be ahead of Queensland with initiatives such as refunds on recyclables already, some great maker-spaces and other exciting projects happening. Adelaide LETS is part of Sustainable Communities SA Inc, an organisation which has state government funding from the Dept of Natural Resources Management (NRM). Sustainable Communities auspices a number of worthwhile projects, and NRM has taken on public liability insurance for all community environmental organisations, including Adelaide LETS with insurance for their events.

In Fleurieu LETS (South Australia) some members are paying their Steiner school fees in LETS units. It is like a LETS "scholarship" for which families must apply. I was interested in this example of value on offer in a community exchange.

Apart from the Unconference, I also enjoyed visiting Sue and Geoff Andrews for a delicious solar-cooked curry meal, participating in a Boomerang Bags working bee with Sue Lloyd, and joining in a post-conference review meeting which allowed for lots of continued LETS discussion. I always love a chance to hang out with Annette Loudon from OzCES and learn from her. Then I also had fun sightseeing and I saw a couple of shows from the Fringe Festival.

Boomerang Bags Tablelands- Sew Sustainable

Sarah Tinney

It's a sewing revolution and it's here! As we approach the 1 July 2018 ban on plastic bags in Queensland, it's time to act and help reduce our waste. Approximately one billion single-use plastic shopping bags are used in Queensland each year. While the majority end up in landfill (which do not biodegrade), about 16 million enter the environment in Queensland each year. These bags pose real threats to land and marine environments, often ending up in waterways where they endanger marine life through entanglement or ingestion.

Enter Boomerang Bags! Boomerang Bags is a grassroots, community driven movement tackling plastic pollution at its source. Volunteers from all walks of life get together to make reusable 'boomerang bags' using recycled materials, as a means to provide a sustainable alternative to plastic bags. The bags are given away to friends, family, colleagues, bagless strangers and so on, as a plastic bag alternative that can be used and reused or passed on to others. The bags create a platform to start conversations, make friends, upcycle materials and work towards shifting society's throw away mentality to a more sustainable revolution of reuse – one community, needle and thread at a time!

According to the Boomerang Bags website (<http://boomerangbags.org/>), over 610 Boomerang Bags communities have been established all over the world. Together they have made just over 199,000 bags and diverted just under 60,000kg of waste from landfill!

The Tablelands have joined this initiative and a dedicated group have started a Boomerang Bags sewing group. The group meets on the first



Saturday of every month at Love-Lee Cooking, 70 Main Street Atherton from 9am to 1pm. The Tablelands group is named "Stitch and Giggle" and aims to reduce plastic bag dependence by making bags in a social setting.

Three sewing bees have been held, with fifty bags completed to date. These will now start to be offered to local businesses on the Tablelands to offer customers in place of plastic bags. In return for the bags, the businesses are encouraged to start conversations around plastic and plastic bags when offering the Boomerang Bags to customers. Customers are encouraged to return the bags to participating businesses so they can be used by others (hence the name Boomerang).

How can you help?

Everyone is invited to attend the sewing bees – bring your favourite scissors, sewing machine and a plate to share for morning tea. Don't sew? That's OK. Patterns are VERY simple and there is plenty of help available. There are also plenty of non-sewing jobs, e.g. cutting fabric, pinning pieces together, ironing handles.

We have big plans, including making reusable produce bags, making bags that can be 'bought to support' the Boomerang Bags movement and attending local markets/events to promote the bags and so any assistance would be greatly appreciated. We also welcome donations of fabric, thread, sewing supplies, etc.



If you would like any more information, please check out the group Facebook page at Boomerang Bags Tablelands. Click 'like' to be kept up to date on upcoming events and which

businesses are stocking Boomerang Bags. Or you can contact Sarah Tinney (TBCE0948) on 0403910486 or Leeandra Norman (find her in store at Love-Lee Cooking)

LETS – Co-creating Community

An email discussion between Bel Moore, Kate Martignier and Jodie Eden, in April 2018, based on some of the trickier questions people ask about being involved in LETS, and community groups in general...

How do you maintain boundaries, when you are inviting workers to your home or garden, and when people are picking up items or produce from your place? How do you balance sharing and privacy?

Kate: I don't find that this to be an issue for our family. We are in an out of the way location, so we don't have a lot of people calling in to pick stuff up. Workers who come to earn Bartles, and the odd LETS member who calls in to pick up something they've traded for, have always been respectful and courteous.

Jodie: I do value my privacy very highly and, while I enjoy company, I really want to know exactly who might turn up and exactly when.

LETS absolutely wouldn't work for me if it wasn't for the fabulous generosity of the LETS drop off people, THANK YOU!! I could never offer such a service and I treasure the great chunks of my life when at home undisturbed in my own little world!

I'm also a very busy never-sit-down person and would much rather socialise over a shared task. It seems that my highly self-sufficient lifestyle means that I have a lot of products and services that many LETS members want, especially my time to explain how to grow veggies. I find working bees a perfect way to spend my many Bartles, to socialise and also to get to show a bunch of people my system.

My advice to LETS members wanting to have a working bee is first to have something to offer workers beyond the opportunity to just earn Bartles- people will make the effort for an outing, an experience and a chance to socialise. In my case, everyone seems to want to see my

garden and ask me questions so I always offer a tour at the beginning and a lovely shared meal in the middle.

Second, be prepared to offer several dates, make it sound enticing and see what response you get. Third,

pick one or two people that you know will be great and then settle the date around them.

I've found it's like herding cats as different people cancel, change their mind, don't get back to me and I usually don't know exactly how many are showing up until the day. One time I had to be prepared for somewhere between 6 and 17 people! 11 showed up and it was a brilliant day, but I needed to have those extra chairs, tools and jobs organised just in case.

I only give out directions to our place once I'm convinced someone is serious and only once have had someone just spookily turn up without letting me know having worked out where I live.

Bel: Like Jodie, we value our privacy. We live in a location that can be handy for drop-ins, but we don't encourage these. Having been involved in LETS here for 10 years now, as well as other community groups, we tend to know a lot of people. We prefer to use the Drop Off Points and Trade Days for trading, or for people to come here only at arranged times, mostly so we can live and work uninterrupted and enjoy our time as a family at home.

We've learned to set boundaries around this when any of us have felt overwhelmed by the demands of others of our time and space.

Kate: I like sharing, and I think most of us could do with getting better at sharing and perhaps, for some of us, less concerned with privacy. In my time so far as a LETS member, I've never had a trading situation in which I felt my privacy was not being treated with respect.

How do you keep your family safe?

Kate: My first reaction when I read this question was, "Safe from what?"

My experience has been that most people are well-intentioned and decent, most of the time.

I am mindful about who we interact with and who we invite into our space, but I also believe that stories about people not behaving decently are seized by the media and elevated in importance out of all context with reality. I believe that a steady diet of such stories distorts our expectations of life and each other. Then the stories become self-fulfilling.

So to me, screening out the forms of media that elevate and distort stories of violence, is as important as being aware and mindful in choosing who we interact with.

Jodie: I definitely never worry about the safety of my family, I just don't think that way at all and I have a strong (if naive) trust in the world that's never yet let me down.

Bel: This has been an issue for us a couple of times over the years, prompting some discussions within our family on protecting our privacy, security, personal boundaries, etc.

We've literally met 1000s of people in the past decade, and when we moved here we had 6 children aged 4-13 years. There have been times when we've been guarded with our street address, photos of the children on social media etc due to our family's exposure through my community work.

We don't operate from a fear-based approach to interacting with the wider community, but there have certainly been moments that have reminded us to trust our instincts.

How do you protect your time when people need your advice on an item traded, or something you're doing on your farm, for example?

Kate: To answer this question, I have to give this context: Our goal is to develop our farm to where it earns a stable income so that we can both work at home. And although we're not clear on the details yet, we would ideally like to do that by serving a local customer base.

With that in mind, time spent chatting about an item traded or on something we're doing on the farm, would be a worthwhile investment that in most cases I think I would feel good about making.

In the unlikely event that I were inundated with requests for advice or trivial chatter that were chewing up more time

than I could spare, I'd have to change something, but I think it would be less about protecting my time and more about evaluating how effective I'm being, and how I could make things work better.

Jodie: I do think about how much time I want to spend answering LETS members' queries. I value my time at 25B per hour and while I realise there's got to be lots of give and take, I'm always thinking about how to be more efficient with my time.

That's why I started writing my garden newsletter, which I offered as a free community service that many people appreciated and told me so in a way that was great for swelling my head. However, I would still often get emails along the lines of 'what can I plant now?' Or 'why has my asparagus died?' And I started to realise that many people didn't want to take the time to read it but would rather me just answer their individual questions.

I often have to stop and think 'am I having fun with this?' I don't 'need' to earn Bartles in the way I still 'need' to earn money. I only do something for LETS because it adds value to my life. If the value-adding stops, I stop.

Can trading get too friendly? How do you "charge" your friends for things? When those you're trading with in LETS become friends, how do you keep trade and friendship separate?

Kate: Well... I don't. I don't try to keep trade and friendship separate, and for me there are three keys to making this work.

The first, is to trade with likeminded people. For me, one of the wonderful things about LETS is that it has such a friendly, supportive, open minded atmosphere, and it attracts friendly, supportive, open minded people. No surprises there; like attracts like. LETS members, I find, tend to be already aware that it's good to build community, to keep business as local as possible, that we need to take care of our environment and each other, and that a good turn for a neighbor will usually be returned in like kind somewhere down the track when it's needed.

I've had no trouble finding like-minded people to trade with and make friends with in LETS. They pop up everywhere I turn.

The second key to enjoying both friendships and trading rather than having to keep them separate, is **clear communication**, and as early in the relationship as possible. "This is the price in Bartles for this item or unit of

time. This is what I'm prepared to pay in cash or some other thing (if the parties are choosing to add another dimension to the trade)."

Once that's clearly established to the satisfaction of both parties, my experience has been that friendship can flourish alongside trading. If the rules are clear up front, then both parties know what to expect and no energy needs to be wasted on trying to work out vague, unspoken rules of the game. As the relationship becomes more familiar—which can lead to a greater likelihood of transgressions—the rules need to remain clear or be openly re-negotiated.

The third key is to make sure **the trading stays about the item being traded, and nothing else.**

In the past, I've been in situations where I gave things away for reasons I shouldn't have. My motives were usually to earn or keep someone's approval or acceptance or support. Trying to buy approval always backfires sooner or later.

Generosity that has no strings attached is one of the things that makes the world go round. But having learned about the tendency in myself to want to buy people's acceptance, now when I find myself tempted to err toward being excessively generous in some situation, I double check. "Am I trying to buy approval? Am I attaching strings to this generosity?"

It's better not to distort trading with thorny shenanigans that don't belong there. If I can just trade for bananas, or whatever, for an agreed price, then I can ALSO enjoy the camaraderie of knowing someone who likes my bananas and pays Bartles for them.

LETS becomes something we share, on terms we're both clear about, without it having to ever be any more complicated than that. That way, we can have a trading relationship AND a friendship. And we get to keep both.

Aside from trading with friends, or with people who become friends through LETS, I also have trading partners with whom I'm not particularly close friends for whatever reason, but who have enough maturity that we can be supportive of each other in a trading relationship without needing it to be anything more.

I also do lots of one off trades with people I might never meet or trade with again, because we don't live near each other, or they don't very often have the kinds of things I want to trade for, or we just don't have that much in common. That's ok too. These are all different dimensions

of what it means to be part of a network of people who collectively are part of something good.

Jodie: I have made some really great friends through LETS and it is really tricky continuing to charge them Bartles. It's much harder to insist they charge me since since the way the system works, I can't thrust a 50B note in their hand - they have to actually enter the transaction.

A couple of times I've asked the administrators to do it because the friend is just not going to get around to it. Often people want to go back to direct barter but I really try to encourage the transactions by saying that it's good for the system to be recording trades. The main reason I like it is because there is a record of where I am in the give and take of the community. If we don't write these things down how would I remember if I had done enough or if it was time to give back?

Of course I still give friends gifts and happily accept gifts also.

Bel: This can be hard! Because at times it feels like everyone is a friend... And of course almost all of my friends end up joining LETS. I really just treat each transaction on a case-by-case basis. Sometimes I'll offer a friend a box of fruit for Bartles, other times I'll give it away. I just try to communicate clearly, and we've never had any issues that I'm aware of. It's the same as being in business really (which we are)... occasionally you'll offer a freebie or discount, but ultimately, we all need an income of some sort to survive.

... This discussion will be continued in the next issue of *Bartle Banter*.

Kate Martignier is a LETS member, homeschooling parent and permaculture farmer who lives near Millaa Millaa. While answering questions for this Co-Creating Community

conversation in LETS, Kate also wrote 'Getting Together' at her blog, ARealGreenLife.com

Jodie Eden has been a Tableland LETS member for for over 26 years. In the beginning she offered labouring, tutoring and cartooning, and was a committee member and coordinator for a while. Now her main trade is in garden produce and veggie seedlings.

Bel Moore has been admin for Tableland LETS/ FNQ CES for about 10 years and first traded in LETS about 25 years ago. She's a busy parent, homeschooler and business-owner as well as her community commitment.

WIN two nights accommodation at Ilona's beautiful Daintree House!

Daintree Lighthouse View
Ancient Rainforest, peaceful nature,
relaxing Balinese atmosphere,
above the rainforest canopy

Ilona Heindl | iheindl@yahoo.com | SMS 0438759711

4 Bedroom house, Family & kid friendly, 5 mins to Daintree River, 20 mins to the beach

Seasonal prices starting from \$180 a night, 2 night minimum stay



Just 2 Bartles a ticket!

Drawn at **Winter Warmer Pool Pizza Trade** on **9th June** at **Kewarra Beach drop of point at 1pm**. Proceeds will assist with the event and general FNQ CES Admin (after costs). Contact Ilona: **0438 759 711 (TBCE0418)**

JUNE IS SPONSORSHIP MONTH !

To raise Bartles for ongoing admin costs, we are hosting an additional sponsorship month, in June 2018.

If you are an existing FNQ CES account holder and would like to sponsor someone you know to join FNQ Community Exchange (LETS), in lieu of them paying \$20, you pay 20B from your account instead.

Please think who do you know that might benefit from Community Exchange? Are there any people or businesses you wish you could trade with, if only they would join?

To make this happen, print an application form and email to fnqces@gmail.com or see your Local Area Contact.



Local Drop Off Points

To make trading easier we have several pick up and drop off points. They are provided by very generous LETS members, so please use these areas with respect and check if you need to make an appointment for goods to be dropped off or picked up.

Please make sure you label all items and leave them in the area provided. Contact members on details/ addresses of the below locations. Or use the 'User search' function on the CES website.

Atherton: Irene's LETShed TBCE0070 - side carport area

Cairns/Caravonica: Sandra & Rene's place TBCE0400 - back of the carport

Cairns/City: Lafew Teahouse - Lorna TBCE0091 - must be clearly labeled

Cairns/Northern Beaches: Kewarra Beach. Ilona's place TBCE00418 - area under carport

Herberton: Leeandra's place TBCE0243 - front verandah

Innisfail: Mellissa's place TBCE0058 - recently moved

Julatten: Lyn & Reece's TBCE0636 (temporary DOP)

Koah: Blake TBCE0390 - inside of shed

Malanda: Katrin's place TBCE0102 - marked area under the house

Mareeba: Seamus TBCE0914 - enter via side street - look for sign (new DOP needed - moving!)

Millaa Millaa: Margaret Plant TBCE0463

Ravenshoe: LETS shed, Melinda TBCE0254 or Kathy TBCE0488

Tully: Michael's place TBCE0571 - marked area back of carport

Please contact admin if you'd like to be a drop off point and have a central location

LETS Transport System - delivery is not guaranteed, please organise transport with those doing the deliveries AND the recipient. If Bartles are to be paid for delivery, please organise amount beforehand, or ask any admin to send a gift amount. Print slips from:

<http://www.tablelandlets.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/LETStransportslipsjan2015.pdf>

TO _____ TBCE _____

Date _____ Contact phone number _____ (optional)

Please take this to _____

FROM _____ TBCE _____

Please complete and attach to all items travelling via the LETS transport system

Irene's Edible Garden

A successful Workshop on Summer Salads was held in April. A dozen adults and a handful of children tasted flowers and leaves they had not encountered before, and enjoyed a selection of salads afterwards. Irene is planning to call future sessions Grow, Harvest, Eat. Keep an eye out for the next one in August.



Find a trade event near you



FNQ Community Exchange is all about trading; buying and selling goods and services for Bartles rather than spending the Aussie Dollar. Trade events are held in many locations across the north. There is probably one near you this week! If you'd like to host a Trade Event - especially in the Cairns, Mareeba, Yungaburra, Millaa, Kuranda, Koah or Cooktown areas - please contact us!

What to bring to Trade events:

- Meal or snack to share if applicable
- Friends
- Trading Record Sheet and pen
- Any goods you wish to trade
- Promotional material of any services you are offering if applicable
- \$20 fee if you don't yet have a FNQ Community Exchange account

Atherton - a mixture of trades are hosted by Irene & Peter. Irene also offers a variety of workshops through the year, and a drop off point. *Contact* Irene on 0439 914 876.

Cairns Beaches Trade Day - Meet new people and trade new skills and any goods. *Contact* Ilona on 0438 759 711 for further information about this event and FNQ Community Exchange in the Cairns Beaches area.

Malanda Trade Mornings are held at the Memorial Park. The covered area next to the playground opposite the post office. *Contact* Katrin on 4096 6755.

Malanda Trade Nights and shared dinner are held at Katrin's Place, opposite the Caravan Park near Malanda Falls. There is a plant stall out the front. This is a family-friendly event. 6pm trading, 7pm - 9pm shared meal and chat. *Contact* Katrin on 4096 6755 for the date of the next dinner & trade!

Mt Molloy Markets are on the first Saturday of the month. Look for the combined LETS stall! *Contact* Lyn for more information on 04 2796 2888.

Ravenshoe Trade Afternoon is held in varying locations. See calendar for details.

Tully Trade Nights are held at Michael's place. Share some good food, fun and learning while you trade. *Contact* Michael on 40683669 for details.

LETS Book Lending Library

- ***A World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism* (2008) by Muhammad Yunus**
 - ***Climate Code Red: the case for emergency action* (2008) - by David Spratt & Philip Sutton**
 - ***Nuclear Power is Not the Answer* (2006) by Helen Caldicott**
 - ***Permaculture Pioneers* (2011) - edited by Kerry Dawborn & Caroline Smith**
 - ***The Alchemist* (1988) - by Paulo Coelho**
 - ***The Holistic Life: Sustainability through Permaculture* (2007) - by Ian Lillington**
 - ***The LETSaholic Twist* (2005) - by James Taris**
(Everything you always wanted to know about LETS... but didn't know who to ask)
 - ***The New Natural House Book* (1998) - by David Pearson**
(Creating a healthy, harmonious and ecologically sound home)
 - ***Small is Beautiful: Study of Economics as if People Mattered* - by E. F. Schumacher**
 - ***Small is Possible: Life in a Local Economy* (2007) - by Lyle Estill**
- ***Local Dollars, Local Sense: How to Shift your Money from Wall Street to Main Street and Achieve Real Prosperity***
 - ***A Community Resilience Guide* (2012) - by Michael Shuman**
- ***Twelve Principles - Living with integrity in the twenty-first century* (2003) - by Martin Hawes**
- ***Radical Homemakers - Changing the world from your own backyard* (2011) - Shannon Hayes**
 - ***How The Rich Are Destroying The Earth* (2008) - Herve Kempf**
 - ***Deep Economy* (2007) - Bill McKibben**
 - ***The Omnivore's Dilemma - Young Readers Edition* - Michael Pollan**
 - ***Agenda for a New Economy* (2010) - David C. Korten**
- ***Slow Money - Woody Tasch, investing as if food, farms and fertility mattered;***
- ***Healthy Money, Healthy Planet - Deirdre Kent, Developing sustainability through new money systems;***
 - ***Changing Course for Life - Julian Rose, Local Solutions to Global Problems;***
 - ***Spirit of the Times (magazine) - Money issue* (2013)**
 - ***yes! (magazine) - Education issue* (2009)**
 - ***Grow Food Plants in Cairns, FNQ - Jo Martin* (2012)**
 - ***Earth Garden Building Book: Design and Build Your Own house* by Robert Rich (1991)**
 - ***Handmade in Tasmania* (2010) by Steven French *Stories of the Artisans of Tasmania***
 - ***The Dairy Goat in Queensland* (1981) DPI**
 - ***Australian Goat Husbandry* (1985) by Pat Coleby**
 - ***A Guide to Keeping Goats in Australia* (1983) by Maria Prendergast**
 - ***Resurrection in A Bucket: the Rich and Fertile Story of Compost* (2004) by Margaret Simons**
 - ***People Money: the Promise of regional currencies* (2012) by M. Kennedy, B Lietaer, J. Rogers**
 - ***LETS Work: rebuilding the Local Economy* (1994) by Peter Lang**
 - ***The Transition Handbook: from Oil dependency to local resilience* (2008) by Rob Hopkins**

Contact Irene to find out how you can borrow any of these books:
TBCE0070 - phone 04 3991 4876.

FNQ Community Exchange User Agreement

- 1 Far North Queensland Community Exchange was formerly known as Tableland LETS. It is an informal non-profit group managed by its users. FNQ Community Exchange provides a service which allows Users to exchange information to facilitate trading and maintain such records of that trading.
- 2 A local Bartle is the symbol of energy transferred between users. Users shall be willing to trade in Bartles. It is essential that with part Bartle, part cash transactions, the ratio is 50/50 (or more Bartles than dollars). The value of a Bartle shall be decided upon between parties to any individual transaction. Users may know the Bartle balance of any other User including administrative accounts.
- 3 FNQ Community Exchange Admin is authorised to levy charges on Users' accounts in Bartles at a rate determined in August each year. This is currently 12B/annum.
- 4 FNQ Community Exchange Admin may decline a transaction or User it considers inappropriate.
- 5 Accountability of taxes incurred by Users is the obligation of those involved in an exchange. FNQ Community Exchange has no obligation, nor liability to report to the Australian Taxation Office, nor to collect taxes on their behalf.
- 6 No warranty or undertaking as to the value, condition or quality of the items or services exchanged is expressed or implied by the virtue of introduction of Users to one another.
- 7 While all information on Users' accounts is considered personal and confidential, and only accessible by registered Community Exchange System (CES) Users, FNQ Community Exchange cannot guarantee confidentiality nor be held liable for breach of it. It is a User's responsibility to ensure and protect all Users' details by ensuring account and password details remain confidential and Offers and Wants emails are not forwarded to those who are not registered CES Users.
- 8 All transactions between Users are the sole responsibility of those Users and no liability to the Users of any nature shall be incurred by FNQ Community Exchange or any other User or Admin in respect of such a transaction.
- 9 No one, including any member of the FNQ Community Exchange Facebook Group or CES account holder shall administer or create a Facebook group or page, web page or other online location or email list associated with or in the name of FNQ Community Exchange or Tableland LETS for any purpose, including trading in Bartles without approval of FNQ Community Exchange Admin.
- 10 These terms and conditions may be changed by FNQ Community Exchange Admin from time to time. Changes will be published in Bartle Banter and updated online.
- 11 FNQ Community Exchange users are also bound by the agreement at Community Exchange, which can be found here: <https://www.communityexchange.net.au/terms.asp?xid=tbce>

For a copy of this agreement, or the terms & conditions of the Community Exchange, please ask your Local Area Contact or other FNQ Community Exchange Admin, or download them online here:

<http://www.fnqces.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/User-agreement.pdf>



FNQ COMMUNITY EXCHANGE



Trading as Tableland LETS for 25 years

Application Form

Account Number _____ (office use)

Received by _____ Date _____ (office use)

Only add as much information as you wish to share with the FNQ Community Exchange

Account Name _____

Account Type - Shared / Business / Group / Individual (please circle one)

Postal Address _____

Location (residential address or town) _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

Email _____ Web _____

Skills or Goods Offered (Optional – these may be added to the Community Exchange on your behalf upon joining, or you can add some later)

Skills or Goods Wanted (Optional these may be added to the Community Exchange on your behalf upon joining, or you can add some later)

I, _____, have read the User Agreement on page 2 and by obtaining a FNQ Community Exchange account agree to the terms and conditions of both Far North Queensland Community Exchange and Community Exchange System Australia.

Signed _____ Date _____

Amount Paid _____ Payment Method _____ Received By _____

Payment Methods:

Direct Deposit: **Tableland LETS**; BSB **633-000**; Account Number: **113717813**

Cheque: Made Payable to: **Tableland LETS**

Cash: Payable at LETS events to any LETS Admin

Standard FNQ Community Exchange application fee is a one-off \$20 payment

Please return this form with payment to

FNQ Community Exchange
PO BOX 440 MALANDA, QLD 4885

Email fnqces@gmail.com - Phone Bel 4096 6972

From this Application form, an account will be created for you at www.communityexchange.net.au