

## **Newsletter October 2007**

**The LETS South AGM** was due to be held on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The Meeting didn't have a quorum so was rescheduled as required by the Constitution for the following week at the same time and same place.

**The new LETS Committee** has now been elected as you'll see from the new Contact List. We welcome the new Members and look forward to a good year of work ahead. The LETS Committee Meetings are generally happy events with laughter and plenty of work done. The efficiency is a marvel sometimes and it is great to have the trust between the Committee Members and the cooperative working which makes it all so easy and pleasant. Thank-you Committee!!

**The next Market date is December 2<sup>nd</sup>** and the dates for next year will be decided at the first Committee Meeting and will be in the next Newsletter. Congratulations to **Maureen** who has consistently done the most trades at the Markets. She will be unable to attend the December Market, the first she has ever missed. Her dedication is an inspiration and her cakes are top notch too! Good wishes to you Maureen. We love you too!

It's great to see **more involvement by the Membership** in the activities of LETS, not just in doing work for each other, although of course that is what LETS is all about. We love it when a Member phones to ask who would be the best person to fix a lawnmower, paint a house, help out in some way or other. It shows that LETS South is a working community busily trading and that the Members are actively involved with LETS and with each other.

It has been mentioned previously but just a reminder, **you can trade with other groups** both nationally and internationally...now there's a thought!! You need to check first with the group as not all will inter-trade. Just do a search for LETS and you'll find the Websites of many groups, lots have Resource Guide details or contacts to help you find what you want. When you receive a transaction slip or give one, it is sent to the "Home" group for processing. No problems!

**The Newsletter** will continue to come out Monthly with Member updates. The Resource Guide will be updated 4 times a year and your next one will be posted and emailed in November.

The Webmaster updates the Website regularly. You'll find an abbreviated version of the Newsletter there so that prospective Members can see it without any confidential details being revealed. The Notice-board is still going and is updated regularly if you want to place an ad.

**Publicity** is high on the wish list this year and the more active promotion of LETS. We're not aiming to reach the record of the Blue Mountains group with over 1,000 Members but we always need more workers as we can never get enough gardeners, cleaners, mechanics, window-washers and handypersons. Our LETS group is alive and kicking and more Members add to the mix of what is on offer to spend your \$B on.

If there are any **queries** about any of the reports or any other matter please phone on 8556 2705.

Happy Trading!

### The Constitution

It is hoped that this year the Committee will be able to revise the Constitution. The Webmaster has put up the Constitution and the Associations Act on the Website if you wish to see it. The Constitution is a legal document and necessary for LETS South's Incorporation under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985. LETS South Certificate of Incorporation was issued on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1990, making us 17 this year. Of course a great deal of hard work went in to reaching that point and we thank our Founder Members for getting LETS South up and running.

One of the objects is to **“encourage co-operative relationships between members and give expression to the advantages of collective approaches to increase benefits to individual members or member organizations.”** How are we doing? Hard to measure of course even if you can understand what the above is getting at. One of our goals is to simplify the language as much as possible so that it can be understood easily. The job will be a headache, as it has been for those dedicated Members who worked on it in the past, last time about 6 years ago. We need to check that the Constitution is still working for us and that we can follow what is laid down.

**If any Member feels they can help in this task or has any comments please call us at the Office on 8556 2705.**

Thank-you to all those lovely Members who have enquired about the progress of the “Famous Five” goslings. It's been a wonderful journey so far. They now go regularly to the dam for their diving and swimming sessions. They dive under water and swim for quite a distance before popping up again. When 5 are doing this at the same time the effect is one of great activity and is so comic to watch. They are enjoying their life outside the egg and have taken to visiting us each morning at the backdoor to

enquire when we're coming for a walk with them to the dam. They have also started eating tip-bits from our hands and this doesn't seem to affect their capacity to eat large quantities of grass each day. If you're ever tempted to take a cute little gosling home to live in your back-yard ...think three times! They need huge amounts of fresh grass, which they like to pluck themselves and of course it all gets recycled into lovely packets of green liquid or semi-liquid fertilizer. Not great in a back-yard unless you have the water to hose it down frequently. They are however the most wonderful companions and love to help with weeding and gardening of any description. They love snails and grit and often make big beak shaped holes in pot plants or ash cans. Great entertainment and all for free! Nearly as good as TheatreSports!

It's coming to that time of year again when we may get a glut of something lovely if we're lucky! Broad beans, lettuce, French beans, sweet-corn and later tomatoes. Hope you growers out there are having some good crops and enjoying your produce. Have you tried broad beans cooked tiny in their pods? As they get bigger, steamed in their pods and then podded and shelled? Dress with a nice garlic and herb dressing and it's a dish you could serve anytime anywhere to anyone. Have you tried Jamie Oliver's recipe for mashed up broad beans and peas? Very easy and tasty.

Here's a beaut Recipe for Piccalilli...it makes 1.4kgs or 3lbs in old money. You can also use the same method to make green bean chutney which is wonderful and can be quite addictive for the foodies amongst us.

Ingredients are 225g/8oz cucumber, the same of tomatoes, cauliflower, celery. 450g/1lb onions or shallots or a mix.

Prepare in ¼ in or 1.25cm dice or whole if tiny. Put in a large pan and sprinkle with 25g/1oz salt. Pour over enough water to cover. Put the lid on and leave 24 hours.

Cook by slowly bringing to boiling point, drain well and keep hot.

Mix 40g/1 1/2oz plain flour, 1 level dstspn mustard powder, pinch turmeric, 75g/3oz sugar to smooth paste with a little of the 500ml/1 pint vinegar.

Heat rest of vinegar, don't boil and stir in flour paste. Cook until thick. Bring to boil and cook for 1 minute.

Mix in hot vegetables, cook gently for 15 mins and stir as it can stick.

Place in hot clean jars, seal and label when cold. Resist the urge to eat it for a few weeks as it will taste vinegary.

Ideal for kids to help with and they are good at making the labels. Yummy!

for Beginners...

2 hour session, refreshments provided, answer your questions, raise your confidence and get you started on this rewarding and addictive activity!

Phone Liz

Come to the Aldinga Institute on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
11- 2

Stalls, refreshments and a chance to meet other Members.

Put it in your Diary – hope to see you all there!

Market  
\$B2178 were traded at the last

The Highest Seller was Member No 200 with  
\$B274

### **For New Members**

This coming year we're hoping to be able to spend more time helping new Members to settle in and feel at home with the system. It can be confusing at first and there is a gap between your joining and appearing in the Newsletter Member Update and then the Resource Guide. We have shortened this as much as we can and hope you will bear with us on the few weeks delay that may still exist. We do our best by offering work immediately if we can fix it up for you so that you can get trading as soon as possible and learn to find your way round the system. The larger the range of things you offer the more likely you are to be asked to work or trade. Conversely the narrower the range the more unusual your service or offer, the less likely you are to have frequent trades and be able to earn enough to spend on what you want and need.

We are attempting to balance this by talking to you at the time of joining about your offers, so that you are not disappointed later. You can change or add to your offers at any time. Please remember to tell us if any of your details change so that we can keep up to date with the database and our postal and email systems. If you don't tell us you won't get your Resource Guide and Newsletters on time or at all. It's up to you to help us to keep things up to date.

As you may remember from the agreement you signed, part of being a Member of LETS South is about enabling others. This involves helping the Committee to do its work efficiently by keeping information up to date and by paying your Membership fees on time on July 1<sup>st</sup> each year. That way you enable us to get out a Resource Guide on time listing all the Members and what they offer and get the full benefit from our great system. It also gives LETS the income to run the system for the full year and pay for all the things that are needed to keep things ticking over on your behalf. Establish good habits early on and put it in your diary.

LETS South can refuse to renew a Membership. It has never been done but the Committee has come close to it on a couple of occasions. We don't need Members who are unreliable in the work they do or in payment. Other Members need to be able to trust what you do and how you do it in every aspect of LETS life. To cause difficulty for others is surely one of the most selfish things we can do and far removed from the goal of enabling.

We're sometimes asked what makes a "good" LETS Member. It involves paying your Membership on time, filling in your form fully so that you don't give the Committee more work to do than is necessary, turning up, returning phone-calls or messages, charging a fair rate, sticking to the spirit of LETS and being a Community person who can sometimes put others first and think of someone other than themselves. It's about trying to be unselfish, helping others, being honest and having all those old-fashioned qualities that make the world run smoothly. Lets keep them alive as long as we can, it makes the world a better place.

Don't forget to check that you are trading with a financial Member with a current card..

The Newsletter. LETS South has gone through many stages and changes. Looking back to 1999 the Resource Guide and

Newsletters were quite small but there was a bit of advertising. Now that we're in a new phase with many young families, over 60's and all ages in between it would be good to see more adverts and Members promoting themselves. If any Member would like to write something about what they do we'll put it in the Newsletter.

The Member profile will continue this year as many of you seem to like it and attempts will be made to include a photo as it makes it more personal. We're still the same old warm and cuddly LETS South but with a bit of updating. We love to hear your feedback so keep it coming and thanks to all those who have taken the time and trouble to do that this last year. It is appreciated.

Thanks to Yvette, one of our newer Members, for her help with the last edition. We wish you and Anthony good luck with your house build and welcome you to lovely Willunga.

Congratulations to all you lucky Grannies out there..we know you're very busy and involved. We also look forward to welcoming some new baby LETS Members in the next few months. Some of you seem to be having one for Mum, one for Dad and one for LETS!! Good on you!

*Please note this is an abridged version of the Newsletter as photos and identifying names have been removed to preserve anonymity*