



**Our mission is to facilitate
the exchange of goods and services
amongst the Golden Bay community,
using a complementary mutual exchange currency.
Our aim is to strengthen
local community and social climate.**

H.A.N.D.S.

- **available to anyone who wants to work**
 - **better than a barter system**
 - **there are no risks**
 - **you can trade with many people**
 - **good for your community**
- **available to anyone who has a skill or goods someone else needs**
 - **creates jobs by giving credit**
 - **works alongside the Kiwi dollar**
- **creates wealth which circulates locally**
 - **interest free**



H.A.N.D.S. and HANDS

H.A.N.D.S. (How About Non Dollar System), the Golden Bay version of L.E.T.S. (Local Employment & Trading System), is a system of barter or trading which uses locally created currency between members to value their trading. The unit of exchange is called the HAND, which equals, more or less, the Kiwi \$ in value. HANDS are a measure of trading between members. They're recorded in members' accounts and may be held in the form of Exchange Vouchers.

THE TRANSACTION

Contact a member who offers the goods or skills you want. Negotiate the details and price. Members may trade wholly or partly in HANDS in any transaction. When the transaction is complete, there are four ways to transfer the HANDS from buyer to seller:

1. transaction slip - complete the transaction details (signed by buyer, submitted by seller) and give to a Committee member or put into the H.A.N.D.S. box at the Wholemeal foyer
2. contact HANDy messenger with transaction details
3. enter transaction details online (seller only):
<http://community-exchange.org/>
4. directly using Exchange Vouchers (see below)

WEBSITE

<http://community-exchange.org/>

Online members can access their accounts, browse and search the H.A.N.D.S. directory, update their skills list and contact details, enter transactions, write recommendations and place ads. Members can contact a website administrator for their logon and password.

RESPONSIBILITY

Members join with a 0 HANDS balance in their account; if they leave, they are expected to bring their HANDS balance back to zero. The Committee can advise members how to close their accounts.

HOW TO JOIN

1. You can join H.A.N.D.S. at a market or by appointment with a Committee member.
2. Go over member's agreement together.
3. List skills and products offered and wanted using HANDS.
4. Cost is \$20, or which up to 10 can be paid in HANDS. Kiwi\$ are used by H.A.N.D.S. for venue hire, ads, postage, and for printing the directory, newsletter, brochure, market posters, etc.
5. Your account is debited a small amount quarterly, between 3 and 6 HANDS, depending on what is needed to run the system. You are credited 3 HANDS if you have a stall at the quarterly market.
6. The HANDy messenger will contact you to help you get started trading.

H.A.N.D.S. MARKETS

- Held at least quarterly (near solstices & equinoxes) at different venues.
- Stalls are encouraged and are free.
- Stall holders get a 3H discount on the quarterly fee.

EXCHANGE VOUCHERS (EVs)

Exchange vouchers obtained from H.A.N.D.S. admin are debited from the member's account. EVs returned to HANDS admin will be credited to the member's account. These can best be done at a market or by appointment with a committee member.

Credit & debit limits continue to apply. Trading with EVs is not also recorded within the system. Anyone can use the EVs, but only members can withdraw and credit them against their accounts.

GOING THROUGH ZERO

Unlike the conventional money system, HANDS work best when as many traders as possible trade to bring their account balances through zero as often as possible (go from credit to debit and vice versa!).

Approximately half the members will be in credit (recognition) and the other half in debit (dedication).

Keeping a constant balance, either in debit or in credit is not helpful for the system or other members and is discouraged. There is no penalty for going into debit (HANDS doesn't have interest, either way) – on the contrary, only going into debit makes the system possible in the first place.

Therefore, trading involves continual earning and spending – it is the act of exchange and the resulting satisfaction that creates wealth, not the keeping of a high balance.

L.E.T.S. was designed by Michael Linton in the early 1980s on Vancouver Island, Canada, as a response to high unemployment in the community and to give value to people's skills when federal dollars became scarce. Now it exists more for other reasons, such as an antidote to globalisation, enhancing identification with local community, providing a sustainable economic trading system and valuing people's skills that are not frequently honoured in the conventional cash system. The main feature is that wealth created by trading and using HANDS stays right in the community. H.A.N.D.S. is complementary to the conventional economy.

ACCOUNTS ON HOLD

Accounts of members who will be away from Golden Bay for a short period of time, up to a year, can be put on hold. This means the membership is informed and no quarterly fee is deducted.

NEWSLETTER

- Published quarterly (one or two weeks before the market).
- Available by email or hard copy.
- Contains info and updates about H.A.N.D.S., new members, members' updates, next market, articles about L.E.T.S., policy, members' ads, etc.
- Deadlines for publishing ads, letters, and other contributions are generally the last week of February, May, August and November. Members are reminded of deadlines via email and GB Weekly.
- Statement of account (if there has been a transaction) and current balance included for non-emailers.

DEBIT AND CREDIT

A member's debit is referred to as *dedication*. This implies the amount of products and services s/he has accepted to give back to the community of members as a whole. A member's credit is referred to as *recognition*. This implies the amount of products and services s/he can anticipate to receive from the community of members as a whole to balance goods and services provided earlier.

S K I L L S

Goods and services on offer for HANDS are listed in the directory in categories such as: accommodation; art & craft; building; business; childcare; clothing; computer;; education; entertainment & recreation; events, meetings & celebrations; farm & garden; food; health & therapy; hair; hire; home, photography/video; sustainable community; transportation; writing; other trades & services. Each main category can hold several subcategories.

Examples

Organic mandarins are listed under Food/Fruit & Nuts.

Guitar tuition is listed under Education/Music.

Breadboards are listed under Art & Craft/Wood.

Brochure design is listed under Computer/Design.

Native plants are listed under Farm & Garden/Plants & Trees.

Employment can be available to anyone who wants to work and has skills or goods that someone else needs. Everyone has skills they enjoy. These can be used for trade.

Members can also trade skills and goods not previously published in the directory. If you have additional services or goods to offer, let our HANDy Messenger know about them.

Some Sample Exchanges

Jesse is a DJ and does a job for Di.

Perle offers Thai Massage. Jesse wants a massage but has no money.

Perle doesn't need a DJ, but needs her gardening done.

Pounamu needs some computing done. Di does gardening.

Bruce works with computers and does some work for Pounamu.

All are members of a L.E.T.S. system.

Transactions are negotiated - credits are given to the agreed value and also debited.



H.A.N.D.S. Committee

H.A.N.D.S. is a non-profit agency. Its rights and authority are vested in the Committee, which acts as an agent for its members.

The H.A.N.D.S. Committee

- is selected by the membership at an annual members' meeting
- meets monthly to make decisions and take actions to ensure the system runs effectively
- joins new H.A.N.D.S. members
- publishes a directory with members' products and services and contact information
- publishes quarterly newsletters with up-to-date information and an opportunity to advertise
- between newsletters, networks members' ads & other H.A.N.D.S. information via email and a noticeboard at the Wholemeal
- maintains the H.A.N.D.S. website
- records all transactions not entered by members online
- sends monthly statements to emailers and quarterly statements (or account balance if there were no trades) to non-emailers
- handles withdrawals and redemptions of HANDS Exchange Vouchers
- ensures H.A.N.D.S. policies are adhered to
- holds HAMM (H.A.N.D.S. Annual Membership Meeting) – discussion for members and selection of committee
- organises markets and special events
- employs a HANDy messenger to facilitate communication among members and act as a liaison

CLOSING ACCOUNTS

Members in credit wishing to leave H.A.N.D.S. may spend their HANDS or donate them to another member or to the system. Those in debit need to earn HANDS and/or pay NZ dollars to restore their balance to zero.

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Tax and GST

Current New Zealand law requires members to pay income tax on HANDS earned for the same type of work they receive Kiwi dollars for. They do not have to pay taxes on HANDS earned for their work different than the work they usually earn cash for.

If you are a business and are GST registered, then the usual GST rates apply on your HANDS trades.

Members are accountable for any taxes they incur through trading. H.A.N.D.S. has no obligation or liability to report to Inland Revenue or to collect taxes on their behalf (Article 12, Member Agreement).

