

## **Trading skills and services**

Initially, ArmLETS will be a service and skills trading system only, with goods only traded on specific Trade days. Services currently on offer in other LETS groups include: childcare, pick-ups and deliveries, rug making classes, yoga classes, essay editing, home maintenance, psychic readings, budgeting advice, participation in Working Bees, and more.

### **Letting people know**

When a member begins trading services, they often have a flier or business card to hand out. These are often paper ones made up on a home computer or a library photocopier. You are not expected to go to enormous expense to advertise your services or goods. Services are also listed free in the Offers section on the ArmLETS website. You can list your services there yourself and look up other members' Offers of goods and services. (If you don't have the internet at home or don't know how to use it, contact Michelle Owens [mowens3@internode.on.net](mailto:mowens3@internode.on.net) or 67727722.

### **Testing ground**

Not everyone has business experience and LETS provides a good testing ground for business products and skills. Members can start their business in LETS, get practice and consumer feedback from members, iron out wrinkles in their services or goods and then take their business into the cash market with all the experience and practice of trading behind them. Several members in other LETS groups have confidently and successfully transferred their business from LETS into the dollar market.

### **Keeping your skills fresh**

People looking for work can trade their skills to keep them fresh and to avoid a blank period of unemployment on their résumé or CV. They also gain references to show to potential employers. There is also the simple network effect of members knowing you are looking for work and helping you find it.

### **For the love of it**

Other members trade skills they simply enjoy performing. One person may enjoy looking after children and reading them stories, another person may enjoy a morning of pulling weeds out of someone else's garden at a Working Bee or cooking their favourite cake and getting praise and Gems for it at a Trade Day.

### **Participating in Working Bees**

A member who needs work done on or around their house may list a Working Bee on the website, on the email list or just tell people at a Trade Day. Members come to the Working Bee and do the work in exchange for Gems.

Working Bees are a good opportunity to increase your trade and get to know members. They are great for new members who haven't traded before. It's another very social occasion like Trade Days and there is a lot of chat and talking about who's trading what and so on. You don't have to be an expert to trade your time at a Working Bee.

### **Some skills & services currently being traded**

Massage

Furniture renovation

Typing

Proof-reading & editing

Cleaning

Childcare

Pick-ups and deliveries

Artists' model

Rug making classes

Home maintenance

Psychic readings

Past Life Regressions

Pet minding

Legal/financial advice

Termite control

Budgeting advice

Home care

Tree lopping

Plumbing

House-sitting

Sewing

Facials & hand massage

(It's okay to trade the same skill or service as another member; in fact it is great as it gives more options to members.)