

ozCES report – Annette Loudon 2015 National LETS Conference

Thank you for donating to bring Tim out

Firstly - thank you so much to all the groups and traders who donated to bring Tim to our conference this year. I was particularly blown away with the generosity of the Tablelands members.

Tim has done so much for us over the years. It's an honour & a pleasure to have him here with us this weekend.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm from Sydney LETS and I help look after the Australian CES. So I'll be talking about:

- what's going on with ozCES
- Trading Stats
- ozCES redevelopment

What's going on with ozCES

A year ago we moved ozCES to a new host (May 23rd 2014) - Afrihost - due to email limitations at our old host. We kept hitting the limit and they'd block us from sending emails. That problem was solved by the move, our new host doesn't stop us sending emails. Woo!

So that's great, however...

We're now having problems with major email services **blacklisting** us. Some of our traders must be reporting our emails as spam. Thanks to Tim we recovered quickly the first couple of times, but the latest issue with Hotmail requires a bit more work. He's working on getting us off the Hotmail blacklist, but it's taking some time.

Aside from that the site has been down a couple of times, but all in all the service seems pretty good for the price.

Total cost for the server in 2014 was \$560

Server costs have been covered by donations from a bunch of groups.

We have \$375 in the bank.

Thanks to:

Hunter
Central Coast
Tableland
Sydney
Bega Valley
Brisbane
Adelaide
Diamond Valley
Maleny
Warranwood
CENTS
Perth (PCEX)

Trading statistics

Top 5 groups (by number of trades)

Exchange	Trades	Ave/day	Average	Total	Credit	Debit
TBCE	7066	19	29.2	206,341	1000	-1000
MALO	3022	8	46.54	140,654	3000	-1000
HUNT	1786	5	35.1	62,694	2000	-2000
CENT	1372	4	34.01	46,666	3000	-500
ALSA	1331	4	24.79	33,000		-50

Stats

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19THJ9gu5Y3yvVO3Wf2MCxL14xVYkPUaCoSG0OyPIZfw/edit?usp=sharing>

Map

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=zEbMXYT7TqDc.ku_e5lx9gd64

Many committees spend a lot of time debating Credit and Debit limits, so I've shared those here. But I don't think credit & debit limits are where the magic is.

I've watched many trading groups rise and fall over the last 6 or 7 years. I think the success of a group is mainly to do with

**the coordinator/admin,
the team they put together &
the culture they promote.**

To run a successful trading group you need:

**a passionate,
hard working,
tenacious admin
with a vision**

I asked Tania from CENTS Tassie, and Bel from Tableland what drives them to put so much time and energy into running their groups:

Tania:

"I'm determined to see a new paradigm in global economics, particularly around collaborative economies. We need sustainable communities and to return to caring for others."

Bel:

"Making a difference. Food on the table kinda difference..."

effective admins seem to be

Community organisers
Good at building a team
Good at delegating

culture of encouraging traders to step up and solve things themselves.

Tania also made another excellent point -

"It's about recognising what to expend your energy on.
Given that I have a finite amount of it I can assure you it's going toward the best possible use."

Stuck?

So if your group is going through a rough patch
I recommend that you take time out to do 2 things:

1) Renew your vision for the group

Why are you doing this?

What do you want to see happening in your community as a result of your efforts?

Get excited again.

2) Focus on work that pays off

How are you spending your time?

Which things are most worthwhile?

Which ones you could let go?

From what I hear from the more vibrant groups **brokering** seems to be a pretty worthwhile task.

ozCES Redevelopment

Most of you will be aware that the CES is in desperate need of some fresh code and a new paint job.

Tim has been keen to redevelop the CES for 5 years or more now, but it's a massive job, and a couple of years ago we realised that we'd probably need a large sum of money to make it happen.

Luckily for us the NSW Govt took a liking to the CES. They wanted to use it for their Timebanking initiative. They wanted it to be redeveloped. And they had the cash to help make it happen.

Karel brokered a deal with Communities NSW and managed a team that delivered a basic Drupal version of the CES for Communities NSW. It was a massive job, costing over \$100,000 so far. This basic version is missing quite a few of the features we're accustomed to, so we're waiting on the team to finish that off.

There are 7 people on the team (including Tim & Karel). They're all passionate about community currency. I believe most of them are working for way under market value, or even token amounts of money.

So you're probably wondering... when will it be ready??

The CES is being redeveloped on a content management platform called Drupal. Rather than develop CES for the current version - Drupal7 - they attempted to develop the new CES for Drupal8. Drupal8 was meant to be released 2.5 years ago, but it's been massively delayed. This delay has created a lot of excess work, and significant delays for the full feature version of CES.

I believe it'll be another 12 months or so before we can make the move. If you want to know more about the project, or would like to help out you can talk to Karel Boele.