



But I STILL don't know what to Offer for trade!

Okay, let's look at what's in your house that you don't need. Finding things to trade is a good opportunity for a chuck-out in your house.

If you've got children you've got something to trade. Children's clothes and books are always needed. Look at what they've grown out of and, if it's still good, trade it.

What about magazines or books you've bought? Have you got space to keep them all? Sort out the ones you don't want to keep and trade them.

What about that material you bought to make a dress ten years ago and never used? Trade it. And the clothes you've grown tired of that are still good? Trade them.

Look in the shed or the garage. Are there some old tools you won't need again? Trade them. What about all those empty seedling pots you've never thrown out? Trade them.

So many lemons on your tree you can't give them away? Trade them.

Still have nothing to trade? What about the tiny saplings from next doors tree that grown in your lawn? Pull them out, pot them and trade them.

Still got nothing to trade? Make a cake or some spaghetti sauce or whatever you cook best, put it in containers and trade it. At a small dollar cost to yourself you will earn Shells, make your first trade and people will get to know you.

What if there's nothing at Trade Day I want to buy?

Buy something anyway. You are paying for it in Shells not dollars so you have nothing to lose.

The point of Trade Days is trade. If you buy people get to know you as a member and will ask you what you're offering and tell you what offers always sell.

Buying tells members you understand the LETS system and are willing to become an active member. It also helps you start talking to people if you're shy.

Trade your time

Every now and then we have something called a Working Bee. A member who needs work done on or around their house lists a Working Bee and members come to it and do the work in exchange for Shells. Members who want to increase their trade come to Working Bees and so do 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.

Example of a Working Bee

A local member had interstate visitors coming to stay and she had a lot of simple but time-consuming work to do before they came. She did most of it herself but she couldn't wash the windows or brush down the spider webs.

So she listed a Working Bee, telling members what day it would be on (usually a Saturday or Sunday), what needed to be done, what tools she had and what tools she needed for the jobs to be done, and her phone number. Several members rang or emailed and said they would come.

On the day of the Working Bee members came around to her house, some with their own tools, and some just with a pair of gardening gloves. Jobs were divided up and they got on with it. It was a hot day so they had to stop a few times for a cup of tea but they got all the windows washed and the spider webs down and a few other small jobs done. The host provided the cups of tea and a lunch of sandwiches afterwards and everyone who worked on the day got trade at an hourly rate in exchange for their time and effort.

Trade your skills

There are some very good reasons for trading your skills.

There are members who have started their business in LETS, got practice, received consumer feedback from members, ironed out wrinkles in their business and then taken their business into the cash market with all the experience and practice of trading behind them.

People looking for work have traded their skills to keep them fresh and to avoid a blank period of unemployment on their résumé or CV. They have also gained 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.

Other members trade skills they simply enjoy performing, such as craft skills, growing seedlings, providing home-cooked food, participating in Working Bees.

Things currently being traded

(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.)

Dog sitting

Fresh herbs

Lemons

Homemade sauces, soups, cakes & biscuits

Special soaps & candles

Child's cot

Children's books & clothes

Massage

Furniture renovation

Children's clothes

Leather handbags

Hand-knitted scarves

Typing
Cleaning
Childcare
Pick-ups and deliveries
Christmas card-making classes
Artists' model
Rug making classes
Home maintenance
Psychic readings
Past Life Regressions
Magazines & books
Firewood
Pet minding
Blundstone boots
Legal/financial advice
Termite control
Budgeting advice
Home care
Tree lopping
House-sitting
Sewing
Dress material or curtain material
Tools you no longer use
Seedlings
Your time at a Working Bee