

# WAIS WORDS NEWSLETTER

of the Wairarapa Green Dollar Exchange Inc.

[www.wais.org.nz](http://www.wais.org.nz)



ISSUE No. 05/16

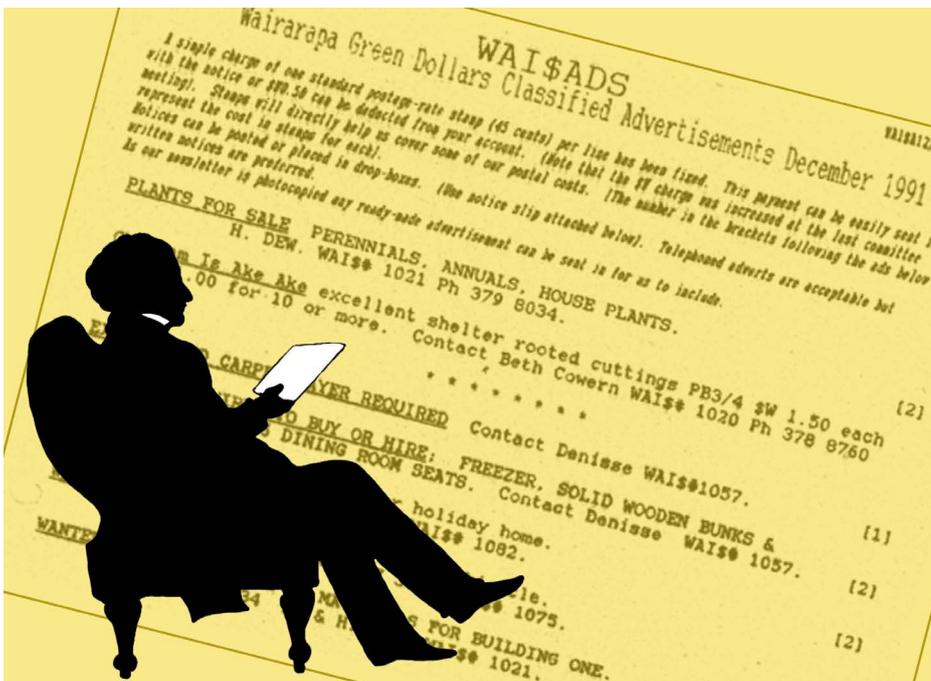
EDITOR :AJ HUNTER

MAY 2016

**OUR MISSION:** To facilitate the exchange of local goods and services amongst the Wairarapa Community, using a complementary mutual credit currency. Our aim is to strengthen local community and social climate.

## 25 Years of Green \$ News

## Next Market Day



Some things don't change.: Helen Dew was offering plants in 1991!!

**Wairarapa Green Dollars 25th Anniversary**

### MAY DAY MARKET

**Saturday May 28**  
9.30am - 12.30pm, St John's Hall, Greytown

FOOD GIFTS CDs DVDs BOOKS CRAFTS CLOTHING PLANTS  
All Welcome! NZ \$, Green \$ and WAIS Vouchers accepted  
Guest stallholders welcome: Ph 06 377 0717  
[www.wais.org.nz](http://www.wais.org.nz)



One of our youngest members, Mack Courtney, with a smile to match his balloon. The May 28th Market starts at 9.30am running through to 12.30pm, Set up from 8.30 with the option to stay longer at pack up time.

**N**ot only is our organisation 25 years old, but so is our Newsletter.. Right from the start it was seen as important to keep members in touch with each other and to share news and information.

Thanks to the careful record keeping of all those involved in Green Dollars, we have a near complete archive of Green Dollar Newsletters going right back to Edition 1. Our President, Hayden McGrail, has been hard at work transferring

Continued on Page 2 →

## End of an era for KAS



David and Suzanne, owners of KAS

**O**ur trusted WAIS mechanics at (KAS) Kuripuni Auto Services are closing up shop in the next couple of months.

If you need your car serviced or warranted, or have any big or small jobs done on your vehicle, NOW is the time to be booking it in at KAS, because it's your last chance to get repaired/serviced while there is still a portion payable in Green \$\$.

Continued on Page 2 →

### Contact Us

(06) 377 0717 – messages checked daily, Mon–Fri.

email us at [letstrade@wise.net.nz](mailto:letstrade@wise.net.nz)

Text us on 0272326011

Skype message or chat to [letstradewais](https://www.wais.org.nz).

'Like' our WAIS Trading page to see the latest events & updates.

Drop in or write to us at 41 Perry St, Masterton.

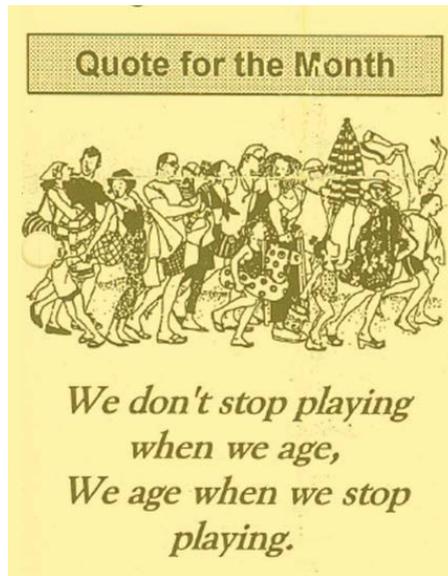
# 25 years of Green Dollars News

(cont. from P1)

them into digital versions, so preserving them and making them available to anyone who is interested.

The first edition has details of the first AGM, in April 1991, where the constitution was accepted which set up the original organisation, with 30 members. Who was the editor of that newsletter ?? The same Hayden McGrail, still with us and still supporting the administration necessary to keep the Green Dollars system working.

The early newsletters were produced with typewritten text and hand drawn illustrations, which were then photocopied in black. The only colour was provided by copying onto coloured paper. It was distributed by hand and by post. This is a long way from today's Newsletter. With the availability of technology, we have the capability to use coloured photographs and computer generated text and drawings, and the majority of Newsletters are delivered electronically, though printed copies are available for those who need them.



Some early newsletter clip art wisdom

In the early days, when few people had a home computer, and the Internet did not exist, transactions were recorded on individual slips of paper, known as 'chits' and in the first newsletter there is an item by Hayden headed 'Chit Chat' where he urges people to return their chits to the office promptly, so transactions could be kept up to date. Then, as now, committee meetings

rotated round committee members' homes, and, with a new organisation, they were held more frequently. However, early Newsletters also show that markets too were held in members' homes and gardens, instead of, as now, in public meeting rooms. Of course with a much bigger membership, we now have upwards of 20 stallholders at most markets, so having one in someone's home might prove to be a tight squeeze!!

There is a French proverb which says that "the more things change, the more they stay the same". Early Newsletters have details of past and upcoming markets and other events, features on individual traders, and reports of events in the wider world

**WISHBONES:** Who spend all their time wishing somebody else would do all the work.  
**JAWBONES:** Who do all the talking and very little else.  
**KNUCKLEBONES:** Who knock everything everyone else tries to do. And then there are  
**BACKBONES** who get under the load and get things done!

These BONES were identified in the July 1993 Newsletter. Which bone are you?

of alternative currency. All these still appear in our Newsletters, and again, through technology, we are far more connected to other parts of the world. Some traders will have had 'remote' transactions recorded from the recent visit of a lady from the Sydney LETS group, who bought some items whilst she was here. Thanks to Catie Lou, the visit was recorded in photographs, and reported in the Newsletter.

The newsletter archive makes fascinating reading for anyone interested in our history. If you would like to look through for yourself, please ask at the Green Dollar office.

## End of an era for KAS

(cont. from P1)

We are going to sorely miss them for their great work and fabulous service. Please support them while they are still open.

The good news is, Dave & Suzanne will continue to be WAIS members, so we haven't lost them completely!

Register as a preferred customer and get wholesale prices for quality



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# Small Beginnings



Still here: the founding five

There's a lot of change over a quarter of a century, especially between one millennium and the next. New Zealand in 1991 had a population of 3.5 million and just 1193 of those people were connected to the internet. Cell phones as big as bricks could only make and receive phone calls, and with the monthly cell bill costing more than a fortnight's rent, it's no surprise at the general rarity of users across the country. When in transit between towns or cities, to and from work and running errands, drivers and passengers couldn't be contacted and were more focused on the road and their surroundings. In 1991 Mark Zuckerberg was just an unknown 7 year old with no inkling of the massive impact he was going to make worldwide on

the internet in another 13 years, or the subsequent fortune that followed. Back then, someone's friends were a

Continued on Page 6 →

## Markets & Contact Info

**Next market is Saturday 28 May:**  
St Johns Hall, Greytown

Markets run 9.30am–12.30pm. Stallholders set up one hour before opening. Stallholder enquiries to the WAIS office. Contact us in the way that best suits you with enquiries, offers and wants:  
06 377 0717 – messages checked daily, Mon–Fri.

**WAIS Office:**  
Wairarapa Community Centre  
41 Perry Street, Masterton 5810  
06 377 0717

**WAIS Office Hours:**  
Mon - Fri 9.30am – 12.30pm  
**WAIS Website:**  
[www.wais.org.nz](http://www.wais.org.nz)

**Membership Support:**  
Catie-Lou Manson:  
[letstrade@wise.net.nz](mailto:letstrade@wise.net.nz)  
Text: 027 232 6011

## Newsletter Advertisements for Members

Our standard adverts are W\$5 per insertion and are based on a business card format. Please contact our office if you would like yours to be included. We can also provide a quote to design one for you.

Lennie Te Whare's  
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WAIS0102

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WAIS1021

# Our First 25 Years



Green Dollars 2016 Committee

“I have always been intrigued with alternatives and as a past coordinator of the Masterton Unemployed Support Centre was very much impressed with the many smaller-scale people-oriented financial and employment schemes that were presented at the 1984 Employment Promotion Conference. The emphasis of most Governments and employers seemed to be “think-big”, grow, expand, take-over but there was little in the way of stepping stones to starting a small business or ways of marketing cottage industries and even less in the way of helping people to fully utilize their skills and talents. So when I first viewed the video on the Whangarei Green Dollar scheme a couple of years ago I immediately saw it as filling much of that vast gap between no business and big business.”

The above words formed part of my introductory profile for our exchange’s first newsletter in 1990. A few months later in April 1991 Wairarapa held our inaugural AGM and the rest they say is history. And what a history it has been.

New Zealand is unique in the world with calling many of their LETS groups “Green Dollars”. LETS was

started in 1983 by Michael Linton in Canada. Groups were established all over the world and by 1994 there were about 100 NZ exchanges in NZ. Many groups were met regionally and at regular national conferences. These gatherings have waned over the years as the number of active groups have diminished.

In the beginning we gathered in members homes & backyards to trade. To record trades buyers & sellers would exchange trading sheets, enter the transaction and return the sheets. This manual system worked but was very limited. One of our members offered to “computerize” our system. These new, rare and expensive machines were changing the world and we saw using a computer as the way forward. Offers, wants, contact details and trades were all entered into a database and regular printouts would let members know what was going on.

For many years we used a sophisticated dBase LetSystem designed by NZer John Lowe. This served us well for many years but times changed, the internet & email had arrived. As the then administrator, who was paid to key in 100-300 transactions each month, I was keen

for members to be able to enter their own trades and take more responsibility for their account. We could see the huge benefits of online systems so in 2005 we migrated to South Africa based CES. Now with a device and an internet connection, members can see all the current offers, wants & contact details, balances and enter trades anywhere, anytime.

Our last major change was the introduction of WAIS Vouchers in 2008 - Wairarapa’s own local currency. Many members find these very convenient as the only paperwork is during withdrawals & deposits. We still hope this will be more widely adopted by Wairarapa people & businesses.

Systems are all very well but it’s the dedication of the people in this group over the years that has got us to where we are today. The members, the committees, the guardians and the coordinators have built, shaped, rebuilt and reshaped our exchange over the past 25 years and their determination, selflessness and commitment cannot be underestimated. I am proud to have been part of that team.

**Happy Trading!**  
- Hayden McGrail

# The WAIS Goods Project makes W\$1,000!



Some of the Wais Goods on offer

Last year we received a NZ\$1,000 donation with the stipulation that is be used by Admin to purchase useful goods with NZ\$ that can be bought by members for G\$. Many have take the opportunity to buy WAIS Goods items at our markets

including; onions, sultanas, raisins, dates, currants, sunflower seeds & pumpkin kernels. We usually purchase these items in bulk (from Moore Wilsons) and repackage them into smaller portions and on-sell with a moderate mark-up.

The NZ\$ received from sales goes back to replenish the NZ\$1,000 to buy more goods while the W\$ sales have accumulated in our WAIS0003 account.

Recently W\$1,000 was able to be transferred into our main Admin. Thanks to every member who has bought WAIS Goods, the small team who purchase & repackage and of course the original NZ\$1,000 donor. This has been and continues to be a "Win Win". There is still around NZ\$500 left ensuring the project can continue for sometime.

Look out for these goods at each market and in our office between markets.



## Silver Night MAY 7th

Mark in Sat 7th May on your calendar from 6pm for party-time. Celebrating our 25th Anniversary and NZ Music Month with a gathering for a night of fun, food, music and fellow greenies at the YMCA..

The theme of the night, naturally, is Silver, wear an item (or multiple items) of silver. No sales tables in sight. But do feel free to talk shop anytime! Each attending membership is invited to bring a guest friend or family member who is not a G\$ member but has shown an interest in Green\$ and/or enjoyed our markets before. Also a gift wrapped item of any description (minimum value of \$5) for the Mystery Auction. Random draws for spot prizes will be scattered through the evening.

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**G\$**  
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# Market dates for 2016



28 May 2016	St Johns Hall Greytown
10 June 2016	WAIS AGM & Basket-Market - WCC Masterton
23 July 2016	Masterton YMCA
27 August 2016	Carterton Senior Citizens Hall
24 Sept 2016	St Johns Hall Greytown
29 October 2016	Masterton (venue to be confirmed)
26 November 2016	St Johns Hall Greytown
10 December 2016	Carterton Events Centre

## Small Beginnings (cont. from P3)

circle of people who they either knew really well from growing up with or physically seeing or speaking to on a regular basis. Handwritten letters were sent between friends of distance and the price of a postage stamp had just gone up 5c to 45c. It was thus in this era also when some 30 Wairarapa people were gathering together and establishing a local "manual social network system" that was generically known around NZ as "Green Dollars." The system would provide opportunities for local people to trade their goods and services between themselves without using regular money as payments. Monthly markets started off with members hosting their fellow stall-holders in their own back yards and the transactions were



Smiles at the 2015 Zero Heroes Market

filled out and processed on paper. Most of the public were unaware of this small group with a bigger vision or how they operated exchanging their wares or services without using real money. The cynical would write it off as a passing fad, expecting it to be bunch of low-income earners who would soon get bored swapping potted plants, jams and babies' knitwear. **F**ast forward 25 years, New Zealand's population is 4.6 million and today's technology and communication devices are more affordable and common to the majority of households and all generations. Wairarapa Green Dollar Exchange was no passing fad, now with 182 members, digital trade recording,

a website, Facebook page and its own attractive printed currency, the WAIS vouchers. Of the 30 starters from 1991, five still remain as active members today. Changes in jobs, circumstances, locations and needs have taken some of the original crew, and illness or death has claimed yet others. The majority of members now are connected to the internet and manage their own trades, enquiries and advertising through their CES (Community Exchange Systems) online account and directory. Those not on the internet can request admin to do it for them. Among the memberships there are individuals, couples, families, businesses and organizations that are active traders and stall-holders. The generations range in age from children through to pensioners, and include students, full and part-time workers, self-employed, unemployed, retired, professionals, tradespeople, and all manner of crafts people. Most of the exchange trading between members is done on a daily to weekly basis, with the monthly market being the bonus shopping and social gathering morning. The trading exchange has always been about a lot more than plants, jams and booties! It had inspired some to springboard small businesses ideas with an instant, friendly network to cut their teeth on. It helped families stretch their household budgets getting some of their staples, needed services, treats and gifts in local currency. It encouraged people when needed, to think outside the box for creative goods or services to offer. It sharpened maths and social skills in youngsters and gave them sales experience. It provided a social outlet for more isolated or shy members with the approachable, fellow greenies. It valued the people for what they could offer and helped them find what they needed. It provided opportunities to anyone who willing to make the effort whether able-bodied or with disability. And along the way it spreads friendships and creates more work opportunities for its members, both in and out of the Exchange.

## Welcome New Members



**We welcomed 11 new members in 2015. These are new members since the last newsletter.**

### WAIS0161

**Regan Combe & Greg Wilson, Masterton, 021 147 5815**  
*Offers: Yardwork & Gardening: Weeding, trimming, lawns, tidying sections, grubbing thistles, anything considered. \$20 hour @ 50/50. Digger Operator: We do not own a digger but I am a qualified operator, so I can hire them at a half day/day rate with whatever the NZ\$ charges are for that needing to be paid in NZ\$. I have heavy wheels and roller license and can do all aspects of digger work. Labour at \$30 hour @ G\$20 NZ\$10 Dog Walking: If there are regular days or occasional days when you can't walk your furry friend(s) give us a call. \$15 hr at G\$10 NZ%*

### WAIS0162

**Sue & Kevin Pearce, Masterton, 378 2653 and 021 215 8230**  
*Offers: Gardening-I like gardening and am happy to weed for people. Housework including ironing*

### WAIS0163

**Trudy Sorrells Fielding (at present) phone/text 021 132 9377**  
*Offers: Beanies & Slouchies (great for dreadlocks & big hair)*

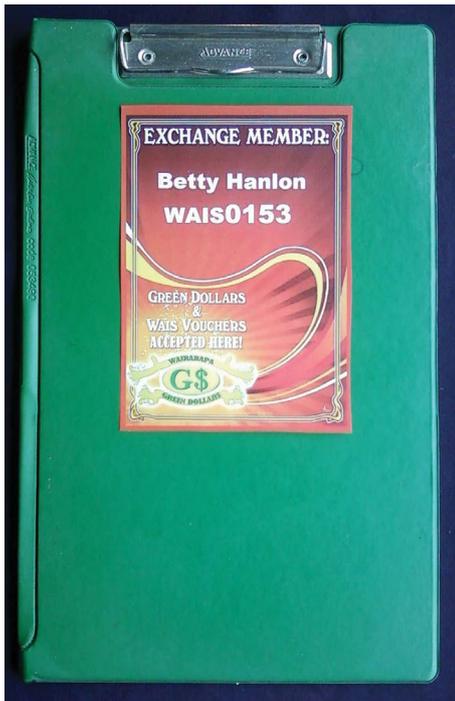
### WAIS0115

**Astarte, Palmerston North 646 357 1139**  
*Offers: Professional/corporate Training. Deep Tissue Massage. Personal/Lifestyle coaching.*

### WAIS0117

**Tae Cowan Carterton phone/text 021 1696 990**  
*Offers: Music Lessons-piano or guitar. Handyman-General handyman work, painting, landscaping. Labour Assist: Willing to help with moving things or labouring or emergencies*

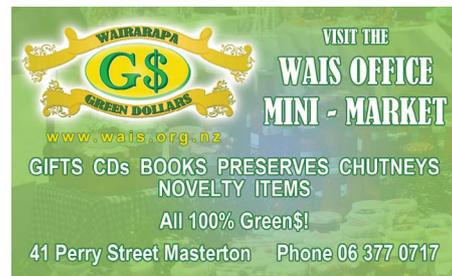
## Stall-holder Folders and Signs Merge



Betty Hanlon's folder; the future is here!

What do you get when you cross our old stall-holder signs with our indispensable green market folders while adding a little design flare? Our new colourful on-folder stall-holder signs have gone down well at our markets. The effort that has gone into the creation of these attractive signs has ensured a more efficient and effective resource going forward. Not only are our new signs more practical and attractive (thanks to our graphic designer AJ Hunter) we now only have the one unit to manage.

Just a reminder to members that our folders not only contain your market transaction sheet (& pen) and guidelines but also items you can give to your customers who show interest in what G\$ is about including our brochure (soon to be revamped) and a list of future markets.



## WAIS Mini Shop.

For sometime we have had a range of members goods for sale in our office. It's great to have these items readily available between markets and on-hand for new and visiting members. We try to have the office 'manned' most weekday mornings so do call in. Look out for the sign if you are passing.

You'll find us centrally located in the Wairarapa Community CCentre at 41 Perry Street.

## WAIS Office Minders.



WAIS Office, conveniently located at 41 Perry St.

A small team of member volunteers assist Catie-Lou to mind our office during the week and help our activities tick along. Minders record their activities etc in the office diary so everyone involved is aware of what's happening and who is doing what. Various minders choose particular tasks that need to be done and make use of our office facilities to progress projects they have taken on. There is always something to do regards of whether visitors call in or if the phone rings. We would dearly love more helpers to fill, not only the gaps in the week, but also some of the gaps in our roles. We really need someone to manage our documents, our roster and our office itself but any help is welcomed.

## WAIS Tablet

We received a generous grant sometime ago to upgrade our office computer. Not only did we do this but we also purchased a device that we could use away from our office. Our WAIS tablet is capable of connecting to CES & the rest of the internet at markets, make & receive mobile calls and text messages (even Australia is included in our plan) plus take photos & videos. This tool is available for members to use at our markets, in our office and can even be hired out to you. It's great opportunity to improve communication, provide ready access to information, faster updating and for all of us to learn new skills. Our WAIS Tab number is 027 232 6011.

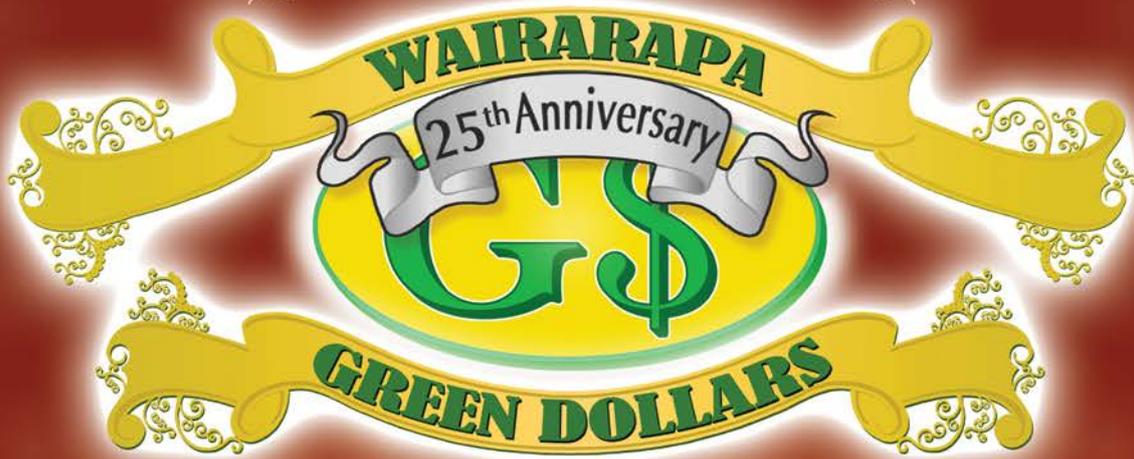
## Subs for 2016/17 now due

At each AGM our members set our subscription rate for the following year. Our fee remains at \$25 per year with the only change being that the fee must be paid using NZ\$. Unfortunately there are still many members with outstanding subs from previous years. This complicates and adds extra work for our voluntary committee. Please make an effort to pay all your subs soon. Currently we are chasing overdue fees all year so give us a break and get yourself fully up-to-date in the next few months. Subscription payments can be paid with cash, cheque or on-line bank transfer to our WestPac bank account number 030687 0321184 00 with your name(s) and WAIS ID# as reference.

## The Free Table

A new feature at our next market will be a "Put and Take" table of FREE items to be given away. We are a generous lot and whether it's a spare pumpkin, a slightly damaged item that you can't sell or just anything that some else might want more than you then here's your chance to give it away. The only rule is that if it's still there at the end of the market then it's your responsibility to collect it.





# MAY DAY MARKET



**Saturday May 28**

**9.30am - 12.30pm, St John's Hall, Greytown**

**FOOD GIFTS CDs DVDs BOOKS CRAFTS CLOTHING PLANTS**

**All Welcome! NZ \$, Green \$ and WAIS Vouchers accepted**

**Guest stallholders welcome: Ph 06 377 0717**

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