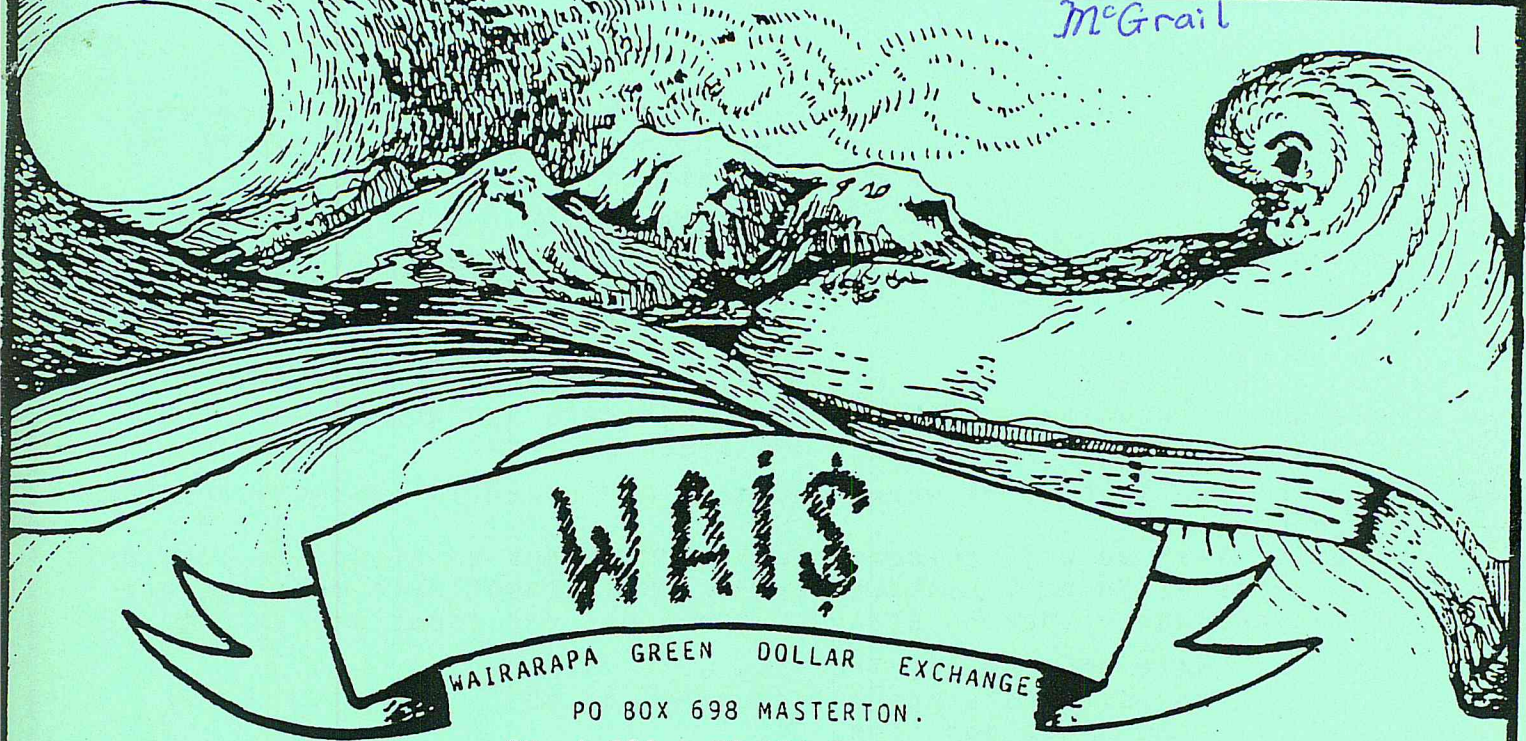


McGrail



WAIRARAPA GREEN DOLLAR EXCHANGE

PO BOX 698 MASTERTON.

PH. (059) 85-029 EXT. 859

NEWSLETTER NO. ONE DECEMBER 1990

Hello to all of you who have made enquiries about Green Dollars here in the Wairarapa.

Since the establishment of a management group in September this year, a team comprising; Ian Stewart Haydn McGrail
David Yerex Andrew Motte-Harrison
Lindsay Fraser Glen Baron

have been meeting to carry out the nuts and bolts work of setting up an exchange along the guidelines established by the N.Z. Green Dollar movement. Although each exchange is totally independant and controlled by it's own local membership, we co-operate with the growing national and international network of such exchanges, usually known as Green Dollar Exchanges or LETSsystems (Local Exchange and Trading Systems). In turn, they aim to co-operate with other initiatives for local employment, community development, and helping people to have more control of their own economic future. Together, these initiatives are sometimes referred to as the "Good Money Movement". I think this anonymous quote sums it all up quite nicely...

Good Money... "is the channelling of personal, community, or workplace capital, towards peaceful, just, and environmentally sound purposes... in other words, socially responsible investment".

With Christmas and the silly season on our doorstep, we are concluding this year's activity with a mailout to approximately 60 people on our mailing list, and a feature in the 'Green Network News' which is a local Environmental publication distributed to 150 supporters in the Wairarapa. As we have many of you on both mailing lists, we will continue to feature a Green Dollars newsletter in this way, thus pooling our limited resources where possible and beneficial.

Also in the makings is the distribution of our own introductory brochure and the completion of a portable static display for use at public events, Libraries etc... Thanks go to the Central Wairarapa Community Arts Council for their support in the way of a grant to cover the cost of materials, to Rod Knight for constructing the display board, and to the Polytech's Community Action Section for paid employment and the resources to get the whole thing started.

As you will notice above, we have adopted the name of **WAI\$** (Wise Dollars!) and thank local artist Simon Cameron for his logo and letterhead design. The name lends itself to all sorts of creative ideas for publicity as well as being easily remembered.

The successful launching of an exchange depends on your willingness to get involved and make it happen. You do not need to be an expert of any sort but some enthusiasm and practical skills like these.....

- *Book keeping
- *Letter writing
- *Computer skills
- *Word processing
- *Public relations
- *Giving things a try
- *Helping to organise publicity through radio and newspapers
- *Fundraising ideas
- *Helping with newsletters and mailouts
- *A sense of humour
- *Committee skills
- *Telling your friends, family, neighbours and workmates about Green Dollars

will all help to spread the workload, reach our potential members, and keep the momentum going.

In the New Year we will re-commence with meetings on alternate Thursdays at 3.00pm, here at Purnell House, Essex St., Masterton. These meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend, your ideas and input are important.

Next meeting is; Thursday January 3rd.
and alternate weeks thereafter at the same place and time.

If you are not able to attend regular meetings, just come when you can or give Lindsay a ring on Thursdays and Fridays at (059)85-029 ext.859.

We receive a newsletter from the National Network of Green Dollar Exchanges and have a small collection of reference material on the general Good Money theme, available for reading here or, if you have a group of people (min 8) interested, a speaker, video and display could be arranged.

At present it is unconfirmed as to what sort of stance the new Government will take towards us. We have enjoyed quite a progressive approach through DSW and IRD policies up till now, but I suspect with the trend towards Social spending cuts, we, like most other community-based groups will feel the pinch too. Hopefully, this is where the value of belonging to **WAI\$** will make a positive impact on our own Local economy, to remind us that we can do something.

That's all from me now, I'll leave you with some info on a Christchurch based system, and the first in a series of 'profiles' on the management group personalities.....

Scheme benefits firms

The Plains Exchange and Barter System sees a number of benefits for joining businesses, both in a practical and philosophical sense.

Using Plains dollars to purchase goods and services reduces a business' dependence on cash, freeing up the cash flow for items that cannot be obtained from within the system.

Mr Peter Hickman found this when he was able to buy an electronic typewriter for his accounting business.

In addition, small businesses are able to offer wages partly in Plains dollars, expanding their operations and providing employment.

Many small companies have problems developing or expanding their customer base, particularly when the money supply is tight. Non-essential services, such as tree stump removal, suffer the most.

By accepting payment in Plains dollars, companies like South Island Tree Services are able to expand their customer base to include people who may not ordinarily use their services or buy their goods.

The monthly Plains Pages newsletter has four pages of advertisements at nominal rates. Companies can use this as a springboard for

marketing or as a means of showing their support for PLEBS. In addition, a large noticeboard is available at the Market Nights for people to advertise goods and services.

Much of today's business depends on the information networks built up by the business community. PLEBS provides a means for businesses to expand their range of contacts and gain work through personal recommendations. It recently instigated a PLEBS Service Award to recognise those businesses and individuals which do a particularly good job.

Small businesses often become 24-hour enterprises for their owner-operators. Joining PLEBS allows a small business owner the luxury of hiring people to undertake work that would normally go by the board or eat into work time. In this way it promotes employment for members and better working conditions for business people.

Because it is focused at a local level, PLEBS provides the business person with a chance to show practical support for the community while benefiting from that support themselves.

Mr Trevor Smith, of Sumner Keystores, sees this philosophical

point as being an important one, giving support for people who do something for themselves. In response, members are keen to support those businesses which are in PLEBS.

One of the first questions people ask about PLEBS is whether it's a tax dodge, according to Mr John Wardle, PLEBS committee chairman.

"It most certainly is not. We've been very careful to check out the situation with the tax department and explain the requirements to our members."

In a recent letter to PLEBS, Revenue Minister, Mr Neilson, noted his support for the organisation "which actively encourages, develops and maintain job skills." Much of the trading in PLEBS is considered to be on a hobby or part-time basis and so does not incur a tax liability.

"However, where the exchange programme becomes an integral part of and is in the normal course of business, it is appropriate that income tax and, if registered, GST is applied," the Minister says.

Some businesses have been charging GST in cash and the remainder in Plains dollars, while others are happy to accept full payment in the trading currency.

Kiaora. I am Hayden M^cGrail and I am excited about the many benefits that Green Dollar\$ could mean to both my family and the various organisations I have been involved with over the years.

My family live on a small farm near Mt Bruce. Like any home we require the services of trades people now and again usually hard cash is required for payment as nothing suitable to trade with is available at the time. We could trade firewood, watercress, eggs, wool, silverbeet, pinecones etc. but we need the right quantity, of the required produce at the time in order to a trade. This is where I see the advantages of trading on a more flexible basis with a larger group of traders.

I have always been intrigued with alternatives and as a past co-ordinator 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 smallbusiness 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.

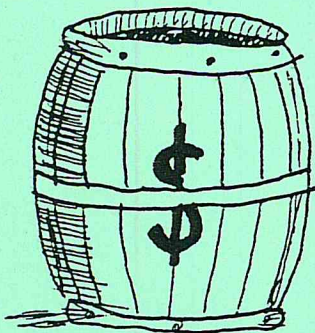
As President of the Wairarapa Soil Association I forsee many possibilities for people with small excesses of free-range eggs or organic fruit or vegetables that may otherwise go to waste or be sold or given away without its true value being realised. The green dollar scheme offers a great way of exchanging small quantities for something which in turn of course lead on to the production of greater quantities as sales become more regular and consumer demand increases.

There is a vast under-utilized pool of skills, resources, produce, tools, information, people and time and I see this scheme as being able to get some of these things moving.

With the aid of a couple of modern tools, the computer, telephone etc. we can add new dimensions to the ancient art of bartering. I look forward to maybe trading some of our *Wai\$ dollars* with you someday soon.

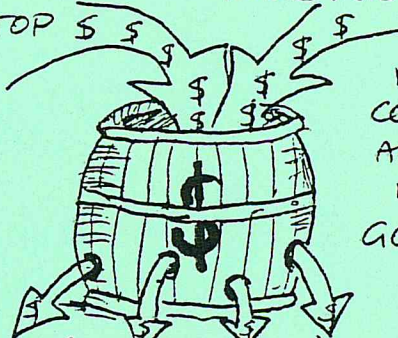
GREEN DOLLARS

①
 WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SYSTEM?...
 OUR PERSONAL ECONOMIC BUDGET CAN BE VIEWED AS A BARREL



IT IS THE SAME FOR ANY BUSINESS

②
 MONEY FROM JOBS AND LOANS ETC... POUR INTO THE TOP

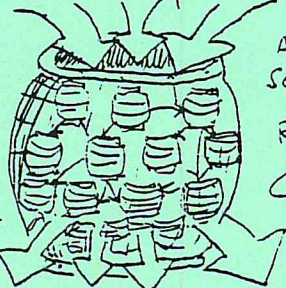


IT COMES AND IT GOES

LEAKS (like rent and food) LOWER THE LEVEL TO ANXIOUS BOTTOM

③
 OUR COMMUNITY BARREL IS MADE OF MANY SMALL BARRELS

SOME LEAK TO OTHER SMALL BARRELS



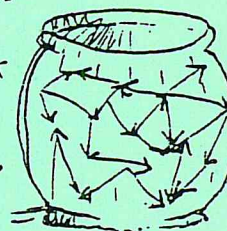
AND SOME LEAK RIGHT OUT OF THE COMMUNITY!

CONSIDER BIG LEAKS LIKE BANKS, DEPARTMENT STORES, FRANCHISES, MULTINATIONALS... ALL LEAKING MONEY TO BIG CITIES AND HEAD OFFICES

④
 SWAP \$ GREEN \$ \$ GREEN \$ \$ SWAP \$

WHEN YOU CREATE A LOCAL MONEY IT ONLY TRAVELS AROUND THE BARRELS
 NO LEAKS!

IT DOESN'T COME AND GO...



IT STAYS AROUND!

IT HELPS TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL SPENDING... AND CREATING TOO...

A **WAI** STORY...

WAIrarapa Green Dollar Exchange.
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 Masterton.