

Weaving a Time Bank a thread at a time

by Bettina Evans

What is Time Banking? Time Banking is a way of trading skills in a community. It uses time, rather than money, as the measurement tool.

Members of a Time Bank share their skills with other members within the community and are given time credits for the work they do. With the credits they gain, each member can 'buy' someone else's time, and get the service they need.

With Time Banking everybody's time is equal, no matter what type of work is done. 1 = 1. If you give one hour's work, you receive one hour time credit.

If another member does one hour's work for you, they are paid one hour time credit.

Every person is equally valued.

Time Banking adds a richness to Time Bankers' lives. As a concept it brings 'wealth', in the form of friendship, caring for one another, having our needs met from within our own community and getting help with things we can't do.

Time Banking has been happening in Lyttelton for five years now. You might have heard that a Time Banker fed a cat or minded a child.

You might think "Big deal, my neighbour does that for me anyway."

But read on, as there is more than meets the eye with Time Banking. (All the activities mentioned below are a selection of what happened in the last four weeks.)



A Lyttelton Time Bank 'visioning' meeting.

First imagine that every Time Bank transaction is a visible thread connecting two people.

Now meet Time Banker (and thread weaver) Ruth.

She was contacted by fellow TimeBanker Sara, who had no sewing machine but was really keen for her husband's trousers to be hemmed.

Ruth has her sewing machine permanently set up so it was not a big job for her to hem the trousers.

The result- two happy people, and another trade successfully completed.

When talking to Ruth, she told me that the hem was not her first sewing TimeBank trade, and that she has previously sewn curtains and clothes for people.

As I arrived, she was working on a dress for an upcoming formal. What an incredible resource to have and share, and that is just one Timebanker out of 400!

At the same time, all around Lyttelton Time Bank, threads are being spun by people cooking dinner for each other because someone in the family is sick or by driving each other to health care appointments.

One Lytteltonian is sitting in his garage fixing a broken gazebo.

Kerry has driven to Christchurch and collected a van load of donated heaters and snuggle sacks and delivers them around Lyttelton to people who need them.

A family with young children have gone for a fun afternoon to learn how to jazz up their clothes by felting designs on them.

A couple of women have rolled up their sleeves to dig through all the bags and boxes of garage sale items donated, to get the space ready for the next sale.

Slowly a fine lace work of threads is hovering over Lyttelton, connecting not only neighbours, but also people in different parts of Lyttelton.

After every Time Bank

trade two strangers have become two trading-buddies, another bit of community building has happened.

In the weeks and days leading up to the Festival of Lights, Time Bankers hunker down to plan the event, liaise with stall holders, get permits, posters, entertainers organised, cook up soups and juices for sale.

On the night dozens of Time Bankers turn up to collect rubbish, manage the road blocks, organise the masked parade, work fundraising stalls, paint faces of children and float candle wishes for Lyttelton.

In only one night, the threads of Time Bank connection have multiplied into a gauzy spider web, spanning more and more of Lyttelton, even ensnaring some Christchurch people.

The next day it's back to normal in the Lyttelton Timebank 'office' (the private desk, laptop and phone of the co-ordinator) of Lisa Cardosi, one of the Lyttelton Time Bank Team.

Requests from afar

Every week she is answering requests from individuals and groups all around New Zealand who want to start a Time Bank in their corner of New Zealand.

Lisa sends out leaflets and emails with information, spends hours on the phone listening, advising and encouraging people in Upper Hutt, Rangitika, Kapiti Coast, Levin and other places in New Zealand.

Those fine Time Bank threads shoot out of the phone right across New Zealand, connecting people with Time Banking.

Now Lisa is planning to follow those threads across the water to the North Island, she has been invited by a handful of new Time Banks around the Wellington region to meet up, connect and share experiences.

Next an invitation to a Time Bank Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, USA,



Timebanker Michelle Parkes helped out at the Festival of Lights.

drops into the computer-inbox.

Every two years a four day World Time Bank Conference takes place in August.

Sixty Time Banks from across America, from Chile to Canada, Israel to Taiwan, Spain to New Zealand are invited.

On offer are workshops on a wide variety of subjects: 'Time Banks and faith-based organisations', 'Research and data evaluation in Time Banking', 'Youth Court and mentoring for success'.

Ideas from Time Banks around the world will be discussed and aired. I like the new initiative from a London Time Bank: Time Bankers get vetted and trained to become

'commuter tutors' to teach skills to other timebankers during the many hours a London resident spends on the train travelling to and away from work.

Over a hundred people have already enrolled in the program!

We hope that by the time the next Timebank Conference comes around some timebankers from New Zealand will be able to attend.

But for now threads have been catapulted right across the globe and the worldwide Time Bank network is getting woven one action at a time.

To become part of it, go to www.lyttelton.net.nz/timebank



Sewing can be a Timebank activity.

Contra dances coming

Together with the band, Folkworks, three community contra dances for Lyttelton will be run over the coming months (17 September, 22 October and 19 November). All these Saturday evening events will be at Trinity Hall, Winchester Street 7.00pm - 10.00pm.

A contra dance is very similar to a barn dance. No experience is needed. No partners are needed.

It is really easy. Bill Baritompia is an experienced dance caller and teacher.

It will be a very open, inclusive environment geared to having a good time. Admission will be free for these dance events, but the organisers ask people to bring a plate for supper.

If people wish to make a donation, all proceeds will go to the Lyttelton Arts Collective.

Keep an eye out for posters with details or phone Sue-Ellen at the Project Lyttelton office 328 9243.

Governor General visits Lyttelton Schools

Today the two Lyttelton schools were lucky enough to meet the Governor General of New Zealand.

Part of the Governor General's job is to meet and welcome important people into our country, go to important meetings and events and he also represents New Zealand when he goes to other countries.

To meet him we (Lyttelton West School) took the bus to Lyttelton Main, which was where we were meeting him. We arrived at about 10am and we formed a large group on the concrete where we practiced the three songs we were going to be singing for him.

After waiting a while for him we went into the classrooms for a few minutes. Then the word went through that he was nearly there and everybody dashed backed down and got ready.

He arrived through the gates and we set off in a harmony of Maori songs, that everybody had practiced for weeks. All that effort paid off though.

After the songs and the short speeches that were made we all had a chance to speak to the Governor General and his associates and ask questions about what they do and why did you want to work for the Governor General. We got some great answers.

The Governor General had three key messages for us. He told us to learn, have fun and READ! He seemed like a really nice man

Overall it was a great day.

By Alex Simmonds and Rebecca Herman



The Spring Film series

Lyttelton Community Garden, The Portal, 54a Oxford St, Lyttelton

(up driveway between playground and Pool)

Monday evenings, 22 August - 19 September.

6pm: shared dinner for those who wish.

7pm: film screening. Gold coin donation.

Monday 22nd August

DIRT! THE MOVIE

(80 minutes duration)

A film which is a call to action. This film tells you the story of the Earth's most valuable and under-appreciated source of fertility and takes you inside the wonders of soil.

"When humans arrived 2 million years ago, everything changed for dirt. And from that moment on, the fate of dirt and humans has been intimately linked."

Monday 29th August

VANDANA SHIVA: The

Future of Food & Seed

(60 minutes duration)

World-renowned scientist, feminist, ecologist & author presenting the keynote address at Organicology in Portland, Oregon in 2009.

Monday 5 September

A FARM FOR THE FUTURE

(50 minutes duration)

The approaching energy crisis will force a revolution in farming practices and will affect what we eat, where it comes from and even whether there will be enough to keep us fed.

Follow Rebecca Hosking as she goes about changing her family farm to be fit for the future.

Monday 12th September

THE VANISHING OF THE BEES

(90 minutes duration)

Honeybees have been mysteriously disappearing across the planet, literally vanishing from their hives. Filming across the US, in Europe, Australia & Asia, this documentary examines the alarming disappearance of honeybees and the greater meaning it holds about the relationship between humanity and mother earth.

As scientists puzzle over the cause, organic beekeepers indicate alternative reasons for this tragic loss. Conflicting options abound and after years of research, a definitive answer has not been found to this harrowing mystery.

Monday 19th September

BACKYARD HIVE

(1 hour, 25 minutes)

Become a bee guardian. This evening is especially for those people who are interested in alternative beekeeping using the Top Bar hive in your backyard or in your community garden.

Everyone welcome.



Lego goes West

Mr Barker strolled into Room 5 "Who likes Lego?" he asked us.

"Meeeee" most of us chanted out like 5 year olds. He briefly explained to us that the school has been donated 132 boxes of Lego. One for every student.

This kind act was carried out by The Salvation Army who had partnered up with Lego.

Mr Barker quickly chose some kids to carry the boxes up the stairs and they were out of the class in a flash.

Meanwhile in the staff room boxes of Lego were spilled onto the couches, many of them ending up on the floor.

We called in for our school's youngest members to come into the staff room.

There mouths gaped open in awe as they saw the boxes of Toy Story Lego scattered everywhere.

They posed for a photo amongst the boxes of Lego and then they were given a box each.

They walked out giggling and were obviously very happy. Lyttelton West thanks Lego and The Salvation Army for the Lego.

It has definitely brightened up our day.

By Camille Balducci

Holiday available

Lottie Harris, the new Project Lyttelton Manager who acts as a conduit for a lot of information within PL mentions in an internal email...

"I had a call from a lovely lady called Chris this morning informing us about a property NW of Auckland in beautiful bush, with access to the beach etc.

It is owned by a lady who is a genuine supporter and giver to the arts and would like to offer it free of charge to artists from Lyttelton and Christchurch - either for a longer or a more holiday style stay.

It sounded just incredible and ideal for someone who wants to have a break from our quake torn town and find some peace to practice their art - be that music, painting, sculpting etc. It can be seen at <http://www.earthskin.co.nz/>.

"They are finding it hard to connect to the right people and so the offer is yet to be taken up."

Contact the PL office for more information. 328 9243.

Review of old Act 1908

You can have your say!

The Law Commission is seeking feedback on a range of issues and options for reform raised in the recently-released paper: Reforming the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

There are over 23,000 incorporated societies registered in New Zealand, and tens of thousands of New Zealanders are involved in an incorporated society one way or another.

The Law Commission argues that some of the requirements of the century-old Incorporated Societies Act 1908 are in need of major reform.

The paper can be read on the Law Commission's website www.lawcom.govt.nz. Submissions can be made online and close on 30 September 2011.

Functional Fitness for Seniors

Join in a class specially designed for the older adult.

Increasing general fitness and a sense of wellbeing. Have fun increasing muscle tone and mobility. Chat to like minded people in your area. Have a cup of tea after the class You may think this will take time out of life, but it's actually putting time into your life!

The class is taken by a qualified physiotherapist.

Thursday 10.30 - 11.30 am
Cost \$4 (includes cup of tea).

Starts 4 August at Lyttelton Recreation Centre



Donation to Brigade

Abby Hamilton and Lynette Edward handed Lyttelton chief fire officer Mark Buckley a cheque for \$4411.81 from money they raised from the DVD 'Lyttelton Slightly Faulty' for the local Fire Brigade to do with as they wish.

'I believe they deserve every cent as throughout the earthquakes they have worked hard and long for our community' said Lynette.

Joining up to Project Lyttelton

To be an incorporated society, Project Lyttelton (PL) is required to have members. A person is deemed to be a member when a membership subscription is paid.

You can support PL by becoming a member. Subscription is \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a family.

Three ways to pay your subscription -

1 Direct payment to: Project Lyttelton Inc
Bank of New Zealand Lyttelton Branch 02 0864 0079190 03

Reference: *Your name* Particulars: *Membership*
2 Lyttelton Information Centre 65 London Street. By cash or cheque in Project Lyttelton drop box.