

# Lavender Link

Quarterly newsletter for Association members

Issue 64

Winter 2016



**NEW ZEALAND LAVENDER GROWERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**Annual General Meeting & Conference 2016**

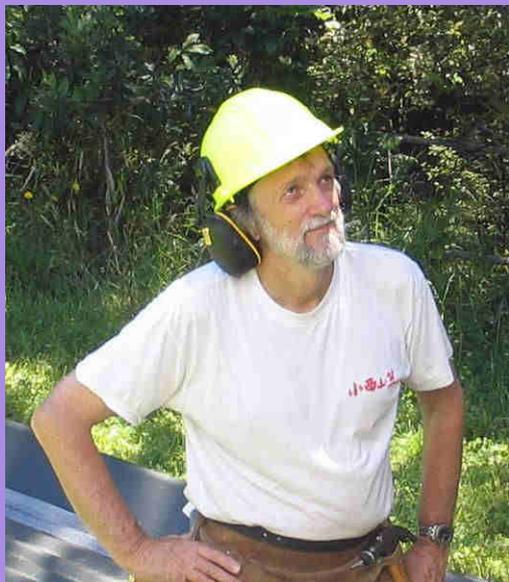
**Friday 9th Sept -Monday 12th Sept 2016**

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# Chairman's Chatter



## Report from the Chair

Well we are now past the shortest day and many of us are still experiencing warmer than usual weather. I guess most of us are all in rest mode, catching up on maintenance or better still overseas seeking the sun.

### **Natural Health and Supplements bill**

Since the last link I have been closely following the developments of the Natural Health and Supplements bill. The third reading of the bill was supposed to have happened and passed into law many weeks ago but at the time of

writing this has not happened. Also the submissions made were supposed to be listed on the Ministry of Health website but this also has not happened. Once enacted the regulatory scheme will be phased in over three years.

The bill will mean that all products it covers will need to be registered with the Natural Health and Supplementary Products Authority unless an exemption is granted. Our submission argued that the products that we mostly involved with are not medicines or taken internally so therefore should be exempted. We have yet to hear if this position is accepted. This bill had its genesis and first reading in September 2011. NZLGA first made submissions to this bill in Feb 2012 and the bill was subsequently amended to a more producer friendly version although this is debatable as the core requirements of white listing all ingredients instead of the more cost effective way of black listing all band ingredients are still there. The bill had its second reading in March 2013. We again made submissions in Feb 2016 and so we wait in the dark for the political wheels to turn.

### **Website developments.**

With the basic website now looking stable we are now embarking on the next stage to expand the user database with a number of selectable categories that describe your business. The categories selected will then be displayed in you profile and on your trail map business card. These categories will also link to the "for sale" section so anyone visiting the website will see what services our members offer. The object is to give every member, who chooses to, a more visible profile. We are also starting to record where our website enquires come from, be it from web searches or advertising etc. so we can start measuring the effectiveness of the website and advertising. So far we have had a noticeable increase in website enquires with this new website. Many enquires have been about starting new Lavender farms, business opportunities and Lavender plants. As always I welcome your suggestions and input.

### **Conference 2016.**

The south Island conference team chaired by Russell have put considerable effort into making this conference a must attend for all members and with a special focus for new members. Conferences are always a great opportunity for networking or just simply having a good time with old friends. I trust many of you will make the effort to attend and help contribute to its success. I especially look forward to the opportunity of meeting you all.



*To research, develop AND promote lavender essential oil and associated products of the highest quality*

**The future.**

With the association reaching a milestone of 20 years I think it is a time to reflect on the associations success in its main goal of improving the quality of oil produced in NZ and ask the question, where to from here? We have mostly achieved our primary goal though our annual oil awards program and with a noticeable increase in the number of awards achieved. We are also now attracting many international entries so we are starting to be recognised worldwide. With many of our farms producing quality oil I believe it is time for the association to look towards the NZ market and research our NZ manufactures who use lavender oil in their products. Much of this oil I believe is imported.

There should be opportunities for our members if we can learn and define the characteristics of the oil required. I believe we also need to be more active in promoting Lavender oil through our websites and other media, specifically targeting manufactures. We need to look towards educating our NZ market for the opportunities to open.

**Your Executive.**

For the association to remain relevant to our members I would encourage any member who has an interest in the running of the association to put their name forward for election to the Executive. For too long now we have relied on a hard core of members who have now served on the Executive for a long time. New blood brings new ideas and new energy to the association. It is vital that members new or old step forward and help lead this great organisation.

Looking forward to seeing you at the AGM and Conference.

Cheers

Peter Jemmett

Email: [peter@greatbarrierlavender.co.nz](mailto:peter@greatbarrierlavender.co.nz)

Ph: 09 444 2962 (evening)

Mob: 021 812178



# From the Editor

What an exciting event the executive has put together for the Annual General Meeting and Bi-Annual Conference. I am only sorry I cant attend and catch up with the good people I met last year.

This season has been very mixed with all of us experiencing crazy weather patterns and plants flowering much later than expected. Now that some of our plants are in the ground they are away and looking very good. As Mike mentions later in the 'Link' we are running out of room and enjoyed immensely having the Northern Regional Meeting at our urban patch in June.

The advice and friendship that we receive from these meetings is invaluable. ... Included below are the minutes of our meeting...

# From the Northern Region

Hi all

on the 11 th of this month those of us who could, found our way to a Grey Lynn property occupied by Helen and Tony for our Northern Region meeting. A two level house overlooking the park, the house has a fairly small section sloping down to the park. 80% of the section is covered in pallets loaded with lavender plants of varying ages. Probably over 1000 at a guess, only Tony would know. Definitely the most compact lavender farm I have ever seen.

After the usual good lunch and general catch up the 8 of us present went on to the meeting. It appears that the three different ways of treating yellowing plants (blood and bone-Pauline , lime-Peter and thrive,-Mike ) on trial since the last meeting, all worked as all the yellowing has gone.

Some very interesting discussion on propagating. The different mediums and techniques, but more importantly the reasons why each of us do things the way we do. This brings a greater understanding of the whole subject.

Peter gave a report from the Chair re our submissions to the government.

Update on web site

Update on the conference. If you can go you should, not only to learn and share knowledge but to build contacts.

Two remits on the definition and rights of overseas members both people and countries will be going to conference from the region.

Thanks again to Tony and Helen for their hospitality and you are all invited to the next meeting same format at Paulines place ( Leafy Hollow ) on Sat 1st of October.

Bring your smile, see you there

To advertise in

## *The Lavender Link*

### Rates for

#### **NZLGA Members:**

Full page - \$44.00

Half page - \$27.00

1/4 page - \$17.50

1/8 page - \$ 13.00

### Rates for

#### **Non-Members:**

Full page - \$88.00

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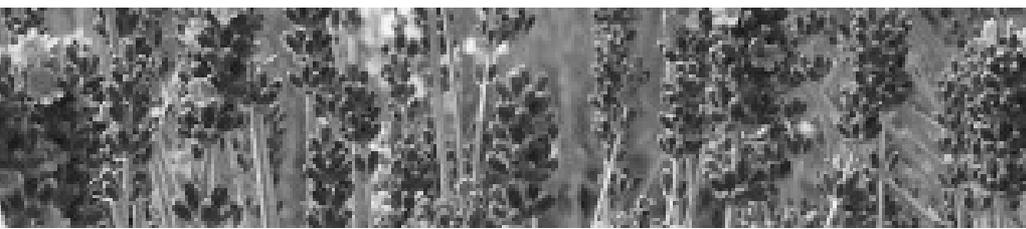
**You will be invoiced once your ad appears. Please make sure you include your contact details, and email the ad to:**

**Helen Mason**

[helen\\_am@61@hotmail.com](mailto:helen_am@61@hotmail.com)

As the content of The Lavender Link is subscribed, comments made and advice given may not necessarily represent or reflect the policy or opinion of the

New Zealand Lavender Growers Association.





## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND BUSINESS**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of members of the New Zealand Lavender Growers' Association Inc will be held at

**Tinwald School Hall, Ashburton**

On

**Saturday 10 September 2016 commencing 8.30am and concluding 10.30am**

### **AGM BUSINESS**

- 1. Attendees**
- 2. Apologies and Proxy votes**
- 3. Minutes of previous Annual General meeting held on 29 August 2015**
- 4. Annual Report** *(to adopt the Annual Report)*
- 5. Financial Statements** *(to adopt the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2016)*
- 6. Appointment of Auditor** *(to appoint an auditor/reviewer)*
- 7. Subscriptions**
- 8. Election of Officers/ Executive Committee**
- 9. General Business** *(all general business to be submitted by remit)*
- 10. Conclusion of meeting** *(scheduled to conclude by 10.30am)*

This notice of Annual General Meeting and the Business set out above has been drawn up in accordance with the Rules of the Association as they stand as at the date of this Notice.

**A full Agenda and Explanatory Notes will be issued nearer to the date of the meeting**

### **CALL FOR REMITS/MOTIONS**

Any remits must be lodged in writing (or by email) to the National Secretary by 6 August 2016 .

Charlotte Brown, 240 Stanton Road, RD2, Amberley, 7482

[herbal-visionz@clear.net.nz](mailto:herbal-visionz@clear.net.nz) or [secretary@lavender.org.nz](mailto:secretary@lavender.org.nz)





We invite you to join us at our  
**NEW ZEALAND LAVENDER GROWERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Annual General Meeting & Conference 2016**  
**Friday September 9th -Monday 12th September 2016**

To be Held at  
**Tinwald School, Ashburton**



Full conference fee for NZGLA Members : not including accommodation  
 If payment **before** 1st July 2016 —\$180 per person. I  
 f payment **after** 1st July 2016 —\$200 per person  
 Stalls \$50 Per trestle table space

**Registration Form**

Full Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Contact details\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone\_\_\_\_\_

Please return your registration together with your payment to  
 Carol Howes 589 Old West Coast Road, West Melton RD1, Christchurch 7671  
 Please make cheques payable to NZLGA  
 For direct Credit payable to NZLGA Bank A/C 02 0500 0587725 01  
 Ref & Details [Members Initials and Surname ] [AGM 2016]

If registering for the full conference ie all sessions, we can assist with transport to and from venue.

I require transport from the airport at (day / time) .....to the conference

I require transport from the conference to the airport at (day / time).....

My flight details are.....

Please indicate **if a stall is required** Name ..... Number required.....

Please advise us of any **special diet requirements**.....

Please advise us if you are taking part in the **Bus Trip on the Monday**

**Number of seats required** .....

**Accommodation suggestions**

**Regency Motel, Ashburton** a special conference rate from \$130 per room with extra adult \$20 per night.

**Telephone:** 03 3088266 : **email:** regencyashburton@xtra.co.nz

Please note telephone bookings required **do not** book direct on website.

**Coronation Park Motel** Chalets from \$99 **Telephone:** 03 3086603

Please do not hesitate to contact Carol Howes should you require any further information  
 on 03 3426171 or carolhowes22@hotmail.com



### **Come One Come All To the Tinwald School Hall**

#### **Our Bi-annual Lavender Conference Early September 2016 Fri 9<sup>th</sup> – Mon 12<sup>th</sup>**

This starts on Friday 9th with registrations from 4pm and a Cocktail evening from 7 -9pm with a surprise event.

We have an innovative current range of speakers , with a representative of **Barkers Foods as our main speaker**. Based at Geraldine, Barker's products appear in every supermarket in the country and they now export their preserves world- wide, so having started as a cottage industry, they've explored the labyrinth of production, packaging, labelling, freighting and now exporting of a perishable commodity similar to our Lavender Oil and we think their experiences will be invaluable for those just starting out and our already established businesses alike.

If you are just starting on your 'Lavender Path' so to speak, we have a **New Growers Workshop** especially for you where the networking will be invaluable and plants are for sale and to order.

#### **We have a range of current topics namely:**

**Distillery Equipment and Boiler Safety, Health & Safety updates to the current legislation and how they affect Lavender Growers in particular.**

Two of our Oil Judges will explain the mysteries of **choosing your lavender oil for inclusion in the Supreme Oil Awards** in 'easy to understand language' which is easier than you might think.

**The Oil Awards & Dinner** are being held in a 'themed restaurant' and there will be a chance to 'dress up' if you wish. **Our Dinner speaker is Elsie Hall** who is a very innovative lady, one of our past Chairpersons and one of the pioneers of the Lavender Industry in our country.

We also have some **craft workshops** so you can get your 'Creative groove on' and take home something you've made yourself.

#### **Monday is dedicated to a Bus Tour of the Geraldine/Ashburton area and is free to attend,**

Geraldine is one of the South Islands 'Tourist attractions' and we will visit some of these and other properties in the area.

There is a large contingent of stall holders coming along including one from Australia who will have samples of linen items to order, there will be plants to buy, the public will be invited in as well so a good chance to have a stall yourself if you wish, or just come and shop for a lavender themed something you've been wanting for a while.

We also have some members who will have recently returned from visiting lavender growers overseas in France the UK and the USA and they will be updating us on any hints/tips/changes etc that may be happening in the wider world.

We hope to have an international contingent of folks as well for you all to meet.

Get your 'early bird' registrations in before end of June and we'll see you all there.

# A South Island Trip for Great Barrier Lavender

For many years now we have had our Lavender Still Boiler stored at my work's warehouse in Christchurch gathering dust in a long forgotten corner. That is till our new warehouse manager found it and wanted it moved. This was just the galvanisation needed plus Margaret's insistence that we should be distilling our own oil this coming Christmas.

Moving it north to its final destination on Great Barrier Island did present some logistical challenges, not least the weight of the Boiler, 750Kg and a 6 meter length of chimney.

After looking at many options, Mike Alspach very generously offered his Ute for the job. After considering this we thought it was a great idea for a week's holiday and a chance to visit long lost friends along the way and so started our adventure. After swapping vehicles with Mike we left Te Awamutu at the leisurely time of 9am for an 8hr trip to Wellington.

We spent a Day in Wellington visiting Cindy then the morning boat to Picton and on to the Waira Valley to stay with friends we have not seen for many years. While there we visited Elsie Hall who just happened to live next door. We had an interesting tour of her lavender farm and shop.

The next morning it was on to Christchurch to pick up the Boiler. It was a bit of a shock when the boiler was loaded as to just how far the Ute sank down on its springs. A quick check of the Utes manual relieved our doubts but did suggest we put more air into the tires. With this done we gingerly drove away back up to Amberley and a night with Eleanor and Patrick. Eleanor had invited Charlotte and Keith for dinner and we had a great evening discussing many topics and of course Lavender things.

In the morning a beautiful sunny day dawned and we had a great drive up the coast stopping at the Seal Colony for a cup of tea. While there we took a walk up the track to the nursery pool where many of the young pups spend the day while their parents are out getting food for them.

By now we were well used to the extra weight on the Ute and headed once again North to Kiakoura and a quick visit to Myra McClelland Lavendyl Farm who had recently taken it over from Corry Zeestraten. Back to the Waira Valley for the night and then onto Picton and across the strait on a perfectly calm day.

The trip north was uneventful with a stop at Tokaanu for a rest at the hot pools then onto Auckland. Back in Auckland and when trying to reposition the boiler on Ute for the trip to the Barrier we discovered it was full of water. I have no idea how much water it takes but it took a long time to drain. With the Ute now a bit light it was a good opportunity to load other equipment and building stuff on.

Now fully loaded we headed for the ferry for the 4 ½ hour trip. Fortunately it was a calm sailing and after a 30 minute drive we made it to the house. The boiler being too heavy, even without the water, for the digger to lift, I had to make a frame over the Ute tray to lift the boiler up with two chain blocks, drive the Ute away, then lower it to the ground still on its transportation pallet. To make it easier to move the Boiler into position I had fitted caster wheels to the Pallet. Now all I had to do is to remove the Pallet, fit the chimney, wire up the float switches and water pump but all this is for another day.

After a short break on the Barrier, mowing, weeding, chopping wood and more work on the house it was back to the big smoke and down to Te Awamutu to return the Ute, now with a few more kms on the clock but with new wind-screen wipers. Many thanks to Mike and Marian for the loan of the Ute.

Cheers

Peter & Margaret



# Leighvander Cottage

The past season in our patch has been the strangest yet.  
Our beautiful valley, [Wairau] in Marlborough experienced very late severe frosts which wiped out the crops.  
We then went to 30 + degree days for many weeks.

Our site is 500ft above sea level and our soil, perfect for growing lavender as I am sure most of you know.

Around March we started to have re-growth and by May some nice heads, an over all display for the late tour groups.

It has been most interesting to note many sports, mainly pink, even a total colour change on a site at family property in Blenheim[12ft above sea level].

As I am developing new variety's am extremely interested in the botanical. I have found it to be most interesting.

In the research I am involved with overseas I know that heat can effect colour change so most likely that is what has occurred here, would be keen to hear if any other growers have noticed this.

Graceleigh one of my variety's came about from a sport.

25yrs growing and something new occurring all the time, guess the journey never ends!

Elsie.



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**Fax: 03 572 2841**

# Thoughts from an old Lavender Grower

We had a Northern Regional meeting in Auckland scheduled for Sat 11 June and everyone knows its a long way to Auckland from Pirongia. And so as we did not want to be late Marion I and set out on Monday the 6th. Made it as far as Whitianga on the first day.

As is so often the case, friends leave the area they had lived in for years and everyone says we will come and visit, well it took us three years but we finally caught up with our friend Heather and had a good look around Whitianga. Very nice in June but apparently a different beast in summer when the population swells to out of control.

The following day we went to Whangarei where we caught up with family members. Then on to Dargaville to visit a lavender farm just starting up, almost inside the town boundary.

Belinda and Ray have some flat river flats that dry to rock hard in summer and can get wet in winter. They have access to bulk mulch and spread this around, worked up the ground and then humped it up to create strips of dry soil. Any one who says it is too wet to grow lavender in the North should go and meet these people. Their plantings so far look very good and their plans for the future are ambitious to say the least. I wish them all the best

On the south side of Dargaville is an area called Arapahui where my brother has a beef farm. Always a good visit as my brother has an opinion on everything , not always correct so conversation is never dull and the hospitality is generous.

Down through Helenville to Grey Lynn and to the meeting place where we arrived 10 minutes early, Tony and Helen are dangerously close to being the largest lavender grower in the Northern Region by plant numbers. He currently has about 1000 planted at his brothers farmlet and another 1000 on pallets in the garden of the house he rents in Grey Lynn. They are running out of room and the general advice was that as the lavender in pots come into flower he should go to markets and sell some. Apart from the income it will make room for the ones that still need potting up. The meeting was fun , friendly and informative. See report in this issue.

Going to meetings should not be considered a chore but an adventure waiting to happen. It does not have to be a 5 day trip as we did . But a day trip to visit friends and to exchange views, opinions and information about a common interest. Distance is not a barrier but a small obstacle to be easily over come to achieve a goal.

Mike and Marion

Our Patch Lavender-Pirongia



**Belinda Gummer and Ray Dixon on their lavender farm in Dargaville.**

**They have been written up in Northern Farming Lifestyle.**

**Please see the link below if you would like to read the full article.**

[https://issuu.com/nsmm/docs/nfl\\_mar\\_2016](https://issuu.com/nsmm/docs/nfl_mar_2016)

# NZLGA Library News

Hi everyone

Below are the latest additions to the NZLGA Library

## **B077**

***Field Distillation for Herbaceous Oils*** by Tim Denny

3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 2001

This might not sound the most exciting title but is a 'must read' for anyone considering building a still, purchasing a still or wanting to gain an in depth knowledge of the distillation process.

We already have Edition 1 in the Library but it has been so well read that it is falling apart. *"Since the 1991 edition was first issued over sixty improvements have been included in the text of later printings..... Twenty eight of these concern major advances in our understanding of the distillation process and our ability to use it."* – Tim Denny

## **B073**

***Lovely Lavender – the many applications and uses of lavender essential oil***

By Rashelle Johnson 2013

A small but surprising book. There is an interesting section full of facts and anecdotes about the history of lavender and an informative section about the composition of lavender essential oil.

The section on health benefits (21 cited) is fairly impressive but comes with a page full of disclaimers.

There are a number of original recipes and concoctions using lavender as an essential ingredient. The Homemade Lavender Scented Playdough was well received by my grandchildren.

An unusual chapter on Making Your Own Lavender Essential Oil in which the author claims that *"Essential oil is fairly easy to make yourself at home"*, using alcohol, pestle and mortar, mason jars and coffee filters, will raise many eyebrows from commercial growers!

The following three books are written by Sally Hornsey who runs "Plush Folly", a private cosmetic training company in the UK.

*"Sally has taught many students how to design a range of skincare products for their own use and has given students the skills and knowledge they need to establish a flourishing business"*

## **B075**

***Make your own Skincare Products*** by Sally Hornsey 2012

### Contents

Choose essential oils that are useful for treating different skin conditions

Design and create a range of products including a cleanser, toner, face mask and moisturising cream

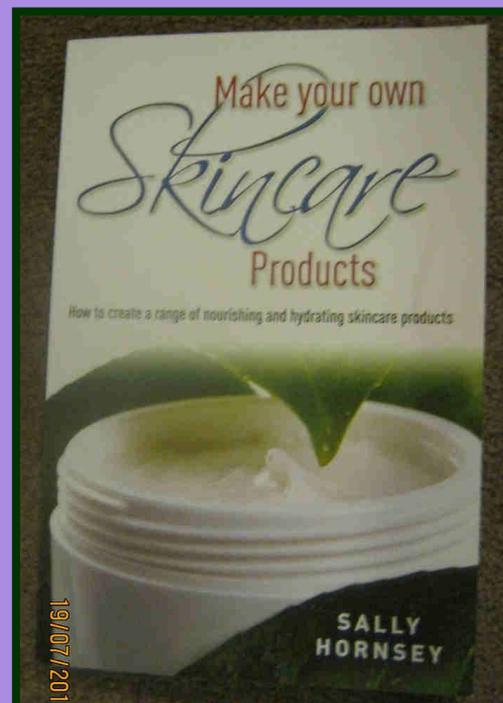
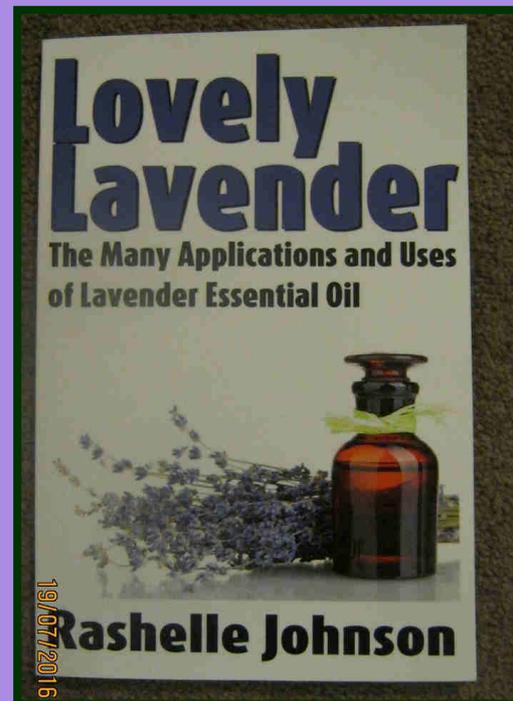
Identify the ingredients that are beneficial in hand-made skincare products

Make informed choices on which ingredients are most appropriate for different skin conditions

Make tinctures and infusions to use in your products

Store your products to ensure that they are fresh and safe to use.

An excellent reference book. The only downside is that some ingredients are difficult to source in NZ so a suitable substitute must be identified.



# NZLGA Library News – cont

**B076**

**Make your own Perfume** by Sally Hornsey 2011

Identify the fragrance families and choose which ones are better suited to different occasions

Classify both natural and synthetic oils into 'note' categories to enable you to balance your perfume

Make tinctures and infusions to use in your perfumes

Dilute your perfume blend to become a body spray, eau de toilette, eau de parfum, pure perfume or aftershave.

Package your perfume – and choose appropriate names for it

Create perfume blends for potpourri, diffusers and other room scenting products.

**B074**

**How to Make Your Own Soap in bars, liquid and cream** by Sally Hornsey 2014

Choose the right ingredients for your skin type

Design and create your own range of soap products, including hand and body washes

Scent your soaps beautifully using essential and fragrance oils

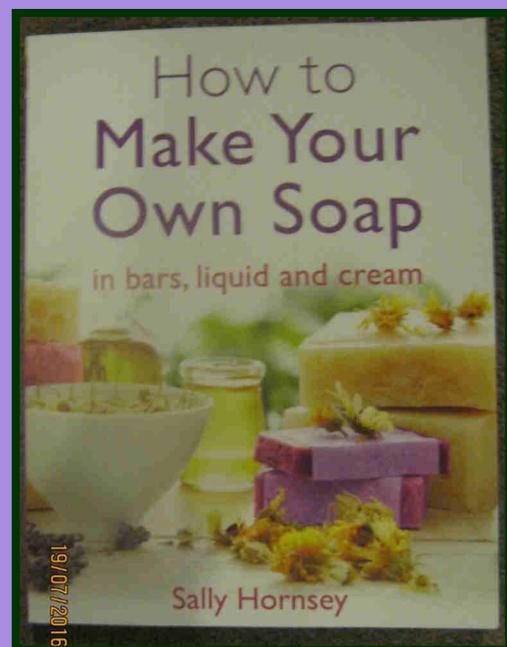
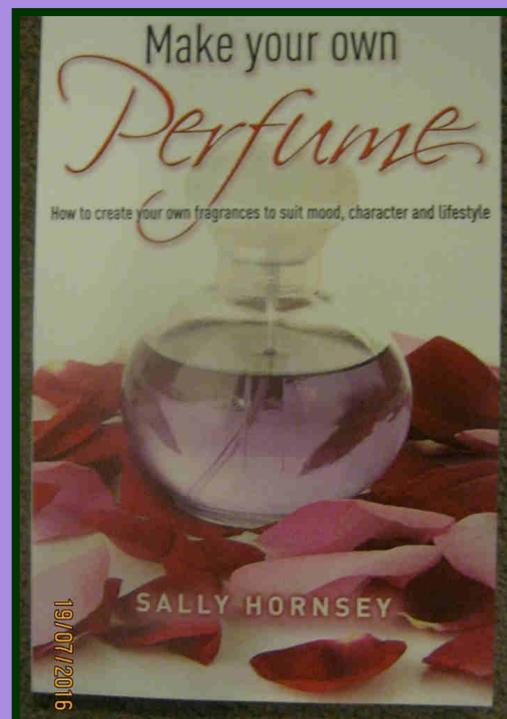
Make glycerine melt-and-pour soaps from scratch

Understand and use with confidence the different soap-making methods and techniques

You can borrow any of the above, and more, from the NZLGA Library.

Contact Pauline [library@lavender.org.nz](mailto:library@lavender.org.nz)

The only cost will be the postage



## Jo Ewing Botanical Greeting Cards



L. angustifolia 'Avice Hill'



L. angustifolia 'Pacific Blue'



L. angustifolia 'Violet Intrigue'



Lavandular x intermedia 'Grosso'



Lavandular x intermedia 'Super'

**Set of 5 greeting cards  
with envelopes**

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**\$12.00 per set of 5  
RRP \$4.00 each**



## FOR SALE

### Mechanical Harvester

Modified Hesston 420 powered by a smooth running 6 cylinder Chrysler engine (petrol). Has hydraulically adjustable frame on the front fitted with a 2-stroke Ochiai lavender harvester.

**Offers over \$3000**

Contact Dave or Debbie Alderton,  
Marlborough Lavender  
Telephone: 03 572 4410

Email: [marlboroughlavender@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marlboroughlavender@xtra.co.nz)

## PACIFIC BLUE PLANTS FOR SALE

We have 450 Pacific Blue plants for sale, about 2yrs old, in 3.5L pots ex Manakau Nurseries. They're in our backyard nursery in Grey Lynn, and were to go in the ground this winter, but have had to put our planting off a year.

Happy to sell in numbers as required, and we can discuss delivery. Offers around \$10 pp. Give us a call 021663412 or email: [helen\\_am61@hotmail.com](mailto:helen_am61@hotmail.com)



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