

Lavender Link

Quarterly newsletter for Association members

Issue 61

Winter 2015

Winter Wonderland



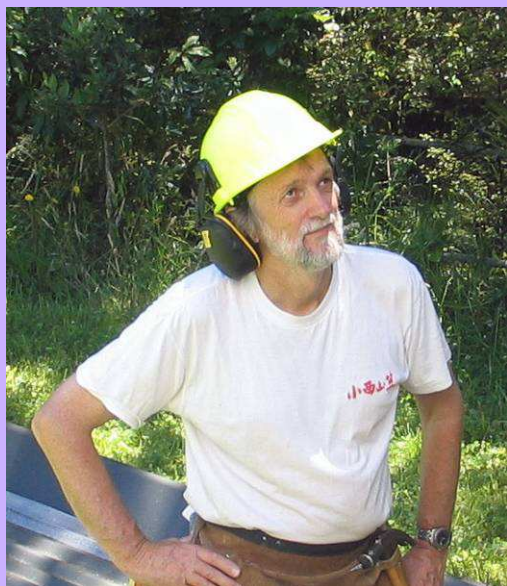
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'Lavender patch mid June when we had 6 inches of snow, it froze and stayed for a couple of weeks. '

Photos courtesy of Leonie and Trevor Rouse.

Chairman's Chatter



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

A summary of this past year.

Chairpersons report.

Our AGM is almost upon us, and I would encourage as many of you as possible to attend. This year it is to be held in Lincoln, Christchurch, and will celebrate the 20th year of the Association. To make it a celebration we are planning a dinner to mark the occasion. Many of the foundation members have been invited. The oil awards presentation will also be held at the dinner. During the afternoon prior to the dinner, we are planning a general gathering where we can discuss any issues of interest pertaining to the growing and distilling of lavender. The focus will be on understanding what makes a quality lavender oil. Dr Noel Porter will be giving a presentation on this subject. The real value, especially for our newer members, will be the sharing of experiences and knowledge.

According to all reports I've had, this past year's growing season saw an increase in yields due to the fine weather we had over November to February. In early February, we were contacted by ZB radio, who asked how the lavender season had gone. Mike answered this call with an interview, and by all accounts, from those who heard it, it went very well. The increase in membership and general enquires, mostly through our website, may have been due to this publicity. It is planned for the incoming executive to look at ways to increase the profile of the Association. An increased profile will put the Association in better standing and ensure we are the authority on all things lavender. We need to be reaching out to lavender growers who are not members and show there is value in being a member. If we continue to drive the excellence of oil quality supported by our oil awards programme and the quality of the products our members make, it will return tremendous value to our members.

This year we welcome 12 new members. 'Marlborough Lavender' has new owners, Debra & David Alderton and we welcome them to the association. There are two other lavender farms currently for sale.

Admin

Work has been started to help streamline the administration tasks with the aim of spreading the workload. A new spreadsheet cashbook has been created to handle the day-to-day transactions and to provide an easy way to see the current financial position and to compare against the previous two years. A finance folder in Dropbox (a cloud-based storage system) has been setup to enable access by the membership secretary / secretary and treasurer. It is planned to extend this to all members of the executive.

Library

Pauline has done an excellent job with the library and has spent many hours searching for new books to add to the already extensive collection. Pauline has also been looking for lavender related books, which will be for sale to members. If you have a request or are looking for a hard to find lavender book, check with the library. There has also been a steady demand for the *Lavender a Growers Guide for Commercial Production* by J.A McGimpsey and Noel Porter from the general public. This booklet is available from the library for \$20 or \$10 for members. The demand has prompted the executive to purchase the remaining 160 of these booklets from Hort Research (ex Crop & Food).

Website

Our website is currently being maintained by Charlotte who has done a very good job updating it with new information, however there are limitations of what can be done within this platform.

During the year, I have been reviewing the requirements we want from the website. These include making it more attractive with a better focus on promotion, adding functionality, better advertising our farms and businesses, adding more resources and information for our members, automatic email advice when something new has been posted, and a general email service. Paid advertising is also being considered to offset some of the costs in running the website. This is a big undertaking and probably best contracted out to a professional website developer. A budget has been developed to support this.

Oil Awards.

The oil Awards are I believe the cornerstone of the Association. Since its inception, we have seen a steady improvement in the quality of oil produced by our members. It is also gaining an international following, and this year attracted many international entries. It is critical that we plan for the future and run regular training sessions to increase the pool of judges. If you think you have a good nose or just want to learn more about lavender oil, then please contact the oil committee.

During the year, the executive received a request from Dr M Lemmers of the Oregon Lavender Association for information on setting up their own oil awards programme. This prompted much discussion, resulting in appointing Dr Noel Porter to represent the Association to assist them with their efforts to establish their own programme. In time, this could be very beneficial to our members by helping to establish internationally the quality of NZ produced lavender oil. This growing interest has also promoted a review of the "Oil Awards" document first introduced in 2009.

This document sets out objectives of the Oil Awards, its functions and responsibilities, its procedures, intellectual property (IP) and reporting. The review highlighted the need to better define both our and Dr Noel Porter's IP. Other paragraphs have also been updated.

Oil Analysis.

Dr Noel Porter has in the past offered an oil analysis by gas chromatography (GC) service. Unfortunately the GC facility that was used is now no longer available. I have looked at several options available from private laboratories, with a view to establishing our own GC resource. This is work in progress and will take many months of work to re-establish and validate.

Material Safety Data Sheets for Lavender Oil

During the year, Blake has been working on Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) to be used when shipping larger quantities of lavender oil. These are now a requirement by the shipping companies - NZ Post, DHL etc. The form contents have been put together with assistance from a firm specializing in this documentation as well as information from our Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and from internet searching. We now have MSD Sheets available for, Angustifoliers, Grosso, Super and Lavandin Hybrids. Currently these are available on request from the secretary. In future, it is intended to have these available for download from our website.

As it's the end of this term, I would like to thank our executive for the work they have put in this year. In addition to those already mentioned above, I'd like to acknowledge Charlotte for her work as secretary, membership secretary and web master. The secretary's position is the backbone of any organization and none can function properly without the many hours of organizing this position demands. Our minute secretary Eleanor, who has transcribed all our teleconferences. Russell for his continuing efforts in finding new markets in China, a very challenging task at best. Helen for her many ideas about how to improve the value of membership, some of which we will be implementing in the new term. Mike who we know through the Link with his articles, "Thoughts from an Old Lavender Grower" for providing exactly that, keeping a good perspective and keeping me from straying too far off subject; and finally to Cindy, our Lavender Link editor, who for the last three years gently coercing us all into writing articles for the Lavender Link. Cindy is retiring from being editor to concentrate on writing her thesis on Heritage. We thank her for editing and publishing a very professional Lavender Link. A new Link editor, Helen Mason, has been appointed; who I am sure will do a very fine job. We thank Helen for volunteering for this task.

Happy lavendering and see you all at the AGM.

From the Editor

Hi All

At the meeting before last, Mike got a few smiles as he described the process of how the association's various offices were passed on. If one left the room when the subject of succession was being discussed, one might return to find themselves elected!

I must have left the room at some point. So, Hello, I'm Helen Mason, and I've become the new Editor, taking over from Cindy, as she completes her academic work.

We have started off growing as many plants as our Grey Lynn back yard will hold, and will start transplanting to a family member's small farm near Waiuku in August.

As Mike has said in his notes, It's the fabulous, hardworking people, the sharing philosophy, all bound together by the nurturing of this wonderful, ancient plant, which keeps the faith strong.

This is our Link, by name and by nature, so please do keep contributing and sharing, send in your photos, thoughts, tips, travel experiences, stuff for sale etcetera.

Good Luck, everyone for the coming season, spring is on it's way can't wait for the greening to start.

Best Regards

Helen



Spring/Summer 2014
Grey Lynn

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Helen Mason

helen_am@61@hotmail.com



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
Lincoln University Campus, Christchurch

On

Saturday 29 August 2015 commencing 9am and concluding 11am

AGM BUSINESS

1. Attendees
2. Apologies and Proxy votes
3. Minutes of previous Annual General meeting held on 30 August 2014
4. Annual Report (to adopt the Annual Report)
5. Financial Statements (to adopt the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2015)
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 11am)

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 have been lodged in writing (or by email) to the National Secretary by
31st July 2015.

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

herbal-visionz@clear.net.nz



20 year Celebration

2015 marks 20 years since the inaugural meeting of the New Zealand Lavender Oil Producers Association (LOPA), later named New Zealand Lavender Growers Association (NZLGA).

To mark this milestone the executive committee are planning a mini-conference to coincide with the AGM at the end of August 2015. The inaugural meeting was held in Christchurch so it is only fitting that our 20th AGM and celebrations should also be located there.

The cost will be \$60 per person to include the cost of morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and Celebration Dinner (subsidised by NZLGA).

You will have received registration forms and agenda.

Registrations and payment need to be returned NOW so that catering arrangements can be made.

This should be a thoroughly enjoyable and informative weekend so put the date on your calendar now and start planning your trip!



Northern Regional Meeting – 25 July 2015

It was a full house at our recent meeting held at Coatesville, Lavender Hill with 13 present and 2 apologies. A warm welcome was given to 3 prospective members from Keri Keri and Whangarei.

They are still at the early planning stage of their lavender enterprises but intend to join the Association this year.

Discussion was wide-ranging from the best time to take cuttings to the effect bees have on lavender flower quality.

Valuable time was spent on explaining the positive benefits of working co-operatively as a region. We currently purchase coconut and pomace oil in bulk, share products (such as moisturiser and deodorant), plant production and distillation facilities. Most importantly, we share our problems and successes and learn from one another.

Pauline brought along some books from the NZLGA Library and circulated some useful website addresses.

Everyone was encouraged to register for the upcoming AGM and mini-conference to be held at Lincoln University, Christchurch.

Peter outlined his plans to set up Gas Chromatography facilities for NZLGA use and also ideas to update the Association website.

Subscription levels and Joining fee were discussed. It was agreed that the following remit be submitted to Executive Committee for consideration at the AGM:

'That the Joining Fee be abolished' - moved Mike Alspach seconded Tony Anderson. All in favour.

Tricia and John were thanked for their hospitality and congratulated on the sale Lavender Hill.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday 4th October at Mike and Marion's place in Pirongia.



Looking for Volunteer Work

Hi there! I am an Irish lass backpacking around New Zealand.

It's been an absolute dream to harvest lavender and make holistic products with it so am on the hunt for volunteer work where I can live and learn the process. I have some harvest/farm work experience how ever not in lavender.. I've worked on a vineyard grafting and planting, I have picked cherries, harvested oysters and worked in a kiwi pack house on quality control. I am very adaptable, a quick learner and more than eager. I am going down the holistic route and wish to educate myself while on this working holiday visa. I want to give back to mother nature and the community.

If you could give me any advice on where would it be possible to volunteer or WWOOF or work on a lavender farm it would most appreciated.

xxxEilis Dillon xxx

For more information on Eilis and her availability please contact

Charlotte Brown- cdbrown@clear.net.nz

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Farewell from Jan and Corry

Hi Everybody

This is the last mail from Kaikoura Lavender farm.

We sold the farm in May and Mayra from England will be here with 2 boys and will take over in August.

I think she will be a new member, and I will still be involved with the Wanaka Lavender farm,

So, it is now moving to Wanaka finish our new house (also at the farm in Wanaka) and give some training to the new owners.

Jan is retired and now we can enjoy some more free time to do our hobbies, travelling, and sport.

Have a great new season.

Jan & Corry Zeestraten



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Thoughts from an old Lavender Grower

Well here we are at the back end of another year, at least if you begin and end at the AGM.

Which ever way you look at it a year has gone which is a shame as they seem to pass faster the fewer that I have left.

Anyway I got to thinking about what it is that makes me pay my subs every year. I ruled out any generous gestures such as donations to a worthy cause as being ridiculous.

My first charity is my stomach followed closely by Westpac Helicopters.

Is it what I can learn from the Association?

Maybe, but I am an old dog whose been growing lavender for 15 years. I am not saying I know it all but could probably survive on my own.

The political side of things like the therapeutic products and medicines bill. MSD sheets to comply with, new regulations, intellectual property rights and many more have been sent to plague dinosaurs like me, so I am more than happy to leave those things to them that want them.

No it's the people. The amazing mix of skills and dreams of the people crazy enough to grow lavender for fun, pleasure, profit or a mix of all.

The Northern region meets irregularly on an informal basis and shares a nice meal at a different venue each time. The friendships formed and the knowledge willingly shared is what keeps me coming back.

To have those benefits there has to be an association to support the regions. A framework to hang the many and varied requirements of all of us who enjoy lavender in all its glory.

Remember a house and garden without lavender has something missing.

From Mile and Marion

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Oil judges hard at work.

Left to Right. Eleanor, Blake, Russell (scrutineer), Margaret, Pauline, Noel.



All Sections » House & DIY » Garden & Landscaping
» Garden Equipment

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Ride on lawn mower for sale...



Couldn't resist this last winter photo from Leonie and Trevor Rouse.

Library News

Finding the information you need in the NZLGA Library has just become a lot easier.

I have put the books (B), research reports by Dr Noel Porter (RR) and DVDs (V) into subject categories.

Many of the books cover multiple areas so I have chosen the main theme. I hope you find this useful. It will also go onto the NZLGA web-site.

Contact Pauline

leafyhollow@yahoo.co.nz

to borrow any of these resources.

NZLGA LIBRARY –Main Subject Areas

Story, History, Folklore

- B003 *Lavender, Sweet Lavender*- Judith McLeod
- B008 *The Magic and Power of Lavender*- Maggie Tisserand and Monica Junemann
- B010 *The Story of Lavender*- Sally Festing 1989
- B035 *The Lavender Story*- Sally Festing 2009. 3rd edition

Varieties

- B012 *Lavender-The NZ Gardener's Guide* – Virginia McNaughton
- B017 *The Genus Lavandula* – Upston and Andrews
- B046 *Lavender- The Genus Lavandula* – edited by Maria Liz-Belching
- V010 *My Favourite Angustifolias and Lavandins* – Virginia McNaughton

Marketing/Business Development

- B022 *Growing Your Herb Business*- Bertha Reppert
- B026 *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Marketing*- Sarah White
- B027 *The Guerrilla Marketing Handbook* – Jay Levinson, Seth Godin
- B028 *The Seven Key Principles of Successful Small Business Marketing* - Brooksbank
- B029 *Marketing your Small Business in New Zealand- Senior and McBride*
- B058 *The Handmade Market Place*- Kari Chapin
- B061 *The Chinese Way in Business*- Boyer Lafayette de Monte
- V015 *After you Grow it. Then what?*- Ellen Spector Platt
- V016 *After you Make it. Then what?* – Ellen Spector Platt
- V017 *Panel – History and Development of the Sequim Lavender Industry*
- V026 *Marketing Lavender on the Internet*- Glenn Hughes

Medicinal

- B004 *Lavender Oil- Nature's most versatile remedy*- Julia Lawless
- B034 *Desk Reference to Nature's Medicine*- RD 2007
- B040 *Natural Remedies that Really Work*- Dr Shaun Holt
- B041 *Grow your own Drugs* – James Wong
- B066 *Lavender: Nature's Way to Relaxation and Health*- Philippa Wearing
- V011 *The History and Ethnobotany of the Genus Lavandula* – Jenny Pérez
- V021 *Medicinal Applications of Lavandula Species* – Dr Kara Burkhart

Growing Lavender

- B002 *The Essential Lavender*- Virginia McNaughton
- B006 *Lavender – A Grower's Guide*. McGimpsey and Rosanoski
- B011 *Lavender-A Grower's Guide to Commercial Production*- McGimpsey and Porter
- B015 *Lavender-How to Grow and use the Fragrant Herb*- Ellen Platt
- B024 *Grosso Lavandin for Oil- Grower's Guideline*- J Lammerink
- B045 *Growing and Using Lavender*- Pattie Barrett
- B046 *Lavender- The Genus Lavandula*. – Maria Liz-Balchin
- B067 *Sawmill Ballroom Lavender Farm Guide to Growing Lavender 2nd Ed.*- J Emil Blum
- V006 *Lavender Cultivars for the Northwest and Beyond*- Andrew Van Hevelingen
- V007 *Everything you ever wanted to know about propagating and starting lavender plants* – Andrew Van Hevelingen
- V008 *Growing Lavender Commercially: An Introduction* – Curtis Beus

Cont...

Growing Herbs

B021 *Herbal Harvest-Commercial Organic Production of Dried Herbs*- Greg Whitten 3rd Ed.

B025 *The Fragrant Garden*-Julia Lawless

B060 *Rosemary Grower's Guide*- Crop and Food

Oil Production

B001 *Field Distillation for Herbaceous Oil*- Tim Denny

B006 *Lavender- A Grower's Guide* - McGimpsey and Rosanoski, Crop and Food

B011 *Lavender- A Grower's Guide to Commercial Production*- McGimpsey and Porter

B046 *Lavender-The Genus Lavandula* – Maria Liz-Balchin

RR01 *Specifications, analysis and blending Lavender oil*

RR02 *Lavender oils of the 2000 season*

RR03 *Applying your oil results*

RR04 (1) *Oil quality- analyses , noses and manipulation*

(2) *Oil Composition, aroma characteristics and perceived quality*

(3) *Applying you oil report results*

(4) *Steam distillation of lavender oil- basic essentials and explanations*

(5) *Analysing and tuning the oil production process*

RR05 *Effects of flower maturity and distillation time on the yield and quality of lavender oils*

RR06 *Lavender oil composition*

RR07 *The Bioactivity of lavender essential oil*

V012 *Taking the Mystery out of Oil* – Dr Brian Lawrence

V013 *A Question and Answer Session on Lavender Oil*- Dr Brian Lawrence

V014 *Lavender Oil Distillation and Commentary* – A Harmon and Dr Brian Lawrence

Aromatherapy / Essential Oils

B013 *The Essence of Aromatherapy*- Glenda Taylor

B014 *The Encyclopaedia of Essential Oils*- Julia Lawless

B047 *Pure Scents for Relaxation*- Joanna Metcalf

B048 *Massage and Aromatherapy*- Readers Digest

B054 *500 Formulas for Aromatherapy* – Schiller

V022 *Basic Aromatherapy Blending of Oil*- Wendy Sizl

Safety / Chemistry / Bioactivity

B007 *Aroma Science*- Marie Liz- Balchin

B009 *The Essential Oil Safety Data Manual*- Robert Tisserand 1990

B020 *A Proposal for a Trans Tasman Agency to Regulate Therapeutic Products*

B056 *Lavender- 100s of Everyday Uses*- Jo Waters

B065 *Essential Oil Safety 2nd Ed.* - Tisserand and Young 2014

B070 *Essential Oils Desk Reference 5th Ed.* – Life Science Publishing

B046 *Lavender- The Genus Lavandula* – Maria Liz-Balchin

Fiction

B049 *The Lavender Keeper* – Fiona McIntosh

B057 *The French Promise* - Fiona McIntosh

Culinary

B018 *The Lavender Cookbook* –Sharon Shipley

B042 *Discover Cooking with Lavender* – Kathy Gerht

B051 *A Taste of Lavender*- Gloria Lyons

B052 *Lavender Sensations*- Gloria Lyons

B064 - *Cooking with Flowers* – Miche Bucher

V024 *Cooking with Lavender*- Kathy Gehrt

V025 *Taking your Lavender Food Products from Concept to Market* – Dale Nelson

Products – soapmaking

B053 *The Soap maker's Workshop* – R and C McDaniel

B062 *Making Transparent Soap* – Catherine Failor

B063 *The Handmade Soap Book* - Melinda Costs

Products- creams etc

B019 *Lavender- The Most Essential Oil* – Cherie de Hart

B059 *Organic Body Care Recipes* – Stephanie Tousled

B068 *Making Herbal Hand Creams and Salves* – Storey Country Wisdom Bulletin

Products- perfumery

B036 *Incense, Oils and Brews* – Scott Cunningham

B038 *Perfumes, Splashes and Colognes*- Nancy Booth

B039 *The Art of Perfumery* – G W Septimus PS

Products – general

B032

B045 *Growing and Using Lavender*- Pattie Barrett

B056 *Lavender – 100s of Everyday Uses*- Jo Waters

B069 *Making Hand Dipped Candles*- Storey Country Wisdom Bulletin

Weeds

B023 *New Zealand Common Weeds in Colour*- E A Upritchard

B055 *weed Control Handbook* – Weedbuster

V020 *Understanding Weeds and Weed Control Principles*- Cathy Lucero

Hydrosols

B030 *Hydrosols*- Suzanne City

V023 *Lavender Hydrosols: History and Uses of this Magic Distillate* – Annie Harmon

General

B005 *Lavender Garden*- Robert Kourik

B016 *The Ultimate Lavender Book*- Liz Thearle

B031 *Lavender*- Marie Guitteny

B043 *Lavender*- Jessie Hawkins

B044 *Book of Lavender* – Jackie French

B046 *Lavender- The Genus Lavandula* – Maria Liz-Balchin

B050 *The Lavender Lover's Handbook*- Sarah Bader

V009 *Lavender; an Ever Evolving Passion: A New Zealand perspective* – Virginia McNaughton

V019 *A Year in the Life of a Lavender Farmer*- Panel