

THE NEW ZEALAND LAVENDER GROWERS ASSOCIATION

# Lavender Link

Quarterly newsletter for Association members

Issue 71

Spring 2018

*I'm dreaming of a  
Lavender Christmas*



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# Chairman's Chatter



TO RESEARCH, DEVELOP  
AND PROMOTE LAVENDER  
ESSENTIAL OIL AND  
ASSOCIATED PRODUCTS

## Chairpersons Report

### News from the NZ Lavender Growers Association Executive Conference 2018

Our August 2018 "For the love of lavender" conference was a great success and enjoyed by all attendees. The weather was fine throughout the weekend which certainly helped. The Martinborough hotel was a great venue with all the conference events being held in the comfort and warmth of the hotel.

The conference program and presentations can be found on our [www.lavender.org.nz](http://www.lavender.org.nz) website in the Library section under NZLGA Conferences. You must log-in to access.

#### The AGM:

We welcomed some new faces to the Executive as well as some of the existing members.

Retiring were Mike Alspach from the Treasury and Russel Rofe. We thank them both for their services.

Your new executive team are:

Peter Jemmett (Chairperson & Webmaster), Blake Foster (Vice Chair), Trish Delamore (Secretary), Keith Brown (Treasurer), Pauline Livesey (Library & membership secretary), Tracy Voice (minute secretary) and Susi White, Myra McLelland & Charlotte Brown. Helen Mason continues as the Lavender Link editor.

Full details of the meeting can be found on our [www.Lavender.org.nz](http://www.Lavender.org.nz) website in the Library section under AGM information.

#### Executive meeting

On the 30<sup>th</sup> September the Executive met via Skype teleconference for our first meeting of the term.

I outlined the following program for the year which I trust will put our association in a stronger position and give greater visibility for our members. It nevertheless needs your support and participation so if you would like to join any of our working groups please do get in touch with me.

**Website redevelopment** – This group is to be headed by Tracy, Myra, and Jason. The purpose is to look at refreshing the website and possibly onto a new platform. We are looking to add additional functionality to better integrate the members database to link to services and advertising etc., payment options for subscriptions, oil awards, conferences etc., supplier advertising etc., ability for members to add and edit content to their profiles including oil and or dried flowers for sale and much more.

**NZLGA Logo** – We note that our logo is not trademarked. The requirement for this will become more relevant in time as we work towards developing a quality insurance program and the recognition of our oil awards international standing. Blake foster will be leading this project.

**Quality assurance standard.** The purpose is to give members a point of difference from others in the industry who are not members and to give public confidence for the products we sell and manufacture. A working group needs to be established to work out the details and how to implement it. **If you have any expertise in this area or would just like to assist please do contact me.**

**Update database for plant varieties.** The intention is to update and further develop the data base to also include pictures of the varieties and have it available on our website for members to view. Pauline and Susi are leading this.

**Oil Bank.** The idea is to create a separate section on the website to allow members to subscribe oil that is for sale. Members will be able to add the details directly through their profile database.

Please note that the Executive minutes can be viewed on our website [www.lavender.org.nz](http://www.lavender.org.nz) in our library section under “Executive meeting minutes”. You must log-in to view. If you have forgotten your password please let me know and I will reset it.

As always I welcome your feedback. Please do get in touch. Margaret and I will be away overseas in the Himalayas from Oct 19<sup>th</sup> to November 10<sup>th</sup> so website updates and help will be delayed till we get back.

PS: I wrote this before we went away and we are now back and fully recovered from our trip. We had a great time experiencing the madness of Kathmandu and the Sherpa culture on our trek. Our plan route was from Kathmandu to Lukla by plane then trekking to Everest Base Camp via Namche and then returning on the three Pass Trail via the Gokyo lakes. Well that was the plan but unfortunately Margaret got altitude sickness at Lobuche which is 4910 meters (16108 feet) and we had to descend from there on the day we would or should have trekked to Everest base camp. Nevertheless we had a great experience and even though we could not complete the trip it was still really worthwhile. I can also report that there were no Lavender farms to be seen.

All the best for the coming season.  
Cheers  
Peter Jemmett  
NZLGA Chairperson.

# From the Editor

Hello everyone

That's it, the year done and dusted. It's all over except for the shouting.

It's gone in the blink of an eye and I am only just managing to squeak this Link out before the end.

Our conference went off very well and we have some changes to the Executive.

It's time to look forward to the new year. There is a group planning to go to the Australian Lavender Growers Conference, (TALGA). Details on the following page for those who may be interested.

Some great books to borrow from the library for reading in your spare time. And a story from Roger Jordan about how he ended up growing lavender.

He reminds me that there is often more pleasure in the journey than the destination.

As its the season why not make a lavender wreath for your door or some bath bombs and lavender wands to fill the stockings.

Until next time

Merry Christmas



## ADVERTISING IN THE LINK IS FREE TO FULL MEMBERS.

### Rates for NZLGA Associate Members:

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# The Australian Lavender Growers Association 2019 Conference



## TALGA 24th Conference and AGM



Port Arthur, Tasmania  
20th – 22nd March 2019

*“Lavender - Past, Present and Future”.*



Learn about the history of Lavender in Australia from convict days to the present. See how Lavender is grown and distilled today and experience culinary Lavender at its best. Have a look into the future guided by one of Australia's leading Lavender entrepreneurs.



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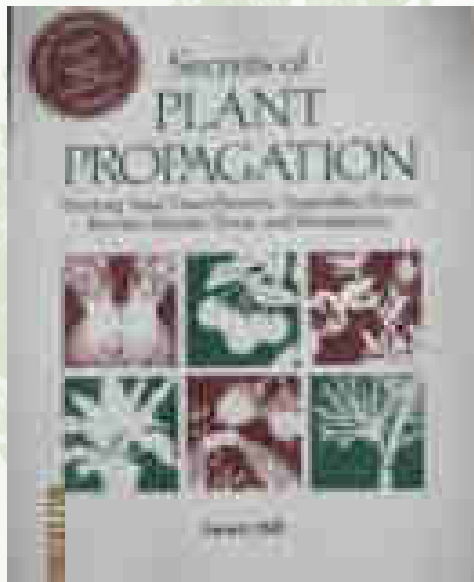
# Library News



We have three new books in the library. Although they have been around for some time the information they contain is still relevant. You can borrow these books on the Library page of the website.

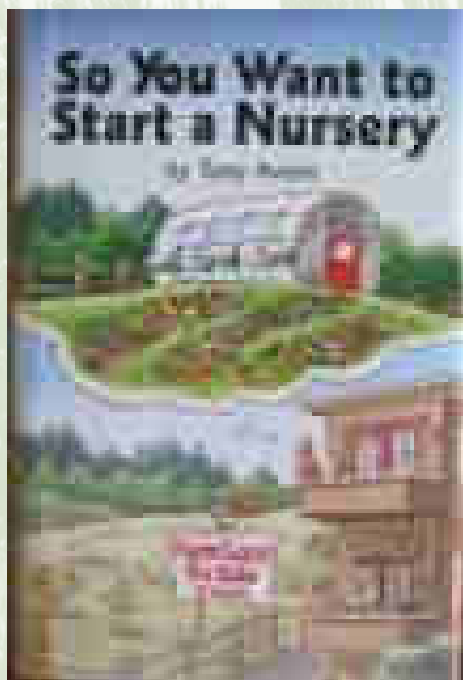
## ***Making Herbal Dream Pillows by Jim Long (1998)***

In this book Jim Long shares 17 recipes for dreams made to order. You'll learn the special characteristics of the herbs and flowers most effective in aromatherapy, as well as how to grow and dry them. Using step-by-step instructions you can create personal dream pillows filled with herb mixtures specially designed to conjure desired dreams.



## ***Secrets of Plant Propagation by Lewis Hill (1985)***

A comprehensive guide to a range of propagation methods. This book will be useful to the home gardener or someone planning to start a nursery . Full of practical ideas and tips for successful growing.



## ***So You Want to Start a Nursery by Tony Avent (2003)***

Tony Avent focuses on the business and planning concerns of a prospective owner – from considering whether to consult a lawyer about a partnership to whether to build your own glasshouses.

While recounting humorous stories of his baptism by fire as a beginning nurseryman, Avent also provides basic information on the nursery industry as a whole, with discussions on the merits and disadvantages of retail, wholesale, mail order and liner operations, to name just a few. Readers of this book will obtain the tools they need to make a business plan of their own.



# Spring at Leafy Hollow, Waiuku

Our busy season began in September with a couple of group visits coming through the garden each week. Although needs differ we usually provide a garden tour, talk on distillation and complimentary morning tea. They come mainly from the Auckland area ranging from Probus Groups, Garden Clubs, Retirement Villages, Care Homes and educational groups.

One such is an English Conversation Group that meets weekly to improve spoken English. Participants are local immigrants who have come to New Zealand from all over the world – Romania, Korea, Tonga, India, China, Japan. The love of plants is fairly universal so makes an excellent starting point for discussion.

## ***A rainbow of colours***



The *L. angustifolia* seems to be flowering much earlier than usual. Last week I started picking the Pacific Blue (bottom) and Midnight Velvet (top) for drying. I need to be out there every day now so I don't miss the best flowers!

Pauline and Robert





# Roger 's Story

For many years I worked away in my shed and later basement garages to complete an aircraft. The design I had chosen was German and the original date of its introduction 1941.

While some 30000 of these were built at the time none were flying. With a company in the US drafting plans for the aircraft, but for one scaled down in size, the 1450 horsepower engine size could be much reduced and the build price dramatically so.

By the time this was completed in 1993 folk around the world were taking a renewed interest in aircraft of World War Two and plans were afoot to have real versions rebuilt and replicas constructed. The detailing of the aircraft with all cockpit placarding signage and National markings followed considerable study. With the assistance of a German-speaking friend who at the time was a senior air traffic controller at Zurich and Dulux, we replicated paint colours from original paint chips. The aircraft was brought to as close as possible a reduced size version of the real thing. The result of the finish and detailing was the receipt of awards for type of construction, best War Replica NZ and Reserve Grand Champion NZ.



A move to Hamilton brought a review of interests and the aircraft was sold. What now? Well, it turned-out to be a place in the country. I mused on an English Cottage, I had done with the German thing so it just had to be French.

The house was designed around French aspects while the grounds, originally devoid of anything but grass, was planted out in trees of Europe, Poplars, Oaks, Ash, Elm while, with a view to the view, the oval front lawn was planted in rows of Pacific Blue. Later Avic Hill were added but the wet and damp soon paid their demise so Pacific Blue it is.



When asked why the lavender I explained it was part of the heart. What are you going to do with it? "Grow it and mow it" was the simple reply. My interest was turning toward mechanisation, moulding, laying film, planting, irrigation, harvesting and distilling. After all, I had 40 acres spare at that time and the contemplation of those interesting machines that did this and that runs powerful!

Times change and there became pressure on time so the crop and I grew older. The process of laying a new crop is under-way along with a new shed, restored tractors, renovating, developing and lots of mowing. The rebuilding of the children's play set is all part of the mix, we are a generation further forward now so it has seen active service.

Mike is keen for a boiler, I need one too and the intention and design are there but the realisation not quite (yet).

Being an engineer and knowing full well that what can go wrong will, I imported a book of "Great Boiler Explosions of the World". From this I hold a very real picture of what not to do! Ours will be a grand boiler!



So on we go, always busy but with spare time rigidly limited to weekends things are always in a rush. To the question of when will it all be finished, the answer is never....and that is the beauty of it.

Regards Roger



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