



## Lavender Snippets September

We are well into Spring and officially 12 weeks until Christmas. With El Nino predicted by weather forecasters this summer we are in for a hot, drier summer which should be good for our lavender. In the meantime, this Snippet issue will highlight last month's Seminar Day held in Christchurch.

### Chat from the Chair

At Lavender Abbey we are starting to see the signs of spring with our roses already pushing out new shoots and our plum trees are covered in blossoms. With a bit of luck our soil temperature will soon start to increase, and it won't be long before our lavender takes on the much-loved greener look. It's always a tough time getting through winter, with the lavender constantly looking dull and sad, so it's such a relief once we see the green leaves coming through, plus it really signals the start of a new season.

Spring also means we'll need to start our weeding program, as it's always a challenge to stay on top of the pesky unwanted weeds within the lavender field. For us here, Wandering Buttercup and Clover are the two troublemakers, as they can make their way up and over the weed mat, so it's often a combination of hoeing and manual removal to keep them out of the plants themselves. It takes about 30 hours from start to finish to hand weed the lavender field.

Below is our first stage of weed control:



Dusting off the lawnmower will be high on the list too, as once the lavender takes on its green shade, the first stage of weed control (pictured) tends to take a liking to the lavender too!

We have our Executive all lined up for another year and I'll have them introduce themselves over the next few months. If you have any suggestions or anything to request of the Association, please do not hesitate to contact me or one of our Executive team.

Regards

Stuart Abernethy

Chairperson

## Officers and Executive 2023

Chairperson                      Stuart Abernethy

Vice Chairperson                Peter Jemmett

Secretary                         Mark Froude

Treasurer                         Jan Abernethy

Membership Secretary        Peter Jemmett

Library                             Pauline Livesey

Webmaster                        Peter Jemmett

Executive Member              Susi White

Executive Member              Keith Brown

Executive Member              Tracy Voice

Executive Member              Kerry Chadderton

## Introducing Our Life Members

As you may have realised, the Association Executive from time to time, may bestow the title of Life Member upon a member who is deemed to have had a longstanding and valuable input into some aspect that furthers the Associations goals. Over the next few snippets, I will introduce or refresh your knowledge of their special and valuable contributions starting with Elsie whom some of you may have met for the first time at our recent one-day seminar held in Christchurch.

### Elsie Hall

Like most of the inaugural and early members of the Association, Elsie and Brian Hall were growing and marketing lavender long before the NZLGA existed. While Elsie wasn't an inaugural member, she did join us very early on and she has really made her mark since.

Elsie is semi-retired now but grows her carefully curated lavender collection at their new property in Queen Charlotte Sound, having had her home base in the Wairau Valley Marlborough for many years.

She started like others at the time, with an onsite shop and cute cottage garden and literally had to do her own research into growing, harvesting and product making and because she was a skilled marketer by the time that she joined us she was very successful, and her beautiful garden was quite well known in the area if not the South Island.

As I recall, I think I met her through the Herb Federation conference as part of a bus trip to her garden.

I'm not sure if she was already a member at that stage or not but soon after she quickly got involved on the committee and in time became Chairperson in 2001 and her term continued until 2004, during that time

Elsie instigated and furthered several innovative ideas such as the Association Logo, the website, the oil standard for Grosso and encouraged GC testing and she was very instrumental in the establishment of the Supreme Oil Awards and in 2004 the first judging took place.

Elsie has developed a range of base products which can still be purchased by our members today via her daughter, Vanessa who makes them from her home in Christchurch. Elsie was also on the judging panel for a while for the Oil Awards.

Her main claim to fame however is her **new plant breeding programme** and she has developed several new varieties of Lavender that she controls the PVR rights for.

These are now marketed all over the world, keep an eye out for them in your local nursery's marketed under the Leigh Series.

*Lavandula angustifolia* 'Thumbelina Leigh' has now sold over a million plants worldwide!

Elsie has always been willing to consult on all things lavender and has a wealth of information, some of which can be found in our lavender link archives in the library. She also has considerable experience with exporting lavender oil and culinary along with other products, her lavender tea I recall was very popular in Japan at the time.

Elsie Hall is a talented artist, semi-retired now and passionate about her art she spends her time in her studio painting her beautiful impressionist style paintings which she exhibits now and again, Elsie Hall has dedicated a large part of her talent, time and knowledge to our Association through her love and passion for all things Lavender.

Charlotte Brown

## **NZLGA Oil Awards**

The NZLGA Oil Awards for 2023 are complete, with the results announced during our Seminar Day in Christchurch and also listed on our website.

The judging was completed over the weekend of 4-6 August with the 6 Judges sniffing their way through 112 samples.

The success of our Association's Supreme Oil Awards relies on Grower support, and it was great to have received 100+ entries this year.

It was also good to see some of our newer members entering for the first time too as it's a great way for growers to learn about their oil.

This year we received 47 *Angustifolia*, 45 *Intermedia* and 20 Blends from 25 Growers, including entries from Australia, Canada and Czech Republic and we awarded 3 Gold and 26 Silver Awards.

All the entries were processed in our Gas Chromatography Analyser, as this test is included within the entry fee, with the results supplied to each Grower.

I'd like to express my thanks to all the Judges and the Support Crew that volunteer their time to make these awards such a success.

Regards

Stuart

NZLGA Oil Awards Convener



**Judges**



**Number Crunchers**

# New Zealand Lavender Growers Association

## Supreme Oil Awards for 2023

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### Oil Competition Trophies for 2023

<b>Dennis Matthews Memorial Trophy</b>	<b>Best Lavandula Angustifolia</b>
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Lavender Abbey (Jan & Stuart Abernethy)

Violet Intrigue 2023

<b>Eoin Johnson Memorial Trophy</b>	<b>Best Lavandula x Intermedia</b>
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New Zealand Alpine Lavender (Blake Foster)

Molten Silver 2022

<b>Ken Wilson Memorial Trophy</b>	<b>Best Grosso</b>
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Lavender Abbey (Jan & Stuart Abernethy)

Grosso 2022

<b>Mike Alspach Memorial Trophy</b>	<b>Best Super</b>
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Lavender Creek Farm (Susi & Vaughan White)

Super 2021

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## Oil Competition Certificates 2023 Lavandula Angustifolia

Lavender Abbey (Jan & Stuart Abernethy)	Violet Intrigue	2023	Gold
	Violet Intrigue	2022	Silver
	Violet Intrigue	2021	Silver
Lavender Creek Farm (Susi & Vaughan White)	Pacific Blue	2022	Silver
Ranui Essentials (Tracy Voice)	Violet Intrigue	2022	Silver
Coe & Co (Nichola Coe)	Pacific Blue	2022	Silver

## Oil Competition Certificates 2023 Blends

Herbal Visionz (Charlotte Brown)	Pacific Blue, Avise Hill & Violet Intrigue	2023	Silver
New Zealand Alpine Lavender (Blake Foster)	Pacific Blue & Molten Silver	2021	Silver
Lavender Abbey (Jan & Stuart Abernethy)	Grosso & Violet Intrigue	2022	Silver
	Rosea & Violet Intrigue	2022	Silver
Leafy Hollow (Pauline Livesey)	Buena Vista & Violet Intrigue	2022	Silver

## Oil Competition Certificates 2023

### Lavandula x Intermedia

Lavender Creek Farm (Susi & Vaughan White)	Super	2021	Gold
	Super	2022	Silver
	Grosso	2021	Silver
Leafy Hollow (Pauline Livesey)	Super	2021	Silver
	Super	2023	Silver
Lavender Abbey (Jan & Stuart Abernethy)	Grosso	2021	Silver
	Grosso	2022	Silver
	Grosso	2023	Silver
Levandule Pod Ripem (Anna Nova Kuceroval)	Grosso	2021	Silver
	Impress Purple	2021	Silver
Blue Mountains Lavender Farm (Louise & Bruce Bickerton)	Grosso	2023	Silver
Lavendell (Helena Maarschalk)	Grosso	2021	Silver
	Grosso	2023	Silver
JD's Lavender Lifestyle (Jenny Dennis)	Grosso	2021	Silver
Lavender Hill Farm (Trish & Jason Delamore)	Grosso	2021	Silver
	Grosso	2022	Silver
New Zealand Alpine Lavender (Blake Foster)	Molten Silver	2021	Silver
	Molten Silver	2022	Gold





**Dr Noel Porter awarding Susi White from Lavender Creek Farm the “Mike Alspach Memorial Trophy”.**



**Dr Noel Porter awarding Blake Foster from New Zealand Alpine Lavender the “Eoin Johnson Memorial Trophy”.**



**Dr Noel Porter awarding Jan & Stuart Abernethy from Lavender Abbey the “Dennis Matthews Memorial Trophy” and “Ken Wilson Memorial Trophy”.**

## **NZLGA Seminar Day**

The NZLGA Seminar Day in Christchurch was a great success with 41 delegates attending.

The day kicked off with a welcome from our Chairperson Stuart Abernethy (Lavender Abbey) and introduced our MC for the day Mark Froude (Black Teal Bay). Mark did a great job announcing all the presenters and keeping the day running to time.

Clare Curnow (Lavender Fields) and Virginia McNaughton presented on Propagation and Plant Care. They discussed and presented equipment to use, including tools, Rooting Hormone, Containers and Growing Mediums. They also provided some physical demonstrations, where we were all shown various top tips on how to propagate our plants successfully.

Keith Brown (Harvester Solutions) presented on Harvesting Machinery and Tools. Keith shared the various methods of harvesting, ranging from the romantic historical past right through to the high-volume commercialised setups in France. Keith demonstrated two harvesters that are available via Harvester Solutions, the HT-Tom Harvester and the smaller Backpack Harvester. He explained the importance of planning your field plantings to accommodate future machinery requirements to harvest, cultivate and fertilise.

A Panel of Lavender experts consisting of Jan Abernethy (Lavender Abbey), Mark Froude (Black Teal Bay), Peter Jemmett (Great Barrier Lavender), Blake Foster (NZ Alpine Lavender) and Dr Noel Porter were then asked numerous questions on 'New Grower' learnings, Soil and Plant Health, Pruning, Oil Aroma and making Products.

Jason Delamore (Lavender Hill) provided an excellent overview on their Adventures in Distilling and what goes on at Lavender Hill. Jason's presentation included an in-depth view into the operation of their Stainless-Steel Distillation equipment including the efficiency and safety modifications they have made to their still. Jason also outlined their expansions they have undertaken and the compliancy requirements for a gas fired pressure boiler.

Dan Zinsli (Mountain Road Estate) took us all on his families journey into Lavender, Hazelnuts, Truffles and White Sage. Dan talked about his experience distilling in a 40L Copper Alembic Column and shared the advantages and disadvantages of copper. He also explained the physical requirements of distilling with copper, which was why he went with the 40L over the 100-250L one. Dan is also an engineer and has made various modifications to include a water chiller to cool the condenser water for reuse, additional fire bricks to assist with heating and a "Dan-made" separator.

Dr Noel Porter did a presentation on Lavender Oil Aroma Quality and Evaluation. Noel discussed the Oil Producer's job, lavender properties and why a Gas Chromatography test is beneficial to the Grower. Noel explained that the Olfactory Evaluation is still the most common method for aroma testing and walked us through the expected aromatic notes of Pacific Blue, Avice Hill, Violet Intrigue, Grosso and Super. We broke into three groups to continue the Aroma Evaluation. Blake Foster and Jan Abernethy took some members through the process of identifying and describing positive and negative notes that they could identify in angustifolias and lavandins samples. Stuart Abernethy took some members aside and discussed a Research Paper that outlined the Oil Aroma v Time to Pick and Oil Aroma v Distillation Times.

Thanks to all those that assisted in putting the Seminar Day together, to Mark Froude for being our MC and also to our Goodie Bag suppliers:

**Herbal Visionz**

**Lavender Abbey**

**Leafy Hollow**

**NZ Alpine Lavender**

All the Seminar Day info has been uploaded to the website and can be found under MEMBERS RESOURCES - Seminar Day 2023.

Regards

Jan Abernethy















## **For Sale**

We have some Grosso oil that we would love to sell in bulk. Our oil is processed at Susi's at Otaki. We have also won a silver award for our grosso in 2021.

Would you know of anyone who would be interested in it, or any other contacts to help move it.

Thank you for your time.

Regards

Val Hollister

Rakaunui Lavender

0272217623

## **Wanted to purchase.**

Trish and Jason from Lavender Hill Farm are short on English Lavender (Pacific Blue) – Angustifolia oil. If anyone has surplus and would be able to supply them, please email [info@lavenderhill.co.nz](mailto:info@lavenderhill.co.nz) or txt 021 111 6686.

## **A big thank you!**

I really enjoyed the Seminar Day and would like to record a note of thanks to Stuart and the organisers for a great day.

Keep up the good work. I hope things dry out for you soon.

Best wishes

Noel

Dr N G Porter

33a Merrin Street

Avonhead

Christchurch 8042

## General information

**Website** [www.lavender.org.nz](http://www.lavender.org.nz) (Please report any issues to [webmaster@lavender.org.nz](mailto:webmaster@lavender.org.nz) )

If you are not on the Lavender Trail but wish to be please email the Webmaster to be activated. Remember if you are not on, you can't be seen.

### Website tips.

1. You can edit your own profile by logging into the member's section. Scroll to the bottom "Profile Description." Don't forget to save you changes. You also have a photo gallery but for security reasons photos must be emailed to the webmaster for inclusion.
2. Did you know you can now pay your subscription by credit card? (PayPal) Login to the Members Area and select "My Membership" from the left-hand menu. There is a 5% surcharge for all credit card transactions.

## Lavender in New Zealand (our group Facebook page, 64 members – 3 TALGA )



This group is for members of the NZ Lavender Growers Association and affiliates, to share lavender information, pictures, recipes, what you are up to in your lavender patch, items for sale or any other lavender related topics. Only members can see who's in the group and what they post. Talga members are welcome to join. Click on the following link to join. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/387329029014654>

If you would like to contribute to next month's newsletter, please email your articles and photos by 12<sup>th</sup> October to Trish – [info@lavenderhill.co.nz](mailto:info@lavenderhill.co.nz). We are always interested in hearing about what you are up to on your farm and would love to hear from new members about what inspired them to start growing Lavender.

## Next publication late October

Nga mihi nui (Kind Regards)  
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