

TALGA NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023



TIME FLIES! ONLY THREE WEEKS TO GO FOR THE TALGA CONFERENCE IN MAY (17th, 18th, 19th)!

NOW is the time to book your seat at TALGA Conference 2023. Registrations close on Wednesday 3rd May - please don't leave your decision until the last moment and help us organise a fabulous face-to-face event, so don't wait!

Call The Carrington directly to book your room. Online bookings might show no availability, but they are holding rooms for our conference delegates only until mid April.

Click on the link below to book and register online now:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CDKUY>

I encourage you to support TALGA by attending this major conference, only held every two years. We want to meet you, hear your ideas and experiences first-hand, and share our counsel to benefit your lavender business and the Australian lavender industry as a whole.

There are so many reasons to attend the TALGA Conference. This is what you can expect:

- Two full days of expert speakers and topics that will help you plan and grow your lavender business;

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Have you joined the TALGA Facebook Group? Click [here](#).



- Q&A after every speaker;
- Grower panel discussion on Lavender Agritourism and Q&A;
- Advice on value-adding your lavender into products for profit;
- Nose training workshop to develop understanding and evaluation of lavender essential oil fragrances;
- Farm visit inspection of drying and distillation equipment, processing machinery and tour of lavender;
- Product labelling and compliance workshop;
- Best practise guidance for drying lavender and essential oil/hydrosol production and storage;
- Meet other growers, make connections and share information;
- Meet industry suppliers who will provide relevant and helpful product advice.

You can see the full details of the conference in the brochure attached, or click on the following link to book online now: <https://www.trybooking.com/CDKUY>

As always, if you have any questions about the conference, please contact Louise Bickerton via email talgaevent00@gmail.com or mobile 0409717899.

All the best for now, Louise B.

Louise Bickerton

TALGA Vice-President

POST-CONFERENCE LAVENDER & NATIVE BOTANICAL DISTILLATION WORKSHOP

TALGA is thrilled to announce this workshop to be presented by Jill Mulvaney of Alembics NZ on-site at Blue Mountains Lavender Farm on Saturday 20 May or Sunday 21 May, 9.30am to 3.30pm.

This is the first time Jill has offered her workshop in Australia, many of you will already know her as a major reseller of copper alembic stills, however her expertise in distillation techniques for essential oil and hydrosol in both copper and stainless steel is extensive and this workshop is an exciting opportunity for hands on learning.

These workshops are designed for those exploring growing lavender themselves or working with Aussie natives commercially—and for existing lavender growers interested in the optimal parameters for lavender distillation.

The workshop covers:

- The distillation parameters for the steam distillation of lavender
- The heat of the condenser, its relevance and role in a distillation
- How to achieve optimal harvesting for distilling

Distillation demonstration—a comparison of lavender from two different stills

- Traditional copper alembic column still
- Stainless steel still (from Alchemia Solutions)

Distillation demonstration—Australian natives

- Look at Aussie natives as a secondary product for working farms
- How to use your shelter belts, and investigating the potential for commercial distilling
- Developing your local natives into products to diversify your income streams

Also includes lunch and light refreshments.

Jill Mulvaney - Founder and Head Distiller, Alembics NZ and The Alembics Lab

Jill Mulvaney is distiller, extractor and blender of aromatics, with over 25 years of experience. She teaches and consults on all aspects of plant extraction, aroma, and natural flavour. Jill also develops ideas and products for a wide range of industries, and is behind a number of award-winning gins.

Jill is passionate about the character of plants, the alchemical wonder of distillation, and enjoys sharing her knowledge with others. Her formative years, growing up on an isolated farm in Hawkes Bay, her recent teaching partnerships with internationally renowned phytochemists and aromatic distillers in Europe and America, and her experience distilling New Zealand and Australian natives, forms the basis of her deep engagement with the natural world—which remains her greatest inspiration.



For more information and to book online go to:

<https://thealembicslab.com/product/blue-mountains-lavender-workshops-nsw-australia/>

Please note: The cost shown on the website booking link is in NZD so cost is approximately **AUD\$275**

Larkman Nurseries will be our Major Sponsor for 2023, thank you to Clive, DI and Simon for your generous support. Thank you also to other sponsors for 2023 including **Soilcharge, Creative Dried Flowers, Leven K Lavender, Weed Gunnel, Port Arthur Lavender, Omya, Blue Mountains Lavender, Holmwood Produce and Lavender.** If your business would like to become a Conference Sponsor, please contact me with your offer.

THANKS TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS



CONFERENCE – BUY SWAP & SELL TABLE

At the TALGA Conference in May, there will be a table run by a TALGA member to Buy, Swap & Sell items on your behalf. Items to Buy, Swap & Sell must be NEW and UNUSED.

These might include: packaging, bottles, glassware, fabric, wrapping supplies; leftover or end of run items that you might have left in your storeroom that might be useful to someone else etc. Items must be packed/boxed or bagged with your NAME, FARM, PHONE NUMBER, PRICE OR SWAP INFORMATION.

Kindly send an email (link below) to let us know if you will be taking advantage of THE BUY, SWAP & SELL TABLE and what your items are so we have some idea for space.

Members adding items to the Buy, Swap & Sell Table will be responsible to collect their items if not traded by end of Thursday's conference activities. For more information, contact Kellie Oxenford | TALGA Secretary secretary@talga.com.au

2022 Field Day – recording now available!

TALGA is pleased to launch to our membership, an opportunity to view over 3 hours of lavender growing information videos, recorded at the Field Day at Chin Chin Farm in May 2022.

There are four videos of the sessions bundled for pay-per-view at a special TALGA member price of A\$26 (non-members will pay \$35).

1. The Importance of Soil Preparation and Management for Success - Graeme Joyce agronomist and principal of Soilcharge. 56mins
2. All About Plants - a Grower Panel discussion and Q&A - Jan Illingworth from Monaro Country Lavender NSW, Matthew Oxenford from Leven K Lavender QLD, Neville Henderson from Pastoria Lavender VIC, and Stuart Whiteman from Chin Chin Farm VIC hold a panel discussion sharing information and advice about their growing operations, weed challenges, best recommended cultivars for their climate zone and answer delegates questions. 1hr 16mins.
3. Agrifutures and La Trobe Uni Lavender Field Trial update and preliminary results delivered by Sonia Whiteman of Chin Chin Farm. Sonia also shares their experience of soil preparation and nutrition for young lavender and discusses the realities of organic weed control. 24 mins
4. Clive Larkman talks about lavender varieties and cultivation tips 11 mins.

To purchase this bundle, please visit the link below to TALGA Square Online Checkout to pay by credit card or Google/Apple Pay. Once we receive notification of your payment, we will send you an email with the video links for you to view on YouTube (the link works even if you don't have a YouTube account).

LINK TO ONLINE PAYMENT: [https://checkout.square.site/.../APV4\\$WMKZHLPI2IRHL65K2TP](https://checkout.square.site/.../APV4$WMKZHLPI2IRHL65K2TP)

The videos were recorded and edited by students of Alice Miller School, VIC under the supervision of their AV teacher so the quality of the video and sound is excellent.

We hope you are excited by this new and innovative way of sharing quality information by TALGA, we are hoping to add to our video library with future webinars and event session recordings like this.

As always, we welcome your comments and feedback!



TALGA: JEAN SARGEANT CRAFT AWARD

TALGA is pleased to announce the fourth Jean Sargeant Craft Award in honour of Jean and her love of crafting with lavender. The purpose of the competition is to inspire others to have a go themselves and promote lavender.

CATEGORY 1: Jean Sargeant **CRAFT** Award Small achievable crafts are suitable for this category, including the use of dried lavender or lavender themed fabric. Entries may include and not restricted to, a flower arrangement, heat bag, lavender wand or lavender sachet. Prize: TALGA Member: \$100.00 and certificate | Non TALGA Member: certificate.

CATEGORY 2: Best Lavender **CULINARY** Product This category showcases your best-selling culinary item which you have produced yourself. It could be a bunch of dried culinary lavender, a bag of dried and stripped culinary lavender, a food product featuring culinary lavender. Prize: TALGA member: \$100.00 and a certificate | Non TALGA member: certificate.

CATEGORY 3: Best Lavender **BEAUTY** Product This category showcases your best beauty product such as a lotion, cream, balm, and diffusers. All elements of the product must be Australian made. Prize: TALGA member: \$100.00 and a certificate | Non TALGA member: certificate.

See attached form for more details.

UNITED STATES LAVENDER GROWERS ASSOCIATION (USLGA)

Recordings of the United States Lavender Conference 2023 are available for purchase and review. The pack includes the below and more:

- **Keynote Session: Lavender Biology: How Understanding Your Plants Can Help Your Lavender Farm Succeed** - KEYNOTE SPEAKER: CLIVE LARKMAN
- **Scents & Sensibility--Pacific Northwest and Other Recent Lavender Cultivars, Plus Trends in the Lavender Trade** - SPEAKERS CHRISTINE MULDER & ANDREW VAN HEVELINGEN
- **Lavender Distillation - Taking It To The Next Level** - SPEAKER: DR. MICHAEL LEMMERS

You'll also get to hear speaker responses to actual questions from attendees and lavender industry professionals Click [here](#) for more information.

LAVENDER ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO (LAC)

The 12th Annual Colorado Lavender Festival is approaching fast (June 2023). The association is busy planning, locking in plans, and working to get the word out to the public. There are still vendor and sponsor options available. If you want to be a vendor, sponsor or both, or you know someone who would like to be, please contact events@coloradolavender.org. Application are also available at ColoradoLavender.org

NEW ZEALAND LAVENDER GROWERS ASSOCIATION (NZLGA)



Over the past couple of years NZLGA have received entries from some Australian Growers. Attached is an entry form for anyone interested in entering this year's NZLGA Lavender Oil awards. Close off date for entries is 18 July 2023.

For any questions, contact:

Stuart Abernethy, NZLGA Oil Awards Convener, on 021 223 4451

IAAMA GUEST SPEAKER



The International Aromatherapy and Aromatic Medicine Association (IAAMA) is the leading independent non-profit professional association dedicated to supporting aromatherapy practitioners in Australia and overseas

Guest speaker Greg Trevena from Essentially Australia will speak at 6.30 pm on Monday 17th April.

Click [here](#) for more information.

NEWS FROM MEMBER FARMS

➤ **Warratina Lavender Farm** | Annemarie Manders, VIC

After a successful Dog Day in late March with competitions, agility demonstrations, sheep herding and lots of barking we are now into April and the 2nd month of Autumn.

Weeding continues, beds are being formed for a replanting program, & plans are underway for future events later in the year.

All the lavenders have been cut back & are showing some new growth after much needed rain. I thought I would never say we needed rain after last Spring.

Our Easter Egg Hunt is happening over the Easter weekend with an Easter bunny dressed and acting the part for the occasion.

The Lavender Shop & online orders are ticking along in this climate of “recession”. All visitors love the lavender scones, a great sell together with our lavender ice-cream.

Happy Autumn planting and the healthy life-style of being a lavender farmer.

➤ A VISIT TO A LAVENDER FARM IN SOUTH AFRICA

Margaret Roberst Herbal Healing Centre

Fiona Glover (TALGA Public Officer) is visiting the Margaret Roberts Herbal Healing Centre in South Africa this month, located west of Pretoria.

Bred by Margaret 20 years ago, her Lavandin has a soft perfume similar to an angustifolia, and suits the South Australian climate.

Further updates and photos will be shared in next month's newsletter – stay tuned!



ACS DISTANCE EDUCATION

New e-book: Starwbale construction

Building a straw bale building is made simple with this ebook that helps you understand all the steps of construction as well as things that you will need to consider to make sure you are prepared for things incase they go wrong.

The idea of being more self sufficient and economical, or having the satisfaction of making something yourself is so satisfying. Straw bale buildings can be small or large. Straw bale builders often start with something small like a garden tool shed, garden wall or small stand alone studio. Straw bale buildings can be relatively inexpensive to construct, and just about anyone can have a go, experiment, and create something different and useful at home; all the while, learning and improving their building skills through

experience. Understand how to avoid mistakes. Experiment, improve and build your first straw bale construction.

Read more [here](#).

Course: Vertical Farming and Gardening

Learn to create vertical gardens and farms - small or large - to grow crops or decorative plants.

This 20 hour self-paced course will help you gain valuable insights to start your very own vertical farm or garden. It covers all of the essential elements that you will need to know to grow flourishing plants in small spaces.



When you study this course, you will:

- Learn about different crops that can be grown where space is at a premium.
- Learn about developing green façades.
- Develop your knowledge and importance of the plant environment - drainage, lighting, nutrition etc.
- Learn about the range of maintenance tasks associated with vertical gardens, and also what steps can be taken to reduce levels of maintenance.
- Discover different options for automation - systems that can be used to aid in providing optimal conditions for your crop or plants.

Find out which types of plant and crop are suited to vertical gardening.

Read more [here](#).