

AUGUST 2020



TALGA

ALL THINGS LAVENDER



25 Years of TALGA



I am pleased to present to members and friends of TALGA, the 2020 edition of the Lavender Journal. This year TALGA was unable to proceed with the Miniconference organised for Bendigo, so there is no conference writeup. However the Regional Roundups have made up for this with lots of stories and pictures, both of farms here in Australia and overseas. They show how lavender growers are continuing their lavender businesses and adapting to change in what has been the most extraordinary year I can ever remember in my lifetime.

The AGM was held via Skype teleconferencing for the first time and the Minutes are published in this Journal.

For the remainder of the Journal, articles have been chosen for their usefulness with Wendy Mackay's "What's in a drop?" for pleasure, several items here but the crossword puzzle is something different. In order to mark TALGA'S 25th year I have included an abridged version of Rosemary Holmes "History of TALGA". Looking ahead there is an overview of Clive Larkman's research project "Optimisation of Lavender Oil". This project is now just underway. It is an exciting project for TALGA and its members to be involved in.

I wish to thank all members who contributed to this Journal to make it an interesting and enjoyable read!

Planning is underway for the 2021 Conference, 5-7th May, to be held at Hahndorf, SA.

This is something for all of us to look forward to next year. TALGA hopes to see many of you there.

Fiona Glover, Secretary.

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PRESIDENT – Gary Young
M 0417 799 679 H 07 5466 7264
E: president@talga.com.au

VICE PRESIDENT & SCENTIMENTAL
COLLECTION– Christine Hitchin
M 0401 125 705 H 08 8323 7523
E: mclarenvale.lavender@bigpond.com

SECRETARY/PUBLIC OFFICER/OILS/
RESEARCH – Fiona Glover
M 0412 748 270 H 03 5334 4175
E: secretary@talga.com.au

TREASURER – Neville Sargeant
M 0418 998 982 H 03 5964 8238
E: yellelectlav@bigpond.com

ALR COORDINATOR – Kellie Oxenford
M 0427 609 171
E: levenklavender@bigpond.com

GENERAL BOARD MEMBER & 2021
Conference Convenor – Louise Bickerton
M 0409 717 899
E: bickertonl@optusnet.com.au

GENERAL BOARD MEMBER & 2021
Conference – Thomas Mahar
M 0423 306 658
E: thomasmahar@gmail.com

FACEBOOK CO-ORDINATORS
– Bronwyn Williams
M 0407 502 242
E: brickies@iprimus.com.au

- Louise Bickerton
M 0409 717 899

WEBMASTER – Kinnear Miller
M 0400 680 028
E: millerkinnear@gmail.com

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Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 29th April 2020,
Skype Teleconference

Greetings to all members
I trust you, your families and others
close to you are continuing to stay safe
and well during this time.

It is disappointing that due to the
present restrictions on travel and
gatherings we were unable to hold the
25th TALGA Conference at Bendigo,
Vic. and visit the Bendigo Botanic
Gardens and the National Collection of
Lavenders.

I respect and understand the circumstances of some
members who have not yet renewed their membership due
to drought, fires and now having to close their shops and
farm gates because of social distancing rules as a result of
the COVID19 pandemic.

I would like to personally welcome the 4 new members
and Lavender Club members who have joined TALGA
during the past year and support them with as much
information on developing their lavender farms.

The 24th Conference held at Stewarts Bay Lodge, Port
Arthur on 21 March 2019 was a great success with Clare
& Brendan Dean from Port Arthur Lavender hosting
the dinner and organizing field day trips as well as
doing much of the organizing of conference venue and
accommodation.

I would like to express my thanks to Jens Volkmann for
his support to the Board, especially for the Conference in
Tasmania. Unfortunately Jens has had to leave the board
due to work commitments. Also my thanks to Neville
Henderson who is retiring as Vice President after 4 years.
During this time he, his wife Gillian and daughter Emma
organized the 23rd Miniconference at Pastoria Lavender
Farm.

I would like to welcome two new TALGA Board members
Louise Bickerton from Blue Mountains Lavender and
Thomas Mahar from Hahndorf Lavender. Both have
expressed support and assistance in organizing next
year's Conference which will be held in South Australia.

My thanks to Christine and Tony Hitchins on the
presentation and packaging of the Gift Pack items as well
as the new products, hand sanitizer and hand lotion for the
Scentimental Collection. Some of these items are already
available on the shop page of the website and the gift
pack will be added very soon.

My thanks to Kellie Oxenford for her regular monthly
e-news. It is good to see the growing interest by members



contributing to the e-news and
we hope that more members will
support the publication by sending
through their articles to Kellie.

From my following up of members
I have recently heard the sad news
from Tere Bonner that her husband
Peter (who was awarded honorary
membership at the 2019 year
conference) is gravely ill. I passed
on our thoughts and wishes to Tere
from all at TALGA.

In November I attended the EOPAA
Symposium and AGM. It was most interesting with
excellent speakers and presenters. The first speaker's
topic was on 'Sri Lankan Essential Oils and Industrial
Applications' and the second speaker's topic was on
'Australian Essential Oil Industry: History and Emerging
Trends'.

Following the symposium I held a meeting with Clive
Larkman and Aaron Pollock with regard to research
funding a broad based lavender project with Latrobe
University. The project is progressing well and I'm
expecting Clive to speak about it at the AGM.

I congratulate Neville Sargeant being proposed by Fiona
Glover and approved by the Board members for a Life
Membership. His long service of 12 years as a Board
member and Treasurer shows great dedication to TALGA
and the awarding to Neville of Life Membership is a fitting
tribute and very well deserved.

I would like to express my thanks to all Board members
for all their hard work and efforts in supporting me and
making TALGA grow.

Gary Young
President

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It is disappointing that my report could not be delivered in person at what would have been TALGA's 25th Conference, at Bendigo, Vic.

However, the ability to do this via teleconferencing does preserve the flow of duties for our organization and provide some normality in what has been a very difficult start to this year of 2020.

Some members have not renewed their membership due to drought whilst others have had to close their farm gates/shops due to social distancing requirements forced by COVID19. In spite of this, TALGA has gained 4 new members; 2 in South Australia, 1 in Canberra and 1 in NSW. These members are very keen to learn as much as they can to get their Lavender farms up and running.

The 24th Conference held at Stewarts Bay Lodge, Port Arthur and at Clare and Brendan Dean's delightful lavender farm, shop and cafe, Port Arthur Lavender, still holds pleasant memories whilst we look forward to planning the next Conference.

Having to cancel the MiniConference which included a tour of the Bendigo Botanic Gardens and the National Collection of Lavenders, I have followed up with curator Kirstie Paterson. I have asked her to be interviewed via a questionnaire on the present state of the Collection, its future, and where TALGA can assist. I have recently visited the Bendigo Botanic Gardens and have seen the effect that drought has had, particularly on the *L.angustifolias*. The questionnaire will be published in the Journal with photos.

After this AGM, planning will commence on the 2021 Conference which the Board has decided to hold in SA in the Hahndorf region.

The Lavender Journal was published in July 2019 and was well received by all members. New members receive a copy of three previous years editions in their information pack. There are still copies available of earlier years' Journals which make for good reading on many topics of interest to Lavender growers; many things are still relevant today. These are held in the TALGA library and brought to Conferences.

Rosemary Holmes' family presented all of her books on lavender to TALGA for the library. The collection of books, photos and Conference proceedings are located in my shop which is the registered office of TALGA. At this stage it has been used for reference only, however lending could be discussed by the Board if members wished to have a borrowing service. NZLGA have been doing this for many years and it would be helpful to seek their advice.

TALGA's new look website is up and running. I am receiving enquiries from the general public on what/how to grow lavender, membership so it appears to be working well. Online enquiries for the Shop and items in The Scentimental Collection go to Neville Sargeant direct. Contact form now goes to Kinnear who is able to filter out junk/spam before sending on to me.

The Scentimental Collection now includes a Hand Sanitiser, Hand Cream and most recently, a Gift Pack of 4 items including Hand Sanitiser, Hand cream, Lavender sachet and Lip Balm – perfect for Mother's Day or simply to take away whilst travelling.

Currently the Gift Pack is being photographed for uploading to the Shop page of the website. The Australian Made website will also require updating once this is completed.

The Lavender Club has now 7 members: Anne Bolitho, Vic; Katrina Rosier, NSW; Vonne Toohey, Qld; Terry Morris, Qld; Jill Ormston, Qld; Veronica Curness, SA; Rosalie Allan, Qld. New grower members are Melissa & Jeff Biddle NSW; James Volk, ACT; Kirrilee Foster, SA; Ann Yeomans SA.

The e:news has been a regular monthly newsletter to members and has been successfully prepared and distributed by Kellie Oxenford. The increasing size of this newsletter shows the interest members have in it. All members have stories to tell and I have enjoyed catching up recently by phone with some of the ALR's. We are a national group and weather conditions vary across the country – for some it's good fortune for others it's tough. I do see the importance of keeping in touch – we are a community of lavender growers and must stay connected.

The Olfactory Oil Competition has been held over for the bigger Conference next year. There is ongoing interest from previous entrants overseas, so I look forward to organizing this at the end of 2020. More TALGA participation is required!

IAAMA, Vic. Representative, Julie Gardiner has been emailing events and sharing news. They were organizing a small group attendance at Bendigo. They also are holding their AGM by teleconference. All we can do is to keep in touch by sharing information at this time.

My thanks go to all Board members who have greatly contributed to the progress of TALGA and whose company I have enjoyed during the year. I am really pleased to propose Life membership be awarded to Neville Sargeant, and all Board members have approved. He is most deserving of this having served 12 years on the Board as Treasurer. I have appreciated his diligence and due consideration to all matters. His Award will be formally presented at the 2021 Conference.

Sorry to see Jens Volkmann leave the Board due to work commitments. His contribution to the list of sponsors at last year's Conference was amazing – so were the wines! Also sorry to see Neville Henderson retire from the Board after 4 years of service as VicePresident. The Miniconference at Pastoria Lavender which he and his wife Gillian and daughter Emma organized was another memorable TALGA event and attracted much interest from members and nonmembers alike – there's no doubt people like to see how others are doing it.

Our new member to the Board is Louise Bickerton, Blue Mountains Lavender, who joined in February and has generously offered her assistance in organising the next Conference. A nomination to fill the vacancy on the Board has been received from Thomas Mahar, Hahndorf Lavender and this is most welcome as TALGA has some enterprising young members.

As I write this report, the COVID19 virus statistics in Australia are showing positive results with control of infection. May we all look forward to better times, not that far ahead.

Fiona Glover,

The History of TALGA – the Early Days.

Extract from the first of two articles published by Rosemary Holmes in the Lavender Journal Issue 37 Autumn 2005.

In July 1989, the first Newsletter of the newly formed Ornamental Plant Collections Association (OPCA) printed an article on the Lavandula Collection at the Yuulong Lavender Estate at Mt Egerton, Vic. Fourteen different lavenders were then in the Collection. This Collection was held for the OPCA, based at the Royal botanic Gardens in Melbourne.

Yuulong had been open to the public since 1985 and many visitors were showing an active interest in the possibility of growing lavender themselves.

There was no Lavender society or group at this time. The concept was encouraged by visitors and those coming to seminars at Yuulong. Names and addresses were taken and filed away, State by State and the numbers grew to over 100.

Ian and Lesley Corrie of Elmore actively encouraged the formation of an Association which would be based at Yuulong Lavender.

Don Gresswell, Business Facilitator for the Moorabool Shire assisted in preparing the Model Rules for forming an Incorporated Association.

A steering committee was set up and met on the 19/6/1995. Present were Rosemary Holmes, Edythe Anderson, Steven Conroy, Glen Heyne, Lesley and Ian Corrie, and Don Gresswell. There was unanimous agreement to form an association and call it the Australian Lavender Growers Association Inc. The Constitution as set out by the Associations and Incorporation Act 1981 Vic was used as a Model. Full membership would be \$25 and Associate \$15.

Glen Heyne produced a sample copy of a journal which was agreed to be called The Goode Oil.

The first AGM was planned for 2/12/1995 at Yuulong Estate. The Objects of the Association were agreed on and the next meeting was held at Elmore on 4/7/1995.

During this year of 1995 a group of enthusiastic lavender growers on the Southern Monaro formed Monaro Country Lavender. They decided there was so much to learn about the production, processing and marketing of Lavender that they would organise a Conference, "Lavender Bombala '95" to be held on 2nd & 3rd September, and invited speakers including Rosemary Holmes and Tim Denny, amongst others. This was a National Conference with some 200 attendees and was a resounding success.

TALGA was formally launched at this Bombala conference.



Lavender Birthday Cake
TALGA 25 years

In Loving Memory of Rosemary Holmes

*Great Granny died the other day
We went to her house to clean.
Granny hoarded everything
From old receipts to bits of string.*

*She saved old pants for future rags,
Cracked plates and tattered towels,
A jar of shillings and pence
We found upon the dusty shelves.*

*She used the old and kept the new
In a box under her bed,
A note inside read, 'My kids,
I've saved everything nice', it said.*

*The gifts lie on lavender bags.....
I added things year by year.*

*Share out these things. Remember
My perfumed love for you my dears.'*

*'I went on a trip to Yuulong
And bought an Egerton Blue
I planted it in my garden
And to my great surprise it grew!*

*I loved that day at Yuulong
My bush reminds me each time
As I harvest its flowers
And fill sachets for the box of mine.*

*When you leave this house the last time,
Take Egerton Blue and with care
Plant it next to the rosemary
It will be happy forever there!'*

Poem by Meg Bilney

Our Normal Annual Financial Report to the Board and Auditor is from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020. I have been producing a Monthly Financial Report to the Board, so that they can see a clear picture of our current finances.

This report will be from 1st July 2019 to 31st March 2020. Our Receipts from Membership Subscriptions still do not cover our general expenses and although we derive other limited income from particular resources it does not substantiate the costs to cover expenses.

As I have mentioned before, we have to draw from our reserve funds to meet our responsibilities.

Membership fees are to remain the same for this renewal period as Membership Numbers are steady, with some members not renewing or differing because of difficult times and new members have joined recently. Some of our operating cost have increased, the usual 10% on insurances policies, but thankfully our auditor and some others who have not increased over many years.

The Board's meeting costs have been reduced by using SKYPE teleconferencing and as you are aware we are using this service for our AGM meeting, with no other choice because of the Governments Regulations on the Coronavirus out break.

Scnt/Coll sales have been average, with only a small percentage of Members ordering reasonable quantities from time to time. These members have been rewarded with a discount on their Membership Fees.

We have renewed our Australian Made Licence for a further twelve months 2020/21, which we are using the LOGO on all our products and looking to the future this will be a bonus, as the outlook of the changing overseas markets importing into Australia.

The website has been upgraded with the new products information and particular the new Gift Box on display on the home slider, depicting something for Mothers Day. Looking forward to your support for these products and special thanks to Christine & Tony for developing these products for TALGA.

Thank you to other Board Members for assisting me in my duties as Treasurer and especially Fiona for her workable arrangements in getting things done.

Looking forward to a brighter and productive future.

Regards Neville

*Neville Sargeant
Treasurer*



An online Lavender course of 100 hours duration studying Lavender plants, Lavender oil, Lavender flowers and the uses of Lavender, is being offered by ACS Education. TALGA is pleased to promote this excellent course and has secured a 10% discount off the fees to any TALGA member wishing to enrol.

WHAT YOU MIGHT ACHIEVE THROUGH STUDYING THIS COURSE

Your knowledge and understanding of lavender will increase greatly.
You will become aware of commercial career and business opportunities you may not have thought about previously.
You will understand what lavenders to grow, how to harvest the plants, and how to produce different lavender products.

This is a course that can be of great value to:

- Lavender farmers
- Herbal Product Manufacturers or suppliers
- Landscapers, gardeners, horticulturists

If you are passionate about lavender and want to learn how to grow, where to grow, what to grow, this course is highly recommended.

Further details can be obtained: www.acs.edu.au/courses/lavender.

Vale Keith Stubbs, Trade Action P.L.

It is with sadness that I inform members of the passing of Keith Stubbs on 6th August 2020, Melbourne, Vic.

Keith and his partner Berenice Hale, co-director of Trade Action P.L., had been contracted by the TALGA Board to provide marketing advisory services and secretariat duties from 2003 until 2013.

Keith provided an excellent knowledge of marketing which saw TALGA introduce two initiatives at the 2008 Mudjee Conference "Beyond the Dream". These were, the launch of the Scentimental Collection and the affiliation with Australian Made, and the Lavender Trail.

Under Keith's guidance these two initiatives were trademarked and promoted to members with their own distinct logos at this Conference. Members may like to refer to the Lavender Journal Issue 50, Winter 2008 p.6-7 for a full write-up.

Keith, along with Neville Sargeant spent many hours updating TALGA's Constitution in 2013.

Keith will be remembered for his pleasant and obliging manner, for his business acumen and his willingness to give much of his time to attend Board meetings and every Conference whether it was local or interstate, during those 10 years.

TALGA is grateful for his services and expresses deepest sympathy to his partner Berenice.

Fiona Glover, Secretary
10th August, 2020.



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Regional reports from TALGA's ALR's around Australia always make for interesting reading. Thanks to the ALR's Wendy Fuller, Meg Bilney, Bron Williams, Karla Champion, Jenny Thompson, Kellie Oxenford, and myself in Central Vic., who have collected and submitted the following reports and photos.

CENTRAL/WEST VICTORIA

CREATIVE DRIED FLOWERS – FIONA GLOVER

Summer months were spent busy harvesting lavender, roses, poppies, nigella, in fact anything with a seed head for using in dried flower arrangements. Young customers particularly liked the “bleached look” which the dried seed heads provided. This surge of interest in bleached items included palm spears, leather fern, hanging amaranthus, pampas grass and hydrangeas. Instagram photos had a lot to do with this and caused many a headache in the floristry business as items were unavailable here, that is, until imports from China caught up. Then came Covid19 and imports stopped. Prices went up for all flowers and foliage and they have stayed up.

We've got through this somehow, and now imports are coming back in. The lockdown in Australia for Covid19 resulted in a lot more customers for me as people were looking for things to do at home. Thank goodness Australia Post kept delivering parcels! Lavenders at Newlyn had to be moved this Winter. The lovely mound I had filled over the last 3 years with specimen lavenders was in the way of my son's new septic outflow and had to be cleared and flattened! With distinct unease I assisted my son cut out all the plants and re-site along the fence line. Rain has come and the plants have settled in as best they could.

Spring will tell how well the Lavenders will pick up.



On Australia Day this year, I travelled to Melbourne by train to visit Governor La Trobe's Cottage and surrounding garden, which I knew was open to visitors on this day. It had been on my “must do” list since I wrote about the garden in my History of Lavender in Australia (presented at TALGA Conference March 2019). Dating back to the mid 19th Century (C.J. La Trobe arrived in the colony in 1839 to take up the position of Superintendent). Twice this Cottage that La Trobe had shipped out from England has been moved: from its original site at Jolimont to the Botanic Gardens, and then in 1998 to its present site. The Cottage had been reconstructed and its garden recreated to include all the kinds of plants that Charles La Trobe would have had and enjoyed at the time. Notes and drawings held in the State Library of Victoria provided the resources needed to faithfully reproduce a mid 19th Century garden.



I knew there was lavender as I had been provided with photos by Sandi Pullman who had been responsible for recreating this garden (and had given me permission to use her notes/photos for my research).

The Cottage is owned by the National Trust (Victoria). The garden surrounds the main Cottage and other buildings and a small picket fence marks the boundary. It is located across the road from the entrance of the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne.

I found the Lavenders and noticed the Lavenders were intermedias and spoke with one of the guides saying that these lavenders would not have been available at the time but rather angustifolias would have been.

This was followed up with a call from Helen Botham, Volunteer Garden Coordinator at La Trobe's Cottage who was most keen to discuss the Lavenders and how to replace them with the correct species.

I offered to donate a few plants from my own collection these being *Lavandula angustifolia*, 'Egerton Blue' and I was able to tell her how Rosemary Holmes had propagated this variety from seed when she held the National Collection of Lavenders at Yuulong Lavender Estate.

These blue flowering angustifolias were true English Lavender unlike the specimens in the garden which possibly had been supplied as English Lavender (which we know as Lavandins). Without the correct botanic name confusion of species always occurs!

Winter was the agreed time to handover the potted Lavenders for planting at the Cottage, and this took place just recently. I hope to visit the Cottage later in the year to see the "new" Lavenders in flower!

*Photo of Fiona and Helen at the handover of *Lavandula angustifolia*, Ballarat, Vic.*

Helen Botham presented me with a copy of her book "LaTrobe's Jolimont- a walk round my garden" which was published in 2006 by the C.J.La Trobe Society. A fascinating read and full of drawings and sketches of the house and gardens through the years of 1839 – 1853. This book is now in the TALGA Library.



Lavandula, Shepherd's Flat – Carol White

Covid19 restrictions on physical distancing and the cold wintry weather in this region have been the deciding factors in closing the property to tourists until mid-Spring.

Carol will be advertising new opening hours on the website www.lavandula.com.au.

It's a delightful property to visit so let's look forward to October.



BENDIGO BOTANIC GARDENS – NATIONAL COLLECTION

– Kirstie Paterson

Cancellation of the TALGA visit to Bendigo this year for our MiniConference and visit to the Bendigo Botanic Gardens has been a disappointment to many members. It appears that only a few members have actually seen these Gardens, however the concept of a National Collection is very appealing and members have expressed willingness to assist in any way they can, to develop it further.

The following is a questionnaire that was sent to Kirstie as we were unable to visit. These were her responses.

Is the Collection of Lavenders unique in Australia to Botanic Gardens (apart from private collections)? Yes it is. Currently we are the only public gardens in Australia that have a registered *Lavandula* collection on the Plant Trust National Plant Collections Register™

Has the public shown interest in the Collection? If they want more information, who do they contact? (Who is the Plant Trust?) The public have shown interest in the lavender collection, they can contact the staff through the customer service number 035434600 or through the friends group email friends.bgobotanicgardens@gmail.com. We are hoping to add more interpretation to the collection, by way of a brochure to explain the different varieties and purposes of lavender. The Plant Trust is an organisation that's purpose is to maintain and increase the diversity of plants available in Australia by registering collections of related plant groups. Registered plant collections listed on the Plant Trust National Plant Collections Register™ are held by home gardeners, botanic gardens, commercial nurseries, horticulturalists, plant collectors, garden societies, garden clubs and land managers. The registration of each of these plant collections ensures the conservation and recording of the diversity of garden plants suitable for Australia's growing conditions. It also ensures an expanded pool of genetic plant material being available for our gardens in the future. If you are an Australian plant lover, collector or gardener you might like to consider playing a role in the global movement to conserve the world's plant species, cultivars and varieties.

I have viewed the BBG website and notice there is a Friends of the Gardens Group. Would TALGA be able to join this group with a nominated representative? (I would like to raise this at our next Board meeting). Their magazine produced each Spring and Autumn can be featured in our e-news. Our friends group is vitally important to the gardens. The Friends help with maintaining the Lavender collection we hold in the nursery. They propagate the collection so we have fresh stock to plant in the gardens and they sell the excess propagated stock in their plant sales. TALGA will need to contact the friends group regarding the joining of a member friends.bgobotanicgardens@gmail.com TALGA will be sure to join the Friends group.

Where do the Lavender plants come from? The majority of the collection was donated from Rosemary Holmes that we have propagated along the way. We have also accepted some stock from the RBGV-Melbourne.

Are they purchased, donated or exchanged? We purchase Lavenders from nurseries, if we see one that we don't currently have in the collection, we will purchase those. We hold them in the nursery for a season to see how they will perform before planting them in the collection. Larkman's nursery are very handy with the variety of stock they hold and we can normally grab some from there. We can exchange lavender through our Botanic Gardens network, if we are searching for a variety that they hold and we need we can source our lavenders that way.

What size pot and plant is suitable to donate? And when? How do donors get in touch? Any size pot is acceptable to donate, we won't accept any pot that has soil as the growing media. We will have to quarantine the plant we are given to make sure no pathogens enter our collection. You can contact the customer service number on 03 54346000 or by email to k.paterson@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Recent Summers have been hot and dry and this has taken its toll on the *L. angustifolia* species. Have you been able to replace those listed last year, namely 'Okra-murasaki'; 'Irene Doyle'; 'Betty's Blue', 'Jean Davis', 'Little Lottie'? We haven't been able to source those varieties at the moment. We have been kept busy with the pandemic and the increased number of the community using the gardens to exercise. Our Friends group are out of action at the moment due to covid-19 restrictions, which leaves the staff a little stretched.

I'm not familiar with the *L. angustifolia* 'Elegance' series. Would you provide some information on these such as flowers, and performance. This is a new range for us, it is still under review. We obtained this series through Larkman's nursery and hope to provide more feedback later on. We haven't planted them in the ground yet, they are still in the nursery area.

Will you be able to relocate the *L. angustifolia* elsewhere in the Gardens? We are hoping to, we are looking for a place that is not as exposed to the harsh conditions that they are currently planted in, also somewhere that has a clear link to the rest of the collection. Unfortunately this project has been halted, until other projects are completed.

Are there any *L.x* intermedias or other species that you are presently searching for? We are definitely searching for *L. lanata* (Woolly Lavender), This is a little hard to find at the moment, so any assistance we can have with that would be great. *Lx intermedia* 'Lullingstone Castle' and 'Provence' are varieties we never had, though were part of Rosemary's collection. If we could get some of those we would be extremely grateful.

Does any member have these Lavenders? If so, please contact Kirstie by email: k.paterson@bendigo.vic.gov.au.

SHIRE HOUSE – Chloe & Jamie Gillingham

Lavandula x intermedia 'Super'

We've been growing various types of lavender (*angustifolia*, *intermedia* and *dentata*), as well as rosemary and pelargonium since about 2016. Our first field is an eclectic mix of the above varieties, with some rows well established after around three years of growth. We've been trying to follow organic principles in our approach which has meant a lot of labour intense weeding and digging, however it seems to be working..... We've nearly finished planting up our second field, containing Super, Grosso and Asa Blue lavenders, as well as Tuscan Blue and Herb Cottage rosemaries. We lost a number of plants in that field last year due to weather conditions, but we are trying to take it in our stride and put it down to experience. Fortunately, many plants that have made it through are really thriving and we can't wait for the full visual of purple land to meet blue sky.

2020 has been an unbelievable year. We have luckily been relatively unscathed, however have watched on as others have had to face first the challenges of an historic bushfires season, where the blankets of smoke in the Melbourne CBD, provided a visceral reminder of the potential challenges of land management in Australia. And then it feels, straight into Coronavirus. During the unprecedented lockdown, we have watched the news unfold around the world and felt incredibly fortunate to be in relatively lightly touched Australia and having access to an abundance of space and the time to get things done, (more weeding) as well as teaching our youngest to ride his bike! We're also now preparing another four acres and having realised that this has progressed beyond a hobby we've bought more toys and can't wait to put them to good use in the coming months.

OTWAY LAVENDER – Renee & Justin Holmes

Renee and family have moved to their farm in March and are now living at Barwon Downs. No sooner had they moved than they had to manage home schooling of their children due to the Covid19 lockdown.

Rabbits had been causing havoc on their new lavender plants leading up to last Summer, so they have now fenced the entire area and are starting to see the lavenders grow again.

PASTORIA LAVENDER – Neville & Gillian Henderson

Late frost struck down the young flower shoots on much of Neville's crop with the worst result imagineable – no harvest at all. 6 rows of *Lavandula angustifolia* were destroyed. Neville is replanting this Autumn and including L.x int.'Grosso'.

PORTLAND BAY LAVENDER – Dawn Baudinette

Dawn reports that it was a very dry year leading up to harvest last Summer. Yield of oil was down as the lavender flowers did not fill out as usual. She has produced 20 litres of *Lavandula angustifolia* oil and has dried flowerbuds for sale as well.

TOWER HILL LAVENDER – Kaye Kelly

Kaye still loves Lavender and enjoys crafting with it and selling her products and items from TALGA's Sentimental Collection at an indoor market stall in Colac. She has taken down her online presence as she finds this market outlet most satisfactory.

**NW KYNETON – Rupert Dalley**

New member Rupert Dalley is growing Lavender on his property NW Kyneton. He has established several hundred plants of the one variety which his father had received years ago as a potted plant at one of TALGA'S Conferences. He writes:

I am sure my Father purchased the lavender from one of the conferences he attended and that is why I used that as a source for my cuttings. I have been doing about 120 a year just to see how it goes.

I checked my files and Roger Spencer, the Senior Horticultural Botanist at the Herbarium thought that my plant, when I took it to him, was a Lavandin.

He said further that "Unfortunately the differences between the various garden varieties are so minor that I cannot give the plant a cultivar name".

Yes, it is a Lavandin, possibly 'Bogong' also known as 'Miss Donnington'. Can anyone else confirm this?



EAST / SOUTH-EAST VICTORIA

GLENVALLEY LAVENDER

– Cate & Neil Harper

Neil and I have been busy with harvesting and planting. We are still experimenting with different varieties to see which grows best in our area. Our Grosso does extremely well along with Dentata. The Grosso we are planning to distill eventually when we either find a Still or build one. The Dentatas I have growing in a hedge row and also throughout my gardens. We recently planted some more Egerton Blue and also for the first time some Riverina Alan so looking forward to next Summer with the Alan to see how they come up. We also have quite a few different varieties of angustifolias some are doing well like the Munstead and Egerton Blue and others like Hidcote not so well. So we will see what next Spring brings and just concentrate then on what suits us best. Neil has been busy getting my shed



ready to be open for my shop. A bit more work to do yet but should be ready for us to open to the public come November. This will not only be for our Lavender farm but also for my quilting fabrics business. Still more work to do around the farm plenty of weeding and turning one of our paddocks into a carpark. We have nice neighbours on this side so we want to be able to give them some privacy by putting up some screening so keeps visitors from getting too close. We are also turning one of our other paddocks into a Welcome Garden where visitors once parked can then walk across the drive into a Welcome Garden which then leads into the Lavender Paddock. So plenty of work for us to do.

Neil and Cate Harper
Glenvalley Lavender

LADY LAVENDERS SHOP, FARM AND TEAROOMS, BUNYIP

– Paul and Catherine Tynan

Most of our different varieties of Lavender are growing well. We harvested, dried and stripped most of the lavender, a few rows were left for photo opportunities and to see from the Highway.

In March we shut because of covid-19 restrictions. We have used this time to set up an outdoor dining area and do maintenance.

We have opened again in June on limited days at present Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We are hoping as we come out of Winter, we will be able to open more days. It has been a challenging time.



SERENDIPITY LAVENDER FARM, BERWICK

– Sally Heeps

My lavender journey started in 1988 when my mother and I purchased 20 acres at Nar Nar Goon North. Lavender were the first plants in the garden I established and within a year I was propagating them and selling at local markets. By 1992 we wanted to do more with the property other than having cows and horses. Research showed demand for lavender cut flowers so we initially planted a variety of 2000 lavenders. We sold a lot to florists but given lavender has a limited season we had surplus which we started drying, making into lavender bags and selling along with the plants at the markets. Customers started asking for other products so I began developing more products.

By 1997 I was still working fulltime and doing lavender every other minute so I made the big leap to end my employment and do lavender fulltime. Since then we have never looked back. Over the next few years we planted 10,000 lavender plants, expanded the product range, built a cafe, shop, B&B and then a pet cemetery.

In 2013 my mother (now in her 70's) wanted to retire so we made the hard decision to sell the farm which had become a

lot of work. I immediately purchased 2 acres in Berwick and planted a small quantity of lavender. Wholesaling the products had become the largest part of the business so I decided to concentrate on this which I do to this day.

Unfortunately in 2015 I had breast cancer which delayed my plans. After many problems with council and then the builder I finally moved to my new house this June. Now the hard work to develop an extensive garden and lavender plantation. For the past decade I have also done contract harvesting for other lavender enterprises. Lavender hand harvesting is hard work which is an activity that can take infinitely longer than it should (something learnt from experience)!

I attended the very first conference at Bombala in 1995 from which TALGA was formed and have been a member ever since. I have attended many conferences over the years and it's always great to catch up and hear about what everyone else is doing. It's amazing that after 30 years I still love the scent. I think lavender is one of the most versatile raw materials in the world and I love being able to make so many different things from it. Purple is my favourite colour and as I also love dressing up I mainly wear it so I'm known out dancing (normally 4 times a week) as lavender Sally!

Regards Sally

WARRATINA LAVENDER FARM, WANDIN YALLOCK – Annemarie & Peter Manders

Cold mornings, frosty ground & clear blue skies at Warratina in the Winter. Covid-19 has had its positive aspects giving us uninterrupted time to do all those things one doesn't get time to do. The list is endless but with cleaning, stock takes, restructuring documents & of course the farm management. We are working through the under-cutting of the lavenders giving better access for weed control. The gardens are all being heavily cut back, removing old plantings & replanting new stock ready for the Spring.

Lime & fertiliser have been applied & watered in by the rain. The English lavenders are now in their dormancy. Our feature plantation of dentata Ploughman's Blue looks a picture & gives visitors a photo opportunity.

The Tea Room is now open following the required restrictions. Our online marketing of products has been steady over the Autumn & continues with new ideas being implemented.

We are planning our new Expo in anticipation of restrictions permitting. This will be the 15th annual Wood Working Expo with sales of items made by local artisans.



Keep warm & busy over the Winter months.

Annemarie Manders

The Impact of Covid-19 on Tourism & Hospitality at Warratina Lavender Farm

How have we been coping in these challenging times?

There is no doubt this pandemic has had a major effect on our tourism & hospitality enterprise from a financial perspective. But there have also been some positive aspects to the isolation.

For simplicity I will list the negative & the positive separately. Easier reading.

NEGATIVE ASPECTS:

- Zero tourism
- 85% drop in income
- Cancellation of major shows thereby losing massive sale opportunities
- Hospitality sales in the Tea Room down 90%
- Following strict protocols of sanitising & social distancing challenging

POSITIVE ASPECTS:

- Time to do massive cleaning projects in all buildings
- Thorough stock taking & bringing count sheets up-to-date
- Revising of all suppliers details
- Revising of all product costings
- Amending of all stationary
- Cutting back & pruning of all gardens, fertilising
- Pruning, weeding & replanting new lavenders
- Fertilising, snail baiting, all lavender rows
- Clearing out old documents on the computer & reorganising filing.
- Planning the up-coming events as per the Event Calendar attached.

How did I ever have time to work in the Tea Room!! & the list is not yet finished. I am now busy organising the future events for the year in anticipation of there being no cancellation. Planning must go on.

We are slowly getting visitors coming to the farm. Many of our visitors have visited for the first time & will be coming back. It is great to see the locals visiting locally.

The weather here in the Yarra Valley is mostly cold & very wet. Fortunately our soil is very porous & the water drains away quickly once it stops raining.

Our new & very popular product is our lavender sanitiser. Visitors love its fragrance which they are required to use on entry into the Tea Room.

Event calendar at Warratina Lavender Farm 2020:

- Wood Working Expo: 5th-20th September. Hand crafted items by local artisans
- Art Show: 10th-18th October Art work by the Mt Evelyn & Yarra Valley Art Society
- Lavender Harvest Weekend: 28th-29th November. Harvesting, stalls music, dancing, food vendors, craft demonstrations
- Open garden walks: 30th Nov – 17th Jan. walks through the private homestead gardens & around the lavender farm. Free lavender ice-cream on entry.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Hello from NSW – reports prepared by Wendy Fuller, ALR, NSW.



NSW growers have experienced very difficult growing conditions through the 2018-2019 season. Drought, bushfires and floods have featured prominently. Most of western NSW is still looking for more rain to follow up the welcome falls of recent months. On the eastern side many areas have been impacted by bushfires and smoke contamination, then floods, which have added to the challenges of primary production. However,

farmers have big hearts and there's hope for better harvests at the end of this year.

The Covid 19 pandemic has caused great disruption to incomes made from local markets and tourist activities. We can just hope that normality will return soon. Many established growers say "Thank goodness for On Line Customers". This aspect of business seems to be expanding, requiring a well designed web site which enables longstanding customers to order online, while also informing and tempting new customers. We value being able to access lavender growing knowledge from the TALGA organisation and its members.

BLUE MOUNTAINS LAVENDER FARM

- Louise & Bruce Bickerton, Little Hartley.

With the approach of winter in the mountains we have been hard at work preparing and planting out both angustifolias and intermedias to boost our plant numbers. We have learnt many lessons about soil preparation, irrigation and tubestock care as we nursed our first plantings through the driest year on record for this area in 2019. Fortunately, this year's rainfall has been fantastic and we made sure we finished planting out by the end of April in case we were hit by early frosts and cold but autumn has been quite mild which has given the lavender babies the best start to life.

Last year we commissioned a custom made still from a metal fabricator in Griffith. His usual clients require gorgeous copper gin stills but he was up to the challenge to build us a low cost but functional still for medium quantities of lavender flower material. On a December day when the bushfire smoke was choking thick in our valley, I drove 6 hours each way to pick up the still in the back of our Jeep. Thankfully, it fit perfectly, but I was dismayed to find the bushfire smoke extended for the entire trip down to Griffith, and I had to take back roads to get home as fires were closing the roads around Lithgow and Hartley.

We distilled our first batch of lavender on Christmas day and refined our process for another 5 batches during the harvest season. Some of the material had been harvested earlier in December and had been dried and some was harvested and distilled on the one day.

This winter I will work on my business plan and website and my goal is to fully develop our initial product range, choose packaging, have labels designed and then organise a huge party to launch Blue Mountains Lavender brand. Hopefully by December, event gatherings will be possible again and we can celebrate new beginnings!

Although 2020 so far has been a challenging year for the planet as a whole, the isolation has given me time to reflect on the resilience of our land, our responsibilities to future generations to better manage our natural resources and how growing lavender fits with this long term plan. I am developing a deep respect for this wonderful herb and all its' unique botanical qualities and am truly thrilled to be working on Blue Mountains Lavender products that 'bring calm and beauty to life'.

Best wishes to all our members for a safe, healthy and productive end to this year.
Add photo



LITTLE WILLOW LAVENDER**- Sharon & Greg Bailey, Willow Tree.**

Our farm took a heavy blow late 2019 early 2020. After suffering constantly high temperatures of up to 47 degrees with 50km hot winds we helplessly could only watch our Grosso suffer and mostly die off. The water supply had dried up long before. We lost most of our 4000 plants, thankfully we hadn't planted out our entire 7 acres as we had intended to. This was devastating to both of us and our local community to see all of our hard work gone after 4 years with a drought not seen in our Liverpool Plains Shire for over 100 years. Feeling positive vibes and hopeful the seasons have changed for the better, we have decided to give it another go. The distillery had been built in late 2019 but we never got the chance to use it. With a 550 Litre capacity it's there for when our farm sees that purple haze again.

With the COVID-19 lockdown upon us and the loss of our markets and events it's given us a chance to build our little shop on the farm, focus on online sales and rebuild our gardens which also took a blow. The shop has been repurposed from an existing storage shed on the farm reusing materials, freshly painted and finished off with Greg's handmade cobblestone flooring for the piece de resistance. We are looking forward to next season and welcoming garden club visitors and groups to a rejuvenated setting. We are developing a new section of four varieties including Asa Blue, Riverina Thomas, Munstead & Super to allow our visitors the experience of walking through and seeing the different varieties of scents and flowers. We thank Larkman Nurseries for supplying the beautiful Asa Blue & Riverina Thomas.

Since the end of January the farm has received regular rainfall and as soon as it eases we are into redeveloping our main section of Grosso with 5000 plants. Confident that the worst is behind us, we plan overtime to lay a drip system along with plans for a bore down the track as security.

Last season saw 2 on loan bee hives set up on farm which produced an amazing honey. This has been bottled up and will be ready for sale shortly. It will be great to have the bees back! While I'm busy continuing making products for online sales and rebuilding stocks for when markets and events are allowed to operate, Greg is occupied clearing and cultivating areas for replanting.

Both of us look forward to the 2021 TALGA conference and wish all members the very best for a successful 2020/21 season.

Sharon and Greg Bailey

**ZEPHYR FARM****- Ros and John Christie. Shoalhaven area.**

There has been drought, bushfires and floods, then no tourists, but Ros and John have maintained their product range and have a longstanding and loyal customer base. The online sales have been consistent throughout. They do not grow much primary product but some of the local tourist venues have lavender well represented in their gardens. Ros has permission to harvest when appropriate. Thus, they have access to some local product from their supportive community; a good example of cooperation and thoughtfulness.

In recent years, for two or three of the winter months, Ros and John relocate to the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. There, they stock a profitable stall at the Eumundi Markets, which operate eight times a month, drawing customers from far and wide. They also wear T shirts, swim and get a lovely tan! Recently, when preparing to make their well established hand sanitizer, alcohol was hard to source. I wonder why! As soon as the State borders open, they will be heading north again. All the best with your products folks.

Ros and John Christie

MELISSA & JEFF BIDDLE, MOREE AREA.

They have planted about 250 new plants of Riverina Allan and Super on their black soil plot a little way out of town. This is a trial planting, and they eventually hope to grow mostly for oil production. If all goes well into this summer, they should have a good idea about how the plants like Moree.

PETER ROZENDAAL from Narrabri.

Peter has a small trial plot of 25 Grosso plants and some Angustifolias near Gloucester. He has already extracted a pleasing amount of oil from the last Grosso harvest. Future development is still very much in the planning stage and will be guided by the results of his trials.

THE LAVENDER STATION**- Ann McDonald, Kains Flat, near Mudgee.**

Ann put in a substantial number of new plants last spring, but unfortunately lost them all to the drastic summer conditions. She is still hoping to have a field of lavender plants, but meanwhile keeps selling her value added products at the Castle Hill markets in Western Sydney, when they are allowed to operate.

JAMES VOLK, Canberra.

Welcome to our newest NSW member.

James is at the beginning of his wish to develop a lavender growing enterprise, so he is trialling 45 Angustifolia and Hidcote plants in a 25 square metre plot near the historic Yarralumla Woolshed and the Equestrian Park in Canberra. Like many of us, he is looking around for a more spacious location. By this time next year there will probably be much more to James' story. Good luck with trialling and planning.

GEMINI PARK, Gunnedah, Michelle Riordan.

Gunnedah area has had a torrid time through the recent drought, negatively affecting every growing thing, from lavender to koalas. So, Michelle hasn't tried to replant. She maintains an excellent connection with her community and continues

to supply her own products as well as TALGA products, as a "word of mouth" promotion. Her sales tick over with regularity and her lavender knowledge is frequently shared when enquiries are made. Thank you for your solid support, Michelle.

AARON POLLACK Golden Grove Naturals, Tucki Tucki.

While Aaron is presently dealing mostly with T Trees, his keen mind and research acumen is also focussing on the Lavender Industry in Australia.

In collaboration with Clive Larkman and La Trobe University, they aim to gather and collate data about aspects of the lavender industry so that recommended guidelines can be offered to growers regarding varieties, growing conditions, locations, oil production, right through to marketing. This is an extensive undertaking and we hope all goes well, because we'll all benefit from knowing the results.

ASHLEY DOWELL, EOPAA Secretary, Plant Science, Southern Cross University.

Ashley is our go to person for all things to do with oil. His knowledge about oil extraction and testing is extensive, and he is a willing sharer of that know how. If members wish to have oils tested, this can be done through TALGA, when arrangements are made through the Secretary. Members receive cost benefits, and Ashley supervises the testing. Thank you, Ashley.

Editor's note: Ashley contacted me in March this year to obtain fresh samples of lavender flowers, Lavandin 'Grosso' and L.ang. 'Egerton Blue' for the purpose of a distillation he would perform at SCU. He is studying adulteration of lavender oil with Ho wood oil and working with the Aromatic Products Research Centre in Utah, USA. His distillation proved that in genuine distilled Lavender oil, there were none of the marker compounds that would have been present in adulterated Lavender oil.
Fiona G.

PINELEA LAVENDER**- Wendy Fuller, Kentucky South, New England Tablelands.**

My lavender bushes are showing the effects of the recent drastic drought, as I have had to cut out many dead sections, leaving scraggy looking plants. Some are valiantly sending out new shoots from their bases, but I think quite a few plants will not recover. So.....I'm planning an extension. I will aim to plant some new Intermedias in Spring. In the next couple of years, as they mature, I'll regretfully remove some of my very old bushes which have given me so much product and pleasure.

My last harvest was about one third of normal times and sales of my value added items have stalled because of Covid 19.

Better days are ahead and the joy of all things lavender still energises me.



QUEENSLAND

AMANDINE LAVENDER

– Helen Griffin



Our farm in Bargara in the east coast of Queensland has been in drought for some time, we had a little rain at the end of summer, however welcome, it was a short lived Respite. Fortunately here at Amandine Lavender we have a 2 megs of water in the local water scheme, which means we can keep the lawns, gardens and lavender growing. Visitors often have high expectations, so wouldn't it be wonderful if we could make lavender flower 365 days a year.

In our subtropical climate the tourists visit every month of the year. Our lavender flowers in winter so we would like to trial varieties with the same parents a Allardi as it grows well in our climate. We mostly grow Dentata which is excellent for making our home fragrance blocks. It also provides entertainment for our visitors to pick a bunch to take home. Our lavender was replanted back in 2013 after the field was washed out due over land flooding. So we have taken advantage of the temporary closure of the farm and gift shop due to the COVID 19 lockdown conditions and we have replanted one third of our fields. We plan to open our farm and gift shop to visitors for the winter school holidays, so we hope our visitor numbers will return. We are also commencing our online sales, although due to COVID

19 this is a very competitive market. So if anyone can help us with our search for more subtropical varieties we are more than happy to do trials. We have both been involved in trials and productivity in the sugar industry and we find it fascinating. So let us hope for a great lavender season and normality return to our businesses.

Regards,
Helen and Kelvin @ Amandine Lavender
www.amandinelavender.com.au



HOLMWOOD PRODUCE LAVENDER FARM

– Gary & Anne Young

We see from our diary that in July last year we had a visit from a local Channel 7, Weekender program which resulted in much visitor interest. The attached photo is of Gary being interviewed by the Channel 7 presenter.



As we all know the last twelve months has been a year of extraordinary events. Following the long period of drought our farm was threatened by bushfire in October/November with the fires coming right to our boundary fences and only for the tremendous efforts of our Rural Fire Brigade of which Gary is a member did not actually enter our property.

The intense heat of the fires nearby and ash drift did affect our lavender and we lost many of our plants.

The time of isolation during the Covid 19 pandemic has given us time to repair our lavender beds, do extensive weeding and prepare for planting new tubestock.

Our local market and Lockyer Valley Visitor Centre has been closed since March but the markets are starting up again next month and in fact

today we have been at a working bee preparing the grounds and facilities by giving them a good clean and tidy.

Gary & Anne Young



AUSTRALIAN LAVENDER ESSENTIALS

– Jenny Baker

I am hoping Eumundi markets will be open again soon. In the meantime I have been sewing masks, scrub hats and scrub bags for Charity.

I have also submitted a quilt square for the Queensland Quarantine Quilt.

We have planted 120 Rosemary plants which are looking very healthy.

Hoping our Lavender Sales will pick up soon.

Regards
Jenny Baker



QUEENSLAND

LEVEN K LAVENDER – Kellie & Matt Oxenford

What a crazy year! So the drought continued to bite hard until some relief in January/February with good rain filling waterholes, rainwater tanks and replenishing paddocks. It also gave us a small % of irrigation allocation to replant some Lucerne paddocks and replace the angustifolia that I reported were doing so well on return from Tassie last year. 80% died. We have replaced this paddock with 'Asa Blue' and it looks like for us angustifolias may be a thing of the past. Conditions are to shockingly hot and dry here. So I have finally given up - it has taken a long time because I just love them and their oil. Of course we still keep a couple of hundred to stop me whinging. So we are now in what the locals call 'a green drought' no significant rain other than showers since February mean that the irrigation dams are still not full. Most of SW/SE Qld remains the same.

Considering all of the above our harvest from our intermedias was better than expected and oil yield was not too bad. Quality seems pretty good as well. The bush fires never came quite close enough to mean that evacuation for us was going to happen but we were very worried for our Stanthorpe and Millmerran friends and the heat and hot windy days did make me come up with a fire plan - I even went as far as doing a trial pack up! New fire sprinklers were installed around the garden in case the inevitable should happen and firefighter pumps bought and ready for action. It was all very unsettling and mentally disturbing and we just seemed to move on a bit and focus on recovery here in Qld then good old Rona turned up and turned our worlds upside down!

So the farm and Shed Shop were temporarily closed due to Government requirements and any groups booked were postponed or cancelled. Our lives did not really change too much as Matt and I were still able to work off farm (our off farm jobs were considered essential services) it just meant we could

not see our kids, family and friends which was the worst that happened. At least all our family were safe and we did use the time at home when not working to take stock and reassess our priorities in life as many other people did.

Online sales and phone orders increased and we made good use of our Social Media to keep those sales going. It looks like a few of our regular markets and exhibitions towards the end of the year may go ahead in some shape or form so some normality may return. As I write this we can open the farm again to small groups respecting all the government guidelines. As far as I have observed most people are happy to move about again but with care and reserve.

Matt and I are really looking forward to the conference planned for South Australia and a holiday there afterwards and we hope to catch up with all of our Lavender friends there and enjoy a drink or two!

So here is cheers to all of us! Take care and enjoy your Lavender Patch.

Happy Days!

Kellie Oxenford
Leven K Lavender



L. x intermedia 'Asa Blue'



Matt in his distillery



Leven K products.

SEA-BREEZE AROMATHERAPY CLINIC, KIEL MOUNTAIN – Jenny Thompson

What a roller coaster of a year it has been over the past twelve months. In September 2019 I was able to escape up to Rockhampton for a holiday. Safely packed was the 2019 Lavender Journal in the suitcase. Trains were replaced by buses that day due to repairs being carried out on the Queensland railway line. We made it up to Rockhampton and were given a free dinner at Miriam Vale, a quaint little town with posters of Jonathon Thurston on the walls. Rockhampton is a lovely city and a highlight for gardening enthusiasts is to visit their Botanical Gardens and the Kershaw Gardens. Lavender at the Kershaw Gardens is abundant and prolific and situated not far from the Windmill.

Sea-Breeze is open for customers with over the counter sales and aromatherapy massage. Gift packs are available plus essential oils for customers. The Lavender Dentata is flourishing in the garden and provides a pleasant fragrance for flower arrangements.

Kelvin White from The Rockhampton Council rang recently following a request to identify their lavender and confirmed that the lavender at Kershaw Gardens is *Lavandula dentata*.



TAMBORINE LAVENDER – Anna Erasmus

Our first 12 months has certainly presented its fair share of ups and downs. We continue on our journey of growing Lavender and our small business.

Our first planting of lavender was in mid May 2019 which consisted of 3 varieties of Intermedia and a 1 variety of Angustifolium. I also planted a couple of rows of Aloe Vera. The lavender was growing well and coming into summer we had only had 3 losses from our 650 first plants. The Angustifolium was actually looking the healthiest with the most growth and appeared to be thriving.

A friend of the family, Dina offered to help us come up with our logo – I didn't even know she was a designer! We started on our web site and I started to make Lavender products buying in the lavender dried bud and oil until we are able to supply from our own. We also decided to buy some Lemon Myrtle to compliment the Lavender and planted 20 trees to begin with. We also took the opportunity during the drought to substantially increase the size of our dam and cleared the majority of our block in readiness for future plantings. Everything was going along well and by the beginning of December I attended my first Markets, our website was up and going, we had product to sell and our first orders started to come in.....and then disaster struck just before Christmas....the website hosting company we used went down. Not only that, but we could not get any of the information or format and there was no idea how long it would be before we could. There were literally thousands of websites affected, but there was nothing on the news about it. After 2 weeks and no answers we went back to the drawing board and thankfully the wonderful Tara Flory who helped us get our content together was able to get us up and going again with



a new host. So we were off again. I attended another Market on Tamborine Mountain and visited a few local businesses who were interested in stocking our products.

During January the humidity hit with a vengeance and we started to have some losses. In February, our drought ended with a small flood. The heat and humidity was very high from mid-February and into March. We ended up having major losses including all of the Angustifolium, which was quite a shock considering how well they were doing. I have kept a comprehensive record of the plantings and we could see that the Super Intermedia seem to suffer the least losses, so we ordered only this variety and did our second planting replacing the lost plants. I was hoping this year would be new mounds increasing the lavender growing on our block, but now it feels almost like

we have had to start over. In total we lost nearly half of our first planting. Fortunately the Lemon Myrtle trees are doing well and we are looking at planting more this year.

Then Covid-19 appeared. Many have been affected and it seemed to put everything we had started on hold. Fortunately my husband's business has been able to continue and we are luckier than some. We are now hopefully starting to come out, but I can see a very different world. I attended a Market

in June and many lessons have been learned from that with regards to customers touching the product and wanting to smell everything. If people want to smell, I give them a small sample of dried bud and tell them to rub it together in their hands. My soaps are now packaged and there are other things that we now need to consider and do as part of this 'new world'.

Anna & Rassie Erasmus
Tamborine Lavender Pty Ltd
www.tamborinelavender.com.au

South Australia has been called the driest State in the driest continent which means those who grow lavender here may have challenges that those growers in other states may not have.



However, each grower has assessed their own interests and abilities and presented to local visitors and tourists alike a highly rated experience.

EMU BAY LAVENDER

- Sophie Sheridan

This lavender farm on Kangaroo Island, lived through the horror of the November bushfire that was stopped by the CFS at their gate, and a few months later the Covid 19 restriction has now allowed their highly rated restaurant and farm to open. Sophie writes.....

Hi all,
Thank you for your kind thoughts.
I am really looking forward to catching up with you all at the next conference. The fires were absolutely devastating for the Island but we were lucky enough to escape it. After being evacuated 3 times and wind changes it finally stopped 8 kilometres from the farm.
But with all the beautiful rain all the bush land is starting to rejuvenate very quickly.

Kindest Regards Sophie Sheridan

BELLA LAVENDER

- Mario & Lucy Centofanti

The 2019 Lavender harvest was pleasing this year. Unfortunately due to covid we were required to shut the doors of the café. However we were able to continue trading with our take away menu which helped us immensely. Since the restrictions have eased, we have been very busy in the café. We were surprised to see that during the shut down our online sales more the tripled and is still doing well. For the past 11 years we have enjoyed growing lavender, making products and meeting so many people who have visited our café. However we have decided the time has come for us to slow down a little so we will be closing our café at the end of June. We will still to sell our lavender products on line and continue to cater for bus groups and large functions.

Stay well everyone Mario and Lucy

HAHNDORF LAVENDER ESTATE

- Thomas, Nikki & Peter Mahar

Been busy time for us before winter takes over as can be a very wet time in the Adelaide Hills. A new paddock was prepared and planted this year of 3,000 'Egerton Blue' which will just be used for culinary and dried lavender. We have been off our normal jobs during the

current Covid-19 so has given us plenty of time to work on the farm. Now we are going through our next design phase and council approval of the farm for the processing facilities and machinery storage sheds. New website getting built and full product range will be completed for a summer reveal this year.

PLUSH LAVENDER

- Bob Plush & Meredith Clark

Our lavender patch is growing with planting more rows and filling in the gaps where plants have died or jumped on by kangaroos.
It was a pity the conference was cancelled. We were looking forward to seeing everyone and visiting the botanical gardens.
Hope to catch up with everyone at the next conference.

Regards Bob and Meredith

RUSHDALE FARM

- Annie Yeomans and Andy Dale.

Our newest Lavender grower friends.

Hi Meg...As you know we are both new to this lavender business.

We have planted 1600 plants and intend to have 2,000 in the ground by the end of the year and then we will see how things develop. If everything goes to plan we have enough acreage to expand the business.

I have RSI in my left elbow from all the weeding but other than that all is good!

Interest has been shown from what we are doing from a couple of naturopaths and a gin distiller so the future looks to be an exciting lavender adventure. We are looking forward to learning from TALGA members and we hope you will follow our journey and where it takes us.

MYOLA LAVENDER

- Kirrilee Foster

Exciting news that the TALGA conference is in SA next year!!! And exciting to read that TALGA might be interested in us sharing our story at the conference!

Hi from Charlton Gully SA!

Myola is lush and green once again! We just love this time of year, it's by far our favourite!

Things have been quiet around the farm as our plants are waiting out the winter. Our pet lamb 'Jim' is getting big now, he still enjoys hanging down in the lavender chopping on all the weeds, which is most helpful. Our bees have gone quiet but the honey they made in Summer/Autumn flew off the shelf! We are very excited to be planning the home for our new still that arrived a few months ago. We're reading up, doing our research and creating a list of everything we need to collect to get started next harvest! An exciting few months are in store! Any advice is most welcome!

BRAYFIELD PARK LAVENDER

- Rhona and Allan Benton

Brayfield Park lavender has actively used the additional time created through COVID restrictions to focus on new product development and the farm expansion. Having shut their shop in Hahndorf on the 23rd March 2020, e-commerce opportunities emerged to bridge some of the gap. The shop has now re-opened on weekends only at this stage but will return to 7 days per week when tourist numbers increase.

And finally, I would like to congratulate Christine Hitchin at McLaren Vale Lavender who writes nearly every month for the E-News about her research and production of new lavender products and her lovely descriptions of the natural world around her because she has been voted in as VicePresident of the TALGA Board.

The conference will be in SA next year and we will have the chance to share our passion for the plant of five petals and it's abundantly beautiful and helpful properties.

Meg Bilney

TALGA is pleased to have Jodie Maloney join since Meg provided her report.

Jodie lives near Murray Bridge and has planted 600 L.x int. 'Grosso'. She is a beekeeper and has planted the Lavender for her bees. We hope to catch up with her at the 2021 Conference in SA.

MCLAREN VALE LAVENDER – Christine and Tony Hitchin

As we continue to provide our wholesale and on-line customers with a range of lavender essential oil products, we are mindful of the changing world of retail and packaging. To this end, we continue to research and explore new opportunities for lavender and rosemary essential oils in our product making. The post covid retail world presents a challenge to the lavender industry to meet appropriately presented sanitizing and hand cleaning products, that are packaged securely, safely and are environmentally sympathetic.

In response to customer interest our latest product is a range of beard grooming products, all natural ingredients and essential oils of course.

And finally, I would like to congratulate Christine Hitchin at McLaren Vale Lavender who writes nearly every month for the E-News about her research and production of new lavender products and her lovely descriptions of the natural world around her because she has been voted in as Vice President of the TALGA Board.

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Neville Sargeant – yellelectllavender@bigpond.com
Fiona Glover -secretary@talga.com.au



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

YANCHEP LAVENDER

- Karla Champion & Gary Wood

2020, who would have ever guessed we would experience so much in such a short time? Bushfires, floods, pandemics now recession, they say what doesn't kill us makes us stronger. Best of wishes to everyone for a full and safe recovery.

On to the Lavenders..... Starting December with the flowers from the angustifolia, not a good crop this year. We think this may have been from using a product called Fusillade. Fusillade is supposed to be a selective herbicide that kills all grasses but does not affect other plants, not the case with the lavenders. We did lose quite a lot of plants and the plants that survived did not flower very well, some plants look half dead and then have a small amount of greenery. Onto now to try and recover the ones that are left. We use our 'Bee' oil for Ice Cream and Chocolate and 'Egerton Blue' dried. Lucky for us we have had enough oil from the past 3 years.

Mid - January our intermedia's popped, we have Grosso, Impress purple, Super and Vera. We think that this was a week or two later than last year and we did not have the massive crop that last year gave us. Not sure of the reasons for this other than the weather as we did nothing different. Not to say that the field was not impressive we just



noticed when it came to harvesting that it did not appear to be as thick as last year. Our oil yield was also slightly down.

This year was our first year for our ice cream and it was definitely a hit, Millers dairy farm is our producer so we supply them with the oil, Egerton blue buds and our own honey from our hives. It is quite amazing the reaction we get from the public to see so many different flavours of Lavender ice cream when they expect only one.



We had a good year for visitors and our sales were up on products so heading in the right direction there. Due to the Covid-19 we added Sanitizers to our range, we do hand gel, hand spritz and a surface spray. The gel was very challenging in getting the consistency and alcohol content right but I think we nailed it in the end with a quality product. This has proven to sell well.

We have been busy with the restaurant and shop build, we have laid the polished concrete floor for the main restaurant area, and the concrete for the wet areas. The main structure is starting to be erected this week, 08/06/20. Grease traps, septic and leach drains all started this week also. I never imagined how hard it would be choosing bricks and colours, checkout our Facebook for updates. Very exciting.



Now with the start of winter we will start pruning the underside of the lavenders again and continue with general maintenance, weeding and tidying up.

All the best to you all.

Karla 0419 964 690
Gary 0409 964 698

DOTERRA – Emilie Bell

Founded in 2008, doTERRA leads the global Aromatherapy and Essential Oils market in sourcing, testing, manufacturing and distributing of essential oils and related products to over 5 million global distributors and customers worldwide. With more than 140 origin oils in its product line, doTERRA – the Latin derivative meaning “gift of life” – sources its oils from over 45 countries, including Australia and New Zealand.

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sustainable jobs and providing reliable income. doTERRA is committed to the ethical treatment of its suppliers by providing on-time payments at fair prices. Growers and harvesters are encouraged to form cooperative groups to share collective benefits and bargaining power while improving skills and capacity.

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PORT ARTHUR LAVENDER
– Clare & Brendan Dean

Our year on the farm...

It's turned out to be a very odd finish to the season for us as I am sure many others have experienced. We had just got through our busiest season yet and were seeing some record days of visitor numbers through the door right up

until the day the government made the announcement we had until 12 noon the following day to close the business due to Covid-19. Unsuspecting visitors to the farm that day were ordering a takeaway coffee and we were filling their campervans up with whole lavender cheesecakes,

biscuits, and anything else they wanted. We had to give away thousands of dollars worth of food and given the business had to shut down completely we had to let all of our amazing staff go. It's been a very tough few months for us trying to navigate our way through the closure and how and when we might re-open in the coming months. As a business owner you always seek to plan for the unforeseen however when it actually happens you can never be fully prepared.



We had a very busy year with the extension of our kitchen at Port Arthur doubling the work area. We also purchased an 1850's cottage in the main street of the historic tourist town of Richmond and completed an extensive renovation. We opened our retail outlet in December and were very busy getting it set up ready for the tourist season. We did have to close this for a few months as well, but we are opening back up for a few days a week now things are settling down.

On a more positive note our new plantings are coming along brilliantly. They have put on so much growth in one season that we will get a harvest from them this summer and it looks to be quite decent. The farm in general has managed to get the average rainfall and is looking a picture with all of the crops growing ready for the lambs and calves to be born in a few weeks time.

Although it's been a very bumpy ride for the last few months we have taken the opportunity to really look at our business and have some exciting plans for when we get back up and running. We hope

that everyone is managing to navigate these times and look forward to getting back to normal very soon.

BRIDESTOWE LAVENDER ESTATE
– Robert & Jennifer Ravens

Dear Friends,

It was hard to believe, after such a spectacular Summer season, perhaps our best yet, that our everyday lives could have been so disrupted. But our brilliant staff have managed marvellously....

They have poured their time into planting, developing new products and creating a safe, inviting environment to delight every visitor.

Now our doors are open once again, and our fields and the Visitor Centre are looking more amazing than ever. We wish you a relaxed and warm Winter and look forward to seeing you at Bridestowe Estate, soon.

Planting season is well underway at Bridestowe Lavender Estate. Each year, we aim to replace between 12 and 14 acres with new stock, to ensure we always have highly productive plants in the ground.

Lavender has a field life of around 10-12 years. In reality, plants could last much longer in the home garden, but experience has taught us that the best quality oil comes from plants between 3 and 9 years of age. After that time, oil productivity drops sharply.

The planting season takes 12 weeks to complete including removal of the old crop, soil preparation.

When the new fields are ready, we lift one acre of our four year old "nursery stock" and create chunky, branched cuttings for planting.

These chunks, complete with foliage and fibrous roots, are then hand planted from the back of a tractor.

These freshly planted fields will evolve into the next generation of our beautiful purple vista.



NEW ZEALAND

HERBAL VISIONZ - Charlotte Brown

Our lavender farm is in New Zealand in North Canterbury which is in the South Island.

After attending your conference last year we realized that we enjoy a similar climate to that of Tasmania and usually our lavender flowers just near Christmas time and harvest is about the same time as Bridestowe. Sometimes a few weeks earlier which this season was.

We currently grow 4 varieties, three *Angustifolia*'s and one *Lavandin*. They are:

- *L. Angustifolia* 'Avice hill'
- *L. Angustifolia* 'Pacific blue'
- *L. Angustifolia* 'Maillette'
- *L. Intermedia* 'Impress purple'

We haven't choose to grow the 'usual' varieties such as *Grosso* but we went against the trend originally and chose to specialize with 'Impress Purple' all those many year's ago – well over 30 it's now been.

This all started I think when Keith and I attended a DSIR Dept of Scientific and Industrial Research day seminar for folks interested in growing lavender commercially. From that I and 15 other founding members decided to form the New Zealand



Lavender Oil Producers Association which is now the NZLGA and from there our farm has grown. Keith is a mechanical engineer and because we had little finances behind us and two young girls we knew that anything we needed to have to make the farm work would have to be homemade and not purchased new so he set about making us our first harvester and then the first still. We have grown since and moved the entire farm and have one of only a handful of commercial distilleries in N.Z. We contract distil for other growers regularly and also recently have helped others harvest using our tea harvester attached to a modified self-propelled wind rower.

I produce all the usual products from the resulting oil and have dabbled in culinary items also in the past. We harvest the flower stalks for dried and use them in crafts. In the early years we traveled most weekends we could to craft shows and markets but now a days most of our sales are online or on a commission at cafes and tourist shops.

We have also wholesaled bulk oil by the kilo and I now import Lavender themed fabrics which are sold on by the metre to growers and online.

This season probably due to the very sunny and dry conditions our oil yield has been good and have completely pre-sold to regular customers and I will most likely have to buy in as well. I have kept some reserved to make products which is happening now as is pruning and propagation of new plants will begin shortly.



Lavender Journal 2020 – The Front cover

On the front cover of this year's Journal is a selection of Journal covers published by TALGA over the 25 years. The very first edition came out in November 1995 – the Journal was initially called The Goode Oil – this first edition comprising of four pages in black & white print with a photo of the replica of Anne Hathaway's Cottage, near Perth WA. Much of this first edition was given over to stating the aims and purposes of TALGA and the creation of a logo. On page 2 the publication featured a column entitled "Tim's Tips". Written by Tim Denny of Bridestowe Estate, it became a regular feature of The Goode Oil. Tim Denny assisted TALGA over the years with his expert advice on growing Lavender and steam distillation of Lavender oil. His manual "Field Distillation for Herbaceous Oils", some 300 pages, is still seen as one of the best references available today on this topic. The Autumn 1998 edition featured Tim and his son Jak on the front cover at Bridestowe Estate. Tim Denny had just passed away, aged 78 years, prior to this magazine being published. There is a tribute to Tim's life in this edition which makes for most interesting reading.

The Goode Oil was published quarterly, content was expanded to include State roundups and colour was introduced in the Winter edition 1999. The name changed to The Lavender Journal in 2002 and was published in full colour, on glossy paper, four times a year. Editors over the years started with Glen Heyne, followed by Neil Chasemore, then Carolyn Doherty, Tere Bonner, Michael Basile, Jean Sargeant and currently myself Fiona Glover. Plant profiles were a feature of each issue being provided by Clive Larkman.

Other features were Craft with Tere, Farm profiles, Farm

Safety, Oil Standards and there was a competition for the best farm photo to be printed on the front cover each edition.

The Spring 2006 edition of the Lavender Journal featured *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Egerton Blue' on the front cover, growing at Yuulong Lavender Estate. Rosemary Holmes and Edythe Anderson had been involved in the propagation of this new variety of Lavender from seed and had named it after the nearby Mt Egerton (near Buninyong, Ballarat, Vic). This was a culinary Lavender with a dark blue flower head and produced a sweet-scented oil. It is widely grown by members today.

The Journal changed to an annual publication in 2012 and in 2015 the anniversary edition featured the 20th Conference "Twenty Years and Growing" which was held at Ballarat at the same venue chosen for the very first Conference, The Mercure. Since 2015 conferences have featured on the front cover of each annual Journal showing the places of interest visited each year and the members who attended.

The 2019 Conference "Lavender – past, present and future" was held at Port Arthur, Tasmania. This conference was attended by members of TALGA as well as a contingent of NZLGA members. The Journal front cover reflects the hospitality shown by Clare & Brendan Dean of Port Arthur Lavender whilst the back cover features photos taken whilst touring places of interest in the area of the Tasman Peninsula, as well as the Sunday spent at Bridestowe Lavender, Nabowla, TAS. Again generous hospitality was shown by Jennifer and Robert Ravens who treated guests to lunch and a tour of this, the largest, oldest lavender farm still in production today.



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Botanic Gardens Day Australia & New Zealand

Sunday 31st May 2020 - Webinar hosted by Costa Georgiadis

5 Panelists: Tim Entwistle Vic; Donna Jackson, Mackay Qld; Lesley Hughes NSW; Lucy Sutherland SA; Julie Watson Auckland NZ

What is your first memory of a Botanic Garden?

Lesley – Feeding the ducks and ducklings at the Botanic Gardens Sydney.

Tim – Pressing plants on paper as a student at Botanic Gardens Sydney.

Julia – Work experience as high school student, pollinating cycads, Kirschenbos National Botanic Gardens, South Africa.

Donna – Visiting the Lost Gardens of Heligan, Cornwall, uncovered in 1990 by hurricane.

Lucy – Doing field botany at the Australian National Collection, Canberra.

Has climate awareness been eclipsed by Covid19?

Lesley – Partially, just had the third major bleaching on Great Barrier Reef in five years. Challenging to keep climate change in the news. Massive long-term problems.

Tim – Botanic Gardens Melbourne closed for 7 weeks in response to Covid, now open. Staff were still out there collecting bushfire material for study. Harder now as focus has gone off bushfires. There are no volunteers working at present.

Lucy – Botanic Gardens, Adelaide stayed open. Still continued field work to monitor what was coming back or not particularly on Kangaroo Island. Adapted procedures to still be active during lockdown. Staff also adapted technology so they could keep working behind the scenes.

Julia – In New Zealand watched the bushfires in Australia in horror. There are two aspects of what is done in Auckland Gardens. First of all linking with Australia as a multinational body, BGANZ. More can be achieved together than on one's own. Second, continuing to engage with public who visit the Auckland gardens each year and to give them hope for the future.

Mentioning hope, how have seeds maintained their priority?

Lucy – There is a National seedbank partnership. Seed of every plant is put in the Collection.

Planning at the moment to work out what is National priority to keep the seedbank continuing.

Tim – It is a national insurance policy to keep this seedbank going. Also it is an international seedbank as seed of every plant is put in the Kew Gardens Collection England.

So special to have a genetic resource and hold onto it.

We all love our neighbourhood parks and gardens. Do you see the distinction between urban parks and Botanic gardens?

Donna – There's definitely a distinction. Parks are places of relaxation and sport whereas Botanic gardens are curated collections, carefully selected, cared for, recorded through their life span and organised to assist research and conservation. Plant labelling helps educate the public to understand people's connection to plants and where the plants are in their space. Horticultural standards are maintained in Botanic gardens. Communicate between each other of the 120 Botanic gardens in BGANZ.

From a regional perspective even though on our own we are small, we have access to all this knowledge that we can share across the group.

From a regional perspective, Donna, can you describe the work in Far North Qld?

Donna – The Far North Queensland Peaks Project and Meta Collections. Some of our Northern peaks may lose coolness and rainfall due to changing climate. Plant material is being collected and taken to other areas such as Melbourne to be propagated and grown there as a way of keeping the genetic material and helping each other in this changing environment.

How does that relate to SA?

Lucy – Adelaide Botanic Gardens has been working on a project where it is harvesting water from a creek and creating a wetland. Water is taken out and purified and put into an aquifer which is then available for urban use. The Botanic Gardens combines with urban parks and urban infrastructure to study how to manage waterways in a living healthy city.

Do you see there is a role for Botanic Gardens to influence the broader urban landscape?

Tim – Because of the number of visitors to Melbourne Gardens people see what we do with water management. There are recycling programs at Melbourne Botanic Gardens which are then taken to the universities to study. Through education and learning and getting people to understand the problem of climate change and working on how to respond to that. Equally as custodians of landscapes which will require care and attention as the temperatures rise, and plants are stressed. We have developed a climate change program which looks at how we will plant trees for the next 100 years. We've also formed a Climate Change Alliance of botanic gardens within Australia and overseas looking at how we will ensure botanic gardens survive with their big old trees growing and secondly our seed banks, how we can help urban planning and give people the best advice on trees and plants, otherwise we wasting an opportunity.

How is your connection and role in the Alliance work Julia?

Auckland is signed up to this Alliance.

We have an amazing opportunity to inspire people in their home gardens and to learn from urban parks. For example in Chicago, at Lourie, there is the Lourie Botanic Gardens. It sits in the Millennium Park. By working together there is the best of both which can make a huge difference to our work.

From a climate change point of view, an urban greenspace is critical, Lesley what do you think?

Lesley – the more greenery we can get into our urban centres, we can mitigate against the heat of the city, i.e. the heat island effect.

Sydney has the oldest research centre at the Botanic Gardens there.

It is becoming more important for urban dwellers to connect to nature and something larger. More than 50% of the world's population live in an urban city and do not have the opportunity to get out into nature so the Botanic Gardens have a role in this.

With the plants natural biology decreasing at such a rapid rate is there more the Botanic gardens can do?

Tim – Lot of work to be done in the research field. We have a lot of information already stored at the Botanic Gardens.

Botanic Gardens work well when we have a mix of science, culture and conservation. Get people involved and reconnect with nature. Botanic Gardens must be at the forefront of the decision makers.

Lucy – Partnerships are so important working with each other as well as community groups, universities, conservation NGO's. It is important to use our resources to collaborate across organisations and not be competitive and further risk our biodiversity.

How are all of you going to go in the weeks and months ahead, as political climate is all about the economy and jobs?

Tim – This is the opportunity for the Botanic Gardens to respond. Covid and bushfire threats will still be there but we have to be part of post Covid.

Donna- unique opportunity to help people connect in gardens and nature more than they have done before. Need to tap into this. Keep people involved and excited. Covid has reduced pollution and exposed nature.

Julia – Covid has brought out the value of shop local, grow local and Botanic Gardens are part of the community. Showing people how to be more resilient by growing their own.

Lesley – Great time for reflection. What do we want to come back to? Keep the good things as we start to stimulate the economy with clean, green and local product. Go forward without making mistakes of the past. Make people aware of the possibilities.

Sydney Edible Garden Trail. This had to shut down but went live in broadcasts.

Samford Valley, Brisbane also running an edible garden trail. This is the chance to bring the knowledge and resources to support these community projects.

Julia – saw that Sydney Botanic Gardens had developed an online Greening program. These digital tools are so helpful and allow people to connect with nature.

Is future biodiversity reliant on in-situ collections than ever before?

Tim – in-situ will never replace forests, wildlife, parks, natural systems. Seed banks are a backup and part of the integrated way of doing conservation.

Donna – in-situ can be seen as plant zoos. However we must look at ways of linking people with the environment.

Lucy – 30 years ago, we could see diminishing biodiversity, the in-situ is a last resort collection. Whilst we have these seed banks, what we do not have across the country is the provenance captured in each collection, so they still have

limitations.

Tim – Seed banks do hold the “wild” relatives which provides extra material we can breed into our crops.

What are the challenges?

Julia – to be responsive to our audience and be relevant. Ask, what can we do? Listen to the community. Stay modern. Give people experiences. Make people connect. Be flexible. Stay true to our mandates of conservation, research and education.

Relevance?

Lesley- Remind people Botanic gardens are a microcosm of the issues in the world at large. Having a green space around, reminds people we all want to connect.

Community building?

Donna – remain relevant by encouraging people to think of the Botanic Gardens as their space. What are the cultural groups in the area and try to incorporate all those groups in the gardens.

Lucy – Botanic Gardens can contribute to people's health and well-being.

People expressed their gratitude that the Gardens stayed open during Covid. Aside from the horticultural programs make sure that our other programs are still relevant.

Tim – Listening to people and what they want. Change, adapt and look at creative ways to respond.

What is your ideal dream future look like for a Botanic Garden. What would you like to see?

Julia – I would love to think beyond 2040. My ideal is garden cities integrated.

Lesley – I would like to see no more carbon going into the atmosphere by 2040. Until we can stabilise the climate we can't have a liveable planet.

We have to have hope for the future and be optimistic.

Tim – The Gardens would have a much higher profile in the future with a lifestyle and culture that is thriving.

Lucy – I would like to see the Gardens role as less in conservation as it would not be required.

Donna – Not having boundaries and being integrated into communities, education system, tourism, accepted places for health and wellbeing and supported accordingly. Total reduction of chemical control in gardens. Integrated pest management.

Costa – visit Botanic Gardens, join the Friends groups, buy local and agitate for the future of the Botanic Gardens everywhere.

Thank you to the panelists.

Spread the love.

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TALGA & MONARO COUNTRY LAVENDER Co-operative

Congratulations to TALGA on your 25th Anniversary. It does not seem that long ago and it has been inspirational that your achievements keep growing & developing to professionally inspire so many passionate growers to produce the best in our industry.

For your newer members I will give an outline of Monaro Country Lavender Co-op's history as part of the industry. We are centred in Bombala NSW on the plains at the foot of the Snowy Mountains so we experience snow & heat.

In 1993 RIRDC (now Agrifutures) conducted a research programme for prospective Diversification Farming industries in Bombala. Selected individuals presented their findings to a public meeting & as a result, Monaro Country Lavender Association (MCL) was formed in June 1993.

In 1995 in conjunction with Rosemary Holmes & the Victorian group setting up TALGA, the first lavender growers' conference was held in Bombala & 140 people from all over Australia attended.

Over the next few years MCL commenced lavender oil production with Dr. Ian Southwell as analyst. In 1997 Virginia McNaughton visited to educate us on correct naming & ID.

In Feb 2000 we hosted the first commercial lavender oil producers' conference with keynote speakers Dr. Noel Porter, Virginia McNaughton, Dr. Ian Southwell & Tim Denny from Bridestowe. Once again attendees came from all centres. Dr. Porter introduced his "Sniffing Test" workshop to encourage our professionalism. Later ensuing years of analyses by Dr. Southwell confirmed a consistency of quality & our membership grew. In Sept. 2000 MCL officially became a lavender growers' Co-operative as our membership farms were spread over a wide area.

In 2001 MCL expanded from retail outlet "Lavender House" into Bombala's old railway buildings for a tourism enterprise with a distillation centre, workshop venue, nursery & commercial kitchen. Monthly Commercial Lavender Grower workshops were held for prospective growers & lavender became a tourism drawcard for Bombala.

"Lavender House" became Council's Information Centre & products are now housed in the adjacent new Information Centre building built 4 years ago & a new retail outlet in nearby Delegate's historic old Post Office. Bulk oil is also sold wholesale to regular clients.

MCL is currently working on a renewal & growth programme. We are all getting older! The last few years have been a challenge firstly with wet summers ruining harvests & now prolonged drought culminating in last summer's devastating bushfires in our area. Many farms were impacted & for the first time ever MCL had no harvests for the season. For 6 weeks, Dec-Feb, we had no sun – just black choking smoke & ash. However, when it finally rained the re-growth was blindingly green – must have been all that Potash! We are now rebuilding & looking forward with renewed optimism.

We have been spending the Covid lockdown formulating our plans for hopefully a changed Australian attitude to Australian grown products & tourism & we look forward to joining TALGA in spreading the passion for our wonderful lavender for another 25 years. CONGRATULAIONS!

Jan Illingworth
Technical Consultant
MCL Co-op. Ltd.

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Wendy Mackay is a Professional Accredited Aromatherapist with over 20 years' experience and is a member and past-President of the International Aromatherapy and Aromatic Medicine Association (IAAMA).

Wendy is the founder and owner of Essence of Wellbeing Aromatherapy & Natural Skin Care products which she operates with her husband David in Mornington on the beautiful Mornington Peninsula in Victoria Australia.

Wendy is passionate about supplying only the best in aromatherapy products and services as well as helping people to use essential oils safely and effectively.

Wendy can be contacted via her website
www.essenceofwellbeing.com.au

A Guide to Measuring Essential Oils for the Home User

by Wendy Mackay MIAAMA

Whether you look online, in books or use other resources for your essential oil recipes, you will inevitably see essential oils being measured in drops.

But what exactly is a “drop”?

How much essential oil is a drop?

How many drops are in a bottle?

What exactly do we mean when we refer to a drop of essential oil?

It may not seem it from most recipes, but the reality is that what a “drop” is can vary quite a lot.

What makes a “drop” and how big a “drop” is can vary depending on a number of factors including -

- **The viscosity of the oil** – or how thick it is. Thicker oils will tend to form larger drops than thinner oils. They are “stickier” if you like and will tend to cling to the bottle, the dripolator and the other molecules in the essential oil
- **The diameter of the opening in your dropper or dripolator** – larger apertures will form larger drops. (Larger holes have an advantage when dealing with thicker oils as they make it easier to dispense – albeit in bigger drops!) Drops from fine pipettes will tend to be smaller, eye droppers are often bigger, and the dripolator plugs in essential oil bottles can vary a lot from brand to brand.
- **The specific gravity (or relative density) of the essential oil.** Not all essential oils weigh the same when you compare identical volumes.

Do you remember the old riddle – which is heavier – a pound of lead or a pound of feathers? The answer is they both weigh the same. BUT the pound of feathers will take up a much bigger space than the pound of lead.

Conversely, if you were to take a bucket of lead and a bucket of feathers, then obviously the bucket of lead would weigh a lot more.

The same applies to essential oils – although the differences are less dramatic than the lead & feathers example, each essential oil will have a different density and therefore a different specific gravity. So, a drop of each will weigh differently.

If we look at water – then 1 gram equals 1 millilitre. But with essential oils the same does not apply. You will generally need more than 1 millilitre of essential oil to equal 1 gram. But how much more will depend on the specific gravity of each individual essential oil.

Fun fact – Because essential oils have a specific gravity of less than 1, they tend to float on water.

- **Temperature** – some essential oils can become quite thick (some almost solid) in colder conditions and therefore make for larger drops.

Even given the same apparent conditions and using the same essential oil, you can still get variations in drop size. It is for this reason that many aromatherapists and most

formulators will tend to use weights rather than drops – grams and milligrams. When you want to be able to reproduce a formula accurately, you need to use a measuring system that will give consistent results. Weight measures will do this – drops will not.

To illustrate the differences, I ran a little experiment. (Disclaimer – this was a quick and casual test and may not stand up to full scientific rigour!)

I took 3 different essential oils and for each I did the following – I measured 1ml in plastic disposable pipette, transferred to a glass beaker and weighed the contents. I then used the same pipette to measure the number of drops in the 1 ml, by dripping the same oil using the pipette into a beaker until it reached the same weight, counting the number of drops.

I then repeated this using the bottle with dripolator plug, again counting the number of drops to reach the same weight.

These are the results –

Oil	1ml weight	No of drops - pipette	No of drops - dripolator
1	.88	34	24
2	.88	38	20
3	.85	35	25

Now this is a rough experiment! But you can see from this that the numbers are close but not identical. And I would assume there may be some variation if I repeated the experiment on another day or in a warmer or cooler room.

So this illustrates why general quantities given in recipes for homes use tend to be ranges or approximates of the number of drops.

However, for all their shortcomings from a professional perspective, drops are still the easiest method of measurement for home users, and sufficiently precise for most situations. After all, you don't want (or need) to weigh the number of drops to go into your diffuser on a daily basis! A range is perfectly acceptable in this situation - it will not often matter if you add 5 drops rather than 6.

I generally find that you will get between 20 and 30 drops per millilitre for most essential oils, which equates to around 200 to 300 drops in a 10ml bottle of essential oil.

But to be safe, and as a general rule I tend to recommend working with a formula of 20 drops equalling one ml. This gives you some room to allow for variations in drop size without making your formula too concentrated, (and also gives you some leeway if you slip up and accidentally add an extra drop!) Plus, if you find your formula needs a little extra, you can add without issue – you can't take a few drops out if you use too much!

So, go ahead and measure your essential oils by the drop at home. At the end of the day, whilst for the purposes of professional formulation or clinical use, weights may be preferred, for home use, drops are much easier, more accessible and sufficiently accurate for most people and most of the uses you are likely to put them to at home.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN LAVENDER GROWERS' ASSOCIATION, held via Skype teleconferencing, Wednesday 29th April, 2020 at 2pm.

The meeting was chaired by President Gary Young, who welcomed all to the Annual General Meeting.

Secretary recorded 15 Members on the call: Clive & Di Larkman, Fiona Glover, Gary & Anne Young; Neville & Gillian Henderson; Peter Manders; Kellie Oxenford; Christine Hitchin; Louise Bickerton; Jenny Thompson; Cate & Neil Harper, Kaye Kelly.

Apologies received from Dawn Baudinette, Meg Bilney, Wendy Fuller, Jens Volkman, Clare & Brendan Dean.

Confirmation of 2019 AGM Minutes.

It was moved by Fiona Glover and seconded by Kaye Kelly that the minutes of the 2019 AGM be accepted as a true record.

Carried

Clive Larkman took the Chair and Gary Young reported as Returning Officer on the nominations received.

Elections

Gary Young read out a statement of nominations to the Board. 3 positions on the Board become vacant at this time and one position to be formally adopted (Louise Bickerton who had been coopted in February).

2 Nominations had been received from 2 current Board Members up for reelection: Fiona Glover and Neville Sargeant. Neville Henderson has declined renomination. Nominations received from Thomas Mahar and Louise Bickerton.

As there were no other nominations, no election is required and the 4 positions have been filled.

All 4 members were elected for a 2-year term.

Next, Returning Officer, Gary Young, read out nominations for ALR's.

7 nominations received as follows.

Kellie Oxenford coordinator & QLD
Wendy Fuller NSW
Cate Harper, East/SE Vic
Fiona Glover, West/Central Vic
Clare Dean TAS
Meg Bilney, SA
Karla Champion WA

All positions filled without requiring an election.

Clive thanked all those ALR's who perform an important role for TALGA.

President resumed the Chair and expressed his thanks to Jenny Thompson who has been ALR NORTH QLD. There are now only 2 members in the North of Qld, so the Board decided at the previous meeting to go back to having one ALR for the State.

Moved by Gary Young, seconded by Fiona Glover.

Carried

Reports

President

Greetings to all members

I trust you, your families and others close to you are continuing to stay safe and well during this time.

It is disappointing that due to the present restrictions on travel and gatherings we were unable to hold the 25th TALGA Conference at Bendigo, Vic. and visit the Bendigo Botanic Gardens and the National Collection of Lavenders. I respect and understand the circumstances of some members who have not yet renewed their membership due to drought, fires and now having to close their shops and farm gates because of social distancing rules as a result of the COVID19 pandemic.

I would like to personally welcome the 4 new members and Lavender Club members who have joined TALGA during the past year and support them with as much information on developing their lavender farms.

The 24th Conference held at Stewarts Bay Lodge, Port Arthur on 21 March 2019 was a great success with Clare & Brendan Dean from Port Arthur Lavender hosting the dinner and organizing field day trips as well as doing much of the organizing of conference venue and accommodation.

I would like to express my thanks to Jens Volkman for his support to the Board, especially for the Conference in Tasmania. Unfortunately Jens has had to leave the board due to work commitments. Also my thanks to Neville Henderson who is retiring as Vice President after 4 years. During this time he, his wife Gillian and daughter Emma organized the 23rd Miniconference at Pastoria Lavender Farm.

I would like to welcome two new TALGA Board members Louise Bickerton from Blue Mountains Lavender and Thomas Mahar from Hahndorf Lavender.

Both have expressed support and assistance in organizing next year's Conference which will be held in South Australia.

My thanks to Christine and Tony Hitchins on the presentation and packaging of the Gift Pack items as well as the new products, hand sanitizer and hand lotion for the Scentimental Collection. Some of these items are already available on the shop page of the website and the gift pack will be added very soon.

My thanks to Kellie Oxenford for her regular monthly e-news. It is good to see the growing interest by members contributing to the e-news and we hope that more members will support the publication by sending through their articles to Kellie.

From my following up of members I have recently heard the sad news from Tere Bonner that her husband Peter (who was awarded honorary membership at the 2019 year conference) is gravely ill. I passed on our thoughts and wishes to Tere from all at TALGA. (Peter Bonner passed away Thursday 21st May 2020).

In November I attended the EOPAA Symposium and AGM. It was most interesting with excellent speakers and presenters. The first speaker's topic was on 'Sri Lankan Essential Oils and Industrial Applications' and the second speaker's topic was on 'Australian Essential Oil Industry: History and Emerging Trends'.

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Following the symposium I held a meeting with Clive Larkman and Aaron Pollock with regard to research funding a broad based lavender project with Latrobe University. The project is progressing well and I'm expecting Clive to speak about it at the AGM.

I congratulate Neville Sargeant being proposed by Fiona Glover and approved by the Board members for a Life Membership. His long service of 12 years as a Board member and Treasurer shows great dedication to TALGA and the awarding to Neville of Life Membership is a fitting tribute and very well deserved.

I would like to express my thanks to all Board members for all their hard work and efforts in supporting me and making TALGA grow.

Gary Young
President

It was moved by Gary Young, seconded by Fiona Glover that the President's Report be accepted.

Carried

Treasurer

Our Normal Annual Financial Report to the Board and Auditor is from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020.

I have been producing a Monthly Financial Report to the Board, so that they can see a clear picture of our current finances. This report will be from 1st July 2019 to 31st March 2020. Our Receipts from Membership Subscriptions still do not cover our general expenses and although we derive other limited income from particular resources it does not substantiate the costs to cover expenses.

As I have mentioned before, we have to draw from our reserve funds to meet our responsibilities.

Membership fees are to remain the same for this renewal period as Membership Numbers are steady, with some members not renewing or differing because of difficult times and new members have joined recently.

Some of our operating cost have increased, the usual 10% on insurances policies, but thankfully our auditor and some others who have not increased over many years.

The Board's meeting costs have been reduced by using SKYPE teleconferencing and as you are aware we are using this service for our AGM meeting, with no other choice because of the Governments Regulations on the Coronavirus out break. Scnt/Coll sales have been average, with only a small percentage of Members ordering reasonable quantities from time to time. These members have been rewarded with a discount on their Membership Fees.

We have renewed our Australian Made Licence for a further twelve months 2020/21, which we are using the LOGO on all our products and looking to the future this will be a bonus, as the outlook of the changing overseas markets importing into Australia.

The website has been upgraded with the new products information and particular the new Gift Box on display on the

home slider, depicting something for Mothers Day. Looking forward to your support for these products and special thanks to Christine & Tony for developing these products for TALGA.

Thank you to other Board Members for assisting me in my duties as Treasurer and especially Fiona for her workable arrangements in getting things done.

Looking forward to a brighter and productive future.

Neville Sargeant

Neville Sargeant moved his report be accepted. Seconded by Jenny Thompson. **Carried**

Secretary

It is disappointing that my report could not be delivered in person at what would have been TALGA's 25th Conference, at Bendigo, Vic.

However, the ability to do this via teleconferencing does preserve the flow of duties for our organization and provide some normality in what has been a very difficult start to this year of 2020.

Some members have not renewed their membership due to drought whilst others have had to close their farm gates/shops due to social distancing requirements forced by COVID19. In spite of this, TALGA has gained 4 new members; 2 in South Australia, 1 in Canberra and 1 in NSW. These members are very keen to learn as much as they can to get their Lavender farms up and running.

The 24th Conference held at Stewarts Bay Lodge, Port Arthur and at Clare and Brendan Dean's delightful lavender farm, shop and cafe, Port Arthur Lavender, still holds pleasant memories whilst we look forward to planning the next Conference.

Having to cancel the MiniConference which included a tour of the Bendigo Botanic Gardens and the National Collection of Lavenders, I have followed up with curator Kirstie Paterson. I have asked her to be interviewed via a questionnaire on the present state of the Collection, its future, and where TALGA can assist. I have recently visited the Bendigo Botanic Gardens and have seen the effect that drought has had, particularly on the *L. angustifolias*.

The questionnaire will be published in the Journal with photos.

After this AGM, planning will commence on the 2021 Conference which the Board has decided to hold in SA in the Hahndorf region.

The Lavender Journal was published in July 2019 and was well received by all members. New members receive a copy of three previous years editions in their information pack. There are still copies available of earlier years' Journals which make for good reading on many topics of interest to Lavender growers; many things are still relevant today. These are held in the TALGA library and brought to Conferences. Rosemary Holmes' family presented all of her books on lavender to TALGA for the library. The collection of books, photos and Conference proceedings are located in my shop

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Rosemary Holmes' family presented all of her books on lavender to TALGA for the library. The collection of books, photos and Conference proceedings are located in my shop which is the registered office of TALGA. At this stage it has been used for reference only, however lending could be discussed by the Board if members wished to have a borrowing service. NZLGA have been doing this for many years and it would be helpful to seek their advice.

TALGA's new look website is up and running. I am receiving enquiries from the general public on what/how to grow lavender, membership so it appears to be working well. Online enquiries for the Shop and items in The Scentimental Collection go to Neville Sargeant direct. Contact form now goes to Kinnear who is able to filter out junk/spam before sending on to me.

The Scentimental Collection now includes a Hand Sanitiser, Hand Cream and most recently, a Gift Pack of 4 items including Hand Sanitiser, Hand cream, Lavender sachet and Lip Balm – perfect for Mother's Day or simply to take away whilst travelling. Currently the Gift Pack is being photographed for uploading to the Shop page of the website. The Australian Made website will also require updating once this is completed.

The Lavender Club has now 7 members: Anne Bolitho, Vic; Katrina Rosier, NSW; Vonne Toohey, Qld; Terry Morris, Qld; Jill Ormston, Qld; Veronica Curness, SA; Rosalie Allan, Qld. New grower members are Melissa & Jeff Biddle NSW; James Volk, ACT; Kirrilee Foster, SA; Ann Yeomans SA.

The e:news has been a regular monthly newsletter to members and has been successfully prepared and distributed by Kellie Oxenford.

The increasing size of this newsletter shows the interest members have in it.

All members have stories to tell and I have enjoyed catching up recently by phone with some of the ALR's. We are a national group and weather conditions vary across the country – for some it's good fortune for others it's tough. I do see the importance of keeping in touch – we are a community of lavender growers and must stay connected.

The Olfactory Oil Competition has been held over for the bigger Conference next year. There is ongoing interest from previous entrants overseas, so I look forward to organizing this at the end of 2020. More TALGA participation is required!

IAAMA, Vic. Representative, Julie Gardiner has been emailing events and sharing news. They were organizing a small group attendance at Bendigo.

They also are holding their AGM by teleconference. All we can do is to keep in touch by sharing information at this time.

My thanks go to all Board members who have greatly contributed to the progress of TALGA and whose company I have enjoyed during the year.

I am really pleased to propose Life membership be awarded to Neville Sargeant, and all Board members have approved. He is most deserving of this having served 12 years on the Board as Treasurer. I have appreciated his diligence and due consideration to all matters. His Award will be formally presented at the 2021 Conference.

Sorry to see Jens Volkmann leave the Board due to work commitments. His contribution to the list of sponsors at last year's Conference was amazing – so were the wines! Also sorry to see Neville Henderson retire from the Board after 4 years of service as VicePresident. The Miniconference at Pastoria Lavender which he and his wife Gillian and daughter Emma organized was another memorable TALGA event and attracted much interest from members and nonmembers alike – there's no doubt people like to see how others are doing it.

Our new member to the Board is Louise Bickerton, Blue Mountains Lavender, who joined in February and has generously offered her assistance in organising the next Conference.

A nomination to fill the vacancy on the Board has been received from Thomas Mahar, Hahndorf Lavender and this is most welcome as TALGA has some enterprising young members.

As I write this report, the COVID19 virus statistics in Australia are showing positive results with control of infection. May we all look forward to better times, not that far ahead.

Fiona Glover, 25th April, 2020

It was moved by Fiona Glover, seconded by Gary Young, that the Secretary's Report be accepted.

Carried

ALR Report

Well with 12 months -worth of enews under my belt now I am feeling a little more confident about getting the enews out to members on time mid- month. Valuable contributions are coming from many members with news and photos about their farms progress. With many difficult times due to drought (continuing for some), fires and the recovery and now COVID 19 and the economic difficulties due to all - it has been a very tough time for many. I feel the that the aftermath of the fires may have been ignored while the focus is on 'the virus' and the economic downturn and getting back to the NEW normal.

I would like to thank those that contribute regularly to the enews. (Christine Hitchin, Fiona Glover, Wendy Fuller) For those of you that have sent in news from your farms and photos please keep them coming – it is always great to hear how your farm is progressing season to season. New additions to the enews include – BUY, SWAP & SELL; Member profiles; Whats on?, Recipes & most recently a call out for Lavender inspired Craft items. You will note that these sections don't always appear in every enews. We can only include them if members forward items in for inclusion. It is always great to receive articles related to Lavender or Farming in general as some of us do grow other crops.

I look forward to hopefully speaking to most ALRs as the year progresses and keeping in touch one way or another. We look forward to hopefully meeting again in SA in 2021 to network & chat all things Lavender!

Take care everyone! Stay safe!

Kellie Oxenford

Kellie moved her report be accepted, seconded by Kaye Kelly.

Carried

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Facebook Report

The Facebook page currently has 479 followers. Our most "Liked" post for the past year was our story about the use of weed mat. This article certainly raised lots of interesting discussion. International visits to the page remain high with Romanians being the most frequent with 161 fans of our page. Women make up 72% of the currently the best and most active way of keeping in touch with the world around us. As I write this, we are all dealing with the constraints set down by our Government, State and Federal, to manage the coronavirus also known as Covid19.

The internet has certainly become our communication tool. Our Facebook page is here to assist our members with all forms of advertising of their Lavender business. We encourage new members to ask questions and also post any photos of their new beginnings. Existing members can also post or share pictures of any current "happenings" on their farms, gardens and shops.

I would like to encourage all members to take the time to read any new posts on the Facebook page and leave a comment. By doing this you are increasing the traffic feed to our page. Facebook works on the basis that the more "Likes" and "comments" a page receives, the more times Facebook will filter our page out to the public.

Let's make our page bigger and better moving forward to a more relaxed and enjoyable year.

See you on the Net.

Bronwyn Williams
Bronwyn moved her report be accepted, seconded by Kellie Oxenford.

Carried

General Business

Discussion took place on the purpose and value of preparing and publishing the Lavender Journal each year. It was pointed out by Clive that this publication is well worthwhile as it provides all members with something tangible to show to others in the industry or members of the public. The Journal provides a wrap up of the year.

Now that the AGM has been held, ALR's are being asked to collect area reports from members in their States. These make for interesting reading in the Journal.

Although there will not be a conference to report, the Secretary proposed that the National Collection at Bendigo still be reported on, and that the Journal will contain other articles of interest to members.

It was proposed by Louise B. that a Directory of Services and their State contacts be created. Board members agreed this worthwhile.

Louise B and Thomas M to start planning Conference 2021 at Hahndorf, SA May 2021.

Cate Harper, newly elected ALR SE Vic has asked for membership list in her area.

Suggested by Gary Y. that she contact Red Hill Lavender to find if they will rejoin or join Lavender Club.

Research Project – Clive Larkman

Clive noted that the potential market for Australian Lavender oil has become huge in the last year and since the COVID infection around the world, Australia has been seen as the most desirable place to grow lavender for oil.

Clive reported he has been seeking funding through Agrifutures to support a research program into the effects of fertilizer on the oil yield of Lavenders.

He sees this as a 5-year project and wants to include TALGA and its lavender growers across Australia (Since the AGM he has submitted his report to Board members for discussion at next Board meeting).

Clive has asked if Board could set up a Research subcommittee.

Vote of thanks to retiring Board member Neville Henderson Secretary Fiona expressed gratitude to Neville and thanked him for his 4 year- term on the Board.

Neville responded that he enjoyed his time on the Board but wanted to allow another member to step up.

He will be continuing his membership of TALGA as Pastoria Lavender.

Vote of thanks to 2019-20 Committee

Gary Y. thanked all Board members for their commitment and achievements during the year. He welcomed the two new Board members Louise and Thomas.

He wished all ALR's well in the year ahead and hoped they would have better communication with their members.

He was saddened by the news of Peter Bonner's illness as he remembered the first conference he and Anne attended which was the Stanthorpe conference. Great hospitality was shown by Peter and Tere to everyone who attended.

Non Board members left the meeting at this point.

AGM Meeting closed at 3.45pm.

FaceBook Report 2020



From Bronwyn
Williams and
Louise Bickerton,
Co-administrators



Our TALGA Facebook page has grown steadily this past year adding around 64 new Followers to a total of 479.

Posts showing the highest viewer engagement are information-based, indicating that our page followers are looking for practical advice and information on growing and using lavender.

In May 2020, Louise Bickerton of Blue Mountains Lavender Farm was added as co-administrator of the TALGA facebook page to assist Bronwyn with all aspects of page management.

One of the fundamental issues about the page has been clarified, that is, that the page is for public consumption. The page exists to give TALGA a social media profile and enable searchers to find TALGA and to then be easily directed to more information on our website.

We also intend it to function as a promotional tool for our members, as FB works on a complex matrix of 'Likes, Comments and Shares', the more the better, which we can leverage to raise our FB profile and TALGA member pages. This aspect of our FB page can be promoted as one of the value benefits that comes with TALGA membership.

So, when we post on the page and share member information, we will keep in mind that it is not the best form of communication to speak directly to, and exclusively to, our members. The email newsletter is probably the best and only conduit we have currently to speak directly to our financial members.

Some of the additions/modifications to the page this year have been:

- 'Lavender of the month' – to educate about the many varieties of lavender;
- Membership recruitment post and reminder for non-financial members to renew;

- Promotion of the Lavender Club membership;
- Shares from member pages, mostly product information and reopening news;
- Share of Livestream panel discussion on Botanic Gardens Day 31 May;
- Share of general interest articles – 'Giant Buddha surrounded by Lavender!' and 'Lavender sales soar online';
- A callout for photo submissions for a new page banner;
- A 'Shop Now' button added which directs visitors to the Scentimental Collection shopping page on our website. There is still the 'Send Message' button next to the new button;
- Our TALGA page has 'Liked' all our financial member pages – they are listed on our page – in return we received new page followers from our membership;
- The 'Get to Know Us' section that appears on the home page has been completed and photo added;
- Private message inquiries have been answered and redirected to appropriate sources.

We will continue to look for and post fresh industry information and explore what most engages our followers, we will replace our existing page banner probably with slideshow of the best photo submissions from members.

Your ideas and suggestions for post material is always welcome, send us the link you think would be of interest to our page followers and we will review and post.

Catch you on the Net!

www.facebook.com/The Australian Lavender Growers' Association



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Peter does most of the hard work outside in maintaining the rows of lavender and then it is up to me to turn the dried flowers into attractive products for Craft shops.

So when we drive anywhere the little inbuilt radar system that I have in my brain is constantly revolving to catch sight of the magic sign CRAFT SHOP or MATERIAL SHOP or SPOTLIGHT or DK or LINCRAFT and so on.

'Stop', I say.

'OK', he says....HIS internal radar is thinking that I have seen a Bunnings or a Landrover sales yard.

'I won't be long', I say...'I'll just pop in and see if they have any lavender ribbons or lace.'

'But you bought a heap yesterday.'

'Yes, but this shop might have something different.'

When I return to the car clutching my precious bag he says, 'What are you going to use this lot for?'

'I'm not sure, but it's a good bargain'.

'How much did the bargain cost?'

'Less than I thought.'

'How much less?'

'Do you want to know exactly?'

'Yes. How MUCH did the lace cost?'

'Only 12 Magnum icecreams.'

'12 Magnums! But you don't even LIKE Magnums. You couldn't possibly eat 12 of them.'

'I'm not going to eat 12 of them.'

'Then what are you going to do with them?'

'Substitute.'

From the money I saved by NOT buying the magnums, I spent on the lavender lace!

Peter sat with a stunned look on his face.

Then I said to him, 'Do you remember when you bought that second station wagon when we were first married? You told me that the money we were saving to buy a new bedroom suite was better spent on the car because we could put the back down and sleep in it and in this way we would save on motel fees on our next holiday!'

'Did I say that?', said Peter. 'Did I really?'

'Yes. So I'm going to save money by not eating Magnums. That way I can buy ribbon and lace with money I don't spend.'

That makes sense to you, does it?' said Peter looking quite bewildered now.

'Abundant sense' I said.

'Furthermore I actually have \$20 a day to spend because I don't have to buy drink or cigarettes or play the pokies.'

'But you don't do any of these things.'

'Right. So I bought a set of craft books with the money I didn't spend on these vices.'

'But I thought the money we didn't spend on a trip to Victoria paid for those books!'

'No, we used that money for a new computer so we could link up with Lavender Farms all over the world on the internet.'

'But I thought we paid for the computer by not eating caviar for breakfast each day'

'That didn't work. You don't like caviar', I reminded him.

'But I like crayfish, though,' said Peter.

'Well you may do so, but the money I will save by not buying 20 jars of seafood cocktail to serve it with will allow me to buy 5 metres of beautiful lavender crushed silk'.

'And we never have oysters', said Peter plaintively.

'No. So I've been able to buy all my embroidery threads with the money we've saved in that department!'

'So what else didn't I eat that you didn't buy?'

'You don't like anything with white sauce in it so I've saved on milk, cornflour, mustard and cheese over the years so that has provided me with the wherewithal to buy needles, cotton, glue and tulle'.

'How much white sauce didn't I consume?'

'Oh, about 20 packets of cornflour, for a start!'

'Well, I don't drink tea so how much have you saved in that department?'

I didn't think of that! Well I do need to get a set of embroidery hoops, so by not buying the tea bags I can get the hoops at Needlework Plus on Saturday',

'Meg, look at me. Read my lips. I am making all the sacrifices for your craft'.

'Well I gave up wearing stiletto shoes',

'What! You have never worn stiletto's'.

'And I don't plan to in the future. I used that money to buy beautiful earthenware jars to store the dried lavender in'.

AND SO IT GOES ON

This is Craft Mathematics.

It goes to show that by careful budgeting all crafts are essentially cost free and as I have proved to Peter time and time again, crafts actually save money.

In fact, this morning I said to him, 'Let's not pay to enter our Tinny in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race next New Year's Day. I could buy a new top of the range embroidery machine with the money we'd save. Then I could design new lavender patterns on it.

'Now don't worry, Peter', I said, 'The purchase may even make us money.....'



TALGA is pleased to announce a research project to be undertaken by LaTrobe University and Clive Larkmann "Optimisation of Lavender Oil". The aim of the research project is to investigate ways of increasing the yield of Lavender oil in a selection of cultivars grown in different parts of Australia and to record data for all growers to access via a secure database. Member Clive Larkman of Larkman Nurseries is the main driver of this research project along with member Aaron Pollack of Golden Grove Naturals. It is planned that a number of TALGA grower members across Australia, will team up and actively contribute to this research.

TALGA is to contribute a grant of \$4000 +GST from its Lavender Industry Development Fund. The attached summary outlines the scope of the project.

Your participation is seriously recommended.

The first step is to develop a database by surveying lavender growers from the current TALGA membership. No farm/enterprise is considered too small or too big to participate. Industry partners will also be included in the survey. TALGA respects your privacy and will not release any membership data without your consent. The membership data survey is on an opt-in basis only.

If you do not reply or wish to be included in this project, you will not be approached to take part in the survey. For your information, all Board members have agreed to take part.

The TALGA Board sees this as a significant project with real benefits to the Lavender Industry in Australia and trusts that you will support this research project.

Optimisation of Lavender Oil and the Lavender Industry - 2020

As you know I have been wanting some research done on lavender for twenty plus years. I see need for three distinct projects: Lavender Agronomy – how and what are the best farming practices to obtain the most profitable yield. Lavender breeding – selection for higher yielding, greater climatic tolerance, multiple flowering and targeted oil profiles. Lavender Product – looking at what lavender oil can be used for and expanding the ability for value adding either on farm or in local towns.

In 2000 we part funded a RIRDC project that was supposed to collect data on what was growing in Australia, work on polyploidy of various lavenders to increase yield and develop base for breeding plants for different climates. We did get some polyploidy work done (Riverina Alan, Thomas and Elizabeth) and received one Tetraploid plant from which we have bred Asa Blue. Some of the collection work was done but I am not sure what happened to the results. None of the agronomy nor climatic work was done.

At Port Arthur last year we met with Aaron Pollack from Golden Grove Naturals who was interested in developing a bulk production capacity for lavender oil in Australia. He had contacts within Australia and overseas who also saw possibilities for a bigger industry. We have met with Aaron several times and you and I had a good meeting with him at EOPAA conference earlier this year. We felt that we had a good chance for developing my research aims through Agrifutures funding.

Once we were in the running for the funding I approached Latrobe University as our academic partner. I am a graduate from there, they are close to us and in the right region for good lavender farming. They also have a \$300 million research facility – Latrobe AgriBio – that has been setup for conducting joint industry/government research into agricultural and horticultural opportunities in Australia.

As you are aware we have been working intensely on this for five months and have developed a three prong approach. Unfortunately we did not get the \$400,000 we had aimed for. If we had been able to secure that for three years Latrobe was going to match dollar for dollar. This would have meant a \$2.4 million dollar project. Instead we have received a \$200,000 grant and Latrobe has tipped in \$100,000 plus we have sourced around \$70,000 of other funds (including TALGA's). Some of this is in kind (provision of materials and consumables – not

consultancy) and some as cash. It is however a substantial start and is probably more than has been spent in the last 50 years.

The project will start in July 2020 with final report due in February 2022. It will be managed through a management group consisting of Latrobe staff, myself, Aaron and TALGA. A summary of the project is as follows.

There is a current unmet export demand in excess of 50-tonne for quality Australian lavender oil. There is also unmet demand for in excess 5 tonne for local use. Australian production of lavender oil was 3.5 tonne in 2011/2 representing 1% of global production, with a GVP of \$1.313M. At that time 20.6-tonne (\$7.7M) was imported. To meet this demand and to provide consistent and sustainable supply to the market, there is an urgent need for increased production in current farms and to encourage new producers. This expansion of production should be underpinned by the best agronomy and business practices to give maximum returns and confidence to growers.

There is little information or research on growing conditions and breeding strategies for high-value essential oils such as lavender. This project will fill knowledge gaps in soil science and agronomy important for maximising constituent aromatic oils. It will also develop the basis for future breeding strategies for increased yield and quality. It will collate and collect data on the factors that contribute to a quality product across the range of climates and growing conditions, and establish standardised procedures to determine yield quantity and quality to provide an ongoing resource for the industry (growers and manufacturers) to establish capacity for a future sustainable industry. With TALGA this will allow the development of a strategic development plan for the industry.

Objectives Summary - The outcomes of this project will be:

- i) New knowledge for growers on the conditions to grow lavender to obtain maximum yield in terms of input costs.
- ii) An increase in the number of growers.
- iii) Increase in production to meet the currently unmet demand of 50+ tonne.
- iv) A database and website for growers, industry and the public.

RESEARCH

The knowledge gaps in the lavender industry are significant as there is little rigorous methodology for growers to access on growth and production. La Trobe Institute for Agriculture and Food (LIAF) and industries in the supply chain, Larkman Nurseries – propagators and suppliers of plants to the lavender industry, and Golden Grove Naturals – producers and exporters of natural oils, will target the impacts of soil characteristics, mineral nutrition and management (water, biotic & abiotic stress) on oil production in plants.

The experience with intensively studied crops such as wheat, and specialised crops such as poppies and Cannabis has shown that systems agronomy can define constraints on production. It has also shown that use of multidisciplinary teams working to develop solutions that can be tested and documented will achieve iterative gains to the industry.

The research program will draw on LIAF experts in soil science, plant mineral nutrition, abiotic and biotic stress responses, field trials and data collection, curation and analyses to define the optimum agronomy conditions for plant growth and oil yield. It will also work with industry partners who have liaised with lavender growers for access to trial plots; processors for field extraction infrastructure; and producers/exporters for market insights. The environmental and genetic factors (currently used germplasm) influencing component oil profiles will be assessed to determine future breeding strategies.

To facilitate the dispersal of this knowledge and set a base for future research there is a need for an industry based database. The project will develop a database and website for growers,

industry and the public. It will design, build and populate a database with a website interface that provides TALGA with a central source of information for lavender industry participants.

1. For the public it will provide the range of products and where they are available
2. For manufacturers it will provide key industry contact points and give an overview of the industry scale.
3. For TALGA a website that is used to promote its activities, its members and the industry.
4. For strategic development of the industry by TALGA a password-protected web database would be created, available only to TALGA members.
5. For research and development partners –A password-protected website where researchers, industry partners and TALGA carry out active research projects and deposit the data in real time so that it become available for review as it emerges.

After nearly thirty years of collecting, growing, breeding and propagating lavender for both the commercial and ornamental plant industries I believe this is the first real opportunity to take what has been a small family based cottage industry for decades into a commercial, fully fledge agribusiness crop that is returning income for the growers, economic opportunities for various regional communities and a high quality export product that returns income for the country.

Clive Larkman.

Do you need some hand sanitiser?



Hand sanitiser is very much part of our daily lives now and will be for as long as COVID-19 is around – so we've made our own using a blend of six amazing essential oils, including our own lavender essential oil. It's 70% ethyl alcohol too, so complies with WHO standards.

These 1-litre bottles are cost-effective, as you can fill a number of smaller bottles from it and we'll include a handy 125ml travel bottle for you to decant straight into, as our gift to you.

Contains Lavender, Eucalyptus, Lemon Myrtle, Orange, Rosemary and Tea Tree oils.



Email or ring Annemarie
info@warratinalavender.com.au
03 5964 4650

Lavender Association of Colorado – Bob Korver

If you think your members would get something from my article on fertilizers, please feel free to use it. Keep in mind that I'm not a recognized expert in that area. Right now, I'm working with Michael Lemmers in Oregon. He wants to put together an interactive display in which attendees at the United States Lavender Growers Association conference in January 2021 will be able to smell samples of essential oils from the same cultivars grown in different parts of the country. His theory is that certain cultivars would produce "finer" oils in certain areas rather than in others.

I would be very interested in your research results on soils, fertilizer and oil yields. It always amazes me that lavender has been cultivated for centuries and yet there is little research on how to do things better.

When it comes to fertilizing, question everything I say and seek further information if what I present raises questions in your mind.

In a study from the Egyptian Journal of Horticulture, optimal yields of aerial parts of lavender were observed following fertilization with urea at 88 lb./ acre. The best yields of essential oil were observed following application of ammonium chloride (N source) at 44 lb/ acre (El Sherbany et al. 1997)

Fertilizing is talked about in Lavender: The Grower's Guide, The Lavender Lover's Handbook and Dr. Swift's excellent article Soil Preparation for Lavender.

Soil Test:

Need to know if soil is deficient in nutrients. Adding nutrients when not needed can cause imbalances and do more harm than good. Older plants could show signs of nutritional stress if soil is poor.

Three Main Nutrients: Nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium

Nitrogen: main function to promote foliage growth Can help boost plant establishment when plants are first starting out (first 3 years) Too much nitrogen will boost leaf production at the expense of flower production Nitrogen application could increase stem length for cut-flower production Once plants are established using a low nitrogen fertilizer could help establish stronger roots and overall health of plants Probably want to avoid blood meal and fish emulsion on established plants as they are usually very high in nitrogen.

Phosphorus: main function to help root development and overall plant health Can be beneficial to add right before blooms begin to give the plant an extra boost Natural sources are bone meal and bat guano (need to check which kind of bat guano)

Potassium (also known as potash): key nutrient to boost plants' tolerance to stress such as varying temperatures or long periods of drought Some growers use higher percentages of potassium to strengthen plant through winter Natural sources include composted fruits and vegetables and kelp meal

Phosphorus and potassium, however, move very little in most soils from their point of application, so it's better to work them into the soil before planting to make sure they'll be within the plant's root zone.

Types of fertilizers:

Composts Good for adding organic matter to soil; Course composts can increase the porosity of the soil to facilitate the movement of oxygen and water to the plants roots Nutrient content not always known and usually not very concentrated.

Organic sources such as manures, guano, kelp, bone meal, etc. Need to be sure not high in soluble salts Usually low percentage so if soil is really deficient have to use large quantities.

Man-made sources – pellet or liquid Not organic certified Usually more concentrated than other sources.

Methods of Application:

In order to get maximum benefit from manures and fertilizers, they should not only be applied in proper time and in right manner but any other aspects should also be given careful consideration. Different soils react differently with fertilizer application. Similarly, the N, P, K requirements of different crops are different and even for a single a crop the nutrient requirements are not the same at different stages of growth. The aspects that require consideration in fertilizer application are listed below:

1. Availability of nutrients in manures and fertilizers.
2. Nutrient requirements of crops at different stages of crop growth.
3. Time of application.
4. Methods of application, placement of fertilizers.
5. Foliar application.
6. Crop response to fertilizers application and interaction of N, P, and K.
7. Residual effect of manures and fertilizers.
8. Crop response to different nutrient carrier.
9. Unit cost of nutrients and economics of manuring.

Fertilizers are applied by different methods mainly for 3 purposes:

1. To make the nutrients easily available to crops,
 2. To reduce fertilizer losses and
 3. for ease of application.
2. The time and method of fertilizer application vary in relation to
- 1) The nature of fertilizer.
 - 2) Soil type and
 - 3) The differences in nutrient requirement and nature of the crops.

Application of fertilizers in solid form:

It includes the methods like:

- I) Broadcasting: Even and uniform spreading of manure or fertilizers by hand over the entire surface of field while cultivation or after the seed is sown in standing crop, termed as broad casting. Depending upon the time of fertilizer application, there are two types of broadcasting:
 - A) Broadcasting at planting and
 - B) Top dressing. The term side dressing refers to the fertilizer placed beside the rows of a crop. Care must be taken in top dressing that the fertilizer is not applied when the leaves are wet or it may burn or scorch the leaves. Side-dressings could be washed from the crop in run-off or leached below the root zone.

'Fertigation' is the technique of supplying dissolved fertilizer to crops through an irrigation system. When combined with an efficient irrigation system nutrients and water can be manipulated and managed to obtain the maximum possible

manipulated and managed to obtain the maximum possible yield of marketable production from a given quantity of these inputs. Continuous small applications of soluble nutrients overcome problems of the fertilizer being washed away or going too deep, save labor, reduce compaction in the field, result in the fertilizer being placed around the plant roots uniformly and allow for rapid uptake of nutrients by the plant. To capitalize on these benefits, particular care should be taken in selecting fertilisers and injection equipment as well as in the management and maintenance of the system. Can get soluble fertilizers as either organic or man-made. Need to make sure that the sources of nutrients are compatible with the plants being fertilized and with the water being used. Modern fertigation should be able to regulate:

- quantity applied
- duration of applications
- proportion of fertilizers
- starting and finishing time

The selection of the correct injection equipment is just as important as the selection of the correct nutrient. Incorrect selection of equipment can damage parts of the irrigation equipment, affect the efficient operation of your irrigation system or reduce the effectiveness of the nutrients.

The three usual methods of injection are:

1. suction injection
2. pressure differential injection
3. pump injection.

Most common Pluses and minuses to each method of injection. The effectiveness of fertigation is often dependent on the effectiveness of the irrigation system. The full advantages of irrigation and fertigation only become evident if the correct irrigation design is employed to meet plant requirements and to distribute water and fertilizer evenly. Because of the corrosive nature of many fertilizers, the components of the irrigation system that come into contact with corrosive solutions should consist of stainless steel, plastic or other noncorrosive materials. Fertigation increases the quantity of nutrients present in an irrigation system and this can lead to increased bacteria, algae and slime in the system. These should be removed at regular intervals by injection of chlorine or acid through the system. Chlorine injection should not be used while fertiliser is being injected into the system as the chlorine may tie up these nutrients making them unavailable to the plant. Systems should always be flushed of nutrients before completion of irrigation. Before commencing a fertigation program, check fertiliser compatibilities and solubility.

During the irrigation season it is important to monitor:

- pH effects over time in the root zone
- soil temperature effect on nutrient availability
- corrosion and blockages of outlets
- reaction with salts in the soil or water.

When and How to Use Foliar Fertilizers

Foliar fertilizers are dilute fertilizer solutions applied directly to plant leaves. As with soil application of fertilizer, the goal of foliar fertilization is to supply plants with the nutrients needed for good growth. There are many products on the market that can be used as foliar fertilizers, but are they really needed? Is there any advantage to foliar application instead of soil application?

When It's Not Such a Great Idea

The major pathway for nutrient uptake is by way of the roots. Leaves have a waxy cuticle, which actually restricts the entry of water, nutrients, and other substances into the plant. To a limited extent nutrients applied to leaves can be absorbed and used by the plant, but for the major nutrients (nitrogen,

phosphorus, potassium) the quantity absorbed at any one time is small relative to plant needs. That means that foliar application of these three nutrients can only supply a very small fraction of the total needed by the plant, so foliar application should be considered only a supplement to regular soil application of these nutrients. If the plant already has plenty of nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, foliar application will not have any beneficial effects. In fact, if concentrations of nutrients in the foliar spray are too high, then leaf damage can occur and in severe cases may kill the plant.

When liquid fertilizer is sprayed on foliage some nutrients are absorbed through the leaves and light, frequent applications would constitute true foliar fertilization. However, with heavier spraying there will be considerable runoff from the foliage and the liquid fertilizer will soak into the soil. In this case there would be some nutrient absorption through leaves, but the majority of the nutrients used by the plant would actually be taken up by roots. From the plant's perspective, this is essentially the same process that occurs when dry fertilizer is added to the soil. It will be more expensive and time consuming than a dry fertilizer application. Phosphorus and potassium, however, move very little in most soils from their point of application, so it's better to work them into the soil before planting to make sure they'll be within the plant's root zone.

When It's a Pretty Good Idea

An appropriate time to consider foliar fertilization is when a specific nutrient shortage is evident based on visual symptoms or soil analysis. If a deficiency exists, then foliar application would be one means of providing a quick but temporary fix to the problem. Certain soil conditions such as high pH, low pH, drought, excessive moisture, or cool temperatures may cause some nutrients to be unavailable for uptake by the roots. If any one of these conditions exists, the problem may be more effectively corrected with foliar applications than with soil applications.

A classic example of effectively using foliar fertilizers is for micronutrients such as iron. At high soil pH levels, iron is not available to plant roots even though high levels of iron may be present in the soil. Under high pH conditions, iron chlorosis or interveinal yellowing occurs on young leaves. A way to alleviate the chlorosis temporarily is to apply inorganic salts such as iron sulfate or chelated forms of iron directly to the leaves. Chelates are chemical compounds that help iron stay in solution over a wide pH range.

The cuticle on leaves of most plants will cause water to bead up and prevent good penetration. So, for all foliar applied products, it is important to include a wetting agent or surfactant to allow for full coverage of the leaf. If rain occurs shortly after an application, most of the spray will be washed off the leaves and reapplication will be necessary.

Important points about foliar fertilization:

1. Routine use of foliar fertilizers without a documented need is not recommended.
2. Foliar fertilization is unable to meet the total plant requirements for the major nutrients nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.
3. Foliar fertilizers are most effective when soil problems occur that restrict nutrient availability such as iron availability in high pH soils.
4. Foliar fertilization should not be used as a substitute for good soil fertility management. Have your soil tested and fertilize according to soil test recommendations.

Reprinted with kind permission from Bob Korver, Lavender Association of Colorado

Okanagan Lavender Farm - Andrea McFadden, British Columbia.

Our world has certainly turned upside down!

Our *L. angustifolias* are just opening now, I will take a look today and see about getting some nice photos to you! After a hot and dry April with no precipitation, we had a rainy June and yesterday it poured for Canada Day... there were no festivities though, so I suppose that was alright.

We knew early on, if COVID was going to be long term we could only operate our online store, as we have been impacted several times by smoke and fires and they have been devastating to our farm store customer traffic. We had begun redoing our website in January and were able to change the focus of the site to be online - I suppose we were lucky in that respect.

We would love to send our oils to your competition - it would be something exciting to be a part of!

Our province has been very fortunate with a low number of infections, Ontario and Quebec have been impacted terribly. Our Public Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, has led us very well through this. However, we anticipate the economic devastation will begin in the fall when the government support programmes end. With our online store, we are able to operate with just 6 of us - we usually have 15 staff and so we are glad we haven't the stress of such a large payroll.

Hoping that you and your community have fared well - from a distance it seems like Australia and New Zealand have managed the crisis well. The border to the USA

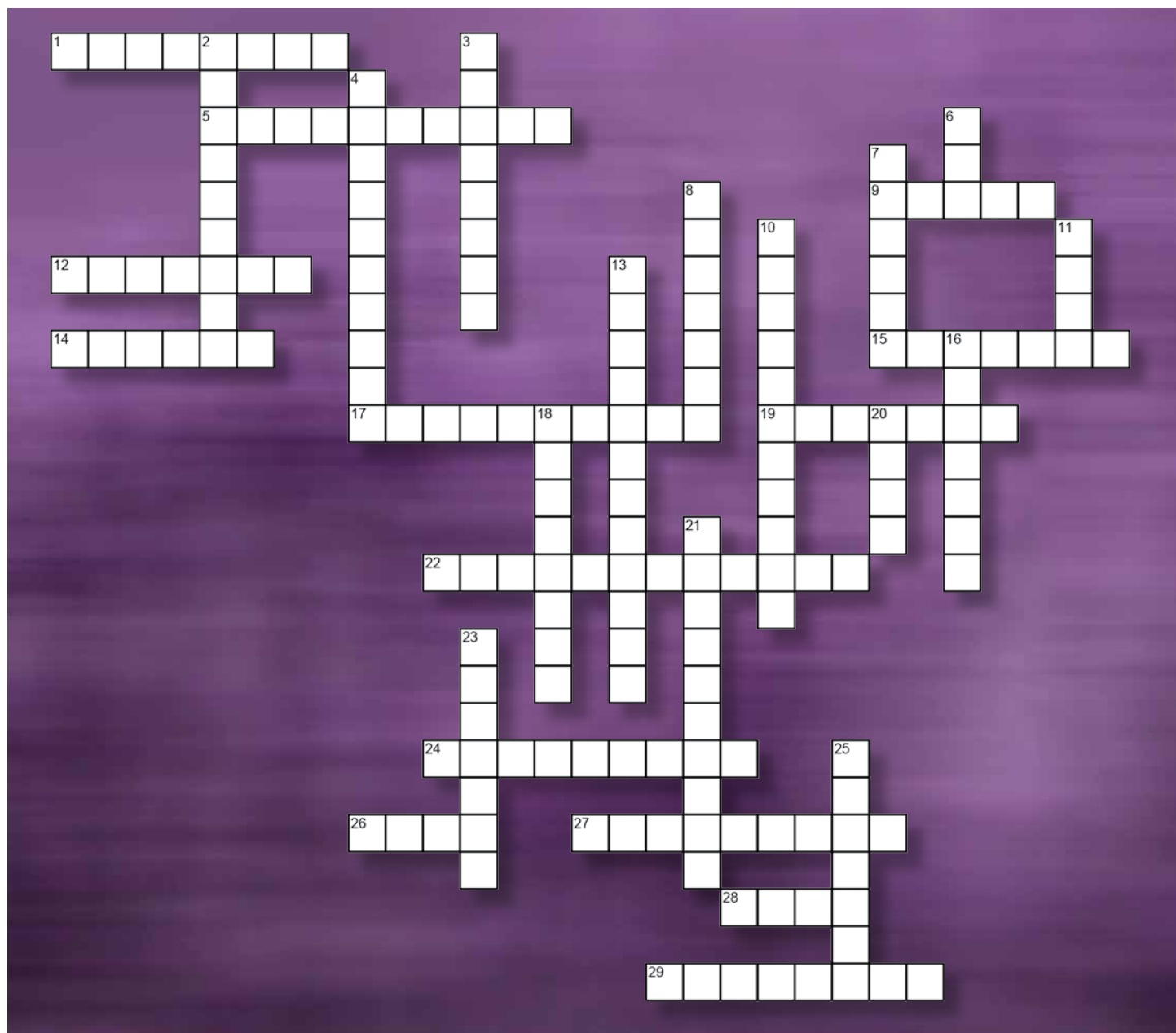
remains closed and we all hope that stays in place until they have the crisis under control.

For the first time in 15 years, I have weekends off and have started to have Sunday family lunches - we are quite enjoying the change of pace!

With kind regards,
Andrea



CROSSWORD PUZZLE FOR *LAVENDER LOVERS*

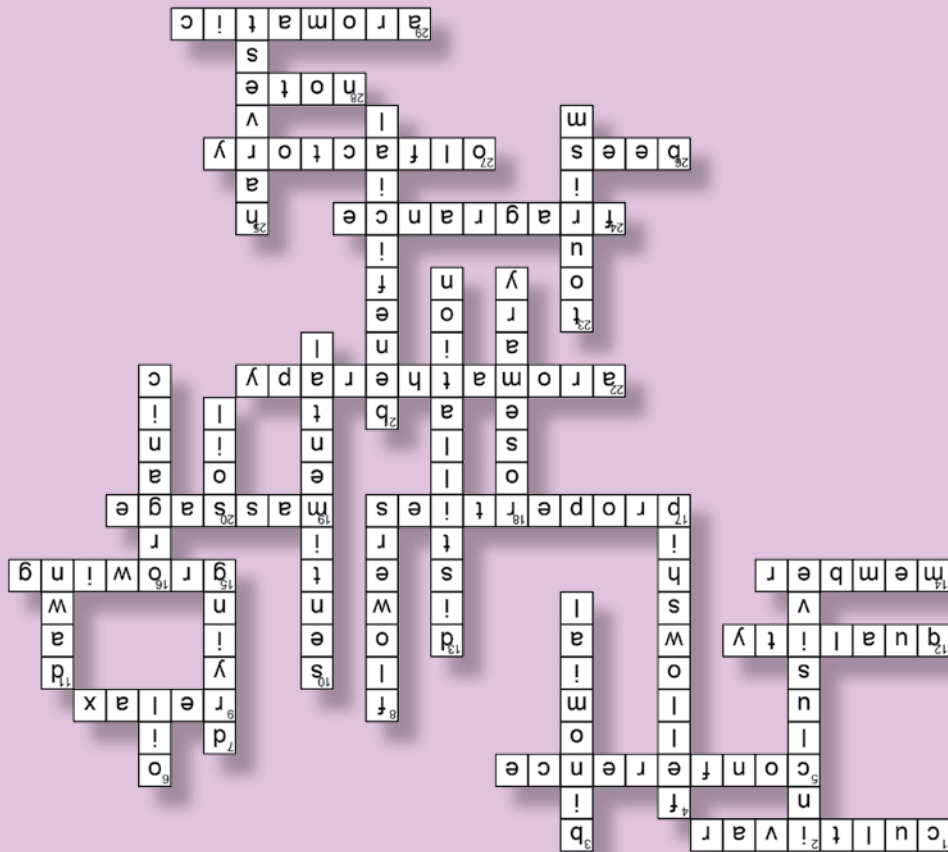


Across:

- 1: derived from the wild plant
- 5: meeting of like minded people
- 9: lessen the tension
- 12: how good or bad something is
- 14: belonging to an organisation
- 15: pains in the legs of children
- 17: characteristics of an asset
- 19: method of relieving stress
- 22: using essential oils for health benefits
- 24: pleasant aroma
- 26: flying companions of lavender
- 27: detecting smell
- 28: a short piece of writing
- 29: having noticeable and pleasant smell

Down:

- 2: covering or including everything
- 3: an expression consisting of two terms
- 4: a friendly relationship amongst people
- 6: nature's surprise
- 7: moisture loss
- 8: the ripened buds
- 10: nostalgic thoughts
- 11: lavender lady arrives early
- 13: extraction process
- 16: non toxic and natural
- 18: founding herbal lady
- 20: defile the ground
- 21: rewarding result
- 23: the activity of travelling to a place for pleasure
- 25: reward for effort



Insurance - Public & Product Liability

Product Liability Insurance

Product Liability Insurance protects your business against claims by third parties relating to property damage or personal injury caused by your products. Product Liability Insurance usually forms part of a Public Liability policy and the word “product” will be a defined term in the policy wording. A common policy definition of “Product” includes anything that has been manufactured, constructed, erected, assembled, installed, grown, extracted, produced, processed, treated, altered, modified, repaired, serviced, bottled, labelled, sold, supplied, re-supplied, distributed, imported or exported by you or on your behalf.

Product Liability insurance is designed to assist you when your products cause a third party to sustain personal injury or property damage. Product Liability insurance is intended to cover any compensation payable to a third party, and your defence costs (these are the reasonable costs incurred while investigating and defending a covered claim including legal fees, experts fees and court costs).

Product Liability insurance is there to help you from the moment an allegation of negligence relating to your product is made. Of course, it is always important to check the limit of cover offered by your policy, as well as any exclusions or geographical limitations.

Am I liable for the products I manufacture or sell?

In Australia, if you manufacture or make products available to the public (i.e. sell or give away), you are responsible for ensuring those products are safe, comply with Australian Standards, and that they meet the statutory requirements set out in the Australian Consumer Law.

If the products you sell or make available have a defect that causes personal injury (which includes illness and even death) or property damage, a consumer or, in some cases, their family can seek compensation from the manufacturer or supplier. While your business may not physically manufacture the products, it may be considered to be the manufacturer if your business assembles, imports, uses its brand on the product or holds itself out to the public as the manufacturer.

For more information on your responsibilities as a manufacturer, refer to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (<https://www.productsafety.gov.au/product-safety-laws/legislation/product-liability#safety-defects>).

What is Public Liability Insurance?

Public Liability insurance protects your business if a customer, supplier or member of the public is injured or sustains property damage as a result of your negligent business activities.

Small business owners have a legal responsibility to take reasonable steps for the safety of their customers, suppliers and the community and for their property.

Most Public Liability policies also extend to cover Product Liability. If you sell, supply or deliver goods, even in the form of repair or service, you may need cover for negligence claims against you where your product has caused injury, death or damage.

Even the most careful businesses run the risk of injuring someone or damaging something during the course of their operations.

Chances are like many other small businesses, if you were faced with a public liability claim, the financial impact of paying the claim and associated legal fees could potentially send you out of business. That's why you should consider Public Liability insurance to provide the financial protection your business deserves.

All businesses that interact with customers or the public need Public Liability insurance.

Refer <https://insure.bizcover.com.au>

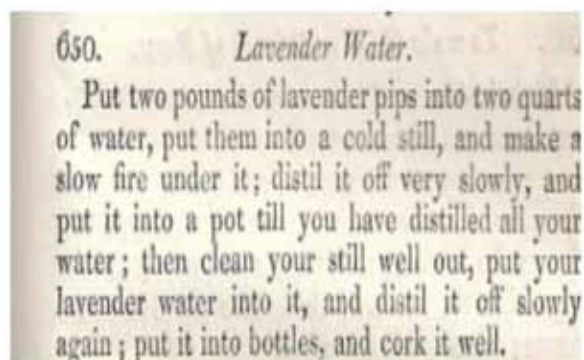
A REGENCY LAVENDER LADY

Take any period in history and you will find a reference to lavender. Its flowers, oil and floral waters have been a feature of daily life through the centuries, not just for the pleasure of its fragrance, but for its many medicinal properties. It is easy to forget that until very modern times, personal hygiene and public sanitation was practically non-existent, and unsavory smells were part of daily life. It is not surprising then that lavender has been documented as one of the most sought-after plants for personal use; not only to mask the smell of unwashed bodies and open sewers, but for its fragrant medicinal properties in herbal remedies. The Regency period 1789-1832, was the time when one of history's Lavender Ladies, Jane Austen wrote her novels, which are scattered with many references to lavender.

Jane lived her life in relative seclusion in the countryside of southern England. Apart from being an extraordinarily gifted writer, her quiet life involved the simple joy of growing flowers and vegetables in the garden, together with daily walks in the lanes and surrounds of the country houses her family could afford to rent. Time spent in the garden was not only a respite from her writing but a source of fresh food and medicinal herbs. Treatment of most ailments in the Regency period started at home, and families relied on their gardens to produce a range of cure-alls and cosmetics to serve their needs. Consequently, lavender and roses, which were easily grown in English gardens, were common ingredients and used in many home remedies. Lavender oil was predominantly used as a floral water, liberally sprinkled on the body and clothes, particularly handkerchiefs and fans to freshen and revitalize, as well as in smelling salts, wound cleaners, vinaigrettes etc. Lavender water was in constant use throughout Jane's life 1775-1817. A time when Napoleon Bonaparte [himself an avid lavender cologne user] was running amok in Europe, and the American colonies were in revolt - picture Jane, focused on civility and good manners, writing about her gentle, witty characters using lavender oil, when overcome with nerves, in pain, or feeling faint when Mr Darcy walks into the room.....

A recipe for Lavender Water from Mrs Raffald's recipe book *A New System of Domestic Cookery* [1819], provided a recipe to make lavender water, which was a simple distillation process, prescribing the use of lavender buds as pips. However, Steel's Lavender Water to which Janr often referred to, appears to have been used more of a tonic as it had alcohol mixed with it.

Ladies and gentlemen of the 18th and 19th centuries carried a "vinaigrette" cane to protect them from a variety of ailments. Vinegar too was valued for its medicinal qualities. A sponge soaked in vinegar and lavender oil was placed in a small container with holes in it on the handle of the cane. Should a lady's tight corset cause her to faint, or should she encounter someone with a dreaded illness, the vinaigrette tucked into her cane was close at hand to protect her. The vapors from a vinaigrette caused the person to inhale sharply and then breathe more rapidly. Ladies prone to fainting would also keep a bottle of laudanum nearby. Laudanum, a painkiller, was an alcoholic herbal preparation containing approximately 10% powdered opium. Smelling salts were an infusion made with ammonium carbonate and alcohol and scented with lemon or lavender oil. Hungary water was a perfumed restorative made with distilled water and sweet-smelling herbs and flowers. This was dabbed on the skin of a person suffering from 'nerves.'



With so many diseases rife during Jane's lifetime, and the many dangerous substances used in cosmetics and various remedies, its little wonder average life expectancy was just 40 years. Comforting to know that lavender played a part in making days a little brighter and more comfortable though.

"But in dancing, their duties are exactly changed; the agreeableness, the compliance are expected from him, while she furnishes the fan and the lavender water."

"She was seated in her mother's lap, covered with kisses, her wound bathed with lavender-water, by one of the Miss Steeles, who was on her knees to attend her,"

"Martha left her best love.....she has nevertheless desired me to ask you to purchase for her two bottles of Steel's Lavender Water when you are in town".

TALGA's Vision and Statement of Purpose

This was drawn up by the first committee in December 1995.

Our Vision

Our vision is for a world class, innovative, efficient and reliable Australian Lavender Industry.

Our Mission

To deliver and promote Lavender as a sustainable horticultural industry.

Statement of Purpose

1. To enhance the establishment and viability of Lavender growers and processors.
2. To support the development of employment opportunities.
3. To assist the development of marketing strategies for import replacement and export enhancement.
4. To support the development towards world competitive production and marketing in the Australian Lavender industry.
5. To facilitate information exchange in the Lavender industry.
6. To promote the collection, conservation and preservation of the genus *Lavandula* in Australia.



2021 Conference

5 - 7th May. Adelaide Hills Convention Centre, Hahndorf, SA



The Australian Lavender
Growers Association



secretary@talga.com.au
Phone: 0412 748 270
ABN 47 079 000 454
www.talga.com.au

