



TALGA NEWSLETTER

THE AUSTRALIAN LAVENDER GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS WITH ONLINE AND IN PERSON EVENTS

Member Benefit: Webinar March 2024

On Wednesday 13 March, TALGA conducted a webinar on Phytophthora which was a terrific session with exceptional advice and information presented by Sarah Dunstan and Matthew Laurence, the soil pathology specialists from The Plant Clinic in Sydney Botanic Gardens.

I was most impressed with the lavender-specific research of our presenters, they had drawn in knowledge from all over the world and Australia about the types of phytophthora which affect lavender and presented practical strategies to prevent inoculation and management regime to reduce and slow the spread if a property already is affected by this water mould.

We have uploaded the recording of the session to our private members-only YouTube channel so check out the link later in this ENews. The next webinar will be conducted in May by the NZLGA and is sure to be of great interest to all of us! Stay tune for more details.

Seminar Field Day 2024

We are also looking forward to welcoming many of you to our Seminar Field Day in Mount Evelyn/Wandin VIC on Saturday 6 April. It's shaping up to be a cracker of an event, thanks to both Annemarie Manders of Warratina Lavender for offering to host a Sunday 7 April morning on her farm and also our major sponsor for the event Larkman Nurseries.

Don't leave it until the last minute to book - it helps us to know our numbers ASAP, so book your place now, see the booking details and link in this issue of ENews. See you there!

If you have any feedback or comments about what you would like TALGA to do for you, or if you would like to contribute your time and talents to TALGA, please let me know via email president@talga.com.au we welcome all suggestions and especially volunteers!

Louise Bickerton
TALGA President
M: 0409 717 899

MARCH 2024
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Click [here to follow](#) the TALGA Facebook page.



Send E-news contributions to news@talga.com.au by the 10th of each month and share your farm updates!

Thank you! Karen
| TALGA Editor

MEMBER EVENT:

TALGA SEMINAR & FIELD DAY 2024: REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

OUR MAJOR SPONSOR FOR THIS EVENT



WHEN?

SATURDAY 6th APRIL (9AM- 4PM); and SUNDAY 7th APRIL 2024 (AM)

WHERE?

YORK ON LILYDALE, York Road MT EVELYN, VICTORIA

WHAT?

- Seminar sessions focus on agronomy, soil testing and health, weed control, plant maintenance and pruning.
- Site visit to Larkman Nurseries Wandin property.
- TALGA Committee Update on Activities to members.
- PLUS a visit to Warratina Lavender Farm in Wandin on Sunday 7 April for talk and complimentary morning tea.

BOOK NOW ONLINE: <https://www.trybooking.com/CPIAN>

We are pleased to announce our major in-person event for 2024 and invite Members, Affiliates and Associates and Nonmembers to book now to attend.

1) President's Welcome and Association Update on Activities to Members;

*Morning tea

2) Speaker – Tim Manders, Agronomist, Browns Fertiliser.

Tim has grown up watching his parents develop Warratina Lavender Farm in Wandin and has developed a solid understanding of intensive horticulture of lavender, tree and vine crops by working in Australia and the UK. Tim works with clients to develop farming regimes for optimal soil health leading to positive crop outcomes and long term sustainability.

Tim will focus on advice on growing regimes and targets to grow a healthy crop and help plants tolerate extreme weather conditions, stimulating root development and microbial activity, soil testing regime, and broad advice on options for weed control.

*Lunch

3) Panel Discussion – Post Harvest Plant Care – Pruning Techniques and Regional Advice

What care and attention does your lavender need after you harvest? Three lavender growers will discuss pruning, nutrition, and possible problems. Q&A session.

*Transfer to Field Site at Wandin, 15mins by car

4) Visit to Larkman Nurseries, Wandin site

Clive, Di and Simon will host our group to inspect their growing facilities. Clive will discuss lavender varieties and their suitability for climate zones and end uses. Q&A.



EXTRA SITE VISIT to Warratina Lavender Farm 10am Sunday 7 April including morning tea and tour.

Book your place online at <https://www.trybooking.com/CPIAN>

Member/affiliate \$80; Associate \$90; non-members welcome \$110 (there is also a small booking fee charged by Trybooking, GST not applicable)

The venue York on Lilydale is a casual local hotel with conference and accommodation facilities on the doorstep of the Yarra Valley, east of Melbourne CBD.

We recommend you book your accommodation at the venue as soon as possible, follow this link to view room options:

<https://www.yorkonlilydale.com.au/accommodation>

Contact me via email president@talga.com.au or Fiona admin@talga.com.au if you have any questions.

Louise Bickerton | President | M: 0409 717 899

MEMBER FARM UPDATES

Warratina Lavender Farm (VIC) | Annemarie Manders

Work has commenced on cutting back the lavender after a busy summer. All weed control has been accomplished and we now wish for some rain. Everything is dried out and crying for a drink. Autumn is here and the leaves are creating gorgeous colours through the gardens. The online shop and wholesalers keep me on my toes as well as attending the Mind Body Spirit festivals.

The Tea Rooms and farm are now closed to the public until 1st November. All facilities are available for hire for special functions, events, markets, weddings and more. Please go to the website for more details

We are looking forward to the upcoming TALGA Seminar Field Day in April and hope you can visit us on the Sunday at Warratina for a look-see, a Devonshire tea/coffee and scone. Happy farming.

Wine Country Lavender (NSW) | Karen McRae

We are working on the last lavender fields trimmings to get the plants ready for winter. We've had a few showers and the weeds are still growing at lightning speed with the heat still lingering on, so that continues to be on our to do list.

We have noticed a major difference in growth between our intermedias bushes and the angustifolia ones, with the latter being a lot more slow (and therefore smaller) and also a bit more fussy with our soil and weather conditions. We are still enjoying the variety of scents as we distill the different plants and be inspired to create various products based on oil quality and fragrance!

Kangaroos seen to have been multiplying at a rapid rate this year in our area... there must be about twice as much as last year, and each female currently has joey in her pouch! They are cute... until they are not! We have a section of soil that is quite dusty and they seem to love messing it up... not sure if anyone has tips on keeping them out / away... aside from spending thousands of dollars in fencing upgrade all around the property... and maybe not even that would stop them actually!

The Birramal Estate (NSW) | Nick & Jonathon

It's been a busy summer at The Birramal Estate - including our first official harvest, the arrival of our new 540L double pot stainless steel still from South Africa (not quite in the right order), and our first opportunities to use our new mechanical cultivator and harvester (both from Bulgaria). We also managed to transform a portion of an existing farm shed to serve as the new distillery and finalise plans for our farm shop. And let us not forget... like almost everyone else, we've also realised the relentless requirement to regularly remove weeds - and lots and lots of them.

But, if we rewind just a bit, we're reminded how different this summer turned out to be - at least in terms of the weather, especially how painfully dry the spring was. We were convinced we were in store for a hot and very dry summer - confirmed by the El Niño forecast and everyone talking about another drought. Instead, we've been fortunate to have an almost perfect summer - warm days with rain about once a week.

The rain has also made the process of applying another top dressing of Calciprill across our two year old plants much more effective. We still have a few straggler rows where the plants just aren't





growing at the same pace as most others, but we're hoping our trial and error experiments will eventually deliver results. Our new cultivator from Bizon in Bulgaria has also made an enormous difference with the relentless weeding. Individually, it takes us about an hour to hand weed each row, but with the cultivator it only takes about 10 minutes. It's not as precise - and we occasionally still need to do some finer weeding right alongside a plant, but it's absolutely saving our backs and heaps of time. The same is true of our mechanical harvester, also from Bizon. It too is not as precise as hand harvesting, but the time savings and overall efficiency are critical to facilitate our growth ambitions.

Post harvest and our first distillation for oil, our attention has turned to product development, propagation, and readying the farm shop (and of course our day jobs!). We're looking forward to opening up our online store this coming winter. We're certain that ticking off a long list of things needing to be done is a universal lavender farmer thing, so we wish you the best as you tick off the items on your lists over the coming months.

Sincerely, Nick and Jonathon (aka The Lavender Boys)

TALGA MEMBER BENEFIT: WEBINAR ON PHYTOPHTHORA (MARCH 2024)

This month TALGA invited two soil pathology researchers, Dr Matthew Laurence and Sarah Dunstan of The Plant Clinic, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney to talk about their investigations into Phytophthora, a type of water mould that is very prevalent throughout the world and can badly affect lavender farms and natural environments.

They tailored their presentation to lavender in particular and pulled in research data from all over the world to propose strategies to identify, prevent infections and manage inoculated soil as this pathogen is extremely resilient and is present in many forms in all soils.

Now all members can view the recording of the Phytophthora webinar, click on this link:

<https://youtu.be/rUY3uo4Cpok>

We hope you find value in this members-only content and we request you do not share.

Other TALGA webinars to view:

- Harvesting Solutions: <https://youtu.be/vPsuZYhpa-g>
- A Conversation with Robert Ravens, Bridestowe Lavender Estate: <https://youtu.be/PVRlKXiu30I>

WANTED

Warratina Lavender Farm (VIC) | e: info@warratinalavender.com.au

*Warratina Lavender is **seeking dried bunches of intermedia** approximately 2000 or more.

***Wanting 20-30 litres of intermedia Hydrosol.** Containers will be replaced.

Available: 20 litre containers available. Quantity x 6. Contact Annemarie at the above email.

Gardening & Horticulture Industry News

The Australian Institute of Horticulture (AIH) are gearing up for the **Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS)** with plans well under way for their 'Grow Shade Wise' Exhibition Garden display at this international event from **Wednesday 20th March, Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, Melbourne**. Read more [here](#).

Join the International **Plant Propagators Society** for their annual conference in **Ballina, NSW** on 22-25 May for their annual conference. The conference consists of full itinerary consisting of networking, nursery visits and some interesting speakers. Read more [here](#).

Join the **Community Gardens Association** for some food, learning and fun in the **Yarra Valley** on 20 April 2024. Read more [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST – Click images to read more.

MINDBODYSPIRIT FESTIVAL

The Melbourne MindBodySpirit Festival is not merely an event; it's a celebration of wellness, unity, and personal transformation. Picture yourself surrounded by like-minded individuals, making meaningful connections and maximising your brand's visibility and revenue potential.

Event Date: 7-10 June 2024

Event Venue: Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

You're not just securing a stand; you're embracing an unparalleled opportunity to:

1. **Expand Your Reach:** Connect with **over 23,800 attendees** eager to explore holistic health, mindfulness practices, and spiritual awakening.
2. **Enhance Your Brand Visibility:** Shine the spotlight on your brand with our extensive marketing campaign delivering **over 3.5 million impressions**. Engage face-to-face with industry leaders, thought influencers, and wellness enthusiasts.
3. **Inspire and Educate:** Share your knowledge, insights, and passion for holistic living while inspiring others to embark on their wellness journey.

Don't miss this opportunity to leave a lasting impact on the vibrant wellness landscape!

Click here to read more about exhibitor information:

<https://www.mbsfestival.com.au/exhibiting-info/>





**WEDNESDAY 20 – SUNDAY 24
BOOK NOW!
MARCH 2024**

**SECURE THE
BEST PRICE!**



**MELBOURNE
INTERNATIONAL
FLOWER AND
GARDEN SHOW**

PRESENTED BY
Scotts

**ROYAL EXHIBITION BUILDING
AND CARLTON GARDENS**

High Tea - Final Tables Available





Proudly supporting
Seville CFA



Jane Edmanson

meet Jane
at her Plant Clinic

Yarra Valley Autumn Plant Fair & Garden Expo

April 20 & 21, 2024 - 10am-5pm

125 Quayle Road, Wandin VIC

www.yarravalleyplantfair.com.au

Discounted Tickets Online

f @yvplantfair



Stephen Rhyan

MC

Introducing >>

The Australian Perennial Plant Collection by Phillip Vaughan

- Begonia Display will be created by Peter from the Tuberous Begonia Garden
- 50+ vendors offering perennials, natives, iris, succulents, fruit trees, indoor, rare & old fashioned plants + many more.
- Kids potting, drawing and other fun activities. All kids receive a FREE plant.
- Sunday rare plant AUCTION raising funds for the Kids with Cancer Foundation
- Meet Jane Edmanson at the Plant Clinic with your garden questions
- Landscape installations and advice
- Orchid potting demonstrations
- Plant Crech attended by the Kids with Cancer Foundation volunteers
- Quality garden tools, garden art and furniture
- Devonshire tea, yummy local cakes & food trucks, local wines & beer
- Lucky Door prize drawn every hour

Dogs on a leash welcome - FREE onsite parking - Wheelchair friendly



Yarra Valley Autumn
**Plant Fair
& Garden Expo**

Ficus dammaropsis
(Highland Breadfruit)

TICKETS

from \$13 online
or \$15 at the gate

For 10+ tickets
contact Clive on
0414 242 710

f @

