

TALGA NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023



This month's updates – Welcome Spring!



2023 TALGA Journal

Great news! Our 2023 TALGA journal is on its way to your mailbox! TALGA members will receive a hard copy of our newly designed journal. We hope you enjoy reading, as much as we've enjoyed putting it together! If you didn't manage to send your yearly farm update for this year's journal, keep an eye out for next year call for farm reports and photographs, to include in the 2024 journal!



October 2023 TALGA Members Webinar Series

We are excited to announce our webinar series on all things lavender! The first one is on October 17, read more on page 3!



Community and Collaboration Opportunity!

We'd love to get our TALGA members to share and collaborate across the TALGA community! This icon will be highlighting an opportunity to share your insights, knowledge and experience with the TALGA community. If you have further suggestions, email news@talga.com.au – we look forward to hearing from you!



Karen McRae
Editor | TALGA
news@talga.com.au

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



A Message from the President

One of the major undertakings of TALGA each year is to compile reports of the activities and events of the past year into the annual TALGA Journal which becomes an important archival record of the Australian lavender industry.

You should all receive your printed copy of Journal 2023 in the mail soon and you will find it packed with beautiful photos and updates from member farms, notes from the Conference and AGM in May, results of Awards and general articles that add to our knowledge of growing lavender.

Many thanks to our ENews editor Karen McRae for her hard work in bringing it all to fruition supported by designer Chiara, our ALRs, Fiona Glover and Kellie Oxenford. We hope you find it of great benefit and it makes a valuable addition to your library of lavender information! A digital copy will be available from the member's section of the website soon too.

It has been an eventful month for TALGA as both Clare Dean and Kellie Oxenford announced their resignations from their positions on the committee in late August. I want to thank them both for their enormous contributions to the Association and wish them the best for the upcoming lavender season and the future. Both will remain in their roles of ALR for Tasmania and QLD respectively. I want to thank Kellie especially for giving her time and energies so diligently to fulfil the role of Secretary and supporting me in the early days of my leadership of TALGA.

A major focus for me in August, was the preparation and submission of a TALGA application to receive funding from the Agrifutures Business Innovation Grants, for a 12-month project that will overhaul the LavData.org.au website and research and collect primary data with which to populate the website and make it a useful resource for our members and the wider lavender industry community.

This was a key recommendation of the recently launched 'Australian Lavender RD&E Plan 2023-2028' and a foundation activity that could lead us to further activities to promote the quality and value of your lavender products. As yet, we haven't heard if we are successful or not, so I will update you all when we hear back from Agrifutures with their decision.

TALGA Members Webinar Series

I am also pleased to announce our first foray into TALGA Webinars with a session '**Meet the Member – Robert Ravens, Bridestowe Lavender Estate**' scheduled for **Tuesday 17 October at 6:30pm** (AEDT - Sydney time). It will be conducted on (Microsoft) Teams and all members and associates will receive a link to join the webinar. Robert is the owner of the largest and most successful lavender business in Australia and is a dynamic speaker who will talk about the origins of Bridestowe, the development of their lavender cultivars, the operations of their Nabowla farm and some advice on growing lavender.



As always, I welcome feedback and your ideas on how TALGA can best serve your needs, or if you wish to nominate for a position on the committee, you can contact me by email president@talga.com.au or phone on 0409717899 during business hours. Warm regards,



Louise Bickerton
President | TALGA
M: 0409 717 899

TALGA Members Webinar Series Launch

We are pleased to announce the inaugural TALGA Member Webinar Series kicks off with an online get together with TALGA member Robert Ravens from Bridestowe Lavender Estate, the world's largest privately owned lavender farm.

Join us on **TUESDAY, 17 OCTOBER** at 6.30pm AEDT – NSW, VIC, TAS; 5.30pm for QLD AEST; 6pm for SA/NT ACDT; 3.30pm for WA AWST for a chat with Robert about **"The origins of Bridestowe lavender cultivars"** - their growing methods and agronomy advice, what activities have contributed to the success of their farm and his top tips for lavender growers and business owners of all sizes.



This online event is the beginning of a new era of communication for TALGA, we will be developing a regular programme of webinars that are specifically for our members and are free of charge. If you would like to suggest a topic for us to cover, please send to president@talga.com.au

Registration is not necessary, just follow this link to join the MS Teams webinar on Tuesday 17 October at 6.30pm (check for local time where you are):

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 422 188 564 772 Passcode: LmTs4Q [Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Membership Payment

TALGA membership is renewed each financial year. Members who have not paid their annual membership fees, which were due on 1st July 2023, have only the month of September to do so before they will be delisted as members of TALGA (under the Model Rules of our Constitution). Any member who believes they have either not seen a Myob membership renewal invoice, or have mislaid it, please contact Treasurer Stuart Whiteman immediately: e: treasurer@talga.com.au. Thanks to the majority of members who have renewed their subscriptions. TALGA relies on membership fees to conduct its business throughout the year.

Member Farm Updates

Holmwood Lavender (QLD) – Gary and Anne Young



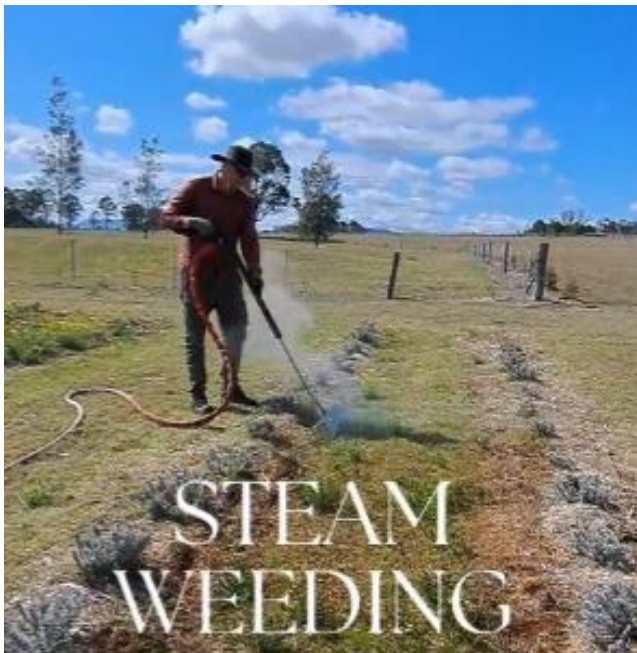
Greetings from Holmwood Lavender. We have had a busy winter season here with several groups visiting us for morning tea, to see the lavender in bloom and indulge in a little retail therapy at our onsite shop.

Although the lavender is flowering nicely, we have had several months of little rain and the grass in the paddocks and between the lavender is very dry and we are anxiously watching the weather as the threat of bushfires is coming upon us.

We recently enjoyed a visit by new TALGA members, James

and Tracey Adams who have some great ideas and enthusiasm for establishing their property and growing lavender in Northern NSW.

Wine Country Lavender (NSW) – Karen McRae



At Wine Country Lavender we are currently busy working on our irrigation system. It's a costly exercise, but we are looking forward to having that system in place, especially with these hot days we're already having. There are a lot of considerations (aside from costs!) in terms of system to go for and automation, so if anyone has any advice, feel free to get in touch. In the meantime, we are also... (guess!).... weeding! The steam weeder has been working effectively, and we have also needed to hand-weed around our very young lavender plants – spring has woken up all sorts of weeds, just when we thought we had seen them all... another new one pops up! We have also been adding more organic material to our soil as we still have a significant amount of clay around. We are VERY looking forward to seeing some flowers in the coming months!

Warratina Lavender Farm (VIC) – Annemarie Manders

Our latest news is the welcoming of our new tenant to the café. The café is now called "Tawny Frogmouth Café". Cadi-Lee the new tenant is offering delicious dishes of local produce through the café with a focus on all things natural.

Very soon we will have the vegie garden open giving children the opportunity to learn where their vegies come from. This has been an initiative of Cadi-Lee who is designing the garden.

Promotion will be through Primary Schools focusing on healthy food & grow your own!

Our Online Shop adjacent to the café welcomes all visitors & includes a video of work throughout the year on the farm.

Our roses have all been pruned, gardens have all been cut back, & fertilising of gardens with pelletised chook manure will happen during August.

The unenviable task of weeding continues. A pre-emergence spray has been applied to deter the Spring germination.

Annemarie offers consultations to any one interested in setting up their own lavender enterprise. She is also busy giving presentations to Community Groups through the Winter months, with stories about the farm & the benefits & uses of lavender.

Events on the farm:

- Floristry Workshops on all Tuesdays in August. Book online via Warratina website
- Wood Working Wonders Exhibition: 9-24th September. Flyer attached
- Lavender Festival: 25-26th November. Flyer attached
-



WARRATINA
lavender farm

WOODWORKING *Exhibition*



9 – 24 September 10am – 4pm

Our annual exhibition and sale of stunning timber pieces by local craftsmen and women including:
furniture, boards, platters, bowls, toys, pens
and many other handcrafted pieces.

Entry: Adults - \$5, Concession - \$3.50, Children under 12 - Free
Tickets available on the day at the farm

find out more at
warratinalavender.com.au

WARRATINA LAVENDER FARM
105 Quayle Road, Wandin Yallock - 03 5964 4650



WARRATINA
lavender farm

Lavender Festival



Saturday 25
& Sunday 26
November
2023

9.30am
to
4.30pm

Join us for the 29th lavender festival!
Rows of blooming lavender, cottage garden, live music,
children's entertainment, craft demonstrations,
farm animals, delicious food and a market.

Entry:
\$28 Adult, \$21 Concession,
\$12 child (under 15 year free),
\$72 Family (2 adults, 2 children)

find out more at
warratinalavender.com.au

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105 Quayle Road, Wandin Yallock - 03 5964 4650

Glenvalley Lavender (VIC) – Cate and Neil Harper

We have been busy weeding and spraying. We are in the process of doing some more planting we are still trying to replenish stock after losing 2/3rds of our plants in the big wet last year and the year before.

We have been busy doing local markets which are going well. Only had a couple of slow ones and a couple where we literally got blown away in high winds that suddenly got up. We have been invited back to have another stall at this year's International Rose Garden Festival at Morwell which is on the 11th and 12th of November so again we are really looking forward to that. It's a great opportunity for plenty of exposure for our farm, as they get people coming up from Melbourne and this year they have organised a steam train which will leave Melbourne and arrive in Morwell to coincide with the Rose Garden Festival.

Last month we had a visit from Anne-Marie and Peter from Warrantina Lavender. It was lovely to see them and Anne-Marie gave us a few suggestions.

Peninsula Ponderings (VIC) - Meg Bilney

When we were little kids our favourite funny joke was...' What does the earwig say when it falls off the tree?'

Answer...' 'ere we go!'

And where do they go?

Answer... into the house, into kitchen drawers, onto the clothes on the line, into the pot plants, into the boxes of stripped lavender seeds, and into the ground around the lavender bushes themselves.

Inside the house they sometimes drop from the ceilings... sometimes onto our heads!

It is a seasonal thing... they aren't so numerous when the weather is very cold.

But as the bloke on TV says ' But that's not all!

At the first rain a few months ago we trod on thousands of millipedes on the march to who knows where. As the rain encouraged green carpets of weeds to shoot, we could see thousands upon thousands of squirming millipedes forming little hills of black moving bodies all over our driveways and pathways to the lavender bushes.

Small, white snails are always with us, nestling in every nook and cranny of lavender bushes and other plants in our other gardens. Peter picks buckets full most damp days.

They, accompanied by the earwigs, ate all our newly planted winter vegetables in one night.

But all is not bad, and we've learned to take all the annoying things in our stride.... including a bite from a centipede and an encounter with a 5 -oot brown snake which shot between my feet as I was walking from the vegetable garden back to the house.

Maybe most lavender growers don't face these annoyances, but we all have to deal with weeds. We sometimes get new ones blown in by the hot [or freezing cold] winds from the north that slam over the paddocks.

But our mature lavenders still soldier on - their dried flowers filling craft items for Info centres around the Peninsula.



What have you been up to on your farm? Have you done any recent upgrades? Any varieties that have been doing particularly well... or not so well? Are you opening your farm to the public? Send us your most recent farm updates, along with some photos, to news@talga.com.au (by the 10th of each month) for our next newsletter!

Blue Mountains Lavender Farm (NSW) – Louise and Bruce Bickerton

The highlight of 2023, so far for Bruce and myself, has been the achievements of our lavender essential oils in two competitions held recently. The first, announced at the Blue Mountains Conference in May for TALGA Olfactory Oil Competition, was a win for our Riverina Alan 2023 EO in the category of Lavandula Triploid, and recently we were awarded a Silver Certificate for our 2023 Grosso entry in the NZLGA Supreme Oil Awards 2023.

Judges scored the unidentified oil samples on olfactory criteria like positive/negative notes, intensity, balance, definition and clarity and varietal characteristics. So basically, this means that both our oils smelt great!

We were especially pleased with our results because we had taken great care this last summer to attend to several factors which can influence the aroma and chemical makeup of lavender essential oil. First, we ensured we only harvested when there had been no rain for at least a few days beforehand, we harvested when most of the buds had opened and about 50% had wilted, we reduced the length of stem material, preheated the water in the boiling pot before packing it, and timed our distillation and fractioned off the first half hour oil and hydrosol from the second half hour.

This attention to detail paid off and now we have a tried and tested routine and detailed records of the harvest and distilling which we will follow this season and hopefully recreate this year's success.

Another pleasing 'win' for BML is our recently installed branded point-of-sale product stand in the Blue Mountains Echo Point Visitor Centre run by the local council, which they located right next to the sales counter and features prominently in their shop. We feel very encouraged by this support and can recommend contacting your local council tourism officer to see how they can help promote your business, boost product sales and reach more customers with your lavender farm brand. All the best for a good run up to the summer season



FOR SALE



Dried Lavender Buds for sale in Victoria

Variety: Dried Angustifolia Lavender Buds - sieved and dust removed

Quantity: 10 KG

Price: Negotiable

Location: Central Victoria

Contact: Darren Menzies on 0401136514

ONLINE PRESENTATION on Essential Oils to Aid Personal Health by Ron Guba

A NIGHT WITH RON GUBA (NOW CHANGED TO ZOOM)

WEDNESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER at 7:15pm (AEST)

"Hi everyone,

In consultation with Ron we have now decided to do his presentation via zoom to allow those living further away to join in.

So it will now NOT be held at Koonung Cottage and only via zoom.

Date: Wednesday 27th September at 7:15 pm (AEST)

The presentation will go for approximately 1 ½ hours with question and answer time at the end of the presentation and via chat.

We will send out a list of the Australian oils Ron will present so that you can have them on hand.

We hope to see you on the night and please let us know if you are now attending so that we can look out for you.

We will send out the zoom link to those who are attending the day before.

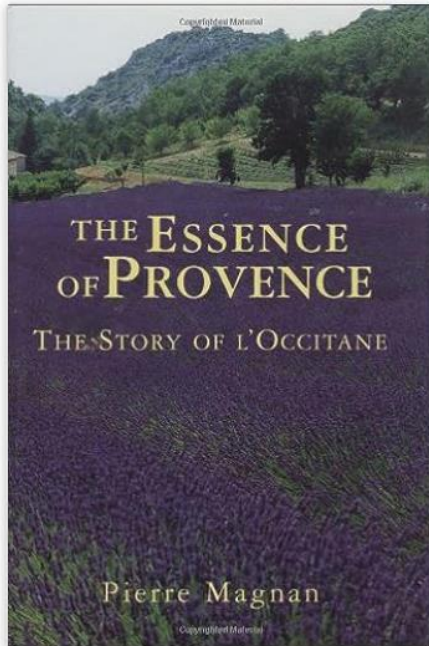
Yours Aromatically,

Julie & Mathlini-Rosze"

Contact jularoma@bigpond.net.au
for more information and
registration.



Book Recommendation



The Essence of Provence, The Story of L'Occitane by Pierre Magnan.

Traces the events and inspirations in the childhood life of Olivier Baussan, the founder of the renowned French fragrance company, discussing his early work in an abandoned still with five employees to his rise to the head of a successful international business.

Click [here](#) for more information.

“Not really about lavender as I thought it would be, but nonetheless are very interesting book about Olivier Baussan the founder of the well-known French natural skincare company L'Occitane.

Many TALGA members would share his enthusiasm.”

– by Veronica Curness (TALGA member).



What have you been reading? Have you come across a good lavender related book that you could share with the community? Send the book details (book name and author) to news@talga.com.au and tell us briefly why you liked it. We'd love to share your insights!

National Geographic: Provence's iconic lavender fields may soon look very different

BY CHRISSIE MCCLATCHIE | PUBLISHED JUNE 20, 2023

“The postcard image that lights up our social media feeds each summer must change to survive the dual threat of disease and climate change.

Every summer, millions of travelers venture to the sun-drenched French region of Provence. One of its biggest draws? Symmetrical fields of sweet-scented, violet-hued lavender. Images of them light up social media feeds come late June to July. But if this aromatic plant—and everything it represents in French culture—is to thrive in the future, this postcard backdrop needs to change.

Due to high temperatures, low rains, and pest infestations, the \$55 million lavender industry is nearing a breaking point. To protect it and its role in French culture, local growers, scientists, and business owners have come together to create the Fonds de Dotation Sauvegarde du Patrimoine Lavandes en Provence (Fonds SPLP), an endowment that is funding pollinator protection, planting pest-resistant hybrids, and adding irrigation systems.

For visitors, the most tangible change will be how the lavender fields look. The future is less manicured, with other blooming flora growing alongside the violet plants. This will help nurse the soil back to health, providing nourishment to the lavender plants and increasing its carbon store.” Read the full article [here](#).

USLGA: United States Lavender Conference 2023

Interested in more high-quality education? You asked and we listened! The USLGA is now offering individual conference recordings! Each recording is available for US\$39/USLGA members and US\$49/non-members.

Here are the second series of recordings being offered. Click each title to read about the session.



Lavender Distillation - Taking It To The Next Level

SPEAKER: DR. MICHAEL LEMMERS

Equipment Panel & Demo

SPEAKERS: RICARDO BESEL (BESEL LAVENDER PROCESSOR), JASON PELAK (A.T. FERRELL COMPANY), BILL JABS (STARR HARVESTING)

Lavender Teas: Blending, Packaging, and Labeling Ideas

SPEAKER: ANGELA MCDONALD

Scents & Sensibility--Pacific Northwest and Other Recent Lavender Cultivars, Plus Trends in the Lavender Trade

GENERAL SESSION SPEAKERS CHRISTINE MULDER & ANDREW VAN HEVELINGEN

AgriFutures - Evoke

"Are you: a primary producer looking to push your productivity to the edge? An innovator designing cutting edge technology?

An investor looking for a competitive edge through partnerships with the most exciting startups in the region? Looking for knowledge and solutions as the world teeters on the edge of ecological, environmental and economic uncertainty?

Join us at evokeAG. 2024 on 20-21 February 2024 in Perth as we explore our exceptional edge." Click [here](#) to read more.



Help strengthen soil knowledge and capability

Tell us about soil extension/advisory needs in your area by completing the [National Soil Survey](#).

We all understand that healthy soils are fundamentally linked to strong regional communities through their connections to agriculture and the environment.

We have the opportunity to improve soil health, by strengthening soil knowledge and capability. This is one of the main goals of the National Soil Strategy.

If you are a landholder, land manager or service provider, please take the survey to help identify current gaps in soil: knowledge, management, adoption, and extension practices.

It should take around 20 minutes to complete. The anonymous results from the survey will be provided to the Australian Government and will help inform the design and delivery of targeted soil interventions to address priorities under the National Soil Strategy.

Click [here](#) to read more.

For further information, contact the SQNNSW Innovation Hub's Regional Soil Coordinator Cameron Leckie by emailing Cameron.leckie@usq.edu.au or phoning 0413 226 546.

Aromatica Australia

“Did you know that Aromatica Australia is due to kick off in approximately two months? Have you checked out the speakers and their topics yet? You can check them out by [clicking here](#). Even better, check out their interviews recorded earlier this year on our [blog](#). We have managed to secure some very exciting speakers from around the World. Each speaker brings to the conference a wealth of knowledge and insights into the industry where they are based. For only \$437, you have a long weekend immersed in aromatherapy, and you save on flights and accommodation! For less than \$25 per hour you receive a weekend packed full of exciting and world renowned speakers (19 hours)!



Imagine being able to keep up to date with aromatherapy worldwide. Do you know how it's being applied in countries like France, The Netherlands, Mexico, Crete and many more?

Have you ever wanted to listen to Penny Price, Rhiannon Lewis and Hana Tisserand at the same conference? Obviously we have many more speakers, some well-known to you and others introducing new concepts too. Discover our local producers and suppliers when you take a walk around the factories or farms of our most famous suppliers of essential oils!

You also can hear about the latest in research happening in Australia too. [Click here](#) to register now and take advantage of this amazing offer! Make the most of it today and get your registration secured now! We are positive you will have an incredible experience in November (and let's face it, who doesn't enjoy the build up to an event!), so keep checking your emails! Check the [website](#) to view the speakers (both their bios and their topics), the programme, our wonderful and amazing sponsors (who help make this whole event happen) and our behind the scenes team. It takes a team to create an event.

Remember to follow us on social media, either Facebook ([Aromatherapy Today International Journal](#) and [Aromatica Australia](#)) or Instagram ([Aromatherapy Today](#)), and you will also notice a News tab on the [website](#). Check us out, follow us and even let us know your thoughts.”

**Vasili
Kanidiadis**

Guest Speaker



**Sophie
Thomson**

MC & Guest
Speaker



Yarra Valley Spring
Plant Fair
& Garden Expo

November 11 & 12

125 Quayle Road, Wandin

www.yarravalleyplantfair.com.au

Discounted Tickets Online



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f **@yvplantfair**