

TALGA NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023



A SHORT NOTE - TALGA PRESIDENT

At our conference in May, I was quietly pleased with myself when I easily recognised and greeted many of the delegates by name and reconnected with people I had met at previous events. It is so satisfying that over the few days of the conference, brief acquaintances evolved into connected colleagues and friends.

One of the many benefits of **TALGA membership** is networking with our collective 'brains trust' lavender community. TALGA gives us opportunities to connect with like-minded industry professionals and it feels really good to know my business is part of our expanding, vibrant, exciting industry. I recently logged into one of the USGLA's Front Porch webinar events and it confirmed to me that online communication like this is an essential element of the delivery of news and information. Ensuring all members, no matter where you are located, can get involved in Association events, at low cost and little time involved. TALGA committee will be investigating how to develop this form of communication in the coming months.

As our TALGA membership yearly renewal ticks over in July, I encourage you to reflect on how your ongoing monetary support helps us provide a range of educational and information services and enables us to represent your interests in the issues that are shaping our industry. We value your contribution highly and sincerely hope you will continue the relationship by renewing soon!

As always if you have any questions or issues to raise with me, please email president@talga.com.au or direct message me via the TALGA Facebook page or call me to chat on 0409 717 899. Warm regards, **Louise Bickerton - TALGA President**

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Send your farm updates
to **TALGA News Editor,**

Karen:

news@talga.com.au

NEWS FROM TALGA MEMBER FARMS

➤ Wine Country Lavender | Hunter Valley, NSW (Karen)

After all the rain we had over the past year, we are now experiencing a dry weather patch and only getting a few millilitres of rain from time to time.

The lavender is currently surrounded by very dry grass, after it seems to have all shrivelled in the frost a week ago. Hopefully, the lavender is just fine! We actually noticed some new green shoots after having some warm sunny days, but not much else seems to be changing much over these cooler days.

We are still doing a lot of weeding by hand around the plants. Weeds have slowed down a bit during this cold weather, however, we are still seeing some pop up very close to the lavender, which makes it very time-consuming. We are trying steam weeding where we can, and not using any chemicals. We hope to be able to provide an update on that soon.

We are still offering agri-tourism, launched some products earlier in the year, and have more in the pipeline, so we definitely have a lot to keep us busy at the moment!



➤ Warratina Lavender Farm | VIC (Annemarie)

Despite wind, rain & low temperatures there are still jobs to be done before we spring into Spring.

Plantings, weed control with preemergence, cutting back all feature gardens, shaping & pruning feature trees, pruning roses, repotting large display pots are some of the farm jobs. Don't forget cleaning out the filing cabinet, updating the chemical cupboard manifest, cleaning up the gardening shed & finally having a holiday.

Our newest news is the new tenant in our cafe commencing soon in August. Watch this space. It is to be called "Tawny Frogmouth Cafe."

Don't forget the coming exhibition "Wood Working Wonders" commencing 9th September.

Greetings for a wonderful Winter from Warratina.

➤ **Lavandula Swiss Italian Farm | VIC (Carol)**

Winter is definitely upon us at Lavandula Swiss Italian Lavender Farm.

The lavender has been trimmed back for it's chilly slumber awaiting the warmer days of spring to push out new growth. Fabrizio and Enrico are busy in the garden, pruning and tidying the landscape.

Sam & Lily are keeping warm by packing online orders and continuing to hand-make and pour all of our Aromatherapy products for the shop.

Ms Bella the barn cat is very, very overwhelmed with all the cat naps she must schedule in, location is often a difficult decision to make...

Often conflicted between front of the fireplace or stretched out under a sunny window watching the guinea fowl.



2023 TALGA JOURNAL

The 2023 TALGA Journal is currently in development and will be sent to all TALGA members soon! We are excited to include conference updates as well as farm updates from all over Australia!

- If you haven't yet sent your farm reports and photos please send them through!
- If you have taken photos at the 2023 TALGA conference, we would also love to share them in the upcoming journal!
- If you would like to advertise in the 2023 TALGA Journal contact us ASAP.

Send your photos, updates, and queries (Journal related) to: news@talga.com.au (by 12th July 2023)

2023-2024 TALGA MEMBERSHIP

TALGA Membership fees are due and an email with all the details has been sent to all current members.

Founded in 1995, TALGA is committed to the success of the Australian lavender industry and proudly supports lavender growers in Australia.

Becoming a TALGA member gives you access to a range of beneficial networks and shared knowledge through conferences, field days, monthly e-news and an annual Lavender Journal. Membership also gives you access to research data and information, regularly updated supplier directory, member-only TALGA website section, and association voting rights. Read more [here](#).

We hope that you will all continue to be part of our growing community.

ALL ABOUT THE DIRT – LAVENDER ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO (LAC)

Using Fertilizers for Optimum Lavender Growth - <https://coloradolavender.org/>
By: Kristi L. Stites, Balcony Botanicals

Whether to fertilize lavender or not has been a question that most lavender growers have considered at one point or another. I have personally read and heard information ranging from you don't need to fertilize here to fertilizer is harmful to lavender to just throw some bone meal on it. I recently attended the USLGA Conference in Portland where I had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Clive Larkman speak specifically on using fertilizers on lavender. Dr. Larkman is well-known in the lavender community in Australia and is a nurseryman and evolutionary botanist. He and his wife's nursery is home to the Australian National Lavender Collection.

There are around 16 nutrients needed for healthy plant growth found in the air and soil. Plants need Oxygen, Hydrogen and Carbon, that are found in the air. The three main nutrients needed for plant growth coming from the soil are Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium (NPK). This is what consumers see listed on most fertilizers and indicates how the fertilizer will affect plant growth. Nitrogen is needed for leaf and shoot growth, Phosphorus for general root growth and Potassium for flower and fruit growth. In addition to these macronutrients, plants also require some "middle

range nutrients" such as Calcium, Magnesium and Sulphur. And, finally, there's a group of micronutrients or "trace elements" of which plants only need small quantities.

Dr. Larkman focused on three main nutrients needed for lavender - Calcium, Nitrogen and Potassium. The most important was Calcium. He stated very forcefully, "You can't over Calcium lavender". Dr. Larkman has found that while it is important for all plants, the requirement for lavender is several times more than the average plant. This presents a bit of a dilemma when we talk about applying this information to Colorado. In general, Colorado soil has a high calcium carbonate content (aka "free lime"), so it brings up the question - are we taking out enough Calcium when we harvest that we would need to put more back in? He did not recommend specific levels for lavender, so it's hard to say. If we were to try it, he recommends side-dressing with Gypsum granules in the Spring and Winter.

The second was Nitrogen. Dr. Larkman said throughout his presentations "A plant has one job, to make baby plants." And to paraphrase him further - if a plant is happy and loaded up with Nitrogen in the Spring, it will not produce as many flowers or fruit. If it is a little stressed with low Nitrogen, it thinks it's going to die and puts out more flowers or fruit. He believes adding Nitrogen after harvest and the Fall hard-prune will help with the plant health going into the Winter, but adding a more broad-spectrum fertilizer with too much Nitrogen in the Spring may inhibit flower production.



Potassium was the third and final nutrient he discussed for lavender which helps with fruit and flower production. Dr. Larkman recommends adding Potassium in the Spring when the plants are slightly stressed to help increase the flower production. So, what about Phosphorus, one of the big three in NPK? Dr. Larkman believes that lavender evolved out of conditions very low in Phosphorus, so its need for Phosphorus is minimal. He has an unproven theory that lavender could be sensitive to Phosphorus, but his research on this was put on hold due to Covid. At this point, he does not recommend supplementing it.

Dr. Larkman had one more recommendation for optimum lavender growth and that was the addition of Kelp. Kelp he calls a "fantastic vitamin" and it is helpful when a plant is stressed or a grower anticipates the plants will be stressed. He adds it about three to four times a year especially before the dry season, before the first frost and upon planting new plants. He uses this on all of his plants, not just lavender. There are both powdered and liquid versions and can be added to a fertigation system pretty easily. I am grateful to LAC for the USLGA Conference scholarship and was in awe at the vast knowledge Dr. Larkman has on lavender. While his experience comes from a different climate and soil-make up from Colorado and we may question his recommendations because of that, I believe he provided a good place to start a conversation about fertilizing lavender and things to experiment as growers.

WOMEN AND LEADERSHIP AUSTRALIA

Women & Leadership Australia is dedicated to supporting women leaders to achieve their leadership potential, and are pleased to be able to offer scholarships of up to \$7,000 for women working in selected industries. [More information here.](#)

This opportunity is open to women across Australia and everyone is encouraged to make this information available via their usual channels. Your support will enable women leaders to benefit from these opportunities. **The nomination process can be completed in minutes via the link below.**

- Women outside of formal leadership positions can apply for a partial scholarship of \$1,000 for the Impact Program
- Early career managers can apply for a partial scholarship of \$1,000 towards the Leading Edge Program
- Mid-level managers can apply for a partial scholarship of \$3,000 towards the Executive Ready Program
- **Senior and executive leaders can apply for a partial scholarship of \$7,000 towards the Advanced Leadership Program (the standard scholarship rate is \$5,000)**

[Lodge an expression of interest here.](#)

Please feel free to share this information with your colleagues to encourage more women to pursue their leadership potential.



Women & Leadership Australia are also thrilled to reveal the first speakers for the [2023 First Nations Women's Leadership Symposium](#), to be held on Thursday 3 August in Naarm/Melbourne.

Developed in collaboration between Women & Leadership Australia and [Women's Business](#), this one-day event will celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women leading at all levels across our organisations and communities.

Speakers include:

- Sasha Kutabah Sarago - Speaker; Writer; Filmmaker
- Adjunct Professor Sue-Anne Hunter - Deputy Chair Commissioner, Yoorrook Justice Commission
- Adjunct Professor Muriel Bamblett AO - Chief Executive Officer, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA)
- Michelle Deshong - Chief Executive Officer, Supply Nation; Lead Facilitator Straight Talk, Oxfam
- Cr Ashleigh Vandenberg - Councillor, City of Melton
- Carly Jia - Principal Policy Analyst, Australian Education Research Organisation
- Nornie Bero - Founder & Chef, Mabu Mabu
- Carol Vale - Chief Executive Officer, Murawin
- Sophia Pearce BA MA - Owner & Principal Consultant, Kulpa Mardita

Book early to save \$600 with our super saver discount.

You'll hear inspiring keynote addresses from high-profile First Nations women, as they share their stories and reflect on First Nations leadership ahead of the referendum to enshrine the Voice in the constitution later this year. A panel discussion inspired by the 2023 NAIDOC Week theme **For Our Elders** will explore the contributions First Nations Elders have made – and continue to make – as cultural knowledge holders, pioneers, advocates, survivors, leaders, and more. We warmly invite First Nations women to join us for this special event. [Find out more and book online here.](#)

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW



"We are thrilled to announce the world-renowned [Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show](#), presented by Scotts Osmocote, will return in 2024 to the heritage listed Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building! The dates are set for Wednesday 20th March through to Sunday 24th March 2024.

Tickets will go on sale at the end of October. Stay signed up to our newsletter to be the first to know when tickets are on sale!

Mark your calendars and we look forward to seeing you next year!"

INCREASING THE VALUE OF AUSTRALIAN HONEY AS A HEALTH FOOD - AgriFutures

Honey has a long history of use as a therapeutic, including as a tonic or supplement to promote good digestive health. The many therapeutic properties of honey are now scientifically well-established, including its antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, wound healing and antioxidant activity. Certain honeys are especially 'bioactive', and this has predominantly been linked to their floral source.

Australian commercial beekeepers produce more than 30,000 tonnes of honey each year from a variety of floral resources across Australia. Honey production takes place in most states and territories, with most production in the eastern states. Currently, about 70–80% of commercial honey produced in Australia is from eucalypt species, and this work aims to add value to the dominant floral varieties of honey by investigating their prebiotic potential.

The aim of this project was to provide evidence for the value of Australian honey as a prebiotic food that promotes digestive health. The anticipated outcomes are increased value, use and acceptance of our honey as a health product. This project undertook analysis of honey samples for antibacterial and inhibitory effects on gut bacteria, and then drilled down to understand the composition and levels of bioactive compounds. Impacts of honey samples on common gut pathogens sourced from healthy human donor stool samples and infection models were analysed.

This report shows that common Australian honeys – those collected and processed using standard beekeeping techniques – have prebiotic capacity and could be suitable to use to enhance gut health. Further research is required to understand the prebiotic activity of honey, including pre-clinical animal and human studies that investigate the effect of daily consumption on the gut microbiome. However, this project demonstrates there is scope to consider honey as a prebiotic. Further investigation is warranted to allow labelling of honey as an enhancer of gut health.

Download the report [here](#).



HANDS-ON DISTILLATION EXPERIENCE – The Alembics Lab

New in-person workshops for NZ and Australia. Get hands-on distillation experience in some stunning locations.

"Our in-person workshops are for anyone who wants to gain hands-on experience with distillation and extraction, while working with what is locally available and in season in that unique location. So each workshop will have its own distinct experience and flavour. Immerse yourself in the experience—come learn, forage, feast and enjoy the natural surrounds with us at some of the most beautiful locations around NZ and Australia. Just click on the headings below to find out more."

- Thames Regional Workshop

15–16 July 2023 at the Kauaeranga Hall, 437 Kauaeranga Valley Road, Thames, New Zealand.

- The Alembics Lab at Glenmore House

23–24 September 2023 at Glenmore House NSW, Australia.

- Masterclass at Phytofarm

14–15 October 2023 at Phytofarm Herbal Learning Centre in the Banks Peninsula, New Zealand.

- Rewild with The Alembics Lab

12–14 April 2024 at River Ridge Retreat in The Catlins, South Otago, New Zealand.

We've had great feedback from our recent workshops in Spokane, Washington and in the Blue Mountains in Australia. So why not come and learn with us the next time we're in your area—or suggest a location you would like us to visit?

And if you can't make it to any of our scheduled workshops, we'll keep you posted when we add new dates and locations—or you can check out our online courses. Click [here](#).

