



# TALGA NEWSLETTER

THE AUSTRALIAN LAVENDER GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

## A MESSAGE FROM THE TALGA COMMITTEE

### ➤ TALGA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Dear Members, we would like to send a huge thank you to all those who have renewed their membership at the beginning of July! Your continued support and involvement are invaluable to our association, and we look forward to another exciting and productive year with you all.

As members, you enjoy exclusive benefits such as access to specialised resources, networking opportunities, access to exclusive member-only webinars and information sessions, opportunities for discussions and asking questions, and discounts on our events.

For those who have not yet renewed, a reminder notice will be sent out at the end of this month. If you need more information or have not received a renewal invoice, please contact either Moira at [secretary@talga.com.au](mailto:secretary@talga.com.au) or Fiona at [admin@talga.com.au](mailto:admin@talga.com.au).

### ➤ JOIN THE TALGA COMMITTEE!

We are currently accepting Expressions of Interest to join the TALGA Committee. Your insights and experience are invaluable to our association's commitment to excellence in growing lavender in Australia.

As a Committee member, you will have the opportunity to collaborate on meaningful projects and help shape the future of our association. For more information, please send an email to Moira at [secretary@talga.com.au](mailto:secretary@talga.com.au).

Nomination forms will be shared in August. If you are interested in sending your EOI, kindly complete a nomination form and seek a Board Member to be your nominator.

Our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** for the TALGA Committee and all members will take place on **October 9**. Members will be welcome to join the meeting online or in person (location and meeting time to be confirmed).

JULY 2024  
In this issue

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- EOI to join the TALGA Committee
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Click [here to follow](#) the TALGA Facebook page.



Send E-news contributions to [news@talga.com.au](mailto:news@talga.com.au) by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month and share your farm updates!

Thank you! Karen,  
TALGA Editor

## ➤ YOU'RE INVITED! MEMBER-ONLY WEBINARS

We are excited to share the details of two upcoming webinars that are not to be missed!! More information on speakers to be shared via email shortly.

The first webinar, scheduled for **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July**, will focus on "**Website set up and management**," featuring expert speakers who will share the latest trends and tips.

- **Topic: Website set up and management**  
**Date:** Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024  
**Time:** 6:30pm-7:30pm (AEST)  
**Link** (click the following link): [Join the meeting now](#)  
Meeting ID: 421 353 922 860  
Passcode: hESGVf

The second webinar, on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August**, will delve into "**Social media**," offering valuable insights on how to effectively set up and use social media to share information about your farm.

- **Topic: Social media**  
**Date:** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
**Time:** 6:30pm-7:30pm (AEST)  
**Link** (click the following link): [Join the meeting now](#)  
Meeting ID: 427 092 143 157  
Passcode: 65vSkm

Both sessions promise to provide invaluable knowledge and practical tips, making them essential for anyone involved in the lavender industry.

## ➤ AREA LIASON REPRESENTATIVE (ARL) NOMINATIONS DUE

At this year's TALGA AGM (October) nominations for ALR's in all states become due for renomination.

If you currently hold the position for ALR in your state or if you would like to be ALR for your state please contact us for a nomination form.

ALRs keep in contact with members (via phone, email or personal catch ups) in their state and encourage them to participate and contribute to the TALGA Journal, enews and promote TALGA at every opportunity.

Your states ALR can help you out with all matters TALGA! Representing TALGA as an ALR is a great way to learn about other growing areas in your state, make new lavender friendships all whilst contributing to TALGA.

As members we encourage you to make use of the ALR in your state. The contributions and time of these individuals is greatly appreciated and we look forward to continuing this close contact.

**TO BECOME AN ALR FOR YOUR STATE OR TO RENOMINATE CONTACT KELLIE at the following email address: [levenklavender@bigpond.com](mailto:levenklavender@bigpond.com) to arrange a nomination form to be sent to you.**

## MEMBER FARM UPDATES

### Warratina Lavender Farm (VIC) | Annemarie Manders

Firstly a very big thank you to all TALGA members for their condolences, messages and flowers sent to me and our sons on Peter's passing. Peter thoroughly enjoyed his association with TALGA and although he was not so much the hands on farm worker, he was a great support and loved to be involved in his way with committee, governance and leadership in his earlier days. For me it is an adjustment to life without him.

Life on the farm is under control with weed spaying up to date, lavenders cut back, Gogo Go juice applied, and Bounce Back fertilizer also spread. This is a great time now to get the gardens cut back, roses pruned, filing cabinet cleaned out, price lists amended and all stationery attended to. The hard bit is getting out of bed when it is -2' outside.

Happy Winter & thank you all again for your kind thoughts.

### Holmwood Lavender (QLD) | Gary & Anne

Greetings from Holmwood Lavender. We have begun the Visitor season for 2024 with a visit from a group of seniors who are now regular visitors to the farm for morning tea and time at the lavender shop. We were recently given a marquee by our local State member for the Lockyer Valley region and it was put to good use that day as we set it up by the lavender shop.

We have just completed a comprehensive weeding of the lavender rows and replanting of some plants which we lost in the very hot summer weather.





## **Wine Country Lavender (NSW) | Karen McRae**

Is anyone else getting a lot of rain?! It has not stopped over here... everywhere is drenched, with puddles everywhere, and in need of some sun and warmth. This time last year the grass went all brown with frost and a long period of no rain. At the moment it's all lush green - so different from year to year! Although the fields do not really flood as we're on a hill, it does get tricky to get machinery around, as things get bogged easily (been there, done that!).

Some sections of our fields are looking ok and well trimmed and mulched. Another section needs weeding again, as they've been getting way too much to drink. It appears we are getting a break from the rain soon, and then we will probably start wanting it back as soon as it starts to warm up! ☺

## **McLaren Vale Lavender (SA) | Christine Hitchin**

Cuttings from McLaren Vale Lavender

Do you realise the winter solstice is now behind us? From now on daylight will become a teezy bit longer each day with the possibility of more sunlight to carry us through a chilly winter. Should you be working in the Davis research station in Antarctica you could take part in the Aussie tradition of swimming in water cut through a hole in the thick ice to celebrate the Solstice. That's if you're brave or stupid.

For a while there things were getting desperate down our way. No rain from December last year until the end of May depleted all the ancillary tanks, and just an inch or two in the house tank left before a sprinkle of rain arrived to wash the dust off the place. Now in late June we are finally getting some showers, just a few and very light at that, but enough to stave off a call to the local water carter.

Leaving these cares behind us, T and I headed off on a long-planned trip to Europe. You would think visiting France, Spain, Italy, Sicily and Greece we would have come across some lavender farms. We were certainly on the lookout for them, however, they remained elusive. In truth we didn't spend enough time to research and track them down beforehand, most being located in the countryside away from the tourist spots. We did manage a visit to Grasse, [billed as the City of flowers and perfumes] where we undertook a perfume making session. An enjoyable experience, although we were left slightly underwhelmed by the town itself. I guess when you conjure up images of a place you long to visit it may not always measure up.

Surprisingly, it was a visit to Ciutat Vella an ancient inner walled city in Barcelona, Spain, that threw up an unlikely lavender connection. And for me, a follower of historic lavender ladies, I can now add another name, Katherine of Aragon [1485-1536] the first wife of King Henry V111. Within the walled city, directly below the apartment said to be the childhood home of Katherine, was a rampart used as a little lavender shop. What an unlikely surprise to delve into this ancient stone cavity and talk lavender in sign language and smiles. The owner having a small lavender farm 40 kms out of Barcelona. I've learnt that Katherine herself was an exceptionally talented woman who grew lavender in her herbal garden and used lavender water and fresh flowers throughout her home to freshen her chambers and linen. Amongst other products, I bought some essential oil





[angustifolia] as a keepsake. It is the most exquisitely scented oil, somehow sweeter and deeper in fragrance to my own. A little anecdote...

*"Katherine was a talented embroiderer and continued to make shirts for her husband during his divorce proceedings against her."* Now that's devotion for you.

Back home the rain has bought up the weeds and the rows of dentata have started to bloom to take us through to Spring.

Kind regards to everyone for a restful winter season. Christine

## **Southern New South Wales Report – by Wendy Fuller (ALR – South NSW)**

### **THE MONARO COUNTRY LAVENDER COOP.**

This group is going from strength to strength. The Field Day held at Bombala earlier this year sparked much interest and local workshops have been well attended. The energetic activities and exposure resulted in several new group members. Their ideas about the end uses of lavender production are varied and will no doubt be complementary to the group as a whole.

Eric and Sherida Edgecombe from "Semperfields" at Bibbenluke, have about 2500 plants now in their patch. (Grosso, Bee and Egerton Blue) and hope to plant 500 more in Spring. They are excited about their early distillations and with one large and one small still will keenly pursue this craft. Tourist options are being explored and they are planning to attend the New Zealand Conference.

### **ORKNEY PARK | Michael & Suzanne Hill**

Of the original 3000 Grosso planted in late 2022, about half have survived drought and weeds. Michael observed that, of the survivors, some bushes were growing strongly while many others were struggling. Soil testing revealed that nutrition was the main factor. Large quantities of fertiliser etc would be needed to correct the soil balance: not on Michael's agenda. Researching other plant possibilities for his sandy soil, Michael is trialling Proteas and the "Pink Ice" variety is doing very well. So: Watch this space.....maybe proteas with a touch of lavender!

### **near Braidwood | Pascal Jallier**

Too much rain! A Rain Bomb as Pascal put it, in mid June, 134 mls in 20 hours! Swiftly running water caused erosion which seriously compromised some of the irrigation equipment.

However, their 11,000 plants (all Angustifolias: Bee, Pacific Blue and Maillet) mostly survived. Pascal is very pleased with both the oil and hydrosol from their distillations.

### **Blue Mountains Lavender Farm | Louise & Bruce**

Winter has been a challenging time for Louise and Bruce Bickerton. Louise fell and severely damaged her femur and knee. Happily, she is making a steady recovery.

Work on the lavender scene has been slower, but Bruce has learned a few new recipes and he continues with his interest in distillation.

They planned to landscape the front of the property and this is underway. Riverina Allan will be intensively planted to make an eye catching panorama for visitors to wander through and enjoy photo opportunities.

Our thoughts are with you Louise, for a total recovery.

### **THE BIRRAMIL ESTATE (a bit south of Mudgee) | Nicholas Esdaile Watts & Jonathon Strauss**

Nick and Jonathon enjoyed the Field Day in Victoria and returned home with 2000 plants covering 20 varieties. Their existing major planting of Grosso will now have some different friends.

The local wombats and kangaroos have no respect for any of the plantings. A definite challenge! Some successful propagation has been done from the original Grosso.

Some stems missed during the mechanical harvest in summer were snipped off, put in water, sat on a sunny windowsill and developed little roots within a couple of weeks. They are now being tenderly cared for in the poly tunnel.

A wombat (we'll call him "Bulldozer") recently knocked over a beehive near the house. Nick and Jonathon were just about to go to work, but then had to spend some frantic time getting bees back home and settled. Never a dull moment!

### **GEMINI PARK | Michelle Riordan**

### **ZEPHYR FARM | Ros Christie**

### **THE LAVENDER STATION | Ann McDonald**

These three businesses now exist without any lavender being grown. The owners source their primary products from other growers as well as some stocks that they have already stored. Sales are both on line and at some local markets.

These folk demonstrate that they can contribute positively to the lavender fraternity without actually growing the main product. Well done! – by Wendy Fuller (ALR – South NSW).



## PINELEA LAVENDER | Wendy Fuller

A beautiful and generous crop was harvested from my 400 plants in 23/24. Just a joy!

Rain has been adequate and weeds have been more than adequate.

The big crop means that I haven't had time to process the bunches at Kentucky, so I do some of that job here in Wollongong. The backyard smells wonderful, and bees visit but are disappointed.

Pruning was completed in May and next will be fertiliser in Spring. Happy growing, making and selling, everyone! Wendy Fuller ALR Southern N.S.W.



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## WOMEN & LEADERSHIP AUSTRALIA

Read on for a special offers which TALGA members are eligible for, including the latest round of scholarships for women in the Horticulture Sector.

Through work with key associations and organisations like TALGA, Women & Leadership Australia's objective is to raise awareness and take action to achieve gender equity. Support helps create development opportunities and make scholarships and special offers available for the women.

### WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS

Available Now: **Partial scholarships for women in the Horticulture Sector ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per person**, for one of four leadership and workplace skill development programs.

These scholarships are aimed at encouraging more women to increase their impact at work, progress their career, and step into leadership roles. Advance your career with a partial scholarship of \$1,000-\$5,000 from Women & Leadership Australia for one of four leadership and workplace skill development courses for women at all levels in horticulture.

Registrations of interest close on **Friday 6 September 2024**. Via the WLA website:  
<https://www.wla.edu.au/industry/horticulture/>

**EVENT SPECIAL RATE:** The final two Women's Leadership Symposiums of the year is coming up (in Brisbane, and Melbourne). Special Discounted Ticket: Use the discount code below to secure your ticket for \$795+GST (standard ticket is \$1,495+GST).

- 19 July-Brisbane-BRISVIP24
- 9 August-Melbourne-MELVIP24

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## NEW ZEALAND LAVENDER GROWERS ASSOCIATION

The New Zealand Lavender Growers Association invite you to register for the

- **NZLGA Conference 2024: 'The Transformation Conference - take your business to the next level'**  
**Date: Friday 30th August to Sunday 1st September 2024**  
**Location:** Distinction Hotel, 14 Cathedral Square, Christchurch NZ

What is Transformation?

To some it may be renewal, a change in direction, to others it may be a step up or the next step in their journey. Maybe we've been incubating thoughts, like a pupa in its cocoon. During this time, we may have been thinking about new ideas, questions, and plans ready to burst forth. If you want to refresh yourself and transform your business, this conference is for you.

**Keynote Speaker - Malcolm Woolmore** of Kiwiflora International Ltd Our main speaker is a well-known and well-respected figure in both the New Zealand and international ornamental horticulture scene. Kiwiflora International represents NZ plant breeders both locally and globally also functioning as an importer of new plant varieties into NZ through connections with overseas agents and plant breeders. Malcolm will speak on marketing in general and developing new plant varieties.

**International Speaker - Ellen Reynolds** of Beagle Ridge Herb Farm and Environmental Education Centre Beagle Ridge is a Lavender farm and Education Centre with a focus on pollinators and butterflies. It has become the go-to agri-tourism destination on the East Coast of the USA with visitors from 42 countries discovering the farm, which is hidden in a valley in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

TALGA Full Member Conference Ticket Price: \$180

Any questions you may have regarding the conference registration please email [nzlg-treasurer@lavender.org.nz](mailto:nzlg-treasurer@lavender.org.nz).



## AGRIFUTURES WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS

On behalf of AgriFutures we invite you to attend the agribusiness training sessions for Emerging Industry producers. Sessions will be delivered throughout 2024 and are **free** for Emerging Industry producers.

Expert agribusiness trainers have developed a range of delivery methods and topic areas, allowing you to tailor learning to your needs and fit learning around the seasonal demands of your business.

The options include:

- **Face to face workshops** that introduce participants to the Business Model Canvas process for planning (**REGISTER HERE**). Participants will leave at the end of the day with a useable plan for their business. Resources will be made available on the AgriFutures website following these workshops. Workshops will depend on at least 12 sign ups and be delivered in:
  - Launceston TAS
    - Thursday, 22 August 2024
  - Townsville QLD
    - Tuesday, 17 September 2024
  - Two half-days online
    - TBC late September 2024
- **Expert webinar sessions (REGISTER HERE):**
  - Product development, scaling and being market ready
    - Tuesday, 23 July 2024
  - Crunch the numbers: Agribusiness Cashflow, Ratios and Profitability
    - Tuesday, 27 August 2024

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## WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

- Do you have any **feedback** or **suggestions** on TALGA future events?
- Do you have a nice **lavender recipe** to share?
- Have you **read** anything of interest lately? Send us your review and recommendations!
- Do you have any surplus items to **sell**, and to advertise in upcoming newsletter?
- What's been happening on your farm? Would you like to share your **farm updates**?
- Would you like to **connect** with lavender farmers in your state?

Get in touch via email and we'll share your stories, updates and profiles! Email Karen: [news@talga.com.au](mailto:news@talga.com.au). To be included in the monthly newsletter, kindly get in touch by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. We look forward to hearing from you!

### SHARE EVENTS AT YOUR FARM OR IN YOUR STATE!

Do you have any events taking place at your farm that you'd like to share with other farmers? Any events of interest taking place in your state? Let us know! Send an email to [news@talga.com.au](mailto:news@talga.com.au) and tag TALGA on Facebook!