



# TALGA NEWSLETTER

THE AUSTRALIAN LAVENDER GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

## GROW, HARVEST, DISTILL – REPEAT!

### TALGA President's Message

Another year has flown by and once again the early spring heat and dry has brought on flowering for most of our cultivars here in the Blue Mountains. We will watch our lavender closely to monitor signs of ripeness for harvest and it looks like we will be distilling before and during the Christmas/ New Year period (cue Ode to Joy!).

Keep in mind that TALGA is continually attempting to collect harvest data from our members and we would be delighted if you send us any data that you record especially details of your cultivars and the weight of flowers harvested, what they are used for (dried, oil etc), and if you distill, what your yield is and what method of distillation you are using.

This information is intended to be collated and input into a spreadsheet with more specific statistics on each lavender cultivar and made available to our members. It is a work in progress each year please send your information to Fiona Glover or myself anytime.



NOVEMBER 2024  
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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!  
TALGA Editor | Karen

In October, I was sad but not surprised to receive a call from the owners of **Bridestowe Lavender Estate** (photos on pg 1 and below), Robert and Jennifer Ravens, regarding the sale by expression of interest of their iconic lavender farm in Nabowla Tasmania. After many years of successful business operations they have decided to retire and their prospectus (attached to this ENews FYI) showcases their achievements in restoring the rundown property, which they bought in 2006, and setting a benchmark in excellence for quality lavender essential oil and agri-tourism experience.



Robert and Jennifer are long-standing members of TALGA and we congratulate them for putting Tasmanian lavender on the map for many international and Aussie visitors with their jaw-dropping, stunning lavender rows and clever marketing! On behalf of the Association I would like to wish them all the best for a successful sale and transition to new future endeavours and happy adventures!

We have a lot to look forward to in **2025**, TALGA committee will be working on the design and development of a fresh **website** which we hope will serve our members with better access to educational resources and continue to inform the public of who we are and attract greater interest in our Aussie lavender.

We will continue to conduct more **webinars** on topics that help our members, of course, please feel free to make suggestions directly to me via email [president@talga.com.au](mailto:president@talga.com.au). We will work towards scheduling the first one for February.

Please also keep in your diaries the dates for our **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary TALGA Conference 2025** to be held in **Creswick and Maldon, VIC on 15-17 October 2025**. More details of speakers and workshops will be released early next year and registrations will open by April. The theme is a relevant '**Celebrate the Past, Embrace the Future**', TALGA has benefited from many enthusiastic and knowledgeable members in the past and we continue to develop the talent in our members for the future of the Australian Lavender Industry.

Finally, I want to welcome all the new members who have joined in the last few months, I hope you have enjoyed the access to our resources so far and I look forward to meeting or speaking with many of you in 2025. This is the last ENews for 2024, the Committee take a break during the harvest season so we will be back in February 2025.

All the best for a peaceful and safe summer, cheerio until next year.

**Louise Bickerton** | President - TALGA | M: 0409 717 899

# SAVE THE DATE! TALGA 30<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE DATE AND VENUE ANNOUNCED!

**DATE: 15th – 18th October 2025**

**VENUE: RACV Goldfields Resort, Creswick**

## Conference Schedule

- Wednesday, Oct 15: AGM (3pm); Welcome Reception (5pm –6.30pm)
- Thursday, Oct 16: Conference Sessions (9 am –4.30 pm) followed by a Gala Dinner & Oil Awards (7 pm -10 pm)
- Friday, Oct 17: Farm Visit to Henle Gardens, Maldon VIC
- Saturday, Oct 18: Optional Event (Details TBA)

## Conference Highlights

- Celebrate the Past: Panel discussion with past members on building TALGA, overcoming challenges, and key achievements.
- Embrace the Future: Keynote on "Lavender Farming in a Changing Climate" (tbc); Breakout sessions
- New Features: Photographic display of members' lavender enterprises; Sponsored Sustainability Award

**Farm Visit:** Henle Gardens Join us for a delightful excursion to Henle Gardens in Maldon: Scenic 40-minute coach ride from RACV Creswick to historic Maldon

- Guided tour by owners Josh and Ann Ruff
- Enjoy a picnic lunch featuring local producers
- <https://www.facebook.com/henle.gardens>

## Venue: RACV Goldfields Resort, Creswick

- Located near Ballarat, accessible by train and airport bus.
- Amenities include:
- Comfortable accommodations with views
- State-of-the-art conference facilities
- 18-hole golf course
- Swimming pool and spa



Early bird registration: By 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

(Keep an eye on your monthly enews for more details coming soon!)



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

We received a membership renewal payment on September 11, 2024, for a Full Member + Affiliate, listed as coming from "Craftsman Homes" on our bank statement. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to identify the member associated with this business.

If you recognise this business or believe this might be linked to your membership, please get in touch with us at [admin@talga.com.au](mailto:admin@talga.com.au). We appreciate your help in resolving this so we can ensure all memberships are up to date.

Thank you!

TALGA COMMITTEE

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## TALGA MEMBER FARMS UPDATE

### Henle Gardens | Josh Ruff | VIC

Henle Gardens has been ramping up with activity over the past couple of months as we were preparing the property to open our gates for the first time to the public. The past 9 days has been a huge milestone for Henle Gardens as we were selected as one of 23 gardens in the Castlemaine & District Festival of Gardens.

Opening a garden to the public has been a dream of mine and it was amazing to be able to experience people from all over Victoria visit the





garden. We ended up having roughly 700 people visit during the Festival of Gardens and we are forever grateful to our family and friends who have all helped out in making this such a successful experience.

Opening our gardens up to the public provided a valuable opportunity to share our journey and show the various spaces that we have created here. We had many conversations talking about all things gardening but in particular explaining why we chose lavender, how we find lavender grows in the area and what we have done to prepare our soils to get the best growth. We also displayed our still and explained the distilling process. It felt incredibly rewarding to be provided the opportunity to share our knowledge and experiences in this way.

We have a busy month ahead with the flowering, cutting and distilling of our current plants. It will be the first time that we distill at our property so we are excited to give that a go. We have plans in the new year to participate in local markets which will be another new experience and we hope will continue to build our relationships with people in the community. We look forward to an exciting summer and year ahead.

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

We are certainly having an early harvest this year as our lavender has started flowering a lot earlier than usual. It has been interesting to see how our lavender reacts to changes in the weather – from lots of rain and slow growth, to really warm days (still somewhat wet) and early flowering. I don't think we have been able to really nut down a specific yearly pattern as each year we have experienced drastically different weather.

We have been steam weeding to keep the weeds under control, and have also weeded extensively around the plants (yes by hand!). We have also been mulching along the rows – though this is great to keep on improving our terrible (heavy clay-based) soil, it has brought in a lot of weeds on our fields (so lots of pros and cons there). We are looking to this season's harvest and wish everyone great success – looking forward to seeing everyone's beautiful photos in the new year!





Things have been progressing wonderfully for us here at **Back Paddock Botanical**.

We've just finished a first trim of some new Grosso which was planted back in April this year and they are loving life in QLD.

This month also saw the arrival of our long awaited Lavender Harvester!

We chose one from Bizon in Bulgaria and after a few little test runs we think it will work very well for us and is also proving to be quite the conversation piece with visitors and campers.

This will be our first year with a proper harvest and we are excited to begin our distilling journey and hope everyone has a fantastic growing season!







## Glenvalley Lavender | Cate & Neil Harper | VIC

On the 9th of November we had such a fantastic day once again we attended the International Rose Garden Festival in Morwell. This event is run by the Latrobe City Council and we have been invited to attend with our stall for the last 3 years.

It was such a fantastic day, the weather was just perfect lovely and warm lots of people about. Costa Georgiadis from Garden Australia was in attendance again this year as a special guest.

The steam train comes up from Melbourne which was a 4 hour trip to Morwell on the train which arrived at 12pm it brought so many people up from Melbourne which was good to see.

Some came with their picnic baskets, a good idea saves money buying food from the vendors. A long day for them having to get back on the train at 4pm and another 4 hour trip home.

I had people come to me and tell of the things they bought off me last year and how wonderful they are, really good to hear positive feedback. I am glad this year they only decided to run the main program on the Saturday with the market stalls last year it was a full weekend. I am utterly exhausted.

This year they ran a Friday night AGL light show and kids disco at the gardens and then the main event Saturday with the Rose judging and other workshops along with the market stalls.

Our farm, flowers have woken up and my angustifolia Pacific Blue is in full bloom even my Intermedia has flower buds already normally they don't show anything until the beginning of December. Our allardii is looking magnificent and some are 2 metres high. Some of our plants we lost over winter it seems to be the norm, others they looked dead but are slowly coming back with small amounts of new growth.

Cate and Neil Harper

Glengarry in Central Gippsland





**Warratina Lavender Farm | AnneMarie | VIC**

An early harvest with our new worker!





## AGRIFUTURES: POLLINATOR WEEK

Small in size but extraordinarily influential, the European honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) benefits over one third of Australian agricultural production — while apiarists across the country produce almost 40,000 tonnes of honey per year

This **Australian Pollinator Week, from 9 to 17 November** we're celebrating their hard work by showcasing the value that honey bees bring to the agriculture sector as well as the research, development and extension (RD&E) projects that have contributed to this vibrant industry.

Facts about honey bee and pollination in Australia:

- Across Australia, there are almost 2,000 commercial beekeeping enterprises and more than 47,000 recreational beekeepers.
- NSW is home to 31 per cent of the nation's beekeepers and 46 per cent of its hives.
- In the past five years, commercial and recreational beekeepers collectively produced an average of 39,600 tonnes of honey per year.
- The value of crops grown in Australia in 2020-2021 that are at least partially reliant on honey bee pollination was \$12.9 billion.
- The value of honey, beeswax and additional hive products produced by commercial and recreational beekeepers, and income received from paid pollination services in 2023 was \$623.8 million.

Read more [here](#).



## US LAVENDER CONFERENCE 2025

Prepare to be inspired, engage with fellow lavender enthusiasts, and cultivate the aroma of success in your business at the **US Lavender Conference 2025!** USLC 2025 will be held at the beautiful **St. Charles Convention Center January 24-25<sup>th</sup>, in St. Charles, Missouri, USA.**

The convention center is directly connected to the award-winning Embassy Suites by Hilton St. Louis - St. Charles.

This perfect pairing offers ease of access with free parking and proximity to St. Louis Lambert International Airport (less than 10 minutes door to door) and a comfortable stay in a bustling environment.

The conference officially **starts with registration on the evening of January 23<sup>rd</sup>** with a meet and greet for new attendees and a cocktail reception with featured guests. Those wanting a more detailed and personal experience can register for optional January 23<sup>rd</sup> pre-conference seminars.

For more information click here: <https://www.uslavender.org/uslc-2025>



## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM TALGA!

From all of us at TALGA, we wish you and your loved ones a very **Merry Christmas** and a **wonderful New Year!**

- Louise, Fiona, Moira, Karen, Pascal, Matthew, Eric (TALGA Committee)

*\*Please note: The TALGA Committee will take a short break over the summer and the next e-news will be sent in February 2025!*

**We would like to hear from you!** 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! Email TALGA Editor: [news@talga.com.au](mailto:news@talga.com.au).

