

JULY 2021



# TALGA

ALL THINGS LAVENDER



## TALGA's 26th Conference/AGM

Hahndorf, South Australia  
5th - 7th May 2021

*"Growing your lavender business  
and adapting to change."*





I am pleased to present to members and friends of TALGA, the 2021 edition of the Lavender Journal. This edition features the 26th Conference held at Hahndorf, SA 5-7th May this year, "Growing Your Business and Adapting to Change".

Luckily, many members and nonmembers were able to attend this Conference in person and benefit from being there. The Journal includes speakers' notes and photographs of the two days of the Conference. Highlight was the guest speaker Sophie Thomson who provided a lively presentation and reminded us of the value of gardening for the health and wellbeing of all of us, as well as the importance of community and the beneficial effect on us in sharing what we do and produce, with others.

Thank you to all members who contributed their regional news and photos from across Australia. They always make interesting reading and bring us together – particularly as travel has been so limited for the last 18 months.

As TALGA moves into a new phase with the research project "Optimisation of Lavender Oil," I thought it timely to include two of Noel Porter's articles which are still relevant today "Importance of Flower Head Maturity When Harvesting for Oil" and "Oil Quality – Analyses..."

Next year, TALGA plans to hold a field day in May 2022 at Chin Chin Farm, Riddells Creek, Vic where the research field trials are taking place under the guidance of Marisa Collins, LaTrobe University. More details will be published in the e:news.

I do hope you enjoy reading the 2021 Lavender Journal.

*Fiona Glover, Secretary.*

## CONTENTS

President's Report	3
Secretary's Report	4
Treasurer's Report	5
Region Reports	6 - 21
26th TALGA Conference	22 - 33
Minutes of AGM	34 - 37
Scentimental Collection	38
Lessons Learned in the Garden	39
First Aid	40
Olfactory Oil Competition	34
The Influence of Flower Head Maturity on Oil Quality	43 - 48
Lavender Ladies	49
2021 Sponsors	51

## YOUR TALGA TEAM – July 2021

### PRESIDENT

– Gary Young  
M 0417 799 679 H 07 5466 7264  
E: president@talga.com.au

### VICE PRESIDENT & SCENTIMENTAL COLLECTION

– Christine Hitchin  
M 0401 125 705 H 08 8323 7523  
E: mclarevale.lavender@bigpond.com

### SECRETARY/PUBLIC OFFICER/OILS/RESEARCH

– Fiona Glover  
M 0412 748 270 H 03 5334 4175  
E: secretary@talga.com.au

### TREASURER

– Neville Sargeant  
M 0418 998 982 H 03 5964 8238  
E: yellelectllav@bigpond.com

### ALR COORDINATOR

– Kellie Oxenford  
M 0427 609 171  
E: levenklavender@bigpond.com

### GENERAL BOARD MEMBER & 2021 Conference Convenor

– Louise Bickerton  
M 0409 717 899  
E: bickertonl@optusnet.com.au

### GENERAL BOARD MEMBER & 2021 Conference

– Thomas Mahar  
M 0423 306 658  
E: thomasmahar@bigpond.com

### FACEBOOK

– Bronwyn Williams  
M 0407 502 242  
E: brickies@iprimus.com.au  
and  
Louise Bickerton 0409 717 899

### WEBMASTER

– Kinnear Miller  
M 0400 680 028  
E: millerkinnear@gmail.com

### Disclaimer

The Australian Lavender Growers's Association Inc is a not for profit organisation. This journal is published as a membership benefit. All views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of TALGA or the editor. The inclusion of advertising in this publication does not imply any service or product endorsement by TALGA or the editor.

All copyright reserved.



### AGM BOARD MEETING 6 May 2021

Greetings to all Members here at Hahndorf, South Australia at our 26th TALGA Conference.

Since our previous AGM 29 April 2020 via Skype and with the country now in recovery mode, I hope you are all stay safe and well. It was disappointing

that due to Covid we were unable to hold the 25th TALGA Conference at Bendigo, Vic and visit the Bendigo Botanic Gardens and the National Collection of Lavenders.

COVID 19 Pandemic may generally have been a disaster but there have been some unexpected benefits. In the case of our TALGA Board we have had to learn to master Zoom meetings and this has allowed Board members across the states to have more input. I am sure that we will continue to do most of the business over Zoom even after Covid is managed. This has been a major saving of accommodation and travel costs.

I respect and understand the circumstances of some members who have not yet renewed their membership due to floods, drought, fires and now having to close their shops and farm gates because of social distancing rules as results of the COVID 19 Pandemic. I hope in time those members may be able to return to TALGA.

My thanks to all members who supported by supplying photographs for and the purchasing of the TALGA Calendars for 2021. They have been well received with interest for new offers of photographs for 2022.

I would like to personally welcome all new members and Lavender Club members who have joined TALGA during the past year and support them with as much information on developing their lavender farms as we can.

My thanks to new TALGA Board members Louise Bickerton from Blue Mountains Lavender and Thomas Mahar from Hahndorf Lavender. Both have contributed greatly to the organisation of this conference. I would like to express my thanks to Christine and Tony Hitchins from McLaren Vale Lavender for their support with presentation and packaging of the gift Pack items as well as the new products; hand sanitizer and hand lotion for the Sentimental collection. The production of the hand sanitizer was particularly well timed in 2020 and has received many compliments from customers.

Many thanks to Kellie Oxenford for her role as Editor of e-news for its regular monthly issues. It is growing with interest from articles and items of support contributed from members.

I have had a number of discussions with Laura Daniels, Senior Project Coordinator Research, Latrobe University and Clive Larkman involving a joint relationship with Argi Futures Lavender Oil Project. This is a worthy platform for TALGA members to access the data and website interface for the liaison of industry and lavender information. My thanks to Clive for his support with this project.

I congratulate Neville Sargeant being proposed by Fiona Glover and approved by the Board members for a Life Membership. His long service of 12 years as a Board member and Treasurer shows great dedication to TALGA. My thanks to Fiona Glover for her role as Secretary and driving the Zoom meetings. This has been challenging at times with technical issues but rewarding with the new TALGA members. All her efforts in coordinating the Conference Publications booklet, my thanks.

Again, my thanks to all Board members for making a great TALGA team and working together. This is the only way to move ahead.

Lastly, I would like to express my thanks to my wife Anne for all her support, assistance and patience for my role as President.

Gary Young, President  
6 May 2021

### Holmwood Produce Lavender Farm

Lavender crafts and natural skin care products. All hand made using Australian ingredients. Proudly owned by Gary and Anne Young. Tour groups and visitors welcome by appointment.

📍 (Farm) 15 Thornton School Road,  
Thornton Q 4341 via Laidley  
☎ (07) 5466 7264  
📞 0417 799 679  
🌐 [www.holmwoodproduce.com.au](http://www.holmwoodproduce.com.au)



The Covid pandemic has certainly changed the way we do things. TALGA's 2020 AGM was a virtual meeting. And every month since then the Board has held its meetings the same way (although we changed apps from Skype to Teams).

It was with hesitation that the Board started planning the 2021 Conference to be held at Hahndorf, SA. having cancelled the 25th Conference at Bendigo, Vic last year.

New Board member Thomas Mahar of Hahndorf Lavender Estate and his father Peter, were keen to have the Conference on home ground and show us what they have been developing at Hahndorf over the last couple of years since the previous Conference at Port Arthur in 2019.

And here we are. It is regrettable that Thomas has not been able to be here with us. His work commitments took him to PNG and he is unable to get a flight back at this time. We hope he does not have to wait too much longer.

Interest in growing lavender across Australia has resulted in increases in membership. There are 9 new members representing new growers in Victoria, TAS, W.A., NSW and QLD. It is pleasing to meet many of them here today. Lavender Club membership has increased by 3 including a member located on Norfolk Island.

We believe that TALGA's website and the growing number of friends on TALGA'S facebook page have served to encourage interest in Lavender and hope that this will continue.

We have continued with membership of Australian Made and have ensured that all products in the Sentimental Collection can qualify for approval under this banner. With the current interest in buying locally and supporting Australian made we believe this is worthwhile.

The Lavender Journal was published in August followed by a new initiative, the Lavender Calendar 2021 featuring photos of member Lavender farms.

TALGA's Olfactory Oil competition attracted overseas entries again this year with oil samples sent from Canada, USA and New Zealand 19 from Australia and 14 international.

Of the 33 oils received for GC testing and judging of which 17 were *Lavandula angustifolia*, 12 *Lavandin* and 4 oil blends (mostly *angustifolia*)

All oils entered were of very high quality and a variety of cultivars were represented including some lavenders not commonly grown in Australia such as *Folgate* and *Violet Intrigue*.

The main purpose of having oils tested is in receiving a

GC analysis and comparing the results with international Oil Standards. Apart from the Competition itself.

Tony McMeel returned to assist with judging along with myself, Neville Henderson, Matt Oxenford and Meredith Clark, the latter two via Teams link.

The Lavender Research Project is underway with trial plantings being monitored by Dr Marisa Collins, LaTrobe University. A meeting was held there at Chin Chin Farm in February and it is hoped to return later in the year to see the progress being made.

In conclusion, I would like to express my pleasure in working with all Board members – Gary Young, Christine Hitchin, Neville Sargeant, Kellie Oxenford and now not so new Board members Louise Bickerton and Thomas Mahar.

It has been a remarkable team effort working from home and holding virtual meetings – so very different to previous years. The success of the 2021 Conference will be the proof of this.

Fiona Glover  
4th May, 2021



**Specialists in Drying  
Flowers & Foliage including drying and  
framing of special occasion flowers**

*Suppliers of  
Rose Petal Confetti & Pot Pourri  
Growers of Quality Lavender & Roses*

310 Macarthur Street, Ballarat 3350  
Phone (03) 5334 4175 • 0412 748 270  
fiona@createdriedflowers.com  
www.barklylavenderandrosefarm.com





## *Lavender's Never-ending Story*

Before people could say  
'Once upon a time'  
there was limitless, ageless  
busyness, timelessness  
activity in all stratas  
of life on earth.

One day – who knows  
When or where?  
A small black seed began to grow  
On a hillside

Roots out, stem up, two leaves  
opening out to the sky, the sun  
and the rain.

At the right time it produced flowers  
Which attracted at least one wandering bee  
Seeds were formed  
And the wind battered the flowers  
Causing the seeds to fall on the ground.

Through the decades the process of multiplication  
Began over and over again  
Until the hillside was covered with blue-purple flowers  
Filling the air with fragrance.

Right now, upon THIS time  
We laugh at those who say  
'You can't fit a square peg  
into a round hole.'  
Because we do!

We plant the square-stemmed tubestock  
into a round hole  
And watch it grow and thrive  
Enticing bees to produce fragrant honey  
Challenging chemists to use the valuable oil  
Inviting creative people to use dried seed  
into craft, floristry and cooking.

If there were such a thing as an Earth Medal  
for the most productive, versatile, plant  
that gives its all for the good of humankind  
It would go to lavender for every part  
is used for fragrance, healing, and calming the mind.

*Poem by Meg Bilney*

This report is for the period 1st July 2020 to 30th April 2021.

Our normal financial Report to the Board and Auditor is from 1st July to 30th June.

I have been producing a monthly financial Report to the Board, so that members can see a clear picture of our current finances.

The Corona Virus epidemic has been instrumental in changing our lifestyle and business procedures which will be identified in my report.

TALGA'S operating procedures have changed dramatically with the use of teleconferencing for Board meetings and the extensive use of emailing rather than the previous face to face meetings.

Financially TALGA maintained a sound position over the last 12 months, considering the restrictions imposed by the epidemic and teleconferencing has saved the cost of face-to-face meetings. However not meeting in person does have a down-side. It is still important to continue to hold these when restrictions allow.

We are working within our proposed budget for 2020/21, mainly because of reduced travel costs, however our general costs remain the same.

Thankfully our Accountant/Auditor has not increased his charges and has not done so for many years for which I have personally thanked him for his support of TALGA in this way.

Membership fees have remained the same except the Board decided on a 10% reduction in fees for 2021/22 for renewing members as an offset in the continuing pandemic.

Sentimental Collection sales have been average, with only a small percentage of members supporting the Collection and these members have been rewarded by receiving a discount on their membership fees. This was the original conception in introducing the Collection for members.

The TALGA website has been upgraded by Kinnear Miller with new products and pricing in the Shop. My thanks to Christine and Tony Hitchin for designing new labelling for all products. Some products have been out of stock and some will be discontinued. This has been regularly discussed at Board meetings and will be at this AGM.

My thanks to all Board members for assisting me in my duties as Treasurer and I am looking forward to your continuing support to TALGA.

Regards,  
Neville Sargeant  
Treasurer

## CENTRAL/WEST VICTORIA

### CREATIVE DRIED FLOWERS – Fiona Glover



The story continues with the Lavenders at Newlyn. Having been moved during the Winter months, I wondered how the plants would fare in the Spring and Summer. As it turned out I had nothing to worry about, good rains during Spring encouraged new growth (and root formation underground) such that by early Summer the plants were all sending up strong flower spikes. All plants had survived the move and were now providing an excellent display of purple (and white) flowerheads. First to flower were the *L. angustifolia* 'Alba'. I do not harvest these, but prefer to leave flowerheads on for a lasting display. 'Riverina Eunice' flowers were ready to harvest soon after with a nice deep purple flower and these flowerheads were all cut for the still. My distillation notes showed a good yield – 10mls oil per 1kg of flowers with stalks removed. 1kg of flowers represented 20 bunches. I collected 2L of hydrosol with each charge. I have a small electric still (25L) so this was capacity for one charge.



*Riverina Eunice* being prepared for distillation

Approx 10cm of stalks removed from a bunch of *L. angustifolia* 'Riverina Eunice' before flower tops were put into the still for distillation.

Other Lavenders coming into flower were the *L. angustifolia* 'Twickel Purple', 'Avice Hill' and 'Riverina Heather'. Flower stalks here were

picked in bunches and partly air dried before being quickly dried off on low heat (same process for drying roses) and stored away out of light.

Lavandins had already started to show colour - these were all picked for dried bunches.

These included 'Impress Purple', 'Asa Blue', 'Arabian Night' 'Bosisto' 'Grosso' and the striking 'Riverina Alan'. Stem length

on these latter was near 80cms from flower tip to base of stem with a large deep purple flowerhead. Again, the bunches were air-dried to start with and then put on low heat to finish off. All were completely dry within 2 weeks and packed away with good color and scent. I wondered if my customers would like these giants?

As it turned out these lovely long stemmed bunches were very popular and I ended up selling out within a couple of months.



*L. x intermedia* 'Riverina Alan' being air dried on a vertical rack to remove some moisture before being placed in drying cabinet to complete drying process.

An extension of the lavender beds is now underway so I can grow more Lavender! In particular the Lavandins. I've received more 'Asa Blue' plants from Di Larkman – hope to have enough flowers to distill and record the yield. Looking forward to Summertime!

The Hahndorf Conference was most enjoyable – meeting up with everyone after more than a year due to lockdowns. Having Dawn Baudinette as a travelling companion was delightful and fun. Our favourite stopover going over and then on the return, was a country café at Nhill where all the food was homemade and delicious.



Dawn and Fiona, morning tea stopover at Nhill, Vic



## CENTRAL/WEST VICTORIA

### PORTLAND BAY LAVENDER – Dawn Baudinette

This is the time of year when all my lavender except dentata is sleeping so I can safely spray under and around the bushes. This is always my spraying time because my growing grass problem is Kikiu which really gets underway in the cooler months. As you can see in the photo I have, over the years, trained my bushes into a hedge. This practice was frowned on in early days but much quicker to harvest. You will also note that there is grass between rows, an absolutely essential practice on my poor sandy soil bordering the ocean. The first 12 years were totally organic but I realised that 10 acres was too much to maintain with hand weeding so the only possible option in my growing conditions was to use herbicides with a sprayhood attachment if necessary.

I really enjoyed meeting many of you at the great conference and if you feel you would like to talk over a query, please feel free to ring, my 30 years experience may be of assistance. I always want to save growers from my mistakes. Thanks and regards Dawn. M...0408150635



Portland Bay Lavender – L. ang. 'Egerton Blue'

### CHIN CHIN FARM – Stuart & Sonia Whiteman

Chin Chin farm is situated in the Macedon Ranges. We are a mixed farming enterprise with a philosophy that begins by looking after the soil and remediating the land. The resulting lush grass and adjoining native forests work in harmony ensuring that everything grown on the farm is enhanced with flavour from the ground up.

We started our Lavender Journey with the aim of producing the best L. Angustifolia Essential Oil we could.

In order to test our soil, climate, and general skills, we started with approximately 780 plants in 2019, split across 3 varieties. These were Pacific Blue, Swampy and Avic Hill. We wanted three varieties so we could see if one was better than the other growth wise and in case they enjoy different conditions, then when the summers and winters vary, one might perform better than the other – spread our risk across the seasons I guess. We planted them in the snow one weekend with family and friends braving the weather to help us out. We put down weedmat and then onto our hands and knees, 780 plants went in pretty quickly. In the first year they grew well, and although we had a hot dry summer, we only watered them (by hand) a couple of times. So we thought.....we can do this!

The hill they are planted on is reasonably steep and faces East, so we have not raised the beds, but they definitely don't get wet feet there. We do a lot to improve the soil and put fertilizer into the holes with the plants when planting as well.

That first year we harvested early, just so the plants put their effort into growing rather than flowers. We got a second flowering so we harvested that and made a really basic "Leonardo Da Vinci" style still.

This set up involved putting a little water at the bottom of a large pot. Then placing the lavender on top, keeping it away from the water with a sieve. In the middle we placed a ceramic jar. Then we placed a wok on top, filled the wok with water and ice and brought the water in the pot below to the boil. The steam rose



onto the base of the wok, then condensed and slid down and dripped into the ceramic pot.

In 2020 we planted approximately 6000 more. Because of availability of seedlings (or lack there of), we increased the varieties to 5. Now we have Pacific Blue, Swampy, Avic Hill, Bee and Egerton Blue.

We also received our first proper still. It's a 40L alembic still. It is beautiful but undersized already!

We decided on copper as we had read about the benefits of copper – essential oils distilled through copper do not need to sit to allow the more unpleasant odors to gas off. We weren't sure about this but we know copper is used in alcohol distilling to neutralise harmful odors and chemicals so it sort of made sense. Once we did our first distill this seemed to be correct as it smelled divine straight away!



## CENTRAL/WEST VICTORIA

### CHIN CHIN FARM – Stuart & Sonia Whiteman

In 2021 we are planting another 6000 plants. This time we are planting Pacific Blue, Avice Hill, Bee and Swampy.

We are really keen on Pacific Blue from which we get a lovely oil and a great yield. The Avice Hill oil is a beautiful, more complex oil and also a good yield, although because the plants are smaller it takes more to fill the still. Bee is also a good yield and Swampy and Egerton blue half of Pacific Blue! So we have dropped Egerton Blue and kept Swampy. Swampy flowers are great for colour and as flowers are not our core business we only wanted one variety to possibly take flowers from.

We are now designing a new, bigger still. It will definitely be offset, and definitely incorporate copper. Our plants haven't been in all that long so we really don't have a good feel for how we will get through different summers and winters but we do (so far) have no intention of irrigating except in their first year when their root systems are small, and only once a month if there is no rain at all. When we do irrigate, we "flood" them rather than drip water them to encourage stronger root growth and resilience between waterings.

Our journey has only just begun but we are enjoying it – most of the time!



### HARCOURT NORTH – Darren and Jane Menzies

We were lucky to acquire an established lavender field when we purchased our new home.

Through the assistance of TALGA member Fiona Glover we have tentatively identified six varieties of lavender.

So far we have winter pruned and partially harvested the field due to overcrowding and weeds. However recent sales of lavender buds have brightened the outlook and should inspire us to increase our endeavours.



### NW KYNETON – Rupert Dalley

The Lavenders that Rupert is growing have been identified with the help of Dawn Baudinette and Jan Illingworth at the Hahndorf Conference, as L. x int. 'Super'. Rupert took his fresh flowers to Neville Henderson at Pastoria for distillation. The resulting oil was GC tested so that the profile could be seen and the plants identified.

Rupert writes "From a Triton tray load of lavender including stalks, about 300ml of oil was produced. The extract was from flowers and about six inches of stalk. In the fullness of time I would like to distil the lavender and sell the oil.

The plants and planting are only small and ...I will try again next year.

Clearly the plant that I am propagating is not the best one (for oil) and I need a L. Angustifolia and presumably a variety Avice Hill, your Riverina Eunice, Bee (very appropriate for here) or Egerton Blue".

### TOWER HILL LAVENDER – Kaye Kelly

Kaye is still selling her products at the Colac market where she has a permanent stall, 7 days a week. With lockdown last year, she was shutdown. With lack of overseas travellers this year she has lost the overseas market but now day trippers are coming and sales are picking up.

### TIMBOON SCHOOL P-12 - Carlyne Wakefield

Carlyne reports that with the school lockdown last year the lavender program had to stop. They did not produce any oil nor make any sales. The lavenders were not harvested but kept going with minimal maintenance. Let's hope things improve and they can celebrate this year's harvest.



## CENTRAL/WEST VICTORIA

### PASTORIA LAVENDER – Neville & Gillian Henderson and Emma Jimson

We held our breath as the buds formed on the lavender plants and were most relieved to escape a late frost. This meant that we actually had lavender to harvest and distil.

Of significance has been our desire to move to organic farming and the work involved in this shift. The weeding is ongoing (sorrel being the worst, due to its invasive roots!!) but feels worth it, to have an insecticide free property.

We were introduced to the agronomist Graeme from 'Soilcharge' by Sonia and Stuart at Chin Chin farm and have appreciated Graeme's advice and products to improve our soil.

The 11 rows of *Lavandula angustifolia* ssp *angustifolia* didn't survive a brutal season (or our location it seems!) and have now been ploughed up and seeded with a winter cover crop. In time, with improved soil, we hope to plant again.



*Neville operating lavender harvester whilst Emma sweeps away the bees*

Neville and I thoroughly enjoyed being able to attend the Talga conference in Hahndorf this year and thank the organisers for all their hard work in making it such a success.

### SHIRE HOUSE FARM – Jamie & Chloe Gillingham

Well what a year we've all had! In Victoria we've been in and out of lockdowns, long and snap. People are getting used to and sick of them, but we keep on keeping on.

In between home schooling and getting a new puppy, we've been busy on the farm.

We got to use our crop planter recently which was exciting. It took around 10 minutes per row where previously it took around an hour with the pottiputki, though the pottiputki is still handy for filling in the blanks. We've got a field dedicated to a variety of *angustifolias* and we're filling in another field of *intermedias*, *rosemary* and *pelargonium*, where the sheep and previous summers have disappointed some of our efforts.



We found a wild beehive in amongst some dense trees behind our nursery recently. It had become so bulky that a honeycomb chunk fell to the ground which is how we spotted it. A beekeeper friend popped by and said its probably several years old. We're yet to contact someone (good at removing wild hives) to see about

removing it and extracting the honey.

As usual we take all our spare time between kids sport and parties on weekends, and soaking up the school holidays, and slowly but surely plants are getting in the ground. We're working on some product development while working up plans for building a barn to house all our equipment and oil still.

Hopefully by this time next year our fields will be full of lavender varieties as well as natives to enjoy.



*Planting tubestock at Shire House Farm*

### LAVANDULA, SWISS ITALIAN FARM, SHEPHERD'S FLAT – Carol White

*Lavandula* is closed for the months of June, July and August this year but like last year, it will reopen in Spring. Carol says that the 5 months they were open last year were very successful. The big issue is to secure staff for the many tasks on the farm including chefs, staff for the shop, workers in the olive grove and the lavender fields. It was a tough, long harvest last Summer with the usual supply of backpackers no longer there to draw on.

*Lavandula* will be open 5 days a week from Spring and the Swiss Italian Festival is planned for 23rd October 2021. The online shop is available all year round and has proven well worthwhile.



## EAST / SOUTH EAST VICTORIA

### GLENVALLEY LAVENDER

– Cate and Neil Harper Glengarry Vic

It has been a disruptive year with Neil having gallbladder surgery in January and then me having my long-awaited foot and ankle surgery in March and still in recovery. It's been very hard to get a lot done. Neil took his 3 months long service leave to look after me, as well as looking after the Lavender and feeding horses. Neil spent time doing some weeding and replanting. But a lot of things got left unfortunately like a garden I had started is now badly overgrown with weeds and grass so we need to start again. Neil is back at work now, so he only has weekends to try and get more work done around

the farm as I am not up to yet. I have managed to get some propagating done of my French Giants and some Intermedia. Neil has been currently doing some tree planting along one of our boundary fences in one our front paddocks as we would like to plant out this paddock with Lavenders also. So plenty of work ahead of us yet, getting this other paddock ready once our current paddock is full. We recently had floods in our area and our poor Lavenders got covered in water some of our younger plants were completely submerged we hope we don't lose too many. Our daughter Karli is starting to set up her florist and plants business here also, she originally planned this years ago but other things just got in the way. We are looking forward to Spring and hope we get good growth from our Lavenders.  
Cate and Neil Harper

### BRESHALBI FARM LAVENDER

- Alan Chandler

The Journey Continues

Now where were we ...

In our last exciting episode Breshalbi Farm had prepared the site, formed the rows, weed matted (see how I turned that into a verb) and temporarily held that in place with shovel loads of gravel.

Irrigation followed by gravel completion put us into the 'holding your breath' stage (see photo 2) as we waited for our lavender babies to arrive – and arrive they did.

So, there we were; all ready, willing and able and about 1700 plants to get into the ground. A chilly morning ambushed us as if we didn't have enough issues to contend with.

What we now desperately needed was a motley crew of volunteers to "cut", "dibber" and plant all the while keeping the six different types of lavender in their correct places.

Well, I'm here to report, it was like herding cats and without doubt, and after all my years of employing people, these were the worst bunch of miscreants God ever gave breath to.

There were role arguments, instructions not followed, Work Care claims, demarcation disputes, walk-offs, laying down on the job, sitting down on the job and every manner of



problem to contend with. The stuff nightmares are made of.

Eventually, the only way to garner cooperation was through a sustenance drive (see photo 8). This seemed to work and after many hours (far too many) the plants were finally tucked snugly into their new home.

Still demanding compensation these miserable ingrates demanded more, and so further rewards, by way of lunch, were demanded.

We were now at the stage of testing the irrigation system (hilarious the number of drippers that flew out when the pressure was turned on for the first time) and testing our homemade fertigator" – n.b. this has been patented for those eager to copy the design (!).

So, no thanks to our many former friends, finally the lavender is in and we await spring hoping the plants will survive and begin our next exciting episode in our lavender odyssey.  
Stay tuned ...

PS A very special thanks really does go out to all our friends who helped that day. An amazing job performed well under trying conditions!



## EAST / SOUTH EAST VICTORIA

### LARKMAN'S NURSERY – Clive Larkman

As most people know the Dandenongs (east of Melbourne) were one of the areas hit hard by the storms at the start of June. The centre of the damage was in the Kalorama area where the storm sat for 5 hours with 100-150kmh winds. The damage was extensive with many harrowing tales of survival. We feel it was a miracle that no-one was killed although many spent a night or two in hospital.

The winds extended down into the Yarra Valley but without the severity. The winds came after a day of rain so the soil was extremely wet. We lost one tree which took out the power lines but no damage to either nursery. We did spend ten days without power which is always a bit of a struggle as we try to keep all our plants warm.

This year for the first time in many we have good stocks of several varieties of *Lavandula angustifolia* on the ground at Wandin so we were a little worried about the wind and rain. It is winter when they don't suffer so much from being a bit wet and it looks like they have all come through well. Some recent sunny days have even teased a little new growth.

Clive Larkman

**LARKMAN  
NURSERIES**  
PTY LTD



leading tubestock  
propagation

Supply of correctly named and sourced lavender plants for all aspects of lavender farming.  
Consultancy to the lavender industry on how to grow, where to grow and what to grow.

PO Box 567 Lilydale, Vic 3140  
Phone (03) 9735 3831  
clive@larkmannurseries.com.au  
www.larkmannurseries.com.au

### LUCY'S LAVENDER

– Bronwyn Williams & Neville Sargeant

As we are a small farm and relying mostly on the local farmers markets to keep our business alive, the last 18 months has really required some rethinking. One of the local markets, where Lucys Lavender has established regular clientele, has not yet returned from the March 2020 lockdown. Several other markets had interruptions during the year. Making it hard to remain positive. Like many other growers, on-line sales has had to be the way to continue business. Facebook Market Place was an excellent avenue for sales during lockdown. Loose dried lavender being the biggest seller.

During the 2018 season, I established a contact in the wholesale fresh flower industry. This contact was my positive for making it through the year of 2020/2021. There are very few lavender growers that are focused on selling their harvest as fresh blooms. For me it means the lead up to the Christmas break is extremely busy. But it has been rewarding. You don't need to be a big farm to be part of the Lavender Industry. As 2021 continues to offer its challenges, Lucys Lavender will remain positive and enjoy being part of this colorful industry.



*Fresh-picked Lavender bunches for the market*

EAST / SOUTH EAST VICTORIA

**WARRATINA LAVENDER**

– Annemarie and Peter Manders

Annemarie & Peter Manders from Warratina Lavender Farm enjoyed a wonderful 3 days in Hahndorf at the TALGA Conference. It was fantastic to catch up with acquaintances, to share stories, experiences & ideas. Hearing of problems & challenges of other growers & receiving advice re soil health, plant health, nutrition, distillation, marketing etc. made for two days full on information, answers & social interaction.

Thank you TALGA Committee for a great conference shared by many.

On returning to Warratina we are now embarking on the big winter cut back of the gardens as well as the on-going weed control.

Over the colder months Warratina holds Exhibitions in its Drying Shed, thereby utilising a space, giving people a reason to visit & diversify, a word bandied around by a few of us at the Conference. This is an idea to adopt when opening your business to the public. The visitors then have the opportunity to enjoy the local fare served in the Lavender Tea House. Annemarie has just returned from Sydney after a very successful show at the International Convention Centre, showcasing our lavender range at the Mind Body Spirit Festival. A huge success. Having prepared for the Melbourne Mind Body Spirit festival it has just been cancelled due to Covid restrictions. An enormous disappointment!

The weather in the Yarra Valley is fairly cold & very wet. New rows have been made for planting but that will happen in spring.

Upcoming events at Warratina are:

- 26th June-11th July: Craft & Patchwork Fair: proceeds to women challenged with violence & homelessness
- 4th-19th Sept: Wood Working Wonders Expo: exhibition, sales & demonstrations
- 9th-17th Oct: Art Show: by local art society
- 20th-21st Nov: Lavender Festival



*Proceeds from the Quilt & Craft Show were donated to the "Sleep Bus" for homeless women*



*Items made for the Woodworking Expo*





## NEW SOUTH WALES

Lavender growing in NSW is entering an exciting era of expansion with 9 newish members who are in varying early stages of setting up lavender enterprises. The lavender ventures cover a wide area of the state and diverse types of climate and soils.



Monaro Country Lavender, comprising several members, has joined as an Association.

Some of these new members attended the conference at Hahndorf and found the weekend very helpful and informative with many opportunities to network.

### FIELDS OF LAVENDER - JOANNE BROWN

Near Nahiab, about 140 k's north of Newcastle. Joanne is preparing ground, selecting and ordering plants and hopes to have the first plantings underway through this year. Joanne attended the conference and found it interesting, inspirational and motivating.

### SAUVITER - PETER ROZENDAAL

Near Gloucester, just a little SW of Nahiab.

Peter reports that the recent good rains have led to rampant weed growth which is overtaking the 25 Grosso plants.

However at his home in Narrabri ( in cotton growing country 300 +k's west of Gloucester), he has a number of Angustifolias and Intermedias which have yielded some very pleasant oils.

So, back to the weeds when you can get to them, Peter.

### MELISSA & JEFF BIDDLE - WONGABILLA.

Moree area.

Melissa and Jeff are going into their second year with Riverina Allan and Super and a few newer plants. They are still in the trial planting stage and assessing those varieties most suited to their conditions. They are frequently evaluating the water requirements of the sticky black soils of the Moree area. The learning curve is upwards and interest is still high.

### GEMINI PARK - MICHELLE RIORDAN.

Gunnedah.

Michelle is concentrating on value added lavender products which she makes herself. She also stocks some of the Sentimental Collection. Items are sold through her own outlet and local markets. Interested groups access her lavender knowledge. When local weather conditions stabilise she may return to nurturing some new plants.

### PINELEA LAVENDER - WENDY FULLER Kentucky South, New England Tablelands

What a difference the rain has made! Very good rainfall in late in 2020 and into 2021 has gradually raised the water table, but our big dam did not overflow until late May, '21, such was the dryness of the soil!

This season's harvest was my best ever, after hardly anything last harvest. I had so much pleasure in walking through and parting the very long flower laden spikes which were reaching to meet one another across the pathways. Just magic!

Weather and time factors meant that most of my harvest was not bunched to dry, but laid out flat, open underneath and covered above. As I was bunching it in early June I noted that the Intermedias had retained more colour than usual. Was this because we had a cooler summer, or was it the way it was dried with less density than in a bunch?



I now have about 420 plants, which includes about 23 varieties. My new bed has 120 plants, mostly Intermedias of uncertain parentage, (Bunnings and gifts from friends) plus a few Myra and Egerton Blue. Each new plant is now protected by a 30cm high cylinder of wire netting, because I found that the rabbits had been doing a bit of their own agriculture which wasn't in the best interests of the plants.

So, I am eagerly looking forward to next harvest time.

The sale of value- added products is steady.

As ALR for NSW, I have really enjoyed talking to our members.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

### LITTLE WILLOW LAVENDER.

**SHARON & GREG BAILEY.** Willow Tree.

Sharon and Greg have re-energised themselves after the devastation of the recent drought. They note, however, that the mice plague can now be added to the challenges of drought, flood and heat!

The On Farm Shop is now set up and is open by appointment. Items for sale are unpacked from mice protective boxes when visitors are expected... ( mice aren't invited!)

New plantings are going ahead and Greg is still propagating. They have a particular garden area where several varieties are growing so that visitors can see and enjoy the differences in the plants.

The local markets are again operating, once a month. Sharon has added a sourdough bread (nuts, fruit and Munstead buds) to her extensive product range and it is proving very popular. They have a booking for a Vintage Car Rally visit soon, as well as being the venue for a wedding in November.

Sharon and Greg are industrious and full of ideas. And Sharon says " We are soldiering on! " All the best, folks.

### THE LAVENDER STATION. ANN McDONALD.

Kains Flat, near Mudgee.

Ann has not replanted yet, following her drought driven losses, but is optimistic that she can get some plants in the ground in the near future.

She sells her lovely range of value added products at the Windsor markets in western Sydney and has a loyal clientele.

### HUNTER LAVENDER.

**MARIANNE VILLANUEVA.** Hunter Valley.

Hunter Lavender Farm is located at Broke, New South Wales, just 2 hours north of Sydney and 70 minutes away from Newcastle. It lies amidst a cluster of vineyards, along the famed Broke-Fordwich Wine Trail.

With the farm ideally situated in the tranquil side of Hunter Valley, we aim to create a destination that will feature a field of lavender blending with the surrounding vineyards against a backdrop of the majestic Yellow Rock Escarpment and the Brokenback Range, where guests can go to relax and enjoy the scenery. Towards this end, we have planted 4,200 Lavandula x Intermedia 'Grosso' in the autumn of 2021, the first of a few lavender cultivars that we will be growing at the farm. We will be planting Lavandula Angustifolia 'Avice Hill' for culinary purposes as well as for its essential oil come next autumn.

### FORDWICH - PHILIP MONARDO. Hunter Valley.

Philip has recently purchased land at Fordwich and in stages, is moving ahead to establish a lavender growing enterprise. The lavender will be keeping company with Shiraz grapes and olives.

Philip attended the recent conference and found the programme and activities very helpful for his forward planning. We happily anticipate hearing of your progress, Peter.

### ZEPHYR FARM

**ROS & JOHN CHRISTIE** Shoalhaven area.

Weather events these last few years have not suited lavender growing but Ros and John keep very busy creating and making their product range using outsourced materials. On Line sales have been reliable for them and they are hoping to get their Queensland suntan when they attend the Eumundie markets, beginning in July Covid 19 permitting). Good luck, and enjoy the scenery.

### KOORINGAL

**SUSAN McMAHON.** Wagga Wagga.

A north facing paddock is being prepared for planting so this enterprise is in its early days.

Susan has an interest in Aromatherapy and the use of essential oils.





## NEW SOUTH WALES

### BLUE MOUNTAINS LAVENDER

**LOUISE & BRUCE BICKERTON**, Little Hartley.

The past 12 months has been a wild ride in so many ways but here in Little Hartley we have been so fortunate to continue our lavender growing and business development almost entirely uninterrupted by COVID restrictions. We have been so sorry for our members in Victoria enduring multiple lockdowns and the difficulties that has entailed, best wishes for a better end to 2021!

In fact, the changed economic and social situation during the latter half of 2020 gave us the time and space to develop our initial product range with recipe formulation, trialling samples, label and packaging design then full production all able to be completed before our inaugural farm tours and product sales launch in November 2020.

We handled the keen interest in farm visits by offering small group tours with refreshments and exclusive time in the lavender for photography for a fee and as the word got out, photos were posted on social media, the inquiries grew and didn't stop until well after our closing date of Christmas. We will try to extend our opening times this next season to continue through the new year holiday period.

It was thrilling to see the output of our 100L copper alembic still (christened Jerry Still-er) purchased and installed in our new barn and it has been a huge challenge to organise construction of infrastructure to handle our visitors and increased lavender production. This winter we hope to complete landscaping around the barn, upgrade our driveway and areas for parking and a new stone terrace overlooking our front lavender rows

and dam.

We planted an additional 2500 angustifolias and intermedias during April so that we could attend the TALGA Conference in Hahndorf and take a well deserved break in beautiful SA. The babies are all doing well with mild weather and consistent



rainfall helping them settle in before winter.

Since January I have been supplying our products into retail shops across the Blue Mountains and Lithgow have been very encouraged by the warm welcome given us by the local community and visitors.

There are many opportunities ahead for us in 2021 and I wish all members a happy and successful growing season.

Louise

### MONARO COUNTRY LAVENDER COOP.

**BOMBALA**, Jan Illingworth

Welcome to TALGA.

This is an energetic and vital group of lavender growers. Plenty of networking, swapping of information, workshops and general support is supplemented by helpful items of individual research. Jan Illingworth is very proactive in the Association and she maintains close contact with the growing number of members. This is a community- based organization and there are regular small events which showcase and sell locally grown and made products. A small, renovated cottage serves as the centre for information and a sales venue for these products. Members who wish to have their lavender distilled for oil can come to the central Still in Bombala.

A Lavender Trail through members' properties is planned. This seems very promising and I am looking forward to following this trail sometime in the future.

### GOLDEN GROVE NATURALS. AARON POLLOCK.

Tucki Tucki, near Lismore.

Aaron and his business partner Brad Fredericks, in conjunction with Clive Larkman and La Trobe University are positively

involved in the current research project which is investigating a wide variety of elements involved in successfully growing and marketing lavender.

Some progress has already been made and there was a presentation about it at the recent Conference in Hahndorf. Stuart and Sonia Whiteman, of Chin Chin Farm, Vic. have been very helpful facilitators in the research venture. We will all benefit from the eventual results.

**ASHLEY DOWELL.** EOPAA Secretary, Plant Science, Southern Cross University, Lismore

His lab at Southern Cross University issues a GC analysis of each of the oils submitted by TALGA. This gives a percentage of ten of the oil compounds and forms part of the "Sniff " test when judgements are being made in the competitions. Discounts are offered for TALGA members, if they want their oils individually tested. Thank you Ashley.

## QUEENSLAND

### HOLMWOOD LAVENDER FARM – Gary & Anne Young



The time of isolation during the Covid 19 pandemic last year gave us time to repair our lavender beds, do extensive weeding and prepare for planting new tubestock. Unfortunately in November 2020 we suffered extensive damage to our new lavender plants from a hailstorm which affected many horticultural growers in our valley and also caused damage to our home and sheds.

We have now had the property damage repaired and are presently replanting the lavender. We feel we have learned some lessons about better soil preparation, laying weed matting and irrigation so hope that our new lavender field will benefit from the replanting process.

Our local markets have been in operation during last half of 2020 and during the present year and we look forward to welcoming visitors back to the farm this winter when we will be up and running again. Our customers have been most enthusiastic about the new products produced for TALGA members particularly the hand sanitiser which has become one of our most popular sales lines.

It was a real highlight for us to be able to travel to the TALGA conference in Hahndorf in May and meet up with other growers after a year of being only in contact by telephone and zoom meetings.

*New lavender planting*



### LEVEN K LAVENDER – Kellie & Matt Oxenford

2021 – the road to recovery from drought, fires, covid 19.....

Our harvest started well with a good flush of flowers ready to pick & distill in November. Now usually we get one really good harvest with a moderate second harvest. This year we had Three!! Never before has this happened. Then the unusual and unexpected happening in March – the rains came, the dam filled, irrigation allocation was restored! Matt was able to plant his lucerne crop again & the Lavender thrived. We did a happy dance and believe me it was a long time coming. Some more follow up happened again in April so the smiles continued. Distillation was joyous when that delightful essence flowed – done with passion and attention to detail by Matthew and we were genuinely but delightfully surprised to win first prize with our L x intermedia Rocky Hall Margaret High Camphor. Asa Blue has won us over with its sturdiness, ability to thrive with the harsh conditions we have had and the extra yield of blooms. Farm visits have started again with small



groups & large, enjoying the garden, a conversation about the growing of lavender & usually a visit to the Shed Shop.

We thoroughly enjoyed the conference in Hahndorf and our road trip down and back. As always the conference was informative and a great networking tool. We travelled through a lot of country that was very dry with challenging conditions that are producing large quantities of Almonds, pistachios, fruit, olives & vegetables. Australian Farmers are so resilient – facing all the challenges (most that are out of their control) that they do and deserve far more recognition for their perseverance and resilience.

We will continue on in 2021 to grow our lavender business as best we can whilst adapting to all that is thrown at us and living a joyous life.

Enjoy yours

Kellie & Matt Oxenford



## QUEENSLAND

### SEA-BREEZE AROMATHERAPY CLINIC

– Jennifer Thompson

#### Conference Coach Tour

There were many highlights of the conference, and one was the tour of Hahndorf Lavender Estate on 7th May 2021. As the coach began arriving at the venue the atmosphere among delegates became electrifying and full of anticipation.

A beautiful morning tea was waiting for us and served in the properties well-equipped shed. Conversation became lively and enthusiastic full of the pros and cons of the lavender industry. Also, a sharing of family and friend's news as quite a few of us had not even met since the 2019 Talga Conference in Tasmania. In addition, a refreshing glass of lavender beer was available for delegates to sample.

Following morning tea, we continued into the beautiful field of lavender for Peter's most interesting talk on the irrigation, pruning and cultivation of lavender. The informative lecture was enjoyed by an attentive and interested group of delegates and a warm expression of thanks was given by all. Next point of interest – Auchendarroch House, Mt Barker.

On the home front sales are picking up for

lavender pillows and a renewed interest from the community on all things lavender. In the garden my *Lavandula dentata* continues to flourish and provides an attractive and fragrant floral table piece.

On the Sunshine Coast excitement is in the air as preparations for the Queensland Garden Expo gather momentum. Many well-known guest speakers will feature including Sophie Thomson and Jeremy Coleby-Williams from the ABC series Gardening Australia, so certainly an event not to be missed, all being well.

*Peter Mahar and delegates at Hahndorf Lavender Farm.*



### SAMFORD VALLEY LAVENDER – Stuart Creighton

Samford Valley Lavender Farm had its beginnings during a family trip to Melbourne after visiting Warratina Lavender Farm we fell in love with that concept of growing and production of something wonderful into our retirement years. We have an old Queenslander home that has some spare rooms now to share with visitors when the tourist routes start up again.

We had a humble and very inexperienced beginning with about 50 *Stoechas Avonview* in June 2018. We ordered *Lavandula*



*Dentata* because my wife had been growing that variety in the garden for 20 years so we knew that grew in our climate. When the *Avonview* arrived in the mail we thought it looked different and sure enough it was but planted them anyway. We have since established around 500 *Dentata* from 750 and 150 from 250 *Avonview* with a scattering of *Grosso*, *Royal Crown*, *Major* and *Pipa White*.

Almost 3 years on we didn't realise how difficult it would be to keep it alive. In 2019 it was so dry we are on tank and bore water that we tried to water as much as we could spare but with losses then hot and humid 2019-20 summer and then 600mm in January and February killed off some more from root rot. We replanted in 2020 and the same weather pattern this summer with 750mm in February and March has had the same results. We are continuing on and we're trying to open up some small visits and workshops this July when our *Dentata* is at its best. The *Avonview* has grown really well quiet surprisingly but it has not flowered as yet which is very disappointing to think this variety may never bloom in our climate?

We joined TALGA in 2020 to seek out like minded people and some much needed advice so hopefully if the COVID virus is brought under some control we look forward to traveling again to visit many of your farms.

Take care  
Stuart and Jennifer Creighton



## QUEENSLAND

### LAVENDALE – Bruce and Helen Rankine, Conondale

Both Helen and Brianna had a wonderful time at the conference and came back with lots of good oil so to speak! I would love to have been there as well but work commitments stood in my road - next time perhaps.

Our Lavender journey so far...

Having secured a little patch of paradise near Conondale in the Mary Valley, we made a move from Far North Queensland in February 2012 to SEQld.

With 10 acres (more or less) to play with we had no idea initially about what we might do with it apart from enjoy the peaceful isolation. (our previous had been 30 odd years in the consumer electronics business specialising in High Fidelity Audio equipment)

It took us quite a while, but eventually after a holiday to Tasmania which took in a visit to the Wooden Boat Festival in Hobart we stumbled across a Lavender Farm and Oil Distillery in Port Arthur, wow - that was pretty amazing!

Upon returning home we found ourselves asking if this could be a thing that we could do? Two years later we were off to the Wooden Boat Festival again (in case you hadn't already guessed, my other vice is sailing!) however this time, after a bit of online research we planned some specific Lavender visits.

The excitement is starting to build!



*Row former in action*

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### ONE GATE FARM - Dean and Kelly Bruins

Our story started in 2016 when we brought the farm, leasing it for a while before we decided to remote farm (we lived 2 hrs away). We run a small flock of dorper lamb using regenerative farming practices and closely managing our soils. Our lamb is marketed direct to the public "gate to plate". With a passion to move to the farm we started to look at how we could diversify and landed on Lavender.

Fast forward to 2020 ..... we planted our trial patch of 300 (Grosso, Riverina Alan, super and Pacific blue) which was a success. We water using our bore which has 2500 parts per million saline. Our soil is a clay-based soil with a PH6.8 – 7.0.

This year we planted approx 5000 which was predominantly Egerton Blue and Riverina Alan.

We manage our soil with a mixture of organic liquid fertiliser and wetting agents which is fed into the dripper lines. Afterall, we see ourselves as soil farmers not lavender farmers. Through our journey of regenerative farming for the last few years and having seen firsthand the difference in moving our once dust bowl "dirt" to now enriched "soil" we feel excited about difying the



odds and growing lavender successfully in the wheatbelt as opposed to farming crop and sheep. Happy soil, happy plants, happy farmer!

We have decided not to use mounds (as we did with the trial) and by doing this found that our water can drip into the furrow around the plant, and I can manage the mowing of the weeds right to the line of the plant. We have an abundance of cape weed to manage in the winter months, so we do this by mowing inbetween the rows and have put one application of organic slasher spray. That said the capeweed also

helps protect the tube stock in the colder months whilst it's in the establishment phase. We didn't broadcast this but found it extremely effective to instantly kill and keep the weeds away - no hand weeding! Yes!!! We have had an extraordinary amount of rain for our area this time of the year and some frosts, but the tube stocks are holding well.

Next year we will be developing our plot to cover 4 hectares, expanding on our oil plants with more Riverina Alan and adding into the mix Grosso.

It's been allot of hard work but rewarding at the same time. We are very excited to be on this journey and hope to lead the way with diversifying the wheatbelt region into the industry with Lavender being and option for farmers to consider in their enterprise!

Dean, Kelly & Abbey  
One Gate Farm





## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### YANCHEP LAVENDER FARM

– Karla Champion and Gary Wood



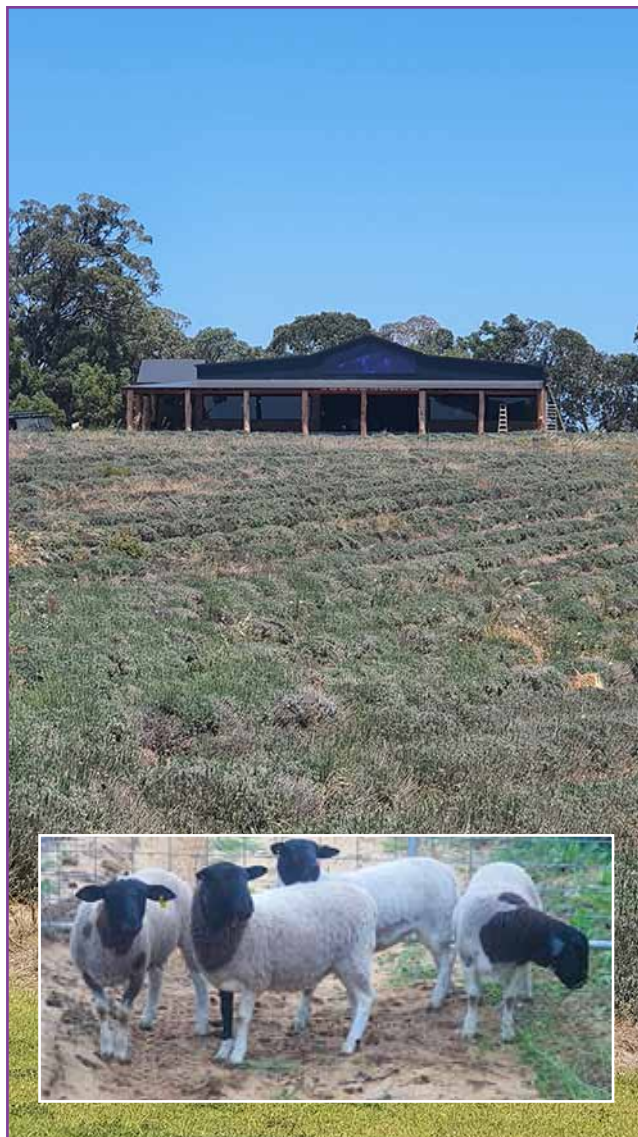
Another year gone by and a very interesting one at that.

Some very challenging times (If Lavender isn't challenging enough) along with some good quiet times for reflection and getting all those "To Do" jobs done. (well nearly all).

This season we not only fell short of international tourist but also discovered that the dripper lines were quite blocked so we didn't get a massive abundance of flowers like we have the previous 2yrs. although we still yielded 70lts of beautiful oil. We have used a product called Dutrion through the dripper lines which appears to have cleared all the lines and done its job. Fingers crossed this next season will be massive. We also got a second flower on the Vera plants that we left for the Bee's until last week, we distilled and got just over another litre of oil. Due to the pandemic & lockdowns the farm was not as busy as usual although product sales are up due to on-line purchases and pop up shops at the local shopping centres. This is always very encouraging and what keeps us going, you know you are doing something right and good when you continually get returning customers. Puts a smile on the dial.

Onto the new restaurant and shop, well again we have had some restraints and hiccups so going a little slower than planned. We are progressing and hoping to have open at the end of the year.

On a final note we have met and formed a great relationship with Kelly & Dean from One Gate Farm who are establishing a new Lavender farm on their property south of Perth. Great news for the West and TALGA. Gary and I were also gifted with 4 of Kelly & Dean's beautiful Dorper sheep to assist us with weeding and mowing the grass around the place. So far they have been brilliant. We have been monitoring them around the Lavenders. Will keep you all posted. Oh, by the way..... They are named, Nugget & Leggo (boys). Millie & Minty (girls).



### GRANNY'S GARDEN – Rachel Golledge, Albany

I've always been a sucker for the photos of lavender fields stretching into the horizon. Coupled with a few olive trees and bee hives. My Mediterranean dream.

After much research on high value niche crops (legal ones) that would afford me a life of relaxed pleasantries and profits, lavender ticked all the boxes. I raved about lavender for 10 years and no one said it was a good idea especially in Albany, Western Australia. Plus we didn't have land.

3 years ago Hubby and I finally bought our 13 acre paradise. Mostly covered in regrowth bush, the block has the bones of a once loved garden and orchard gone feral. The selling point was 2 magnificent old White Oaks spreading over the house (yes we are a bushfire nightmare). Gently sloping paddock, sandy soil and available water. Yay!

After much more research and encouragement from Heather at the Nannup Lavender farm, the defunct orchard got ripped out to make way for the 1st trial plantings of lavender in November 2020. Just 50 each of Riverina Alan and Thomas. I didn't even have irrigation ready, and hand watered for the first month. They went berserk. So in March I planted another 200 Alan and 50/50 Grosso and Avic Hill. I have a number of Swampy and Bee to go in soon. So I'm just a small fry in the Lavender pool and testing the waters with suitable varieties, but hope I can grow into a viable venture that will allow me to sit under an oak tree and survey my purple fields. Or maybe I'll just have a very expensive but beautiful garden. Either way, I've got the lavender bug.

## TASMANIA

### BRIDESTOWE LAVENDER – Robert and Jennifer Ravens



No matter what the season we are always busy at Bridestowe Estate. Winter always means its time to plant new cuttings. After the first couple of frosts, the lavender plants become dormant and can be lifted and broken up into “branched” cuttings. The cuttings are rigorously checked for fungal diseases, trimmed to remove any weak or brittle branches and then handed over to the planting team. So far, so good.....planting is 70% complete with two weeks ( weather permitting) remaining. Then it's on to Winter landscaping and matters arboreal. We are bringing in a team of experts to help with the shaping and thinning and stabilising of some of our grand old trees, especially our 150 year old Oak trees.

We have been open every day through Winter and welcome drop in visitors and day ion the week.

We've been working hard behind the scenes in our new Fragrance Studio and have released yet more products in our Candle Range. The ever popular “Moonlight” ( Lavender and Honey Myrtle) fragrance is now in bespoke glass containers and our Classic Lavender comes in a striking ceramic pot. Both have that “look at me” factor and have been selling very well.

But to add to this, our very creative staff have perfected “Lavender Haze” Candles. The fragrance is warm and inviting (think “log fires”) and the silky grey, patterned appearance will harmonise with any décor.

We've chosen 2022 to celebrate our Centenary. In reality, the business was registered in 1921 with the first seedlings planted.

We would love to see you all in 2022 to join in the celebrations.



### PORT ARTHUR LAVENDER – Clare and Brendan Dean

What an eclectic year it's been!

It's hard to know where to start really so let's start with the weather! This year on the farm was one of the best years in the past decade. Above average rainfall and nice warm days has meant that our new plantings have burst into life in their first and second years. For the first time since starting to grow lavender 10 years ago we had a huge second flowering and ended up cutting bunches in the first harvest and in April went back and harvested for oil. The oil yield and quality was really surprising to us and a nice little bonus as well.



From the business side, we opened up our beautiful new store in Richmond and found ourselves shutting the doors 12 weeks after due to the pandemic. This also resulted in our Port Arthur location shutting as well. We didn't know what was ahead of us at the time, but we wouldn't open up for another 6 months after that. The hardest part of all of the shutdowns was having to put off our amazing team of staff. It was truly heartbreaking for us to see them all go. We pushed on over the shutdowns and got all of those things you never get done ticked off our list and in September we opened the doors again to the public.

It was a slow burn at first with our friends in Victoria getting shut down as this also impacted visitor numbers into Tasmania. But, by the end of December we were back up and humming along nicely. Just when we thought we were over the worst of it Brendan had a farm accident which resulted in quite a bad injury to his leg and put him on the bench for the next 4 months! So, I was faced with the prospect of getting the two businesses back on their feet and tackling the entire harvest and distilling without Brendan. It's fair to say I was very glad when the clock struck midnight on the 31stDecember 2020!

From December onwards the tourist season has ended up being one of our busiest yet, we have been able to employ all of our amazing staff again and with Brendan slowly back on his feet we are looking forward to a much more settled 2021. We have even found time to start some really exciting new projects that we hope to share in the near future!

*Lavender Fields at Pawleena*



## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

We were all so happy with the Conference that was held in our State, in Hahndorf.

The weather was great, the programme was one which was thought provoking, challenging and full of opportunities for people to ask questions, see the Adelaide hills at its best and meet those from other States in person.

So thanks to the TALGA committee for all your planning and organising under difficult Covid restraints.

Since the Conference, we have had a most welcome few heavy downpours which have given us 265mm over the ground. Of course the weeds love it but so do the lavender plants and the crops.

However with the rain came high winds.

We went out the front door two mornings ago to be greeted by a battered empty tank of 3,000 gallon capacity [fortunately old and empty] which in the night the wind had hurled over three fences in two paddocks and dropped it close to the main highway which is the main road to the port for the overseas grain ships and the seaside towns for the caravaners and fishermen. This is the second time we have had an empty tank do this!



here and still no rain. We will hold off planting for a while.'

Christine has been working with a customer to make a new night moisturizing serum using hyaluronic acid, and day moisturizing cream with vitamin C, both with some lavender of course. All good fun!

Bob and Meredith from Plush Lavender had a great time at the Conference...but way too much food!

They write...our lavender patch has been pruned and some plants have suffered damage from kangaroos bouncing on them while we were away..... We are excited about the research into lavender and have signed up to participate in the programme.

It was interesting to see the Peter Mahar's set up; he had some easy tricks to planting lavender. We would also like to thank TALGA for our unexpected wins in the oil competition.

Rob enjoyed the speakers and had to hold back getting a selfie with Sophie, and wishes he had snips with him on the walk around her garden! When they got home he checked the bank account but Meredith explained that the money she spent at Jurlique was to be regarded as research.

They thanked everyone involved in organising such a wonderful Conference. It was a job well done.

They are looking forward to the next one and will have to put some real effort into winning again.

We listened with compassion and awe as the Rushdale Farm owners spoke about their life journeys and their lavender enterprise.

Rhona and Allan at Brayfield Park have been through rough times but with fortitude and determination to win physical and medical battles they too have overcome positively what must have seemed at the beginning a struggle that was too hard to win.

Rhona's business acumen and drive and integrity have been instrumental in introducing her products into China and South Korea.

Brayfield Park Pty Ltd is thought to be one of the smallest companies in Australia to have achieved the Chinese government National Medical Products Administration approval.

I work at a few Information Centres which also sell craft goods. Just after the Conference a lady brought in some plants to sell and said she had brought in some English lavenders. I said that they actually weren't and they couldn't be labelled as such and she said her daughter had just started to work at the local nursery and she said they were true English lavenders and how did I know!

I told her a bit about the Hahndorf Conference and the excellent talk that Peter Mahar gave us as well as the other speakers. She seemed to be astounded because she said 'All that time talking about one little flower!' Ah, well!

Half the year is gone...the cold, short days will be with us for another month or two and then the spring will quicken the little grey balls of leaves to turn green and the stalks of new blue and purple flower buds will grow tall and fragrant, and another harvest will be ours to rejoice in.

Meg Bilney  
Oakenstaff Homestead, SA



My personal thanks to each and every SA grower who shared their story either with the Conference members as a whole or with small groups.

You are innovative, carrying out your business dreams with integrity and grit and determination.

Those from Bella Lavender were in WA and couldn't attend and Myola Lavender had work commitments.

Kirree [from Myola] wrote that they have been busy on the sewing machines crafting 150 eye pillows for a local organisation to gift to patients and supporting an Adelaide based charity with lavender bags to keep their clothing racks smelling fresh.

'Thank goodness for the rain! Things were looking very dry here in Charlton Gully but the tinge of green is now shining through. Not long now and we will be in full weeding mode.'

McLaren Vale Lavender writes...'We have spent the autumn retaining some land to make a new garden area. 25 ton of fill has been shovelled into place and now winter is

Conference 2021 got underway with Anne Young providing a Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of the indigenous Peramangk people and their spiritual connection to the land, water and culture. We pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging.

Next, Ann Ferguson, OAM, Mayor of Mt Barker District Council provided an overview of the district, from the Peramangk people who had lived for thousands of years in the district to the early 19th Century German immigrants who walked with their possessions from the coast to what is known as Hahndorf in the Adelaide Hills and made a settlement here. Strong, tenacious people and their heritage is very evident today.

Mt Barker District is the fastest growing region in Australia. It consists of 15 towns including Hahndorf which is the most historic.

People love living in the area – developments are moving a-pace with the Federal Government providing \$250million towards upgrade of roads in the region. 1300 ha of prime agricultural land have been rezoned for housing developments.

The Mayor thanked the conference committee for holding the 26th TALGA Lavender conference in this special place – God’s own country and to enjoy the conference and the experiences of the region over the next couple of days.

Gary Young then invited Sophie Thomson, SA presenter on Gardening Australia, author of 2 books, wife and mother of 5 teenage children, who lives in the Adelaide Hills at Sophie’s Patch, Mt Barker.

Sophie spoke to the audience on “Adversities in the horticultural industry which has faced, drought, fire and Covid shut down. How we can foster resilience and encourage innovation in the community”.

Sophie said she would address the topic by talking about the lessons she has learned from the garden in 2020. Sophie became involved with all local help in establishing a community garden on donated land at the Western end of Kangaroo Island, Parndana. This town had been burnt out in the fires of early 2020.

A wired in structure was built with many local helpers featuring a central seating area, surrounded by wicking beds planted with herbs and vegetables. The project took 6 days to complete (by

14th March 2020) as this fitted into Sophie’s busy schedule. Just as well as lockdown came in on the 16th March.

Then it was Covid times. Negative issues surfaced such as food insecurity, crazy panic buying, social distancing, working from home, which all affected people’s behaviour and made them fearful and stressed.

However, gardening is not cancelled. Gardening is great for our health and well-being.

The simple act of growing plants from seed, putting hands in the soil, encourages people to feel grounded and reconnect with nature. Nature shows regrowth, it is constantly inspiring but sometimes we have to stop and take it in. Picture yourself in a beautiful garden and breathe in. “To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow”.

Simple things such as sharing your produce with others brings joy to everyone involved.

The generosity of the nursery & garden industry businesses was impressive – gifts of donated gear to create the garden, 300 fruit trees, compost, free freight to KI; from many small businesses - were donated at a time when there was no spare stock. (Another 300 fruit trees will be taken over this year for the locals who have now created their own new gardens on KI).



Looking ahead, Sophie believes that Lavender is a magic product that can be used in so many ways to face the challenges ahead. Seize the opportunity. By supporting others, we help ourselves. Sophie says she got way more out of helping the Kangaroo Island community than she could ever imagine.

The community garden is still growing even though now

many residents have rebuilt their own. The garden has become very important in the community.

Questions and answers were fielded from the audience and then Gary thanked Sophie for her stimulating and enjoyable presentation. See the visit to Sophie’s Patch on Friday – p. (Sophie provided a more complete version of “What I have learned in 2020” – please refer to p. of this Journal).

Delegates broke for Morning tea.



**The Research Project** – Clive Larkman, Aaron Pollack, Marisa Collins.

First speaker was Clive Larkman of Larkman Nurseries, the nurseryman partner in the research project “Optimisation of Lavender Oil”.

Clive described the following changes he is seeing in the lavender industry today.

There has been a huge shift in the type of lavender farmer of today. From what had been hobby farms now his customer base consists of customers who want to produce a crop for a reasonable return and the farms are big, 5 to 40ha and bigger. The Bobby Bear phenomenon. Suddenly there was a need for a very large supply of dried lavender flowerbuds to fill the bears and there was a worldwide shortage.

Diploma in Agritourism. After pushing for many years, Clive is pleased to announce that Box Hill TAFE are now offering this course.

<https://www.boxhill.edu.au/courses/diploma-of-agritourism-operations-agt51-d/>

This is a fulltime 12 months course, at the Lilydale campus, Vic. Also available part-time and by remote learning. Cost \$4199. Bee breeding as an income for a lavender grower? \$3-5000 per hectare of lavender, per annum. However there is no structured research for this.

As a botanist by training, Clive is interested in how a plant grows – nutrients required at different times of the year. Clive was involved in Lavender plant breeding with Nigel Urwin at Charles Sturt University which produced the Riverina series of lavenders. Out of this came the breeding for ‘Asa Blue’. After attending a meeting at EOPAA where Clive learned Agrifutures were making funding available for plant breeding. Discussing with Aaron Pollack, Clive formed a company and this was the beginning of the research project.

He could see the need to start to breed lavenders for climatic conditions not for the name. A cultivar for Hahndorf, etc. The GC is important and the chemist can match a GC from a variety of oils. We are the only country in the world doing this.

Aaron Pollack, founder and Managing director/CEO of Golden Grove Naturals, purchased 300 ha at Tucki Tucki, Northern Rivers of NSW, on the banks of the Wilson River. The property has one of the oldest Tea Tree crops and original commercial Tea Tree distilleries in Australia, established in 1980.

Prior to 2016, for more than a decade, Aaron was working at Southern Cross University undertaking research into Australian native plants. As a Research Associate, and later as Technical Manager, he was responsible for both commercial and research analytical laboratories and pilot scale natural product extraction laboratories.

Golden Grove Naturals’ (GGN) strategy is to establish further infrastructure, expand investments, and undertake development of in-demand native and non-native essential oils within the Oceania region.

GGN currently has 300 ha of Tea Tree and over 25 ha of other

crops under cultivation on site, with many other partnering farms located around Australia.

During the 2019 TALGA conference, held at Port Arthur, Aaron approached Gary Young and Clive Larkman tabling aspirations to develop a coordinated Lavender R&D plan for the Australian Lavender Industry by taking advantage of the available grants on offer by Agrifutures.

Aaron worked with TALGA and Larkman Nurseries with the aim of achieving this goal. Subsequently, with La Trobe University’s Institute for Agriculture and Food, funding was successfully sought for the project “Optimisation of Lavender Oil”.

This coming together of the combined analytical skills and research capabilities of both La Trobe University and Golden Grove Naturals, together with the extensive grower knowledge and networking ability available within TALGA, provides the Australian lavender industry with a unique opportunity. Together with Golden Grove Naturals proven ability as a world-class essential oil producer with unparalleled knowledge of, and access to, the international essential oil markets this tripartite has the potential to catapult Australian lavender into the global marketplace.

Marisa Collins then spoke to the delegates about her part in the Research Project.

Marisa is a Senior lecturer (Agronomy) at La Trobe University, Melbourne.

In both industry and research there are significant knowledge gaps for lavender from crop physiology and agronomy to oil extraction and drivers of composition. In addition, from a practical perspective, there is also limited methodology for growers on optimising growth and production, presenting a major challenge for both new growers and future industry growth. For example, this knowledge gap means that lavender growers are making potentially expensive mistakes when it comes to variety selection and maximising their lavender production. This creates challenges for both existing and new growers of lavender as well as future industry expansion. Collaborators on this project include the La Trobe Institute for Agriculture and Food (LIAF) and businesses in the Australian lavender supply chain, TALGA, Larkman Nurseries (Clive Larkman) and Golden Grove Naturals (Aaron Pollack).

To address these knowledge gaps a project funded by Agrifutures is collecting baseline data for measuring the size and shape of the industry (including GVP, social, economic & environmental). The project will setup the basis for determining provenance; conduct limited field trials to establish baseline data on agronomy; and, across project partners, oils will be assessed for olfactory and flavour qualities from micro- to large-scale. This information will aid in development of a market-led industry delivering valued olfactory traits and point of difference for Australian growers.

The project has four aims: (1) Development of an industry knowledge database; (2) Standardised oil analysis processes for small to large scale analysis; (3) Field trials (agronomic management); and (4) Development of an industry research, development and extension (RDE) plan.

**Industry database:**

development of a database and website for growers, industry, and the public (Lavdata) that collects information on growing practices, industry size and profitability to establish a baseline for industry size and future growth potential. This information will be available at a range of levels or points (public, industry, and growers) to protect information collected by the grower industry survey. The survey and database will be available in the second half of 2021. This is critical step of the project where we really need industry support as the current project is only funded till the end of 2021 and we need to demonstrate to Agrifutures that the industry is supportive of investment / growth of the lavender industry for future investments. The easiest way to ensure the project success is to gather as much information as we can on the industry via the survey and database. As a project partner, TALGA will be an active part of this process. The information collected will not be publicly released and primarily used to assess industry size, productivity, and practices. Growers can opt-in / opt-out on information availability and data is held on highly secure servers at La Trobe. This information is key to develop the industry for the future.

**Oil analysis:** The extraction and analysis of lavender oil is traditionally labour intensive, time consuming and expensive. It requires specialist apparatus and large sample volumes for representative analytical sample. In the laboratory we will be developing standardised protocols for growers and industry that enable oil analysis from small (e.g., flower) to large scale (e.g., distilled samples). The development of simplified methods that require less bulk and shorter extraction times will ensure more rapid throughput of variety and agronomic management assessments and analysis that will enable mixing of bulk lavender oil to standardised specifications for local and global markets. High throughput phenotyping (characterising large numbers of samples quickly) also enables examination: of cultivar oil yields and composition, head maturity and harvest timing, distillation timing and fractionation composition, assessment of lavender



## Oil Testing

*We have a fully equipped essential oil laboratory here at Golden Grove Naturals which is available to all TALGA members*

176 Munro Wharf Road, Tucki Tucki NSW 2480  
 Ph: (02) 6629 8558  
 Mob: 0414 832 668 (Brad Fredericks)  
 Email: [technical@goldengrovenaturals.com](mailto:technical@goldengrovenaturals.com)  
 Web: <https://goldengrovenaturals.com/>

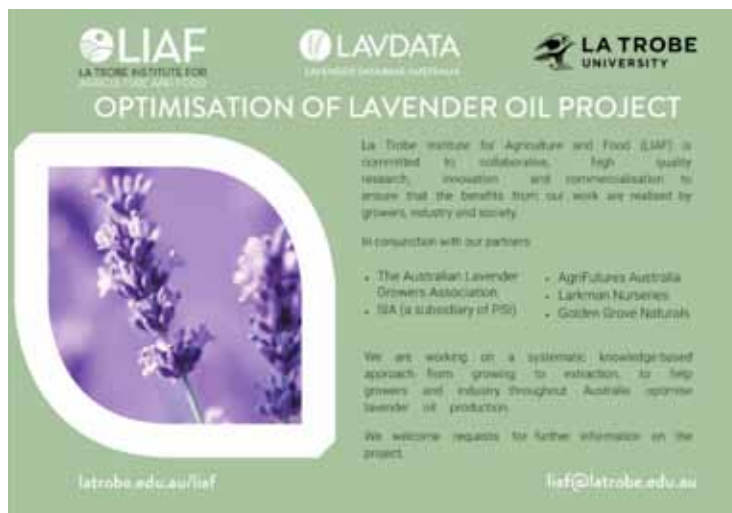
using ISO standards and rigorous proof of provenance as well as investigation into the interactions of genotype x environment x management (GEM) on oil composition and quality across Australia.

**Field trials (agronomic management):** A field trial has been established with the objective to assess the effect of nitrogen and potassium fertilization on lavender essential oil production and composition. This part of the project also provides sample material for preliminary oil composition analysis in response to variety and management interactions. These trials are being hosted near Wallan Victoria at Chin Chin Farms (Sonia and Stuart Whitman) and have treatments across three varieties (Bee, Super and Asa Blue). Preliminary results are encouraging with flower yields being responsive to both N and K. Originally multiple sites were planned but this has been significant curtailed by covid-19 travel restrictions in

2020. A future project would include variety assessments and agronomic management at a range of locations across Australia for which we would do a future call for growers willing to host variety collections to assess variety traits and impact of GEM on lavender productivity.

**Development of an industry RD&E plan:** this is a new project that will seek industry input as to the future of the industry in terms of research, development, and extension. This program will profile the Australian lavender industry and identify the supply chains, local and export markets and growth projections, and analyse the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. We will be asking for industry input and ideas into this project over the next six months with the idea that the future of the industry is driven by industry requirements supported by scientific enquiry.

**Acknowledgments:** This project relies on partnerships and collaboration across a range of organisations and individuals. The research program will draw on La Trobe experts in soil and plant science from agronomy and crop physiology through to chemistry and genomics. Project leader: Jim Whelan. Key collaborators: TALGA, Golden Grove, Chin Chin Farms, and the Australian lavender industry. Project funding from Agrifutures.



**LIAF** LA TROBE INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD  
**LAVDATA** Lavender database Australia  
**LA TROBE UNIVERSITY**

### OPTIMISATION OF LAVENDER OIL PROJECT

La Trobe Institute for Agriculture and Food (LIAF) is committed to collaborative, high quality research, innovation and commercialisation to ensure that the benefits from our work are realised by growers, industry and society.

In consultation with our partners:

- The Australian Lavender Growers Association
- ISA (a subsidiary of PS)
- Agrifutures Australia
- Larkman Nurseries
- Golden Grove Naturals

We are working on a systematic, knowledge-based approach from growing to extraction to help growers and industry throughout Australia optimise lavender oil production.

We welcome requests for further information on the project.

[latrobe.edu.au/liaf](http://latrobe.edu.au/liaf) [liaf@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:liaf@latrobe.edu.au)



**Finding an Overseas Market**

– Rhona Parker-Benton, Brayfield Park P.L.

Present at the TALGA conference 2021 were Rhona and Allan Parker-Benton from Murray Bridge South Australia.

Rhona spoke on their journey over the past 4 years from small grower to producer of premium lavender skin care and export into Asia.

Key points discussed included what is export, their journey from the first TALGA conference they attended in Bombala in the late 1990s to where they are today working full time in the business.

Rhona spoke on the leap of faith that they took. Stating that it came about after years of interest from Asian customers and plenty of experience in successfully growing lavender in the harsh SA climate (below freezing in winter and up to 45 degrees in summer) and their own personal experiences in visiting many farms overseas.



‘An independent business case confirmed what we thought we knew and helped us with the decision.’

Since Aug 2017, Brayfield Park has rebranded, created a new product range, formed a partnership, and more recently exported to China and South Korea. Brayfield Park Pty Ltd is thought to be one of the smallest companies in Australia to have achieved the Chinese Government National Medical Products Administration (NMPA) approval.

The importance of forming networks and relationships was mentioned including Australia China Business Council, Austrade, Regional Development Board and SA’s equivalent of Chamber of Commerce, Business SA plus the State government.

Rhona said that ‘Export has many challenges, but it can be exciting and rewarding too. We have learnt a lot about other cultures and remained open to trying new things that take us out of our comfort zone.’

In discussing the impact of 2020, there were personal health issues in the family on top of COVID. Combined they made 2020 a terrible year and one that is better left in the past. The Hahndorf shop closed on 23 March 2020 and didn’t open again until August (weekends only). It wasn’t until December 2020 that the shop opened during the week.

Chinese interest in export halted during 2020 and has also been affected by the current government tensions. During the downtime they increased their online presence and focussed on product development.

2021 is however shaping up to be a good year with the shop picking up and their most recent order to China in March 2021. The annual shop income has almost recovered which is remarkable given that more than half the trade pre COVID was international. It shows the value of Australians supporting locals.

Brayfield Park’s short to medium term future includes more export orders on horizon, new products being launched during the second half of 2021, farm expansion and continued growth.

**New grower’s story** was provided by Andy Dale and Annie Yeomans of Rushdale Farm, Murray Bridge, SA.

In 2017 Andy and Annie bought a run-down historic farm. This was a change in their lifestyle. They developed a 5-year plan. How were they to derive an income? They worked out that they needed a 10% return on their investment.

Diversification was the key. They bought cattle, sheep and planted vegetables and 100 Grosso Lavender plants to start with.

Gradually the number of lavender plants has increased to 1600. Learning much on the way – how to control weeds has been a big issue. (They now use crossbred lambs to control weeds). They came to the Conference to speak to other growers and find answers to their questions.

Delegates broke for lunch.

There were 4 workshop sessions available after lunch for delegates to choose from:

Art & Science of Aromatherapy with Dr Tamara Agnew - a talk with a practical session led by Raelene Ng Binnion who helped delegates make their own sniffing salts.

New grower workshop, Q&A with Dawn Baudinette.

Plants with Clive & Di.

Marketing and adapting to change with Annemarie Manders. An Illustrated talk given by Annemarie from her many years as a successful businesswoman and founder/owner of Warratina Lavender .

**Where Science and Art Meet – Dr Tamara Agnew, PhD**

In 2020, researchers were encouraged to publish articles related to Covid-19. Given the restrictions of lockdown, we had limited capacity to undertake any clinical research. Therefore, we were inundated with ‘scientific’ articles about how essential oils might affect Covid-19. Some authors reviewed other common viral respiratory infections (eg cold and flu), while others proposed ways in which the Covid virus might respond to an intervention based on computer modelling. None, however, could report with any certainty the effect of any essential oil on the novel SARS-CoV-2 virus or any of its symptoms.

Considering clinical research more generally, the quality of essential oil research varies. In vitro (laboratory) evidence is often strong, but there is scant clinical evidence to support the laboratory findings. For example, where lab science tells us that some essential oils possess anticancer properties (Ren et al, 2018) including cancer cell death and preventing the increase of cancer cells, we still do not know how to translate this research to clinical practice, but it is promising. We need to learn about therapeutic dose and safety and how we can apply treatments to directly target the cells, without causing further harm to the cancer patient. Some lavender essential oils are antibacterial against certain bacteria, however there is no single lavender essential oil has a broad-spectrum antibacterial effect, therefore the blanket claim that lavender essential oil is antibacterial is misleading. Antifungal studies are more positive; Lavandula oils have activity against fungi of both medical and agricultural importance, suggesting that an assortment of lavender oils may be useful for treating fungal infections.

Within clinical research, lavender oil is well represented. Research looking into effects on quality of life, post-operative nausea, reducing anxiety and stress, pain reduction and wound healing amongst many others demonstrates the priority of many researchers in this area. The restorative psychological and/or physiological benefit of lavender is well described in the literature, however, there is a lot we do not know. For example, is it the memory of scent, or the effects of the components on the amygdala and hippocampus that lead to healing? Inhalation of lavender oil is said to alter mood and improve sleep, but many studies combine both massage and lavender oil, so it is difficult to disentangle. Where lavender is applied or inhaled for pain, the results suggest some benefit, however, we do not know whether the effect is a direct analgesic one, or simply elicits a more positive outlook for people experiencing chronic pain.

The standardized Silexan™ (or Seramind® in Australia: RRP \$39.95/56 80mg capsules) is a pharmaceutically prepared lavender intervention for sleep. It is reported as being effective with onset of action described as minimum two weeks (Seifritz et al, 2019). No studies have directly compared Silexan™ with inhaled essential oils for sleep latency, duration, quality, disturbed sleep or anxiety. However, we know inhaled lavender can improve sleep for many population groups including benzodiazepine withdrawing patients, hospitalized elderly patients and middle-aged women with insomnia (Greenberg and Slyer, 2018). Silexan™ is available over the counter in Australia, however, it's high price is likely to make it inaccessible for many. Inhaled lavender oil, by comparison is much more accessible, and there is good evidence of its immediate effect on sleep quality (eg Lee et al, 2017).

Recent case reports have linked lavender and tea tree oil to premature breast development in girls and gynecomastia in boys and men. Both of these oils are common ingredients in personal care products and are both frequently used in aromatherapy practice. A recent review of the literature concluded that these warnings are based on insufficient evidence. Case reports are the lowest level of evidence in the hierarchy of evidence, and so the findings should be interpreted with caution. The reporting in the press was designed to inspire fear, however there is no evidence to substantiate any proposed link between lavender and endocrine disruption in children (Hawkins et al, 2020). However, it does raise important questions about essential oils as ingredients in personal care products, and the lack of investigation of safety about routine exposure to such ingredients.

There are many challenges as we try to establish scientific efficacy in essential oil research including the aromatic nature of essential oils,

unsubstantiated health claims that ultimately discredit quality clinical practice and limited research funding. Much more research is necessary – collaboration between growers and researchers is a really good place to start.

**Refs:**

Greenberg, M. J. & Slyer, J. T. (2018). Effectiveness of Silexan oral lavender essential oil compared to inhaled lavender essential oil aromatherapy for sleep in adults: a systematic review. JBI Database of Systematic Reviews and Implementation Reports, 16 (11), 2109-2117. doi: 10.11124/JBISIRIR-2017-003823.

Hawkins, J., Hires, C., Dunne, E., Baker, C. (2020) The relationship between lavender and tea tree essential oils and pediatric endocrine disorders: A systematic review of the literature. Complementary Therapies in Medicine, 49: doi.org/10.1016/j.ctim.2019.102288

Lee, M.-k., Lim, S., Song, J.-A., Kim, M.-E., & Hur, M.-H. (2017). The effects of aromatherapy essential oil inhalation on stress, sleep quality and immunity in healthy adults: Randomized controlled trial. European Journal of Integrative Medicine, 12, 79-86. doi:https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eujim.2017.04.009

Ren, P., Ren, X., Cheng, L., & Xu, L. (2018). Frankincense, pine needle and geranium essential oils suppress tumor progression through the regulation of the AMPK/mTOR pathway in breast cancer. Oncology Reports, 39, 129-137. https://doi.org/10.3892/or.2017.6067

Seifritz E, Schläfke S, Holsboer-Trachsler E. (2019). Beneficial effects of Silexan on sleep are mediated by its anxiolytic effect. J Psychiatr Res, 115: 69-74. doi: 10.1016/j.jpsychires.2019.04.013.



**ALUI ALTUM CONSULTANTS**

Health Research & Education

**Providing reliable, independent research consulting solution for the essential oil industry**

Experts in the design, conduct and reporting of

- Health services research
- Survey research
- Qualitative research
- Clinical research
- Program service & evaluation

Contact our expert team to find out how AAC can support you in finding solutions to your individual, business or industry needs.

**T: 0451 961 780**

E: [info@aluialtumconsultants.com.au](mailto:info@aluialtumconsultants.com.au)

Web: <http://www.aluialtumconsultants.com.au/>



**Marketing Your Bbusiness – lessons learned from Covid** with Annemarie Manders, Warratina Lavender Farm.

**Marketing & Adapting to Change**

**Why Grow Lavender?**

1. to be an added attraction to accommodation
2. to grow for distillation
3. to manufacture & produce product for retail
4. to manufacture & produce product for wholesale

Answers:

1. Marketing to tourism both regional, national, international.

Type of clientele depends on the type of accommodation eg:

- a) rustic
- b) up-market
- c) homely for families
- d) couples

2. Oil distillation: marketing eg:

- a) thru website
- b) online
- c) own shop
- d) Shows

3. Retail: Own Shop or Outlet on farm

4. Wholesale: finding buyers eg:

- a) Gift shops
- b) Other farms
- c) Tourist attractions with a shop
- d) Regional Info Centre
- e) online

**Adapting to Change to Successful Marketing**

**What can go Wrong?**

1. Family situation eg. marriage, death
2. Loss of income from Primary job due to redundancy, close of business
3. Problem with plants in the ground: eg. wrong variety for location, soil issue, plant virus
4. Existing Business Plan needing to be restructured due to: existing building not big enough, building complications eg white ants, clearing of vegetation
5. If open to the public: licences, compliance certificates, toilets, car parking public access, liability insurance
6. OH & S: look at all feasibility likelihoods
7. Pandemic: Adaption to change. What can go wrong:
  - a) Close business
  - b) No tourists
  - c) Cancel Staff. Unhappy staff as no job. Can result in reverberations on the Business.

**Solution**

1. Restructure business
2. Look at how you are selling your product
3. Online expansion
4. Opportunity to spend time redeveloping product presentation, branding, labelling design.
5. Discount offers

**Conclusion**

- Think laterally
- Be innovative
- Be resourceful
- Be creative
- Be courageous
- Have a go!



The keynote speaker at the dinner was Anthony Paech from Beerenberg Family Farm.

The speech was highlighted with a video of the family history beginning with George and Anna Paech sailing from Prussia in 1839, to settle in the Adelaide Hills in South Australia in 1840. Their son Johann Christian settled in what is now known as Paechtown, near Hahndorf. His son Herman, and wife Alexandra continued farming with him.



Grant had been brought up with a commitment to pursue excellence in whatever he did, and he was a perfect role model for his three children who now run the farm business.

Since Grant's death in 2015 the business has gone from strength to strength, and his wife Carol, has been a source of strength and encouragement to her family as well.

The family were hard working traditional subsistence farmers and carers of their land, and grew fruit and vegetables as well as ordinary crops and had dairy cows.

It was Herman's son Grant, now the 5th generation of the Paech family, who attended Roseworthy Agricultural College after he left high school and was challenged by new ways of thinking about farm production.

When his father had a stroke, Grant took over the running of the farm and realised that strawberries would grow well on their land.

In the next few years he pursued his dream in a practical way. The first strawberries were planted in 1969.

He grew more and more strawberries, he sold them in the Adelaide market and on a roadside stall beside the farm road. He taught himself to make jam out of the unsold fruit, pouring it into jars which he then labelled with his own design.

Each of Grant's three children, Anthony, Robert and Sally, have the shared desire to pursue excellence in their responsibilities to grow, cook and market their products all over Australia and to at least 22 countries worldwide, including the hospitality industry, airlines and supermarkets.

They have built a new complex, everything is done on site - growing, manufacturing and packaging, and there is a farm shop which draws in a large tourist visitation. During the months of October to May each year, pick your own strawberries is available to the public.

This 6th generation of the Paech family, show warm respect for each other and their special individual capabilities. They have been successful in marketing their preserves, pickles and condiments with an eye on convenience to the customer, quality and value for money.

Honest to goodness Australian farm produce.

Visit YouTube Beerenberg Farm for more information on the Beerenberg story.







The Australian Lavender Growers' Association Inc

# JEAN SARGEANT CRAFT AWARD

Hahndorf, SA. May 2021

## FIRST PRIZE

Awarded to

*Wendy Fuller*

*for her many beautiful handcrafted and embroidered Lavender items.*

From

Pinelea Lavender, N.S.W.



Wendy Fuller's Award Winning Craft Products



The Australian Lavender Growers' Association Inc

# Life Member

Awarded to

*Neville Sargeant*

Lucy's Lavender, Yellingbo, Victoria

**29th April 2020**

For his many years of service to TALGA and his commitment to the Lavender Industry in Australia.





**CONFERENCE FRIDAY TRIP** by Kellie Oxenford

The Friday bus trip for the Lavender Conference is always my favourite part as it is a great networking day & there is always something of interest for everyone. I was particularly excited this year as we were visiting Jurlique (our first stop).



Jurlique was established in 1985 as a premier cosmetic company, growing its own flowers and herbs for use in its cosmetics. Jurgens and Ulrike Klein migrated from Germany in the early 1980's to the Adelaide Hills. Jurgens is a biochemist and naturopath and Ulrike a botanist and horticulturist. Delegates were given a tour of the property by Cherie Hutchinson, inspecting the propagating area, the herb garden, the drying room and still, and of course the shop.



**Jurlique Rose**

I have been a long time user – over 25 years now of one particular face cream. Their biodynamic growing, careful processing techniques have always been of interest. Matthew & I thoroughly enjoyed this start to the day! And of course I stocked up on my favourites..... The farm tour was interesting and thought provoking and confirmed my admiration for the Jurlique brand.



Next we continued to Hahndorf Lavender Estate to see the mighty inroads being made by Peter & Thomas Mahar. Peter entertained us in the field – with his insights as a relatively new lavender grower.



His down to earth talk on how he manages his farming practices day to day were informative & interesting.

We enjoyed a taste of some Lavender Beer and Morning Tea in the Big Shed!





Auchendarroch House was our next stop for a light refreshing lunch & for some of us a tour around the gardens with Penny the Gardener and her pooch Bear! My idea of the perfect job

– gardening with your dog! This was a most delightful heritage listed building and gardens.



Our last stop and by far my favourite was our visit to Sophies Patch. Our garden tour with Sophie was dynamic, informative, interesting with plenty of laughs thrown in.



Afternoon Tea was divine – Roasted Peach Cake & Green Tomato Cake (who would have thought that green tomatoes could taste that good!)

**Green Tomato Cake Recipe – Sophie Thomson**

**Ingredients**

- 2 ¼ cups sugar
- 1 cup (250 gm) butter, softened
- 3 eggs
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 cups plain flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp nutmeg
- 1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts (optional)
- 1 cup sultanas
- 2 ½ cups diced green tomatoes

**Directions**

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F
2. In a mixing bowl, beat sugar, butter, eggs and vanilla until smooth and creamy.
3. Sift together the flour, salt, baking powder, cinnamon and nutmeg
4. Slowly beat into the egg mixture
5. Stir in pecans, raisins and green tomatoes
6. Pour into a greased and lined 23cm x 30cm pan and top with coconut if desired.
7. Bake for one hour or until skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.





Sophies Patch is full of unusual plants, wonderful garden art, plenty of poultry and quirky spots whilst being hugely productive.

We came home more enthusiastic about our garden than ever before. Sophie is truly an inspirational gardener..

We always eat very well on the Friday tour, have lots of laughs, meet and talk with even more like minded lavender growers and extend our friendships new and old.

Dear Annemarie rounded the trip off with one of her witty poems about our day – so if we were not smiling before, we were as we left the bus.....

### A POEM BY Annemarie Manders

An early start after speeches & all  
 Networking, sharing & learning the call  
 Of lavender, its merits, its strengths to health;  
 The ways of marketing & how to make wealth.  
 Our visit to the iconic farm Jurilique  
 The biodiverse organics, drying methods unique.  
 A privilege to visit this farm of world renown,  
 Then on to Hahndorf Lavender estate, just out of town. Morning tea &  
 directives by Peter Mahar  
 On his irrigation & machinery & development so far. Great information  
 & property well kept,  
 Then on to Auchendarroch House where lunch was set. Delicious  
 savoury & sweet tooth bites  
 With a walk around the gardens, oak trees & their might. A beautiful  
 old house with renovations in sight.  
 Sophie's Patch our final stop, a garden for all to enjoy Edible &  
 fragrant & wellness for all of us. A joy.  
 Sophie full of bubbling enthusiasm & fun  
 The gaggle of geese our welcome, quaking in the sun.  
 A wonderful finale to a Conference well spent  
 New friends & interaction. All information lent.  
 Thank you TALGA Committee, 2 days we won't forget Our learning  
 curve amazing. Our lavender plans are set.

*By Annemarie Manders, Warratina Lavender Farm, 7th May 2021*

Thank you TALGA.







# MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN LAVENDER GROWERS' ASSOCIATION, held Thursday 6th May, 2021 at Adelaide Hills Convention Centre, Hahndorf, SA at 3.20pm.

The meeting was chaired by President Gary Young, who welcomed all to the Annual General Meeting.

31 Members present: Clive & Di Larkman, Fiona Glover, Gary & Anne Young; Neville Sargeant, Neville & Gillian Henderson; Annemarie & Peter Manders; Kellie & Matt Oxenford; Christine & Tony Hitchin; Louise Bickerton; Jenny Thompson; Kaye Kelly, Dawn Baudinette, Sally Heeps, Bob Plush & Meredith Clark, Helen Griffin, Ann Yeomans, Andy Dale, Sonia & Stuart Whiteman, Bernadette Dobeli, Meg Bilney, Peter Mahar, Philip Monardo, Nick Esdaile-Watts, Rhona Parker Benton.

Apologies received from Sharon & Greg Bailey, Wendy Fuller, Jens Volkman, Clare & Brendan Dean, Peter Jemmett NZLGA, Cate & Neil Harper, Chloe & Jamie Gillingham, Rupert Dalley, Sandra Traviati, Catherine Tynan, Bronwyn Williams, Stuart Creighton, Anna Erasmus, Thomas Mahar, Gary Wood & Karla Champion, Kirilee Foster, Mario & Lucy Centofanti.

### Confirmation of 2020 AGM Minutes.

#### No business arising from Minutes

**It was moved by Fiona Glover and seconded by Kaye Kelly that the minutes of the 2020 AGM be accepted as a true record. *Carried***

Clive Larkman took the Chair and Neville Henderson reported as Returning Officer, on the nominations received.

### Elections

Neville Henderson read out a statement of nominations to the Board.

3 positions on the Board become vacant at this time.

3 Nominations had been received from 3 current Board Members up for reelection: Gary Young, Kellie Oxenford, Christine Hitchin.

As there were no other nominations, no election is required and the 3 positions have been filled.

All 3 members were elected for a 2-year term.

Clive Larkman welcomed incoming Board members.

President Gary Young resumed Chair.

Following the AGM a short committee meeting was held to determine positions on the committee.

ALR's are currently serving a 2-year term and will be up for reelection in 2022.

7 ALR's as follows.

Kellie Oxenford coordinator & QLD

Wendy Fuller NSW

Cate Harper, East/SE Vic

Fiona Glover, West/Central Vic

Clare Dean TAS

Meg Bilney, SA

Karla Champion WA

Notices of Motion: Notices Received

*None*

Agenda Items

*None*

## REPORTS

### President

Greetings to all Members here at Hahndorf, South Australia at our 26th TALGA Conference.

Since our previous AGM 29 April 2020 via Skype and with the country now in recovery mode, I hope you are all stay safe and well. It was disappointing that due to Covid we were unable to hold the 25th TALGA Conference at Bendigo, Vic and visit the Bendigo Botanic Gardens and the National Collection of Lavenders.

COVID 19 Pandemic may generally have been a disaster but there have been some unexpected benefits. In the case of our TALGA Board we have had to learn to master Zoom meetings and this has allowed Board members across the states to have more input. I am sure that we will continue to do most of the business over Zoom even after Covid is managed. This has been a major saving of accommodation and travel costs.

I respect and understand the circumstances of some members who have not yet renewed their membership due to floods, drought, fires and now having to close their shops and farm gates because of social distancing rules as results of the COVID 19 Pandemic. I hope in time those members may be able to return to TALGA.

My thanks to all members who supported by supplying photographs for and the purchasing the TALGA Calendars for 2021. They have been well received with interest for new offers of photographs for 2022.

I would like to personally welcome all new members and Lavender Club members who have joined TALGA during the past year and support them with as much information on developing their lavender farms as we can.

My thanks to new TALGA Board members Louise Bickerton from Blue Mountains Lavender and Thomas Mahar from Hahndorf Lavender. Both have contributed greatly to the organisation of this conference. I would like to express my thanks to Christine and Tony Hitchins from McLaren Vale Lavender for their support with presentation and packaging of the gift Pack items as well as the new products; hand sanitizer and hand lotion for the Sentimental collection. The production of the hand sanitizer was particularly well timed in 2020 and has received many compliments from customers.

Many thanks to Kellie Oxenford for her role as Editor of e-news for its regular monthly issues. It is growing with interest from articles and items of support contributed from members.

I have had a number of discussions with Laura Daniels, Senior Project Coordinator Research, Latrobe University and



# MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Clive Larkman involving a joint relationship with Argi Futures Lavender Oil Project. This is a worthy platform for TALGA members to access the data and website interface for the liaison of industry and lavender information. My thanks to Clive for his support with this project.

I congratulate Neville Sargeant being proposed by Fiona Glover and approved by the Board Members for a Life Membership. His long service of 12 years as a Board Member and Treasurer shows great dedication to TALGA.

My thanks to Fiona Glover for her role as Secretary and driving the Zoom meetings. This has been challenging at times with technical issues but rewarding with the new TALGA members. All her efforts in coordinating the Conference Publications booklet, my thanks.

Again, my thanks to all Board members for making a great TALGA team and working together. This is the only way to move ahead.

Lastly, I would like to express my thanks to my wife Anne for all her support, assistance and patience for my role as President.

Gary Young, President  
6 May 2021

It was moved by Gary Young, seconded by Kaye Kelly that the President's Report be accepted.

T

## Treasurer

This report is for the period 1st July 2020 to 30th April 2021.

Our normal financial Report to the Board and Auditor is from 1st July to 30th June.

I have been producing a monthly financial Report to the Board, so that members can see a clear picture of our current finances.

The Corona Virus epidemic has been instrumental in changing our lifestyle and business procedures which will be identified in my report.

TALGA'S operating procedures have changed dramatically with the use of teleconferencing for Board meetings and the extensive use of emailing rather than the previous face to face meetings.

Financially TALGA maintained a sound position over the last 12 months, considering the restrictions imposed by the epidemic and teleconferencing has saved the cost of face-to-face meetings. However not meeting in person does have a down-side. It is still important to continue to hold these when restrictions allow.

We are working within our proposed budget for 2020/21,

mainly because of reduced travel costs, however our general costs remain the same.

Thankfully our Accountant/Auditor has not increased his charges and has not done so for many years for which I have personally thanked him for his support of TALGA in this way.

Membership fees have remained the same except the Board decided on a 10% reduction in fees for 2021/22 for renewing members as an offset in the continuing pandemic.

Sentimental Collection sales have been average, with only a small percentage of members supporting the Collection and these members have been rewarded by receiving a discount on their membership fees. This was the original conception in introducing the Collection for members.

The TALGA website has been upgraded by Kinnear Miller with new products and pricing in the Shop. My thanks to Christine and Tony Hitchin for designing new labelling for all products. Some products have been out of stock and some will be discontinued. This has been regularly discussed at Board meetings and will be at this AGM.

My thanks to all Board members for assisting me in my duties as Treasurer and I am looking forward to your continuing support to TALGA.

Regards,  
Neville Sargeant  
Treasurer

## Secretary

The Covid pandemic has certainly changed the way we do things. TALGA's 2020 AGM was a virtual meeting. And every month since then the Board has held its meetings the same way (although we changed apps from Skype to Teams).

It was with hesitation that the Board started planning the 2021 Conference to be held at Hahndorf, SA. having cancelled the 25th Conference at Bendigo, Vic last year. New Board member Thomas Mahar of Hahndorf Lavender Estate and his father Peter, were keen to have the Conference on home ground and show us what they have been developing at Hahndorf over the last couple of years since the previous Conference at Port Arthur in 2019. And here we are. It is regrettable that Thomas has not been able to be here with us. His work commitments took him to PNG and he is unable to get a flight back at this time. We hope he does not have to wait too much longer.

Interest in growing lavender across Australia has resulted in increases in membership. There are 9 new members representing new growers in Victoria, TAS, W.A., NSW and QLD. It is pleasing to meet many of them here today. Lavender Club membership has increased by 3 including a member located on Norfolk Island.

We believe that TALGA's website and the growing number of friends on TALGA'S facebook page have served to encourage interest in Lavender and hope that this will continue.

We have continued with membership of Australian Made and have ensured that all products in the Scentimental Collection can qualify for approval under this banner. With the current interest in buying locally and supporting Australian made we believe this is worthwhile.

The Lavender Journal was published in August followed by a new initiative, the Lavender Calendar 2021 featuring photos of member Lavender farms.

TALGA's Olfactory Oil competition attracted overseas entries again this year with oil samples sent from Canada, USA and New Zealand: 19 from Australia and 14 International. Of the 33 oils received for GC testing and judging of which 17 were *Lavandula angustifolia*, 12 *Lavandin* and 4 oil blends (mostly *angustifolia*)

All oils entered were of very high quality and a variety of cultivars were represented including some lavenders not commonly grown in Australia such as *Folgate* and *Violet Intrigue*.

The main purpose of having oils tested is in receiving a GC analysis and comparing the results with international Oil Standards. Apart from the Competition itself.

Tony McMeel returned to assist with judging along with myself, Neville Henderson, Matt Oxenford and Meredith Clark, the latter two via Teams link.

The Lavender Research Project is underway with trial plantings being monitored by Dr Marisa Collins, LaTrobe University. A meeting was held there at Chin Chin Farm in February and it is hoped to return later in the year to see the progress being made.

In conclusion, I would like to express my pleasure in working with all Board members – Gary Young, Christine Hitchin, Neville Sargeant, Kellie Oxenford and now not so new Board members Louise Bickerton and Thomas Mahar.

It has been a remarkable team effort working from home and holding virtual meetings – so very different to previous years. The success of the 2021 Conference will be the proof of this.

Fiona Glover  
4th May, 2021

It was moved by Fiona Glover, seconded by Dawn Baudinette, that the Secretary's Report be accepted.

*Carried*

## ALR Report

Thank you to all the Area Liason Representatives Meg Bilney (SA), Wendy Fuller (NSW), Clare Dean (TAS), Karla Champion (WA), Fiona Glover (VIC) & Cate Harper (VIC). ALRs keep in contact with members in their state and encourage them to participate in the TALGA Journal, enews, promote TALGA at every opportunity and the Scentimental Collection.

Your contributions are greatly appreciated and we look forward to continuing this close contact.

I would like to thank those that contribute regularly to the enews especially Christine Hitchin, Fiona Glover & Wendy Fuller – these ladies make sure that there is something of interest in our enews every month. For those of you that have sent in news from your farms and photos please keep them coming – it is always great to hear how your farm is progressing season to season. We continue to try and include – items for BUY, SWAP & SELL; Member profiles; Whats on? Recipes & Lavender inspired Craft items. You will note that these sections don't always appear in every enews. We can only include them if members forward items in for inclusion. It is always great to receive articles related to Lavender or Farming in general as some of us do grow other crops. We are happy to receive even a simple photo of your crop for all to see. So I look forward to receiving something over the next year from all members about your lavender exploits. Don't be shy!

I hope you all enjoy the conference & beautiful Hahndorf. The board is to be congratulated on having a successful event in difficult times. Thank you to those who were brave enough to travel.

Kellie Oxenford

Kellie moved her report be accepted, seconded by Neville Henderson.

*Carried*

## Facebook Report

We are pleased to report that our Association social media presence and profile on Facebook has continued to grow in the last 12 months due to a concerted effort to engage and inform followers of our Page.

Total Page Likes are 537 which is an increase of 80 people from June 2020 and total Followers of the Page are 596. Posts about the TALGA Conference 2021 in Hahndorf dominated the first few months of this year, with speaker profiles and information about the Programme being released to encourage members and non members to consider attending. We received many direct Messenger requests for the Registration Form and Programme and it was a quick and efficient method of communication and redirection to sign up with the Secretary Fiona Glover and Treasurer Neville Sargeant.



# MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Posts about distillation and growing lavender were very popular with our viewers, and we reposted quite a few stories and photos from Members own FB pages. This is an important TALGA benefit to members, free promotion of Members products and Farms!

There is a significant number of our members who are not active on FB and we would encourage them to take the time to share their story on their own Page so that lavender lovers from all over the world can enjoy their photos and growing and product making adventures.

By far, the most popular post was in early October 2020, a gorgeous photo from Bridestowe Lavender of their fields in full bloom, with a quote about the calming qualities of lavender, which had a reach of over 1,600 with 120 reactions, shares and comments. This indicates that many of our followers appreciate and tune into beautiful lavender images and this will be something our FB Page will do more of during the next year.

Another element of Facebook is the Group function and during 2020, TALGA refocused efforts on our Private Members Group, renaming it 'Australian Lavender Growers Group' to distinguish it from our TALGA Page which is the public face of our Association on social media.



We made it invisible to non-members and encouraged all members via the Enews to request an invitation to join and a few took up this offer. We would like it to be a lively forum of sharing news and information and discussion between peers however, this is still a work in progress! We have no plans to join Instagram, Twitter or Tik Tok!!

Member ideas and suggestions for Page post material is always welcome, send us the link you think would be of interest to our page followers and we will review and post.

See you on the Net!  
Louise Bickerton

Louise Bickerton moved her report be accepted, seconded by Fiona Glover.

*Carried*

## General Business

**Scentimental Collection – Gardener's soap**  
Currently TALGA has run out of Gardener's soap. Previously made by Tilley's, with a minimum order of 1500 units, the Board has looked for alternative suppliers. Leanne Gordon, soapmaker at Mulgowie market, Lockyer Valley, and Sharon Bailey of Little Willow Lavender have been asked to present samples of similar size and shape to the Tilley's soap. These samples have been brought to the Conference for members to review and comment on. Further discussion will take place at the next committee meeting before an order will be placed.

## Research Project – Member Database

Agrifutures have funded a team of research staff under the direction of Prof Jim Whelan, LaTrobe University, to develop a database of information on growing lavender. This will be accessible to all TALGA members who provide their contact details to Agrifutures via the TALGA secretary.

A questionnaire will be devised and sent out to all members in the coming months.

Vote of thanks to President  
Christine Hitchin, Vice President.

Vote of thanks to 2020-21 Committee

Gary Y. thanked all Board members for their commitment and achievements during the year.

AGM Meeting closed at 4.20pm.



**McLaren  
Vale  
Lavender**

**Winner Best Product  
TALGA Conference  
2014 • 2017 • 2019**

Manufacturers of quality lavender &  
essential oil products  
with or without labels

For wholesale price list contact:-

**Christine Hitchin 0401 125 705**  
Mclarenvale.lavender@bigpond.com  
www.mclarenvalelavender.com

# SCENTIMENTAL COLLECTION

Over the last 3 years the Scentimental Collection [SC] has updated it's look and continues to review product lines to keep pace with contemporary tastes and industry standards.

## Did you know the SC is now available unlabelled?

To assist members, a sample label is provided for information purposes thus enabling you to showcase your own branding and colours on ready made products.

## Maybe the SC can add more interest and variety to your own product lines?

TALGA members who do not manufacture their own products can retail quality lavender items, as an adjunct to their own lavender retail shelf. The SC is of particular value to newcomers setting up a retail outlet, who do not have the time or inclination to make their own products. In the last few years such matters of product liability insurance, packaging and labelling costs, have made it increasingly difficult for start-up operators to make their own lotions and toiletries. The SC is an ideal way to showcase lavender products and be confident of the quality, purity and stability they offer.

The criteria for inclusion of a product in the SC is stringent, recognizing that we are members of the Australia Made campaign, where ingredients and packaging are required to be Australian manufacture where possible. All SC products must contain Australian grown and distilled lavender oil, be of the highest quality and meet Therapeutic Goods Act requirements.



Why not consider retailing some SC products? A product bearing the TALGA logo is a great marketing asset; and a lavender business that showcases it automatically aligns itself with the exclusive quality it represents.

All SC display the following quality statement....

*Scentimental Collection is the registered trademark of The Australian Lavender Growers Association [TALGA]. An exclusive endorsement of premium quality Australian lavender products.*

Look what opportunities are available for you to retail...

## Lavender Gift Pack

A gift pack containing refresher/sanitizer, hand cream, lip balm and sachet, beautifully presented in a white gift box. Perfect to gift giving for locals and visitors.

Wholesale price \$27.83 [RRP \$37-\$45]



## Lavender Refresher/Sanitizer

A delightful refreshing spray, made with perfumer's alcohol and witch hazel. This handy fragrant spray revitalizes and cleanses and is a handy pick-me-up when your on the run. Contains Talga award winning lavender oil with a dash of tea tree.



Wholesale price \$9.10 [RRP \$13 - \$15]

## Lavender Hand CreamHand Cream – A big seller

Talga's generous 100ml aluminum tin of luxuriant, nourishing fragrant hand cream, is a non-greasy formula that soothes and moisturizes hands. Always a good seller for gifts and personal use, this product is proving to be very popular.

Wholesale price \$9.70 [RRP \$15 - \$18]



## Lavender Castille Hand and Body Wash

Available in 250ml dispenser bottle, and 500ml refill size. Lavender Castile Hand & Body Wash Refill 500ml Lavender Castile Hand & Body Wash 250ml This latest addition to the SC is a unique and special product, quite different to anything found in a supermarket or chemist. It is made with 100% pure virgin olive oil with the addition of Talga's award winning lavender essential oil to compliment its extraordinary qualities and add fragrance.



Talga's Castile Hand and Body Wash does not contain a foaming agent or sodium lauryl sulfate and is therefore completely free of chemical additives and artificial of all kinds. This makes our hand and body wash extraordinarily gentle on the skin, as well as being totally natural, non-toxic and biodegradable. It is less likely for someone to have an allergic reaction to the simple ingredients in castile hand and body wash compared with other cleansers that often contain more complex and synthetic ingredients. This cleanser is especially safe for babies and those with sensitive skin, whilst being a particularly effective cleanser.

Wholesale price 250ml dispenser is \$7.03 [RRP \$9 - \$10]  
Wholesale price 500ml refill is \$10.09 [RRP \$14 - \$16]

Is your retail shelf in need of a refresher? Why not consider a trial of some of these items and take advantage of the surge of Australian's staying home for their annual leave – all looking for a different quality, retail experience. See the TALGA website [www.talga.com.au](http://www.talga.com.au) for full information.



# LESSONS I HAVE LEARNED FROM THE GARDEN IN 2020

I write this in a new world, one which I did not see coming back in 2019 or even at the start of 2020, and one which has altered everything about our lives profoundly. It started with bushfires in the Hills on the 20th December, and on Kangaroo Island where they continued to rage for over a month. Then COVID started to get some airplay but, to be honest, I really didn't take much notice, nor take it that seriously, till the government started to shut things down on the 16th March. Suddenly, like many others, my work life changed in an instant. I am a public speaker and there was no more 'public', let alone travel to interstate events to speak!? My calendar started to clear like dominos falling down, and while I initially anticipated it might be a 6-month period before things returned to 'normal', it became obvious that things would never return the way they were, but rather eventually transform to a 'new normal'. The physical, mental, emotional, and financial hardships that have affected many within our community as a result of the bushfires and COVID have been devastating, yet Nature, the garden and gardening has taught me many lessons that we can all learn from during this time.

Being an optimist, I always look for positive things out of challenges and hardships and here are some of the positives I have seen over the past year:

- Being forced to stay home and self-isolate has caused many people to connect, or reconnect, with Nature. National parks, parks and public gardens have been packed with people getting out amongst Nature which is fantastic. Many gardeners I know were in seventh heaven, being forced to stay home and spend time in their garden without the regular distractions and commitments of their previous life.
- People witnessed the environmental benefits of us reducing our impact on the natural world around us. Wouldn't it be fantastic if this could spark lasting change?
- I have talked for years about the gardening for physical and mental health and wellbeing, but during these tough times, it is our mental health and wellbeing that has needed the most support. Gardens can be a sanctuary from our fast paced, crazy lives, but they can also offer solace and comfort when we are struggling.

Working with the fire affected communities of the Adelaide Hills and on Kangaroo Island I have seen firsthand how devastating it is for people to lose their gardens, with some people more devastated to lose their garden than their home. I have seen tears in the eyes of men and women of all ages who are mourning the loss of their gardens. My focus has been to help these people reconnect with gardening and get their hands back in the soil, starting a new garden. I have been amazed at how simple little things like planting a new fruit tree or rose, or improving soil with compost, can have a profound effect, with hope and joy growing within the gardener just as the new plants do in their garden.

The sudden interest in productive gardening brought about by the concern about food security (even though I am told by experts that there is no food insecurity in Australia and we do grow enough food) has created new gardeners, and that is an awesome thing. It failed

in their attempts to grow produce; this could turn them off gardening. However, it seems that the internet has meant that they can google anything to have great success in their own patch. Once you start growing your own food, it's really addictive, and it's hard to go back away from fresh, tasty, seasonal, nutrient-dense food. One of the most profound moments of COVID for me was in the first few weeks of craziness in the shops when there was rationing of staples, when my 17 year old son said something as a statement, even though it was really more of a question. His words were "We'll be alright mum, wont we?". He was referring to the fact that we grow much of our own food, with a vegie patch, and orchard and a flock to give us eggs. Without hesitation I could answer "Yes we will mate". In that moment I realized that having a productive patch gives our family food security, and my children peace of mind.

- Like many others, because I grow my own food and have more than I need, I was able to share with family, friends and others who don't have the ability to grow their own, supporting them during this time. This old-fashioned habit of sharing is so important and helps strengthen and support our relationships with those around us.
- While it's easy to focus on the negative sides of human nature and individuals, I have been blown away by the generosity of people and businesses to support others during these tough times. Whether it's the training organisation supporting its international students by supplying meals for them <https://www.facebook.com/sophiethomsonpublicfigure/posts/2625205491068296> or whether its nurseries like Balhannah Nurseries donating fruit trees to fire affected gardeners, at a time when stock is in short supply and they don't have surplus.
- I have often said that community gardens are about more than just growing food, they are about growing community. Worldwide they are renown for creating strong, connected, resilient communities and yet through my experience of creating a rapid build community garden at Parndana on Kangaroo Island, I have been privileged to witness this firsthand, and my life will never be the same again for

this experience. My goal was to simply provide those who had lost their homes and gardens on the western end of the Island with some of the basics we take for granted when we have a garden, like a bunch of parsley. While the Parndana Community garden has done exactly that, it has also brought the community together and had a far more profound effect than anyone would have anticipated. (Read more about this project <https://sophiespatch.com.au/2020/07/02/bushfire-recovery/> and <https://sophiespatch.com.au/2020/09/17/sa-life-regrowth-bushfire-recovery/>)

So, while there have been lots of challenges this year, Nature, the garden and gardening continue to inspire me and give me hope for the future. Hope that they do the same for you to. Happy gardening!

PS. Four years ago, I did a TedX talk at the Adelaide Town Hall, called 'Saving the World with Gardening' and although it was done before COVID 19 and last summer's devastating bushfires, what I talk about is as relevant as ever. It only goes for 10 minutes so if you haven't seen it before, grab yourself a cuppa and check it out at <https://sophiespatch.com.au/2017/08/17/tedx-saving-the-world-through-gardening/>.



Josie and Joseph bought a holiday cottage sight unseen in Donnington and planned to do it up and let it as a weekender. Then they changed their minds and grew lavender instead. Each year they opened the farm [ Twickel Lavender Estate ] for a Giant Market to raise money for medical research. The day before the event saw a stream of activity and people rushing around setting up stalls, chairs, tables, sound systems, a small merry go round, portable toilets, a pizza van and a donut van.

Then on the day a concatenation of unforeseen and potentially disastrous incidents happened.

A lady came screaming out of the loo saying she had been bitten by a redback spider on her hand, the donut maker leaned on the stove as he realised it was his wife making all the row and burnt his arm. A small boy on a trike rode into the back of the toffee apple annexe, fell off the trike and a wooden skewer embedded itself in his leg and finally the youngest Council employee who was rushing around making notes for his report about the market to the Health and Safety committee didn't look where he was going and tripped and fell into the fishpond where all his paper work sank into the muddy bottom.

Joe grabbed the mike from the PA system and asked for any first aiders to bring the

two men, the boy and the lady to the cottage, where Josie was waiting with the first aid kit recently updated and restocked. He rang 000.

Josie sent an onlooker to verify the dead spider was in fact a redback that the lady said she had trodden on and she proceeded to wash the bite with soap and water, then applied a cold pack to the bite for 15 minutes. [reapplied if needed]



The lady was sobbing with the pain of the bite, she was in shock, with symptoms of intense sweating, and nausea and muscle weakness. She felt more comfortable lying down.

The council employee was shown to the shower and given some of Joe's work clothes to put on and was checked by a first aider.

The small boy was comforted by his mother while Joe packed protective bandages around the skewer. He was careful not to remove the skewer or to put pressure over it.

At the same time the donut maker's arm was held under cool running water for 20 minutes then covered with plastic cling film.

All patients were given a chair to sit on and a first aider to stay with them, monitoring any changes in their breathing or speech or responses.

The Ambulance arrived and the crew did an assessment of who needed to go with them to the hospital. Joe took the Council Employee by car to be checked as well.

It is important to keep an up to date first aid kit in your farm shop or workshop.

First aid fact sheets or an e book F/A book is available on line.

Hands on training, especially for CPR is a good confidence builder as well as being informative.



Certificate of Appreciation

The TALGA Committee wish to express their sincere thanks to

Meg Bilney

ALR for South Australia  
for her delightful creative contributions to the  
2021 Conference, Hahndorf, SA.



Thirty three entries were received for the 2021 Competition from members of TALGA in Australia, and from overseas including Canada, the USA and New Zealand. Judging took place on April 10th 2021 with 5 judges participating namely, Tony Mc Meel, Neville Henderson, Matt Oxenford, Meredith Clarke and Fiona Glover.

Prior to this day, a small oil sample of each entry was sent to Southern Cross University, Lismore for GCFID testing. The results were tabulated showing 12 of the most common compounds in Lavender Oil. The standard BP 2020 was provided for comparison. All entries came within the specified range of this standard.

The judges were presented with a wide variety of cultivars from the *Lavandula angustifolia* species and the *Lavandula x intermedia* species. It is always a challenge for a judge to “meet” an oil for the first time. Identification of distiller was removed, however the judges were supplied with the varietal name. *L.angustifolia*s were judged first and scored; *intermedia*s scored next. Finally, blends were assessed for their appeal to the judges on a like/dislike scale. These were “field” blends in that the plant material from a number of different varieties of Lavender were distilled as one.

Standard of distillation was very good with no faults recognised by judges. There were a number of young oils presented and these performed well even though the plants were not yet mature. No doubt over the next year or two these plants will mature and the oils will develop more character.

Winners of the 7 Categories are as follows:

**Category 1** – International (TALGA entrants were placed in Category 6) *Lavandula angustifolia*, all cultivars. There were 5 samples submitted in this category. First Prize has been awarded to Jan and Stuart Abernethy of Lavender Abbey, New Zealand for their oil ‘Violet Intrigue’. Judges found this to show lively floral character, lasting intensity, well balanced - a very nice oil.

Second Prize has been awarded to Andrea McFadden of Okanagan Lavender Farm, British Columbia, Canada for their oil ‘English Seed’. Judges found this oil sweet, fruity, held scent well.

Third Prize has been awarded to Andrea McFadden of Okanagan Lavender Farm, British Columbia, Canada for their oil ‘Royal Velvet clonal’. Judges found this oil warm, grassy, good intensity, little less balanced due to a high note.

**Category 2** – *Lavandula x intermedia*, low camphor. First Prize was awarded to Bob Plush and Meredith Clark for their Lavandin ‘Riverina Alan’.

Judges found this oil smelled lively, fruity, fresh. Good intensity, clear. Perhaps a young plant and will be even better next time.

**Category 3** – *Lavandula intermedia*, medium camphor.

First Prize was awarded to Bob Korver of Green Acres U-Pick, Colorado, USA for their oil ‘Fat Spike Grosso’. Judges comments were a rich floral scent, good balance, nice through the nose.

**Category 4** – *Lavandula intermedia*, high camphor. First Prize has been awarded to Matt & Kellie Oxenford of Leven K Lavender for their oil ‘Rocky Hall Margaret’. The high camphor oils present a difficulty for judges to assess because of the amount of camphor present which can dominate any other part of the oil scent. However in this case the judges were pleased with the result and their comments were a nice scented oil, lively character, fresh and good intensity. Camphor not unpleasant.

**Category 5** – The Anna Tyson Award for *Lavandula x intermedia* ‘Grosso’. This award is only open to entrants in Australia. It carries a monetary prize of \$200. (We regret that Anna Tyson is unable to be here to present this award) The judges were pleased to award First Prize to Bob Plush of Plush Lavender, Winkie SA. Their comments were this oil is lively, fresh, peppery, intense -very good example of Grosso.

**Category 6** – The Rosemary Holmes Award for *Lavandula angustifolia*, all cultivars, blue flowering. We regret that Rosemary is no longer with us however she left a legacy with her *Lavandula angustifolia* ‘Egerton Blue’ which she propagated from seed in the 1990’s as a culinary Lavender. The judges were presented with a number of entries here and there was some close scores. The winning entry was the variety ‘Avice Hill’ grown and distilled by Stuart & Sonia Whiteman of Chin Chin Farm, Riddell’s Creek, Vic. The judges liked the scent even though the plants were young and congratulate Stuart & Sonia for their achievement. It will be interesting to follow the development of the plants and the character of the oil they produce over time. (The runner up was ‘Riverina Eunice’ grown and distilled by Fiona Glover, Creative Dried Flowers, Newlyn, Vic).

**Category 7** - Blends

An award of merit has been given to Andrea McFadden of Okanagan Lavender, BC, Canada for two of her blended oils. Both oils were from *Lavandula angustifolia* varieties namely Blend 1 ‘Royal Velvet, English, #9, Maillette, Pacific Blue’ and Blend 2 ‘Folgate, Melissa pink, Nana atropurpurea’. Judges did not score these but marked on a scale what they liked. Judges commented that these blends would be attractive to the general public and could be used in a variety of ways. The judges still preferred a single variety oil and pointed out that it would be difficult to repeat a blend in the following year unless quantities of plant material were measured prior to distillation.

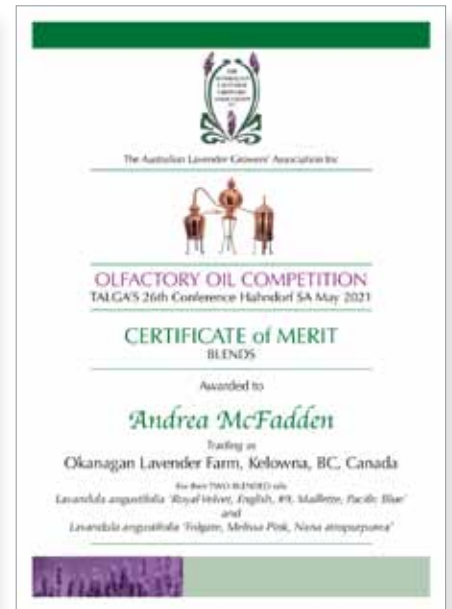
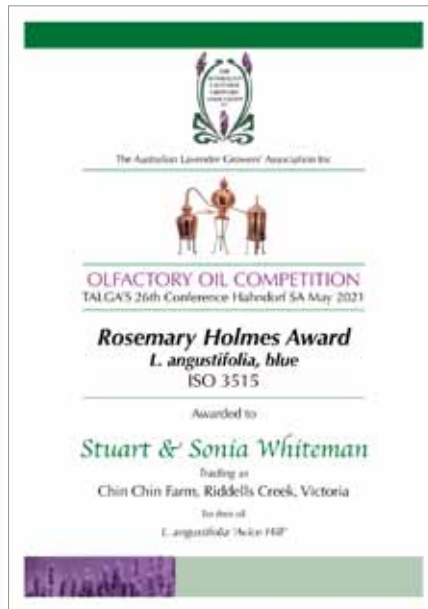
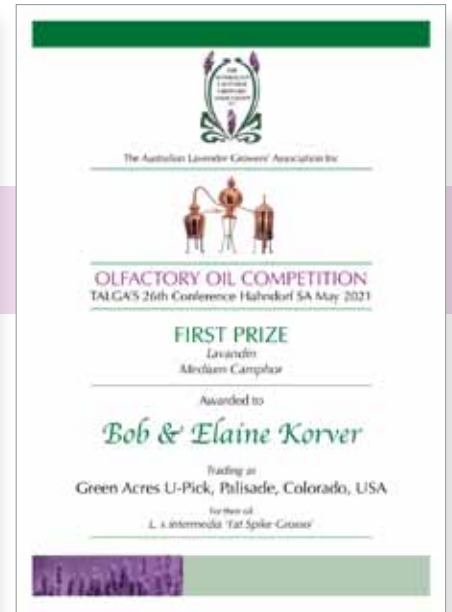
TALGA thanks all participants for entering their oils and supporting the Competition. All samples arrived safely, no leaks.

May you all distill again with excellent results next Summer.

Fiona Glover, May 2021.

# TALGA OLFATORY OIL COMPETITION 2021

## Winners of the 2021 Olfactory Oil Competition





Dr Noel G Porter  
33a Merrin Street, Christchurch, New Zealand 8042  
the.porters@clear.net.nz

## Abstract

Perhaps the most effective and easily-used tool for optimizing oil quality is getting the time of harvest right – that is, harvesting at a particular stage of flower head maturity that gives you the best-smelling oil and good yields. Analytical data and subjective evaluations of oils are presented to illustrate the variation of oil composition and aromatic quality at different stages of maturity.

- Significant, sometimes major, changes occur in the oil composition and aromatic notes and quality of all cultivars.
- Objectionable off-notes and changes in balance can reduce aromatic quality.
- Some cultivars show greater changes with maturity than others.
- One maturity stage is not right for all cultivars.
- The correct stage of maturity must be determined for each cultivar.

The features and changes of individual florets, flower heads and the crop are the most practical and effective criteria for judging. The relative merits of evaluating oils by gas chromatographic analysis and by nose are discussed. The use of specific aromatic notes, balance and impact of oil aroma and the process of relating aromatic quality of oils to the flower head maturity is discussed in detail.

## Introduction

Getting the best possible oil quality should be the primary concern of any lavender grower, regardless of the scale of the operation. Perhaps the most effective and easily-used tool for optimizing oil quality is getting the time of harvest right – that is, harvesting at a particular stage of flower head maturity that gives you the best-smelling oil and good yields. Choosing the harvest time is probably the most important single decision in your management of your crop since it effectively puts an upper limit on the quality of your oil. This fact cannot be emphasized too strongly because nothing can be done after the harvest - during distillation or storage - to improve poor quality oil from a premature or late harvest.

Such decisions should be deliberate - not rushed or spur of the moment. The right harvest time is a moving target so you need a good eye and the right ammunition to hit it. The decisions are actually quite simple once you have identified the particular stage of maturity that gives you optimal quality, but to identify that best stage of maturity possible for your site and cultivar, you need to spend time on target practice.

- Observe and become familiar with the different stages of flower head maturity and select visual or aromatic markers to identify critical stages of maturity
- Evaluate the oil quality at the different stages of maturity and define some practical criteria for identifying optimal quality
- Predict your optimal oil quality from the specific marker(s) you have identified as practical and consistent

So – how did you decide when to harvest this season?

- By guess and by God
- When it was convenient or when a still was available
- By ‘traditional’ rule of thumb or local consensus
- By eye or by nose, using a marker you have shown to indicate optimal quality

The first 2 are decision-free options and will only work by luck. The third is ok for beginners if the neighbours are consistently producing good oil. The fourth is the only way for consistent good quality. I know I talked about this topic at the Bombala conference 5 years ago, but since then, the oils I have evaluated and made myself all confirm the need to improve the harvest timing.

## The Moving Target

You all know the visual changes in lavender flower heads as they mature – a huge change from closed buds to dropping florets. In the work I did, samples were taken from 4 cultivars at four stages of flower head maturity, chosen deliberately to be too early through to too late for optimal oil quality.

- Stage 1 – 50% of flowers open, 50% still in bud, none withered, corresponding to maturity scale 3 in the CFR book “Lavender - a growers’ guide for commercial production” 1
- Stage 2 – 33% of flowers open, 33% still in bud, 33% withered, corresponding to the CFR maturity scale 4.5
- Stage 3 – 33% of flowers open, 67% withered, corresponding to the CFR maturity scale 6
- Stage 4 – all flowers withered but before shedding, corresponding to the CFR maturity scale 8

The following tables present results from subjective evaluation of the oil aromas and the oil composition data from gas chromatographic analyses to show the origins of the significant and often critical changes in aromatic notes and balances. Together they are a convincing demonstration of the chemical and aromatic changes associated with the maturation of the flower heads. They illustrate the importance of getting the stage of maturity correct. They also show how the best harvest time can differ between 4 of our most commonly grown cultivars.

Table 1: Yields (ml/100 g fresh weight), oil composition (% of component) and main aromatic notes of Pacific Blue. The hedonistic response reflects like (0 to 5) or dislike (0 to -5).

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Yield	0.96	1.43	1.49	1.72
3-Octanone	1.54	1.87	1.87	2.33
Cineole	1.66	1.61	0.65	0.59
Limonene/phellandrene/cis-ocimene	0.86	0.82	0.42	0.32
trans-ocimene	4.41	4.76	3.04	2.96
Linalool	32.97	34.80	36.47	37.91
Camphor	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Borneol	0.49	0.43	0.36	0.33
Lavandulol	0.86	0.81	tr	tr
Terpinen-4-ol	6.68	6.73	11.17	13.60
a-Terpineol	0.48	0.41	0.30	0.32
Linalyl acetate	30.14	29.67	28.58	24.35
Lavandulyl acetate	4.29	4.00	3.56	3.00
b-Caryophyllene	1.90	1.64	1.57	1.48
Total high boiling point compounds	10.42	8.88	8.92	8.32
Dominant aromatic notes	Fresh, light, sweet	Rich, sweet	Complex, sweet, dry	Complex, dry
Negative notes	-	-	Sour varnish appearing	Sour varnish evident
Impact	Soft	Good	Vigorous	Vigorous
Balance	Light, simple, lacks warmth	Good, attractive	Dry	Dry
Hedonistic response (+5 to -5)	2	3	-1	-3

Table 2: Yields (ml/100 g fresh weight), oil composition (% component) and main aromatic notes of Avice Hill. The hedonistic response reflects like (0 to 5) or dislike (0 to -5).

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Yield	1.25	1.30	1.31	1.31
3-Octanone	1.55	2.27	2.62	2.48
Cineole	0.31	0.39	0.32	0.28
Limonene/phellandrene/cis-ocimene	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
trans-ocimene	6.91	7.89	7.16	5.86
Linalool	9.95	8.73	8.32	10.37
Camphor	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.16
Borneol	1.17	1.14	1.04	0.81
Lavandulol	tr	tr	tr	0.15
Terpinen-4-ol	2.73	3.68	4.87	6.55
a-Terpineol	0.57	0.48	0.50	0.37
Linalyl acetate	56.34	53.85	54.10	51.18
Lavandulyl acetate	2.88	2.87	2.77	2.83
b-Caryophyllene	4.45	4.51	4.44	4.55
Total high boiling point compounds	11.23	10.48	10.35	10.25
Dominant aromatic notes	Fresh, light, sweet	Sweet, sharp, fresh	Fresh, sweet	Sour varnish
Negative notes	-	-	-	Strong sour varnish
Impact	Soft	Vigorous	Strong	Strong
Balance	Simple	Good	Good	Sour
Hedonistic response (+5 to -5)	2	2	3	-4



Table 3: Yields (ml/100 g fresh weight) and main aromatic notes of Grosso. The hedonistic response reflects like (0 to 5) or dislike (0 to -5).

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Yield	2.5	3.0	2.6	2.7
3-Octanone	tr	0.25	0.37	0.43
Cineole	4.13	3.59	3.21	2.12
Limonene/phellandrene/ <i>cis</i> -ocimene	0.79	0.75	0.69	0.58
<i>trans</i> -Ocimene	2.91	2.86	2.25	1.75
Linalool	25.27	26.52	29.83	35.42
Camphor	6.95	6.32	6.19	5.55
Borneol	3.04	3.22	3.71	4.68
Lavandulol	0.25	0.34	0.51	0.66
Terpinen-4-ol	1.32	1.84	2.59	3.80
$\alpha$ -Terpineol	0.46	0.47	0.33	0.42
Linalyl acetate	41.33	40.78	38.09	33.36
Lavandulyl acetate	2.13	2.09	2.11	1.79
$\beta$ -Caryophyllene	1.40	1.34	1.24	1.02
Total high boiling point compounds	10.64	5.81	5.69	4.64
Dominant aromatic notes	Sharp, fresh, pungent	Sharp, fresh, sweet	Fresh, sweet, sharp	Dry, fresh
Negative notes	-	-	-	Slight old hay
Impact	Very strong	Strong	Vigorous	Medium
Balance	Too sharp	Very fresh	Good	Acceptable
Hedonistic response (+5 to -5)	1	2	3	2

Table 4: Yields (ml/100 g fresh weight) and main aromatic notes of Super. The hedonistic response reflects like (0 to 5) or dislike (0 to -5).

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Yield	2.0	1.5*	1.8	1.7
3-Octanone	0.47	0.50	0.57	0.58
Cineole	8.15	7.93	7.99	6.86
Limonene/phellandrene/ <i>cis</i> -ocimene	0.81	0.69	0.67	0.57
<i>trans</i> -Ocimene	5.95	4.04	4.64	3.41
Linalool	31.13	34.80	35.39	38.38
Camphor	9.43	10.86	9.41	8.81
Borneol	3.24	3.48	3.26	3.58
Lavandulol	0.16	0.22	0.21	0.23
Terpinen-4-ol	0.13	0.20	0.16	0.34
$\alpha$ -Terpineol	0.55	0.64	0.46	0.46
Linalyl acetate	28.15	25.53	25.84	25.09
Lavandulyl acetate	1.15	1.00	0.94	0.88
$\beta$ -Caryophyllene	0.94	0.83	0.82	0.86
Total high boiling point compounds	4.51	4.34	4.18	4.17
Dominant aromatic notes	Fresh, sharp	Fresh, dry	Dry, sweet, sharp	Sweet, dry
Negative notes	-	-	Fecal, slightly burnt	Flat, some old hay
Impact	Vigorous	Vigorous	Medium	Mild
Balance	Lacks sweetness	Fresh	Unacceptable	Acceptable
Hedonistic response (+5 to -5)	0	2	-1	1

\* Flower heads were dried on a floor for two hours before distillation, and this may have affected yield.

I am sure that you will find similar differences between your own cultivars. The major points to be noted are –

- As the flower heads mature, there are significant, sometimes major, changes in the oil composition and aromatic notes of all cultivars. These changes cause important shifts in the overall aromatic quality (hedonistic response) of the oil.
  - Note the appearance of some objectionable off-notes and a change in balance in later harvest times which reduce aromatic quality and can even make the oils unacceptable.
- Oil yields may change with stage of maturity, but maximum yield does not always coincide with optimal aromatic quality.
- SOME CULTIVARS SHOW GREATER CHANGES WITH MATURITY THAN OTHERS, SO HARVEST TIMING IS MORE CRITICAL FOR THESE CULTIVARS – E.G. PACIFIC BLUE AND AVICE HILL.
  - ONE MATURITY STAGE IS NOT RIGHT FOR ALL CULTIVARS. THE CORRECT STAGE OF MATURITY MUST BE DETERMINED FOR EACH CULTIVAR.
  - THE STAGE OF MATURITY HAS A MAJOR EFFECT ON OIL QUALITY AND CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR OIL BEING TOP QUALITY AND PROFITABLE OR UNACCEPTABLE AND A LOSS-MAKER.

## Observing the crop and identifying markers

Going back to the 3 processes mentioned earlier – identifying markers for flower head maturity, evaluating oil quality, and predicting oil quality from a marker – where do you start laying a base for making decisions on harvest timing?

The obvious starting point is to spend enough time observing and recording the features and changes of individual florets, flower heads and the whole crop. A photographic record of the key stages of maturity is an essential memory aid. Images are easy to obtain with today's digital cameras, and enable comparisons of different seasons. The maturity scale in the Crop & Food Research booklet sets out 8 stages of maturity that can be measured from the state of the florets in the flower heads. This is the most commonly used sort of description, and will certainly be adequate for all growers to choose the time of harvest, provided a particular stage is identified as providing the best oil quality. Since flower heads and florets vary by some days in their stage of maturity, you will need to be able to estimate the uniformity and average stage of maturity for the crop. This ability will develop quite rapidly with daily practice. You will also need to learn how quickly each cultivar progresses through the maturation sequence, since there are significant

differences between cultivars in the rate of maturation of the flower heads, especially in hot conditions.

Other flower head markers may be useful to identify important stages of maturity. The presence of yellow anthers in the florets may be a useful reference stage or an indication of the uniformity of maturity. I have heard of the harvest of Folgate in France being timed by the appearance of brown seeds in the florets, which is an interesting observation. This is obviously a much later stage of maturity than we would use for Pacific Blue or Super, but it may be of interest in later maturing cultivars like Avice Hill or Grosso. The onset of bee activity on the flowers may be useful as another reference point in the maturation process. Any marker of maturation should only be used after demonstrating that it consistently indicates the optimal harvest time.

## Evaluating oil quality for harvest

Understanding and evaluating oil quality is central to any decision you make about harvest time and there are really only 2 ways to do this –

- evaluation of the oil aroma by nose
- definition of the oil composition by gas chromatographic analysis

For a group of growers operating within a defined area with similar soils and climate, it is cost effective to extract and analyse oil samples to develop a full knowledge of the yield, chemical composition and aromatic profile of the oil during the whole maturation sequence that can be shared within their area. The immediate value of this information is to confirm what harvest time will give them oil which can legitimately and best be marketed as coming from a particular cultivar. The data also allows growers to see the rate and extent of changes in their oil composition as flower heads mature and, with time, gives a better understanding of the oil aroma and quality.

However, oil quality is not determined just by meeting a chemical specification. There is a lot of chemically correct, but aromatically abominable, oil presented to the market. For small producers selling locally, your clients will buy largely on the aromatic quality, so best quality usually comes down to what is attractive aromatically. So what do you need to do to evaluate oils? I encourage you to use this sort of table as a guide to your evaluations.

Table 5: Subjective results from evaluating Pacific Blue oil quality by nose.

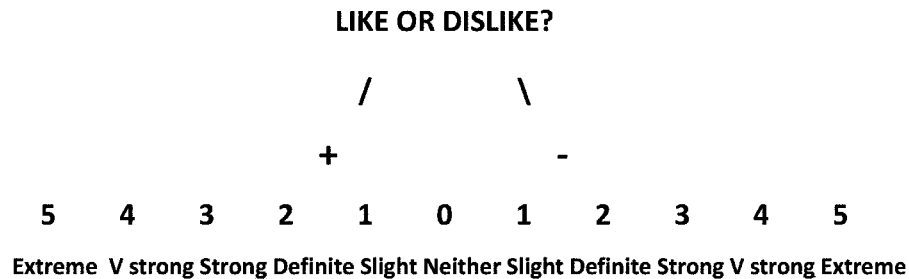
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Dominant aromatic notes	Fresh, light, sweet	Rich, sweet	Complex, sweet, dry	Complex, dry
Negative notes	-	-	Sour varnish appearing	Sour varnish evident
Impact	Soft	Good	Vigorous	Vigorous
Balance	Light, simple, lacks warmth	Good, attractive	Dry	Dry
Hedonistic response (+5 to -5)	2	3	-1	-3



In many local markets, the public nose may be uneducated but your buyers will know what they like or dislike – that is, they will have definite hedonistic opinions. Note the drastic shift in hedonistic response in the table. This is why I have included the hedonistic response in the tables. If your nose is untrained,

then your evaluation of your own oils will be a simple hedonistic response. It is very easy to think of where you would place an oil on a hedonistic scale of -5 to +5. First, do you like or dislike it? Having decided + (like it) or - (dislike it), it is easy enough to place the response on a scale of 1 (slightly) to 5 (very strongly).

Figure 1: A hedonistic response scale.



This sort of scoring is perfectly valid as a marker for oil quality and choosing a harvest time – on two conditions. First, your scoring has to be consistent, and your responses must be similar to those of your buying public. Ensuring these conditions are met does require some organized data gathering from repetitive scoring exercises and checking your buyers' preferences. Do you actually know what your buyers' preferences are? In a recent exercise with a large group of people who were not experienced in lavender oils, I found that the expectation of lavender aroma was for a rather harsh camphorous lavandin aroma. But, when given the choice, their overwhelming preference was for good angustifolia oils such as Avice Hill and Pacific Blue. Although it takes a little more time, offering buyers a wide range of oils and noting preferences will help you define the preferred oil characteristics. You can then manipulate cultivars, harvest times, distillation times to maximize quality by meeting those preferences.

The next step from the simple hedonistic response is to be able to identify, name and evaluate different individual aromatic notes in an oil as in Table 5. The assessments and comments of aromatic notes, impact and balance should be included to confirm the hedonistic scores.

Evaluating oils to this level is exactly the same as wine-tasting. It requires continuing practice of both evaluation and the use of the aromatic descriptors. The consistent preparation of a

number of small oil samples at frequent intervals requires small scale distillation units of 1-10 kg capacity. The data in this paper used 1 and 3kg units. A local cooperative of growers will recoup the cost of such units rapidly in increased oil revenue. I have developed the evaluation kit sets and the workshop specifically to introduce people to this level of evaluation. So, for individual growers selling in markets not ruled by chemical specifications, the most effective and economical means of evaluating oil quality is by nose - quick, cheap, available at any time and adequate for the decision making process once you have confidence in your sense of smell.

### Predicting oil quality from flower maturity

How do you set up a system for useful predictions of oil quality as expressed in hedonistic response from flower maturity? First, you need to systematically compile 2 sets of data for each cultivar. In the first year, you need to identify a number of points through the range of maturity that will offer the best quality – a minimum of 4 stages as used in the tables 1-4 above. I encourage you to use Table 5 above as a template for data collection. As a minimum, you will need hedonistic response scores for oils taken at those stages of maturity. The subjective descriptors will support the hedonistic scores. You can then plot a graph of hedonistic scores along the maturity scale as in Figure 2, showing the results for Pacific Blue and Grosso from Tables 1 and 3 above.

Figure 2: Hedonistic scores for Pacific Blue and Grosso at different stages of maturity.

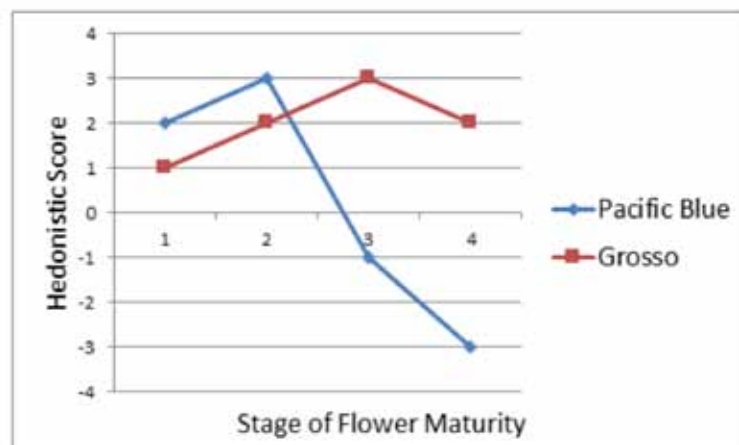
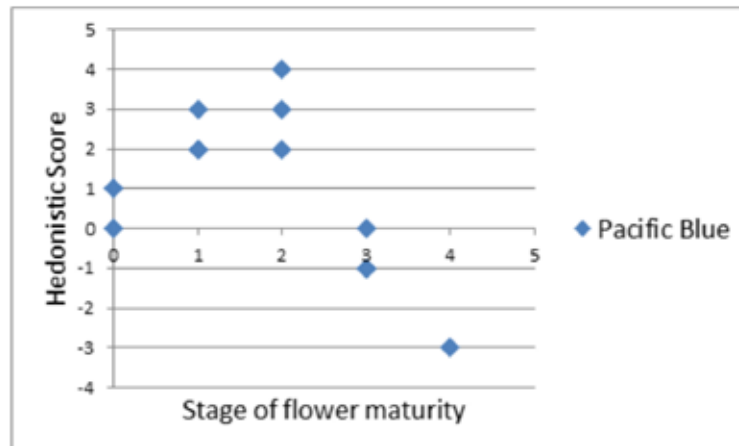


Figure 2a: Hedonistic scores over 3 years for Pacific Blue at different stages of maturity.



Given these results from year 1, I would repeat the exercise for Grosso for the next 2 seasons using the same stages of maturity. For years 2 and 3 with Pacific Blue, I would include an earlier stage of maturity (0) and drop stage 4. Hopefully your results would then look something like the graph in Figure 2a. As you add more data, the picture becomes clearer, with 2 consequences – you can be more confident your prediction that a maturity stage around 2 will give you the best quality oil for Pacific Blue. You can also select a tighter range of maturity stages – e.g. 1 to 2.5 – which will further increase the confidence of your predictions and the quality of your oil. Now, weather conditions before and at harvest will cause scatter of the hedonistic scores at each stage of maturity, so if you keep notes of weather conditions, and keep systematic evaluations and data collection going each year, you may well be able to understand how the weather factors are likely to affect your oil quality. Such understandings are extremely valuable in getting the best out of your crop under changeable harvest weather.

## Conclusions

Both analytical and subjective evaluation of oil illustrate that the aroma and composition of oils change markedly as the flower heads go through the maturation process. Those changes are sufficient to make the difference between a good quality oil and an unacceptable oil. Choosing the right stage of flower

maturity is therefore a very valuable but simple tool for you to use in optimizing oil quality. The basic requirement is an ability to consistently score your hedonistic response to an oil sample. The ability to use subjective descriptors for aromatic notes, impact and balance are valuable as supporting data. The process of scoring oil samples at different stages of maturity and plotting a graph to indicate the optimal stage of flower maturity is simple and does not require a lot of time. It does require some discipline and commitment, but the benefits from improved oil quality should be ample motivation.

### Bibliography

1 Lavender – a growers' guide for commercial production. J A McGimpsey and N G Porter. Published by Crop & Food Research Ltd, Lincoln, New Zealand, 1993. Now available from Plant & Food Research Ltd, Lincoln, New Zealand; [www.plantandfood.co.nz](http://www.plantandfood.co.nz)

Noel Porter kindly gave permission for these articles to be printed in this year's Journal. He writes "*I hope they stimulate people to think about how it is possible to fiddle with some of the simple things in the production process to optimise oil quality*".

Noel has been working on a manuka oil project for the last 2 years. He has also been involved in smaller projects to do with distillation design and is still active in the NZLGA Olfactory Oil competitions.



# LAVENDER LADIES

The history and folklore surrounding lavender is intriguing. Every book and internet site contains a reference to the plant's origins and uses from time immemorial to the present day. Most replicate each other and if words are written and quoted often enough, they very soon become fact and go unchallenged in the present day.

The wonderful Pamela Allardice in her book *Lavender* published in 1990 has an extensive chapter on Lavender Lore with splendid examples of the lure of lavender fragrance throughout history. By all accounts kings, queens and people of note used it for its aphrodisiac properties most successfully, to the extent in some cases, of changing the course of history. Although, I ask you, do you really reckon Queen Elizabeth of Hungary age 72, in the 14th century had the 28-year-old King of Poland on his knees in total despair unless he won her hand in marriage?

The history pages are laden with women of note and high birth, who purportedly used lavender fragrance about their person to great effect. Hows this for a line-up; the Virgin Mary, Cleopatra [ambitious temptress], Queen of Sheba [absolute minx], Judith [a well-intentioned conniving murderess], Elizabeth 1 [original Spice Girl], Madame de Pompadour and Nell Gwen [saucy wenches,] Empress Josephine [of course] Queen Victoria [appointed her own purveyor of lavender and used a lavender deodorant] to our present Queen Elizabeth [owner of Sandringham estate, home to Norfolk Lavender]. The list is endless, Their secret? The time old practice of smelling nice. It makes us feel good about yourselves, arouses interest and attracts attention.

An all-time favourite lavender lady is Florence Nightingale. A woman, not in the same social circles as those mentioned, rather an accomplished educated woman, schooled from childhood in botany with a desire and ambition to use her herbal knowledge for well-being and medicinal application. Her accomplishments and lavender connection can be authenticated through the Florence Nightingale Museum at St. Thomas' Hospital in London.

In my book she deserves the title of the original lavender lady, her work and achievements using lavender and other essential oils are impressive. For those unfamiliar with Florence Nightingale, she is known in the history books as 'the lady with the lamp' and founder of modern nursing. This is a reference to her work as a nurse at Scutari in Turkey during the Crimean War in 1854. It is here she founded a hospital and led a small group of women to care for wounded and sick soldiers. Her methods revolutionized the care of the sick, when she pioneered aromatherapy principles by applying lavender to the foreheads of her patients and practiced her cornerstone principles of eliminating all sources of foul odours with fresh air, ventilation and cleanliness. Florence advocated the use of lavender and other essential oils to promote rest and relaxation, critical to natural reparative processes. Interestingly, she preceded the most prominent nurse aromatherapist, Madame Marguerite Maury [1895-1968] who established the first aromatherapy clinics in Paris and England, some 50 years later.

*Christine Hitchin*



**emULINT**  
Potent Natural  
Healing

Made in South Australia

Emulint is a natural combination of Emu Oil & botanical essential oils to effectively reduce inflammation and pain associated with arthritis, rheumatism and joint pain injuries.

Winner of TALGA Best Product Award • Available wholesale  
Contact: [www.mclarenavalelavender.com.au](http://www.mclarenavalelavender.com.au)





**Need a Weed Mat That Lets Water and Air Through, not Weeds!**

- UV Stabilised for longer life
- Registered Allowed Input for Organic Growers



**WEED GUNNEL**

[www.weedgunnel.com.au](http://www.weedgunnel.com.au)

Ph: 07 5478 1993

[info@weedgunnel.com.au](mailto:info@weedgunnel.com.au)

- Pre-cut slits to make planting quicker and easier





# 2021 SPONSORS

**AMBLESIDE**  
DISTILLERS

FROM THE FAMILY FARM  
**BEERENBERG**  
SINCE 1839



**OAKENSTAFF**  
**HOMESTEAD**

**Jurlique**



**HAHNDORF**  
LAVENDER ESTATE



# TALGA's Member Associations – Dates of Interest

2022 Mini Conference Field Day at Chin Chin Farm, Riddell's Creek, Vic. May 2022, date to be advised



## TALGA's Vision and Statement of Purpose

This was drawn up by the first committee in December 1995.

### Our Vision

Our vision is for a world class, innovative, efficient and reliable Australian Lavender Industry.

### Our Mission

To deliver and promote Lavender as a sustainable horticultural industry.

### Statement of Purpose

1. To enhance the establishment and viability of Lavender growers and processors.
2. To support the development of employment opportunities.
3. To assist the development of marketing strategies for import replacement and export enhancement.
4. To support the development towards world competitive production and marketing in the Australian Lavender industry.
5. To facilitate information exchange in the Lavender industry.
6. To promote the collection, conservation and preservation of the genus *Lavandula* in Australia.



The Australian Lavender  
Growers Association



secretary@talga.com.au  
Phone: 0412 748 270  
ABN 47 079 000 454  
www.talga.com.au

