

## **Public Officer/Library Report**

### **AGM 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

TALGA became registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and adopted the Model Rules as per CAV. TALGA is described as being on Tier 1 where reporting of activities is limited to the Financial Report only and that in part as described in my Treasurer's report. We had 18 months before having to hold an AGM and financial reporting was required. From this AGM onwards we will be reporting within 6 months of the end of the financial year.

Membership of CAV, does not limit TALGA from having it's own subset of rules such as for Affiliate and Club membership, and the position of Area Liaison Representatives for each State.

During this last financial year, the committee (Board) received resignations from Clare Dean, Kellie Oxenford, Stuart Whiteman, and Michael Hill. This was regrettable as they all contributed much to the monthly meetings. However the office of an honorary committee member can be onerous and all of us have our own businesses to attend to. Their input to the monthly meetings was greatly appreciated. ASIC was duly notified.

I am very pleased to report that we were able to coopt Moira Bailey, Pascal Jallier and Eric Edgcombe to join the committee for the interim until the AGM, and now they have kindly nominated to formalise their positions on the committee. These three are all new members of TALGA. Also Kellie Oxenford after taking a well-earned rest, rejoined in her position of ALR Coordinator to complete the year.

Just after the successful Seminar /Field Day was held at Lilydale, Vic, we learned of President Louise Bickerton's accident. This was a very serious fall – we all felt shocked and prayed that she would recover - husband Bruce provided us with updates as well as taking over the running of Blue Mountains Lavender.

Louise has been a dynamo on the committee – always looking for ways in which we can provide benefits to members. The success of the Conference at the Blue Mountains 2023, the 2024 Field Day and now 6 webinars in 2023/4 held on a bimonthly basis with NZLGA – all these are a credit to her ideas.

Twelve weeks of hospital finally saw Louise return home. And it wasn't long before it was Louise on the phone and not Bruce! We are so grateful that she can join us on the committee again.

Secretary Moira Bailey and I tackled the membership renewals, sending out the first notices in mid -June. This was done using a template invoice which allowed us to also attach a grower questionnaire. This latter was not so successful as some questionnaires came back blank. Another form has been prepared and will be sent out to replace the previous one. This information will assist TALGA in keeping a spreadsheet of cultivars grown in Australia for dried flower, culinary and landscaping.

Of the few members that have not renewed, the overall numbers of members are the same as in the previous year as we have gained 13 new members since the beginning of the year. Membership stands at 118 with new members in WA, SA, NSW and VIC.

It was with great sadness that we learned of Peter Manders' passing away on 2<sup>nd</sup> June this year. Peter and his wife Annemarie were early members of TALGA with Peter joining the committee in 1996. He contributed much to the development of TALGA and together they attended every conference they could, as recently as the Seminar/Field Day in April. ( See tribute in E:news June 2024). Recently Annemarie posted to me for library archives, items that had been kept by Peter, including a collection of photos and brochures of their trip to Provence in 1999 when Peter represented TALGA at this event. All interesting archival material which has now been added to the TALGA Library and is much appreciated.

Also in June this year, Carol White of Lavandula, Shepherds Flat, Vic, notified me of the successful sale of Lavandula and her retirement after 35 years. Lavandula was closed for Winter, but has now reopened with new owners this Spring from Fridays to Tuesdays. I will have to visit!

With the assistance of Raewyn Montgomery, librarian and also dried flower enthusiast like me, I was able to undertake cataloguing of books and Conference papers held in the TALGA library. Titles and crossreferencing of subjects have been recorded digitally on two separate spreadsheets and is available to download on request. A borrowing system has yet to be introduced, however we now know what is in the collection which will provide very useful reference material.

The next task being undertaken in a spreadsheet format, is the indexing of lavender cultivars grown by TALGA members in Australia for oil. Making use of the documentation available from TALGA's Olfactory Oil Competition such as name of cultivar, where grown, distiller, year of distillation, yield, availability of GC – this will finally tabulate results from 2009 to 2023 in a form that will be useful to future research work.

It is also proposed that a separate spreadsheet is created for lavender cultivars grown by members in Australia for fresh or dried flower, culinary, landscaping and garden. This is where the information gained from the Grower Q&A, sent out with membership renewals will be used.

And more research into lavender may well be on the way. Most recently, I received an industry review paper from Dr Shashi Goonetilleke of Centre for Horticultural Science, University of Queensland. Earlier this year, Dr Shashi contacted me by phone to discuss the Lavender Industry in Australia. Taking the RD& E report prepared by LIAF and with input from myself and Karen Cash of Monaro Country Lavender Coop, the review paper looked at future areas of research – this time in a targeted breeding program to obtain superior lavender plant genetics. In consultation with Clive Larkman, Dr Shashi is now looking at widening the research to include the breeding of lavenders that could flower twice a year.

Clive also suggested more research was needed on investigating the resilience of lavender to new climate conditions which we are all experiencing. Dr Shashi is now requesting funding from Uni of Qld to travel to Vic in order to view the TALGA Library and establish connections with myself and Clive.

In conclusion I would like to express my sincere thanks working alongside my fellow committee members, all of whom have contributed their time and enthusiasm, and shown a commitment to the vision of TALGA as an organisation that supports its members and makes a positive contribution to the lavender industry in Australia.

Fiona Glover

October 2024.