

President's Report

What a wonderful month September has been so far. Clivia miniata are now in full bloom in most parts of Melbourne and surrounding areas, with some plants having finished flowering already and others perhaps about to start. A few interspecifics may be in flower and buds on *C. nobilis* or *C. caulescens* may also appear over the next couple of months.

It is most exciting to see one's own crosses flowering for the first time, after a wait of five or so years. Like some other members of our group, I also have seed that was ordered from overseas coming into flower, and while some of it is not very exciting, the odd "gem" definitely makes it worthwhile. But most of all, I love to see my own crosses coming into flower.

The MCG welcomes in particular Shigetaka Sasaki, our first overseas member. Shige (for short) is an active young Japanese clivia grower who is also very knowledgeable about clivia. He has promised to send some Japanese clivia seed to members in time for distribution when we resume our meetings in February next year.

At least three members of the MCG visited Toowoomba at the end of last week to see the clivia shows there. As usual, we were able to feast on the many magnificent clivias exhibited at both shows.

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President's Report Cont.

The committee hopes that many of you will attend our next meeting on 17th October where we will seek members' approval to proceed with incorporation of the group. In the meantime, we will apply for affiliation with the RHSV, as agreed to at the last meeting.

We also invite you to think about what sort of function you would like us to organise in early December. An inexpensive meal somewhere or a picnic in a public garden has been suggested. Planning for next year is also on the mind of the committee and we would be pleased to hear from members about some of the topics that you would like us to cover.

The topics for the next meeting are ones of importance. Lisa Fox will introduce the topic of Colour Inheritance, and we will also briefly discuss the growing of seedlings. In addition to any pots of clivias, please also do bring along some questions that you would like answered by the group. We are intending to have a short Question and Answer segment at each meeting, time permitting. Committee members and other experienced growers will of course also be willing to help with advice at any other time.

We look forward to a large gathering of clivia enthusiasts on 17 October.

Helen Marriott

Upcoming Events

NEXT MEETING ...

Friday 17th October 2008 -
7.30 pm
Uniting Church,
Cnr Burwood Hwy &
Blackburn Rd, Burwood

Notice to seek vote by
members to incorporate

Topics:
Colour inheritance - L Fox
Raising seedlings

OCTOBER JOBS

Enjoy the clivia flowers. Continue taking photos of clivia flowers and pollinating the best plants. Of course I must not forget to keep records of the crosses. Keep potting up into a seed raising mix all the new seeds that I germinated in sphagnum moss (in a closed plastic contained) a few weeks ago. Start potting up neglected seedlings. Re-read Clivia 10, the yearbook of the Clivia Society (which is based in South Africa but which has members spread around the world). (Helen)

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Move my little seedlings that have germinated from seed this season into the shade-house as soon as the nights are warmer. (Lisa)

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Fertilise my plants. (Rae)

Resources

Subscribe to the Yahoo Clivia Enthusiasts Group
Send an email to clivia-enthusiast-subscribe@yahogroups.com. You will then be subscribed to receive posts in your inbox to questions, answers and news regarding clivia.

The Clivia Forum – Global Clivia Enthusiast Forum
<http://www.cliviaforum.co.za>
A great resource for asking questions and chatting to other clivia enthusiasts.

WEBSITES TO VISIT

Pinemountain Nursery
www.pinemountainnursery.com.au

Interested in joining the Clivia Society (South Africa) and receiving the Yearbook?

Contact Ken Smith
593 Hawkesbury Road,
Winmalee, NSW 2777
(02) 4754 3287
cliviasmith@idx.com.au

Please let us know if you have any other news or items of interest to share.

OUR ADDRESS
Melbourne Clivia Group
PO Box 811,
Lilydale, VIC 3140

Toowoomba Events

CARNIVAL OF FLOWERS

The Carnival of Flowers held at Toowoomba in September each year is a step into 'clivia heaven'. I was fortunate to have attended three events during this time.

At the Wilsonton Shopping Centre I saw the magnificent display of clivia Jeanne and Lionel Marten put together with money raised going to the Toowoomba Hospice. This year Nick Powell was also helping out. The Horticulture pavilion at the TAFE college held the Toowoomba Clivia Society Show. This was beautifully organised and the plants were incredible. I can't even begin to name all the fabulous flowers but I have come away with a few more plants on my wish list.

The third event I attended was the first ever Open Day of Pinemountain Nursery, a nursery specialising in clivia. John and Gail Craigie are wonderful hosts and their magnificent plants and set-up is truly a credit to them.

Lisa Fox



Clivia display at Wilsonton Shopping Centre

Upcoming Events

NEW ZEALAND

Shows and tours from 3-12 October

WANTED

Sean Schickerling, who has moved from South Africa to NSW, is interested in purchasing some seed or offsets of yellow, orange and peach clivia. If anyone can help, please contact him directly:

cliviasforafrica@yahoo.com

WANTED

Nola is looking for a light cream clivia seedling. Phone: 9802 8261 or email

schmidt.73@hotmail.com

The Melbourne Clivia Group takes no responsibility for any seeds or plants traded by members.

Welcome to 30 new members from the September meeting. If you are interested in becoming a member, an application form is included with this newsletter.

CONTACTS

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These notes have been prepared by Helen Marriott and are a summary of Helen's discussion on *Clivia miniata* – characteristics and variations.

Here is a simplified check list to help us observe various features of the *Clivia miniata* plants that are now in flower:

- Time (season) of flowering
- Size of plant: large, medium, small
- Leaves: length, width, tip shape, with/without variegation
- Umbel shape: round, semi-sphere, other
- Direction of flowers (upward, outwards) (cf. pendulous flowers in the other species, and pendulous or semi-pendulous in interspecifics)
- Peduncle or scape (flower stem): height
- Pedicels (stem supporting the individual flowers): long, short.

Various features of the individual flowers also deserve attention:

- Size of flower: large, medium, small
- Shape of flower: reflexed, tulip/cup-shaped, open, various others
- Shape of tepal (petal):
 - rounded, pointy
 - spaced-out (spider), overlapping (broad or round petals)
 - differences between shape of inner and outer tepals
 - additional tepals (from 7-12+) called polytepal (previously, multitepal)
 - ridges on tepals or not (keeled tepal)
- colour:
 - overall colour
 - throat: large, small, almost no throat of contrasting colour
 - combinations of colour, eg orange, white, cream/yellow, green
 - stripe along centre of flower, eg yellow, green
 - arrangements of colour, eg sharp contrast between throat and outer part, blurred or irregular boundary; picotee pattern with narrow band of colouring around edge, tips of petals with contrasting colour
 - differences between colour of inside and outside of tepals.

Note the less variation in colour in the cream/yellow coloured clivias in comparison with orange-coloured clivias.

Clivia groupings

In the Australian context, we are likely to come across a variety of names describing clivia on nursery labels or in catalogues. Some of the categories used nowadays often include smaller growing (sometimes with broader leaves) plants such as Belgium Hybrid, Dutch Hybrid, Daruma, Midget, Twins and others.

Specific cultivar names are also sometimes given, eg *Clivia miniata* 'Aurea'.

More on these topics at a later date.



Pastel Multitepal – Laurens Rijke

These notes have been prepared by Rae Begg and are a summary of Rae's demonstration on Sowing Clivia Seeds.

Good hygiene is a major factor to consider with your materials and equipment.

Condition of seeds:

- Still in berries..... seeds sterile/clean, sow immediately
- Dry seeds..... soak 1-2 hrs in 50% Seasol
- Contaminated/dirty seeds..... soak, shake occasionally, leave for 30 minutes in diluted White King (20ml White King + 80ml water). Do not rinse with water - sow as is.

The longer the seeds are soaking, the higher the risk of fungal attack or drowning. Containers need to be clean. Wash used pots with hot soapy water. This is usually sufficient.

Propagation material:

- Is it clean?
- Is it likely to contain pathogens such as fungal spores or harmful bacteria?
- Will it attract unwanted organisms and flying insects such as the fungal gnat?

I prefer to use Brunnings sphagnum moss because:

- It is clean
- There are no soil particles which may contain pathogens
- You can easily see the presence of fungus
- There is no need to use fungicides
- It allows air circulation which keeps the moisture around the seeds without being soggy
- Seedlings will survive in this media for up to 6-8 months so if you don't get around to potting them up, they won't die
- It doesn't attract insects as long as it is not too wet
- It retains enough moisture so you don't need to water very often

I use small pots. The size depends on the number of seeds. Excess water can drain out after watering. It is preferable to encourage the roots to go down for better plant growth.

Don't over-water - seeds drown due to lack of air and turn brown

Don't use fertilizers - seedlings have enough food in the seed to last them until the seed drops off



Rae demonstrating sowing seeds

For more information on this method of sowing clivia seed, please contact Rae Begg.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
OF THE MELBOURNE CLIVIA GROUP

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____

Mobile: _____

E-mail: _____

If you supply an e-mail address you will receive the group newsletter by e-mail.

I desire to become a member of the Melbourne Clivia Group. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the group for the time being in force.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Fees:

Single Membership 2008 – 2009 \$15.00

Each additional family member \$10.00

(Please tick)

Please tick the box if you agree to your name, phone number and e-mail address being distributed to other members of this group.

Please note: We do not distribute your personal details to any other party without your expressed permission.

We are unable to accept cheques at this time until a bank account has been established. Please make your membership payment with cash at the October meeting.