



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**D**ear Members,  
The year is flying by since the last newsletter. Firstly, our congratulations to Vu and Elynn Dang on the arrival of baby Charlie. We are all delighted for you all and look forward to meeting him at the expo later in the year.

The Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne Clivia Group was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February. The minutes of the meeting are attached at the end of this newsletter.

I am pleased to be elected President for the year ahead. I am happy to advise that Yvonne Hargreaves accepted the nomination for Vice President. The position of Secretary was declared vacant, and with no new nominees, the incumbent from the previous year, Roger Clarke graciously accepted the vital role for another term. The very important role of Treasurer was filled by Chee Perks. Thank you Chee for agreeing to take care of the MCG finances. Complementing the executive are existing committee members, Rae Begg and John Trotter. On behalf of the group, I wish to thank these members for the contributions they will make in 2017.



MCG committee for 2017: Chee Perks, Yvonne Hargreaves, John Trotter, Rae Begg, Michael Barrett, Roger Clarke. Photo Lisa Fox

The committee has had its first meeting and a number of decisions were reached. One concerns MCG branding. We have new magnetic name badges made for members who attend meetings regularly. If you would like one please let me know. We are also investigating options for polo shirts and vests to be embroidered with our logo and name. We are still in the process of deciding the final choice of colour for each item. The MCG will subsidize the purchase of these items for members. Those members who would like these items but cannot attend the next few meeting please contact Rae Begg (0407510273) to discuss sizes.

Expo preparation is well underway. Vu Dang has reworked a previous year's flyer for this year, and it looks great. More details to come soon.

The April meeting was a very good night. It was great to catch up with some members away in February. Ray Perks led a very interesting presentation and discussion on important jobs for autumn.



Welcome to Charlie Dang, Photo Elynn Dang

I hope to see you at the next meeting, our first daytime meeting for 2017.

Michael Barrett

**NEXT MEETING**

**Saturday 17 June 2pm**

**Clivia and botanical illustration,  
with Helen Burrows.**

**Burwood Heights Uniting Church Hall**

**Cnr Blackburn Rd & Burwood Hwy, Burwood**

**COMMITTEE**

**Michael Barrett**- President

**Yvonne Hargreaves**- Vice President

**Roger Clarke**- Secretary

**Chee Perks**- Treasurer

**Rae Begg and John Trotter**- Committee members

Melbourne Clivia Group Phone Number - **Michael**  
**0488998327**



Deadline for next issue – Please contribute a photo or article by 1st August, 2017

**OUR ADDRESS**

Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.  
Burwood East LPO  
PO Box 4225  
Burwood East, VIC 3151

[www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au](http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au)  
[secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au](mailto:secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au)



<https://www.facebook.com/Melbourne-Clivia-Group-Inc-130556943692834/>



(Ture Yellow (sic) x Venus) x Florid White Lips  
Grown and displayed at the April meeting by Terry Edwards. Photo Michael Barrett

**Rippon Lea Estate and its link to the history of Clivia in Victoria**

Michael Barrett

Continuing on from earlier presentations to the MCG of *Clivia* identities and plants associated with them, (G.K. Cowlshaw, presentation Feb 2013, article Vol 6.2, Sir Peter Smithers and Sir John Thouron- *Clivia* 'Vico Yellow' C. 'Sir John Thouron' April 2015, Vol 8.3, and *Clivia* in California, April 2016, Vol 9.2), I wanted to investigate and shine light on two individuals, James Dearing and Fred Pollard, both associated with the well-known *Clivia* 'Aurea'. To do so, I wanted to establish the horticultural context James Dearing was influenced by and lived in. Firstly, I will discuss an aspect of plant collecting in Victorian society, fern fever, also known as pteridomania. Secondly, I will give an overview of the passionate horticultural persuasions of two owners of Rippon Lea estate where James Dearing worked. Thirdly, I will briefly discuss Fred Pollard and the garden plant mail order business he ran, selling amongst other things, *Clivia*. Finally, I take a look at some of the influence C. 'Aurea' has on current collections.

*Victorians mad on plant collecting.*

Queen Victoria ascended to the throne of the United Kingdom and its colonies in 1837 and reigned for the next six decades, in what is referred to as the Victorian era. While far from ideal, over the course of Queen Victoria's reign, the health and lifestyle of the British citizen improved, as did the power of Britain on the back of scientific developments and a united empire. Discoveries of raw materials, new plants and the benefits of commerce in the colonies across the empire were 'brought home'. Industrialization led to the increase of wages, and the availability of mass produced household items. Leisure time for the working class increased, as hours worked declined with better pay, bank holidays, and annual leave. Improvements to the rail transport system allowed city folk to holiday in seaside resorts, and enjoy the brass band at the bandstand.

Another type of activity that was encouraged amongst the working class was an interest in natural histories. Amateur scientists, inspired by professionals such as Charles Darwin, enjoyed the pastime of collecting all manner of items including rocks, shells, birds, their feathers and eggs. Those with an interest in plants became amateur botanists. Leaves and flowers were gathered and pressed. Some of the wealthiest people became patrons to plant collectors to explore the world for new varieties of various genera, with orchids being very popular as a signal of taste and wealth. However, the majority of the working class amateur botanists were captivated by a fern fever, later to be described in 1855 by Charles Kingsley, as pteridomania. Peter A. Boyd suggests that "no other single craze affected so many Victorian or such a cross section of society." With improved transport, men and women went into the





countryside in Britain, Australia and New Zealand seeking out ferns to gather and bring home to grow or press in albums. Some sources suggest the mixed gender social aspect of time spent collecting ferns in relatively private settings was as much an appeal as were the ferns.

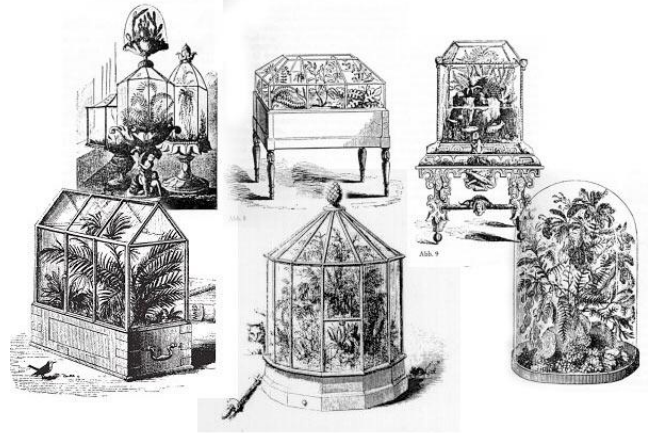


Fern gatherers, by Samuel Calvert, 1828-1913  
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135891078/view>

Books to aid the identification of species were published and sold well. The fern fever led to commercialisation of specialist dealers and nurseries to supply material to satisfy the craving for more ferns. The passion for ferns influenced decorative arts, with the ferns becoming "a symbol of pleasurable pursuits" in all manner of mass produced items including, glassware, pottery, paper, textiles and cast iron. The Coalbrookdale Company mass produced the popular 'Fern and Blackberry' design from the 1870s to the 1890s and copies are reproduced today. The flat structure of fern leaves lent themselves to being used on both flat and curved designs.

In dimly lit, gassy, but heated drawing rooms, ferns struggled to survive until the newly designed Wardian case became a must for any fashionable drawing room. The glazed glass and metal container, that was a forerunner to the terrarium, was inspired by an accidental observation and designed by Dr Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward. The sizes ranged from very small to very large with elaborate designs. The concept was also used to bring plants back from the colonies. It created the perfect micro climate for growing ferns and some other moisture loving plants in a domestic setting. Meanwhile, city councils, botanical

gardens and the very wealthy built a variety of structures to collect, present and maintain extensive fern collections, many being very popular tourist destinations.



A selection of Wardian cases

In Melbourne, an excellent surviving example of a once private fernery can be found at the magnificent Rippon Lea estate. *The Australasian* (10/12/1910) reported the gigantic fernery at Rippon Lea (built in the 1870s), cost Sir Frederick Sargood £2000 to build. Graeme Purdy, writing in *Your Garden*, September 1988, provided details of the fernery at Rippon Lea that had just undergone a major four-year refurbishment at a cost of \$333,000. The structure is 15 meters wide, 45 meters long, with steel ribs arching 12 meters overhead and having numerous red cedar slats evenly spaced to provide shade. An in-ground sprinkler and overhead misting system are in place. There is running water in the form of a creek, with naturalistic placement of rocks throughout. Importantly, Purdy notes that in Victorian times, the fernery was not a purist display, and he includes *Clivia* among the other plants used to provide harmony and interest.



Exterior sourced from  
<http://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/427>



Interior, sourced from  
<http://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/427>

### *Rippon Lea and the fabulous plant collections*

Rippon Lea estate is located at 192 Hotham Street, Elsternwick. It is managed by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). Rippon Lea is an architecturally important historic home, but equally significant are the gardens that have survived the last 130 years and represent a functioning self-sufficient estate. The house and garden were the dream of Frederick Sargood, later made Sir Frederick, a member of the first Australian senate. The house was designed by Joseph Reed, from Reed and Barnes (the firm now called Bates Smart). The building is described as being in the Romanesque style. The polychrome brickwork of Rippon Lea may also be seen in Reed's design of the Collins Street Independent Church, now called St Michael's Church (corner of Russell and Collins Street). Sargood's mother's surname was Rippon, and lea means meadow.

Rippon Lea was a family home with Frederick and his wife Marion having nine children. Sadly, Marion died in childbirth in 1879. In an attempt to escape his grief, Frederick took his children on an extended visit to England. While in England he married his second cousin, Julia, and his tenth child was born. In 1882 the family returned to Melbourne. Also on the return trip was Sargood's newly acquired collection of orchids, and a gardener to care for them, Adam Anderson. Anderson had been an apprentice gardener at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire, home to the Duke of Devonshire, renowned for its orchid collection (Botham). Sargood employed top local landscaper of the day, William Sangster, to redesign the garden from the gardenesque style into the picturesque aesthetic. Visionary for the time, the ornamental gardens are irrigated from water held in a man-made lake, with run off from surrounding streets piped into the lake. Rippon Lea's pleasure gardens developed into grand entertaining

landscapes, with balls and receptions often held in the grounds, and the Pageant of Empire was held there in 1901, with the then styled HRH, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall (later becoming HM, King George V and HM, Queen Mary) as guest of honour.

Sargood died in 1903 but he saw the creation of Rippon Lea, particularly the gardens, as his greatest achievement. Following Sargood's death, the contents of the house and conservatories were sold at auction, with the catalogue listing many orchids. The estate was bought in 1904 by a syndicate headed by Sir Thomas Bent. In the five years before Bent's death, 72 residential blocks were subdivided from the estate. Bent's death saved Rippon Lea from future immediate destruction.

Benjamin Nathan purchased Rippon Lea in 1910. Nathan made his fortune from his share in the furniture and music retail chain, Maples. Nathan's passion was for collecting plants, and "does not begrudge spending money on plant growing" (*The Australasian* 10/12/1910, p.13). Nathan, like Sargood before him, was especially passionate about collecting and cultivating orchids. Minutes from the Horticultural Improvement Society of Victoria (VHIS) make special mention of new species being displayed for the first time in Melbourne by his head gardener, James Dearing. Nathan continued to build grander conservatories for his expanding orchid and foliage plants collection, and in 1914 employed Arthur Stanley Orchard, another orchid specialist, to assist in the care of his beloved plants. The team of gardeners at one stage numbered 17 men. During the war years, Rippon Lea was open to raise funds for charities, and the conservatories were a highlight. Nathan also was an important financial sponsor of VHIS shows, with prize money and supply of a piano and furniture. Before his death in 1935, it was reported that Nathan's orchid collection was over 2500 and housed in 21 glasshouses (Botham). Nathan's daughter, Louisa, inherited Rippon Lea. She "modernised" some rooms, added the current swimming pool, but did not have the same passion for plants as her father did. Glasshouses were dismantled and staff numbers reduced. The vegetable gardens became another housing subdivision, and the southern entrance was sold to become the ABC studios for the 1956 Olympic Games. Before her death in 1972 Louisa fought, with the aid of the National Trust, to fight compulsory acquisition of 4.1 acres.

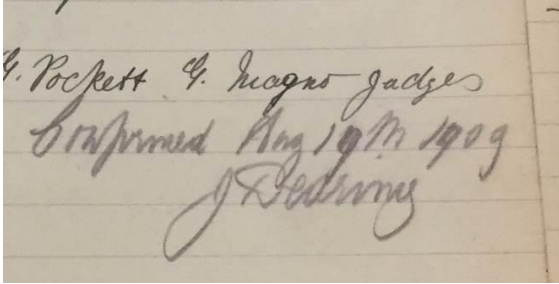
Rippon Lea is open to the public daily and well worth a visit in any season.

With some research via the National Library of Australia's TROVE and the manuscripts collection at the State Library of Victoria, a number of facts began to be compiled about James Dearing. James was the fifth of six children, born 12<sup>th</sup> August, 1871 to William and Mary Ann (nee Mapley) Deering (with two e's), near Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.





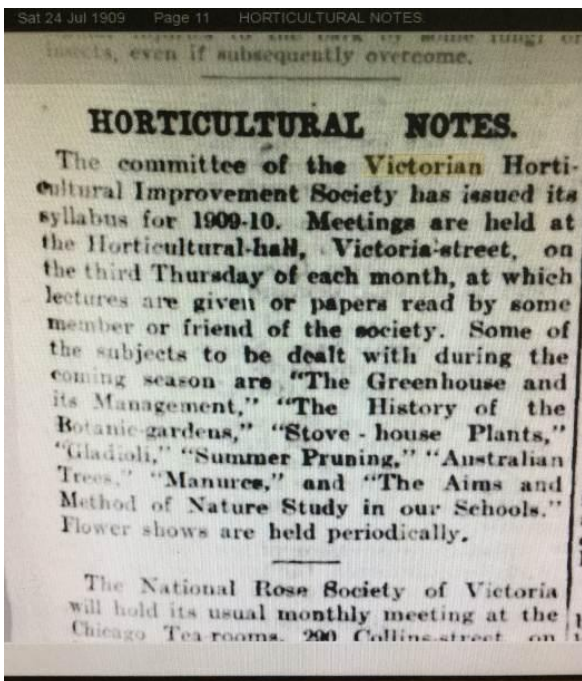
The Dearing family had lived in the area for generations. UK. Census records show his father's occupation as agricultural labourer. James, aged about 15, and his family came to Australia on an assisted passage on *The Eastminster* in 1887 arriving in Maryborough January 1888. The ship sank the next month. James married Helen and they had a daughter, Ailsa. James travelled to England with his family a couple of times. James died in 1954.



James Dearing's signature from the Horticultural Improvement Society minutes books, held at the State Library of Victoria Manuscripts Collection.

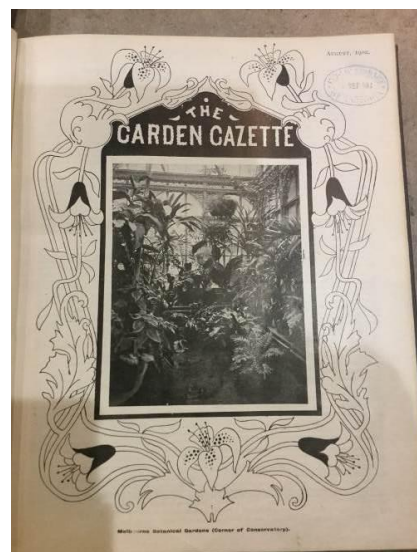
James Dearing originally worked for Nathan at 'Dalnair', in Armadale, and when Nathan moved to Rippon Lea, Dearing moved too. James Dearing was a keen gardener from a young age, receiving a highly commended award for 16 carnation seedlings staged at the VHIS meeting December 1893. Newspapers of the time reported on all manner of topics, and those of horticultural interest were a mainstay. Dearing was also a knowledgeable and skilled author of articles concerning, amongst other things, ferns and stove plant cultivation. Dearing wrote a detailed article titled 'Three foliage plants' that was published in *The Garden Gazette* in 1903. In 1904 an article (printed over two weekends), concerning the cultivation of maidenhair fern was published by the Fitzroy City Press. Dearing, and his brother, William were regular exhibitors at the VHIS, winning awards for their efforts. Dearing presented papers at the VHIS meetings often, and the minutes of the general meeting of January, 1897 record that a motion was moved by Mr. Cheshire that Dearing's paper on 'A trip to Mt Bopple (sic), Queensland' "was the very finest he had heard in the room". (It should be Mt Bauple, Qld.) Dearing, after being vice president became president of the VHIS in 1909. The VHIS made links with similar bodies in the UK. One could assume Dearing was proficient at correspondence, especially before his trips to the UK. A newspaper article reports him winning all the awards in the foliage and palm section of the 1909 show held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December (Leader, 25/12/1909).

*The Australasian* wrote, "Dearing has proved himself to be one of the best plant-growers in the state." The article goes on to compliment Dearing "who seems to know as much about horticultural architecture as he does about plant-growing." (10/12/1910, p.13)



*The Australasian*, Saturday 24 July 1909, p.11

The Victorian Horticultural Improvement Society (VHIS) was established in 1860. This society is not to be confused with the Royal Horticultural Society (established 1849), the members being some of the leading figures of the colony. Dearing was to become heavily involved with the VHIS, being a committee member, vice president and later, president of the society. The VHIS was made up of professional and amateur gardeners who shared an interest and desire to cultivate all manner of plants. Meetings and shows were held regularly.

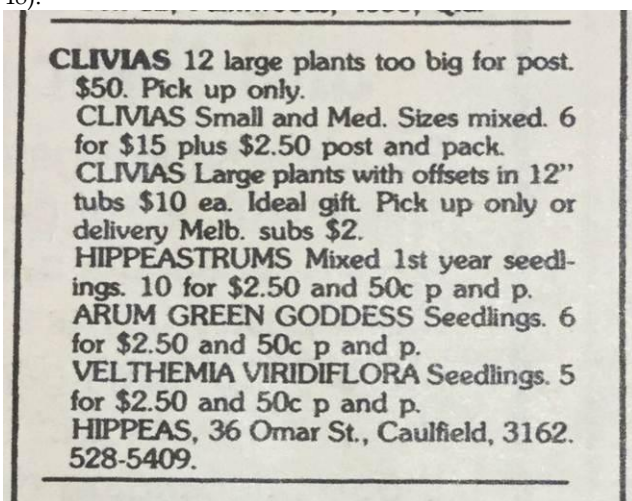


*The Garden Gazette*, August 1902. Cover showing the desirability of 'stove plants under glass'.



Fitzroy City Press, 1904, p11.

In the mid 1970's *Your Garden* magazine, was a popular publication, costing 40 cents. In addition to a wide variety of general gardening articles, orchid cultivation had a section devoted to it, and also popular were advertisements for mail order plants. A number of businesses that advertised then are still in business today, including Bryan H. Tonkin. In addition to boxed adverts, the classified section ran for a number of pages and it is here we first find Fred Pollard selling, amongst other things, *Clivia*, from a home-based nursery called *Hippeas*. Pollard appeared to advertise every second month, and not unlike contemporary eBay sellers, seems to make a tidy amount of extra income from plant sales. His phone number was listed, and customers could visit his home. It is in *Your Garden*, 1980, December, p.21, that Fred, and his *Clivia* get special attention in an article, '*Clivias worth waiting for*' (See last page of this newsletter for a reprint of the article). In this colour feature, reference to named plants, 'Aurea' and 'Ailsa Dearing' is made, saying they came from the collection of the late James Dearing. The Dearings lived at 27 Elizabeth Street, Elsternwick, just behind Rippon Lea estate and Fred and Joyce Pollard's home in Caulfield was not far from both. A lack of oral history makes for guess work on how Pollard acquired the plants, if he knew Dearing, or later, only his widow. In fact, how Dearing acquired 'Aurea' is somewhat a mystery, only that his daughter, Ailsa, speaking with Irene Broadbent a number of years ago, said that Nathan had instructed Dearing, while in the UK, to buy anything of note (Smith, 2000, p. 48).



Classified ad for '*Hippeas*' Fred Pollard's mail order business, *Your Garden* circa 1980's

The significance of 'Aurea' on the development of *Clivia* in Australia cannot be overstated. 'Aurea' has been used extensively as breeding plant by many Australian *Clivia* hybridists, including from Queensland, Kevin Walters, and in Victoria, Laurens Rijke and Helen Marriott.

'Aurea' is well known as a one of the key plants used in Kevin Walter's breeding work, with Walters buying his original plant from Pollard (Mathews, 2010 p.3). Nick Primich in a 1994 *Clivia Club* newsletter wrote, "I have an offset from the original 'Aurea' from Kevin Walters. This is still the best yellow I have seen" (p 5). Kevin Walter's continues, "All my yellow material stems from the original Aurea obtained somewhere in the seventies" (p.10) and surprisingly also writes, I have grown tired of developing round-headed beauties like "Relly Williams" which is Aura (sic) x " Belgian hybrid". Aurea gives the lovely round heads to its progeny" (p.6).



*C. miniata* 'Ailsa Dearing' Photo Ken Smith  
<http://www.cliviaregister.com/clivia-register.php>



*C. miniata* 'James Dearing' Photo Ken Smith  
<http://www.cliviaregister.com/clivia-register.php>





'Aurea' Photo Helen Marriott

After seeing an ad in *Your Garden*, Laurens Rijke went to see Pollard and his *Clivia* in the early 1970s. He was able to buy on a couple of occasions, the limit of one per visit, of an offset of both 'Aurea' and 'Ailsa Dearing'. He recalls that 'Aurea' was \$25, a lot of money at the time, but recognised how special these plants were (Marriott, 2008). 'Ailsa Dearing' may now be considered not that special, but at the time, Laurens thought it was a vast improvement it was on the *C. miniata* normally seen in old gardens. He has continued to use 'Aurea' in breeding work, sometime with interspecific crosses.

Helen Marriott met Joyce Pollard (Fred's widow) when she moved into a unit in Armadale. Helen had already investigated *Clivia* as a plant to suit a shady situation in her back garden. As she got to know her neighbour, Mrs Pollard better, she was 'introduced' to Mrs Pollard's special cream *Clivia*, called 'Aurea'. Helen acquired a division, and has found it a strong grower and excellent breeding plant. Like Laurens, Helen has used 'Aurea' in breeding intraspecific and interspecific *Clivia*.

Jean Kent, and her daughter, Sally Kerr, sold offsets of 'Aurea' by the name of 'Flowerdale Cream'. Sally still sells offsets, via eBay occasionally. The stories of how Jean Kent acquired the plants from Pollard vary slightly, but in either case, she was determined to get a piece of this plant. One version has her chasing Pollard's car, and in another, she leant against the car until the owner returned to be able to negotiate a purchase. It is called 'Flowerdale' after the road in Glen Iris where they lived.



'Green Imp' x 'Aurea' Photo Helen Marriott



'Aurea' Photo Helen Marriott

'Aurea' is a significant part of the history of *Clivia* in Australia. Passionate and knowledgeable horticulturalists such as James Dearing have made lasting contributions to the improvement to, and our understanding of, many plant genera. *Clivia* enthusiasts are all the beneficiaries of earlier work and commitment by such great plant collectors.

(Editor's note. Special thanks to Helen Marriott for her assistance with this article).

#### References and Future Reading

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Mathews, D. (2010) Kevin Walters - An Australian Clivia breeder, *Clivia News* 19(2) 3-5

Marriott, H, (2008) Laurens Rijke- A passionate Collector of Clivia, *Clivia Yearbook 10*

Purdy, G. (1988) A classic fernery, *Your Garden*, September 92-93.

Smith, K. (2000) Named cultivars of Clivia in Australia, *Clivia Yearbook 2*, 48-54.

April Meeting Photos



Chee Perks and Gerard van Buuren



Not sure who said what, but smiles all round, John Trotter, Yvonne Hargreaves, and Terry Edwards



New member, Catherine Brown tries her luck with a raffle ticket seller, Ray Perks

Ray Perks' presentation, summary of points,

- Fertiliser and conditioners: Ray recommends using liquid fertiliser until the middle of May, and starts using Seasol from the middle of May onwards, as new growth isn't to be encouraged with *C. miniata*, especially if risk of frost is present. Potassium sulphate is applied over summer, but a dose now might be beneficial.
- Watering - reduce watering, not too much from now on. Depending on pot and plant size. Mature plants, none to very little watering from the end of winter, only rain water, unless there is a dry spell, and pots are dry. Consider shelter for your best plants in very wet periods. Consider doing the 'finger test'.
- Repotting - Still time to repot if plants have out grown pot, or offsets need to be divided.
- Sunlight - Sunlight is reducing now, so plants need more light, extra shade cloth layers may be removed, and pots brought out from under trees.
- Berries - When is the right stage to pick berries? Early vs late picking and cleaning. Green berries which are still firm to pinch, are easier to peel, and can be germinated earlier. Mature berries contain seeds that will always





germinate, but risk rodents, (mice and rats) eating mature berries.

- Mealy Bugs - These pests thrive in dry conditions. Spray with Confidor, Neem oil, or other pesticide. Roger suggested a 10% solution of vinegar (acetic acid) which is effective, cheap, and less dangerous to the environment, and the mealy bugs don't like it. Slugs, snails and earwigs eat the flowers. Consider personal, pet and environmental safety when using poisons etc.
- Dead Leaves - Ray recommended only taking off the dead (brown) leaves that come off easily. If the leaf is not completely dead, then it can be cut off near the base, rather than pulled off. Rot can happen at the base of the leaf, if it is pulled off when it is not completely dead. Remove dead leaves from trees that have fallen into the leaf axils, and especially "possum poo" and urine which can rot the base of the leaves.
- General tidy up, look at labels, tags, pots, think about plants that might be good for display at expo. CD pen, paint pens and HB pencils recommended for tags, consider two tags, one at surface level firmly pressed into side of pot, and another insurance record, one placed in bottom of pot. Consider venetian blinds labels, cut to required length to reach the pot bottom, which are not easily removed by birds, etc.

## Minutes of the Melbourne Clivia Group's Annual General Meeting 17/2/2017

Venue: Uniting Church Hall, cnr. Burwood Hwy. and Blackburn Rd. Burwood.

Meeting opened 7.50 pm.

Michael Barrett, as president chaired the meeting and welcomed members and visitors to the AGM.

Apologies: Mal Foster, Tina Morse, Joan Patterson, Steve Wright, Laurens Rijke,

Members present: Ray Argent, John Bannenberg, Michael Barrett, Rae Begg, Ray Begg, Wayne Blackburn, Roger Clarke, Nick Cheng Terry Edwards, Lisa Fox, Brenda Girdlestone, Yvonne Hargreaves, Peter Haeusler, Haydn Lomas, Helen Marriott Di. Matthews, Kelvin Mitchell, Andrew Palmer, Chee Perks, Ray Perks, John Trotter, Andrea Whitty, Ian Johnson, Ian Larmer, Margaret Rackham, Paul Smith.

Visitors: Neville Hargrave and Heather Hargrave

26 members present with 2 visitors.

Motion to accept minutes of last AGM (distributed in May 2016 newsletter. Vol 9.2

Moved: Ian Larmer

Seconded Terry Edwards,

Motion carried.

### General announcements

- North American Clivia show and symposium, Michael Barrett expressed to Helen Marriott the group's best wishes for a successful speaking engagement at the symposium.
- Botanical art for sale: Michael Barrett made note of botanical illustrations of *C. mirabilis* by Dr Batten for sale, limited works for Australia of 30 copies for sale.
- Tour of New Zealand: Haydn contacted Tony Barnes who is running a 10 day tour on 29th September to New Zealand's North Island. It will include 3 *Clivia* shows. Cost is \$1500 per person, twin share. Members to organise arrangements themselves.

Brief discussion; dealing with heatwaves in summer, timing of watering, extra shade, etc.

Yvonne Hargreaves and Peter Haeusler led the discussion. Peter emphasized that *Clivia* need adequate space for air to circulate around each plant, otherwise mealy bug can be a problem. Extra white shadecloth can be used in the middle of summer to prevent leaf burn. Plants need to be watered thoroughly prior to heatwaves. Other points raised included, amount of light for different species, consideration of own circumstances, and need to alter shade, and hard cover protection as the season changed.

## 1. Reports

### President's Report.

#### MCG President's Report 2016

It is with much pleasure I write the President's report for 2016. The Melbourne Clivia Group, founded in 2008, has, like its members, and their *Clivia* collections, grown in many ways, since their beginnings. The MCG has continued to fulfil its statement of purpose, and provided an important mechanism for the exchange of information and plant material to be shared and exchanged. Many existing members now feel content with developing their own lines of *Clivia* breeding. Newer members have been warmly welcomed, and they now seek to build knowledge and fine examples of the diversity within the genus.



I wish to express sincere thanks to the committee members of 2016. I congratulate you on the commitment to the group. Each of you provided sage advice in decision making. I make special note of Roger Clarke, and Rae Begg for fulfilling the extra requirements the executive roles required. I thank other committee members, Steve Wright, John Trotter and Haydn Lomas. Also, I wish to express gratitude to the work performed by Lisa Fox in the role of webmaster, John McKenzie for photography, and Brenda Girdlestone for the newsletter mail out.

Meetings for the year often coincided with some very bleak weather, and I know some members went an extra mile to attend. It was noticed and appreciated. Thanks to Ray Argent for taking on the role of bringing the main supper supplies, as well thanks to those members that brought something special to share. Thanks also to members and guest speakers for their presentations, as well as to the generous donors of raffle prizes. Some members gathered to celebrated Christmas and the holiday season at Lorry and Terry Edwards' home and were made very welcomed.

The 2016 Clivia Expo, was, like previous years a great success. The main committee took on most of the planning the expo. Thanks to Helen Marriott and Vu Dang for assistance for the promotional flyer artwork. John Trotter did a great job in securing a billboard from Barry Plant Real Estate (Blackburn) to be placed outside the hall. Promotions in *The Age*, and on 3AW went very well, and I was personally very satisfied all that could be done, was in place. Thanks also goes to Andrew Briginshaw from Richgro for the company's support with products we included to new members. On the day of the expo it was pleasing to see so much interest in *Clivia* from the public. The sales area was buzzing and it is a great opportunity for some of us to part with excess plants. Thanks to the catering team for keeping us going with delicious refreshments. However, we need to address the rosters and a sense of fairness in workloads for the future. Congratulations to Peter Haeusler for winning the Peoples' Choice award. Thanks to all involved in the day's success in all the various areas.

May 2017 be a great year ahead for the MCG and its members.

Best wishes

Michael Barrett

Move to accept President's report:-

Moved Roger Clarke

Seconded Haydn Lomas

### **Secretary's Report:**

MCG Secretary's Report 2016

#### Membership

Prior to the Clivia Expo 2016, we had 96 members. At that event, 15 new members joined.

At the end of December 2016, we had 111 members.

We expect a lot of members renewing at the AGM in February as usual. Membership is for the calendar year ending 31/12/2017. The membership is maintained using EXCEL, and once again I am indebted to Rae Begg for updating and maintaining the register.

#### General Meetings

The general meetings have been reasonably well attended, with an average of 20 members per meeting, which is down on last year. Thank you to John Trotter for helping me with recording attendances.

Highlights of the years' meetings included,

- Michael Barrett presented in April: 'Clivia in California: a historical perspective of Clivia breeders'
- Helen Marriott presented in May, 'Observations of *C. gardenii* and interspecifics'.
- Brenda Girdlestone presented in June, 'Tour of Japanese Clivia growers'.
- Andrew Briginshaw from RICHGRO presented the October topic, and talked about their business based in WA, and the use of various products. He brought with him many samples that were given away and raffled: everyone at the meeting receiving a prize.

#### Newsletter

There were four newsletters for 2016, as quality rather than quantity was the aim. Most members received newsletters via email, but some members find it easier to access printed material, and we are grateful to Brenda Girdlestone for printing and posting the hard copy newsletter to those people.

#### Garden Club Presentations

Peter Haeusler presented talks to the Prahran Garden club, the Werribee garden club, and the Mitcham Garden club in 2016, and is due to do presentations to the Camberwell Morning Garden club, and the Ikebana International Melbourne chapter, and The Clunes garden club in September 2017. Thanks Peter for your efforts.

#### Enquiries from the Public

I received 10 landline phone calls from the public for varied reasons, which were referred to relevant members, and frequent emails to the secretary for many and varied reasons, also referred to relevant members if I couldn't answer the queries myself.

Again, I want to thank the committee and especially Michael and Rae for their substantial support and assistance during the year.

Roger Clarke,  
Secretary

Move to accept secretary's report:  
Moved Michael Barrett  
Seconded Di Matthews

#### Treasurers, report

<b>PETTY CASH</b>	<b>2016</b>				
<b>Balance 1/1/2016</b>					138.55
<b>Credits</b>			150.00		
Expenses				166.20	
<b>Balance 31/12/16</b>					<b>122.35</b>

<b>SUMMARY 2016</b>					
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<b>PAYPAL 2016</b>					
<b>Balance 31/12/16</b>					2,064.00
<b>Income</b>					
	Membership		125.00		
					2,189.00
<b>Expenses</b>					
	Paypal fees		5.22		
	Purchases		183.78		
	Transfer to bank		2,000.00		
					<b>0.00</b>

<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>					
Bank Cash Account					7,521.21
Bank Term Deposit					6,224.22
Petty Cash					122.35
Paypal					0.00
<b>TOTAL CREDIT</b>					<b>13,867.78</b>
<b>NETT PROFITS</b>					
Bank					2,405.34
Bank Term Deposit	Interest 7/3/2016				149.39
Petty Cash					16.20
Paypal					0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>2,538.53</b>

Move to accept Treasurer's report  
Moved: Roger Clarke  
Seconded: Brenda Girdlestone

### 3 Election of office bearers

Michael Barrett vacated the chair, and Hayden Lomas declared all positions vacant, and an election for president was conducted. Haydn Lomas asked if there were any nominations for president.

There was one nomination for President.-  
Michael Barrett nominated by Roger Clarke.  
Michael Barrett was elected unopposed.

Michael Barrett thanked Haydn Lomas and the members.

Michael Barrett asked for any nominations for secretary,  
There was one nomination for secretary.

Roger Clarke, nominated by Michael Barrett.  
Roger Clarke was elected unopposed.

No nominations were in hand for any other positions. The meeting paused briefly while members were asked to contemplate taking on committee roles.

Nominations for Treasurer:-

Michael Barrett asked for nominations for Treasurer, no nominations in hand, called for nominations from the floor.

Chee Perks nominated by Ray Perks.

Chee Perks accepted and was elected unopposed.

There was no nomination for Vice president.-

Michael Barrett called for nominations from the floor.

Yvonne Hargreaves was nomination by Michael Barrett.

Yvonne Hargreaves accepted and was elected unopposed.

Nominations for general committee members.

Michael Barrett nominated Rae Begg,  
Rae Begg accepted and was elected.

Rae Begg nominated John Trotter  
John Trotter accepted and was elected,

Michael Barrett thanked the new committee members for accepting the roles and wished them very success.

#### **4 Raffle.**

Donation of special flowering size *Clivia* plants from Peter Haeusler, Haydn Lomas, Helen Marriott and Rae Perks and an apple tree from Rippon Lea estate donated by Haydn Lomas.

The raffle winners were Helen Marriott, Ray Perks, Michael Barrett, Kelvin Mitchell, and Di Matthews.

#### **5. Presentation by Michael Barrett –‘Rippon Lea Estate and the link to Clivia history in Victoria’.**

Michael gave a PowerPoint presentation covering fern fever in the Victorian era, the fernery at Rippon Lea, and James Dearing (gardener to Mr Nathan at Rippon Lea, and president of the Victorian Horticultural Improvement Society). The presentation linked James Dearing and Fred Pollard to well known ‘Aurea’ and ‘Ailsa Dearing’.

**Meeting closed at 9.15 pm. Supper was enjoyed by all.**

**Next general meeting 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7.30 pm.**



Article from *Your garden*, December 1980



Clivia 'Ailsa Dearing,' an unusual deep apricot.



Clivia 'Aurea,' cream with yellow throat.

## Clivias worth waiting for

Much hybridising with clivias has resulted in many crosses ranging in color from cream to orange, but the good ones are still scarce because of the time they take to reach flowering size.

The two rare ones shown here were grown by Mr F. H. Pollard, of Caulfield (V), and brought to perfection in the shade of a large cedar.

They are 'Ailsa Dearing' and 'Aurea,'

both of which were obtained from the collection of the late Mr Dearing, of Melbourne, who named the first one after his daughter.

'Ailsa Dearing' is a vivid deep apricot bloom and a possible cross between 'Aurea' and *C. miniata*, retaining the flared shape of the latter but with much better petal form and color.

'Aurea,' with cream shaded bloom and

lemon throat, is also rare.

Clivias are good plants for growing in pots and tubs or a shady spot in the garden and have the advantage of flowering in winter when color is scarce.

Bulbs should be fed in spring and early summer and should be kept consistently moist until late summer when they have a resting period. However, the soil should not be allowed to become dust dry.