



Message from the President

Happy New Year to all. With MCG now up and running, we can look forward to an exciting 2009.

The best news to start off the year is that we now have our own website operating. Launched on 16 December, 2008, the website introduces the group, contains details on membership and most importantly, has a link to our clivia photographs. I have observed that other groups have struggled to set up a website or have been unable to maintain it adequately, so I regard us as very fortunate indeed. Please see Lisa's separate introduction of the website.

We finished 2008 on a good note, with an enjoyable social evening held on 28 November and attended by around 24 people. The decision to hold the function in our regular venue and share dishes seemed to work well. We were particularly grateful to Jeanne Marten for donating a seedling to each participant (potted up and brought by Irene Broadbent), and to Rae Begg who germinated some seed donated at one of the earlier meetings and also presented everyone with one of these seedlings in a special Xmas pot.

As you can see, the newsletter now incorporates our new Logo, thanks to John Bannenberg. We encourage all those who can do so to subscribe to the electronic version of the newsletter, as the hard copies have proven to be rather expensive to produce on home printers.

One of the important functions of the group will be to disseminate the results of recent clivia breeding and there is no better way to do this than for members to bring pots (or cut flowers) to meetings for the display table. Such plants can be introduced at the meetings and records can be preserved through George Simmler's photographs. We thus assume that if people bring a plant for display, they are agreeing to allow photographs to be taken and used for the purpose of promoting the MCG.

A new feature of our meetings in 2009 will be the inclusion of a Trading Table, managed by George and assisted by Di Mathews. Given that there are constraints both with time and space, we plan to start off in a small way and for the purpose of planning, have produced some guidelines (see later). These are a starting point and can be modified as we go along, where necessary. Hopefully, through the Trading Table members will be able to gain access to clivia material which they would have difficulty obtaining elsewhere.

In order to put the MCG on a firmer financial footing, especially in view of recent expenditures such as the website and the on-going newsletters, one suggestion of Di Mathews is that we organise a sausage sizzle at a Bunning's store one day on a weekend. Di will investigate this possibility.

At our next meeting on Friday 20 February, the committee will put forward a new resolution whereby we alter the model rules that we previously adopted to allow continued use of our membership form in its current format. Without this change, the process of membership application is more complicated, requiring both a nominator and seconder. We hope to receive members' approval of this small change.

I wonder if others also have enjoyed some summer clivia blooms? I had several interspecifics flowering at Christmas time, and over New Year, a peach and a first-flowering orange *C. miniata*, both unexpected, as well as another interspecific (*C. miniata* x *C. nobilis*) were in flower. I wonder what else 2009 will bring...?

Helen Marriott



On the 16th December 2008, the Melbourne Clivia Group leapt into cyberspace by launching a new website. The website has been developed:

- To promote the MCG by having an online presence;
- To be a source of information for new and existing members;
- To display our group photographs; and
- To publish information and news to the public.

We plan to keep the website up-to-date with events, news and information, and hope to add more and more content to the site in the future. Currently the site has a calendar of events, membership benefits and application form, links to clivia resources and a gallery of photographs hosted on the external site, Photobucket.

In our first month the website has attracted 196 visitors from all over the world.

The web address is
<http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au>

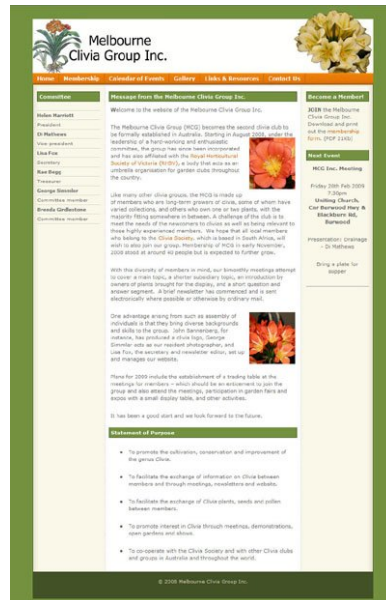
Please bookmark the site and visit it regularly to keep up-to-date with happenings. Currently our gallery is displaying photographs from the last few meetings, the Christmas get-together and a repotting demonstration by resident photographer, George.

Our new email address is
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au.

Lisa Fox

Congratulations on the launch of your website. Very professional. It's good to see your newly formed club making such fine progress.

Regards, Alick in Auckland



With the NACS and others already having a website it would make sense that someone in Australia would do the same, as a group. I congratulate you and your members on your forward thinking to encourage the growth of interest in clivia and the sharing of ideas in our wonderful country.

Regards,
Gary Fry. Toowoomba

Congratulations to your club on the website. Great class and yet unpretentious. Impressive. Wynand Malan in Randburg SA

20 Feb 2009 – MCG Meeting
Drainage (Di Mathews)
Potting mixes (Rae Begg)

28 Feb – 1 Mar 2009
Plant fair at the Frasers

14-15 March 2009
Tesselaar Rare Plants Expo

1 – 5 April 2009
International Flower Show

17 Apr 2009 – MCG Meeting
TBC
Databases (Lisa Fox)

19 Jun 2009 – MCG Meeting
TBC
Gardenii (TBC)

21 Aug 2009 – MCG Meeting
Interspecifics (Laurens Rijke and Helen Marriott)
Fertiliser – Brenda Girdlestone

11 Sep 2009 – MCG Meeting
Multitepals (panel)
Photography (George Simmler)

Sep 2009
Royal Melbourne Show

2 – 4 Oct 2009
ABC Gardening Australia Expo

10 – 11 Oct 2009
Baw Baw Garden Expo

16 Oct 2009 – MCG Meeting
Pests & Diseases (panel)
Commentary on display plants (members)



Member's Introduction

TERRY EDWARDS

How long have you been interested in clivia?

For 35 years.

How did you first become interested in clivia?

I still remember this plant that was growing across from my wife-to-be's flat. It was growing on the south side of a flat that was opposite with 5 umbels. At that time to me it was stunning, and I still have part of it. It is a very ordinary miniata.

How has your interest developed since you became interested?



I was revitalized around 1998 when Don Burke had a part on his TV show about yellow clivias. Not long after that I came across an old gent at a Brisbane market who was selling two yellows which I purchased. I didn't believe they were yellow as he did not ask much money for them. He also said he was a clivia club member and told me how to be one. I have no idea who he is I would like to know.

I have been obtaining seeds from a few countries and am now waiting for more flowers to show.

Do you have a favourite colour/type/species or named cultivar?

My favourite is a large flowered yellow / orange that came from Bill Morris' Tango, and a green throated yellow that is 30% green from Japan.

Have you had any interesting experiences relating to clivia?

I am only now starting to meet people who have been growing longer than I have. Also having the MCG is a buzz.

Member's Introduction Cont.

Do you specialise in any particular type of clivia?

Mainly Miniata.

Do you have clivia in pots, in the ground or both?

Mainly in pots but some are going into built up garden beds.

What are your hopes for the future clivia-wise?

That people can breed the flower they wish to have before they get too old.

THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER IF YOU ARE NOT A FINANCIAL MEMBER OF MCG INC.

After this newsletter, future issues will only be sent to financial members, apart from the few complimentary copies that are sent to particular organisations. We assume that anyone local who wishes to join the group can do so by using the membership form attached to this newsletter or by downloading the membership form from the MCG website.

Welcome to our new members. For those that live in Victoria, we hope to see you at a meeting this year. To our new members who live too far away to attend, please let us know your news and send photographs.

New Year Resolutions

I am going to spend longer at Toowoomba this September so I can enjoy seeing more of the Clivia Shows up there.
Lisa

I must repot as many seedlings as possible before daylight saving finishes or before I run out of space.
Helen

To keep a close check on caterpillars on my very small seedlings - I've lost a couple of seedlings to a little green caterpillar, which I despatched, but I've found more chewed leaves, so there must be others.
Di

My aim for the New Year is to find more space around the place for my plants.
George

Finish potting up my 2yr-old seedlings from olive pots into 8" then start on my seedlings from this season, potting them into olive pots. I will have to build another shadehouse first!
Rae



Contact Details

NEXT MEETING

Friday 20th February 2009 - 7.30
pm
Uniting Church,
Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn
Rd, Burwood

Demonstration: Drainage
(Di Mathews)
Potting Mixes (Rae Begg)

Vote to amend Model Rules
regarding membership
application

Please let us know if you have any other
news or items of interest to share.
Deadline for next issue – 7 March 2009

OUR ADDRESS

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The Clivia Species - Di Mathews

The clivia genus is small, contains only six known species, and it belongs to the Amaryllidaceae family. The clivia is endemic to Southern Africa, and is world renowned for its showy flowers. Each species has flowers which are borne on the end of a peduncle, or flower stalk, and this inflorescence is called an umbel.

Clivias are slow-growing plants, and are long-lived. The six species are evergreen, with thick fleshy roots that are very well-equipped for water storage during periods of drought. The plants were very popular and sought after in the late nineteenth century, after which they faded from view for a significant time. They have now been “rediscovered” in recent times, and are perfectly suited to modern life. They make ideal container grown plants for both indoors and the shady exterior, and they will grow outdoors, under trees and in narrow dark spaces where few other plants will flourish. They have spectacular flowers in a variety of colours, and are now the subject of near obsession around the world, where electronic communication has enabled enthusiasts from different countries and regions to communicate with each other, and also to trade seeds and plants which are considered highly desirable (Koopowitz pp18-20).

The six species of clivia will be discussed briefly below.

Clivia caulescens

The name ‘caulescens’ refers to the very distinct aerial stem that is developed by the mature plant.



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Clivia caulescens is found in the evergreen forests of sheltered ravines and damp valleys of mountainous regions. It is found growing either on rocks which are covered with moss and lichen, or on tree trunks. The roots make their way through well-decayed leaf mould and humus covering the rocks. They are found in the mountain forests of the Eastern Transvaal and Swaziland.



These clivia usually grow from 500mm to 1500mm in height, however, mature plants form long, leaf-bearing aerial stems, which can be one metre in length, and in rare cases as long as three metres. The leaves of this genus are smooth and pointed, usually between 35 and 70 mm wide, and the length between 300mm and 600mm.

The flowers of *Clivia caulescens* are tubular and pendulous, are orange-red with green tips, and it normally flowers in spring and summer in the southern hemisphere. (Photo courtesy of Helen Marriott)

This plant thrives in cultivation, doing equally well whether used as an indoor plant, or planted in a shady part of the garden, and will flower reliably each year as long as their growing requirements, for example, good drainage, are met.

Clivia gardenii

The name 'gardenii' is in reference to Major Robert Garden of the 45th Sherwood Foresters Regiment, who sent plants of this species to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. *Clivia gardenii* are usually found in steeply sloping areas, usually south or south east facing, in evergreen forests under a very tall canopy. They prefer a well-drained soil in the wild, but have been recorded in marshy areas as well. They come primarily from KwaZulu-Natal, and have also been found in Swaziland.



These clivias usually grow from 800mm to 1300mm in height, with bright green leaves that form a tuft. The leaves often differ from other species, as they have a paler section along the lower third of the leaf. The leaves have pointed tips, and are 25mm to 60mm wide, and about 350mm to 900mm long.

The flowers are usually orange to red, tubular and pendulous. There are, however, unusual colour clones such as yellow or pink. It normally flowers from May to July in the southern hemisphere, and has the ability to flower well even when planted in dense shade. (Photo courtesy of Helen Marriott)

This plant thrives in cultivation, and is in flower when other clivias are not, making it a valuable addition to the garden. They are long lived and flower reliably every year.

Clivia miniata

The name 'miniata' is in reference to the flame-coloured flower, "coloured with red lead or cinnabar" (Duncan, p58). *Clivia miniata* are always found under tree cover, often growing on well-draining slopes of the forest floor rich with leaf mould. They can also be found on rocky ledges and between sandstone boulders on slopes. They are found in areas from the Eastern Cape Province to Swaziland and KwaZulu-Natal.

These clivia grow from 500mm to 1 metre in height, and they sucker freely and will form large clumps. The leaves are usually about 50mm wide in the wild, but cultivated varieties can have leaves over 100mm wide. The leaves can be up to 1 metre in length.



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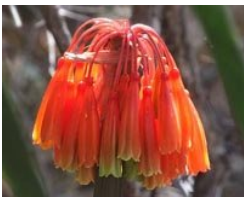
The flowers in the wild tend to be orange in colour, although there are very rare paler yellows, peaches, and pinks that have been found. The flower shapes in the wild can vary from small and open to large, trumpet shaped flowers. This is the most easily recognisable clivia, and is, in horticultural terms, the most important of the species.

In cultivation, the flower colour can be cream, pink, peach, yellow, orange to red, and even green. This is the variety most commonly planted in parks, conservatories, and used as an indoor plant, largely due to the ease of culture, and the spectacular flowers it produces reliably each year. In the southern hemisphere, this clivia normally flowers from early spring to early summer. (Photo courtesy of Helen Marriott)

Clivia mirabilis

The name 'mirabilis' is in reference to the miracle of discovering this unusual species in a very inhospitable environment.

Clivia mirabilis is a newly discovered species that was only confirmed in 2001. They are found in the Northern Cape, and are extremely rare in cultivation. There is no known population outside the Oorlogskloof Reserve. In the wild, they grow in the humus between cracks in sandstone rocks, in light woodland of evergreen forests. These clivia have very thick roots that will survive under rock slabs. Unlike the other five species of clivia, this clivia originates from a Mediterranean-type climate, and requires a relatively dry summer, when it is naturally dormant.



These clivia grow from 600mm to 1200mm in height, and the leaves are distinguished by a pale white striation on the leaves, which gradually fades as the leaves age. The basal part of the leaves is also distinguished by a deep maroon tinge.

The flowers are tubular and pendulous, and are orange-red to salmon-pink in colour, often with some pale green. In the southern hemisphere, this clivia normally flowers from late spring to early summer. (Habitat photo courtesy of Ian Coates)

Of all the clivias, this is the most difficult to grow in cultivation, as it is extremely sensitive to over-watering, and will rapidly rot if drainage is not sharp.

Clivia nobilis

This is the genus that was named in honour of the Duchess of Northumberland, who had the family name of Clive, and it is the first clivia that was discovered. This species is only found in the Eastern Cape, mainly in coastal areas. They are found in coastal dunes, and also under the dense canopy of evergreen forests, on rocky slopes, and also on river-banks.



These clivia grow from 500mm to 1100mm in height, and the leaves are distinguished by leaf margins that have a distinct serration, with the apex having either a weak or strong notch. Seedlings of Clivia nobilis are very slow to develop compared to the other species.

The flowers are borne on an umbel which may contain up to 60 florets, on a peduncle which may be up to 300mm long. The flowers are very variable in colour, from pale orange, yellow, orange-pink, to a deep orange-red, with bright green tips. In the southern hemisphere, these normally flower from mid-winter to early summer, but may flower at other times. (Photo courtesy of Helen Marriott)



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In cultivation, these plants make wonderful container plants, and are also very well-suited to the garden. They are very drought tolerant once established, and readily produce offsets. The leathery leaves make them less susceptible to fungal diseases than other clivia species.

Clivia robusta

The name 'robusta' is in reference to the robust nature of this species, and it also resembles a robust form of the species *Clivia gardenii*. *Clivia robusta* is usually found in swampy terrain or near water, in deep shade in forested areas. They are found from the Eastern Cape to Oribi Gorge in the southern part of KwaZulu-Natal.



These clivias grow between 1 and 2 metres in height, and may or may not produce buttress roots. The leaves are between 400mm to 1200mm long, and 35mm to 90mm wide. There may be a weak pale striation occasionally in younger leaves.

The flowers are orange-red with pronounced green tips, and are pendulous. The colours, however, may vary, and are known to occur in pale peachy-pink with green-yellow tones. The flowers are often very similar to those of *Clivia gardenii*. In the southern hemisphere, these normally flower from late May to late June. (Habitat photo courtesy of Ian Coates)

This plant is ideally suited to cultivation, both as a potted plant and in the garden. Forms that originate from the swampy habitat can be grown in poorly drained soil, but also thrive in normal growing conditions.

References

Duncan G - Grow Clivias - South African National Biodiversity Institute, Kirstenbosch. 2008

Koopowitz H - Clivias - Timber Press, Portland, Oregon. USA. 2002

Botha G - Clivia Website - www.clivia.sa.cx/clivia.htm



MCG Trading Table Guidelines

1. A trading table will be set up at meetings for members wishing to buy or sell clivia plants, seedlings, seeds or pollen, thereby facilitating access to materials difficult to obtain elsewhere.
2. The sales will take place at the end of the main meeting component, from around 9:15 during supper time. Cash only will be accepted.
3. The items for sale may be brought in and placed on the two tables in the corner at the front prior to 7:30 or else kept outside and brought inside when the trading table starts.
4. In 2009 the trading table will be managed by MCG's Trading Table Manager, George Simmler, assisted by Di Mathews. Those selling stock are expected to help George and be available to give advice to potential buyers when the stock is being sold.
5. Any seller who wishes to bring items for sale to a meeting is invited to submit the Trading Table form to the Manager in advance and before the deadline for the next newsletter so that members can be informed in advance. This form will include the number of items for sale, price and plant description. Alternatively, this information can be telephoned to the Manager by those without internet access, but the form must then be completed upon arrival.
6. Sellers are requested to label all materials for sale with the correct botanical names, where known, and price.
7. As this is a new venture for MCG and with limited time and space at our meetings, we will begin by restricting the number of plants/seedlings to 25 in total each night. Consequently, in 2009, sellers are requested to limit themselves to 5 plants or seedlings per night and/or 5 packets of seed (with any number of seed in a packet). Where sellers wish to bring plants in excess of this number, the Manager may request that these be held over to the next meeting.
8. In accordance with normal garden club procedures, a commission of 10% will be payable on each item sold on that occasion; the balance of the sales will be paid to the seller on the night. Unsold items should be claimed by the sellers.
9. The product being sold or exchanged is the responsibility of the seller, and is in no way the responsibility of the MCG or committee.
10. Since clivia are highly variable, it is important for buyers to understand the principle of "buyer beware".
11. Sales will only be available at the meetings.
12. It is important that we keep the venue clean and all sellers are expected to assist in this regard and to thoroughly clean up at the end of the night. A ban of 6 to 12 months may be placed on a seller who does not abide by this rule. In the worst case, we may have to discontinue the Trading Table if this condition is not adhered to strictly by all.
13. Those members who wish to utilise this opportunity to sell are also expected to take part in other club activities, eg bringing a plant for display, contributing a substantial plant for the raffle and/or participating in some of the public events of MCG.
14. Donations of items for sale will be gratefully accepted.



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

MCG Inc.
George Simmler
9761 3790
george-oz@hotmail.com

TRADING TABLE - APPLICATION TO SELL ITEMS

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of items to be sold	Type of sale item (seed, plant, seedling, pollen, other)	Description (include botanical name, breeding or any other relevant information)	Price per item

I give consent to the Melbourne Clivia Group Inc. to sell my plant/seed/pollen and agree to pay 10% commission on the sale.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this completed form to George Simmler.



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

MCG Inc.
PO Box 811
Lilydale VIC 3140
Fax: 038677 6970
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE MELBOURNE CLIVIA GROUP INC.

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 Inc. 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.

Please make cheques payable to Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.