



## Message from the President

The June meeting provided lots of interest for everyone from start to finish. Not only did John Bannenberg provide us with an excellent introduction to *Clivia* species, he also displayed a huge poster of photos of *Clivia* taken in his garden, and illustrated his talk with his own drawings of leaves and other parts of the plant. John has much more that he would like to report on *Clivia* so we can look forward to another stimulating presentation in the future.

For those who are interested in doing more reading following John's introduction, a brief outline of *Clivia* can be found on the website of the Clivia Society ([http://www.clivasociety.org/genus\\_clivia.php](http://www.clivasociety.org/genus_clivia.php)), and in a number of other publications, including the article previously prepared by Di Mathews which is also on the MCG website.

At the meeting, Ray Argent outlined his method of harvesting berries and their subsequent preparation. Ray finished his short talk by posing a question to members: He has collected 150 seeds from one plant: Which seeds does he keep? Those present know his answer.

We were delighted to welcome Eddie Pang to the June meeting and he brought for display a number of beautifully presented small and miniature Chinese *Clivia*, a few of which were variegates. Eddie introduced us to the backgrounds of some of these plants and also described a few of the different cultivation practices of growers in China, in addition to supplying some growing hints of his own. Photos of some of his exciting plants can be seen on the MCG website.

As a result of a full and busy night, we had to reduce slightly the regular Question and Answer segment, which precedes supper, but we do remind members that this segment is one where anyone can either ask questions or else help to provide answers. Those who are unable to attend the meetings are also invited to send in questions, if they wish.

The June raffles were won by Ray Argent, who selected the *C. gardenii*, and Yvonne Hargreaves, who won the *C. miniata* which was supplied by Jeanne Marten. We extend our thanks again to Jeanne. An interspecific is planned for the August raffle.

At the last committee meeting on 13 June, it was decided to invite members to provide feedback on the MCG to date so that this can be used as the basis for 2010 planning, and a survey will be prepared for this purpose. We also invite members who grow *Clivia* and who would be able to host a visit from MCG members to let us know, so that we can organise garden visits from time to time. In addition, the MCG is requested sometimes by other garden clubs to supply speakers on *Clivia* and we invite any member who can assist to register with us to be an occasional speaker at other garden clubs.

An important event for the MCG this year is our participation as a garden club at the ABC Gardening Australia Expo at the Caulfield racecourse between 2-4 October. We will have one small table for a display of a couple of pots and invite members to volunteer to man the tables for half a day. In total, we hope to have 12 members volunteer half a day each. This will be an excellent opportunity for us to present *Clivia* and the MCG to people interested in gardening.

Other clivia-related events coming up:

- Clivia Show at Clivia Classiques, Forrestdale, WA, 12-13 September (contact [harryerasmus@hotmail.com](mailto:harryerasmus@hotmail.com))
- Toowoomba Clivia Society Clivia Show, 18-25 September, Toowoomba;
- Irene Broadbent's open garden: 26-27 September, Darum;
- Irene's display at the Baw Baw Garden Expo, 10-11 October, Larnder Park;
- Clivia 2010: 5th International Clivia Conference and annual show of the Cape Clivia Club, 21-26 September, 2010.

We expect to have plenty of plants on display for the meeting on 21 August on the topic of interspecifics, given that this broad range of plants typically produces flowers during the winter months. The short topic for the evening will be on fertilisers and led by Brenda Girdlestone. Brenda also invites us to bring back to the meeting the seedlings which many of us are raising from Shige Sasaki's gift seed, which was distributed at the February meeting. Thanks go to George Simmler for preparing photos of the parent plants; these copies will be available again at the next meeting.

Visitors are always welcome at our meetings, including those from interstate or overseas, so do spread this message around. All meeting details are posted on our website. I look forward to seeing lots of members and others at our meeting on 21 August.

Helen Marriott



## Member's Introduction

### IRENE BROADBENT

**How long have you been interested in clivias?**

About 12 years.

**How did you first become interested in clivia?**

My daughter bought some clivias from a nursery that was closing down, to sell at her market stall. I noticed that the one she kept was different to what I now call the common clivia. I just wish I had seen the others she had bought. At the time she didn't know anything about clivias, she just thought they were nice plants.

**How has your interest developed since you started?**

Since seeing that particular plant, I wondered if there were other species, colours etc. Before long I had caught this bug that all of us clivia lovers are inflicted with.

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

I like multipetals, green throats and interspecifics. One thing that I really like about clivia is that they are a lovely plant all year round, even when not in flower. I don't think there is another plant that rewards you so much, even if you neglect them badly.

**Have you had any interesting experiences relating to clivia?**

Each year I have a display at a Garden Expo. I have met some wonderful people who share my passion for clivias. Some come back each year to share their experiences, and some are just beginners. Meeting Ailsa Dearing was another great experience. Ailsa's father was James Dearing, who is responsible for bringing the first cream clivia to Australia from England. I wish I had met her before she gave all her father's diaries away.

**Do you specialise in any particular type of clivia?**

I don't specialise in any one variety, although I have mainly miniatas, and a few of the species. My aim at present is to get more interspecifics. I think they are very special.

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

All of my clivias are in pots, as I have mainly deciduous trees in my garden. There is not much protection from frosts. As I said earlier, I think the leaves are too nice to be spoilt by frost.

**What are your hopes for the future clivia-wise?**

Kiwiclivia 2008 was a wonderful experience. It would be nice to be able to do something like that here in Australia, but I think we are a bit spread out. Who knows what the future holds, just as long as we keep promoting and breeding clivias, I think Australia is up there with the rest of the clivia world.

**26 - 27 September 2009**  
**Australian Open Garden Scheme**  
**Irene Broadbent**  
**43 Gaul Ave, Darnum**

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Friday 21st August 2009 - 7.30 pm**  
**Uniting Church,**  
**Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd, Burwood**  
**Interspecifics**  
**(Helen Marriott & Laurens Rijke)**  
**Bring along your interspecific plant**  
**TRADING TABLE**  
**Plants and seeds available**  
**Buy or Sell**

## Clivia Meanderings

On a short visit to South Australia recently Joy and I stopped at Stirling in the Adelaide Hills [Mt.Barker Road]. Stirling suffered heavily from the Ash Wednesday fire and was practically rebuilt and in the process the streetscape was redesigned.

On previous visits I had noticed the usual plantings of Agapanthus but on this occasion I was surprised to discover possibly ten plantings of mature Clivia miniata, some with seeds. The clivia were planted adjacent to various hellebores, and the fruit shop proprietor stated that tulips also appeared in springtime. During conversation with the proprietor, I asked if they were cream and the reply was " No, that's why they are still there"

Kind regards, John Trotter.



Garden close-up



Stirling Streetscape

**Seen any interesting clivias in your travels? Please share them with us.**



## Plant Photographs

## Japanese Seedlings

## Events & Contacts

Some members cannot bring their flowering plants to the meeting to display as the flowers may have finished, or the plant is in the garden.

### Take a photo and send it to us!

We will display the photo on the MCG website and feature at least one in each newsletter.

The following interspecific is 'Felicia' owned by Lisa Fox and bred by John Craigie. She will be finished flowering before the August meeting.



### CLASSIFIEDS

We will be introducing a classified section to the newsletter. Members may submit a classified up to 5 lines free of charge.

#### BOX AD

A box ad will cost \$5 per issue  
or \$20 for one year of  
advertising (6 issues)

Contact us to book your space.

### Subscribe to the Yahoo Clivia Enthusiasts Group

Send an email to [clivia-enthusiast-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:clivia-enthusiast-subscribe@yahoo.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.

THE MEMBERS WHO RECEIVED SEEDS FROM SHIGE IN JAPAN ARE REQUESTED TO BRING YOUR SEEDLINGS TO THE AUGUST MEETING TO SHOW-OFF AND COMPARE WITH OTHER SHIGE SEEDLINGS.

Photos of the 3 seed (pod/mother) parents of the seed sent by Shige Sasaki in February are shown below. These are 3 different Vico yellow hybrid oranges from Nakamura's breeding.



**21 Aug 2009 - MCG Meeting**  
Interspecifics (Laurens & Helen)  
Fertiliser - Brenda Girdlestone

**11 Sep 2009 - MCG Meeting**  
Multitrepals (panel)  
Photography (George Simmler)

**18 - 25 Sep 2009**  
Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers

**26 - 27 September 2009**  
AOGS Irene Broadbent, 43 Gaul Ave,  
Darnum

**16 Oct 2009 - MCG Meeting**  
Pests & Diseases (Rae Begg)

### CONTACTS

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*Please let us know if you have any other news or items of interest to share. Deadline for next issue - 10 Sept 2009*

### OUR ADDRESS

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## Clivias in China - Di Mathews

Clivias were first introduced to China from Europe in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by German missionaries, and then again in the 1930's by the Japanese. The *Clivia* became a container plant treasured inside the palaces of the last Imperial Ching dynasty, largely due to its symbolic longevity, and also its showy leaves and flowers (Duncan, p.17).

The industrial city of Changchun, in China's north-eastern Jilin Province, is now the centre of clivia development in China. It has been assumed that the clivia reached Changchun after the Japanese invasion of this territory (Duncan, p.17).

In Changchun, the clivia is now so popular that its flower became the city emblem in 1984. Changchun is a relatively young city in Chinese terms, but has a Clivia Industrial Office, a Clivia Society, and a Clivia Academic Committee. Clivia are produced commercially in about 30 cities in China, including Anshan, Beijing, Zhengzhou, Shanghai, and Nanjing.

In Changchun alone, the clivia industry employs 50,000 people, and generates employment for related industries such as flower pot suppliers, growing medium, and fertilisers.

Clivias are now collected in many parts of China, and high-quality selections are considered both a sound investment and a status symbol. The cultivation of these *C. miniata* is largely focused on the leaves, including variegated clivia, to provide enjoyment throughout the year. Chinese breeders are usually focussed only on the leaves, with little interest shown in the flowers, although there are now breeders in China who are beginning to focus on producing beautiful flowers as well.

In the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, clivia breeders in China started to breed dwarf plants that do not resemble the typical clivias from South Africa in terms of size.



The Monk strain was introduced into China about 70 years ago, and the Daruma strain, which originated in Japan, was introduced to China about 20 years ago. The Daruma strain got its name from a small squat Japanese doll called a Daruma; these dolls were often associated with Buddhist temples and were regarded as an omen of good fortune.

Since then, breeders in China have been hybridising with these plants, and have produced several types of Chinese *Clivia* known for their broad, short leaves and erect fan shapes.

Henglan and Sparrow clivia are mini-Darumas which have been recently developed, and were originally very costly. A mature Henglan was once sold for \$12,500 USD, and a mature Sparrow sold for \$22,500 USD, although the price has now sharply dropped (Wu Jin [www.clivia.net.cn](http://www.clivia.net.cn)). These exorbitant prices occurred during the mid-1980's, when there was a 'clivia mania' in China, similar to the 'Tulipomania' which occurred in Holland about 300 years ago.

Henglan clivia were developed by crossing a Japanese Daruma with a Chinese Short Leaf Round Tip, and the leaves are characteristically very short and broad, with round tips.

The Sparrow clivia was produced from an offset mutation of an ordinary Chinese *Clivia* - it is very similar to the Henglan, except the tip of the leaf is pointed and looks like the beak of a sparrow, hence the name.

These clivias are grown largely for their very strong dwarf genes.

There are many varieties of the short-leaf clivia now in China, including Short Leaf, Painted Face, Engineer, Oil Carpenter, Round Tip, Monk, Sparrow, Henglan, Daruma, and more.

Many of these are bred in heated glasshouses in north-east China, due to the severity of the harsh winters there, where outside temperatures can be as low as minus 20 C. During the harshest winters, the glasshouses require straw-mats to be placed on the glass roof to prevent the formation of ice.

In Australia, these plants are not suitable as garden plants, but do very well as potted specimens, and are very suited as indoor plants.

Variegated clivias are also highly prized in China, and are classified according to the stripes on the green leaves. Four of the most familiar variegated types are:

1. Threadlike Variegated, such as Jinsi ( spun-gold-thread variegated) and Yinsi ( silver-thread-spun-variegated).
2. Colourised-Zonal Variegation, such as Double-coloured variegation, Five and Seven types of coloured variegation, eg Five-Coloured Orchid variegation, Seven-Coloured Orchid, and Mandarin Duck variegation.
3. Light of Buddha ( LOB ) or Akebono ( Japanese ) which has horizontal banding of yellow, white, or greyish green across the leaves.
4. Variegated classified to pure types of Chinese clivias, such as Engineer-variegated, Painter-variegated, Shortleaf-variegated, Sparrow-variegated, Heng-vareigated, and so on (Wu Jin [www.clivia.net.cn](http://www.clivia.net.cn)).

The Chinese have also now developed a set of strict criteria for what constitutes a worthy plant, so that the best Chinese clivias are those that have very beautiful leaves which align with the “Ten Standards of Appreciating Clivias in China.”

The ten standards are as follows:

**1. The ratio of the length of the leaf to the width – should be 3:1**



**2. The shape of the tip of the leaf – should be round.**



**3. Colour of the leaf – yellowish is regarded as best.**



**4. Good veins on the leaf – they should be regular and should protrude.**



**5. The brightness of the leaf – the leaf should be shiny as if rubbed with oil.**



**6. Exquisite leaf – should be slippery.**



7. Rigidity - the leaf should be hard and erect.



8. Thickness of the leaf - the leaf should be > 1.6 mm

No photo available

9. Good-shaped base of plant.



10. Shape of the plant - should be shaped like a fan.



Chinese *Clivia* which accord with all of the above standards are rare, and still command very high prices in China.

Growers still keep the supply of the best plants restricted to maintain prices and demand, and interest in these beautiful plants in China and abroad shows no sign of waning. They are bought enthusiastically from the many flower-markets in China, where buyers haggle over prices for the best plants.

The *Clivia* is widely used in hotels, restaurants, ceremonies, conferences and banquets as a potted flower. It is regularly used as a decoration for the National People's Congress, and the Political Consultative Conference, as well as a feature at the biennial Hortifloorexpo China.

The future for these plants in China looks very bright.

## References

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

Jin, Wu [www.clivia.net.cn](http://www.clivia.net.cn)

Grebe, H - "A Trilogy of Chinese Clivia", *Clivia Yearbook* No 9.

I would like to give particular thanks to Yang from the Clivia Forum, who very kindly gave me permission to use his superb photographs for this article.



## SEEDS AVAILABLE TO MCG MEMBERS

The MCG is able to offer the following top quality seeds to members only. These seeds are available at the low cost of \$1.50 per seed to our members due to the generosity of David Banks and Eddie Pang who have made this kind donation.

Some of the seeds have a limited quantity so we ask that you send your order to us and we will distribute them as fairly as possible. Where there are more ordered than seed available, we will work on a ballot system where names are drawn from the interested parties. We will then notify you of the availability and total cost including postage in a small padded envelope. If you are attending the August meeting, you may collect your order at that time. We regret that we can only send seed within Australia.

### From Eddie Pang

#### 1. Bill Morris variegated Yellow x Seed grown Nakamura Peach



*Bill Morris variegated yellow*



*Nakamura Peach*

#### 2. (Chinese variegated Daruma x Seed grown Nakamura Variegated hybrid) x DBL Chinese Daruma



*(Chinese variegated Daruma x Nakamura variegated hybrid)*



*DBL Chinese Daruma*



**3. Seed grown Nakamura Best Red hybrid (Self colour salmon) x Self**



*Nakamura Best Red Hybrid*

*Self*

**4. Dwarf broad leaf Chinese Daruma x Dwarf broad leaf Daruma**



*Dwarf broad leaf Chinese Daruma*

*Dwarf Broad leaf Daruma*

**5. Nakamura green throat bronze hybrid x seed grown Nakamura Best Red hybrid**



*Nakamura green throat bronze hybrid*



*Nakamura Best Red hybrid*

**From David Banks**

**6. 'Rio' x ('Chubb Millenium Peach' x 'Chubb Super Peach')**

*'Rio' is a really shapely large flower—one of the best seedlings from ('Carnival' x 'DPB Best Yellow 2001'), so it is split for yellow. The pollen parent is porcelain pink. No one else has this cross other than the breeder.*



*'Rio' ('Carnival' x 'DBP Best Yellow')*



*('Chubb Millenium Peach' x 'Chubb Super Peach')*

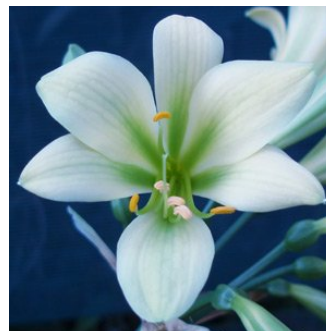


### 7. 'Carnival' x ('First Born' x 'Natal Yellow')

The pollen parent is a Group 2 green flower. David hopes for bronzes with green throats from the first generation and possibly something exciting from the F2s such as a 'Green Carnival'.



'Carnival'



('First Born' x 'Natal Yellow')

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## SEEDS AVAILABLE TO MCG MEMBERS

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:

E-MAIL ADDRESS:

PLEASE STATE WHETHER YOU WOULD LIKE THE SEEDS SENT TO YOU OR IF YOU WILL BE COLLECTING THEM AT THE AUGUST MEETING.

	Description	Number requested
1.	Bill Morris variegated yellow x Seed grown Nakamura Peach (15 available)	
2.	(Chinese variegated Daruma x Seed grown Nakamura variegated hybrid) x Dwarf broad leaf Chinese Daruma (100 available)	
3.	Seed grown Nakamura Best Red hybrid x Self (60 available)	
4.	Dwarf broad leaf Chinese Daruma x Dwarf broad leaf Daruma (40 available)	
5.	Nakamura green throat bronze hybrid x Seed grown Nakamura Best Red hybrid (40 available)	
6.	'Rio' x ('Chubb Millenium Peach' x 'Chubb Super Peach') (65 available)	
7.	'Carnival' x ('First Born' x 'Natal Yellow') (65 available)	

Please send by mail to MCG Inc. PO Box 811, Lilydale 3140; fax to 03 8677 6970; or e-mail to [secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au](mailto:secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au). **No orders will be taken by phone.**

Closing date for orders is the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2009.



## 2009 Survey of Members

This survey is intended to help the committee in planning activities and presentations for 2010. Please fill out the form and send it by mail to MCG Inc. PO Box 811, Lilydale 3140; by e-mail: [secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au](mailto:secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au); by fax: 03 8677 6970 or hand it in at the meeting on August 21 2009. All completed forms will go into a draw for a free 2010 membership. This will be drawn on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009 meeting.

NAME:

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A MEMBER OF THE MCG INC.?

HAVE YOU ATTENDED ANY OF THE MCG MEETINGS?

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ATTENDED MEETINGS, HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE FORMAT OF THE MEETING?

HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE NEWSLETTER?

WHAT TOPICS WOULD YOU LIKE DISCUSSED AT MEETINGS?

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ON THE MCG WEBSITE?

DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS?



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**ABC GARDENING AUSTRALIA EXPO VOLUNTEER**

2 – 4 October 2009. Caulfield Racecourse.

I wish to volunteer for a half day to help at the ABC Expo.

NAME:

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:

DAY AND TIME AVAILABLE:

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**GARDENING CLUB SPEAKER**

I am available to speak at gardening clubs on clivia.

NAME:

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:

DAYS/NIGHTS AVAILABLE:

AREA I AM PREPARED TO TRAVEL TO:

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**GARDEN VISIT VOLUNTEER**

My garden is available for a pre-arranged visit from MCG members.

NAME:

SUBURB:

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:

DAYS AND TIMES AVAILABLE: