



Message from the President

Happy New Year to everyone. The MCG committee looks forward to another exciting and productive year. With a better start to summer than was the case last year, I assume that other people's gardens are also looking quite good, though some heatwaves may quickly change this situation. I have had some interspecifics, mainly *C. miniata* x *C. caulescens*, in bloom throughout recent months as well as an odd *C. miniata* or *C. caulescens* and, in a way, it's possible to enjoy each plant a little more when fewer are in flower.

Our last function of 2009 on 20 November was a pleasant evening, with the door prize of a mature 'Chubb Millennium Peach' being won by Stephen Wright. Thanks to Lisa for this splendid donation. Everyone who attended the night received Chinese and South African seeds as well as a plant. As mentioned before, we sincerely thank our kind donors: Jeanne Marten, Eddie Pang and Wynand Malan.

In the last newsletter I attempted to thank all those who assisted at the October ABC Gardening Expo but accidentally omitted Lyn Rawson's name from the list. Lyn was one of those who put in extra time (and she also assists in numerous ways at each meeting) so certainly did not deserve to be left off. My apologies Lyn.

Late last year copies of a keenly-awaited new book entitled *Clivia: Nature and Nurture* by Dirk Swanevelder and Roger Fisher reached Australia. It is illustrated with some excellent diagrams and photos of various aspects of Clivia and, among other things, it contains a list of some of the named cultivars from the *Checklist and Register of Clivia Cultivar Names*, including photos of many named forms. I obtained my copy through Ken Smith, the Australian representative of the Clivia Society, the international association which is based in South Africa, and in which many of us also possess membership. Ken is currently accepting 2010 membership fees for the Clivia Society so if anyone is interested to join, please contact him (cliviasmith@idx.com.au; tel 02 47543287). Membership is only \$35 per annum and you will receive four issues of a colour newsletter and a colour Yearbook.

Membership fees for the MCG for 2010 are also being accepted for those who have not yet renewed. Our membership has continued to grow, though attendance at meetings has not changed that much. Ongoing, positive input from members will be essential for the development of the group, so we do urge those who live within travelling distance to Burwood to attend meetings, where possible, and to take part in our activities.

Over the Christmas break period, I did a little browsing of *Clivia* websites and, among these, found the tips prepared by Claude Felbert on photographing *Clivia* on the Cape Club website (<http://www.miniata.co.za/>) very useful. One needs to register to enter the Forum section of the website in order to read the photography tips but it is well worth doing so. A full range of *Clivia* photos are now available on various websites, including the MCG's, so for those with access to a computer, I do recommend some viewing.

The committee believes that we have an interesting program planned for the year. We start off the first meeting on Friday, 19 February from 7:30 at our regular Burwood venue. The main topic is Clivia Culture to be presented by Di Mathews, with Rae Begg leading a demonstration on dividing *Clivia*. We thank John Craigie for kindly donating a variegated plant for the raffle. Do bring along a plant for display, whether it is in flower or not; from time to time it is good to focus on non-flowering plants and their components. Also feel free to prepare in advance some questions for our regular Question & Answer segment. I hope that you can join us.

Helen Marriott



Member's Introduction

MICHAEL BARRETT

How long have you been interested in clivias?

Less than a year, but seems like more with so much fun being had.

How did you first become interested in clivia?

I bought a few seedlings when in Queensland at a market, loving the flowers and leaves. I never saw them as a gardener from childhood, but had always loved Hippeastrums. Upon arriving in Melbourne, I saw some dusty Darumas, possibly with mealy bugs which were very expensive and disregarded them totally. During the winter of 2009 I was longing for colour and was reading the "Gardens at Bronte House" and was inspired with the mass planting of clivias. I wanted some for my little cottage in the Otways, hoping to give it a colonial feel planting them under some Fir trees at the front of the house. I foolishly and naively asked myself "wonder if clivias are available on Ebay". Little did I know, and this is where I saw such vast colour and form and variety.

How has your interest developed since you started?

Well I have thrown myself head first into the wonderful world of clivias. I have been very lucky in meeting some generous breeders, local, interstate and international, receiving seeds and also bought "tasty" miniata crosses. I love the record keeping and other fussing over the seedlings.

Do you have a favourite?

As for miniata, I love the large flowering, full heads of flowers, and have yet to see a Hirao. I haven't a favourite as yet in regards pendulous species, though I might end up favouring the robusta. I think it must be very special.

My eyes are on stalks when I see the display tables at the meetings. There does seem to be a favourite each time but no rhyme or reason, one just sings out. Never has there been one I would not enjoy owning. The multipetals were very special and I love akebonos and green throat bronzes.

Have you had any interesting experiences relating to clivia?

I have enjoyed meeting other clivia fanatics! A merry bunch we make. I go online to the Forum and have "met" some nice folk.

At the Camberwell market I helped a Chinese man sell some plants. I did the talking as he didn't have great English skills. Even though we couldn't talk that much we still conveyed our pleasure with the "junzi Lan".



Do you specialise in any particular type of clivia?

I am still amassing a collection. I hope to have a good representation of each species,

some wonderful interspecifics and some "show quality" miniatas in various colours.

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

I have some in the garden in the ground, and will landscape other shady spots. But I will have the special plants in pots, especially as I will enjoy taking them to the display table to share with the group.

What are your hopes for the future clivia-wise?

I am about to build a clivia house, with a solid roof (partly laserlite) as to keep them dry in winter. I would love to develop a line of miniatas, with some special qualities, one day....

Do you have any other comments?

I have loved the whole journey so far with the group. I hope 2010 will be a good one for the MCG in terms of membership and publicity.

Editor's Message

We would love to hear from you. This is your newsletter, and we welcome your input.

Please write to us, send in photos, write articles, or ask questions.

We need you to participate to allow this newsletter to reflect your interests and questions.

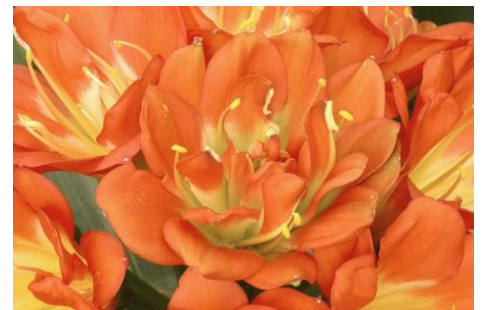
We look forward to receiving your contributions this year.

In the previous newsletter there was an error. The beautiful plant owned by Yvonne Hargreaves is a seedling bred by Ian Anderson and is Anderson's Peach x Jelena. We extend our sincere apologies to Ian Anderson for this error.

The holidays are almost over, and it is time to turn our attention back to our clivias and to wish you all a happy 2010 growing year.

Di Mathews

FEATURE FLOWER



This magnificent polytepal is owned by Laurens Rijke.

NEXT MEETING

Friday 19TH February 2010 - 7.30 pm
Uniting Church,
Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd,
Burwood

Clivia Culture by Di Mathews
Division of Clivia by Rae Begg

Bring a plate for supper.



Summer Clivia Care

Summer is here, and is about to unleash her full force on us. Clivias will tolerate the heat very well as long as some basic conditions are met.

Keep your clivias well protected from the hot sun - if in pots keep them under a shady tree, under south or south-east facing eaves, or if in a shadehouse, use a shade-cloth of at least 80% protection. Ensure that clivas planted in the garden receive protection from the hot afternoon sun.

Clivias will need more frequent watering now, but it is preferable to water in the morning so that there is no water sitting between the leaves overnight that may encourage fungal infections.

There have been mealybugs spotted, so keep a lookout for these. Small infestations can be treated by hand and wiped off, but larger ones can be successfully treated with Confidor. Jeanne Marten has suggested that the Confidor may need to be used at double strength to be effective against these pests, particularly the long-tailed mealybug.

Continue to feed your clivias with the fertiliser of your choice, but if using a lot of liquid fertiliser, a good flush with plain water every few weeks will prevent the build-up of salts in your pot.

Keep a lookout for slugs and snails, especially after the heavy summer downpours that occur.

Di Mathews



PMM Pine Mountain Nursery

For quality clivias for the discerning buyer and collector, from seed to advanced plants, visit www.pinemountainnursery.com.au

Membership Renewals

2010 Membership Renewals are now being accepted by the following methods:

BANK
Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.
National Bank
BSB 083 657
Acc. 82974 5477
(Please add your first initial and surname as the reference)

AT THE NEXT MEETING
Pay by cash or cheque on the 19TH February 2010.

POSTAL
Send cheque or money order to
Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.
PO Box 811
Lilydale, VIC 3140

Membership Fees remain at:

\$15 per individual
\$10 per additional family member

If you joined the MCG after the 1st September 2009, your membership is covered for 2010.

Subscribe to the Yahoo Clivia Enthusiasts Group

Send an email to 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.

Events & Contacts

19 Feb 2010 - General Meeting
Clivia Culture - Di Mathews
Division - Rae Begg

16 Apr 2010 - Annual General Meeting
Species continued - John Bannenberg

18 Jun 2010 - General Meeting
Whither - Dr Keith Hammett

20 Aug 2010 - General Meeting
Fertilising - Di Mathews
Interspecific x Interspecific

17 Sep 2010 - General Meeting
Peaches - TBC
Seeds: Group Discussion

15 Oct 2010 - General Meeting
Creams/Yellows - Helen Marriott & Laurens Rike

15 Nov 2010 - Christmas Get-together

CONTACTS

Helen Marriott - 97964365
hmarriott@ozemail.com.au

Di Mathews - 98531566
akdesign@bigpond.net.au

Lisa Fox - 97394013
lisa.fox@gmail.com

Rae Begg - 0354286473
bbrigrade1@hotmail.com

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

Brenda Girdlestone - 9390 7073
macstone@hotmail.net.au

Please let us know if you have any other news or items of interest to share. Deadline for next issue - 28th February 2010.

OUR ADDRESS

Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.
PO Box 811,
Lilydale, VIC 3140

www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au



The Legacy of Clivia Breeder Dave Conway – Di Mathews

The late Dave Conway (1930 – 2006) was regarded as unique among the North American clivia breeders (Koopowitz, p.182) Dave lived and had his nursery at Santa Barbara, California, and is widely regarded as one of the foremost hybridizers of his time. He developed and bred flowers of extraordinary beauty, and had many named cultivars which are still keenly sought worldwide.

Dave was born in Seattle, Washington, where his family lived briefly, and moved with his family to California when he was six months old. He was a seventh-generation Californian, and later married his high-school sweetheart, Nancy, who was also a seventh-generation Californian. He and Nancy had seven children together.

Dave studied agriculture at Cal Poly Pomona while his children were young, but a severe illness in 1959 made him reconsider his schooling, and he decided to make his growing family his priority. He then worked for a nursery business in Palo Alto. It was during this period that Dave was first exposed to clivias, and his love for this plant was to last for the rest of his life.

In the early 1970's, Dave and Nancy moved their family to Santa Barbara, and Dave became the Supervisor of Santa Barbara's Parks and Recreation Department. It was during this time that he became friends with some fellow clivia enthusiasts, Ted Kalil and Dr Glen Couvillon.

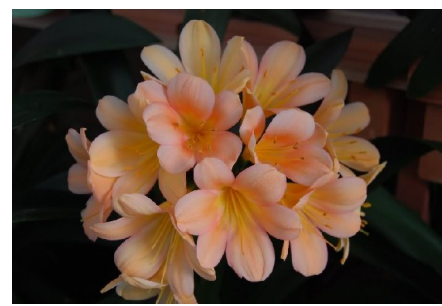
Ted Kalil was an early clivia grower who grew about 100,000 seeds per year on his Montecito estate to supply two large plant wholesalers. It was Ted who gave Dave his first yellow clivia. Ted had acquired some yellow clivias from the City of Santa Barbara parking garage, and he gave some pieces of these plants to Dave – these yellow clivias then became known as the "parking lot yellows." The first of these plants was called Whip Cream, because it began as a pale yellow and as it matured, it became a pale cream; the name was later changed to Lemon Ice. His second yellow plant was named Lemon Chiffon. Dave was offered \$10,000 for this plant by the manager of a large wholesale nursery when he saw a photograph of the plant at a convention of the American Society of Landscape Architects in Santa Barbara. This offer was refused by Dave, to the disbelief of many people close to him. In his words "the offer was turned down, and to this day there are those close to me that do not understand how I could ever refuse such an offer."

Dave went on further to say "as a breeder there is nothing like having your first yellow! The visions of what possible flowers will result from such crosses with this and that are almost overwhelming, and to think we only have to wait four or five years to see these results. There are still vivid memories of family and friends belief that we had finally proven them right; that this was a real nut with his head down between his legs." (Dave Conway, NACS Inaugural Issue, Fall 2003. p3)

In the early 1980's, Dave retired from his paid work at Nancy's urging in order to devote his time to clivia hybridizing full-time. It was in 1987 or 1988 that he famously mixed a batch of pollen together from many different cultivars, and pollinated all the clivias in flower in his garden at that time. It was this "shotgun" approach which was the beginning of his collection of such diverse clivias – from this exercise he harvested about 1000 seeds, and grew the seedlings until they had their first flowering in 1993. It was from these plants that many of his named cultivars were selected, and all his clivias were named for women in his family.



An example of one these named plants is Tessa, (pictured left) which resulted from his initial pollination, which produced several peach coloured flowers, as well as some with pink tones. Nancy (pictured right) named for his wife, was another of Dave's peaches.



Another of his peach/apricot plants is Sunrise Sunset, so named because often the plant has two umbels flowering, but of different ages, so that they look like

two different clones on the one plant. Dave Conway apparently acquired this plant from another grower, and the history of its breeding remains uncertain, although some speculate that its origins were in Holland. When this plant first opens, the florets are pale peach, but as it matures, the florets become deeply flushed with a dark peach. It offsets rapidly and remains highly sought after by collectors. (Sunrise Sunset pictured right)



Louisa

Dave was also well-known for his particolours - this is a series of cultivars where the flowers open quite pale, and then darken with age. Accompanying this darkening is also often a blotched effect, similar to the "Ghost" cultivar of Nakamura. The colours involved include pinks, peaches, and creams, and the effect is very attractive. Some fine examples of Conway particolours are Louisa, Isabella, Mary Helen and Margaret.



Dave also bred very fine 'reds' - his Jean Delphine is a dark red with a bronze-green centre. Another of his reds, Sabine Delphine, opens a dark red with a green throat, but the flowers turn a deeper colour as they mature, and the red extends right down into the throat of the flower, until it becomes a dark 'chocolate red.'



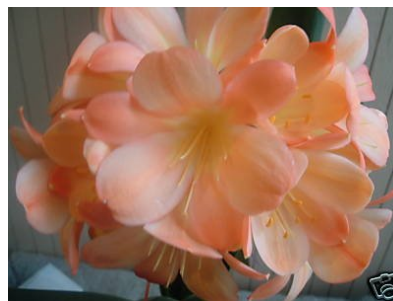
Sabrine Delphine

Dave Conway developed clivias of exceptional beauty, and is widely recognized as one of the foremost hybridizers of our time. His plants are used in breeding programs throughout North America, and as far afield as Australia.

He loved all his clivias, and it was his ability to experiment and be daring with his breeding and hybridizing that has left such a lasting legacy to the world of clivias.



Isabella



Mary Helen



Margaret

Koopowitz, H Clivias Timber Press 2002.

Conway, D Inaugural Issue NACS Clivia Quarterly Fall 2003.

Bardossy A Special Edition Newsletter NACS Vol 4 Number 2 pp 1-2.

Photographs very kindly supplied by Craig Ruggles, CA USA