



Message from the President

The first AGM of the group was held recently on 14 April. I am pleased to announce that all committee members, apart from the secretary, have been re-elected to their positions. The committee thanks Lisa for her huge contribution to the group to date and we look forward to her ongoing assistance as web master and also Public Officer. We also welcome Erika van der Spuy as the new secretary and hope that her role will not be too onerous in the coming months.

At the April meeting, John Bannenberg continued his introduction of Clivia species, and shared with members some of the resources relating to Clivia that he has collected over the past two or more decades. His two large posters of photographs and drawings are quite exceptional and were a treat for participants to see.

We thank Ray Argent again for his donation of a *C. nobilis* for the raffle, won by Erika. The display table contained a selection of plants of various species, supplied by John, and other members brought along some of their interspecifics which were in flower at the time.

For growers of Clivia (or other plants), I constantly reflect upon the importance of potting mix, fertilization and watering. The topic of potting mix, and lack of success of some members with a new product on the market, was raised in our Question & Answer segment at the last meeting and no doubt it will be one that constantly reappears in our discussions in the future.

C. gardenii have started to flower early in Melbourne this year, with a few flowers appearing from around mid-April. Hopefully, some plants – *C. gardenii* or interspecifics - will be in flower for our next meeting on 18 June. We are fortunate to have Dr Keith Hammett, from New Zealand, address this meeting on the topic of “Wither?”. Keith is a well-known plant breeder not only of sweet peas, dahlias, carnations and Clivia, but of many other plants as well. I am sure that we can expect a very stimulating evening about Clivia. I do hope that a large number of members and their friends or visitors will be able to attend. The meeting hall will be heated and we will aim to finish the main part of the meeting, as usual, at 9:15, after which supper is available.

The last committee meeting took place on 7 May. We always appreciate positive input and feedback from members and look forward to receiving new ideas or suggestions.

Helen Marriott

How did you become interested in clivia?

About 20 years.

How did you first become interested in clivia?

When I discovered clivia plants in a nursery at Melton, I purchased 7 plants which were not in flower. I had to wait another year for them to flower, the label had an orange flower and they looked lovely, and I still have all of the seven plants today.

How has your interest developed since you became interested?

My passion for clivia has become almost fanatical and they ('my girls') along with my two precious small dogs ('my boys') fill my life with much joy and hard work! The plants and their well being take precedence over pretty much everything else-- and life style in with the shade house.

Do you have favourite colour?

I have two favourite colours, peach and pink, and I have the six species.

How has your interest developed since you became interested?

I am a member of the Clivia club in South Africa, and I also went to the Clivia conference in 2006 in Pretoria and met a lot of interesting people and also saw their private collections, as well as visited the habitats. I buy seeds from many places around the world.

Have you had any interesting experiences relating to clivia?

Going to South Africa in 2006 and seeing all the flowers in their shows, and the country itself was a fantastic experience, also seeing the eucalypt forest they use for timber and paper, I thought I was in Australia

Do you have favourite colour / type / species?

I really love them all. The never ending range.

Do you specialise in any particular type of clivia?

No but I prefer miniata, because of the large flowers, although the crosses between the species are very nice.



Do you have clivias in pots or in the ground?

All of my plants are in pots, this makes it easier to look after them.

What are your hopes for the future?

I hope to have larger flowers and more colours.

Do you have any more comments?

I enjoy meeting other growers and sharing experiences and knowledge, and seeing their collections.

STOP PRESS

Bagged Debco Native Potting Mix

At the last meeting two of our members expressed disappointment with the losses of plants when they used the Debco Native bagged potting mix. I have contacted Debco making them aware of the problem. As a result, it came to light that they had changed the materials significantly, for the retail bagged Native Mix. Debco does not have any bagged potting mixes suitable for Clivias at this time. I offer my sincere apologies for any losses.

Rae Begg

Diary Dates

Carnival of Flowers Festival
Toowoomba.

Friday 17 September – Sunday 26
September 2010



Toowoomba Club Clivia Show 2009

ABC Expo 2010

Caulfield Racecourse

1 October – 3 October 2010

Volunteers will be needed to assist with the display table – all help will be gratefully accepted.

From The Trading Table

If you have any spare seeds, seedlings or plants that you would like to sell, just bring them to the meeting so I can try to sell them for you. Seeds can be in lots of 5 in small bags or any other way you like, but these must be labelled.

Seedlings and plants need to be labelled as well. If you don't have a TT-form, I will have plenty of spares on the night.

George.

We would love to hear from you!

We need and welcome your input. Please write to us with any clivia experiences, photos, articles, or questions.

This is your newsletter, and it needs your participation to reflect your questions and interests.

Di Mathews

AUTUMN IN THE GARDEN

The growing season is now coming to a close with the onset of cooler temperatures, so now is a good time to inspect your plants for any problems, and to start watering them less as the weather cools down.

There are still a few mealybugs around, and of course snails and slugs, so be on the lookout for these.

If your clivias are in pots and are outside, ensure they are planted in a very free-draining mix to prevent problems with root-rot when subjected to heavy rain.

CHECKING THE MCG RECORDS

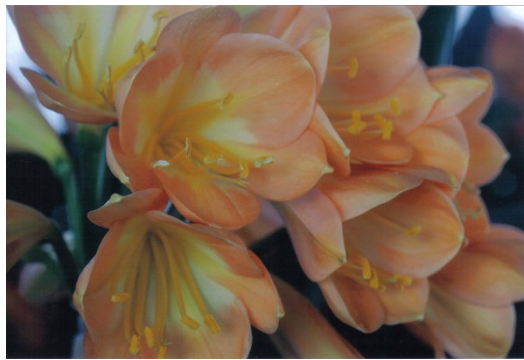
We are aware that in a few cases there may be misspellings of members' names or addresses in our MCG records. Could you please assist us by letting us know if we are regularly misspelling your name or address? Please email the secretary or ring one of the committee members with the correct information please.



PMM Pine Mountain Nursery

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

FEATURE FLOWER



This beautiful miniata is owned by Jeanne Marten

BUYER BEWARE

Please take care if buying seeds from ebay or from sellers whom you do not know. There has been some legitimate concern raised recently about ebay fraud from well-known sellers from overseas. Remember, it takes about five years for your seed to flower – this is a long time to wait to find out that the seed you paid good money for may not be the seed that you received. It has been discovered that there have been cases of overseas seed sold on ebay where the seller does not own the plant, and the genuine owner of the plant has no idea that photos of his plant are being used to fraudulently sell the seed.

It is very much 'buyer beware.'

Di Mathews

NEXT MEETING

Friday 18 June 2010
7.30 pm
Uniting Church,
Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd,
Burwood

Speaker – Dr Keith Hammett
Whither?

Bring a plate for supper

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 Rijke

15 Nov 2010 – Christmas Get-together

CONTACTS

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akdesign@bigpond.net.au

Erika Van Der Spuy- 95610487
evanderspuy@rdns.com.au

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 – 10th July 2010

OUR ADDRESS

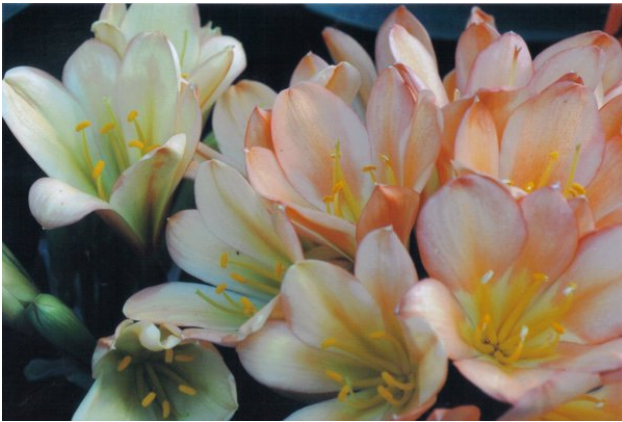
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[secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.a](mailto:secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au)

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Jeanne Marten is a breeder of some of Australia's most extraordinary clivias. Jeanne has been breeding for over 40 years, not for any commercial gain, but purely for her love of this striking plant.



Jeanne grew up in Toowoomba, and has spent much of her life there, although she did spend seven years living in New Guinea early in her married life. Jeanne began her early breeding efforts with some Belgian plants, and from these fairly humble beginnings, she has over the years produced an array of plants with an amazing diversity of colour and form.

Jeanne's first crosses were from Belgian Hybrids, and many of her other early crosses were from Kevin Walter's seeds and plants.

She continued her experimenting over the years

with seed from Schenkel in Germany, Spain, Holland, United States, as well as local seed.

Many of her plants show the characteristic European look, the tulip-shaped flowers having broad, overlapping tepals, although many of her plants also have huge flowerheads with lovely recurved flowers.

When Jeanne first started experimenting with clivias, there were no books or magazines available on the subject, so everything she learnt in those early years was very much by trial and error. She gained a wealth of knowledge at that time, largely by her own experiences, and also with the shared experiences of a close circle of friends. This circle of friends continues to the present day, and they are in constant contact to exchange information, seeds



and plants.

Jeanne's breeding methods are considered unorthodox by some, as she simply does not care what she crosses with what – in her words, she just "fiddles around" and waits to see what is produced. She has been known to mix a batch of different pollens together and use this to pollinate plants, similar to the Dave Conway "shotgun" method. She says that if you do a cross, and get thirty different seeds, you are likely to get almost as many variations from that one cross. She believes that clivia genetics are still poorly understood, and therefore has



experimented widely without any concern about trying to match plants for colour or groupings, and, in doing so, has achieved some spectacular results.

She is very concerned, however, to breed strength and vigour into her plants, and always does her crosses with this in mind. She likes plants that have huge flowerheads on tall flowerstalks – flowers that “stand up and look you in the eye” regardless of their colour. She says she remembers clearly the ‘old days’ when plants that were considered ‘anaemic’ were discarded by breeders. These ‘anaemic’ plants were the peaches and pastels that are now considered so desirable and are so widely coveted.



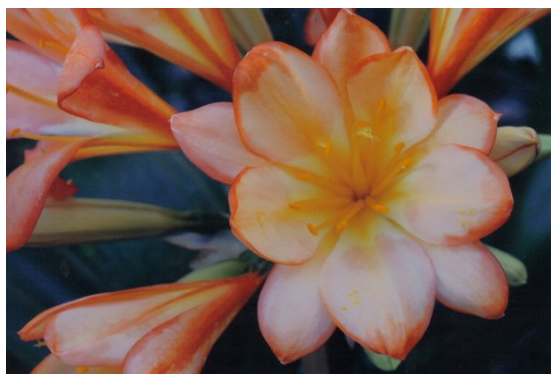
Her favourite clivia is Cowlshaw ‘Big Orange’, a beautiful plant with deep orange flowers and a large head of perfectly formed flowers.

Jeanne is also a long-time breeder of the various forms of interspecific clivia. She has been involved with these forms of clivia to try and have something in flower throughout the year. Again, she has produced an amazingly diverse collection of interspecifics, including both broad-leaved and variegated forms, something which is still considered very unusual, with most interspecifics still having narrow, green leaves. Many of her interspecifics have lovely bell-shaped flaring flowers in a wide range of colours.



Jeanne is a private grower, not a nursery, albeit with a very large collection, and does not sell her plants commercially. However, for many years, Jeanne, with the assistance of her husband Lionel, has run a clivia show at the Wilsonton Shopping Centre in Toowoomba at the same time as the annual Carnival of Flowers. Over the years, she has donated all the proceeds of plant sales at this show to the local hospice, and has raised many thousands of dollars for this worthy cause. Last year, for the first time, she donated the proceeds to the Peacehaven Botanical Garden at Crow’s nest, just north of Toowoomba.

In addition to selling plants for charity, Jeanne is determined to promote clivias, and is always more than willing to help newcomers to this plant with advice and encouragement. She is very keen to see this plant promoted Australia-wide. She has willingly given seeds and plants to newcomers to the clivia world, and is always supportive of clubs and groups, often donating plants for members.





MINUTES OF COMBINED GENERAL MEETING AND
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 16 Apr 2010

Venue

Uniting Church, Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Roads, Burwood

Committee

Helen Marriott, Lisa Fox, Rae Begg, Diane Mathews, George Simmler, Brenda Girdlestone

Apologies

Michael Barrett, Neil and Judith Greenway

- Meeting commenced at 7.35
- Introduction by Helen Marriott
- Welcome to guest, Ester Rijke
- Previous general meeting minutes accepted by Brenda Girdlestone, seconded by Terry Edwards. All agreed.

Secretary's Report

- Correspondence in: receipt for hall hire, RHSV newsletter and 3 membership renewals/applications.
- The newsletter Vol. 3.2 was sent out early March. 25 were mailed copies and 48 electronic copies.
- Since the last general meeting, the website has received 319 visits and 719 pages.
- We have received some flower photos from Jeanne Marten which are available tonight for anyone who wishes to see them.
- A speaker is required for Langwarrin Garden Club. Yvonne Hargreaves expressed interest.

Secretary's report accepted by Yvonne Hargreaves and seconded by Di Mathews.

Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance (Bank)	\$2,543.56
Income	\$ 276.50
Expenses	\$ 115.00
Balance	\$2,792.61 including petty cash

Treasurers Report accepted by John Trotter and seconded by Eddie Lynn Rawson. All agreed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

President's Report (attached) – accepted by Lynn Rawson, seconded by Rae Begg.

Secretary's Report (attached) – accepted by John Trotter, seconded by Ray Begg.

Treasurer's Report (attached) – accepted by Stephen Wright, seconded by Terry Edwards.

The president, Helen Marriott, stepped down and the position was declared open.

Di Mathews read out the nomination which had been received, and Helen Marriott was deemed to be elected for the position of President.

Helen Marriott declared the vice-president position open. One nomination had been received and Di Mathews was deemed to be elected for the position of Vice-president.

Helen Marriott declared the treasurer position open. One nomination had been received and Rae Begg was deemed to be elected for the position of treasurer.

Helen Marriot declared the two committee member positions open. Two nominations had been received. George Simmler and Brenda Girdlestone were deemed to be elected for the positions of committee members.

Helen Marriott declared the secretary position to be open. No nominations were received. Di Mathews nominated Erika Van Der Spuy and George Simmler seconded the nomination. Erika Van Der Spuy accepted and was deemed to be elected for the position of secretary.

No other business.

End of Annual General Meeting 8pm

Main presentation – Clivia Species by John Bannenberg

Presentation – Division by Rae Begg

- The raffle prize of a Clivia nobilis plant donated by Ray Argent was won by Erika Van Der Spuy.
- Meeting closed 9.15.

END

President's Report
16 4 2010

Since the election of a committee in August 2008 and subsequent incorporation (30 October, 2008), MCG has steadily grown in members. Although established primarily for local participants in and around Melbourne, individuals and families from rural Victoria and interstate as well as several from overseas make up the current membership. A few Victorian members travel quite long distances to attend the regular meetings.

First and foremost I wish to thank the Committee members (Lisa Fox, Rae Begg, Di Mathews, Brenda Girdlestone, George Simmler) for their considerable efforts in launching the club and guiding it during its important early stage. Thanks to the Committee as well as to other members, the club planned and implemented quite a full program during this period. Incorporation and other official procedures have been undertaken by Lisa who also served as the Public Officer.

The current meeting schedule involves bimonthly meetings in the first half of the year (February, April, July) then monthly gatherings (August, September, October) as the flowering of *Clivia* accelerates, finishing off with a Christmas function in November.

To cater for our mixed membership which includes highly experienced, long-term growers of *Clivia* down to beginners, with many individuals somewhere in between, the meetings are planned to include a variety of components. These include a main *Clivia*-focused or related topic, a minor topic, a raffle, a question and answer segment, a display table, and in the latter half of last year, a Trading Table was commenced. Our display table has constantly been occupied, even full at times, so I thank everyone who contributed to this and encourage you to keep on bringing your plants so that everyone can see the range and variety which characterises *Clivia*. I also thank those members who gave presentations at the meetings.

The MCG expresses its gratitude for the generous donations of plants or seedlings by local and interstate members for the raffle at each meeting. Furthermore, the kind donation of seeds from leading Australian and overseas growers in 2009 meant that some seed was available to members at the meetings while the remainder was sold, either at the Trading Table or through mail order. These gifts have certainly helped the financial status of the club and are also expected to provide much satisfaction to their current growers.

From the outset, a professional-level bi-monthly newsletter has been compiled (commencing in September 2008) and our special thanks go to Lisa for her editorship of this until recently when Di assumed the position. John Bannenberg produced our excellent logo. The establishment and maintenance of a splendid website is also thanks to Lisa. George has contributed photographic records of our meetings and these, along with other photos, are found on the website.

Regularly the MCG is requested to provide speakers at other garden clubs and so we thank those who have been able to fulfil these requests. A three-day table was also managed at the ABC garden expo in October, 2009, providing the opportunity to display or discuss *Clivia* with interested members of the general public.

I thank the MCG for the privilege of being the inaugural president and hope that it has a long and successful future.

Helen Marriott

Secretary's Report – 16th April 2010

Due to heavy work commitments in the coming year, I will not be standing for the position of secretary again.

The past 16 months with the MCG have been a busy and rewarding experience and I will continue to help the club in the position of Public Officer and Web Editor for the next 12 months, as well as assist in any activities where possible.

The club has been fortunate to have had a pro-active committee who have worked hard to ensure the success of the club, and I wish the club well for the future.

Website

From 1 Dec 2008 – 15 April 2010

2,852 visits 7,341 pages viewed 2:09 mins average time on site

Newsletters

In the 16 months of operation, the MCG has distributed 9 newsletters.

The newsletters are distributed to all members as well as contact people from other groups and organisations.

We average 48 – 60 emailed newsletters and 25 – 35 newsletters which are mailed out.

Membership

We have approximately 70 members at present with a few still being processed. The membership continues to grow by several per month.

Lisa Fox

Treasurer's Report

Melbourne Clivia Group Inc. Regn No.A0052286A
Statement of Income & Expenditure
For the period 14th November 2008 to 31st December 2009

Income

Opening Contribution to Account	100.00	
Funds pre Association Regn	584.30	
Petty cash pre Association Regn	95.00	

		779.30

Member contributions		1240.00
Raffle		795.00
Trading Table		1274.40
Donation		55.00

		4143.70

Payments

ABC Expo Expenses	251.01	
Consumer Affairs Vic	68.10	
Hall Hire	575.00	
Insurance RHSV	209.00	

News Letter Expenses		
Stationery	48.50	
Postage	100.10	
Printing	52.50	

		201.10

Postage	22.00	
Web Hosting	406.55	

		1732.76

<u>Nett (Deficiency)/Surplus of Funds</u>		-----
		2410.94

NAB A/c No.083-657 82-974-5477

Opening Balance per Cashbook	0.00
Plus Deposits	4043.20

	4043.20
Less Payments	1710.76

Balance per Cashbook & Bank Statement	2332.44

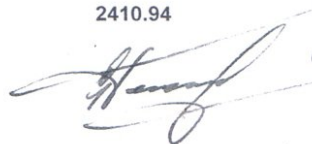
Petty Cash

Opening Balance	0.00
Plus Receipts	95.00

	95.00
Less Postage	16.50

Closing Balance	78.50

<u>Nett Funds</u>	-----
	2410.94

 08/04/10

To the members of Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.**Annual Accounts as at 30th June 2009****Independent Audit Report****Scope**


I have audited the financial report of the Melbourne Clivia Group Inc. as set out in pages attached. The members of the governing body are responsible for the financial report. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the Melbourne Clivia Group

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement and consistent with my understanding of the entity's financial position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other reporting requirements the financial position of the Melbourne Clivia Group Inc. as at 30th June 2009 and the result of its operations for the year then ended.



08/09/10

Gerard N. Temming Bach. Bus. Accty

Robert J Sellman & Associates Pty Ltd
16 Station Street
Riddells Creek 3431