



Message from the President

In contrast to 2009, this year the flowering of *Clivia* in Melbourne started later and as a result has continued well on into October. I trust that many of you have enjoyed this special time of the year by observing your flowers and perhaps by undertaking some crosses as well. It was a delight to see all the plants brought to our October display table. Thanks to all those who went to the trouble to share your plants with others in this way. Given that the topic of the evening was yellow-flowering *Clivia*, it was very beneficial to have a variety of yellow flowers in front of us to discuss.

It would be good if members who attended interstate Clivia Shows could send in a report on their visits. Three Australians (Ken Smith, Angela Offer [WA] and I) went to South Africa last month to attend the International Clivia Conference and the Cape Club Clivia Show. I attach a brief report here and may introduce some aspects of the visit at our November social evening if time permits.

While the MCG Committee is aware that some members live too far away to travel to our meetings, the raffle is an important component of these regular events. We hope that it provides an incentive for participants to attend and it also helps to cover the cost of the hall hire for the evening. We are grateful to those members who have donated plants, seedlings, seed or pollen for the raffle and ask that anyone who has surplus material may like to consider a donation in the future. The two yellow-flowering *C. miniata* at the October meeting were won by Maurice Hunt and Rae Begg. Thanks Terry for your donation of a plant.

The Committee met on 8 October and we consider to be an exciting program for a workshop (same time, same venue) will preparation of plants for display. This is in special all-day display in conjunction with other interactive activities on Saturday 24 We have booked our regular venue for this would like members to bring their plants individual flowers, photos or posters for we plan also to organise other activities demonstrations of pollination, seed sowing divisions, and also have a section to deal problems and so on. The trading table and may also be available. More details will be given at a later stage. Do mark the date in your diary and let others know about this special event as it is intended for MCG members as well as for members of the public. We thank the sub-committee who have agreed to help plan the program. We hope that all members – those living close by as well as those further away – will support this important day.



planned what 2011. In June, focus on the lead up to a a range of September. occasion. We and/or display and such as and perhaps with other stalls

A range of other topics and speakers are also planned for 2011. Ken Russell has agreed to talk on *Clivia* in August, Dermot Molloy will introduce his work with *Clivia* in the Melbourne Botanic Gardens in October, and a local commercial grower of *Clivia* and a representative of Neutrog, an organic fertilizer, have also agreed to take part.

Our MCG library is set to expand in the near future with the purchase of all the back yearbooks of the Clivia Society. I do highly recommend these volumes to those of you who are not members of the South-Africa-based Clivia Society and who have an interest in *Clivia*. These will be available for borrowing at our meetings.

We have included documentation relating to the Annual General Meeting, to be held on 18th February. If you would like to contribute more actively to the work of the MCG, please do consider serving on the Committee. Nominations should be sent to the secretary by 18th January.

Now is the time of the year to be considering renewing your membership for next year. The MCG will retain its same low fees in 2011: \$15 for individual members and \$10 extra per family member. If anyone is interested in also becoming a member of the Clivia Society, please contact the Australian representative, Ken Smith (tel: 02 4754 3287; cliviasmith@idx.com.au)

Our final gathering for the year will take place on 19th November. As in previous years, this will be a social evening where we bring a plate of food to share. Those whose surnames start with A to M are requested to bring savouries and N to Z, sweets. This year we have suggested that members also bring a small gift – under \$5 or homemade – which will be pooled and then shared.

Thank you all, to the Committee members in particular – Erika van der Spuy, Di Mathews, Rae Begg, Brenda Girdlestone and George Simmler - for your very efficient and effective work during the year. Di's work as editor of the Newsletter is a particularly demanding one. Other members who deserve special mention are Lisa Fox who continues to assist as Web Manager and Public Officer, Julie Milligan who has taken on the role of Librarian, and Lynn Rawson who always assists with the raffle and other things at each meeting. Additionally, we thank all other members who have contributed positively to the functioning of this group.

Helen Marriott

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership Renewals for 2011 Due 1/1/2011
Methods of payment –

Pay at the Xmas gathering - fill in a membership form and pay Rae direct.

Pay by post - fill in a membership form and return payment to PO Box 811 Lilydale Vic 3140

Pay by direct bank deposit - download a membership form, fill in name and address, email it to bbrigade1@hotmail.com

When making bank direct deposit, please include full name and suburb (if possible) with payment.
National Bank BSB 083 657 Acc. 82974 5477

There is a membership renewal form at the end of the newsletter.

Thank you.



Editor's Message

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.

This newsletter I am delighted to present articles by Yvonne Hargreaves, Vu Dang, and Helen Marriott. Thank you to these people for sharing these with the club.

Di Mathews

Spring and Summer in the Garden.

Spring continues to be cooler and wetter than previous years, so keep a lookout for the slugs and snails which are still leaving their silvery trails and can do so much damage to your plants. The mealybug is with us, so keep a watchful eye on your plants - they tend to congregate deep within the leaf margins.

Continue feeding your plants with your fertilizer of choice, and take care to keep your plants well protected from the hot summer sun which will soon be with us.

FEATURE FLOWER



A beautiful *clivia* displayed by a member of the MCG.



PMM Pine Mountain Nursery

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

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



The Trading Table run by George, with an array of *clivias* for sale.

CLASSIFIEDS

2 Year old *C.miniata* seedlings for sale. Seeds are from NZ and South Africa. Interested people please email me - george-oz@hotmail.com

Events & Contacts

NEXT MEETING

Friday 19th November 2010
7.30 pm
Uniting Church,
Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd,
Burwood

Christmas Get-together

A-M A Savoury Plate
N-Z A Dessert Plate

18 Feb 2011 -

Chris Christo - *Growing clivias commercially*

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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 January 2011

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Germinating and Growing Clivia Seeds - The Easy Way

Germinating *clivia* seeds in plastic lidded cups, as demonstrated at September meeting by Vu Dang

We were treated to a very interesting demonstration and an informative talk by one of our younger members of the Melbourne Clivia Group at the September meeting.

Vu Dang, a Vietnamese born Australian, with an academic background and a deep interest in orchids, has in recent times developed a passion for growing *clivias*.

He showed us a very simple method of germinating *clivia* seeds in the clear plastic cups that are used for cold take away drinks. The cups are approx 5-6" high and 3-4" across and have a push on lid.

They can be obtained from catering suppliers for around \$15 -18 per hundred.

In the base of the cup -for about 3-4" Vu uses the coarser form of coconut coir that can be readily purchased at orchid suppliers and Bunning's. The top 5/8"1" is a finer version of the same product.

The medium is moistened and the cleaned seeds, 4-5 at a time, are nestled down onto the medium with the brownish spot that represents the "belly button" of the seed—the site where it was originally attached to the ovary showing at the top and the growing point—or little pimple-facing downwards.

The lid is placed into position and the containers put somewhere warm -if possible-- as the warmth will hasten germination.

This method allows your seeds to stay in the same container for quite a while after they germinate, which is a great advantage. It eliminates at least one step—and saves heaps of time -and space, as the cup acts as a community pot and are easily read.)

Once the small green leaves are showing the top can be removed, and using any method that suits you, a couple of holes should be made in the base of the container for drainage.

Vu suggested using a small soldering iron to make the holes. This would make the holes strong as the melting plastic would form a firmer ring around the edge of the hole. Now you can begin to feed your growing seedlings regularly with weak fertiliser. Vu says he does feed a weaker strength fertiliser when the seeds are just germinating and has found it to work fine for him.

This caused some discussion in the question time after Vu's presentation—but as we all know -what works for you is what you do!

There are as many methods of germinating and feeding *clivias* as there are growers.....

I was so impressed with Vu's very simple and practical methods that I have utilised his ideas with my own seeds this year – and it is working well for me, too.

Details of the seed crosses can be written on the side of the container and I also do it on the lid top—this makes finding that special cross much easier. A black permanent marker or a white paint pen work well.

(During a recent visit to my shade house, Lyn Rawson showed me another idea -she uses a normal white plastic tag and once the cross is written on slides it into the side of the pot before filling with medium. The details show clearly from the outside)



The coir-coconut fibre comes in largish blocks and needs to be soaked in a barrow of clean water and then drained and re-soaked once more. This removes any possible salts that may be in it. The addition of Epsom salts to the soaking water can be of benefit. If you do use Epsom salts (Magnesium Sulphate) also add same amount of Iron Sulphate.

Do this on the last water soaking. The iron will turn the coir black.

The combination will allow increased nutrient take up.

For one wheel barrow, I generally add 100gm of each. This was taught to me by a specialist commercial orchid grower.

A good supplier of coir base media, perlite and fertiliser in Melbourne is a company called Duralite, 54 Old Dandenong Rd Heatherton Vic 3202 ph: 95516756

(*Look out for a very small sign that leads into a service road!).

Coir can be purchased by "brick" but everything else is bulk.

This works out very reasonable to make up my own mix of coir, perlite, dolomite lime and slow release fertiliser.



The medium used to nestle your seeds into within the plastic containers must be moist but not sodden.

There may be one or two seeds that develop slight fungus growth.

Keeping a squirt bottle filled with Fongarid (systemic fungicide) handy to be used when he sees any mould; is another useful tip.

Germinating seeds should be checked regularly to prevent the spread of fungus should it start.

Vu also spoke of the benefits of allowing your berries to 'rest' a while - perhaps two weeks--after removing the umbel from your plant.

He explained that it allowed chemical and hormonal changes to take place that are beneficial to the seeds and increase their germination ability.

Remove the intact stem of berries from your plant severing about half

way up the stem and lay them to one side in warm spot until the outer casing--the coloured part--- has begun to show signs of shrivelling slightly. Seeds will also be easier to peel and clean.

Upon hearing this information I recalled seeing baskets filled with berries in every shade laying about -oh so casually-- in the home of a retired gentleman--a long time and much experienced *clivia* grower who had any time needed to peel and plant-- so he must have known this tip as well.

Vu stressed the importance of cleaning our seeds very well, paying particular attention to the remnant fleshy tissue near the brown umbilical spot. He told us the natural sugars in the starchy residue will feed fungus if not completely cleaned.

Removing the final film or membrane from the area around the growing point was also mentioned as a good idea, if you want to get germination hurrying along. Great care must be taken whilst doing so -damaging this tip will ruin your seed.

Members appreciated Vu fetching along huge cartons of the plastic cups and quickly availed themselves of the opportunity to purchase them and get a start made on this very interesting and practical method

Thanks Vu for your most informative presentation.

We especially love to have the younger members participate in such a way.



P.S. Something I have done to keep the plastic cups a bit more stable is gather up poly styrene boxes and cut the sides down a bit -the cups sit in them tidily and securely and are much easier to move around.

I also added into Vu's ideas something of what a great *clivia* grower from Kingaroy, Queensland, Linda Richards, had told me about.

She suggested I use Mancozeb -at the rate of one teaspoon to 1litre of water and also a good tablespoon of Epsom Salts to soak my seeds in for a couple of days and then plant into the containers--using the Mancozeb soaking water to moisten my coir as an added protection against fungus.

Enjoy your seed growing.

Vu Dang with Yvonne Hargreaves

STOP PRESS

Hi everyone,

Everyone's order has been accepted and as arranged - pick up is at B&T Nursery on the 6th & 7th Nov. Due to popular demand, Mark will also send down additional crosses of Tessa by Helen (Europeach style) for sale at the show only, (no order). As usual, Ken will have a broad range of seedlings, intermediate, and mature plants. For those who saw Yvonne's plant last meeting "Rainbow Magic", there will be seedlings of that cross available. Ask Ken! On sale also will be excellent Chinese and Japanese plants (some variegates available).

Best wishes,

Vu Dang

Clive of Beenak Orchids will have amazing orchids for sale too.

<http://www.mtbeenakorchids.com.au/>

Show Details:

Spring Sarcophilus and Orchid Show Spectacular

At B&T Ferns & Orchid Nursery, 30 Wiseman Rd, Silvan

Show opens 9am - 5pm Saturday and Sunday the 6th & 7th November



Peaches To Die For

Yvonne Hargreaves

During a recent trip north to visit Ken Russell at his Orchid Glen Nursery in Dungog, NSW and view his *clivia* plants in flower—which is a story in itself for another Newsletter.....we were escorted on to another *clivia* grower's establishment near the Hunter Valley.

We had no real idea of what delights lay ahead of us but were welcomed, and taken to look at the plants of a *clivia* grower/nursery man.

This grower is a member of the International Enthusiasts group but other than that he shuns the limelight, being a quiet and shy young man.

Secluded on the outskirts of a small country village we found the most amazing collection of incredible peach *clivias* I have ever seen.

It is, now, not all that unusual to see a couple of wonderful peach plants in bloom...but to see such a group of plants in full exquisite flower—with huge umbels—all perfect—varying only slightly in shade --was absolutely jaw dropping.

The plants are large –robust and strong and have generously sized deep green leaves, with very large umbels of rounded blooms. They made a simply magnificent display.

Quite some years back the grower had found a couple of peach plants in a large batch of Belgium Hybrid seeds grown on to flowering size and has been quietly working away hybridising and selecting over three generations.

He has had the guidance and encouragement of both Bill Morris and Mick Dower and between them they have worked away trying to sort the puzzle of the European Peaches.

Two types have been selected –one very rounded and ever so slightly cupped in form and all shades of rich peach, and the second, rarer type, is a flatter flower—only slightly more open with the finest, finest, line of reddish edging around the extremities of each petal.

Deliciously delectable!!

The Cants Europeaches, as they are called at this stage—although there are plans for the creation of a group or series name, with individual names to be registered, have been inter bred back and forth between the original plants.

The choicest of plants from the peer hybridising have been selected so the resulting seedlings have most reliable genetics in their make up, and are breeding true glorious peaches.



Taking his hybridising very seriously, Mark has constrained his breeding to crossing only the choicest peach plants, preferring quality to quantity and selecting for consistency in colour, form and plant strength.

Mark's aim has been to produce a pure strain of peach, varying only slightly in shade and shape, with big bold heads. From what we saw on that memorable day –he has certainly done that!

He is also working on a line of the more open flowers with the fine edging and is line-breeding in both areas – but separately –making two quite different styles of highly desirable peach flowering plants.

A third range of luscious peaches are being made by crossing Cants Europeaches with imported offsets of Victorian peach, from Victor Murillo, and Cameron peach, from South Africa's Mike Christie's original plants.

Yet a fourth line of plants are being bred from imported offsets of Dave Conway's (USA) Helen and Tessa.... so a fabulous array of peach plants for the future.

Our enthusiastic admiration has encouraged Mark to consider releasing a few of the seedlings to *clivia* addicts like we Melbourne Clivia Group members.

We were delighted when he agreed to release some seedlings to our group.

Those in attendance at the October meeting were enthralled with the photographs of the peaches and thrilled to get the chance to put their name on a list to purchase one seedling each of Mark's Europeaches and one seedling of their choice of the other peach crosses.

Not a lot of plants were available at this time, so it was first come - first served, and the available Europeaches have all been spoken for.

At this stage there will be no more Europeaches available until at least next year

There are a few seedlings of Victoria peach X Victoria peach crosses available at \$20 each and some Tessa X Helen seedlings for \$25 per plant

You can attend the Sale Days at B&T Ferns Wiseman's Road, Silvan on 6th - 7th November when Ken Russell will be in attendance with some of his own choice plants on offer as well as delivering Mark's gems to very eager hands.

In addition to the peach lines which are a passion for him, Mark is also continuing the work of Bill Morris with fabulous big Morris orange and yellow *clivia* being bred on from high quality genetics.

Mark was also most interested to learn about our club and has plans to become a very welcome member of the Melbourne Clivia Group.

The incredibly neat and clean nursery itself was an eye opener!

Having worked in several production nurseries over many years, seeing the way he runs his nursery gave me an insight into Mark's personality.

You want the best –you work for it –and it shows in every direction.

Yvonne Hargreaves



The quadrennial conference of the Clivia Society, Clivia 2010, held in Cape Town on 21 and 22 September attracted a variety of *Clivia* enthusiasts from various parts of South Africa as well as from Australia, Europe, Japan, NZ and the USA. Based around the theme of the “heritage” of *Clivia*, some presentations dealt with various species (*nobilis*, *gardenii*, *miniata* and *mirabilis*), others described *Clivia* outside of South Africa (Asia, Australia and Europe), some scholars introduced their research into *Clivia* (colour formation, evolution of a species, bar coding) and this research was then summarized and its implication for *Clivia* growers outlined. In addition, one topic dealt with the history of the Blackbeard collection, another described the Clivia Society (including several factual errors about the Australian situation), and one presentation dealt with relationships in *Clivia*.

Although there was no video-recording of the proceedings as in 2006, hopefully written papers will be published in the annual yearbook for 2010 and other papers in 2011. I have submitted my text on “The heritage of *Clivia* in Asia” and I hope that Ken Smith has submitted his paper on “The heritage of *Clivia* in Australia”. In my case, after undertaking a brief survey of various Asian countries, I decided to focus on China and Japan, which are clearly the leading centres of *Clivia* in Asia. Although I have considerable familiarity with the Japanese situation, I was indebted to Eddy Pang and Hein Grebe (South Africa) for their input into aspects of *Clivia* in China. My main conclusion was that the position of *Clivia* in these two countries is very different and also the breeding histories have been largely undertaken independently with quite different outcomes. Please read more in the coming yearbook if you are interested in this topic.

The conference was followed by an auction of choice *Clivia* plants, a few of which had travelled from overseas. It is always interesting to see the trends of interest at such events. Whereas a large green-flowering interspecific attracted a phenomenal price four years ago, the highest bidding on this occasion was made for Q2, also known as Appleblossom. Other plants in this complex were also in demand. Furthermore, other plants with unusual coloured flowers or colouration patterns also attracted considerable interest. On the other hand, there was very little bidding for the four *C. mirabilis* plants, indicative I am told, of the difficulty people are having in growing them.

The next day, while the Cape Town people prepared the set up of their Cape Club Clivia Show, Claude Felbert organised a Photography Workshop which was led by Ian Coates. Ian showed various techniques for taking photos of *Clivia* inside, including use of lighting and a reflector. He also briefly showed some of ways in which he uses Photoshop to process his photos on the computer. Demonstration of a Wimberley Lamp, which can be attached to a pot and hold up the Colour Chart near the flower, was of interest to a number of us. I have subsequently purchased one by mail order through Cameras Direct here in Australia.

Another main highlight of the trip for me was the invitation to be an observer judge at the Cape Club Clivia Show, along with Marilyn Paskert from the USA. I had read the document entitled “Show Rules, Judging, Standards and Classes 2010” in advance, but it was an invaluable opportunity to observe how the team of judges undertook their various roles. Silently, I also practised making my own judgements of the various classes and was pleased to find that in many instances I did not differ significantly from the other experienced judges.

Various Clivia Clubs and Interest Groups around South Africa run their own shows and devise their own guidelines independently, as far as I know. Local interests can thus be reflected, for instance, in the classes (categorizations), for the plants. In total, the Cape Clivia Show had 47 classes. Two new classes which had been

added to the show on this occasion were “Appleblossom Strain” and “Light of Buddha”, reflecting the emergence of such plants in this area in recent years. Of particular interest to me were the classes which covered “Own Breeding”, where there were four classes (orange, yellow, peach/pastel, and other cultivars) and for which text on the breeding history had to also be provided, “Novice Plants” (for people who had not exhibited plants before), plants in flower for the first time (orange, yellow and other colours), “Ideal pot plants” and “Specimen Plants” (involving at least three crowns in flower). I imagine that all of these sections would encourage both new and experienced growers. There was a nice selection of plants in the “Bronze” class, and many fine pots of peach-coloured flowers were also on show. I noted that peaches and pastels were listed in separate classes, with four classes for peaches and three for pastels listed in the schedule. The majority of peaches on show were displayed within the “Apricot/Peach” (such as Cameron Peaches) and “Peach” classes, with only one pot in the “Salmon/Peach” class. There were no plants in the class of “Pink to Pinky/Peach” at this show. The Pastels included Dark Pastels, Light Pastels and Pastels - Green Throats.

The “Show Rules, Judging, Standards and Classes 2010” outlined various procedures to be followed during the judging. Here, I will give just three examples described under Show Standards which might be of interest to MCG members:

General appearance

All plants must be well groomed, clean and undamaged with as little artificial interference as reasonably possible. In general, points will be awarded for the overall impression of the exhibit - i.e. the extent to which the plant, leaves, flowers and pots are in balance and pleasing to the eye.

Peduncle

The peduncle must be sturdy and well-developed in order to support and display the umbel prominently. Points will be deducted for a short peduncle not holding the umbel clear of the leaves. Where a plant stake is used to support a weak peduncle, points shall be deducted, but an exhibitor may benefit from such a deduction by the additional points earned for a superior umbel thus supported.

When the peduncle is carrying a cluster of berries a stake may support it without incurring a penalty. Any stake should be as unobtrusive as possible.

Umbel

The umbel should be of good size and shape. In *C. miniata* it should be full, but not overcrowded and be carried above the leaves. At least 50% of the flowers should be open and in good condition, but this requirement may be relaxed by the Show Manager to accommodate unusual variations in the flowering season.

Points will be deducted for spent or unopened flowers at the discretion of the judges.

The team of judges included local members (maybe around six) as well as two experts from outside (and on this occasion, us two overseas observers). There was a convenor of the judging group who would allocate a judge in turn to lead the judging of a particular class. This “leader” would carefully consider his/her evaluation, often requesting certain plants to be removed from the bench and placed on one of two mobile trolleys for better observation. This leader would then announce his/her ranking of the first, second and third place winners, after which any of the other judges could submit a different selection or ranking. Sometimes discussion ensued and consensus was reached, but at other times, the judges voted on one of the two positions advanced. Only rarely was consensus not reached through these methods and voting undertaken according to the Judging Points system also included in the documentation. Where judges had an entry in any particular class, they refrained from taking part in the judging procedures for that class. After the decisions were made for each class, ribbons were placed on the three winning plants.

When judging of all the classes was finished, the judges selected the six best winners from all the classes and these plants were moved to the front. Each judge was then asked to rank the six plants, and after a tally of the results, the top plant was awarded the prize of “Best on Show”, followed by “1st Runner-up” and “2nd Runner-up”. John Winter took all three of these prizes for a stunning orange/pastel, the habitat plant ‘Butter’ and Cameron Peach respectively. The best in the Own Breeding Classes was also selected, and won by Ian Brown.

Personally I would have liked to see a little more description about the individual show plants. After judging was completed, the entrant's name was displayed but no further details were provided. I recall some variation among the three shows I saw in 2006 regarding the information displayed with the plant. While I am aware that there are many problems regarding the naming of plants, including mis-naming and multiple naming, I would have liked to see plants referred to as Cameron Peach described as such or some detail on the plant's origin or breeding. I'm sure, though, that there is a lot of controversy about this issue.

The Show was then open to Club members and others, including the general public, for the following three days (at a small charge) and quite a few stalls selling plants, seedlings or seed were set up in a large adjoining room. This time I noted the availability of some plants that would appeal to specialist collectors, in addition to more ordinary seedlings or plants.

On the Saturday, Claude Felbert with the assistance of several other members set up a temporary studio in the building with appropriate lighting and reflectors and photographed many of the first prize winners in turn. I also observed this process and learned more about photography at the same time.

Although some of the other overseas visitors spent time in other areas of South Africa as well as Cape Town, I thoroughly enjoyed the generous hospitality of my hosts, and the companionship of other local and international friends in Cape Town alone. I feel that my appreciation of *Clivia* has deepened considerably since my 2006 visit, at least in part by having to grapple with how to understand and then present such a big topic as "The heritage of *Clivia* in Asia"! The next conference in 2014 will apparently be held in Pietermaritzburg in Kwazulu Natal.



This article has been reproduced with the kind permission of John Van Der Linde.

The photographs have been arranged in a slightly different format to the original article by the editor of the newsletter.



Left: Anderson's Elizabeth peach - photo: Helen Marriott

There is a group of *C. miniata* which produces colours in the peach to apricot range when crossed among themselves whose origins can be traced back to seed from Europe. Some people refer to these plants as being "Group 2" peaches to distinguish them from Chubb peach, which they term a "Group 1" peach. As I show below, this latter terminology is incorrect and can cause much confusion, and so, for want of a better name, and because of their common origin, I am calling plants in this group "European" peaches to distinguish them from the other groups of peaches which exist.



Left : Gordon Fraser's Tipperary peach - photo Gordon Fraser

The purpose of this article is conclusive very simple: Firstly to list some of the peaches falling into the "European" peach category; secondly, to set out which of these peaches, available fairly easily to Club members, can be crossed together so that there is a good chance of obtaining progeny which will also have peach flowers; and thirdly to suggest

crosses that should be avoided - unless you wish to get hedge orange flowers! I leave it to others to go into the genetic complexities behind this, and other groups of peaches.

The best-known of the "European" peaches amongst members of the Cape Clivia Club is probably 'Cameron' Peach. Remember the magnificent peach that was judged 1st Runner Up to the Best on Show at the 2008 CCC Show? That was a 'Cameron' Peach, entered by Amore Olivier. Others peaches from the same "stable" are the 'Tipperary', 'Niven' and 'Welgemoed' Peaches. All four of these - more correctly referred to as peach cultivar groups - originated from seed imported from Europe by the owner of the Tipperary Nursery, near Nelspruit. Another well-known one, the 'Victorian Peach' cultivar group, was bred in California, and plants imported from

there are to be found in the collections of several of our members. Other Californian peaches which appear to fall into the "European" peach category are "Tessa", "Ellexa" and "Sunrise-Sunset". You will find some lovely pictures and descriptions in Harold Koopowitz's book "Clivias". There are also plants in Australia and New Zealand which apparently fall into this peach category.

Left: Amore Olivier's Cameron peach



Have a look at the picture of 'Anderson's Elizabeth Peach', taken by Helen Marriott. I hope that this article will encourage you to try breeding with "European" peaches. Your efforts may reward you with a magnificent plant like this.

Left: The author's Welgemoed peach

Let me my bets by saying that this is a broad guide to identification. It may not be totally conclusive. The leaves of this group of peaches are typically a broadish dark and glossy green. They clearly look different to the lighter green narrower leaves of the typical Chubb peach. The range of colours and shape of the flowers also differs from the Chubb peach, as does their breeding behaviour.

Left: The author's Chubb peach

I am not good at describing colours, but the flowers of one plant were described by someone as "a rich, warm, peachy-apricot with pink high-lights". I will mainly let the pictures with this article speak for themselves. Note the variations in colour within the range. Note also the obvious difference in appearance between the various "European" peaches and the Chubb Peach.

I have noticed a tendency in my 'Welgemoed', 'Victorian' and 'Cameron' peaches for petals to show signs of anthocyanin "leakage" reddish spots or edges - as they age or if they are damaged. I have not seen this in Chubb-type peaches. More observations are needed

to be, but this could be a distinguishing feature between the respective peach mutations, so watch out for the signs if you are not sure which peach you have.

What I say below is based on limited personal experience - a few crosses but no flowers yet. I have however read widely on the subject, have spoken with other breeders, and also rely on the views of an upcountry breeder with many years' experience of working mainly with plants from the Tipperary "stable". I believe that it is possible to save years by learning from his breeding results, especially his successes.

If you cross plants within the "European" peach group, for example, 'Cameron' x 'Cameron', 'Cameron' x 'Victorian', or 'Victorian' x 'Welgemoed' then resulting seedlings with unpigmented bases will - I have been told - definitely flower peach. Seedlings with pigmented bases may flower any colour between peach and orange, so do not be too quick to discard them!

It is possible, as John Winter has found with seedlings grown from crosses between plants of the 'Cameron' peach cultivar group that all the seedlings had pigmented stems, but nevertheless produced flowers in a range of peachy colours. One of these seedlings bloomed for me in 2008 with peachy-apricot flowers and a green throat.

As a generalization, if you cross any of the "European" peaches with any plant from outside that group you will get seedlings that will flower orange. The young seedlings will all have pigmented stems. In particular, here are two examples of such crosses that I know a number of breeders have made: 'Victorian' Peach x 'Chubb' peach. These two peaches are so genetically different that they combine to produce oranges only.

'Cameron' peach x Group 2 yellow

Here the breeders were possibly misled by the incorrect use of the term "Group 2" for this peach. Perhaps they thought that the colour would be dominant over that of a "Group 2" yellow, in the same way that the Chubb peach ("Group 1" peach) colour is dominant over that of a "Group 1" yellow. Unfortunately, this assumption is incorrect! It is an easy mistake to make and that is why I prefer a term like "European" peach for this group of peaches.

If you have a seedling that has flowered orange (say a 'Cameron' peach x Group 2 yellow), you can recover the peach colour in the next (F2) generation. Try to get hold of some "European" peach pollen and pollinate the flowers of your plant with that. You should get a good percent-age (maybe as much as 50%) of seedlings that flower peach amongst the offspring.

My guess is that they will have unpigmented stems while small and that most of those with pigmented stems will probably all bloom orange. You might be lucky and obtain some that have flowers in the peach to orange range.

Unless you have plenty of room, you should rather not self -pollinate it, because although you will certainly get some offspring with unpigmented stems, some of these will be peaches and some will be yellows and you will have to keep them all until they flower to see which is which!

Incidentally, I also fell into the "Group 2 trap"; I put pollen from my 'Victorian' peach onto a Group 2 yellow. If anyone would like a seedling - with a strongly pigmented stem - please contact me. You can have fun trying to recover the peach!

By the way, if someone else comes up with a more appropriate name than "European" peach for this group of peaches I will be the first to accept it. I would like to thank all those people in several countries who have helped me in the preparation of this article and/or who have supplied photographs.

Finally, good luck with your "European" peach breeding.

- John van der Linde



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MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING - 15 October 2010

Venue	Uniting Church, Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Roads, Burwood
Meeting commence	7:35 pm
Committee	Helen Marriott, Erika van der Spuy, Rae Begg, George Simmler, Brenda Girdlestone, Diane Mathews
Apologies	Laurens Rijke, Eddie Pang, Lisa Fox, Ray Argent
Introduction	Helen Marriott Welcomed all the members of the MCG and all visitors. Despite the cold weather, we still have a good number of members attending the meeting.
Announcements	<p>During our MCG committee meeting following were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social dinner on 19 November 2010 Members' surname starting with A - M - Bring a plate of savouries N - Z - Bring a plate of sweets To create a festival atmosphere - bring a gift under \$ 5-00 or homemade The meeting might take place in the big hall if the current venue is undergoing renovations. This is still on the same premises.• Books for the library The committee decided to procure the year books from the Clivia Society. This will be available to members through the library.• Next year planning (2011) 18 February 2011 - Annual General Meeting - Will distribute notice of the meeting and relevant documentation in the next newsletter to try and reduce mailing costs. Chris Christo will speak on <i>clivias</i>. 17 June 2011 - Format of meeting will be a workshop and the theme will be how to prepare plants for display. Will ask the South African Clivia Society for guidelines they use for display of plants. 19 August 2011 - Ken Russell will speak to us on <i>clivia</i>. 24 September 2011 - Clivia display day (Clivia Introduction day or Clivia interactive day). This will be a day event with display of plants, demonstrations, possible stall, question stand, Devonshire tea etc. Looking for a subcommittee to organise the Clivia display day. Please let us know if you are interested to help. Volunteers so far are Helen Marriott, Yvonne Hargreaves, Lynn Rawson, Vu Dang, George Simmler, Rae Begg. <p>Other speakers for other events that the committee is trying to invite are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Neutrog representative○ Dermot Molloy - Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens○ BYO variegates and discussion

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- Pollination of Clivia
 - Short topics: watering, repotting, growing areas, reports on interstate shows etc.
 - Membership for 2010/2011
Membership cost will remain the same for 2011. The cost for a single member will be \$15-00 and \$10-00 for additional family member.
Membership can be renewed tonight or as soon as possible.

Membership of the Clivia Society – Contact Ken Smith -
02 4754 3287 or e-mail Cliviasmith@idx.com.au

Minutes of previous meeting
Secretary report

No newsletter was distributed. No minutes to approve.

Thank you for the support and help of all volunteers for the ABC Garden Expo. It was a great event and an enjoyable experience.

Accepted by : Lynn Rawson
Seconded by : Ray Begg

Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance (Bank)	\$ 2 611.61
• Income – Memberships/Raffle/TT	\$
Membership	
Raffle	\$ 120.00
Trading table	\$ 30.00
Huxley seed sales	\$ 60.00
• Expenses –	
Hall Hire	\$ 75.00
News letter (printing and mailing)	\$ 83.75
Club seal H Marriott	\$ 43.00
• Balance (including petty cash)	\$ 2 698.26

Accepted by : John Ritchie

Seconded by : Brenda Girdlestone

Presentation : Main

Yellows by Helen Marriott
Helen Marriott gave a presentation on Yellow *clivias* and the important role they have to play in breeding new colours.

Raffle

Donated by : Helen Marriott & Terry Edwards
Raffle winners: Maurice Hunt and Ray Begg.

Presentation : Minor

Were not covered because of wide variety of display plants and the discussion on yellow *clivias*.

Display Table

Thank you to everyone who has brought a plant for the display table. Good discussion followed.

Questions and Answers

No time.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be the 19 November 2010. Bring a plate according to surname and gift of less than \$5.00.

Trading table & Supper

Various plants and seed were available to buy.

END



**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Nomination form 2011**

The election of office holders (president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer) and 2 ordinary members of the Committee will take place at the AGM on Friday 18 February.

Following the Model Rules adopted by the Association, nominations should be sent to the Secretary by 11 February, on the form below. A candidate can be nominated for only one position. If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies, the candidates nominated shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations may be received at the AGM. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot will be held at the AGM.

I, _____ being a financial member of the Melbourne Clivia Group Inc, nominate _____ for the position of _____.

Signed: _____ Date of nomination: _____

I, _____ also being a financial member of the Melbourne Clivia Group Inc, second this nomination.

Signed: _____ Date nomination seconded: _____

Nomination accepted: Signature: _____ Date: _____

SECRETARY USE ONLY: Date nomination received:



APPOINTMENT OF PROXY 2011

The process for the appointment of a proxy as found in the Model Rules adopted by the Association are summarized here and followed by an appointment of proxy form below.

Any member unable to attend the AGM is entitled to appoint another member as proxy by submitting to the Secretary (at the address given above) a nomination form no less than 24 hours before the time of the meeting in respect of which the proxy is appointed.

I, _____ of _____
(name) (address)

being a member of the Melbourne Clivia Group Inc. appoint _____
_____ of _____
(name of proxy holder) (address of proxy holder)

being a member of that Incorporated Association, as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the annual general meeting of the Association to be held on Friday, 16 April and at any adjournment of that meeting.

My proxy is authorised to vote in the case that a ballot is held for the election of an office bearer.

Signed _____

Date _____

SECRETARY USE ONLY: Date & time received:



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 2009 – 2010 \$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.