



Message from the President

Happy New Year. Many of us look forward to seeing our Clivia grow during 2011 and wait with much anticipation to view new first flowers. As of early January, the Melbourne weather has been kind to us so far, though apparently above average temperatures are forecast for the rest of summer. Our gardens in general have really appreciated the rain received in the latter half of 2010.

On the other hand, the extensive flooding in Queensland and Victoria has been truly horrific and we offer our sympathy to all those affected.

The MCG finished off last year with a social function in November, where food was shared and small gifts exchanged. Erika van der Spuy took home the door prize of a *C. Caulescens*. We thank Rae Begg for the distribution of seedlings which she has been growing on for us. That evening Ray Argent told us how he and Terry Edwards had donated Clivia to the Werribee Open Range Zoo, so it may be worth a visit next spring. Also, we were reminded of the spectacular display of Clivia which have been planted in front of the new Royal Women's Hospital (Flemington Road, Parkville).

2011 will mark the MCG's inaugural Clivia Expo, scheduled for Saturday 24th September at our regular meeting venue but running throughout the day (10am – 4pm). Given the variability of weather patterns in recent years, it may be impossible to select an "ideal" date for such an event in advance but the Committee considered the matter carefully and opted for this date. I hope that you have added this date in your new diary already.

Our February meeting, which is our AGM, will shortly be upon us. We plan to keep the business component of the meeting to a minimum and hope that you will join us. We look forward on that occasion to hear from Chris Christo, accompanied by his adviser, who will describe his experiences of growing Clivia commercially. Procedures for the AGM were outlined in the last newsletter.

In February we also plan to discuss "watering" as the short topic. This year the Committee has not selected speakers or leaders for the short topics, as in recent years but instead would like to encourage other members to tell the group about their experiences. There are many aspects about watering that can be covered, for example, frequency and variation during the year, amount, style of watering, timing (morning or evening), management of seedlings verses mature plants, differences for pots and plants in the ground, and so on.

The current committee's term will conclude in February so I take this opportunity to thank all individuals for their tremendous contribution throughout the whole year. In particular, we thank Di, our newsletter editor, has managed to put together this issue while suffering from a broken arm.

Helen Marriott



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 Tino Ferero from South Africa. I would also like to congratulate Helen Marriott on her very successful photographic entries into the Clivia Society Competition.
John Craigie from PMN has sustained significant flood damage to his house and nursery, and I would like to extend our thoughts to him as well as everyone else in Queensland and Victoria suffering through these catastrophic weather events.
Di Mathews

Summer in the Garden.

Summer continues to be cooler and wetter than previous years, but is now starting to heat up. 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, take care to keep your plants well protected from the hot summer sun, and remember to water early in the day to prevent fungal problems.

FEATURE FLOWER



A beautiful clivia bred by Jeanne Marten



PMN 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 18th February 2011
7.30 pm
Uniting Church,
Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd,
Burwood

AGM
Chris Christo – Growing clivias commercially
Short Topic - Watering

- 15 April 2011 Neutrog – Organic Fertiliser representative
Short Topic – Repotting
- 17 June 2011 Workshop – Displaying Plants
- 19 August 2011 - Ken Russell – Clivia
- 24 September 2011 10am – 4pm – CLIVIA EXPO
- 21 October 2011 – Dermot Molloy – Clivia in Melbourne Botanic Gardens
- 18 November 2011 – Christmas Get-together

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Please let us know if you have any other news or items of interest to share. Deadline for next issue – 20 March 2011

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The Pleasure And Excitement of Growing Clivia From Seed – Tino Ferero

A clivia enthusiast who is not growing clivias from seed is missing out on much of the pleasure and excitement associated with this wonderful hobby. If one has mastered the art of growing clivias from seed, there is something to do and to look out for all the year round. One doesn't only look forward to each flowering season, but to each and every stage of the clivia's development and growth: the flowering, deciding with what to pollinate, waiting for the seeds to ripen, germinating the seed and planting the seedlings, and then potting and re-potting them until they reach maturity. But the greatest excitement then still lies ahead: the first flower. The first three or four years is the frustrating period. After that, there are plants coming into flower every year. When the Clivia Club was established in South Africa in 1992, the Club started importing seed from overseas, mainly from Japan, Australia and Belgium. At that stage many of the members were not interested in the seed at all. Who wanted to wait for four years for a clivia to flower?

A few members bought the seed and now have very good collections of top quality clivias. Now clivia enthusiasts worldwide realize that one of the best and cheapest ways of obtaining good clivias is to go the route of the seed. It is a longer route, but a very rewarding one. In recent times the prices of top quality clivias have escalated dramatically. This was evidenced at the clivia auction held at the Clivia Conference in Kwa-Zulu/Natal in September 2002. One plant sold for R13 600, and two yellow *Caulescens* went for R8400 each. Many others went for more than R1000 each. What is important to realize is the fact that each of these wonderful plants was grown from a seed and that every one growing clivias from quality seed has the chance of growing a magnificent champion. When I was in California for the second Clivia Conference in 2001, we visited one of the top clivia growers. I asked him whether he would be prepared to sell some seed. He was not prepared to sell seed, pointing out to me: "If I sell you seed, you are likely to end up with the best one." Needless to say, I did not get any seed from him. Nick Primich, founder of Clivia Club, was prepared to sell seed, but always limited the numbers each member could purchase. He said that the best clivias he had ever bred, flowered in the gardens of other members. This is of course the chance one takes selling seed of the best plants. Due to space limitations, most growers cannot plant and grow all their seed. I normally only plant 20 or 50 seeds from a particular crossing, and offer the rest of the batch for sale. The chances of the champions being in the sale batch are very good. I have over a fairly long period of time invested in the purchase of seed every year. Whenever I see a really good plant I enquire how it is being pollinated. If I am satisfied I order some of the seed. I am not interested in large amounts - three to five of a particular line will do me nicely. I have also imported seed on a regular basis from some of the top growers elsewhere in the world. By doing this, I obtain the advantage of their years of breeding and am immediately growing clivias with many generations of enhanced breeding behind them. Some of the best plants in our collection were not bought, but have been grown from seed. In our collection we are very strict in the selection of plants. Only the very best are kept and used for seed and pollen production. Breeding is done in specific lines using only the best pollen onto the best stock. All pollination is done by hand. I therefore strongly encourage you not to ignore the route of the seed to build up a beautiful collection of prize winning clivias.



I was recently involved in a local radio phone in programme for an hour on a Saturday morning. I appeared on the programme with two other persons, one being the chairman of the South African Nursery Association, Mr Reg Botha. While waiting to go on air, Reg asked me if I could guess what the most popular plant in the world was at present. I ventured to say it must be the clivia, and he confirmed this. He explained that there are different cycles of popularity in the plant world and that it was virtually impossible to say why plants became popular at certain times. But at present it was the clivia riding the wave of popularity, not only in South Africa, but worldwide, especially in China and Japan. One of our Club members is a long-standing orchid collector and an internationally renowned orchid exhibitor and judge. She has now become very interested in clivias. When I asked her why this was, she replied that the clivia was one of the few flowers through which she could become and artist and create.

When faced with a beautiful clivia plant or flower, one is challenged as to how to go forward with it. The questions facing one are amongst others, the following: Can I enhance the quality of the flower? Can I change the colour of the flower? Can I lengthen/shorten the leaves? Can I widen the leaves, etc. The Chinese and Japanese concentrated on the leaves, producing the most beautiful variegations, markings and widening of the leaves whilst at the same time shortening them. Others have concentrated on the flowers, producing very large flowers in very large flower heads, with the most beautiful rainbow colours from the palest yellow to the darkest red and all the shades in between. Hardly any other plant gives one the opportunity and satisfaction to create in this manner. The seeds are relatively large and easy to work with. They germinate easily and grow without many problems, albeit a bit slow. When I visited James Comstock in America, he had some of his most beautiful flowering plants on stools in his lounge with soothing classical music playing in the background. He would sit himself down in front of these plants and study them for a long period of time deciding how each should be pollinated. No wonder that Harold Koopowitz considers him to be one of the best hybridizers he has ever known. I think that is why clivias are popular the world over. They are still within the reach of everyone and we all can become artists, creating with these most beautiful plants. Imagine the challenges still lying ahead. Bronze flowers and green flowers are appearing. Shades of mauve and purple are already being seen as the flowers grow older and the hope is that these colours will be bred into the flowers right from the start. Imagine what will happen in someone produces a blue clivia? I encourage you to thoroughly enjoy this most popular plant, and to take up the challenge of trying to produce even more stunning flowers in shades of colour never seen before.

I would like to thank Tino Ferero, a clivia breeder from South Africa, for his kind permission to reproduce these articles in our newsletter.



Results of Clivia Society Photographic Competition

The Clivia Society annual photographic competition had a very high standard of entries last year.



Overall 1st – Clivia miniata (polytepal)

The photographic competition was chaired by Peter Lambert, and Roger Dixon assisted with the adjudication.

There were more than 150 entries in various categories. The judges were looking for excellence in composition, balance, lighting, and backgrounds and exposure for the images to be deemed to be successful.

We would like to offer our sincere congratulations to Helen Marriott who won the top three places in the competition for 2010. There is no prize for the competition, but the winners have their winning entries published in the yearbook. This makes the time and effort that people put into their photographs all the more important, as they are doing it to promote the clivia and its beauty in various forms.



Overall 2nd – interspecific "Mandala"



Overall 3rd – C.miniata (orange x yellow)xVico Yellow x Vico Yellow

The category of Best Photograph was won By Helen for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.



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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: