



## Message from the President

May has been a nice time for enjoying Clivia in Melbourne, since *C. gardenii*, *C. robusta* and various types of interspecifics have been in flower. Some interspecifics were displayed at the last meeting and a variety of flowers ought to be available also for display at our next one.

I am sure that members present at the April meeting enjoyed the presentation given by Chloe Thomson (pictured right) from Neutrog. Chloe outlined the company's different products in detail and generously provided sample packs of some of the products as gifts for all attendees. John Ritchie won the tub of Strike Back for Orchids provided by Neutrog, as well as the raffle of a yellow-flowering Clivia (ex Ron May), which was kindly donated by Rae Begg. Rae also assisted the club recently by providing three plants for display at the stand of the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria at the Melbourne International Flower Show.



The June and August meetings will be held in the large Hall, adjacent to the Fellowship Room which we generally use at the Uniting Church, due to renovations which are to shortly commence on the latter. Since it is the Hall which we will also use for our CLIVIA EXPO on 24<sup>th</sup> September, we will have a chance to get used to this room.

The Pakenham Garden Club has invited the MCG to participate in its annual Garden Expo held at the Pakenham race course on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 9:00am – 2pm. We plan to have a small display as well as sales of seedlings and plants. Do come if you are in the area. If you would like to contribute to either the display or sales, please see George Simmler or myself.

Recently, Shige Sasaki arranged a charity auction of 20 top-class Clivia on eBay, the proceeds of which are to be contributed to the Japanese Red Cross to support the huge suffering to many Japanese people as a result of the 11 March earthquake (the biggest in Japanese recorded history), tsunami and subsequent nuclear power station problems. Leading Japanese hybridisers donated the plants or offsets. The auction has just taken place and netted a gross figure of \$US13,853.80 (before paypal and postage charges are deducted). Details have been posted on the North American Clivia Society webpage during the month of May, but I am not sure how long these will remain. Also, last month Shige made available some of his special seed to Australian and New Zealander buyers through email order for the same purpose. I hope that some MCG members were able to take advantage of the opportunity. The seeds were limited and very quickly sold out, but I am sure that amongst them some tremendous flowers will result.

An MCG member in NSW, David Banks, has posted information of an inaugural Parramatta and District Orchid Society Spring Clivia and Orchid Show to be held at Winston Hills Mall from 22-24 September.

The June meeting of the MCG will take a different format, centering on the topic of preparing plants for display, especially in preparation for our CLIVIA EXPO as well as for display at regular meetings. Erika van der Spuy will lead the evening and we hope that many local members will be able to attend.

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 three timely articles – one from David Banks from Hills Orchids in Sydney, and the other two from Heinie Heydenrych of South Africa, who is a member of the South African Clivia Forum. He has very kindly agreed to share these articles with the Melbourne Clivia Group.

### Autumn in the Garden.

Autumn is about to move into winter, so now is the time to cut back on watering of your clivias to prevent problems with fungi and rot due to being too wet. Snails and slugs will start to appear, particularly with the rain that we have been having, so be very watchful for these.

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

## FEATURE FLOWER



A beautiful cream interspecific owned 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](http://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

Please feel welcome to use this classified section to sell any plants, seeds or other related items via the newsletter.

## Events & Contacts

### NEXT MEETING

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2011

7.30 pm

Uniting Church,  
Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd,  
Burwood

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 –  
End of Year Function to be decided.

### CONTACT MCG -

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Please let us know if you have any other news or items of interest to share. Deadline for next issue – 15 July 2011



## Spring Events in the Clivia World

### Melbourne Clivia Group EXPO DAY – September 24<sup>th</sup>.

This is a new event for the Melbourne Clivia Group, and we would like to invite all our members and their friends, as well as members of the general public to join us on this day. There will be a display of flowering plants, sales of seedlings and seeds, and people there to answer all your questions.

We need as many members as possible to bring any flowering plants for display, and any seeds or seedlings you may wish to sell.

Please join us and help to make this day a great success.

### The Carnival of Flowers – Toowoomba – September

Come and enjoy the display of clivias from the Toowoomba Clivia Club, held at the TAFE buildings in Toowoomba.

Jeanne Marten will be staging another Clivia Show during this period at the Wilsonton Shopping Centre in Toowoomba.

Jeanne is also selling raffle tickets, the proceeds of which will be donated to the Ambulance. There are some wonderful prizes to be won, including cash prizes, and also several of Jeanne's wonderful clivias, including some gorgeous peach clivias.

There will be sales of clivia plants, and display plants blooming in colours of cream, peach, apricot and orange, together with variegated and akebono clivias.

Jeanne has run clivia shows for some years now, and has always generously donated all the proceeds from any sales to worthy causes.

This year she has decided to donate all the proceeds to the Highfields Local Ambulance Committee, a volunteer organization.

Raffle tickets will also be available at the next meeting of the Melbourne Clivia Group, and are \$2 each.

### Spring Clivia and Orchid Show – Sydney – September 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Parramatta and District Orchid Society (PDOS) will be holding its Winter Orchid Show at Winston Hills Mall (during shopping hours) from Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

Of more interest to Clivia enthusiasts in the Greater Sydney Region (NSW, Australia) will be the inaugural PDOS Spring Clivia and Orchid Show to be held also at WINSTON HILLS MALL (Caroline Chisholm Drive) from Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011. This is the prime flowering time for Clivia miniata in the Sydney area.

This will be the first time that a competitive Clivia Show has been staged in a major Shopping Centre in the Sydney metropolitan area, and probably NSW. This will become an annual event, and has the Centre's backing and endorsement. The focus will be on Modern Showbench Style Clivia miniata. The Show will be judged by a

panel of qualified and experienced Australian Orchid Council (AOC) and Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) judges, who are extremely knowledgeable over a wide range of plant families (obviously with a special interest in orchids and clivias).

There will be only three “colour” classes at this first Show – plus one for the Champion First Flowered Seedling (to be nominated, so can still be benched in the appropriate colour class), restricted to pure *Clivia miniata*. (More classes may be added for future shows)

1. Best Orange to Red *Clivia miniata* (including bicolours and picotee styles)
2. Best Cream to Yellow *Clivia miniata* (including greens)
3. Best Peach to Pink *Clivia miniata*
4. Champion Seedling *Clivia miniata* (whole plant on its first flowering)

Any clivias that do not fit into any of the above classes may be benched in the non-competitive section. (such as other species, interspecifics, variegates and other foliage types).

There will be no prize money in 2011 for the *Clivia* classes (official Certificates will be presented), however the overall Grand Champion *Clivia* will win the “New South Wales *Clivia* Championship”™ for 2011. This name was recently registered as a Trade Mark by PDOS. Similarly the Champion Seedling will be crowned the “New South Wales Champion *Clivia* Seedling”™ for 2011. It is possible that the same plant may win both Championships. Both of these annual winners will be promoted (with photographs) through *Burkes Backyard Magazine*. There will also be a feature on modern clivias in an upcoming issue of this inspiring monthly gardening publication. The Show will be promoted throughout electronic, radio and print media. Results and photos will also be submitted for the *Clivia Yearbook* produced out of South Africa.

The brief judging points allocation criteria used will be as follows, which is a modified version of the “General Standard” that is successfully used for judging miscellaneous genera in the Australian Orchid Council National Judging System. As PDOS is not a *Clivia* Club/Society, and there is unfortunately no National *Clivia* organisation in Australia (or *Clivia* Club/Society in NSW), we have developed our own show schedule and judging criteria to suit our own purposes.

Judging Criteria	% of available points
Shape	30
Colour	30
Size of Flowers	10
Number of Flowers	10
Arrangement of Flowers	10
Flower Stem (Peduncle)	5
Overall Presentation	5
TOTAL	100

At this stage, only members of PDOS (who have been financial members for 12 months or more) will be eligible to exhibit plants at the 2011 Show or sell clivias through the PDOS Sales Table (where the Society collects 20% commission on all sales). There will be lots of clivias in bloom for sale at the show, as well as advanced seedlings from selected and named breeding lines in a range of colours.

We believe this is the first major attempt to showcase modern clivias in a wide range of styles and colours to the gardening and general public through a major shopping centre in New South Wales. It will show visitors that clivias do not just come in small orange blooms (like the common “Sydney Orange” seen throughout parks and many gardens). We hope to educate and encourage visitors to the benefits of growing clivias as pot plants as well as being excellent garden subjects, as the climate in the Sydney region is perfect for their cultivation. It is just as easy to grow a good quality *clivia* than a poor one!



By selling quality *Clivia miniata* plants in bloom, potential purchasers can see exactly what shape and colour they are getting, and can see firsthand the wide range of variation there is in even within the orange phase. Similarly for the cream-yellows and peach-pinks. A limited number of select 2-year-old seedlings will also be available for sale. Unfortunately locally there has been (either intentional or unintentional) a reluctance to share

quality material with others – or sell seedlings in the fear that someone else may flower the best one! Such a Show is an initiative to help break down that perception.

The Show concept is primarily designed to actively promote and take modern clivias to the general public – without any entrance fees, and hopefully attract interest and that “impulse buy” that may kick-start them into the world of clivias. It is not designed to satisfy established clivia enthusiasts who generally already have their own avenues of accessing seed and plants, and only make up a tiny % of the overall market. This is targeting the general gardening public.

A 64 page full colour Growing Guide to Clivias is also currently being produced, targeting novice and established gardeners, with basic information on cultivation (in pots and gardens), propagation, introduction to breeding, harvesting and sowing seeds, popular cultivars, FAQ, with plenty of high quality photographs of imported and Australian bred clivias. More details will be provided closer to publication date.

The Hills District Orchids OPEN DAY will be held on the Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2011. (The day after the Show finishes). Where there will be a further array of elite *Clivia miniata* plants in bloom for sale.

By late May 2011 we will have more details on the Parramatta & District Orchid Society website [www.parramattaorchidsociety.org](http://www.parramattaorchidsociety.org) and the Hills District Orchids website [www.hillsdistrictorchids.com](http://www.hillsdistrictorchids.com)



Many said a Clivia Show would never happen in Sydney. Thankfully a well-structured and established Orchid Society (formed in 1950) took the initiative to host such an event. The PDOS Committee already have the logistics in place.

More details will also be provided closer to the event via this eGroup.

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## Time To Repot Adult Clivias

David P. Banks

It is with great pleasure that I present this article written by David Banks of Hills Orchids, Sydney. David is a breeder and collector of both orchids and clivias – Editor.

In the Sydney area (and this would be appropriate for much of eastern Australia) where we are in the middle of autumn, I have found this is the best time of year for repotting (or more correctly) potting-on clivias into slightly larger pots. Seedlings and juvenile plants can be repotted throughout the year, and really get a growth spurt when put into fresh mix.

Plants are in very active root growth at present and will quickly fill the new pot with roots before the flowering season - which is still some four and a bit months away.



I have been potting-on many of my clivias of late. That is to take the root-ball, mix and all (undisturbed) and place into the next size suitable container. I also take off the oldest couple of leaves, as I believe this encourages more roots and offsets, as well as tidying up the plant. I also do this with plants holding seed pods (berries), taking care not to break or injure the inflorescence or pedicels.

I flower a lot of my miniatas in 150mm and 175mm pots, yet they do not reach their full potential in anything less than a 200mm pot. Many have remarked that they feel my plants are in too small a pot, but that is not supported by the flowering and quality of blooms I still achieve. I strongly believe that clivias are best underpotted than overpotted, in regards to both growth and flowering.

You will see the many healthy and fleshy white roots in the attached photos, and this is representative of the plants in my collection and those I have been repotting. In fact the hardest part is getting them out of the pot! I apply pressure with my hands from a number of directions to the plastic pots – slightly squeezing the root mass through the pot, especially at the base of the pot (this helps with tapered pots). Best to sacrifice a pot, by using a Stanley knife or secateurs to cut the pot, being careful not to injure the roots. (The plant is worth far more than the pot!) This process is a lot easier if the plants are allowed to dry out for a week before repotting.



A few of my growing tips are as follows:

1. I use a well-drained potting medium, same as what I use for many types of orchids. Basically 50% pine bark, 25% high quality potting mix, 10% coconut chips, 10% perlite and 5% sand. Ideally I would like to use more sand, but it adds a lot more weight to the mix.

2. Watering. I water my plants a lot (I enjoy watering!), and you can only get away with this in a well drained potting medium. As a guide... In the cooler months, once a week is plenty, up to daily during hot summer conditions. Also in the summer, I give the plants a misting over the foliage around sunset. I believe this cooling also enhances flowering later in the year (in a similar way to Cymbidium orchids). Also attempt to water under the foliage, as this helps in a small way to discourage mealy bugs (who love dry, warm & still conditions).

3. The Sydney climate. This is very similar to the natural habitat in South Africa. (You only have to look in a few gardens to see the dominance of South African plants that have become very successful garden subjects – some to the point of becoming weeds!) Most important is the differential between day and night temperatures – which is hard to replicate in an enclosed greenhouse.

4. I keep only sturdy plants. Poor growers, or slow-to-mature seedlings are discarded. (Such plants should NEVER be bred with, as you would invariably be perpetuating these undesirable traits.)

5. Plants receive quality (unimpeded) light all day, under 70% shade cloth. A couple of lemon-scented gums give the plants extra relief from the midday sun in summer.

6. Plants are grown on elevated mesh benches, providing ample air circulation within and between the plants. They are NOT sitting on the ground where they are more prone to unwanted pathogens, fungal problems plus slugs and snails. Try not to have the plants too crowded (constant problem!) – have them well spaced, as the extra light over the whole plant should guarantee every mature plant indeed blooms in the flowering season. I always have a high % of flowering plants across my adult plants – including a few in smaller pots that I wasn't expecting anything from for at least another 12 months.

7. I use two types of slow-release fertilizer. One is Organic Life pelletised fertilizer. It is not clay based (like Dynamic Lifter) and will not burn seedlings. I use that on all my seedlings and also once a year (after flowering) on my adult plants. I also use the 9 month (low nitrogen) Basacote - applied in the early spring, to adult plants, and those a year or so off blooming.

8. LOOK at your plants (both above and below the leaves, and keep an eye out for pests such as mealy bug - BEFORE they get out of hand. Confidor is OK at getting rid of most mealy bug infestations (use at the rate of 16 drops per litre, for long-tailed mealy bug). Spraying needs to be repeated three times, two weeks apart – to break the cycle. For more toxic (but really effective!) is Dimethoate (a stronger – more concentrated version of Rogor). I use this once a year, (rarely twice) at the recommended rate for ornamentals. I wear protective clothing and face filter mask when I spray (always in the late afternoon on a still day), and have a shower immediately afterwards with the clothes going in the wash. It is a potent systemic insecticide, and I don't go near my plants for at least three days after spraying.

9. Place the plants on the bench so they all are facing north (leaves would be facing east-west). This looks so much tidier than randomly plonking the plants on the bench, and also makes more efficient use of (limited) space. I always like to have the main tag at the back of the plant, also facing north. (Have another tag hidden in the pot, in case of accidents!) This way you know the correct orientation if you have moved some plants and want them facing the original way.

10. Grow what you like! Enjoy the clivias that most appeal to you, not just the ones that are currently fashionable or marketed really well. I have found many “well known” cultivars or strains to have not lived up to expectations when I have bloomed them. Generally, I would consider the best *Clivia miniata* flower forms to be in Australia and New Zealand, whereas South Africa and Japan are the main places that have developed and made available unusual colour forms (& combinations) and mutations. For pure foliage (in particular broad leaved types and variegates) China and Japan lead the way. But as I said, grow what YOU like!

(I will have a limited list of first release *Clivia miniata* seedlings available later in the year, please email me to ensure you have this sent to you when produced.)

Good Growing and Enjoy your Plants





**Editor's note:**

I am delighted to present these two articles by Heinie Heydenrych of South Africa, about the benefits of using Seamungus so soon after the presentation by Chloe Thomson of Neutrog, the company which produces Seamungus.

Thank you, Heinie, for generously allowing me to re-print them for the Melbourne Clivia Group.

Hi Daniel,

I am in the process of re-potting my Daylily seedlings and some of them will be planted in the garden now. I have been giving you some verbal feedback over the last 18 months regarding the exceptional growth I experienced with the sample of Seamungus you so kindly arranged for me to use as an experiment. I can now let you know that the results are outstanding. I planted two batches of Daylily seeds. The first batch of 80 seeds were planted on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008. The second batch of 160 seeds were planted on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2009 into a growing medium with Seamungus mixed into the medium for them all. I will refer to B1 for the 2008 seedlings and B2 for the 2009 seedlings from now on.

During March 2008 I potted 40 seedlings of B1 into 2 liter plastic bags with Seamungus mixed in the growing medium. I then placed a table spoon of Seamungus on top of the growing medium every 6 to 8 weeks after potting them with no additional fertilizer at any stage. The other 40 seedlings of B1 was planted without Seamungus in the same growing medium and fed with a liquid fertilizer only. About 6 of the seedlings planted with Seamungus flowered at 13 months of age which was unusually early because the norm is 18 months or older.

During January 2009 I planted 160 Daylily seeds into seedling trays and Seamungus mixed in it. I re-potted all these seedlings of B2 from seedling trays into 2 liter plastic bags during the past two weeks. All of the 160 seedlings were planted with Seamungus again.

I would like to confirm the exceptional performance with root and leaf growth by illustration of the 5 photographs attached.

Photo One

Indicating the root growth of a 9 month old seedling grown with Seamungus of B2 on the left compared to a 21 month old seedling on the right fed with liquid fertilizer and no Seamungus. The leaves were cut for the re-potting.



Photo Two

A close up of the photo above.





### Photo Three

Close up of photo one illustrating the Seamungus result on the 9 months old seedling of B2 on the left.



### Photo Four and Five

These two photos are the best comparison of the results of B1 and B2 with or without Seamungus. Photo five is a close up of photo four.



- Left The 9 month old seedling grown with Seamungus
- Middle The 21 month old seedling grown without Seamungus
- Right The 21 month old seedling grown with Seamungus



I have started adding Seamungus to all my Clivia seedlings as well and hope that Seamungus will be freely available soon. I have also advised a number of my plant friends of the excellent results obtained from growing with Seamungus.

I mixed one tablespoon of Seamungus into the growing medium per 2 litre bag when the seedlings were planted. From then on I placed one tablespoon Seamungus on top of the growing medium every 6 to 8 weeks.

INFO: All tablespoon measurements were slightly heaped.

I have been treating all my Clivia seedlings with Seamungus now up to the age of 3 years. They have been on second best liquid fertiliser for the past 3 months due to stock out or non availability of Seamungus.

My little Maltese dog also prefers Seamungus to Bounceback for unknowns reasons. Perhaps a salty taste from the Sea Weed?

Regards

Heinie Heydenrych

This is a short article that Heinie posted recently on the South African Clivia Forum – Editor.

I spent some time in my shade houses yesterday afternoon after we had good rain for the past 3 or so days when a seedling attracted my attention. The seedling below is now 2 years and 10 months old. The seed was planted on 30 June 2008. I made this cross of a Miniata orange with a light green throat with my Nobilis that produces over 50 florets every year. See photo below.

This seedling and 6 of her sisters were each planted in their own 16.5 cm pots during July 2009 with Neutrog Seamungus mixed in the growing medium. These seedlings received one heaped table spoon of Seamungus



every 4 or 5 months. I occasionally watered these seedlings with a tea made of Seamungus drawn in a 5 liter container. I also potted 5 other seedling of the same cross without Seamungus and they received the normal feeding like all my other plants.

I had similar successes with Daylilies about 2 years ago fed with Seamungus. Since about 8 months ago all my plants are planted with Seamungus. I have a number of miniata cross seedlings I hope to see flowering later in this year due to its rapid growth and size and number of leaves. I have a number of seedlings with 12 to 16 leaves at the age of 2 years and 10 months.

Seamungus is like Neutrog's Bounceback with Sea Weed added. Sea Weed has Cytokinins and Auxins in them that enhances plant growth and health.

The plant on the left is the largest of the sister plants that were not fed with Seamungus for more than the first 2 years.

I perform many experiments which I enjoy. I do not only do various experiments on plants but whatever comes to mind because of my analytical personality. I learn from all my experiments although some are successful and others fail too. I never believe everything I am told therefore I often ask perhaps uncomfortable questions which some people do not like because how do I dare question someone. I am not always easy to convince.





## MCG Minutes of general meeting - 15. 4. 2011

Venue: Uniting Church, corner Burwood Highway and Blackburn Rd, Burwood

Opening 7:35.

Apologies: Erika van de Spuy, Laurens Rijke, Terry Edwards.

Acceptance of Minutes, meeting 2: Lynn Rawson, Di Mathews.

Announcements: Rae Begg provided three plants for the RHSV display at MIFS;  
Committee has prepared a Clivia Package for those  
presenting talks at garden clubs;  
June workshop on displaying plants;  
Pakenham Garden Club: Garden Expo, 3 September, Pakenham  
Racecourse;  
CLIVIA EXPO 24<sup>th</sup> September, regular venue;  
Forthcoming Clivia charity auction (for Japan).

Treasurer's report and acceptance: Yvonne Hargraves, Di Mathews.

Main presentation: Chloe Thomson from Neutrog. Illustrated presentation; Bucket of fertilizer won by John Ritchie; Gift box of sample products for attendees.

Raffle: Yellow clivia (ex Ron May, Toowoomba), donated by Rae Begg, won John Ritchie.

Short topic: Discussion on repotting.

Display Table: Introduction by Eddie Pang of his Chinese plants; other Clivia x cyrtanthiflora.

Close: 9:15

Trading Table & supper

Next meeting: 17 June, Workshop on displaying plants