



## Message from the President

Mid-winter in Melbourne is an excellent time for viewing a wide range of interspecific flowers as well as beautifully coloured berries. It is also a time of seed preparation and sowing, for those of us who like to start early. I was able to spot quite a few buds in *C. miniata* in early July, so I expect that these will have well finished flowering by time of our important CLIVIA EXPO on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

Our warmest thanks go to Erika van der Spuy for leading an excellent workshop on displaying Clivia at our last meeting. Erika drew heavily on notes on the preparation of Clivia for showing which were written for us by Felicity Weeden in South Africa. (Felicity is also the source of the nice posters we now have in our Clivia Packages that speakers can take to other garden clubs when giving talks.) We are keen to receive feedback on this different and more informal approach to the June meeting. Erika also donated the raffle plant, *C. nobilis*, won by Ray Begg; Julie Milligan took home the spare Neutrog box of samples as the second prize.

We thank all members at the June workshop who volunteered to help at CLIVIA EXPO and want to finalise the rosters at the coming August meeting. There will be many jobs to be done beforehand as well as on the day, including the Friday evening when we will first set up the hall and then have plants delivered. The committee, in conjunction with the sub-committee, has prepared a draft program of activities for the day (see this Newsletter). In the meantime, please start preparing potential display plants plus anything else which you can bring such as displays of seed, seedlings, berries or other. We will also need some flowering plants to raffle so please let me know if you can assist.

Following our last meeting, Vu Dang produced an excellent poster for CLIVIA EXPO. Do have a look at it on our website if you haven't already seen it (<http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/>). Thank you indeed Vu. George Simmler is now arranging to have copies made for distribution to garden clubs and others.

The MCG expresses its appreciation to John Morris of NSW who has donated to our club a full set of Clivia Society yearbooks. These will be held by our librarian, Julie Milligan, and available at meetings for loan. It is worthwhile to make use of these excellent resources as they contain a wealth of information on the genus.

I hope that many people will bring plants for display at our August meeting, when we can discuss further arrangements for the September day. We are delighted to have Ken Russell, a long-time Clivia and Orchid grower from NSW, speak to us on his various experiences with Clivia. It is likely to be a busy evening, because in addition to the minor topic on growing areas for Clivia, we will also start a mini competition, which is the brainchild of Brenda Girdlestone. We hope to see many small, broadleaf seedlings (up to two years old) brought along for this purpose.

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. The Clivia Expo is just around the corner, and we anticipate that as many members as possible will be on hand to make our first Expo a rip-roaring success.

Winter in the Garden.

Winter is well and truly here this year, with significantly higher rainfalls than in previous years. Ensure that your plants are in a free draining mix if planted in pots. Snails and slugs will start to appear, particularly with the rain that we have been having, so be very watchful for these. Mealybugs have been spotted in the garden despite the cool weather, so have a good watch out for these and treat immediately.

## FEATURE FLOWER



*A beautiful interspecific bred by  
Laurens Rijke*



**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)

Pine Mountain Nursery Open Days 2011  
Saturday 10 to Sunday 11  
September - 8.30am to 4.00 pm  
Saturday 17 to 18 September  
8.30am to 4.00 pm

## 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

## Events & Contacts

### NEXT MEETING

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2011  
7.30 pm  
Uniting Church,  
Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd,  
Burwood

Ken Russell - Clivia

24 September 2011 10am – 4pm –CLIVIA EXPO

21 October 2011 – Dermot Molloy – Clivia in Melbourne Botanic Gardens

November End-of Year Night to be discussed.

### COMMITTEE

- Helen Marriott  
- President
- Di Mathews  
- Vice-president
- Erika Van Der Spuy  
-Secretary
- Rae Begg  
- Treasurer
- George Simmler  
- Committee member
- Brenda Girdlestone  
- Committee member

Melbourne Clivia Group Phone Number – 0410 929 510

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

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Spring Events in the Clivia World

## Mini Competition - MCG

Our August meeting will include the 1<sup>st</sup> of our mini competitions. It will be open to all members, and we urge everyone to participate. This competition is in addition to our normal display table, and will enable members who are unable to bring in display plants the opportunity to become more involved in the night's activities.

The category for the night is

Clivia Seedling: Broadest Leaf - up to 2 years old.

The seedling can be in a single or community pot, so have a look through your seedlings and bring along the broadest leaf in your collection. Let's see how many we can assemble and the variety of leaves found.

Brenda Girdlestone

## 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 Society, held at the TAFE buildings in Toowoomba.

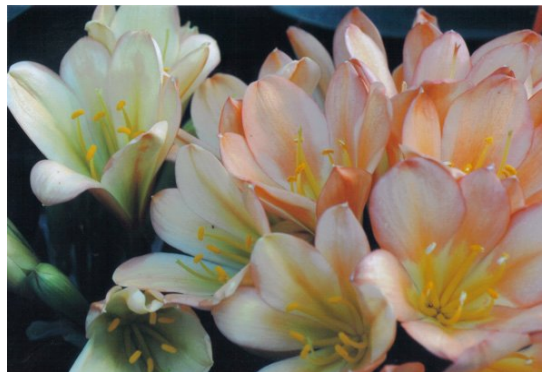
Jeanne Marten will be staging another Clivia Show during this period at the Wilsonton Shopping Centre in Toowoomba.

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 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 clivias 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.



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

For 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).





This short article has been supplied by Mr Ron May from Toowoomba.

Mr May has been researching the Banana Fruit Caterpillar, and has noticed some fairly devastating results from his research.

This pest is known to devour up to 26 different plant families, and enjoys a clivia meal when available.

Thus far, it has been seen as far south as Sydney, but people are being asked to keep a watchful eye in the event of it heading to the southern states.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

**A recent noctuid to Toowoomba, Qld - the Banana Fruit Caterpillar (*Tiracola plagiata*) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) - Ron May**

The temperate climate of Toowoomba is ideal for growing the plant genus Clivia. This perennial is cultivated extensively throughout the Toowoomba area.

Unfortunately there were two species of Lepidoptera, *Brithys crini* and *Spodoptera picta* that can be destructive pests of plants within the Amaryllidaceae family. Now there are three.



*Tiracola plagiata* larva on Clivia



*Tiracola plagiata* pupa



Empty pupal case

In late winter of 2010, while inspecting damage to my Clivia plants, I captured several caterpillars and reared these to adult moths. Different foods were used as an experiment. Clivia, rose, banana skins and capsicum were devoured.

Ted Edwards graciously identified this noctuid as *Tiracola plagiata*, which in Asia is known to have been recorded feeding on 26 different families of host plants. In Australia, it is found from Wollongong NSW north into Queensland.

Photos Ron May

Reference: Common, I.F.B. 1990. *Moths of Australia*. Melbourne University Press.

Editor's note: See *Metamorphosis Australia* No. 55, "The First Record of *Tiracola plagiata* feeding on *Pararistolochia praevenosa*" by Hilton Selvey.



*Tiracola plagiata* adult





24 September, 10:00-4:00, Uniting Church, Burwood

### Tentative program

Some members will be required for set-up on the evening before (Friday from 4:00pm) and for the pack-up at the conclusion of the day, as well as for various other tasks during the day. Please sign up to the rosters at the August meeting.

Set up: from Friday 4:00. Delivery of display plants, flowers, photos, posters etc. 5:00-7:00pm (if possible). Otherwise, Saturday 8:30-9:30 for late arrivals.

Plants are to be labelled using the MCG's plant card label, preferably prepared in advance. Copies of the plant cards can be collected at the next meeting or will be downloadable from the website shortly.

Sale plants (for the outside area) to be delivered Saturday 8:30-9:45, accompanied by the regular Trading Table form. Plants should be labelled and priced and contain your name as well if sold at the MCG stall. Members who sell plants on the day will also be expected to assist with other CLIVIA EXPO tasks.

Demonstrations and activities (assemble at MCG/demonstration table)

WALKING TOURS OF DISPLAY	SEED SOWING	POLLINATION	DIVISION OF PLANTS (outside)
11:00	10:45	11:30	11:45
12:00	12:30	2:15	2:30
1:00	1:34		
2:00			
3:00			

Free seed and demonstrations of peeling seed throughout the day (at demonstration table).

Raffle \$1 per ticket and win a nice Clivia (raffle draws at 11:30, 1:30 and 3:30). Donations of good, flowering plants are invited as the raffle prizes.

Peoples' Choice: select your favourite Clivia and go into a draw for more prizes - free membership of the MCG in 2012 or packets of mixed choice Clivia seed. Awards at 3:30.

Tea & coffee \$1 per cup; biscuits \$1 per packet. Other snacks or meals available from the Burwood KMart shopping centre on the opposite side of Blackburn road.



The attached photos are the last season bloom of Mr. He's green throat yellow 'You Jiang' (Painter hybrid) which he acquired from Mr. Lu as an offset during 2008. The flowers of this offset have a nice green throat, whereas the mother plant doesn't show any green throat in all its previous blooms. Maybe another situation of offset mutation! It will be interesting to see whether it will flower with green throat in this season.

Mr. He took some of his treasured Clivias home in order to pollinate them in an isolated environment.

The 2008 pollination of the mother plant was done by Mr. He at Lu's Changchun greenhouse with pollen from another of Wang Dian Chun's exquisite yellow Guo Lan (yellow flowering Changchun Clivia hybrid). At the end, 100 seeds were harvested and 99 of them germinated successfully into 100% green stem seedlings.

Mr. He pollinated the 2009 bloom of this green throat yellow 'You Jiang' with pollen from Wang Dian Chun's best yellow, which he called Jin Dan. Recently, approx 80% of the seeds were harvested and all germinated into green stem seedlings. Furthermore, this green throat yellow 'You Jiang' should be a Group 1 yellow because the trial cross of [Nakamura yellow X Green Throat 'You Jiang'] produced 100% green stem seedlings too.



Mr. He also has in his collection, the 3rd year flowering offset of Wang Dian Chun's best yellow - Jin Dan. He pollinated its 2009 flowers with pollen from Wang Dian Chun's number 2 yellow (a dwarf cream flowering 'You Jiang'). All the seeds were harvested and germinated recently, with 100% green stem seedlings as well. A trial cross was also done with a couple of the florets of the Nakamura yellow, the recent germination also showed 100% green stem seedlings. Hence, it should be a Group 1 yellow too.

Apart from Mr. He, the Chairman of the Shenyang Clivia Association, Mr. Li Jing Liang and I are the only collectors who managed to acquire the offsets of Wang Dian Chun's best yellow Chinese hybrid - Jin Dan. A couple years ago, an entrepreneur offered Mr. Wang ¥ 400,000 (USD 60,200) for this exquisite yellow Guo Lan - Jin Dan, but the transaction did not complete because Mr. Wang wanted ¥ 800,000 instead.

During the last March gathering at Wang Dian Chun's green house, in front of Mr. Wang, Mr. He, and a few Changchun Clivia growers, Mr. Lu Yan He admitted that his yellow Guo Lan series originated from the 4 advance yellow seedlings which he purchased from Mr. Wang Dian Chun during 2004. Hence, it should be reasonable to conclude that all the genuine premium quality yellow Changchun Clivia hybrids (Guo Lan) in China came from Wang Dian Chun's yellow series.

Other available true yellow Chinese hybrids are predominantly green stem F2 from crosses between F1, which are heterozygous for yellow. This involved the initial cross of orange flower Guo Lan (Changchun Clivia hybrid) with narrow & long leaf Group 1 yellow. I have done these crosses myself in Melbourne. This type of yellow flowering F2 has relatively inferior veins (if any), longer and narrower leaves. The leaf quality of the resulting F2 is way inferior compared with Wang Dian Chun's yellow series, which has the well-established genetic background of 'Zhao Ziao Pu Duan Ye' (Chinese pinyin for Zhao Ziao Pu Short Leaf). Hence, there should be significant difference in rarity and value.

May I also advise you that the original 'Zhao Ziao Pu Duan Ye' was an offset of the 'Bai Jin Long Duan Ye'.



'Bai Jin Long Duan Ye' was developed by Mr. Bai Jin Long in 1968 from ['Er Sheng Li' X 'He Shang'] and 'Er Sheng Li' was developed in 1950's by Mr. Wang Bao Lin from ['You Jiang' X 'Da Sheng Li']. Hence, it is reasonable to believe that Wang Dian Chun's yellow Guo Lan series involves the genetics of 'You Jiang', Huang Ji Shi, 'Great Victory', 'Monk' and 'Duan Ye'. In fact, one can see yellow flowering representatives of all these cultivars in Wang Dian Chun's green house. His dwarf broad leaf yellow hybrids are yellow 'Monks', not yellow 'Darumas'. In fact, I haven't seen any true yellow flowering Daruma in China yet!

Explanation of the names of Chinese cultivars mentioned above:

['Er Sheng Li' X 'He Shang'] = Chinese pinyin for ['Second Victory' X 'Monk']

['You Jiang' X 'Da Sheng Li'] = Chinese pinyin for ['Painter' X 'Great Victory']

'Huang Ji Shi' = 'Technician Huang' which was developed by Mr. Wang Bao Lin in 1950's from self pollination of 'You Jiang'