



## Message from the President

Winter, with the rain and cold weather, at least is accompanied by the flowering of interspecifics. We had a reasonable display at our June meeting and should find more plants, especially *C. miniata* x *C. gardenii* hybrids on display at our July meeting. In June, we very much appreciated a visit from Kerrie McElroy (from NSW) who outlined her Clivia growing experiences and also introduced some of her own hybrids, with photos. In addition, she generously provided attendees with a sample of her seeds. An introduction to Kerrie's growing and breeding experiences is included in this newsletter. We do hope to see her again at an MCG event in the near future.

Another highlight of the June meeting was the distribution of three seedlings (orange, yellow and peach) per member. Organised by Vu Dang, with the excellent-quality seedlings supplied by Mark Cant, these seedlings will form the basis of an ongoing growing competition. Members will be asked to periodically bring their seedlings back for comparison and also describe their cultivation methods. Thanks Vu and Mark for facilitating this activity.

The June raffle of a cream-flowering Clivia (donated by Rae Begg) was won by John Trotter. We do invite members with surplus plants to provide a donation for the raffle from time to time. Recently, the number of people supplying raffle plants has dwindled to just a couple, so if the raffle is to continue, more support will be necessary in the short- as well as long-term.

This year the MCG has received quite a few invitations from local garden clubs to supply speakers on Clivia. Recently, Hadyn Lomas, Gary Reale and I have given talks and more are to follow in coming months. It is usually a very enjoyable experience so if more members would like to volunteer, please let Erika know.

The 2012 CLIVIA EXPO (22 September) is rapidly approaching. Already I can spot an increasing number of buds among my Clivia *miniata*, and I expect these flowers to be well finished by the time of our main annual event, so as I walk by my plants now I regularly hope NOT to spot more buds. We do need and encourage all members to actively participate on this day. Last year we mounted a display of 106 plants but hope to exceed this goal in terms of quantity and quality of plants this time. More details will be distributed at the next two meetings (July and August), but included in this newsletter is a plan for the day's activities (similar to last year but with some minor changes) as well as guidelines for displaying and selling plants (also slightly updated from last year). PLEASE do come and support the club, especially by contributing to the main display. In addition, there are various rostered tasks to be undertaken throughout the day, so we call upon volunteers to sign up for some of the duties. Facilities for the sale of plants will also be available, including a dedicated MCG table.

The July meeting, to be over by the time this newsletter is distributed, will feature an introduction to greenhouses and propagation equipment by Bob Campbell (from Sage Horticultural) and discussion on tips and tricks led by Erika van der Spuy. The August meeting on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> will finalise planning for CLIVIA EXPO and will include some discussion and demonstrations on how to prepare and present plants for our September event. We should be able to display more interspecifics plus some early-flowering *C. miniata* at this August meeting.

Similar to last year, we hope to see some of our far-away members and others interested in Clivia to join us for CLIVIA EXPO on Saturday 22 September 10:00-4:00pm at our regular venue, the Uniting Church (corner Burwood Highway and Blackburn Rd) Burwood (Melways 61 K6)

Helen Marriot



# Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

July 2012  
Vol.5.4

## Editor's Message

This newsletter is full of information about the upcoming CLIVIA EXPO.

There is information on the guidelines for all members participating in this event, so I would recommend that everyone has a good perusal of the notes put together for you.

We would encourage everyone as far as possible to participate in this, whether it is displaying plants, selling plants or seeds, or being of assistance in the many tasks on the day. Thank you all in advance for your help. Greg Anderson of Toowoomba is also advertising seeds from the well-known Anderson Peach series, so contact Greg if you would like to buy seeds from these delightful peach clivias.

## Winter Care of Clivias

Winter has truly been upon us this year.. There has been plentiful rain, and a lot of cold chilly days.

Please ensure your clivias are in a very free draining mix if they are outside in this weather, and watch out for slugs and snails, which delight in these cold wet conditions.

Another pest to be vigilant about is earwigs, which love to hide between the leaves, and can do enormous chewing damage to the leaves, leaving an unsightly display in their wake



A beautiful interspecific owned and bred by Laurens Rijke that was on display at the July meeting.

## FROM THE TRADING TABLE

Lynn Rawson would like to remind you all to bring any plants or seeds for sale to the Trading Table.



The Trading Table, with an array of clivias for sale.



**Anderson's Clivias**  
2012 Seed List available now  
Euro Peaches, Creams & more  
Contact Greg 07 4633 2081  
Email: apclivias@bigpond.com

**CLIVIA EXPO**  
**Saturday 22 September 2012.**  
**Come and be a part of this exciting day.**



## Events & Contacts

**NEXT MEETING**  
**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2012**  
**7.30 pm**

**Uniting Church,**  
**Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn**  
**Rd, Burwood**

**Workshop for CLIVIA EXPO**

**22 September 2012 - CLIVIA EXPO**

**19 October 2012 – Assessing the**  
**year's Clivia Blooms**  
**Hydroponics & fertilizer – David**  
**Francis**

**November End of Year – TBC.**

## COMMITTEE

**Helen Marriott**

- President

**Di Mathews**

- Vice-president/Newsletter Editor

**Erika Van Der Spuy**

-Secretary

**Rae Begg**

- Treasurer

**Brenda Girdlestone**

- Committee member

**Vu Dang**

- Committee member

**Number – 0410 929 510 Melbourne**

**Clivia Group Phone**

**Please let us know if you have any**  
**other news or items of interest to**  
**share. Deadline for next issue -15**  
**September 2012**

## OUR ADDRESS

**Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.**

**PO Box 811,**

**Lilydale, VIC 3140**

**[www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au](http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au)**  
**[secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au](mailto:secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au)**



I became interested in growing and breeding Clivia after finding the book Clivias by Harold Koopowitz in a bookshop in Lismore. I was especially taken with the photos of interspecifics bred by Rudo Lotter. At that time, I did not even consider the possibility of being able to import seed or plants so I just began collecting whatever Clivia I could find. I knew that Sally Kent sold offsets of ‘Aurea’, so I began by purchasing two flowering-size offsets of that. I found a couple of cyrtanthiflora-type Clivia at the car boot market in Lismore and another in a dilapidated and overgrown garden just a few doors from where I live. I bought two small Belgian Hybrids from the hardware store in Kyogle and a couple of Nick Powell’s Clivia from Bunnings as well as a few more yellows and Belgian Hybrids from Youngberries nursery in Lismore. These plants formed the basis of my earliest breeding efforts. Although the results have been somewhat variable, I have grown some very beautiful Clivia from this first humble starting point.

So the first interspecifics that I experimented with were the ubiquitous oz nobilis or Clivia x cyrtanthiflora that are very common in old Australian gardens. I used them both as pollen parents and as berry parents, crossed with my early collection of miniata. ‘Kathleen May’ and ‘Tutti Frutti’ are two of my favourites that have come from these very first efforts.



‘Kathleen May’ – first and second flowering.

‘Kathleen May’ and ‘Tutti Frutti’ resulted from the same cross, made in 2003, with the seeds planted in 2004. Both plants flowered for the first time in August 2010. Their berry parent was a small red Belgian Hybrid (one from the local hardware), with a slight green centre that varies in intensity from one flowering to another





'Tutti Frutti'

. The pollen parent was a *Clivia x cyrtanthiflora*. 'Tutti Frutti' and 'Kathleen May' both have relatively miniata-like flowers, but the flowers are a little smaller than those of their Belgian Hybrid parent. The anthers protrude attractively and the inside of the flower opens paler than the outside and then progressively flushes with anthocyanin throughout the flowering period. As can be seen from the photos of 'Kathleen May', there can be considerable variation in colour from one flowering to another.

I have read that this type of cross often produces inferior looking miniata-type flowers. I have found this is sometimes true, but the good ones are among my favourite *Clivia*.

Some disadvantages of crossing a *cyrtanthiflora* onto a miniata may include:

- smaller flowers - some very small
- flowering time might not coincide with shows
- some that do have poorly shaped flowers that are rather uninteresting and generally inferior to either parent
- extended time from seed to flower

The advantages can include:

- interesting colour combinations
- interior of flower paler than exterior
- the sepals are often a different colour to the petals
- repeat flowering
- flowering at different times to miniata
- tendency to multiply quickly
- elegantly shaped flower
- delicate appearance of flowers
- can be used to breed new colours into miniata-type flowers

Future breeding plans for 'Kathleen May' and 'Tutti Frutti' include crossing them with each other in addition to using them to pollinate another one of my *Clivia miniata* that has exquisitely shaped flowers.

Email contact: Kerrie @australis.net



The MCG Trading Table at the June meeting resulted in the highs and lows of sales experience.

Sales of seeds that were well labelled and of good quality sold out very quickly and more stocks of this type in reasonable quantity can be expected to have a similar result. If possible the seed description detail should be written on the packet or if there is insufficient space a separate typed note should be enclosed in each packet so the detail can be read or stapled to the outside of each packet.

Clivia seedlings and plants sales have not fared as well, except for plants that are quite different from those in most members' collections. Once again a clear description of the plant parentage is likely to provide an increased likelihood of achieving a sale.

If the members cannot see that the sale item is different to plants already in their collection (as indicated on a clear label) then the sales opportunity is diminished.



So help yourself and the MCG by supporting the Trading Table with regular small quantities of clivia plants and seeds.

If you need details regarding the Trading Table rules, this can be obtained from the MCG website. Any other enquiries can be sent to Lynn Rawson on [lrawson@howardcomputing.com](mailto:lrawson@howardcomputing.com)



Keep your eyes, ears, and mind open. The mouth should ask questions.

Be selective in the plants you pollinate and allow to set seed. Mature plants produce seed and you have new plants that are coming into flower. I have pollinated some flowers to have the fruit on the plant for the Clivia Expo hoping to have flowers and fruit on one plant.

Pollinate 2-4 florets with same the same pollen parent. By doing this you can get more varied results from the same plant, and do not have an overload of seed with the same result.

Keep a water- tight container with name- tags and pen with your plants. You can mark and write things while it is fresh in your memory.

Use cut up venetian blinds to write plant/pollination notes. This is a big removable name tag - easier to read.

Plant plant divisions or bare- rooted plants with the junction where the root and stem comes together, slightly above the soil for the first few months. This allows you to keep an eye on root rot and to act as quickly as possible. You can top up the soil later.

Water the leaves at stages with a strong water pressure to get rid of mealybug and dust on plants.

Cut additional holes in pot to help with drainage. Most pots are designed with plants that require damp soil, Our Clivia plants require a drier soil. The water should drain quickly. If water sits on top of soil before it drains through, the drainage is not rapid enough. Check the soil mixture and drainage holes.

Having Clivia plants is a hobby. Be kind to your Clivia friends and to your partner/spouse. We need each other.

And from Lisa Fox.....

As soon as my seed pods started to colour, something was running off with the pods and eating the outer skin. I was finding little piles of seeds all over the place.

A friend suggested that it might be mice, so I thought I would try scaring them off with this owl. He has a solar panel on his head and his eyes glow yellow at night.

I won't know until next year if he works at scaring the mice or not, but at night he scares me half to death





## CLIVIA EXPO PROGRAM

22 September, 2012, 10:00am-4:00pm

Free entry

The Melbourne Clivia Group Inc. welcomes you to our second CLIVIA EXPO. Please take time to enjoy the displays and to participate in some of the activities scheduled throughout the day.

**Raffle** \$1 per ticket and win a *Clivia* (raffle draws at 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00 & 3:00). Special raffle \$5 per ticket (raffle draw at 3:30). Ticket holders need to be present at the time of the raffle draw to be eligible to win.

**Peoples' Choice:** select your favourite *Clivia* and go into a draw for more prizes - packets of mixed choice *Clivia* seed. Awards at 3:30.

Demonstrations and activities (assemble at Information or Demonstration tables)

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	1:30		
2:00			
3:00			

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

Tea & coffee \$1 per cup; biscuits \$1 per packet.

Tea/coffee & sandwiches or cake \$5; tea/coffee, sandwich & cake \$7.

Visitors/new members are welcome to attend our bimonthly/monthly meetings held in this Uniting Church hall, third Friday of the month (7:30-9:15). Next meeting: Friday 19 October; the topic is Hydroponics & fertilizer by David Francis.

<http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/>





## CLIVIA EXPO MEMBER GUIDELINES 2012

- All plants, for display or sales, must be free of diseases and pests.
- Plants and pots should be clean and well presented. Saucers will not be used, thus the plants should not be watered during the 3 days prior to the day.
- Members should wear their MCG name tags.
- Exhibitors are requested to email (preferably) or telephone the registrar (Brenda Girdlestone at email: [macstone@hotmail.net.au](mailto:macstone@hotmail.net.au) or telephone: 9390 7073) with details of the number of their display plants on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September, and the time of the delivery of their plants (Friday evening - preferably, or Saturday morning). Each exhibitor will be assigned a number, after which an additional number will be allocated to each plant.
- Set-up of hall: Friday 5:00-6:00. Placing of plants on tables: Friday 6:00-7:00 (if possible, otherwise Saturday 8:30-9:30).
- Only members on duty should enter the hall before 10:00 on the Saturday.
- No plants will be allowed to enter or leave the hall between 10:00 and 4:00.
- Display plants should be accompanied by a plant card, to be placed in front of the plant. Plant cards will be available at the July and August meetings and downloadable from the website and preferably should be filled out in advance. Either use clear handwriting or type them. Here is an example:  

Name: 'Anderson's Peach' (ie cultivar name, where one exists)  
Type: *Clivia miniata*  
Exhibitor: Alice Smith  
Information: "European Peach" which is compatible with other peaches of this type etc. (Provide useful breeding or background information; not where or from whom the plant was purchased.) (This extra information is optional, but will be of interest to some people.)
- Plants on display should not be handled nor pollen or seeds removed by anyone.
- Members are invited to also submit A4-sized photos (these can be laminated or not laminated) of *Clivia* for display on the walls of the hall. This activity is open to all members, whether attending the CLIVIA EXPO or not. Photos should be posted to Lynn Rawson (PO Box 107 Ivanhoe 3079)





- by Wednesday 19th September or delivered to the hall on Friday 21 September (6:00-7:00pm) with name and contact details on the back of each photo. Alternatively, the photos can be brought to the August meeting.
- The sales area will be outside and the operations will be overseen by a Sales Manager. Members may sell *Clivia* plants (or seedlings & seed) on the MCG Trading Table, or else hold their own stall, if notification is given to the Trading Table manager at the August meeting. Two trestles will be provided to each main seller (or joint sellers) by 8:30 on the Saturday. Sellers may replenish plants on their trestles as the need arises. All items should be accompanied by a Trading Table form which should be submitted to the Sales Manager in advance of any sales.
- Sellers are encouraged to participate in the display and are also encouraged to make themselves available for a rostered shift, where possible.
- Sales plants should be delivered on Saturday between 8:30-9:45 and be labelled eg *Clivia miniata* (and colour, or other feature, where appropriate) and give the seller's name or initials and price. During the day, sellers should tick off on a duplicate copy of the Trading Table form what items they sell and tally the amount by 4:30 that day. Sellers will pay the Sales Manager 10% commission on all sales at or soon after 4:30 that day and also return the duplicate form.
- After the hall is closed at 4:00 to everyone apart from exhibitors, the latter are to assemble their own plants in a section and be responsible for checking off their own plants. Following a closing announcement by the Hall manager, plants may be removed. Finally, the furniture will be dismantled and the hall swept and cleaned up.
- When transporting plants, secure the pots well and stake the flowering stem as this can be easily damaged. Generally the stake should be removed when on display. Where a flower is accidentally broken off during transit, it can be displayed on the pot, if so desired. It is permissible to stake a stem of berries, and, if you wish, cover this with netting for protection.
- While utmost care will be taken with all the plants on display, the MCG cannot be held responsible for unforeseen events.



Here is a copy of the Clivia Expo Poster designed by Vu Dang of the Clivia Expo sub-committee.

Thank you to Vu for such a great poster.

**CLIVIA EXPO**

**SATURDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER, 10:00AM-4:00PM**

UNITING CHURCH, CNR BLACKBURN RD & BURWOOD H'WAY  
BURWOOD (MELWAYS 61 K6)  
INQUIRIES: 0410 929510  
<http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/>

**FREE ENTRY**

- DISPLAYS OF CLIVIA FLOWERS, PLANTS, PHOTOS & POSTERS
- SEE THE DIFFERENT CLIVIA SPECIES
- DEMONSTRATIONS:  
SEED PREPARATION FOR SOWING, DIVIDING PLANTS AND POLLINATING
- BRING YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT CLIVIA CULTURE
- MEET OTHERS INTERESTED IN CLIVIA
- RAFFLE & SALES

MELBOURNE  
CLIVIA GROUP INC.

