



Message from the President

There was no "blue" *Clivia* on display for the public to view and I doubt that there were many clones of some of the special plants on display available outside for sale either. Nevertheless, our second CLIVIA EXPO has been voted a very successful event by visitors and MCG members alike. And so it should, in view of the amount of planning and effort which such a venture requires. The weather was kind to us and most of the organization on the day went smoothly. I have since heard feedback which described the display as "absolutely stunning", "spectacular" and the like. You can read a brief group report on the event in this newsletter. Don't forget to check out the photos on the website either: <http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/gallery.html>

THANK YOU to all those people who contributed in the long lead-up to the day and on the day itself. It would be dangerous to try and single out and name all the individuals who undertook so many tasks so I will just attempt one overall expression of gratitude. However, the committees responsible for the planning and for undertaking many of the preparatory tasks do deserve a special mention. In particular, the CLIVIA EXPO (or CE, as we often abbreviate it in our emails) sub-committee members undertook the bulk of this work and consisted of Michael Barrett, Vu Dang, Haydn Lomas, Lynn Rawson, George Simmler, Erika van der Spuy and myself. After the initial main planning was undertaken by this sub-committee, there was joint cooperation with the remaining members of the general committee - Rae Begg, Brenda Girdlestone and Di Mathews. A number of family members also substantially assisted on the day and we express our gratitude to them.

Since the last newsletter we welcomed Bob Campbell from Sage Horticultural in July who spoke about various materials, equipment, fertilizers and so on which are useful for the growing of plants. Our August meeting focused on the preparation of plants for our CLIVIA EXPO and Vu Dang gave some very useful tips on this topic. In July I recall that we had a good display of interspecifics, especially *C. miniata* x *C. gardenii*, but the display table was a little light on at the August meeting. Rae Begg supplied an Australian-bred daruma for the raffle in August and in July I supplied a *C. caulescens* plant. A propagating tray and small pots of Neutrog fertilizer were also distributed via the raffle in August. Unfortunately, we were not able to record the names of all the donors of raffle plants on 22 September but the club does express its gratitude to all, especially to Jeanne Marten for her donation of a substantial number of raffle plants. The raffles (an hourly raffle plus a special raffle consisting of four plants) raised a total of \$571 so it was very profitable for the MCG and helped substantially to cover running costs for the day. Thanks to all those who made this possible.

Our coming meeting on Friday 19 October (7:30, Uniting Church, corner of Burwood Hwy and Blackburn Rd, Burwood) will be the last for the year (we will not have a November function in 2012). Please note that we will use the former hall on the same premises, since there will be a flower show that weekend in the main, bigger hall which we now regularly use.

David Francis will introduce the topic of hydroponics and fertiliser, especially in relation to *Clivia* culture.

There should be plenty of *Clivia miniata* still in flower so please do bring them along for display. Also, depending on how much time is available, we want to hear from many of you about your 2012 blooms, for example, anything special flowering for the first time, some difference in the flowering pattern of a particular plant, a new flower from your own cross and so on.

.September and October are especially busy months for *Clivia* growers and also are probably the most pleasurable. As I look at my flowers, sometimes I think I am in "Clivia heaven". Do come and share your interests with the group on 19 October. We also hope that members will bring something a little more special for supper on this last get-together.

Helen Marriott



Editor's Message

This newsletter is our Expo edition, and we hope that the members who were unable to attend will still feel that they shared the day after perusing this edition.

The day was judged to be a great success, with a stunning display of flowers exhibited by members who are too numerous to mention by name.

There were beautiful bronzes, creams, watercolours, peaches, pinks, and even green *clivias* on display.

Eddie Pang exhibited a beautiful display of exquisite Chinese *clivias*, including a beautifully coloured blushed cream.

Many of the visitors were amazed to see the array of different colours that are now available in *clivias*, as well as the huge flowerheads.

Thank you to all the people who have contributed their thoughts regarding the EXPO for this newsletter - the newsletter needs to reflect the thoughts and ideas of the club members, and it is wonderful to see people contributing in this way. An event such as this is a combined effort, and I would like to thank all involved without naming individuals.



A beautiful display of plants exhibited by Eddie Pang.

Events & Contacts

NEXT MEETING
Friday 19th October 2012

7.30 pm

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

**19 October 2012 - Assessing the year's
Clivia blooms**

**Hydroponics & Fertiliser - David
Francis**

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.*

Spring Care of Clivias

The warm weather and delightful perfumes of spring have now arrived, and this heralds a busy time in the garden generally, and with our lovely *clivias* in particular.

New growth will be evident, and this means fertilizing your plants and being more generous with the watering, as your needs dictate.

Those pesky little pests such as mealybugs, slugs, and other chewing insects will also be waking from their winter slumber, so be on full alert for these and deal with them before they do damage to your plants.

The rays of the sun are now getting stronger, so ensure that your plants are well protected to avoid the leaves suffering from sunburn.

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 November
2012*

OUR ADDRESS

Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

PO Box 811,

Lilydale, VIC 3140

www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au



Clivia Expo 2012

While many of us are in the midst of enjoying this terrific *Clivia* season here in Melbourne (or elsewhere), the club's big event for the year - CLIVIA EXPO - has come and gone. To follow is a report from some of the participants in it.

Writing on 24 September, two days after the second CLIVIA EXPO, **Yvonne Hargreaves** posted the following message to the Yahoo email group summarizing the event:

I am writing to congratulate fellow members of the Melbourne Clivia Group on the CLIVIA EXPO held on Saturday. It was an outrageous success!!! The public flocked to view the glorious display and were amazed at the range of colours and shapes of the blooms. We *Clivia* addicts were also very impressed and somewhat envious of the plants other members had fetched in for the display. I cannot tell you display plant numbers – but the display itself was extensive and even bigger than last year, I think. The whole day was truly wonderful – due to the massive organisational task undertaken and the contributions of labour and ideas and support from many members. It was a most attractive display – well laid out and easy to move around. Thousands of images were taken over the day.



Information and Demonstration tables were well attended and people queued to learn about growing and hybridising our beloved *Clivia*. The Trading Table did a roaring business. It was just mobbed. A few of the bigger individual growers manned their own stalls at the front of the hall supplying plants to an eager public. It is a much valued once a year chance to collect some choice items that are in surplus from other growers. New members signed up eagerly.

As to patron numbers – we don't charge a fee so cannot even estimate but I can tell you the people flowed in steadily all day, with little slow down even over the lunch time. The catering was extremely good – a very long day indeed for the stalwarts who took on the task. Folks enjoyed hot drinks and freshly-cut sandwiches along with homemade cakes at tables where they could sit and chat whilst looking at the flowers.

Congratulations must go to the Winners of the Peoples' Choice awards who were: Laurens Rijke 1st(*Right*) ; Helen Marriott 2nd; and, Laurens Rijke 3rd.



Alick Mc Leman, a visitor from New Zealand, presented the winners with rosettes. Break down and clean up were done in record time and we all headed to the home of a member for drinks and great food and lots of chat and laughter...a very pleasant wind down.

WELL DONE to all who participated and supported the MCG CLIVIA EXPO 2012.



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Kerrie McElroy, an interstate visitor, also shared her evaluation on the e-mail group, writing positively of the event:

It was a fantastic show and congratulations are due to everyone involved. For me, it was definitely worth the trip to Melbourne. Seeing so many really special *Clivia* was a humbling experience. I had a very enjoyable day and the after party was fun too with great food and great company. Thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome.

Michael Barrett sent in some more detailed comments using his iPhone from Toowoomba where he went the following week:

It is said that efforts pay dividends. So it was shown with our CLIVIA EXPO, with a great day being had by all. Being a member of the sub-committee, I gained appreciation and experience in seeing how much planning was required for an organised event. My hat goes off to the entire group for such a mass of quality flowers on display.

Elynn and Vu arranged them so beautifully.

I only briefly saw the quick trading being made outside. I am in awe of Lynn and the Trading Table volunteers who coped with eager buyers. A great success financially, it appears the expo will be a hunting ground for quality plants by members and the public for years to come.



Multipetal bred by Helen Marriott

For my part I was so pleased that the catering was so delicious and appreciated. I hope others noticed what a pleasant atmosphere was created. I must give a special thanks to the donors of cakes and sweet slices, Di, Yvonne and Georgina much enjoyed and added to the coffers for the day. I learnt lots from Lorrie as to great sandwich-making, and so enjoyed her company along with Georgina and Imgard.

I did a demonstration which ended up being a combined seed peeling and pollination talk. You peel seed all the more intently if you know the cross or why you want the seeds to grow to something with promise. You feel the public gained much from the demos. Well done to all. The raffles were such a great success, and many thanks to all the donors, so generous.

Finally, it was so interesting to look at the Peoples' Choice awards and the winning plants. I really liked the extra places, as it gave another understanding to what beauty is in the eye of the beholders. There were so many truly wonderful specimens. Well done to everyone for bringing so many top plants, which were so clean and healthy. It really made for a great day shared with old and new *Clivia* friends from near and far. They say there is no "I" in team but certainly we can surmise that it was a success because it had "U" in it. Looking forward to many CLIVIA EXPOs in the coming years.



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The Trading Table manager, **Lynn Rawson**, describes some of the happenings outside the main display hall, as follows:

A nearly perfect result from a perfect day!

The Expo Trading Table was set up from 8.00am on the day under a gazebo that was brought to ward off any possibility of showers but ended up serving the purpose of keeping the sun from the *Clivia* for sale.



With two or three main sellers and many others with a few plants for sale there was huge interest in the offerings. This particularly related to Helen's 'Aurea' offsets, Peter Hausler's wide collection and Yvonne Hargreaves' reds. If we had had 500 red *Clivia* for sale rather than the five that were available they all would have sold.

The most frequently asked question for the day by a long margin was "have you got any reds?"

Peter and Lynn at the Trading Table

There were only about a dozen plants remaining at the end of trade but seeds did not seem to be a big seller, with most people wanting an "instant" garden.

One very quaint enquiry was from an elderly lady who came with a piece of paper on which she had written "No 107" (a number of a display plant she had seen inside) with a brief description of the plant. Her enquiry was "where have you got one of these?" It would have been very nice to have a clone for most of the plants on display, but I had to disappoint her. The Trading Table and four solo sellers raised nearly \$1000 in commission for the MCG and the donation buckets raised almost another \$200.00. It was great that the two donations of \$10.00 each came from visitors as they left the display, mentioning their appreciation of the magnificent efforts.



In rounding off the description of CLIVIA EXPO, **Helen Marriott** describes a few other aspects:

After last year's inaugural CLIVIA EXPO, we thought that we could probably do even better in 2012, and I think there is unanimous agreement that we undoubtedly achieved this goal. Nineteen members brought over 160 plants for display, representing an increase of 50% in the number of plants on display in comparison with 2011. This year we commenced a registrar of plants on display, compiled by Brenda Girdlestone with the help of Chee Perks. The increased number of display plants was largely due to the new and substantial contributions from Peter Hausler and Lisa Fox, as well as Eddie Pang, who brought some magnificent Chinese *Clivia*. Furthermore, while Australian breeders, including MCG members' own breeding results were on display, various international breeders were



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also well represented, as could be expected given the existing international networks of buyers and sellers, and friends and acquaintances which exist these days. As the membership of the MCG grows and everyone's *Clivia* experiences also increase, hopefully it won't be long before we can organise a separate bench displaying plants bred by members at the annual CLIVIA EXPO. This should not be too far off. Would anyone like to make a prediction?

The timing of these public displays is always tricky, given that micro climates vary even within the same city, and differences in seasonal weather patterns can also slightly alter the flowering time for *Clivia* from year to year. The right timing of a show such as this is thus crucial for those newer to growing *Clivia* and who have fewer plants, while those with bigger collections are able to make a selection of the best plants for that particular week or even weekend. An important addition this year was Vu Dang's idea of having a separate bench for the various pendulous species, with (*C. nobilis* and *C. caulescens*) or without flowers.

We thank Ian Coates (UK) for his kind supply of two *C. mirabilis* photos. A small number of impressive interspecifics were found in the main display and Michael wrote an appropriate description to accompany his plant of *C. x crytanthiflora*.

Given that some non-member visitors have this plant growing in their gardens, in the future perhaps we could also organise a small corner with a few of these plants to show some of the variation they exhibit.



Using minimal materials (a few planks of wood and a couple of huge decorative ceramic pots), Vu once again turned the hall into a great venue for the display. With the help of a few assistants and in limited time on the Friday evening, he organized a tiered arrangement, which I'm sure made a great impact upon entry to the hall (even if admiring some of the higher plants and their labels a little more difficult). Thanks to Lynn Rawson's initiative, the walls were filled with many photos alongside of other big posters which were also contributed by members. As mentioned above, another new addition in 2012, due to the ideas of Haydn Lomas and Michael Barrett, was a lunch service as well as improved refreshments during the day.



The assistance of various family members in this and other roles on the day was essential.



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A total of 150 visitors and members took part in the Peoples' Choice competition (lower than last year). As a long-term grower and devotee of *Clivia*, it was most appropriate that Laurens Rijke's broad-petalled yellow was voted as the top plant. What perhaps is not known is that this plant was Laurens's own cross of a Nakamura yellow crossed with a Solomone yellow.

The second plant attracting the highest number of votes was my bronze multipetal/multitepal with a green throat, bred by John van de Linde (South Africa). Its mature-like full umbel and broad tepals made it an attractive plant but given that this was its first flowering, it may even get better! Another of Laurens's plants, an 'Emmie Wittig's Pink' hybrid, bred by Sean Chubb (South Africa), attracted the third highest number of votes, with people appreciating its delicate, beautiful colourings and of course, the two umbels on the plant.



How people knew about the event was again investigated through the Peoples' Choice form by means of an open-ended question. Contrary to last year where a main article on *Clivia* featured in the gardening page of a leading daily newspaper on the day of the display and attracted 40% of visitors (who submitted this form), the briefer (also free) notice of the event in the same paper, together with an earlier article on *Clivia* in a national newspaper and mentions in several local papers and a gardening magazine, alongside of a radio announcement, revealed that utilization of the mass media remains very important. Also of significance is personal contact and invitation, eg friends, as well as signage outside the venue in advance (and on the day) and the group's own website. Garden clubs, where representatives of the MCG are increasingly being invited to give talks, were another important source of visitors.

Two happy new owners of a clivia plant each

With a lot of activities happening during the day as well as various roles needing to be filled, Erika van der Spuy had difficulty filling all the rosters. While we often heard that the event was expertly organised, underneath a few inadequacies became evident and it is clear that some organizational "tweaking" will be needed before the 2013 CLIVIA EXPO. In particular, we will need MORE members to volunteer some of their time on the day to make it even more successful than this year.



George Simmler took numerous photographs on the day. These can be seen on the MCG's website: <http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/gallery.html>

Thank you ALL for a great event.



Clivia Expo 2012





Lowveld Club receives Clivia Trophy from Australia

NELSPRUIT - The popular Clivia plant, also grown and planted locally, has ensured a connection between the lowveld and Australia.

The Chairman of the Lowveld Clivia Club, Paul Kloeck visited Toowoomba in Australia in 2008 for their annual "Carnival of Flowers" celebration. He met up with several enthusiastic clivia breeders there, one of which, Jeanne Marten, has been growing extraordinary clivias in expansive numbers for nearly fifty years, not, however, for any commercial gain, but purely for her love of this striking plant.



Roger Fisher and Paul Kloeck accepting the Kevin Walters People's Choice Award Trophy - Left

When Marten's cousin, Kevin Walters died earlier this year, she wanted to do something in his honour. She had a special trophy made and sent it all the way from Australia to the Lowveld Clivia Club to be used for the recipients of the "Best on Show" awards at the Annual Lowveld Clivia Shows. She also sent a parcel of clivia seeds from her prized clivias to be sold in aid of clivia research in South Africa.

The first introduction of clivia into Australia occurred in 1844 when JC Bidwell, an early director of the Sydney Botanical Gardens, brought some *Clivia nobilis* from South Africa on board the *Arachne* to Sydney. Today Clivia are very sought after in Australia. The similarity between the Australian and South Africa climate has resulted in them being so easily established and grown in a place so remote from its natural habitat and yet in the same hemisphere.

The Lowveld Clivia Club in Nelspruit, South Africa, is now the proud owner of a special trophy made by Jeanne Marten in honour of her cousin, the late Kevin Walters, and donated to the club.

The chairman of the Lowveld Club visited Toowoomba in 2008, and there he met up with several clivia breeders, including Jeanne Marten and Kevin Walters.

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