



Message from the President

I think it is fair to claim that 2012 finished on a high note for the MCG and for many of the enthusiasts making up its membership. Our CLIVIA EXPO on 22nd September was extremely successful and soon after that quite a few members visited Toowoomba or New Zealand where they were able to further immerse themselves in Clivia. Others of us enjoyed observing our plants at home. Accordingly, it was not surprising that our last meeting which was held on 19 October was a lively one, with a lot of talk between groups of individuals of their recent experiences.

At the October meeting, we were pleased to welcome a few new members and visitors whom we hope were able to enjoy the small display of attractive plants. David Francis from Duralite led a very informative evening covering a range of topics, especially the different components of fertilizers and potting mixes, and he also provided a lot of useful tips for growing plants. This included, for example, selecting the better slow-release fertilizer, the grouping of pots which have different potting mixes for the purpose of watering, and the value of using seaweed products for various purposes. He also explained how organic fungicides work and recommended the combination of a spray such as Eco Oil as a spot check in combination with a systemic chemical such as Confidor to combat mealy bug. The range of questions from the members indicated that many of the topics he covered were of basic interest and importance to us.

The raffle prizes for October consisted of *C. robusta* (donated by Jeanne Marten), which was won by one of our newer members and a variegated seedling (from John Craigie), which was taken home by Kelvin Mitchell who proudly informed me that he had always admired the variegates he had seen in a friend's Clivia collection.

Planning for 2013 is well underway by the committee. Our first meeting for the year will be held on Friday 15th February. This is our AGM, when all committee positions are declared vacant. This newsletter contains nomination forms for the six positions, in addition to an appointment of proxy form for those who wish to lodge a vote for a particular person(s) but cannot be present. That evening, Michael Barrett will introduce us to some of the recent research he has been doing on Cowlshaw's Clivia breeding. In addition, Brenda Girdlestone will coordinate a presentation by some of the members who recently visited New Zealand and/or Toowoomba. Do come and see their slides and hear of their experiences.

The schedule for other meetings for the year is currently being finalised. Most importantly, our third CLIVIA EXPO will be held on Saturday 21 September, 2013. This date was chosen to avoid any clash with the football grand final, which we expect to be held on the following Saturday.

A number of changes will occur in the coming months. The MCG mailbox address has moved, and we will also see an updated website in the near future. Lisa Fox, our website manager, will undertake a redevelopment of the website with more functionality and interactive features. Similarly, the newsletter will also undergo an update after the new website is in place. Another initiative in 2013 will be the establishment of a Photo Library under the leadership of Lynn Rawson. We hope that members can contribute to, and also benefit from these important channels of the club.

MEMBERSHIPS for 2013 are now due. A combined application/renewal form is also found in this newsletter. On behalf of the MCG committee, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a most prosperous 2013.

Helen Marriott



Editor's Message

Well, who can believe that another year is drawing to a close.

In our final edition for 2012, Brenda Girdlestone has presented an article on her recent tour of New Zealand, complete with some photos of the stunning plants that she and other tour members were lucky enough to see.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed articles and photos to the newsletter during the year, and ask that you all continue to seek out any items of interest that can be shared with the MCG via this newsletter.

I wish you all a wonderful and safe festive season, and look forward to 2013.

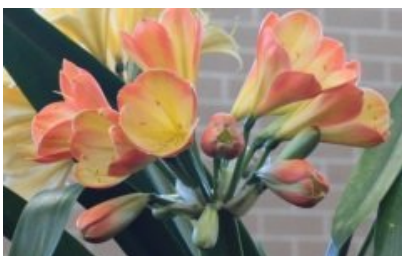
Di Mathews.

Summer in the Garden.

Well, we have already had some hot days, which can only be a taste of what is yet in store for us.

Protection from the hot sun is the first priority over summer, followed by watering according to the needs of your plants. Remember that the flowering spike is believed to form over the summer months, so ensure that your plants have a plentiful supply of nutrients to encourage good flowers the following spring. Of course, all the usual suspects in the form of mealybugs, cockroaches, and other chewing insects will be with us, so be vigilant about eradicating these before your plants sustain too much damage.

FEATURE FLOWER



A beautiful clivia displayed by a member of the MCG.

STOP PRESS

Please note that the MCG now has a new mailing address

All correspondence should now be sent to:

MCG
Burwood East LPO
PO BOX 4225
Burwood East 3151

Membership Renewal

Membership for 2013 is now due, and may be paid either by cash, cheque, or money order. Payment will also be accepted at the February meeting next year.

There is a membership renewal form in this newsletter.

Payment also accepted by direct bank deposit - BSB 083 657 ACC 8297 45477
Please email Rae Begg at bbrigade1@hotmail.com if paying by direct deposit.

Post completed form if paying by mail to:

MCG
Burwood East LPO
PO Box 4225
Burwood East 3151

Annual General Meeting 2013

This will be held on the first meeting in February. Voting and proxy forms for the new committee are in this newsletter.

They must be received no later than seven days before the AGM.

2013 Program

Planning for this is well underway and will be confirmed in early 2013.

Events & Contacts

NEXT MEETING

Friday 15th February 2013
7.30 pm
Uniting Church,
Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd,
Burwood

Michael Barrett - Cowlshaw Clivias

Brenda Girdlestone - Slide Show of
2012 New Zealand tour

19 April - TBC

21 June - TBC

19 July - TBC

16 August - Clivia Expo preparation

21 September - Clivia Expo

18 October - 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

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 January 2013

OUR ADDRESS

Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.
Burwood East LPO
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secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au



Friday Night

After arriving at the motel Friday afternoon, it was time for quick walk down the street, freshen up, then a “meet and greet” with the other people on the tour. Including some of the members from New Zealand Club who joined us for the night, a meal and good company, it was time to be inspired by some photos of New Zealand “The year that was,” which is presented at the first meeting of the year. This is done to introduce what had flowered and surprised members during the previous flowering season. The night closed with a preview of the 2012 Toowoomba Show.

Saturday

After breakfast we all boarded the bus bound for Keith Hammett’s property. On entering the property we were greeted by a large display of mass plantings of clivia as we walked along the driveway, passing the pond and up to the house, where we were met by Keith. After introductions and a brief background of the property, we were then led on a guided tour of the gardens. The gardens are all planted out in colour co-ordinated beds with tags on each planting including date, seed batch, and also including any crossing done. Keith also keeps these records on a computer, and has written copies as back-ups.



Mirabilis – Left

After a BBQ lunch it was time to say goodbye to Keith and his all-inspiring property. On the walk down the driveway we were met by Pam Hatch, who presented the group with a couple of pots of ‘Clivia mirabilis’. New Zealand imported several of these plants from South Africa a few years ago, and they went out to participating members to grow. This was certainly the icing on the cake for me - to see this plant growing when I have only heard about it was something I will always remember. How much better can this trip get ?



Keith Hammett’s – Above



It was time to view Murray and Bev Gow’s terraced garden. On entering this garden, the first thing we noticed as you walked down the short driveway was the beach umbrellas erected above the clivia plants, protecting the flowers from the hot afternoon sun. After short introductions, we were given a guided tour along narrow winding pathways through the mass planting of clivia

Murray and Bev Gow’s - left



Next stop on the agenda was Alick and Frances McLeman's collection of clivia. The majority of this property is potted plants under shade cloth - the back veranda had pots of flowering plants in a variety of colours. Wandering up into the shade houses were many more flowering plants. This was a good example of using a suburban block and making the most out of limited space.

The afternoon was finished with afternoon tea and a glass of wine. What a way to finish the gardens we visited on the day.

Alick and Frances McLeman's - Left

Sunday

After breakfast, it was time again to board the bus. This time we headed to Rex and Dee Williams, a stop for morning tea prior to arriving at Rex and Dee's. This property was originally an old quarry, but has now been transformed into a gardener's haven. A large number of trees and ferns planted onto the property give the clivia plantings much needed protection from the weather. Lovely winding pathways around the plantings gives this area a tranquil atmosphere, and it is not long before the pathway leads you to a seat where you can sit and quietly contemplate the garden. In this setting is easy to forget there are other visitors roaming around the garden.

For the locals on this tour, this was a chance for them to get their clivia 'fix' with plants for sale - a very frustrating time for us international visitors.

Leaving Rex and Dee's we headed to a café where lunch was available, then again we were on the road to the Tauranga Show. This was a chance to catch up with some of the New Zealand members who we had already met, and others we were still to meet. There was much interest shown at this show not only by the members on our tour, but the locals also attend in large numbers. There were benches of show clivia and again for the locals, a chance to add to their collections.

One of the benches was set up with a small number of plants covering the clivia colour spectrum, and this was a chance for visitors to select their preferred colour, placing a copper coin in the adjacent box for the plant. Not surprisingly, the choice of the people was a Green Hirao.



Tauranga Show - Above

Arriving back at the Hotel in time for a shower and change, it was out to a local restaurant for dinner with a chance to reflect, and more socializing over a meal and glass of wine.



Monday

Terry, Pam and Lindsay Hatches' place was the next stop on the agenda. This is again a large property with mass plantings. Many of the clivia plantings are under Totara trees; it is the belief of the owners that these trees assist with the growing conditions on the property. It would be very hard to disagree with this as you wander beneath the tree canopies with the flowering clivia underneath. It was then time for morning tea and further wandering around this stunning property



Next stop was Ian and Shirley Baldick's collection. Ian is an avid grower of magnolias, and he has incorporated this love into a garden which is a wonderland to stroll through. Along with Clivia there are also many azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons to keep any keen gardener interested.

Ian and Shirley provided a lunch which was greatly appreciated - all of this fresh air and walking certainly makes one hungry.

Ian And Shirley Baldick's - Left

Our last stop for the tour was at David Brundell's property. After being greeted by David, it was time for a guided tour through his garden, upon this tour ending in the shade house, it was also a chance for us international visitors to purchase some seeds. In this, we were at least back on level ground with the locals, but not to be out-done again, the locals also had the opportunity to purchase plants. Everyone left David's in a satisfied mood.

The evening ended with a farewell meal, the chance to say thank you for the well-organised tour, and a final chance to thank some of the New Zealand members that made this trip so memorable. The night was completed with a slide show of the Melbourne Clivia Expo.

On Tuesday, we were booked to fly home in the afternoon. After saying goodbye to those that were staying on for the show at the weekend, we headed off to the Botanical Gardens.

What a surprise we were greeted with - many old plantings of orange and yellow miniatas with some peaches thrown in for good measure, giving visitors a splendid show of colour. Strolling around the gardens we discovered many new plantings including all species of Clivia and crosses of interspecifics.

These young plantings will ensure that visitors to the Botanic Gardens in years to come will be greeted with flowering Clivia no matter what the time of year.



Member Profile - Andrea Whitty

How long have you been interested in clivias?
About six years.

How did you first become interested in clivias?
Our neighbours in Flinders had a massive area of clivia plantings that they had brought from their previous property in Northcote. I knew nothing about the plant and took some seeds, planted them, promptly forgot about them and when we were moving to Oakleigh - rediscovered them in pots along a fence line in a shady spot.

How has your interest developed since you started?
I planted out my seedlings in my new garden in Oakleigh - I had no idea they would take so long to flower but enjoyed the growth in the shady area of the garden

Do you have a favourite?
No - I was so excited to see blooms on my plants this year, I have yet to decide on a favourite.

Have you had any interesting experiences relating to clivia?
After reading of the Clivia Group 2011 exhibition in the "Age", I visited and was immediately hooked - I had no idea there were so many varieties. I purchased many seeds on the day and subsequent Clivia Group meetings. I read extensively any literature I could find on Clivias and planted my seeds out beautifully labelled in my new hot house. During 2012 winter we had a terrific wind and the hot house blew over and I now have a seedling planting called "my lucky dip" .

Do you specialise in any particular type of clivia?
No, I am still very much the novice.

Do you have clivia in pots, in the ground or both?
I have the basic Clivia planted in the ground but the majority are in pots. I was horrified earlier this year to find that somebody had dug up a series of plants from my front garden. They must have known what they were looking for as they left the basic plants.



What are your hopes for the future clivia wise?
I hope that the Clivia community continues to expand and share their knowledge with "us novices".
My one wish would be that some enterprising nursery person would either package potting mix suitable for Clivias or have available the ingredients to purchase in bulk.

Do you have any other comments?
I have found the Clivia Group meetings very interesting. The members who have given me seeds, seedlings and plants to expand my collection are very kind and considerate.
The 2011 and 2012 exhibitions were just fantastic and I hope the interest generated has increased the membership of the group.
I would suggest that all members make a concerted effort to mark the 2013 exhibition in their diaries and make a special effort to attend on the day and encourage all visitors to join the group - the planning group worked untiringly, setting up - managing - and dismantling the exhibition need and deserve all the assistance available.
I look forward to the next meeting in February - it seems such a long time away.



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

Burwood East LPO
PO Box 4225
Burwood East 3151

Email: secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au
Tel: 0410929510

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS Nomination form 2013

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 15 February.

Following the Model Rules adopted by the Association, nominations should be sent to the Secretary by 8 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:



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

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APPOINTMENT OF PROXY 2013

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, 15 February 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



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL OF THE MELBOURNE CLIVIA GROUP INC.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____

Mobile: _____

E-mail: _____

If you supply an e-mail address, you will receive the group newsletter by e-mail.

- I wish to become a member of the Melbourne Clivia Group Inc. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the group for the time being in force.
- I wish to renew my membership.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

- | | | |
|--|------|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Membership
(discounted for electronic newsletter) | 2013 | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Membership
(with hard copy newsletter) | 2013 | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Each additional family member | | \$10 |
- Please tick the box if you agree to your name, phone number, and e-mail address being distributed to other members of this group.

Please note: We do not distribute your personal details to any other party without your expressed permission.

Please make cheques payable to Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.