



Message from the President

Happy New Year to all. As I write in mid-January, there is a slight lull between heatwaves but the dryness continues, and various fires burn around the country. I hope that everyone has been able to look after their Clivia adequately, though in my own case some areas of the garden are severely suffering from dryness. Watering in summer, particularly during exceptionally hot weather, is a “hot” topic among Clivia growers and perhaps we can hear about different peoples’ practices at our next meeting.

I trust that most people have been able to start the New Year refreshed and looking forward to what 2013 brings. The MCG has planned an interesting schedule for this year covering some of the most important topics for Clivia growers – plant protection (including the management of diseases and pests), fertilization and breeding. We hope that as many members as possible will participate in our meetings. Visitors, of course, are also most welcome. We commence the year on Friday 15 February with the AGM when Michael Barrett will also introduce Cowlshaw Clivias. In addition, Brenda Girdlestone will coordinate a presentation on visits in 2012 to New Zealand and Toowoomba made by some of our members.

The important topic of plant protection will be covered on 19 April by Neil Duncan, and on 21 June we will again have the pleasure of hearing about Clivia breeding from Ken Russell and from Yvonne Hargreaves on some of her growing experiences. The 19 July meeting is yet to be finalised but the meeting on 16 August will be devoted to preparation for CLIVIA EXPO, which this year will take place on Saturday 21 September. I hope you enjoy reading Alick McLeman’s report on his visit to last year’s event in this newsletter. We will finish the main meeting schedule on 18 October when David Francis will return to discuss and give advice on fertilization.

Membership renewals are now due for those who have not yet completed this process. A form is attached with this newsletter.

Towards the end of last year, Consumer Affairs Victoria replaced the Associations Incorporation Act 1981 with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 which involves some new laws regarding the running of incorporated associations, including not-for-profit clubs such as the MCG. At the next meeting I will briefly introduce some of the changes which Consumer Affairs have incorporated into a new set of model rules. I recommend that this matter be considered carefully by the new 2013 committee and recommendations be brought back to a future meeting of the club.

We again invite members to consider serving on the 2013 committee. If you wish to make a nomination please use the form that was attached to the last newsletter in 2012 and which is included again here. The volunteer work which committee members undertake is necessary so that the MCG can continue its operation, so do seriously think about how you can contribute. Of course, there are numerous forms of help which other members can give the club outside of the main committee work, and it is only with all of this combined input that the club can become stronger.

I look forward to a good start to the year on 15 February. Please do bring any plants suitable for display and something for supper, if you wish.

Helen Marriott



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

January 2013
Vol.6.1

Editor's Message

This is our first edition for 2013, and I would like to thank both Jeanne Marten and Alick McLeman for contributing interesting articles for your enjoyment.

Please do not be shy about contributing to your newsletter – all offerings are gratefully received, and may be short or long, depending on your interests.

It has been a hot start to the year, and some members are struggling more than others with this heat, depending on their location. I hope that all our country members stay safe over summer with the ever-present risk of bushfires.

I have also added a short article on mealybugs, as there seem to have been several reported outbreaks of this pest, which can have devastating consequences for plants if left unchecked.

Di Mathews.

**Membership renewals now due.
Please see attached form.**



A beautiful watercolour clivia owned by an MCG member.

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.

Summer Care of Clivias

Well, summer has arrived with a blast of hot air, so there are some ways to help keep your plants happy and healthy over this season.

Shade is the vital requirement at this time – plants must be under trees, in a south or south-east position under eaves or a verandah, or under shade cloth for those lucky enough to have a shade house.

Water plants early in the day to avoid water sitting in the leaves overnight where the warmer temperatures and humidity can encourage fungi, and keep well-watered but not over-watered.

Keep a sharp eye out for mealybugs or other chewing pests, which will damage the leaves and allow the entry of disease-causing pathogens.

Check whether the plant requires water by pushing your fingers into the pot – often the surface is dry, but there is plenty of moisture a few centimeters down. These plants are designed to withstand periods of dryness, and their roots store water, so do check first before watering.

Di Mathews

Events & Contacts

NEXT MEETING
Friday 15th February 2013
7.30 pm

Uniting Church,
Cnr Burwood Hwy & Blackburn Rd,
Burwood

15 February 2013 – Cowlshaw Clivias –
Michael Barrett
New Zealand and Toowoomba 2012 –
Brenda Girdlestone
AGM

19 April – Plant Protection – Neil Duncan

21 June – Clivia breeding – Ken Russell
Growing Experiences – Yvonne Hargreaves

19 July – TBC

16 August – Clivia Expo Preparation

21 September – CLIVIA EXPO

18 October – Fertilization – David Francis

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 February 2013

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The discovery of *Clivia mirabilis* in the Oorlogskoof Nature Reserve in 2001 by Johanna Afrika drew attention to this plant.

The Oorlogskoof Nature reserve is situated in the Northern Cape Province, South Africa. This area has an arid Mediterranean climate, with an annual rainfall of only about 415 mm falling during the winter months. Temperatures in winter can fall to 0°C, and reach 40°C in the summer, with occasional coastal mists giving some relief to the arid warmer months.

The *Clivia mirabilis* are found growing in rocky screes of sandstone, with the leaf litter which falls on to the rocks providing nutrients to the plants.

Clivia mirabilis has an extensive root system which is able to penetrate the rocks in search of sufficient nutrients. These roots are also quite thick – about 20mm – and act as water storage during the dry periods. The plants can grow in either semi shade or full sun.

In order to propagate *Clivia mirabilis*, similar conditions need to be replicated to that of their natural habitat.

A few years ago, a sick and ailing *Clivia mirabilis* was bequeathed to us with a note saying that “the others had died” and this last one was now succumbing to the same fate.

The plant was removed from the pot and the potting mix was removed, revealing a long, thin, spindly root. The potting mix was wet, indicating poor drainage. A new potting mix had to be formulated.

Firstly, a pot (200mm in diameter and as deep as possible) with extra drainage holes drilled close to the base of the pot was chosen. The extra holes were drilled to ensure that drainage was not impeded when the pot stood on the flat surface. The pot contents were then added.



Initially there was a layer of large scoria (volcanic rock) with an approximate diameter of 20 to 25mm covering the base of the pot, followed by a layer of potting mix, which was 13mm pine bark with a little sand added to it, and it also incorporated a 6 – 9 month slow release fertilizer with added trace elements.

Subsequent alternating layers consisted of large blue metal rocks (12 to 20mm diameter) and potting mix, incorporating the *Clivia mirabilis* roots until the pot was full.

When the plant was fully potted, an application of soil fungicide (Fongarid or equivalent) was applied.

This fungicide application may be repeated three monthly.

Our bequeathed, ailing *Clivia mirabilis* has flowered, is now setting seeds, and is living happily among our other clivias under shade cloth.



Photographs supplied by Jeanne Marten.



Well Done! Melbourne

Saturday 22nd September 2012 dawned mild and fair, and I was fortunate to be in Melbourne for their 2nd annual CLIVIA EXPO. And the Clivia on display were dazzling.

Like the clubs in Auckland and Toowoomba, the Melbourne Clivia Group have opted for the non-competitive exhibition of their plants in order to encourage individuality and diversity, in contrast to the



South African model where plants vie with one another in competitive array.

Visitors were greeted by a collection of stalls selling a good variety of clivia at tables outside the exhibition hall and in a gazebo-style club sales tent. Business was brisk for most of the day.

Entering the exhibition hall one came face to face with a 'clivia mountain', a kaleidoscope of colour and form which encourage exploration. Exhibition clivia were arranged with no specific grouping in a four tier pyramid running centrally the length of the hall. There were so

many outstanding plants amongst the hundreds on display that it would be

unfair to isolate individual growers. Suffice to say that many of the plants would have been show-stoppers anywhere in the world. Informative display cards conveyed data on the ownership, breeding and background of each plant.





A walk around the 'mountain' took quite some time as it was with some reluctance that visitors passed on from one desirable plant to another, but always accompanied by many 'oohs' and 'ahs' as they came upon another delightful surprise. A small criticism would be that the high tiering prevented one from getting up close and personal with some of the high-up plants.

The exhibition was very user friendly. A left turn at the entrance way brought visitors to the Information Desk ably manned by Lisa Fox, Di Mathews and other club members. Around the corner was a demonstration table manned by Helen Marriott and her helpers, who not only explained things like pollination and seed germination, but took visitors on guided tours of the plants on display. Then on to floral art and displays of individual flowers, and then a display of photos and plants of 'other' species.



Also not to be overlooked was the catering department of Haydn Lomas and his team of able volunteers who supplied refreshing tea, coffee and sandwiches to visitors and helpers alike, all very attractively presented. It really all made us visitors welcome.

Finally, there was an outstanding display of oriental plants by club member, Eddie Pang, who has travelled extensively in China and the Far East and has acquired a great deal of knowledge of their plants. Eddie exhibited a representative selection of clivia of Chinese breeding and a number of outstanding Japanese clones, and was on hand to tell people about them. I would say that this was the finest exhibition of these plants ever outside of China itself.

A real feather in the Melbourne cap.

Well done! Melbourne. And thanks for a great day.

Thank you to Alick McLeman for contributing this article to our newsletter.
It will also appear in the Clivia Society Newsletter 2012 no.4.



Mealybugs

Di Mathews

There have been several reported outbreaks of mealybug this summer, so I thought a reminder about this sucking plant pest was timely, especially for some of our new members.

Mealybugs are members of the Pseudococcidae family, and are unarmored scale insects that are found in warm and moist climates.

They prefer sheltered conditions, and are commonly found in shade houses, and on plants under patios and verandahs.

They feed on the plant juices of plants and act as vectors for several plant diseases.

They also produce honeydew, which leads to sooty mould, fungus, and they are also farmed by ants. If there is a large contingent of ants around your plants, have a good look for mealybugs.

The mealybugs feed on plant sap, and are found on all parts of the plant, but particularly in the crevices between leaves, the undersides of the leaves, and on the roots. They secrete a powdery wax layer to protect themselves while sucking the plant juices.



Mealybugs on clivia leaves. Photo - Di Mathews

The mealybugs that you see on your plants are usually the females, as the males do not usually feed as adults and live only to fertilise the females.

The female mealybug can lay about 100 eggs at a time, and these eggs hatch almost immediately. The mealybug commonly found here is the long-tailed mealybug.

Mealybugs can do great damage to your plants, in particular young plants and seedlings, which can suddenly “fall over” – on closer inspection, sometimes mealybugs can be found to be the cause of this.

They chew into the leaves, which then allows the entry of plant pathogens and disease, and the subsequent demise of your seedling or mature plant.

If there is just a small outbreak, they can be squashed with your fingers, dabbed with a cotton bud dipped in methylated spirits, or removed with a good jet of water from the hose.

Often, however, by the time you notice these pests, there are several colonies of them on your plants, and sterner measures are required.

Chemical solutions can be used, and Confidor is an effective spray, which acts systemically on the plant as well as killing the visible mealybugs.

The dilution of Confidor for the long-tailed mealybug is 20 mls per 3 litres of water.

Pyrethrum is another spray which can be used.



Mealybugs

Di Mathews

Do be careful when using sprays such as these, as they can be toxic, so wear gloves and avoid spraying near your eyes or breathing in the spray.

A non-chemical solution is Neem Oil, in a dilution of 30mls Neem oil and a few drops of dishwashing detergent added to 4.5 litres of water. Dissolve the Neem Oil in a cup of hot water with the dishwashing liquid before adding to the rest of the cold water.

This is completely non-toxic to plants, animals, beneficial insects, and humans. It is taken up by the plant, the insects chew on the plant, and it blocks their hormonal pathways - the insects “forget” to feed, and die after sucking in Neem sprayed plants.

Another organic solution which has been used is to place a clove of garlic into your pot and just leave it there.

The garlic does no harm to the plant, and to the initial surprise of those who have tried, it, appears to completely eliminate the mealybugs within a couple of weeks.

This would be a useful remedy for those who have a small collection of plants, where it is easy to place one clove in each pot.

The important thing to remember is that mealybugs are not only on your plant leaves, but also live in the soil and on the roots, so if the plant is sprayed only, the job is really only half done.

Be sure to drench your pot with the pesticide of your choice as well as spraying the leaves.



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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: _____

- ☐ Single Membership 2013 \$15
(discounted for electronic newsletter)
- ☐ Single Membership 2013 \$20
(with hard copy newsletter)
- ☐ 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.



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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:



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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