



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to announce that the adoption of the new Model Rules has been approved by Consumer Affairs Victoria and, accordingly, changes are being made to some of the operations of the group by the committee to accord with the new rules. The set of rules can be viewed on the group's website.

The date of 21st September for the 2013 CLIVIA EXPO is fast approaching and a few of us can already spot the odd low *C. miniata* bud in addition to an increasing number of interspecific flowers. As chairperson of the sub-committee, Peter Haeusler has updated the member guidelines to include some of the changes being made to this year's event. See pages 10-11. We urge all members to start working out how they can best contribute to its success and, in particular, at this stage we urge everyone to spread the news by distributing flyers and inviting as many people and groups (friends, relatives, work mates, other garden clubs etc.) as possible.

Erika van der Spuy represented the group at the Mt Eliza Morning Garden Club in May and spoke to an enthusiastic number of gardeners, many of whom showed an interest in *Clivia*. We look forward to some of them visiting our CLIVIA EXPO.

From now on we expect that our meetings as well as special events will be announced in advance on Radio Eastern, a community radio station. Thanks Lynn for facilitating this good avenue for promotion of the group's work.

The June meeting was led by Ken Russell from NSW who introduced some aspects of his breeding of *Clivia*. This is an important topic for many of us and we thus thought it appropriate to continue the theme of breeding in this newsletter issue. We also thank Peter for providing some excellent notes on Ken's talk. At the same meeting, Yvonne Hargreaves

shared with us some thoughts about basic visiting etiquette, which served as a timely reminder of the importance of interpersonal relations among club members. Kerrie McElroy also contributes to this newsletter by outlining her recent trip to Japan where she was able to view some of the specialist breeding being undertaken in that country.

By the time this newsletter is distributed the July Potting Workshop will have been held and hopefully we can publish some notes on this event in the subsequent newsletter. We need to rely on some members to take photos of plants at our regular meetings so that we can keep up the records we have to date on our website, thanks to the work of George Simmler in past years.

The 16th August meeting will be devoted to various aspects of preparing for CLIVIA EXPO. In addition, we request that all those members who received three Cant seedlings last year bring them back for comparison and a discussion of growing methods. Do come along, bringing some plants for the display bench as well as your Cant seedlings and anything to sell on the Trading Table.

Helen Marriott



Anderson's Clivias

2013 Seed list available now
Euro peaches, creams & more
Contact Greg 07 4633 2081
Email: apclivias@bigpond.com

MY FAVOURITE CLIVIA

'Moondrops'

Coral Aalbers

And how it all began....

Not so many years ago in the peak of the drought, I decided I needed to find a plant that did not need daily watering. I looked at irises, daylilies and roses. Having a backyard that was heavily shaded I needed to find something else. When reading a garden magazine one day, I came across an advertisement for Burwood Clivia Nursery.

Who knew that there were so many colours other than orange, which I already had successfully growing in my garden. These wonderful plants answered all my requirements and so the obsession began.... I love all clivias but must admit that the Interspecifics make me gasp; they are diverse, the flowers' weeping habit is so delicate, and they have the added bonus of flowering in autumn or winter.

My favourite clivia at the moment is an Interspecific that I purchased not so long ago. Flowering in mid-winter, it is a joy to behold in the deep dark depths of winter.



'Moondrops'



MEMBER PROFILE

Martina Quirk

How long have you been interested in clivias?

I occasionally bought and placed one in the garden with little forethought, but in 2011 I was told that there was a great exhibition of clivias in Burwood. I missed the show unfortunately but saw a flyer at the Pinewood Nursery and noticed the 'Clivia Group' written upon it. I looked you up and joined!

How did you first become interested in Clivia?

I attended a few meetings last year and was impressed with the enthusiasm, energy and knowledge, particularly of those leading the meeting. I had absolutely no idea about the range of clivias but was amazed when I saw some examples.

How has your interest developed since you became interested?

I've experimented with growing some seeds, grateful for the range of opinions that were offered to me at a meeting. I placed a mix of ordinary garden soil and larger pieces of orchid bark in some pots and put about 24 seeds in. I think they all responded to their lack of attention but I've yet had to repot them. They don't seem to be 'tantrumming'!

Do you have a favourite colour/type/species or named cultivar?

I had a great display last year in my garden and was able to purchase some deeper-coloured orange as well as yellow and cream, and the contrast provided quite a picture and I proudly showed people my garden whenever I got the opportunity or, should I say, part of my garden as it's a mess! I prefer the miniata to the gardenii.

Have you had any interesting experiences relating to Clivia?

I am too new as yet but again loved the display in my garden last year and was conscious of mourning their retiring after having provided such a

display. I've enjoyed chatting with people and appreciate John Trotter's generosity in sharing his cumquat jam recipe with me, though I've not attempted it yet.

Do you specialise in any particular type of Clivia?

I am a complete amateur regarding gardening and it's pot luck what grows and what doesn't. I prefer the miniata and don't resonate with gardenii for some reason, but maybe that will change.



Martina Quirk

Do you have Clivia in pots, in the ground or both?

I mainly have my clivias in the garden under the eaves and will be pulling out a whole load of succulents soon to put clivias at the bottom of my lemon scented gums, though the medium into which they will be planted is highly questionable. I don't want to have them in pots and hope they will cope with all the chewing bugs and assorted invaders in the garden.

What are your hopes for the future Clivia wise?

I am probably like the person who said 'I'd like to order a dozen of no. 83', mentioned at the last meeting by Yvonne. I lust after some of the unusual ones but will have to wait for the members to produce magical

examples of them so that I may purchase the products of their skills and talents.

Do you have any more comments?

I'm impressed with the number of people who attend the meetings. I think that Yvonne's talk was very grounding and I hope that those who attend meetings will continue to realise how crucial collaboration rather than competition is in helping the planet via gardening. I've found when teams collaborate, the learning and satisfaction is much greater. I can see and experience the collaboration in the group, particularly with the 'tricks and tips' sharing. Would be fantastic to collect all the different tips and tricks and have them published on the website. It's easy to miss some of the detail when people are speaking.

CULTIVATION NOTES

Michael Barrett

The new newsletter format and style has been a joy to read. Indeed, the deliberate decision to have a variety of authors contribute to the Cultivation Notes section has added freshness through a variety of experiences and opinions. I was delighted to be asked to contribute to this newsletter. While still a novice in comparison to many others in the clivia cultivation stakes, what may be lacking in expertise is more than compensated for by enthusiasm and fascination with horticulture and collecting. In considering my approach to this section, it may be recognised that this time of year is perhaps the clearest 'window' in which to view *The Clivia Collection*.

Like any other collection, it is about 'collection development' and 'collection maintenance'. In terms of collection development, as well as peeling my own berries for seeds, I am now receiving seeds as gifts from generous fellow enthusiasts and



seeds which were ordered months ago from mouth-watering seed lists offered by commercial hybridists. In terms of ordering seeds, I have looked for gaps in what is represented in my collection, and have tried to avoid duplication of previous orders. I have endeavoured to ensure that this year I include more Group 2 yellow and bronze *miniata*. There have also been more additions to the categories of *Clivia miniata* Akebono and European peach that currently hold a strong fascination for me. Other species, with the exception of *C. mirabilis*, are already well represented in my collection.

My seedlings are being raised in reused plastic strawberry containers, in sphagnum moss on a heat bed on the enclosed veranda by the back door. Many seeds are starting to 'do their thing' with the expected pigmentation, or absence of, where appropriate. In addition to seedlings,



Strawberry boxes

I am enjoying seeing evidence of offsets developing on some of my larger plants. I hope that these offsets will continue to grow well as I really enjoy the display of a clump of the same clivia flowering together. Perhaps some offsets will be separated for trading with other members down the track (in order to acquire something missing from my collection).

As the collection develops in size and complexity quickly with seeds, maintenance of last year's seedlings and other more mature seedlings and plants is far more time consuming. I

really take my hat off to growers with large collections as to how they manage the maintenance required to keep the collection healthy. Like previous contributors to this column, I am still amazed to find traces of mealy bug. In checking on some seedlings positioned lower in the shade house it was horrifying to find the underside of the leaves infested with this nasty little pest. Eco oil treatment was applied with positive results. There will be a repeat full inspection of all plants and repeat spraying if necessary. There has also been the occasional 2-3 year old seedling which has suffered root loss. Sometimes there are two seedlings growing in the same pot, with one thriving in the medium and the other not well at all. Repotting these rootless seedlings into the 'Marten' recovery medium of sphagnum moss has shown remarkable root regrowth.

In the process of inspecting the collection for pests and presentation, the opportunity arose to reassess the collection and my aims. With the limitation of space and maturing taste, it became apparent that some 'weeding' was needed. In particular, I had a number of community pots of unknown parentage. A number of years ago I was kindly offered the opportunity to go 'berry collecting' from good but not outstanding plants. As a novice, this was a wonderful way to trial germination methods and raising techniques. The seedlings grew well, however these pots of promise made the perfect source for some gifts for fellow gardeners. The seedlings were growing in a long since ceased mix of coco peat and vermiculite and potted individually in a course mix that includes perlite, and labelled orange or yellow. Truly the pleasure is in the giving and sharing of our passionate hobby! The recipients were thrilled with what may grow into fine plants. I will also look at refining the collection of mature plants after flowering and the possibility of

selling them at the trading table at the CLIVIA EXPO, this year or next.



Mixed berries

I will also ensure that mature plants are rotated so as to avoid lop-sided leaf arrangement. It is hoped there will be at least a few plants to bring for display at the CLIVIA EXPO, so to that end I am starting to remove damaged leaves and clean both pot and leaves. Molasses treatment has commenced, but some residue has been noted on leaves! One must be mindful to mist off after the watering can application. I must say I love the smell of the molasses and the plants do seem to be very healthy for the continued application.

Mature plants are being kept on the 'drier side' in keeping with the 'rest period' custom. Certainly the prescribed winter chill has not been in short supply with many 3.0 degree Celsius mornings. But with days getting longer, the flowering season is almost here!



BREEDING MULTIPETALS

Laurens Rijke

Among my Clivia collection, Nakamura's Multipetals hold special pride of place. Some photos can be seen in the MCG's Gallery. In recent years I have also been breeding with some of these plants myself. Commonly I have crossed strong parents of orange multipetal x orange multipetal and expect the first batch to flower any time now, exhibiting the multipetal characteristic. I have also been crossing one multipetal with the regular 6-petal yellows or peaches. The F1 crosses of these will be orange, but these can be crossed together in a sibling cross or selfed and hopefully will produce multipetal yellows and peaches in the F2s in the future. I took along one F1 plant to the April meeting and it showed a petaloid in one of its flowers.



Multipetal

At the June meeting, both Helen and I took along plants grown from Shige Sasaki's crosses of interspecifics with a multipetal. In my case, the F1 flower was a *miniata* x *caulescens* interspecific which he had crossed to a multipetal. I do not have another sibling of this cross so have tried to self the plant. On the other hand, the plant grown by Helen of Shige's cross of a multipetal crossed with 'Day Tripper' (*miniata* x *caulescens*) showed some multipetal tendency in the first cross.



Multipetal

To breed Multipetals, Yoshikazu Nakamura advises that the multipetal trait can be inherited from either the seed/pod or pollen parent. Breeding different coloured multipetals as well as interspecific multipetals offers lots of exciting possibilities.

- [View more photos of Laurens Rijke's multipetals on our website gallery](#)

A MEMBER'S SUGGESTION

John Reeves from Victoria has written to the MCG saying that he has been impressed with his usage of a new product, Initiator, a systemic plant insecticide and fertiliser. With the active ingredient of imidacloprid (as in Confidor), John reports that he has not seen any sign of mealy bugs in the plants he has treated with these tablets. He says that it takes up to 2 months for the treatment to work, depending on how much water plants are given because the treatment has to enter the root system and then up the plant. One tablet is supposed to work for 12 months.



A beautiful Interspecific bred by Laurens Rijke

NEXT MEETING
Friday 16 Aug 7.30pm
Uniting Church
Cnr Blackburn Rd &
Burwood Hwy
Burwood

**Preparation for
CLIVIA EXPO**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

16 Aug 2013
Preparation for CLIVIA EXPO

21 Sep 2013
CLIVIA EXPO (10am-4pm)

18 Oct 2013
Clivia Culture - what, when & how
to fertilise - David Francis - Duralite

COMMITTEE

Helen Marriott - President
Vu Dang - Vice President
Coral Aalbers - Secretary
Rae Begg - Treasurer
Lisa Fox - Committee member
Lynn Rawson - Committee member

Melbourne Clivia Group Phone
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*Deadline for next issue -
15 September, 2013*

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CLIVIA BREEDING

Notes compiled by Peter Haeusler

We were most fortunate in having Ken Russell travel all the way from Dungog in New South Wales to talk at our June meeting on clivia breeding.

Ken spoke about the importance of both taking a long-term perspective with one's clivia breeding plans and the need to be rigorous in the selection of breeding stock. He pointed to the efforts and great success of his friend and mentor, Bill Morris, the world-renowned clivia breeder. Bill is well known for his fine yellows, although it is 'Tango' (a picotee orange with huge yellow throat) for which he is probably best known. It took Bill 40 years to develop his yellows, and of course today when you buy seed from world-renowned breeders like Sean Chubb you will see the legacy of Bill's work continuing in their breeding programs.

Bill started off with a 'poor natural yellow' obtained from the late Mick Dower in South Africa which he crossed with a 'nice orange'. It took five generations to perfect what Bill was prepared to term a 'good yellow'. This involved germinating 5000-10,000 seed each year, and then as these plants reached maturity and flowered selecting only the very best to cross back, at least initially to the orange parent. Gradually the percentage of yellows increased (such that today when crossing Group 1 yellows we can be pretty sure of getting 100% yellows...although with the extent to which genetics are now being mixed we can get quite unanticipated outcomes). Most importantly, the quality of the yellows increased progressively, and over time it increased substantially of course.

As an aside here, those of you who receive the *Clivia News* may have read the article in the latest issue

(vol.22, number 2) by Allan Tait and his experiences with developing a particular hybrid between *Clivia miniata* 'Coromandel' and *Clivia robusta*. Alan talks about putting down 1000 seeds in 2005 but when they flowered he ended up retaining less than 20 plants (i.e. less than 2%) which exhibited the desired characteristics. Interestingly, those that flowered at say 3 years compared with those that flowered for the first time only at 5 years tended to display different characteristics (more of one parent than the other), a further consideration it would seem when crossing species.



'Best Kept Secret' – plant and photo courtesy of Yvonne Hargreaves

Ken has continued to build on Bill's work with the yellows, especially the latter's line producing the highly regarded 'Best Kept Secret', and in turn from it 'Skychase'. Ken stressed the importance of knowing your parent plants and indeed their lineages to get some idea of what you may get – otherwise crossing and mixing strains is simply a lucky dip! This, he said, is even more the case today with the mixing of different species. While certainly producing some amazing results we are also seeing extremely varied results in terms of plant form, as well flower form and colour, even over large numbers of seedlings. In Australia the problems and challenges are greater because of the poor early record-keeping relating to breeding

efforts and the many discrepancies in these. This extends to the *cyrtanthiflora* (sometimes referred to as the Aussie nobilis), the origins and genetic make-up of which remain unclear.

Ken suggested that DNA testing may help increase our knowledge and make for better breeding programs, but he also reminded us in the meantime of Mick Dower's aphorism, 'I rely on someone else to tell me the truth'.

Throughout his talk Ken emphasised the wealth of variation – and uncertainty – that we will all encounter when it comes to breeding clivias. In some respects this is part of the fun and fascination of course, but if you are seeking particular ends then it may be a source of frustration, even confusion. Ken emphasised the importance of finding out what you can about your parent plants, and trying to work out what it is that you want to achieve with a given cross. Also, remembering Bill Morris' experience, don't be too ambitious about what you are likely to achieve in one generation! You might only get 10 suitable plants out of every 100. But take the best and cross it back to the parent, or cross siblings. And in next generation, depending on the outcomes, undertake the same process. Furthermore, if you are crossing, say, different species such as a *Clivia miniata* and a *Clivia robusta* then you should think about crossing these both ways, that is, using the *miniata* as the pod parent with the *robusta* as pollen parent, but also undertaking the reverse cross. Outcomes can vary depending on which is used as the pod and pollen parent. You need to be alert to this and explore the possible effects and outcomes to get the most out of the plants that you are working with.

What you are trying to do is not only produce particular outcomes, and hopefully exciting ones at that, but you also want to work on refining



your strain, achieving consistency in those outcomes. It is all well-and-good to produce some exciting new variation, but the challenge is to reproduce this and indeed to refine it. This is where you put like to like, and seek to do so over generations.

Of course clivias, like people, are not simply a product of their genes. Environmental factors such as lighting, growing medium, and fertilising regime all affect plant development, flower formation and flower colour. Ken emphasised the importance of glucose when it comes to plants growing in artificial mediums such as pine bark. Honey or molasses are being used by many growers with good results. Ken recommends molasses (which can be obtained from produce stores where it is sold for adding to the diet of livestock) at the rate of 2.5-5.0 ml/litre and applied monthly as a foliar spray.

In terms of growing medium, Ken emphasised the crucial importance of maintaining a relatively open, aerated mix. He is not an advocate of using coconut fibre (coir) in a mix as it breaks down too readily and can lead to a mix becoming sodden, leading in turn to root rot and the onset of disease. Perlite added to a mix improves aeration, while wood chips (hardwood, redgum) and stone chips are also very useful from this perspective. Pinebark is probably the most widely used element in mixes but care needs to be taken with ph levels, especially when using fertilisers with high nitrogen levels, to ensure mixes do not become too acidic. Dolomite or calcium carbonate can be employed to good effect to counter this potential problem.

Ken stressed the importance of a good growing medium combined with a balanced and consistent fertilising regime. The aim is to ensure that seedlings get off to a strong start; quick early development is vital to plant health. Again he came

back to the value of molasses in this regard, noting at the same time that he had also found molasses to be 'very effective' in controlling mealy bugs.

CARE, COUTESY, CONSIDERTION AND RESPECT WHILST GROWING CLIVIAS

Yvonne Hargreaves

(The following is an abridged version of the talk given by Yvonne on this topic at our June meeting - Peter Haeusler)

There are things we, as clivia enthusiasts, give to our plants at regular intervals. We take every **care** that they have the conditions they need to thrive, giving them the **courtesy and consideration** of a good environment in which to grow, and in due course **the respect and admiration** such wondrous plants and blooms deserve.

But do we always do the same for our fellow clivia growers?

I was fortunate to enter the world of clivias via my addiction to growing and hybridising beautiful tetraploid hemerocallis, or daylilies. Through growing daylilies I had the privilege to meet and get to know quite well, Valerie Martin, Kevin Walters, Kevin and Coral Larsen and many other gardeners and daylily fanciers. These people, especially Kevin Walters, also introduced me to the world of clivias.

Growing methods, seeds, plants and pollination were only part of the lessons I was shown or learned by osmosis at the side of great growers like the late George Hellen. Plant hygiene and growing was important but I was also made aware – in the nicest possible manner – that there are, shall we say, ways of behaving which ultimately make for greater

enjoyment of our common interest by all concerned.

Consideration

Be sure that you are not inconveniencing fellow growers in your enthusiasm to visit them and see their collections. Not everyone allows visitors, and there can be many different reasons for this. And *never* just arrive without prior arrangement.

I have found it good practice to 'express your interest' and then wait for an invitation. Growers may hang back until they know you a bit better before inviting you or they may just be too busy with other things to find the time needed.



Yvonne taking photos with the permission and help of owner, Mark Cant. Photo by Vu Dang.

Make it clear to the grower in advance exactly who is coming (how many people), please be punctual and don't over stay your welcome. And if you are delayed or plans change then do have the courtesy to telephone.

Clivias are certainly robust, but please exercise particular care at flowering times and around propagating areas for instance. Don't fiddle with the tags – if you lift them out to peruse them you may accidentally replace a tag in the wrong pot!



Privacy and respect

Always ask permission if you would like to take photos and be prepared to pleasantly accept a 'no' if that's the answer you get. If you are permitted to take images please don't flash them around the world on the internet or share them with other growers without permission and appropriate acknowledgment.

Do be considerate of the privacy of the grower and learn to be discreet. If, for instance, he/she has talked to you about breeding plans or shown you something special or even rare but asked you not to pass this on then please respect that.



Ken and Yvonne visiting
Mark Cant in 2010.
Photo by Vu Dang.

It is indeed a privilege to view a good collection and many are grown by enthusiasts who have been working away building up amazing collections over many years, indeed decades. In about 2005 I saw no less than 17 collections in the one season – simply staggering. The fact I was known to be a member of Toowoomba Clivia Society and referred by some notable growers aided me in this wonderful experience. Over the ensuing years many new or different types of clivias have become more readily available so collections everywhere are improving each season. The internet has been a fantastic method of furthering the popularity of clivias, enlightening us all and encouraging

growers to try growing different species and colours.

Growers sharing seedlings, pollen and seeds are a huge benefit when it comes to building a good collection. But of course in the early stages of the development of new varieties such demand can be high and supply limited, so patience is needed! Often growers will keep a list of people interested in securing certain plants or such, but patience is needed as you might have to wait until next season, or indeed for several seasons.

Trips north to Ken Russell's Nursery at Dungog and more recently to Mark Cant's at Patterson have been mind blowing for me as well as very educational. Mark has asked me to extend an invitation to MCG members who might be interested in taking a trip north during the flowering season to view his collection, by prior arrangement of course. Mark is extremely passionate about his clivias and is a very knowledgeable grower. But he is a full-time nurseryman and although his clivias are wondrous they represent only a small portion of his workload so please bear this in mind. Ken Russell's amazing nursery is about 30 minutes' drive further north from Mark and a visit to the two places would make a memorable event for any clivia grower.

Our meetings are of huge benefit in learning, sharing plant and bloom delights, and networking contacts. The annual Expo is exemplary as a display of the beauty of our clivias and helps to further the public's knowledge of the genus as well as give members the chance to spend a little more time than the meetings allow getting to know each other and sharing hints and tips.

Many wonderful days can be enjoyed as we move around each other's shade houses if these few important guidelines are employed using care, consideration, courtesy and respect.

[Contact details for Ken are K. Russell, 28 Mary Street, Dungog, NSW 2420 (ph. 02 49921291). Mark Cant's email is cantsplants@hotmail.com]



- [A PDF of our CLIVIA EXPO flyer is now available to download from our website.](#) Please share with your friends.



JAPAN TOUR

Kerry McElroy

In February, this year, I was very fortunate to be invited to join the Japan Clivia Tour 2013. I accepted the invite and quickly booked my fares before I had time to 'chicken out'. That was just as well, because after my initial excitement, I suffered much anxiety about the idea and it was with some trepidation that I flew to Japan, to join Andre Swart from South Africa, Heidi Nerurkar from Germany and Shigetaka Sasaki, our Japanese host and tour guide. I need not have worried, because Shige looked after us well, and I very much enjoyed spending time with people who shared my passion for Clivia.

On the first full day in Japan, we headed off on the bullet train to Nagoya to visit Hattori's nursery. This necessitated travelling lightly, so I left my suitcase in Shige's van, and just took some essentials in a small backpack. Although I am rather obsessed by Clivias, I had assured Shige before the tour that I did not need to book quarantine space in Australia because I was not actually intending to buy any Clivias. However, as soon as I entered Hattori's nursery, I was really 'blown away' by his beautiful picotees and yellow blush Clivias so that I quickly lost all my resolve and spent most of the pocket money I had taken with me on just two Clivias. Hattori was incredibly kind, and willingly helped to pollinate these plants whilst demonstrating his technique for doing so.



On the second morning, we visited a garden centre, which was full of many beautiful Orchids, Clivias and other flowering plants. The garden centre Clivias were very reasonably priced although of course there were far fewer to choose from. Andre, Shige and Heidi selected Clivias so of course I had to join in the fun and buy one there too.

Next was a visit to Koike's nursery. This was a large, well set up nursery with thousands of Clivias on rolling benches to maximise use of space. Koike is the breeder of the famous green Clivia group, 'Hirao', so of course he had many green Clivias. 'In for a penny, in for a pound' as the saying goes, so I added a 'Hirao' to my small but growing horde of Clivias. However, the variety at Koike's nursery was astounding and I was very taken with many of his Clivias, including the pink and yellow interspecifics.



In the afternoon, we travelled back to Narita, again by train, and in the evening we enjoyed a truly delicious meal in a Japanese restaurant.

The next day, we visited the renowned Yoshikazu Nakamura, and walked about with him in his shade house, while he used his walking stick to point out his favourite flowers. To my surprise, there appeared to be some white and also very bright pink Clivia flowers amongst his collection, but this was Nakamura's humorous prank, because closer inspection revealed that they were fake flowers. His Vico yellows are still among my very favourite Clivias because of their most beautiful and elegant shape. Nakamura was very generous with gifts of seed from a pink x 'Vico Yellow', in addition to some yellow x 'Daybreak Wonder' (multitepal yellow). I was also fortunate to be able to purchase some other berries full of seed, fresh from the plants.



In the afternoon we visited Shige's greenhouses. Shige has an immense variety of high quality Clivias, including a beautiful green and near white flower.



Shige explained to us his reasons for planting an offset on a slant. He believes it stimulates the growth hormones, thus hastening the formation of new roots.



On Saturday, we headed off to Mitsuhashi's nursery. It felt a little like a jungle inside his glass houses, because in addition to all the Clivias, he had succulents hanging over the shelves. Again there was much variety among Mitsuhashi's Clivias. I was quite taken by a group of pastel interspecifics that had small upright flowers with large throats and almost pink petals. They reminded me of some of my own *miniata* x *cyrtanthiflora* Clivias, but I was unable to find out what the breeding was. Shige was of the opinion that they would have darker coloured flowers in the stronger light in Australia.



Visiting Tsuruoka was next on our list. Despite his stunning Clivias, I was quite distracted by the beautifully variegated Australian *Dendrobium* orchids that Tsuruoka grows. I have never seen a variegated one in Australia. He generously gave me one, which unfortunately I had to return because of our strict quarantine regulations. Tsuruoka has an outstanding collection of Akebono Clivias, one of which had a leaf wider than my hand. This apparently very humble man also seemed justifiably proud of his broad leaved Akebonos. After we had finished looking at Tsuruoka's plant collection, he and his wife gave us a wonderful afternoon tea and a box of cakes to take away, which was much appreciated.

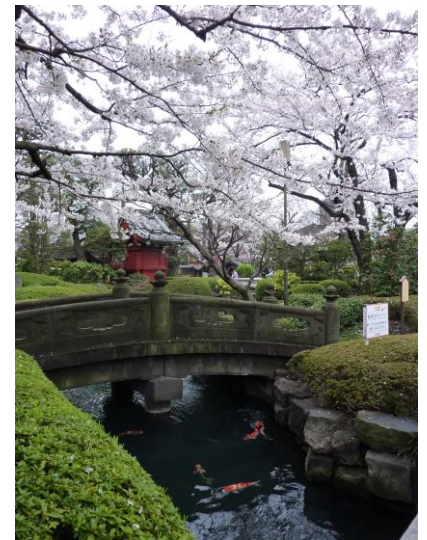


The last nursery that we visited was that of Nakayama and his wife. This trip was a little hair raising as the 'road' to the nursery was not much wider than the car in places, and some road subsidence appeared to have been patched with large

bitumen bandages. However, we arrived safely and were treated to the sight of the most wonderful collection of multitepal Clivias that you could imagine.



In addition to the nursery visits, we managed to squeeze in a day of sight-seeing in Tokyo that was not on the original itinerary. Shige was friendly and helpful throughout the entire trip and I would recommend joining one of his future tours to anyone who has the opportunity.



➤ [View more photos of Kerrie McElroy's Japan Tour on our website gallery](#)



MCG CLIVIA EXPO 2013 – MEMBER GUIDELINES

The Melbourne Clivia Group's 2013 CLIVIA EXPO will be held on Saturday 21st September at the Uniting Church hall, cnr Blackburn Rd & Burwood Highway, Burwood. It will be open to the public from 10:00am-4:00pm.

- All plants, for display or sales, *must* be free of diseases and pests. The MCG reserves the right to exclude from the display or from the outside sales area any plant or plants which are not disease and/or pest free.
- Plants and pots *must* 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, particularly those who are officiating, are asked to wear their MCG name tags.
- Exhibitors are asked to provide the Registrar, Hayden Lomas (email: elomas50@hotmail.com; ph. 95124789), with details of the number of plants they anticipate bringing for the display on Wednesday 18th or Thursday 19th September, and the time of the delivery of their plants (Friday evening - preferably, or Saturday morning). This is very important as it helps us plan the allocation of space for the display. At the time that plants are brought in to be benched for the display, exhibitors will be assigned a (consecutive) number for each plant, and provided with two stickers (bearing the same number), one of which is to be placed on the plant label and the other on the pot. This enables us to keep track of plants and who they belong to. In addition, this numbering system will be used in voting for the People's Choice award.
- This year we will also have a dedicated display of variegates. Members are encouraged to bring plants along for this, and obviously they do not need to be in flower. In terms of benching, the same procedure as outlined above applies to these plants.
- Set-up of hall: Friday 5:00-6:00pm. Delivery of plants for the display: Friday 6:00-7:00pm (if possible), otherwise Saturday 8:30-9:30am.
- Only members on duty are to enter the main display area of the hall before 10:00am on the Saturday. Members bringing plants for the display will be asked to leave their plants at the tables which will be set up inside the hall entrance to receive these plants. All people who are not officiating in the hall are requested not to enter the main area of the hall until the display is opened to the public at 10:00am.
- Display plants are to be accompanied by the MCG's plant card affixed to a card holder which is to be placed in the pot to the front of the plant. Plant cards and holders will be available (at no charge) at the August meeting. The cards will also be downloadable from our website and preferably should be filled out in advance. Either use clear handwriting (using a blue or black marker pen) or type them. Here is an example:
Name: 'Anderson's Peach' (i.e. cultivar name, where one exists)
Type: *Clivia miniata*
Exhibitor: Alice Smith
Information: "European Peach" which is compatible with other peaches of this type. (Provide useful breeding or background information; not where or from whom the plant was purchased. This extra information is optional.)
- No plants will be allowed to be brought into or removed from the hall between 10:00am and 4:00pm on the day of the Expo. If you are selling plants outside on the day please point out to buyers that they cannot take their purchases into the hall.
- Plants on display are not to be handled nor pollen or seeds removed by anyone.



- The sales area will be outside the hall and the operations will be overseen by our Sales Manager. Members may sell *Clivia* plants (or seedlings & seed) on the MCG Trading Table, or else hold their own stall.
- In the case of members requiring their own stall for sales, notification must be given to the Trading Table manager at or by the August meeting and a deposit of \$50 paid at that time to secure a stall (this will be deducted from the sales commission payable). Two trestles will be provided to each main seller (or joint sellers) by 8:00am on the Saturday, with seller locations being determined by ballot. Sellers may replenish plants on their trestles as the need arises. All items *must* be accompanied by a Trading Table form which is to be submitted to the Sales Manager *in advance of sales and before an area can be allocated*.
- Sellers are encouraged to participate in the display and are also encouraged to make themselves available for a rostered shift, where possible.
- Sales plants are to be delivered on Saturday between 8:00-9:45am and be labelled e.g. *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 their duplicate copy of the Trading Table form what items they sell and tally the amount by 4:30pm that day. Sellers are to pay the Sales Manager the required commission on all sales at or soon after 4:30pm that day and return the duplicate form at that time.
- After the hall is closed at 4:00pm 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 Chief Steward, 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 or in a suitable container next to it, 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 and any damage or losses.