



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As another calendar year draws to a close, I hope that others enjoyed their *Clivia* as much as I have this year. Those of us growing seeds and plants for a few years now have the excitement of an increasing number of plants flowering for the first time, including our own hybrids. In this newsletter some members share with others one of their favourite plants.

Once again the MCG committee has put together an interesting program for the following year. The tentative schedule is as follows:

21 Feb: AGM; "Growing spaces for *Clivia*"

11 April: "New breeding trends in *Clivia*"

20 June: "Breeding experiences and *Clivia* cultivation"

18 July: "Variegation in *Clivia*"

15 Aug: Preparation for CLIVIA EXPO; "Pollinating *Clivia*"

13 Sept: CLIVIA EXPO

17 Oct: "Basic care for *Clivia*"

Note that the April meeting will be held on the second Friday in the month due to Easter falling the following week. CLIVIA EXPO is also scheduled a week earlier than normal to allow those who wish to attend the Toowoomba Clivia show and tour to do so (see separate entry).

The February meeting importantly starts the New Year with the AGM when a new committee will be elected. This newsletter contains a nomination form and a brief outline of the changes which accord with the club's new model rules, along with a proxy form if you are unable to attend the meeting but wish to register a vote (in cases where a ballot is held). A full description of procedures relating to the AGM can be found in the model rules (see

website). One new procedure is that at the AGM we will vote on a resolution to decide the number of ordinary members on the Committee (which has been two to date, under the old rules).

The main topic of the February meeting will cover areas for *Clivia*, whether this is space within the garden or under shade cloth or the like. Quite a few members with limited growing space have found strategies which maximize their growing space, such as use of tiered benches, shelving along fences, nursery trollies and so on. We hope that about four members will share some of their ideas and experiences at the meeting so do let me know as soon as possible if you would like to participate in the group presentation.



Membership renewals can now be submitted for 2014. In line with the move to greater electronic processing of MCG records, the Committee has added PayPal as another means of payment. It is important to note that irrespective of the method of payment (cash, cheque, bank transfer or PayPal), a membership form (which serves as an application for membership or renewal) must accompany payment or be sent separately to the secretary in the case of electronic payments.

If you have any suggestions for how the club or components of it can be better run or the kinds of content or information you would like the newsletters or website to cover, please send these to me and I will pass these on to the new committee.

The MCG committee thanks all members who have supported the club in various ways during 2013 and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Helen Marriott

SPECIAL CLIVIA EVENTS IN 2014

As part from our own CLIVIA EXPO to be held on 13 September, 2014, some members might be interested in the interstate or overseas events relating to *Clivia*.

In conjunction with their 10th anniversary of a *Clivia* display in Toowoomba, The Toowoomba Clivia Society will run a tour of *clivias* in the Toowoomba area, including their show, between 20-25 September. Further details are available from their website: www.toowoombacliviasociety.com.au/index.php/events/upcomingevents

For those who are keen to see spectacular *Clivia* shows, observe *Clivia* in their natural habitat or meet other keen South African or international growers, the international *Clivia* Society (based in South Africa) also has a package of events in September 2014. These are centred around the 2014 *Clivia* Conference and Show at Pietermaritzburg, Kwazulu Natal between 18-21 September, but prior to these main events there are other big shows in other areas as well as a tour of *Caulescens* areas. Details will be included in their quarterly *Clivia* News as they become available. Unfortunately, the society's website is quite out of date and no information is available on that at present.

The recently-formed *Clivia* Society of NSW may also hold a show in mid to later September. We will keep MCG members informed of details when available.



CULTIVATION NOTES

Vu Dang

Seed Cleaning

Seed preparation and peeling can be a tedious and difficult job. Often it requires nimble fingers to hold onto the slippery pulp and sharp finger nails to peel back the thin film coat inside. This last season I have devised a simple method that will make it a breeze to clean your harvest, whether it is one seed or 1000 seeds.



First thing is to get organised and have separate appropriately-sized containers for each individual cross. Into these, place a double layer of absorbent paper towels and the correct labels. Then place all the berries into the correct container.



Pick up each berry and squeeze it between your fingers. The seed or seeds should now come away from the pulp and skin. Throw away the berry skin and leave the wet seeds with its membrane covering on it to dry in the open container on absorbent paper. Leave them alone for the next few days when the skin will dry and harden like rice paper. If there are not too many seeds, they

can easily be peeled away. However, if you have a lot to do, it is much easier to put some between your two palms and rub away the now dry skin. This is better done outdoors where you can then give a soft blow over the seeds to get rid of the flaky skin.

Now they're ready for germination.

Cultivation Practices

It is critical that everyone should have their growing areas in order by this time of the year. In Melbourne, the three months of October, November and December have the best growing conditions but it also leads into the hottest period of the year. This period has major problems in terms of water management, pests and disease.

Make sure that your plants are in good health in order to maximise their growth during this time. Seedlings and young plants are best potted up while they are in active growth and slow releaser fertiliser reapplied. If you are using slow release fertiliser, it is a good idea to reapply it to all your plants at the same time so as to keep a yearly cycle with least chance of over- or under-dosing.

Tidying up growing areas will prevent much of the soft rot issues. Pull off dead leaves and keep benches and the ground clear of plant debris. Make sure there is plenty of ventilation in your shade house/greenhouse/growing areas. Stagnant air, heat, high humidity and poor hygiene will result in plant rot.

Regularly check over your plants for mealy bugs and any indications of rot. Early identifications are easily treated individually. For a more systematic approach, apply a monthly fungicide and an organic pesticide spray.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 21 Feb 7.30pm
Uniting Church
Cnr Blackburn Rd &
Burwood Hwy
Burwood

Growing spaces for Clivia -
Group presentation

COMMITTEE

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

Melbourne Clivia Group Phone
Number - 0410 929 510

*Deadline for next issue -
15 January, 2014*

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Melbourne-Clivia-Group-Inc/130556943692834>

Please note: Membership renewals are now being accepted for 2014. You will find a membership form towards the back of this newsletter.



MEMBER PROFILE

Laurens Rijke

I have been growing *Clivia* now for nearly 40 years. I was always interested in plants and remember purchasing 'Aurea' in the 1970s when I saw offsets advertised for the first time in Your Garden magazine. These cost \$25 each so the offsets were very expensive and one's purchase was limited to two offsets at any one time. However, this proved to be an excellent investment because 'Aurea' is a good, strong grower and produces a fine flower. It has also been good to use in my own breeding.

After that early start I continued to build up my collection, including many Dutch hybrids as well as some South African and Australian hybrids. It wasn't until the later 1990s when I could begin purchasing seeds from Yoshikazu Nakamura in Japan that the quantity and quality of my collection expanded greatly. I ordered a great range of different seeds from him and hence have a very varied collection which includes 'Vico Yellow' hybrids, multipetals, interspecifics and many others.



In turn, I have used some of these to create new hybrids of my own. Sometimes I have taken examples of my own breeding for the regular display table at our meetings, for example, interspecifics where I often crossed Nakamura's *C. miniata* x *C. caulescens* with either 'Aurea' or peach. Also, I have made crosses of Nakamura's multipetal x multipetal, among others. Now my main interest

centres on further developing multipetals, where I produce flowers with many petals and in different colours, including pastels and yellows. Also, using the good quality interspecifics from Nakamura, I am working on producing good multipetal interspecifics.

The People's Choice winner for this year was Sean Chubb's 'Chubb Pretty Pink', while last year's winner was a yellow from Nakamura with broad leaves. I continue to love a wide variety of *Clivia*, including Light of Buddha grown from Chinese seed, as well as peaches from South Africa and Japan but in my own experience, it is the hybrids from Nakamura which form the best part of my collection.



I like to plant *Clivia* in big pots and I also water well. Needless to say, light, air circulation and fertilization are also important in producing good *Clivia*.

CLIVIA MARKET

**The marketplace for
Clivia growers
and buyers**

www.cliviamarket.com
info@cliviamarket.com

Web Statistics

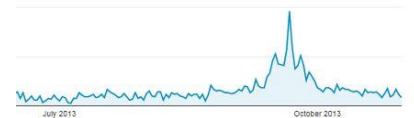
Lisa Fox

The Melbourne Clivia Group website continues to be a popular source of information and news for members and the public. From October 2012 - October 2013 there have been 5,037 visits to the site, an average of 419 per month. Over 1,000 of these visits have been from a mobile device such as a smart phone or tablet.

Visitors have originated from Australia, United States, South Africa, New Zealand, China, Germany, United Kingdom, Japan and Canada. Interesting to note is that there have been multiple times where the visitor has used a translation service to translate our pages into their own language.

The most popular pages in order are: homepage, gallery, species, links and resources, articles, variegates, interspecifics and membership.

There was a huge spike in traffic from the 6th September - 6th October 2013 which we attribute to people looking for information on the EXPO and viewing the photos after the event.



A graph displaying the spike in traffic to the website around the time of the EXPO.

Facebook

We currently have over 80 people who have 'Liked' the MCG page on Facebook and follow our posts.

People following us include members of our club, people from interstate, international friends and clivia clubs from overseas.



We post photos from club members, plants on display at meetings, member photos and any news we have. We have also shared a few photos and events from other clubs. There is a lot of interest from the international clivia clubs to see our plants and our members. They are sharing all our photos and news with their own members.

I would encourage anyone on Facebook to search for Melbourne Clivia Group and 'Like' our page. Feel free to send photos or news to lisa.fox@gmail.com that can be posted to our wall, or you can post photos yourself. Feel free to like our photos and make comments. It is good to have an active page and showcase our plants, members and activities.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Melbourne-Clivia-Group-Inc/130556943692834>

A FAVOURITE FLOWER

Helen Marriott - 'Springful'

While I am a fan of many different *Clivia*, I am particularly attracted to interspecifics not only because they can provide flowers through the whole year but also because of their great variation and the enormous potential they offer for breeding. In August 2012 I was excited with a first apricot/orange-coloured flower on a plant from Yoshikazu Nakamura's breeding mix. I could immediately identify it as an interspecific and even then the flower size was impressive. Because of its obvious vigour and also its flowering time, I named it 'Springful'. Little did I expect the flowers to further increase in size upon its second flowering in early September this year when these measured 7-7.5cm in diameter. The umbel, which consisted of 18 flowers, was 22cm in diameter. In other words, it was almost *miniata*-like in size but still retaining the interspecific semi-pendulous

characteristic. Unfortunately it had finished flowering by the time of CLIVIA EXPO.

Without knowing details on the heritage of the plant, I can only guess that it might have *C. x cyrtanthiflora* in its background based on the slight roughness of the leaf's edge and *C. caulescens* because of the leaf tip, but its vigour in offsetting also suggests possibly *C. gardenii*. Nakamura is known to have produced some interspecific hybrids using more than one of the pendulous species so perhaps this is such a case. The size of the flower suggests to me that it has *C. miniata* in its background at least twice but it could even be three times. Based on my own experience of hybridization with interspecifics, once an interspecific is crossed again to *C. miniata* (whether as an F2 or as a new F1), some nice interspecific-looking flowers can be produced but *miniata*-like plants with smaller and/or fewer flowers can also arise. 'Springful' is extremely unusual because of its semi-pendulous interspecific-look but in conjunction with large flowers (for an interspecific).



Needless to say, on the occasion of its second flowering I made a variety of crossings using mainly other largish interspecifics with *C. gardenii* or *C. caulescens* in their backgrounds and where these were of different colours - yellow, yellowy apricot or multi-coloured - as I would like to accentuate some difference in colour between the outside and inside of the flowers of the progeny of 'Springful'. I also selfed a couple of the flowers. Sadly, it seems as if the peduncle is

dying and thus I do not expect any of the berries to survive this time.

John Mackenzie

My favourite flower this year was a previously unflowered Interspecific. The plant came down from Queensland a few years ago marked as unknown, so until it flowered I had no idea of the colour or shape of the flowers. This plant stood out for me amongst the rest of the clivias on the bench with its tall straight peduncle producing an umbel of 12 flowers. As the buds were forming, they had a definite green tip to them and the flowers, as they began to open, were yellow with a pale lime green hue. When the flowers aged, they lost the lime and green tips, leaving behind a rich yellow, medium-sized flower. I will be looking forward to seeing this plant flower again next year.



Michael Barrett

The recent spring flowering season has been a delight, with many plants being brought indoors so as to admire them in the evening. When asked to find a favourite plant to discuss, I felt perplexed. It is rather like picking a kitten or puppy from a litter; how can you choose when all of them are so special in their own ways. So too I am unable to really favour one clivia over the rest. What criteria could be used to help eliminate or nominate a few to choose from? Perhaps individual flower size or colour may swing my preference, or maybe a



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

long anticipated first flowering? More than just the physical flower, I felt my decision would be biased on emotions; heart rather than head decisions come easily to me. The clivia I chose was flowering for the first time. The flowers are cream, and, to boot, has variegated leaves. But what really made it a favourite for me was the way I felt a sense of my own personal journey from one stage to another in my cultivation of clivia.



About four years ago, I was keen to rapidly build my clivia collection. (How the foot has come off the acceleration peddle now.) I used eBay to build my collection in part. Mostly buying seed, I usually missed out on auctions of plants as my limit was easily surpassed on anything unusual. Luckily I saw listed some seedlings from Rob Oliver in Queensland. These "buy it now" auctions had low prices and seemed all too easy. After buying the seedlings, I was able to chat on line and then visit Rob on a trip to Queensland. Rob was generous with his knowledge and seeds on that visit. Nothing beats a chat with another enthusiast to help understand growing clivia. I have maintained contact with Rob, with whom always a good conversation is to be had. Over the past four years the seedlings grew leaf upon leaf, building size and presence. To my delight, two plants decided to flower. One was taken to the CLIVIA EXPO 2013, but the one that is my favourite flowered a little later. The clivia was sold to me as a seedling of a seedling

of 'Bodnant' x 'Aurea', from Murray Shergold owner of Easy Orchids, NSW. This strain is a parallel to the Albany Yellow cultivars from Western Australia. The Albany Yellow comes via a long line deriving from Rod Ellis from South Africa and previously Harold Koopowitz. Just the name Bodnant gives a sense of history and specialness (including folklore of Lord Aberconway, Sir Peter Smithers and 'Vico Yellow'). While the flowers are not the best ever, I can see some recurved quality and potential to use in a breeding program.

My favourite clivia still does not even have a name. Shameful indeed. It certainly has a label in the pot, as I pollinated the individual flowers with various pollens, thus giving a prism to dream about the future while reflecting on the past.

Lisa Fox - 'Felicia'

I have so many favourite flowers, but my all-time favourite would have to be 'Felicia'. She is an Interspecific bred by John Craigie of *miniata* and *cyrtanthiflora* breeding. I have owned her since 2007 and registered her not long after. I love her soft cream and pink colouring and the full head of small trumpet flowers. Her leaves are fan-shaped and reasonably broad for an Interspecific.



She flowered consistently every year until I took offsets from her a few years ago, then she decided to be a sook and not flower for a few years. Next season I expect her, as well as

all her offsets, to produce beautiful blooms.

I wished to experiment with a wide range of pollen parents for Felicia to see what will be passed on to the offspring. To date I have seedlings of 'Felicia' from a Nakamura *miniata* x *caulescens*, Nakamura yellow *miniata*, 'Sir John Thoroun', a Nakamura peach, 'Carnival', a 'Day Dream' seedling, 'Roly Tulle' F1 and 'Christine', a Stanmore cream Interspecific. This past season one of the 'Felicia' x (Nakamura *miniata* x *caulescens*) babies flowered and I felt like a grandmother so I called it 'granddaughter'.

Vu Dang - 'Weirdo'

My favourite flower at the moment is 'Weirdo'! Yes that's the name. It's a green flower that last up to 6 weeks.



Lynn Rawson

Having attended all three of the Melbourne Clivia Group Expos, it has been my fortune to view some remarkable plants from quite a few of our local MCG members. The timing of the expo lends itself to the majority of the display being *Clivia miniata*, which happens to be my favourite of the *Clivia* species.

Since starting with the standard long strappy-leaved *Clivia* plants in orange and yellow, my new plants, both through purchase and growing seeds, have followed the "fashion" if



only a few years behind those hard-working plant breeders who have managed to develop the newer colours of peach, red, pink, apricot and bronze, with or without green throats.

Being a late starter in growing *Clivia*, the first plants that I have grown from seed have had their initial flowering this year at 4-5 years old. I hope that these will develop over the next few years into plants with larger umbels and with good weather and careful nurturing, perhaps I can achieve some interesting colours and perhaps a few surprises in the combination of plant genes that I have been able to access from members of MCG sharing and selling their seeds and plants.



At our most recent meeting I was shown a remarkable photo of a *miniata* multipetal which had over 30 petals in each flower. While this is a plant I may never expect to achieve, the plant I have selected for this article is a deep orange multipetal which has managed to produce up to 10 petals per flower. Perhaps in future breeding with similarly well-endowed plants, it may be possible to attain a higher petal count on the smaller *Clivia* that fill the greater part of my collection.

FERTILISATION OF PLANTS

(Notes on the presentation by David Francis 18 October 2013)

Fertilisers can be categorised as (1) slow-release, eg Osmocote, Multicote, and require low rates of application;

(2) compound, requiring regular usage; and, (3) soluble, going directly to the roots.

It is important to read the label of the fertiliser to check the NPK - Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium/Potash (K) - and other elements present. These other elements include Magnesium (Mg - as in Epsom Salts), Iron (Fe) and Trace Elements where the important ones for plants are Boron (B), Manganese (Mn), Zinc (Zn), Copper (Cu), and Molybdenum (Mo).

Regardless of the fertiliser used, we should feed plants regularly; in other words, a little bit of fertiliser regularly is the answer to healthy plants and good flowers. Although Nitrogen is often thought of as important, Phosphorus is also necessary for good flowers and Potassium for good colour. Other elements are also important, for instance, Boron and Manganese help initiate the flowers and Molybdenum helps with the viability of pollen. If the older leaves of plants go yellow, this could be a sign of lack of Magnesium. Calcium (which can be added in the form of lime) is useful in strengthening cell structure. Some plant growers top up monthly with calcium nitrate, especially when their flowers are coming. Tomatoes also need calcium.

A plant can change colour depending on its growing media, e.g., soils in Toowoomba are heavy in iron and magnesium, which can affect flower colour. Do not buy cheap fertilisers because these will have something missing. We should read the labels before purchasing fertilizers that will work for our plants. David favours soluble fertilizer as it is dissolved and is readily available for the roots to take up. Furthermore, we can control the solution by making it weak or strong, depending on the stage of our plant.

Fertilising on a regular basis is the key, with orchid growers now fertilising every time they water, eg at ¼ strength. Slow-release fertilisers such as Osmocote are good but some won't contain all the trace elements. An 8-month slow release fertiliser is often the best choice, spreading it as the plant comes out of dormancy. However, we don't know how quickly or slowly the nutrient will actually be released; this may be different depending on the temperature and amount of rain.

We should not need to use a slow-release fertiliser plus soluble fertilisers as it is possible to over-fertilise. Rather, we should only use soluble fertilisers as a back-up if the slow-release one is the main one used. If slow-release fertilisers are added to the potting mix, it is important that this mix is all used at that time and not kept. Otherwise, it is best to just place the fertiliser on the top of the mix when potting up.

Compound fertiliser, such as those sold for vegetables, are cheaper but only last a short time frame and thus are not recommended for general use and need to be repeated every six weeks or so. Any manures or organic fertilizers like Dynamic Lifter will help to improve the soil because they contain organic matter and provide some nutrients but some of these do not contain them at the right levels. Seaweed solutions are excellent for plants, especially when repotting, in order to help the roots re-establish. Plants do best with a good root system.

David Francis's company, Duralite (2 Downard St, Braeside 3195; tel 9588 2332), is a horticultural and hydroponic supply wholesaler. Some of its products are also available to hobby growers (see website for details: www.duralite.com.au). It is open Monday to Friday (but Tuesday and Wednesday are best for David).



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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL OF THE MELBOURNE CLIVIA GROUP INC. 2014

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____

Mobile: _____

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 support the purposes of the MCG Inc. and to comply with the rules of the group.
- I wish to renew my membership.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Membership options:

- Single Membership 2014 (electronic newsletter) \$15
- OR**
- Single Membership 2014 (hard copy newsletter) \$25
- Each additional family member \$10

Payment options:

- Cash (at meetings)
- Cheque (*payable to Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.*)
- Direct Deposit (BSB 083657; Acc. 829745477)
- Paypal (Please send to accounts@melbournecliviagroup.org.au or request an invoice)

Additional family members: (*please add all names & signatures)

Name	Signature

Membership CANNOT be accepted without the submission of this form. In the case of an electronic payment, please send a completed form to the above address or give in person to the secretary.



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ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS Nomination form 2014

The election of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and ordinary members of the Committee will take place at the AGM on Friday 21 February 2014.

Following the Model Rules (49-55) of the Association, nominations should be sent to the Secretary on the form below or else presented at the AGM. Please note the following:

- All positions on the Committee will be declared vacant at the AGM. Committee members may be re-elected.
- An eligible member of the MCG Inc. may (a) nominate him/herself; or (b) with the member's consent, be nominated by another member.
- If only one member is nominated for the position of President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer, the member will be declared elected to that position.
If more than one member is nominated, a ballot must be held.
- The AGM must by resolution decide the number of ordinary members of the Committee it wishes to hold office for the next year. A single election may be held to fill all of those positions. If the number of members nominated exceeds the number to be elected, a ballot must be held.
- A member who is nominated for a position and fails to be elected to that position at the meeting may be nominated for any other position for which an election is yet to be held.

I, _____ being a financial member of the Melbourne
Clivia Group Inc, nominate _____ for the position of
_____.

Signed: _____ Date of nomination: _____

Nomination accepted: Signature: _____ Date: _____



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APPOINTMENT OF PROXY 2014

The process for the appointment of a proxy as found in the Model Rules (34) of the Association is summarised here and includes an appointment of proxy form.

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, 21 February 2014 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 a Committee member.

Signed _____

Date _____

SECRETARY USE ONLY: Date & time received: