



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to everyone. In mid-January as we prepare this newsletter, Melbourne is in the middle of a stifling heat wave, with the temperature soaring above 40 degrees for days on end. It has been a very trying time for all of us and I can already spot quite a lot of damage to various plants, including some *Clivia* leaves which I assume are affected by heat stress.

This newsletter contains a very timely contribution from Ray Perks on his cultivation methods that are particularly relevant to us over summer. He focuses largely on watering, introducing the different approaches which can be taken. Here, Ray also outlines a well-planned fertilising and spraying program which he now maintains throughout the year as a means to prevent the occurrence of problems, but he also points out the importance of providing the plants with adequate shade during the summer period.

February marks the start of the MCG meetings once again, with the AGM scheduled for 21st of that month. The topic of growing spaces for *Clivia*, including small and bigger shade houses and other strategies for maximising space in our gardens, will be discussed. Do come along ready to share your ideas and preferably let us know in advance if you are willing to speak briefly about some useful ideas you have implemented. The effect of the heat wave on the *Clivia* in our gardens is related to this topic and I suggest that we also allocate some time to this topic, including how the plants cope in different growing areas and our management of problems, which may be similar to, or different from those outlined by Ray in this issue.

A new committee will also be elected at the AGM and nomination and proxy forms are again attached to this

newsletter (and downloadable from the website). While the MCG's overall membership has grown in recent times, the number of active members is fairly constant but still smallish, and thus a large part of the organisation and associated work throughout the year falls to a limited number of individuals. Please do think about how you might be able to assist during this coming year, especially by considering nomination to the committee. In particular, the club needs willing and capable persons to take on main office bearer roles as it is only reasonable that the voluntary work is shared by members.

Thanks to Lisa Fox, the MCG website now has a new look. Do log on to the website (<http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/>) to see some of the initial changes which have been made. Lisa will continue to lead further development in this regard. Photos can now be loaded onto this website, so boosting our gallery with more photographic content will be, no doubt, one of the main aims this year.

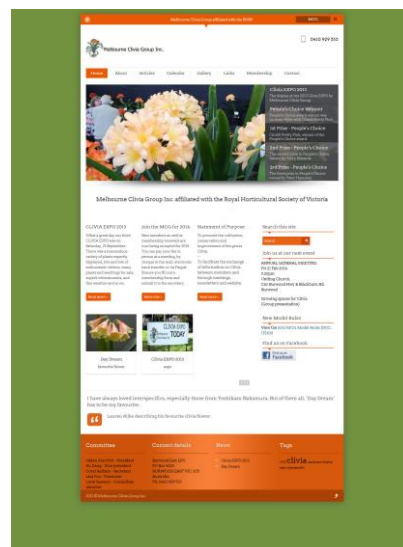


Fig. 1 MCG website homepage

We thank those members who have already renewed their membership for 2014. A membership form for both new membership and renewals

is attached for anyone who still needs it.

The current committee hopes to see lots of members join us on 21 February, 7:30 at the Uniting Church, corner Burwood Highway and Blackburn Road, Burwood. Guests and visitors are also most welcome. Please bring any plant in flower for the Display Table, anything *Clivia*-related you would like to sell on the Trading Table, and if you wish, something small for supper.

Helen Marriott

RE-ROOTING CLIVIAS IN WATER

Di Mathews

It happens to the best of us at some time when a favourite plant suddenly falls over, and upon closer inspection, it is discovered that the plant has lost its roots. Loss of roots can also occur to an offset after removing it from the parent plant, especially if the offset is still relatively small.

I would like to demonstrate a method of re-rooting clivias, including offsets, which I have found to be successful every time I have used it. The method is simply to place the base of the plant in an old jar with clean water to a depth of one to two centimetres and leave it for a few weeks, regularly keeping watch on the water level and topping it up when necessary. I then place the jar in a well-lit position, out of direct sunlight. I have found my laundry bench to be the most suitable place. I do not leave it outside, although there is no reason for this, just a personal preference.

If the plant itself is healthy and the stump of the plant has a callus, I have found this method invariably to be successful. It will not work if rot has extended up into the actual leaves of the plant.



Last year I placed an offset in water after trying unsuccessfully to re-root it in sphagnum moss for a period of about eight months. The plant leaves remained healthy and green, and it even produced a new leaf or two, but even after this length of time, there was not a single root. I then placed it in a jar of water and within a matter of weeks, there were new white roots emerging from the base of the plant.



Fig. 2 New roots starting to form on offset



Fig. 3 Roots growing strongly

I have used plain tap water, and at times I have added a few drops of either Superthrive or HB101, but I have found that the addition of this does not seem to matter much either way.

At present, I have a very spindly offset that accidentally broke when I was re-potting a clivia and, using this method, tiny new roots are now appearing on this as well. Once there are sufficient roots on the plant, I pot it up, usually into a seed-raising mix initially, being careful not to over-pot it.

Next time a clivia has lost its roots and you are having trouble re-rooting it, consider trying this method.



Fig. 4 A different plant with no roots



Fig. 5 New roots forming after a matter of days in water.

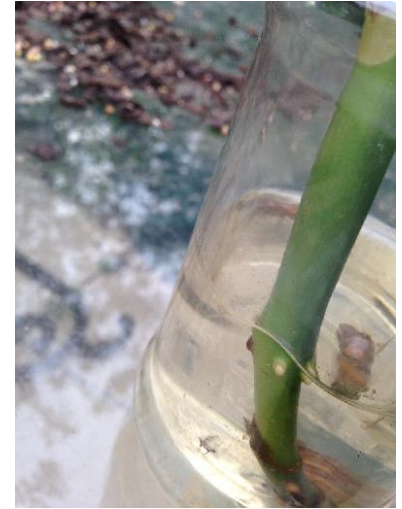


Fig. 6 Very thin offset which had no roots at all, as snapped accidentally from parent plant.

CULTIVATION NOTES

Ray Perks

Clivias in Summer

“Summertime and the livin is easy
Fish are jumpin” and the
Clivias are growin like crazy.

Summer is a challenging time for clivia growers. It is usually a time of maximum growth but the heat and bright sunlight can seriously damage both you and your plants if you don't take reasonable precautions.

For ease of reading, I've divided this article into three sections: 1) Watering, 2) Fertiliser and spray regime, and 3) Extra shade.

1. Watering

(a) Where does the water go?

Yes, I know that even a 3-year old CAN water a plant but HOW should you water a clivia? If you look at a mature clivia in a pot you will see that its leaves are generally aligned along a single axis. So if we visualise



the potted clivia as a clock you should see that the leaves are generally aligned along, say, the 12 to 6 o'clock line. Now if you gently spray water on your clivia you will see that the water runs down the leaves and exits the plant at the 3 and 9 o'clock positions before accumulating and spreading out from the collar from these positions. The position at which the water exits the plant has particular relevance to those who use slow release fertiliser (such as Osmocote) and/or adopt a "little but often" watering regime, but more about that later.

(b) Water the plant or the pot?

"Watering the plant" basically refers to hosing your plants from above. It is not favoured by some growers who assert that the water that comes to rest in the crown area or that inevitably accumulates around the collar can lead to rot or the development of mould etc. Alternatively, it is said that the water washes pathogens off the leaves which come to rest around the collar, leading to rot. When "watering the pot", one only wets the potting mix, not the leaves, and so if you are using slow release fertiliser one can direct the water flow over the granules and/or ensure that water is not allowed to accumulate around the collar.

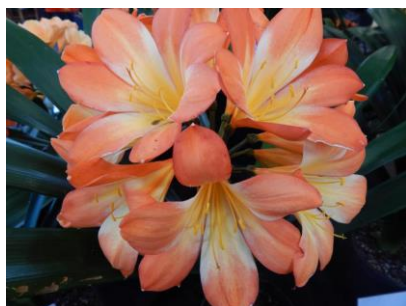


Fig. 7 Plant from 2013 Clivia EXPO

I practise the water the plant technique but do not dismiss the "water the pot" devotees' concerns, but time constraints and a "bad back" prevent me from changing my

watering ways. Instead, I have a few strategies that hopefully lessen the threat of rot, in particular. I have a regime of spraying with an anti-fungicide such as Anti-rot or Mancozeb and when I water, I make sure I really water. So, on really hot summer evenings, I do not give my plants a splash of water "to freshen them up" as I do believe such limited applications of water simply washes the dirt off the leaves, depositing it around the collar of the plant.

(c) How often should one water?

It seems that Mother Nature designed the plants to utilise small amounts of water that might be delivered by occasional showers. Similarly, in the wild, their roots obtain water from a large catchment area as they spread out through the leaf litter. So that is a case for watering a little on a frequent basis! Many growers follow such a watering regime, but I do not consider this watering practice is suited to the modern pot-cultivated clivias and to maximise the benefits of any fertiliser program. Certainly clivias can SURVIVE in dry conditions but they can't THRIVE under such conditions.

I consider that little but frequent watering simply washes grime and pathogens from the leaves and deposits the grimy water mix close to the collar in the 9 to 3 o'clock position of the plant. Further, even if you have your slow release granules positioned close to the collar in the 9 to 3 position the volume of water is probably too little to activate the slow release technology. The higher risk of collar rot and crown rot from this watering practice is self evident.

So I water "deeply" and less than once a week, in most weather situations. I no longer use slow release fertilisers, except for my seedlings, where I incorporate the granules in the mix. If I were using slow release fertilisers, I would make sure they were placed near the collar in the 9 to 3 position so they could be

washed with water as it spread beyond the collar with every deep watering.

When the summer is very hot, I will water plants in smaller pot sizes, say up to 5" or 12.5cm, twice a week. The more mature plants will be watered once a week or more. Even in our recent 4 days of 40 degree heat, I maintained the above-mentioned regime with no noticeable harm to any of the clivias.

(d) What time of day should one water?

If you are a watering purist and a "water the plant" type, then you would water in the early morning so any moisture in the growing crown quickly evaporates in the course of the day. The risk of crown rot disease increases if you water in the evening, with the likelihood that the crown will remain moist until the next day.

2. Fertiliser and spray regime

In order to maximise growth over the summer season I try to complete all my potting by Xmas.



Fig. 8 Plant from 2013 Clivia EXPO

From approximately Melbourne Cup day onwards, I commence a weekly fertiliser and spray regime, administered as a single mix. Previously, I used to practice a spot, "reactive" spray routine, that is, I would only spray affected plants when I noticed they were suffering from a pest or disease. I now have a pro-active, or is it a pessimistic, spray regime where I spray all plants for all



(or most) pests and diseases on a regular rotational basis in the belief that prevention is the most efficient and effective way to go.

So the monthly routine looks a little like this:

WEEK 1: Half strength soluble fertiliser replaced by molasses solution* next month plus fungicide (say Yates Anti-rot);

WEEK 2: Half strength fertiliser plus insecticide (say Confidor);

WEEK 3: Half strength fertiliser plus fungicide (say Yates Mancozeb); and,

WEEK 4: Half strength fertiliser plus Pyrethrin replaced by coffee solution** next month.

I understand from some others that mature Clivia miniata plants start setting next season's flowers towards the end of February so I spray with a high Potassium blend of soluble fertiliser for 2-3 weeks, for instance, starting shortly after Valentine's Day (14 February).



Fig. 9 Plant from 2013 Clivia EXPO

My main insect pests are mealy bugs and earwigs that nibble on, and distort new leaves, and also cabbage moth larvae (I live near a major market garden area so cabbage moths

regularly visit the neighbours). Millipedes, ants and spiders that spin webs in the growth crown can also be a nuisance.

* I'm also now spraying a weak solution of molasses on an alternate monthly basis. Other than giving you shiny and therefore healthy-looking leaves, I can't yet cite any other noticeable benefits of molasses. Why do I use it then? Well, it just might be the formula to growing perfectly wonderful clivias and I want to be there when, or if, it delivers on its reputation.

** I know coffee/caffeine has no reputation as any sort of insecticide or fungicide nevertheless I have convinced myself that it is effective against mealy bug and slugs (I don't have snails). The literature suggests it is the taste and/or aroma that deters, but doesn't necessarily kill insect pests. Coffee, of course, has a minor reputation as a fertiliser, being slightly acid and a source of nitrogen.

3. *Extra shade*

One final word on clivias in summer and that is to give consideration to increasing overhead shade during this period. I usually place another layer of shade cloth over the roof of my shade houses, especially those housing the younger plants, as I have found that one layer of even 90% cloth is no match for really intense sunlight.

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



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

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 March, 2014

OUR ADDRESS
Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.
Burwood East LPO
PO Box 4225
Burwood East, VIC 3151

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

CLIVIA MARKET

The marketplace for
Clivia growers
and buyers

www.cliviamarket.com
info@cliviamarket.com



CLIVIA FLOWERING OVER SUMMER

Helen Marriott

While it is well known that spring is the main flowering period for *Clivia miniata*, with the availability of the pendulous *Clivia caulescens*, *gardenii*, *nobilis* and *robusta* and all interspecifics involving these pendulous species/intraspecific hybrids, it is quite easy in Melbourne to have *Clivia* flowers throughout all months of the year, even on a continuous basis. Admittedly, interspecifics flower less during summer than during the cooler months and although not all combinations have the characteristic of re-blooming and thus filling some of the sparser months, it is not difficult to enjoy *Clivia* flowers all year round here.

As in other years, during this first part of summer (December and the first half of January), pots and garden plants of the older interspecific known as *Clivia x cyrtanthiflora* have flowered, with two in flower during the mid-January heat wave. These are certainly worthy plants to have in one's collection, especially for their tendency to flower at any time during the year. They also make hardy garden plants. One is shown here in Fig. 10.

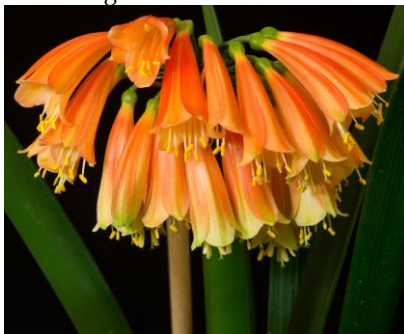


Fig. 10 *C. x cyrtanthiflora*

Some of the interspecifics involving *caulescens* and *nobilis* have also flowered throughout this time, commonly after also having flowered

in winter last year. Fig. 11 shows 'Hoop', a Japanese *miniata* x *caulescens*, and 'Zest', an interspecific of *miniata* x *nobilis* origin, is shown in Fig. 12. Given the size of the flowers and the contrasting colours in the inner and outer parts of the flowers, I expect that these interspecifics have been crossed again to yellow *miniata* or else selfed.



Fig. 11 'Hoop'



Fig. 12 'Zest'

Throughout both spring and summer, I have had a number of *C. caulescens* (Fig. 13) also bloom. With these pots placed here and there among other *C. miniata*, it is nice to come across a pendulous flower when watering.



Fig. 13 *C. caulescens*

A small number of *C. miniata* have also flowered during summer, but in none of these cases did the plants flower in spring of last year. In particular, two impressive multipetals flowered recently, one of which is shown here in Fig. 14.



Fig. 14 *Multipetal*

It is generally accepted that interspecifics involving *C. gardenii* or *C. robusta* do not re-flower after their main flowering period in later autumn and winter. I was thus surprised when one of my own crosses of a variegated *miniata* x 'Green Imp' (Fig. 15) came into bloom in January, after having flowered in August last year. 'Green Imp' itself is an interspecific hybrid of (*miniata* x *gardenii*) x *gardenii* heritage which flowers between June and August.



Fig. 15 *miniata* x 'Green Imp'

Based on observations over previous years, I expect to enjoy other interspecifics involving *caulescens* and *nobilis/cyrtanthiflora* during the remainder of January and February, alongside of the odd *miniata*.



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

Burwood East LPO
PO Box 4225,
Burwood East 3151
Ph: 0410 929 510
www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au

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.



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

Burwood East LPO
PO Box 4225,
Burwood East 3151
Ph: 0410 929 510
www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au

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: _____



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

Burwood East LPO
PO Box 4225,
Burwood East 3151
Ph: 0410 929 510
www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au

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: