



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A new committee for the MCG was elected at the AGM on 21 February, and minutes for the meeting are included in this newsletter. This consists of Helen Marriott (President), Lisa Fox (Vice-President), Michael Barrett (Secretary), Lynn Rawson (Treasurer), and ordinary members (Vu Dang and Ray Perks). The committee has already met and finalised quite a few plans for 2014. We believe that it will be a good year for the MCG and look forward to the active participation of members in various ways.

The schedule for the general meetings and other main events is as follows:

11 April "New breeding trends in *Clivia*" led by Lisa Fox

20 June "Breeding experiences and *Clivia* cultivation" by Mark Cant

18 July "Variegation in *Clivia*"

15 August, Preparation for CLIVIA EXPO; "Pollinating *Clivia*"

13 September, CLIVIA EXPO (all day Saturday)

17 October, "Basic care for *Clivia*".

We are extremely pleased that Mark Cant, a nurseryman from NSW, will speak at our June meeting on his cultivation of Cant Europeaches, a speciality of his, as well as his hybridization of other *Clivia* and his cultivation techniques.

This year Vu Dang will coordinate the raffle for our general meetings and will proactively seek donations from members in advance. The Trading Table will be coordinated by Terry Edwards and Steve Wright, and Haydn Lomas will continue as librarian. Martina Quirk and Andrea Whitty have volunteered to continue

managing the attendance registrar. Thank you all for assisting in these ways.

The committee is also currently planning a Workshop for members on photographing *Clivia*, which is expected to be held on a Saturday in August, at our usual meeting venue. More details will follow in the next newsletter.

Further arrangements are in progress to supply those members present at the August meeting with a seedling grown by a specialist grower. This follows the 2012 distribution of three seedlings grown by Mark Cant, and our display and examination of the progress of these seedlings at the August, 2013 meeting. This scheme is limited to those members who attend meetings, as the club is dependent on its functioning with this core of active members.



Fig. 1 2014 committee members

This newsletter has contributions from those who presented at the February meeting on the topic of growing spaces for *Clivia*. Vu Dang described a temporary measure for housing *Clivia*, while Lisa Fox outlined the recent construction of a new shade house. John Trotter and Lynn Rawson explained strategies for maximising space for *Clivia* on small properties. In John's case, this included the construction of a small shade house; Lynn utilises shelving, amongst other practices.

Also very relevant to those of us who had suffered a long, hot summer, at the February meeting Ray Perks led a brief discussion on coping with heat waves and this included mention of how to deal with water resistant

potting mix. See his notes in this issue.

The website will now contain fresh news items as they come to hand. Please note that visitors to the website can access all the 2013 newsletters from the membership section.

As in the past, we welcome submissions for the newsletter and website from members. This year the committee thought that a regular column on Tips and Tricks could be a useful addition to the newsletter, so if you have anything at all which you could share, please do so. Indeed, all members are most welcome to submit photographs of *Clivia* to Lisa Fox for possible inclusion on Facebook or the gallery section of the website.

Although CLIVIA EXPO in September is over five months away, it is necessary to start planning quite early, particularly to prepare the publicity material. At the April meeting we will invite members who would like to join the sub-committee for CLIVIA EXPO to indicate their availability; a meeting is expected to follow shortly after that.

We hope that many members will be able to attend the next meeting on Friday, 11 April on new breeding trends in *Clivia* at our regular venue of the Uniting Church, corner of Burwood Highway and Blackburn Road, Burwood. Friends and visitors are most welcome and we do ask other members to welcome them to our function. We advertise our starting time as 7:30 but in fact always start promptly at 7:35 and finish around 9:15, with supper, talking and so on. Please bring a plant for the display table if you can.

Helen Marriott



CULTIVATION NOTES

Lisa Fox

It is a relief that the extreme heat has now passed for the year and we look forward to a cooler and hopefully wetter autumn. I was fortunate during the hot weather in not having any real damage to my plants other than a few burned leaf tips where they touched the shade cloth and a few burned leaves of the plants outside. I kept up my usual watering routine with the plants during the heat and found that they coped very well.

This time of the year I am watering my young seedlings twice per week and the older seedlings and plants once a week. All the plants have slow release fertiliser on them (Multicote from Duralite) but I still give them a dose of liquid fertiliser at least once per month. I perhaps would like to do it a little more often, however it is a very time-consuming job with a watering can when there are a lot of plants. I have tried to use the liquid fertiliser, Powerfeed, where it connects to the hose and apparently is easy to apply simply by hosing the plants. My idea was that once I had used up the Powerfeed I could use the same container that connects to the hose for other types of liquid fertiliser such as Aquasol in the future, however I have to admit that I am a bit challenged with this and end up wearing more of the Powerfeed than the plants do.

I have been experimenting in the last two years with a mix of Blood and Bone with Potash, sprinkling a small amount around the top of the pot and watering it in. The purpose is to give the plant a boost and encourage flowering. I usually do this around December – February. I can't say at this stage if it has made any difference or not, but it can't hurt.

This biggest challenge for many growers at this time of year is the ever-annoying mealy bug. I have

heard a few people tell me they have problems with it at the moment. Warm weather and mealy bug go hand-in-hand unfortunately. I have only found a plant here or there with the tell-tale white fluff this year. I spray every few weeks with Confidor or Eco-oil. Bunnings sell the sachets of Confidor in a box. I use it at double strength as recommended for long-tail mealy bug. I find that alternating between Confidor and Eco-oil seems to keep them at bay. I would love to be completely environmentally friendly and just use Eco-oil but the urge to nuke the bugs with chemicals is too powerful.

This is also the time of year that I prepare the plants for winter. Any peduncles with berries that have sagged a bit in the heat are staked up. I repot anything that looks urgent and have just started dividing plants. I think this time of the year is a good time to do this as the plant/offsets have a few months of mild weather and a bit more growth before winter hits.



Raffle Donations

The MCG welcomes any donation of plants or seedlings for our raffles at General Meetings. We hold 6 meetings per year plus the annual CLIVIA EXPO. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Vu Dang.

GENERAL MEETING
Friday 11 Apr 7.30pm
Uniting Church
Cnr Blackburn Rd &
Burwood Hwy
Burwood

New breeding trends in Clivia

COMMITTEE

Helen Marriott – President
Lisa Fox – Vice President
Michael Barrett – Secretary
Lynn Rawson – Treasurer
Vu Dang – Committee member
Ray Perks – Committee member

Melbourne Clivia Group Phone
Number – **0410 929 510**

Deadline for next issue –
15 May, 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



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

Please note: This will be your last newsletter if you have not renewed for 2014. You will find a membership form on the last page of this newsletter.



GROWING SPACES FOR CLIVIA

Vu Dang

I'd never thought it was possible but I now have all the growing space that I need. I have been growing seedlings over the past four years in a standard backyard block. The amount of space required exponentially increased every year to the point where I had seedlings on triple stacked shelves and pots so densely crammed together that you could not see the pots. It looked very nice seeing just a mass of greenery but it was exactly what not to do. The plants were already under 70% shade cloth and the seedlings on the bottom shelves struggled for lack of light. Additionally, the cramped condition created poor ventilation and exacerbated fungus and mealy bugs, our worse enemies.

Recently, we've just moved up to Ferny Creek, which is about half way up Mount Dandenong. It is an acre block with trees all round and open in the centre. At present, all my plants are temporarily in two areas. Seedlings are benched in a 6m x 3m shade house and the rest are spaced out on the ground next to a hedge under shade cloth, which is 3m x 20m stretched under tension wires between two trees and a few poles. After investigating the various shade house/greenhouse frames available, I have decided not to use any of them but instead create my own. Instead of having multiple shade houses which I would need, I will instead opt to have one large growing area under shades of 12m x 40m stretched over treated pine posts and tension wires. This will hopefully maximise my growing area. Saying that, I think I will still set up an additional greenhouse for seedlings to extend their growing season as much as possible.

Lisa Fox

Even with a 0.4 hectare (one acre) block, space is always an issue. I needed a new shade area to house the majority of my flowering plants. During the flowering season I brought the plants up to my veranda so I could enjoy looking at the flowers through the windows. When it was time to move them back to the shade house they would no longer fit.

I looked at many options and variations before choosing a kit shade house from Monbulk Rural (monbulkrural.com.au). The kit form comes complete with all materials that will be needed for assembly. After reviewing the sample shade houses and hot houses at Monbulk Rural, we selected a kit that suited our needs. By default, the kit shade houses come with a plastic covering, with the option of a second cover that can be easily added or removed. We made a few custom changes, including selecting white shade cloth at 75% density instead of the plastic.



Fig. 2 Construction in progress

My two other shade houses were originally covered with one layer of white 75% shade cloth and this proved to allow too much light and sun through. Both shade houses are in the direct sun and the result was that my plants tended to have pale green leaves rather than dark green. Eventually we added another shade cloth cover of 75% density and in this particular case, it proved to be the correct light for my plants. I have read discussions where they say that

two layers of 75% ends up being approximately 94%, because the second layer is 75% of the remaining 25%. This may not suit every situation but it does work for my plants. They all have dark green leaves and flower readily.

With the new shade house we also chose to have a shade cloth cover to double up on the 75% shade cloth on just the domed roof. This allows good air circulation through the walls and both ends of the structure but keeps the sun at a minimum through the roof. It still seems incredibly light inside, despite the two layers.



Fig. 3 Shadehouse completed

An option we chose to make the most of the space was to have straight walls before the curved roof starts. The straight walls are approximately one metre tall and give us the opportunity to add benches in the future. My other shade houses are curved from the ground up in an igloo fashion so it is difficult to have benches.

There are many other options that we did not include such as vents, doors on either end, roll up sides and plastic or solar weave as the external cover. With two people, the kit form took a few days to assemble and I will not say it was easy, but certainly achievable for the non-handly person. With 10mm scoria on the ground to finish the area, I couldn't wait to fill it up. Now it is full and I need another one.



John Trotter

Firstly, I shall attempt to describe the property which we shall refer to as number 21. The residence is an average-sized, five room villa, with attached garage, set on land measuring 21.5m x 19m and a setback of 6m at the front. At the western end, an area of 13m x 2.6m is set aside for open space, garden and clothes line etc. The pathway and paved courtyard at the rear measure approximately 12m x 5m. At the eastern end the garage and drive sit very close to the boundary. This description should offer you some appreciation of area constraints from a gardener's point of view.



Fig. 4 John's greenhouse

Joy and I settled here in the year 2000 following a voluntary downsize and the garden areas appeared quite adequate at the time. In the front the garden expanded from grassed areas with some native plants to an area with a rose bed on the corner, a Michelia, two cut leaf birch, and two Magnolia stellata, with a number of camellias and small Rhododendrons, thus constituting moderate to dense planting providing shade to the north side of the residence. Now this is where things commence. Adjacent to the front steps, shade and protection from the dense planting provide a home to a small colony of Cymbidiums (elevated on galvanised wire mesh bench) and 11 clivia planted in the ground. The clivia here continue to develop and compete well against the intense Magnolia root system. A downside is that towards mid to late afternoon as the

sun gets lower, this has an adverse effect on two clivia and I have tried to correct it with temporary shade screens but will need something more permanent for next summer. Amongst this colony are also four large pots of clivia, which are moved to the rear of the house when approaching flowering, and also to avoid any frost.

Over time, more and more clivia - mature plants and seedlings - appeared and were housed in the rear courtyard and on the deck. This was satisfactory for a while but in summer the area becomes very hot and, in addition, the large number of plants located here impacted on use of the deck area. In the early summer of 2011 fruit trees were removed at the western end and a small domestic greenhouse from Adloheat (adloheat.com.au) was brought in to house seedlings and some mature plants. This has proved very satisfactory. Although not large in area, only 3600m x 1800m, it has a door at each end and benching 600mm wide along both sides. Benching is fabricated from galvanized square sections with galvanized wire mesh top. This greenhouse is squeezed between the house and boundary fence, leaving a 600mm wide access way on the side nearest the residence. The greenhouse is clad with "solarshield" and is completed with a sandstone shade cloth cap having 70% UV block out. Ventilation is still a problem and, on reflection, the greenhouse may have been more practical with a small roof vent. Adloheat manufacture structures with roof vents and these are possibly worth the additional dollars. Mostly during very hot weather the doors at each end are held open with a small cabin hook. When the doors are closed some minor relief can be obtained via vents in the upper door cladding.

The greenhouse runs in a north-south direction, with the fence and residence providing shade to the

lower sides which helps because any seedlings placed close to the sides could be subject to burn or scorch. I mentioned above that this structure houses seedlings and mature plants, but the width dictates the suitability for seedlings only (600mm wide benches both sides with a centre aisle approximately 600mm wide). If growers have sufficient space, a greenhouse width of 3m or even 3.6m would be more suitable, ie allowing benches to be placed away from the side wall.

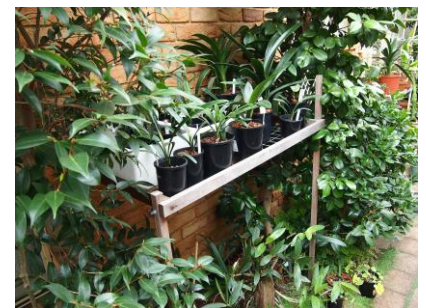


Fig. 5 John's growing areas

The rear courtyard now accommodates a small lean-to structure to house mature plants, however this is still work in progress and is open-sided, mainly for access and to reduce the heat factor. I am always looking for places to house plants, whether it is below shrubs or even using wire hoops from B&T Ferns hung to wire mesh fixed to some wall or fence in the vertical plane.

Lynn Rawson

Living on a property that is 50 feet x 50 feet with a villa unit occupying two-thirds of the space provides quite a few problems when planning a garden. Having two street frontages also adds to the challenges in catering for plants that prefer a climate that is dry and reasonably shady. Prior to my developing an interest in clivia, this second problem had to be overcome due to passing pedestrians helping themselves to plants while I was away at work. For this reason, there



are two metre high fences on all sides that provided two advantages – security and shade.

With the unit occupying the centre of the block, I was able to set up gardens on every side and so had a wide range of climatic conditions. The north garden includes a 1600 litre water tank and an area 1.5m x 6m planted out with a weeping birch, a medium-sized Japanese maple and two *Correa alba*. These trees and bushes are now 3-4m tall and have been pollarded to a height of 1.5m which has resulted in a shady raised garden to accommodate about 25 mature clivia. My variegated and Japanese-styled clivia *miniata* are congregated under the maple.



Fig. 6 Under the Maple

The north-east garden has two more water tanks totalling 2400 litres in a fenced-off area that is covered by a shade sale. Shelving has been attached to the fence and secured to the lower of the two water tanks to house clivia plants.

The south-east garden has two areas for young clivia. I have utilised the front of a vertical gas heater that was being disposed of and attached this to the fence, making room for six seed trays of small pots. Nearby is a set of three steps that cater for another 120 pots.

The south garden, which provides the most shade, is the obvious place for clivia and so has been set up for multilevel cultivation by using metal shelving designed for wardrobe space that has been attached to the

fence instead of the inside wall of a house. Next to this is another area for flowering clivia plants.



Fig. 7 Wardrobe shelving

One of the first problems I encountered in managing clivia spread all around the garden that also has significant numbers of other plants, was being able to move the plants around for repotting, fertilizing and general maintenance.

Following an early MCG presentation by Rae Begg, I commenced using olive pots for growing young clivia. Soon after I found that using a 15 litre tub available quite cheaply from Bunnings, Reject Shop and other sources, 20 olive pots of 75 x 75mm or 12 olive pots of 90 x 90mm fit exactly into the tubs. Drilling drainage holes in the base can be undertaken by placing tape over the area to be drilled so that the tub does not crack during the drilling process.

Location of the draining holes is fine for those tubs being placed singly on shelving but where multi-tiering is planned, it is essential that the drainage holes not be directly above plants at a lower level. Excess water from the higher level plants can cause overwatering of the lower plants but more importantly, the water can contain both nutrients and pathogens from the higher level pots. For these

reasons, it is essential that the drainage holes be aligned so that excess water drains directly to the ground.

Having originally set up some of the clivia pots on heavy wooden shelving, I found over time that these started to rot underneath the pots. For this reason, I made changes to all the clivia plants. Those sitting on the ground, such as in the northern garden, were placed on standard black seed trays turned upside down which allowed the air to circulate more freely around the pots.

I also replaced the wooden shelving with a new product, Ewood, which is made in Queensland from recycled toner ink cartridges. This product is available at several garden centres around Melbourne for making raised garden beds but also comes in 2.4m lengths as planks. As I needed quite a few and didn't want to have the task of cutting up all the planks, I emailed the supplier who sent down the Ewood cut to 1200mm lengths that suited the requirements of my small garden.



Fig. 8 Small spaces, multi-tiered shelving

As with many other members, finding time to care for clivia can be difficult when also managing a full-time job. The extra problems that are encountered when temperatures are



outside the normal range for extensive periods of time provide the opportunity to consider changes to growing arrangements for any garden plants, even the fairly hardy growers such as clivia. Where the range of available space is at a premium, look for alternatives that can assist you with your maintenance of the plants with minimal additional effort.



TIPS & TRICKS

A really handy product: Ray Perks

If you have a lot of *Clivia* and/or a large garden you will know that spraying is a time-consuming and strenuous task. I recently discovered and purchased a rechargeable, battery-powered sprayer that you can wheel around. The product shown in the Figure 9 is marvellous, except that the hand-tightened flanges on the top and bottom of the handle bar detach when under load of a full spray unit. Figure 10 shows my McGiver fix of inserting screws to better secure the handle.

For those who might be interested you can ring 1800816277, the Australian manufacturer's Victorian warehouse, or view the website (www.rapidspray.com) for more details. The price was \$244 post free.



Fig. 9 Battery-powered sprayer



Fig. 10 Handle fix

Eco-oil with Eco-neem: Helen Marriott

A few weeks ago I contacted the company (Organic Crop Protectants) which produces Eco-oil, a product which had previously been mentioned at meetings in relation to the management of mealy bug. The general-manager of the company recommended me to use a mix of Eco-neem and Eco-oil rather than just the latter for improving mealy bug control, explaining that "Eco-neem is a stronger insecticide working as an insect growth regulator and anti-feedant. Combining it with Eco-oil improves the coverage and gives you the best of both worlds". He further explained that "the oil helps improve the stick and spread of Eco-neem plus it provides some UV protection to the neem molecules". For Eco-neem, I

was recommended to use 2-3ml per litre of water and 2-5ml per litre of Eco-oil. Importantly, I was also told that I would get better results by doing a few repeat sprays rather than just increasing the rates and hoping to only have to do one spray.

Through the same email exchange, I learned that Eco-neem only has a shelf life of two years from the date of manufacture (only the latter is shown on the containers which I purchased) whereas Eco-oil does not have a shelf life. I could only purchase Eco-neem in 100ml containers at my local Bunnings warehouse but 250ml containers are available directly through the company's website (ecoorganicarden.com.au) and larger quantities are also available for large-scale growers. I sprayed all my plants and seedlings in mid-February, having sprayed with Crown (a systemic insecticide which, to date, I have alternated with Confidor), belatedly, in mid-December. I will shortly undertake a follow-up, combined spray of Eco-neem and Eco-oil. The same company has other products in their eco-organic garden range which I am also trying on my *Clivia*.

BEAT THE DRY!

Ray Perks

One of the major risks of growing clivias in pots is having the plants become completely dry. This can occur at any time of the year, especially for those who grow their plants under impermeable roof cover, but it is most common during the hotter months. Of course, having a plant that is "bone dry" for a period of time during hot weather is most detrimental to the health of the plant.

Sustained dry conditions will cause the usually fleshy roots of the plant to dehydrate and shrink and be less able to use any water when it is ultimately given. The plant's growth cycle is thus interrupted and it is set back. Sustained dry conditions will also



usually have a detrimental effect on the potting mix in which the plant is now struggling to grow. The combination of dryness and heat can lead to a condition known as unwettable soil or in our case, unwettable potting mix. Simply watering overly dry plants in the conventional manner may not lead to their recovery.



Fig. 11 Dunking plants

Possibly the best way to help your plant and potting mix recover from being "bone dry" is to borrow a method of watering commonly used by indoor plant home growers. They might immerse their plants in water in the kitchen sink or laundry tub. You might try that if you think you can get away with it. I adopt a less controversial method of dunking my clivias and use other water containers such as buckets or disused children's baths. The water should be no deeper than the depth of the potting mix and you should expect your dry plant to initially float so you may need to hold them upright until water is absorbed and they settle. I will usually add a weak solution of a liquid wetting agent to the water and possibly some soluble fertiliser and leave the plant soaking for a good five minutes so that the potting mix is saturated.

I regularly dunk batches of seedlings which can be prone to dryness, especially as they begin to outgrow their pots. Figure 11 shows a batch of seedlings emerging from a dunking. You might note that I grow batches of seedlings in open weave plastic trays for ease of dunking. For those who

may be interested, I obtain the trays from my local 2 Dollar Shop, ironically for approximately \$3.



Fig. 12 Liquid wetting agents

Most growers, quite reasonably, take active steps to prevent their plants from becoming overly dry during the hotter weather. Aside from a good watering regime, the following methods are used by many enthusiasts:

- 1) Mulching the top of the pot to reduce evaporation and minimise heat absorption. Sugar cane mulch seems to be the product of choice because it is slow to decompose and is weed and seed free.
- 2) Regular use of a liquid wetting agent. Some growers dampen their potting mix with a wetting agent prior to potting up. Others spray a solution of a liquid wetting agent onto their plants on a routine basis, especially during the hotter months.
- 3) Use of wetting agent granules which can be sprinkled onto the potting mix or blended into the potting mix prior to potting up.

Figures 12 and 13 show some of the range of liquid and granule wetting agents available.



Fig. 13 Wetting agents

Follow-up on the newsletter article - Re-rooting Clivias in water

John Bannenberg was pleased to report at the February AGM that he tried the re-rooting Clivias in water method written by Di Mathews and published in the Volume 7.1 newsletter, and has had great success.



Fig. 14 John with his successful plant

Advertising

Members may advertise a 5-line text advertisement in the newsletter at no charge. Box advertisements are charged at \$20 per issue or \$100 for 6 issues. Please contact Lisa Fox.



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

MCG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES, 21 February 2014

Venue: Uniting Church, cnr Burwood H'way and Blackburn Rd, Burwood

Attendees: (names omitted here)

The meeting commenced at 7:35 pm.

1. Introduction

The President welcomed any new members and visitors.

Minutes of the last AGM were accepted (moved Lynn Rawson, seconded Brenda Girdlestone).

Announcements: Mark Cant will speak on his breeding and Clivia cultivation at the June meeting. Garden club speakers are wanted in April and October. News of the Toowoomba Clivia and garden tour, and the South African caulescens tour were mentioned (with links to be placed on the website). Interest was gauged on running a photography workshop for members.

2. Reports

President's report (attached), accepted (moved Lynn Rawson, seconded Haydn Lomas);

Secretary's report (attached), (moved Terry Edwards, seconded Ray Perks); and,

Treasurer's report (attached), accepted (moved Vu Dang, seconded Chee Perks).

3. Introduction of Special Resolution

"In accordance with 53 (1) of the Model Rules, there will be an election of ordinary members to the MCG Committee. It is recommended that two ordinary members be elected to the Committee for 2014."

There was discussion of this item and the resolution above was moved by Coral Aalbers and seconded by Michael Barrett. All 30 financial members voted in favour of the special resolution.

4. Election of 2014 office bearers

The elections were as follows: President, Helen Marriott; Vice-President, Lisa Fox; Secretary, Michael Barrett; Treasurer, Lynn Rawson; Ordinary Members: Vu Dang and Ray Perks.

5. Group presentation

Vu Dang led a team presentation and discussion on "Growing spaces for Clivia", with participation from Lisa Fox, Lynn Rawson, John Trotter and himself.

6. The raffle was won by Andrea Whitty.

7. A small number of plants were brought for the display table.

8. The topic of coping in heatwaves was led by Ray Perks.

The meeting closed at 9:15 pm and was followed up supper.



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secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au

President's report

As in recent years, the highlight for 2013 was undoubtedly CLIVIA EXPO held on 21 September. We again had a splendid number of plants on display, showing the great range in variability among *C. miniata*. The group can feel proud of our joint efforts on this day and I trust that 2014 will see just as an impressive event.

The general meeting program for the year endeavoured to cater to members' various interests and included visitors who spoke on plant protection, breeding, and fertilizers and other garden products. In addition, our own members shared their experiences in potting plants as well other topics relating to growing *Clivia*.

The format of the newsletter was further systematised during the past year and we welcomed contributions from quite a few members, a pattern which we hope will continue. The committee thanks those members who elected to receive the electronic version of the newsletter. In order to partially cover the costs of the hard copy for those unable to receive it electronically, the price was raised slightly for 2014 and is likely to further increase again in 2015.

The MCG website has recently been revamped to include some changing photos and news items on the home page. Another significant improvement is the gallery which is now incorporated directly into the website. Facebook is further activity of the club which utilizes new social media opportunities.

Similar to most other associations, the previous year saw the introduction of new model rules. These were accepted by a special resolution at the last AGM but it was not until early May that Consumer Affairs confirmed their acceptance of our adoption of these. The Committee has been systematically implementing all requisite changes, including the way in which membership applications are processed.

With the change in the Treasurer in early August, the MCG has updated its financial recording systems, moving to electronic book keeping and electronic payments, wherever possible. In addition, PayPal is now available as a new payment option.

The membership of the club remains healthy, though the number of active members as measured, for example, by their attendance at meetings, assistance at CLIVIA EXPO and contributions to the newsletter, remains on the low side. Boosting this active membership should be a challenge for the coming year.

The outgoing Committee has planned an excellent general meeting program for 2014, taking into consideration ideas expressed by members. We believe that it should appeal both to novice growers of *Clivia* as well as to those highly experienced growers among us.

I will conclude this report by thanking the individuals who have made important, voluntary contributions to the running of the MCG during the past year. First and foremost, this is the Committee consisting of Vu Dang (Vice-President), Coral Aalbers (Secretary), Rae Begg (Treasurer to early August), Lisa Fox (Treasurer from early August), and Lynn Rawson (ordinary member) and Lisa Fox (ordinary member, first half). I perceive that the time and effort put into the club by these members is not fully appreciated by others and hence I use this opportunity to thank them sincerely. During 2013, some of these committee members or their parent(s) suffered health problems, making their club "work" all the difficult.

Considerable workload was also borne by the CLIVIA EXPO sub-committee which spent months on the planning of this main event. We thank Peter Haeusler for his chairmanship of the group, plus Di Mathews (secretary) and other members - Vu Dang, Brenda Girdlestone, Haydn Lomas, Lynn Rawson and myself - for their substantial contribution to the day's success. A number of family members also provided valuable support on the day, but even so, we were somewhat short of personnel to assist at the event itself.

Numerous members of the MCG also fulfilled other essential functions during 2013. These include Lisa Fox (website, Facebook, newsletter), Brenda Girdlestone (hard copy newsletter), Lynn Rawson (Trading Table), John Trotter (raffle), Haydn Lomas (librarian), Martina Quirk and Andrea Whitty (attendance register). We also thank Lisa Fox and other members who supplied photographs for the newsletter or website.



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In all, thanks to the efforts of various individuals, the MCG has continued to consistently offer a range of services to its members. If anything is to be highlighted, then perhaps it is the website and for this we are indebted to Lisa Fox for its initial establishment, ongoing maintenance and further development. It is not unusual these days for the websites of garden clubs to wither away but fortunately that is not the case for the MCG.

I wish the MCG another very successful year.

Helen Marriott (President)

Secretary's report

- Membership of the MCG continues to be good, with 107 members at the end of 2013. The club continues to offer 15 months of membership to anyone joining at CLIVIA EXPO or soon after that time, in other words, new members who joined at CLIVIA EXPO last September became members until the end of 2014. We hope that more new members will attend our meetings. There has been a good take up of electronic banking this year.
- CLIVIA EXPO attracted a large number of visitors and continues to be a drawcard for the club. Our members are able to assemble a truly amazing collection of Clivias for the display, which always attracts great admiration from visitors.
- In 2013 members gave talks at 3 garden clubs. We thank those members who undertook these and hope that they will be available again in 2014 as already requests for speakers are being received.
- With the changeover to the new model rules in 2013, the processing of membership applications, specifically new memberships, is more complex and involved some changes to the past practices of the MCG but we are now getting used to the new system.
- Increasingly we will use electronic mailing for sending out notices and receipts wherever possible so would encourage all members with access to a computer to supply us with an email address. At this stage there is still the choice of a hard copy newsletter at a higher membership fee in order to cover the additional costs of printing and postage, but where feasible, other communication will be sent electronically.

Coral Aalbers (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

Treasurer's report

2013 has been a very successful year for the MCG financially mostly due to Clivia EXPO 2013. The 2013 balance sheet has been prepared by Lisa Fox and checked by Helen Marriott and Lynn Rawson.

Our total income for the year 2013 is \$7,345.84 which is an increase from the previous year's income of \$4377.65. Our income can be attributed to \$1,905.00 in membership fees, \$930.00 from the raffles, \$2,717.00 from the Trading Table, \$1,067.45 from donations and \$726.39 from various other activities.

The total expenses for 2013 were \$3,457.25 which is only a little higher than the previous year's total expenses of \$3,350.11. Expenses consist of hall hire fees of \$1,220.00, Consumer Affairs \$50.10, RHSV insurance and affiliation fee of \$225.00, newsletter printing \$152.05, stationary \$324.05, amenities of \$40 and other sundry items \$1446.05.

This gives us a Net surplus figure of \$3,888.59 for 2013 which is a 278% increase on the 2012 figure of \$1,027.54.

The closing balance as of the 31st December 2013 for the MCG bank account was \$9,860.18 and the PayPal balance for the end of December was \$7.18.

The total of Petty Cash for the end of the year was \$80.40.

All up this gives us Net funds of \$9,947.76.

This balance sheet is available here tonight should any member wish to view the figures. Otherwise the 2013 balance sheet will be reproduced in the next newsletter.

EXPO 2013

The figures just mentioned in the 2013 balance sheet include the Clivia EXPO 2013. The following are the income and expenses relevant to the EXPO only.

Income

The Trading Table was \$2433.00, donations were \$987.45, the raffle made \$500.00, the kitchen \$850.07 and memberships were \$330.00. This gives us a total of \$5,100.52 in income.

Expenses

Kitchen supplies added up to \$152.87, hall hire was \$150.00, printing \$440.00, forks and postage \$133.94, office supplies were \$187.91 and other supplies of \$103.09. This added up to \$1,167.81 in expenses.

The Net figure for Clivia EXPO 2013 was \$3,932.71.

Lisa Fox (Treasurer)

Financial Statement

Melbourne Clivia Group Inc. Reg. No. A0052286A

Statement of Income & Expenditure

For the year ended 31st December 2013

Income

Member contributions

1905.00

Raffles

930.00

Last year

1550.00

1051.00



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| | | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|
| Trading Table & commission | 2717.00 | 1096.30 |
| Donations | 1067.45 | 325.05 |
| Sundry Income | 726.39 | 355.30 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 7345.84 | 4377.65 |

Expenses

| | | |
|--|---------|----------|
| Garden Expo | 0.00 | 698.15 |
| Consumer Affairs | 50.10 | 42.80 |
| Hall hire | 1220.00 | 875.00 |
| RHSV insurance & Affiliation fees | 225.00 | 192.50 |
| Amenities | 40.00 | 44.75 |
| Postage | 0.00 | 126.85 |
| Newsletter printing | 152.05 | 262.90 |
| Stationary | 324.05 | 282.55 |
| Presenter gifts | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Purchase of seeds/plants | 0.00 | 400.00 |
| Website | 0.00 | 424.61 |
| Sundry expenses | 1446.05 | 0.00 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total payments | 3457.25 | 3,350.11 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| <u>Net (Deficiency/Surplus of funds)</u> | 3888.59 | 1,027.54 |

NAB A/c No. 083-657-82-974-5477

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Opening balance per Cashbook | 5711.78 | 4598.64 |
| Plus Deposits | 7395.84 | 4277.65 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 13107.62 | 8876.29 |
| Less Payments | 3247.44 | 3258.36 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Balance per Cashbook | 9860.18 | 5617.93 |
| Plus unrepresented cheques | 0 | 93.85 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Closing balance per bank statement | 9860.18 | 5,711.78 |

PayPal balance 7.18

Petty Cash

| | | |
|--|-------|--------|
| Opening Balance | 53.90 | 66.15 |
| Plus funds withheld from cash receipts | 0.00 | 100 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 53.90 | 166.15 |



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| | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Less Postage | 12.00 | 18.00 |
| Stationary | 1.50 | 33.55 |
| Amenities | 0.00 | 14.75 |
| Garden Expo | 0.00 | 25.45 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 13.50 | 91.75 |
| To petty cash | 40.00 | |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Closing balance | 80.40 | 74.40 |
| Net funds | 9947.76 | 5692.33 |



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Melbourne Clivia Group In.

In accordance with the Model Rules for Tier 1 Incorporated Bodies (income under \$250,000), the Financial Statement gives a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Association.

Helen Marriott

President, Melbourne Clivia Group

Dated 21/2/2014

Lynn Rawson

Committee Member

Dated 21/2/2014



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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.