



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we entered May I could spot a number of low buds on some *C. gardenii* plants as well as on various interspecifics, especially those interspecific hybrids of *C. miniata* x *C. caulescens* or *C. miniata* x *C. nobilis* (or *C. x cyrtanthiflora*). We can thus expect to see a reasonable display table at our meetings during the coming months.

Many good reports were heard from members following the presentation by Lisa Fox and Michael Barrett at the April meeting on "New trends in Clivia breeding". It was an excellently illustrated introduction to some of the exciting trends in breeding in South Africa in particular and of some of the wonderful cultivars being used or emerging through recent hybridisation. Thank you Lisa and Michael. You can read about their presentation in this newsletter.

A short discussion also took place at our April meeting on when to pick berries. Focusing upon the harvesting of *C. miniata* berries, the two or three members who spoke up indicated a preference for leaving berries on the plants for a longish period rather than removing them early, arguing that by so doing, the seeds become fully matured. Another member pointed out that at the other extreme, berries can be left on the plant for too long. No doubt there is more scope for debate on this topic as differences of opinion do exist.

The CLIVIA EXPO sub-committee for 2014 has been formed and has already commenced meeting. Led by Ray Perks, the other members consist of Isabel Collins, Vu Dang, Lisa Fox, Helen Marriott, Di Mathews and Chee Perks. There is a lot of work in planning and preparing for CLIVIA EXPO in advance as well as all the work that is done on the day itself. We thank all those who have

volunteered for this committee work and also hope that many other members of the club will support this large event in various ways. We are, in fact, dependent on the assistance of many individuals to make this annual event a success, including the families and friends of members. Accordingly, at the June meeting, the committee will ask members to vote on a Special Resolution to cover all such individuals.

"For the purpose of CLIVIA EXPO the committee has determined to create another member category in accordance with 12 (3) (c) of the model rules for all volunteers who are not otherwise a member of the MCG. Such persons must comply with the Model Rules and fulfil the requirements for membership in accordance with subsection 9. The committee will make all other arrangements for membership as required by subsection 10, as recognition of those persons' service to the MCG."

One of the recommendations of last year's CLIVIA EXPO sub-committee was that we purchase a good PA system to use at the September event as well as at general meetings. We thank Vu for arranging this for us. Those members who attended the April meeting will have seen us try out the new equipment on that occasion.

On 15 April, Lisa Fox and I travelled to San Remo to talk on *Clivia* to a very enthusiastic group of garden club members there. To our surprise, quite a large number of the participants were already growing *Clivia* and asked a range of pertinent questions. Going out to other garden clubs in this way is an excellent way of spreading interest in *Clivia* so if you are aware of any clubs which would like to have a member visit, please have them contact Michael Barrett, the MCG secretary.

As previously announced, the MCG will run a one-day photography workshop for members. This will be held on Saturday 2 August from

10:00-3:30 in the regular meeting hall. The workshop is meant for those members who wish to improve their photography of *Clivia*. Further details are described separately in this newsletter. If you wish to participate, please complete the registration form and return at the June or July meeting or by email attachment to the secretary by 18 July.

The MCG is extremely pleased to welcome Mark Cant, a nurseryman from NSW, to our June meeting. Known in particular for his breeding of European peaches to which he has allocated the group name of "Cant's Europeach", we look forward to hearing about his breeding and growing experiences. Mark plans to donate a plant to our raffle and will also bring some of his seedlings to sell. The committee would be pleased if some members could bring back their Cant seedlings to add to the display that night.

The theme of the meeting for the following month of July will be variegation and so we request members to bring along some of their variegates for the display table as well as for sale. Some plants with variegated berries would also be great for display. In addition, we would also like to have some variegates donated for the raffle so if you have a spare one, please contact Vu in advance.

Berries will be ripening from now on and, in fact, some interspecifics may have already matured. Some members might like to leave a few berries on their plants for display at CLIVIA EXPO, especially in case they are short of plants in bloom for the display. Also, as usual, we will be grateful for any donations of spare seed or berries for distribution from the demonstration table on that day. Please note that it is best not to pick berries too soon for this purpose; early September is probably ideal timing.



Not surprisingly, some of our members also have connections with other garden clubs and organisations. It was thus nice to learn that George Simmler's photo of *Scadoxus* featured on the front of a recent edition of a Royal Horticultural Society publication. Nice work George.

We hope to see a large number of attendees at our next meeting on 20 June (and at the July meeting as well) at 7:30 in the Fellowship hall of the Uniting Church, corner of Blackburn road and Burwood Highway, Burwood. Please do bring some display plants, including your Cant seedlings, and anything for the Trading Table if you have *Clivia* material to sell.

Helen Marriott

CLIVIA EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

13 September, MCG's CLIVIA EXPO.

Details will be provided at the coming meetings and in the late July newsletter.

19-24 September Toowoomba Clivia Society's show: TAFE College, Toowoomba. In conjunction with their show, this year the Toowoomba Clivia Society will also run a Toowoomba Clivia and Garden Tour (<http://www.toowoombacliviasociety.com.au/index.php/events/upcomingevents>).

Bookings should be made by the end of May as any vacant spaces will be advertised widely after that time.

20 September, Clivia Society of NSW's inaugural show (one day only).
Venue: Don Moore Community Center, Corner of North Rocks Road and Farnell Avenue, North Rocks.
Opening hours: possibly 9:00am-5:00pm (to be confirmed)

HERE'S ONE GOOD REASON TO ATTEND MEETINGS

The interspecific x *C. miniata* in Fig. 1 & 2, currently showing 20 flowers, following on from 18 flowers in November 2013, will be a raffle prize at the June meeting.



Fig. 1 June raffle prize

Some of you may recall its yellow sibling from our August 2013 display table (Fig. 3). The raffle plant has been pollinated with this impressive sibling and an equally desirable pink *C. miniata*.

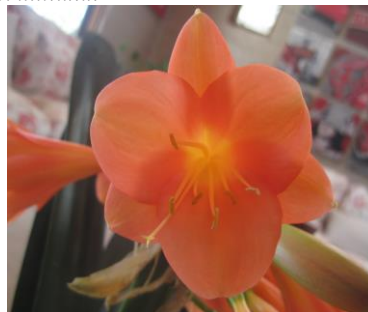


Fig. 2 June raffle prize



Fig. 3 June raffle prize sibling

GENERAL MEETING
Friday 20 Jun 7.30pm
Uniting Church
Cnr Blackburn Rd &
Burwood Hwy
Burwood

Breeding experiences and
Clivia cultivation
- Mark Cant

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 July, 2014

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 Find us on
Facebook

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

CLIVIA ADDICTIONS
2014 Seed list now available
Specialising in Interspecific crosses

Gary 0415 770 274
gar-mich@hotmail.com



CULTIVATION NOTES

Peter Haeusler

Yes, I know, it's getting cold and uninviting outside and settling down in front of the heater with a cup of your favourite brew is, well, irresistible. But for clivia enthusiasts hibernation is not an option! There is plenty to do and think about, with much of this winter activity an investment in your spring flowering season and beyond. And, of course, if you have *Clivia gardenii*, for instance, they will already be coming into flower, and I can see some spikes starting to emerge on my *Clivia robusta*, so it can be a time of real interest and reward.

At this point I have pretty well stopped fertilising until the spring, even though I know that my younger plants will make surprising strides throughout our (generally) relatively mild Melbourne winter. I have stopped re-potting, although I think that with care when it comes to watering, one could still pot plants up. There is, however, a danger they will sit and sulk and root rot may set in. I certainly would not undertake any division of plants now until it starts to warm up in spring. As I say though, there is plenty you can do and think about and the following are some suggestions and thoughts.

Winter cleaning!

Now is the time to remove those discolouring older leaves from your plants, along with that autumn leaf litter that may have accumulated in the centres of your clivias. This is to reduce places where pests can hide and flourish, and with the flowering season approaching, it's particularly important to remove these and other sources of shelter for snails. And while you are at it, start putting a bit of snail bait down around your clivias, repeating the process in the lead-up to flowering time. To get the snail bait out once you see your blooms being devoured (and it can

happen overnight) is like shutting the gate after the horse has bolted.



Fig. 4 3rd prize People's Choice Award

Don't, however, get too zealous with removing autumn leaves. For clivias growing in the garden they serve as fabulous compost, helping replicate natural conditions, and you will soon see wonderful root development under the litter surface. But with garden-grown clivias it is still important, perhaps even more so, to remove litter from the centres of your plants and get that snail bait out early.

To water or not to water

In my opinion, clivias are much better being on the dry side rather than too wet (although if mixes dry out too much they can become hydrophobic, but in part this relates to the nature of your potting mix). Clivias really don't like wet feet and problems will soon set in if drainage is poor or plants are getting too much water over an extended period. The effects of too much water can take various forms such as brownish spotting on leaves, and you can also get root rot which may not be evident until the plant literally starts to tip over. Please note that I am not saying that fungal problems are simply or solely related to over-watering, but rather that too much watering or prolonged wet conditions can give rise to or amplify fungal problems.

Above all, it is your potting mix that will play a huge part in how your plants perform and handle wet conditions. It absolutely must be a

relatively open, very well-drained mix. But there are other things you can do in this regard. Take care to ensure that plants don't end up under drip points. Even in the case of shade cloth structures the water will tend to channel through in certain (lower-hanging) areas. Grab an umbrella and venture out to your shade house when it's raining. Take note of where the water tends mainly to drip through or aggregate and move plants that seem to be right under such points or make adjustments to the shade cloth.

I keep my seedlings under clear laserlite (and shade cloth) for at least the first 12 months, and if I have the space, for the first couple of years. This allows me to control the amount of water they get until such time as their root systems are more developed and the plants have more resilience. These seedlings (in community pots of 4-8 plants) and young plants (in approx. 100mm pots) will be watered once a week, less frequently in winter (perhaps fortnightly), and it is not until around summer that I might start to water twice-weekly.



Fig. 5 2013 plant from CLIVIA EXPO

In the case of the more mature plants under shade cloth or in pots out among the garden shrubbery, I water little if at all from May through to October, relying instead on natural rainfall. Indeed, if rainfall is about average during spring, then sometimes I find that I don't start hand watering those plants until as late as November. As I say though,



this depends on the amount of rainfall, and temperatures of course.

To spray or not to spray

They say that prevention is better than cure, but as a rule I don't apply fungal sprays as preventives, although I might do so if we are experiencing humid conditions in summer when I watch my seedlings in particular like a hawk. However, last year in late May I did apply a systemic fungicide (Yates Anti-rot) to my mature flowering-sized plants, following this up a few weeks later with a non-systemic fungicide (Mancozeb Plus). This was part of getting ready for the flowering season and trying to 'nip in the bud' potential rot problems involving the flower stem and/or the flower head itself. And as it transpired I had few such problems last year. I hasten to add, however, that this may have simply been due to the season, or indeed good luck, rather than the application of the fungicides. Nonetheless, I am going to follow the same spray regime again this year as we edge towards the main flowering season.



Fig. 6 Plant from 2013 CLIVIA EXPO

My feeling is that the best practice by far in terms of disease control is ongoing vigilance, including sustained attention to what is happening among your plants (don't just admire them from the patio, get close and personal), in conjunction with a considered management strategy that ranges from the potting mix you use, to fertilisation and plant treatment. Inspect all your plants regularly, removing affected leaves at

the first sign of fungal problems, for instance. In such cases I always dab the cut section of a leaf with sulphur powder to help seal the wound. If you have sick or diseased plants – and yes, we *all* get them – isolate them and treat them promptly. I never cease to be surprised at the number of people who leave what are clearly diseased plants among their otherwise healthy plants, their infected leaves happily waving back and forth in the breeze.



Fig. 7 Plant from 2013 CLIVIA EXPO

And while I am on this particular topic, when using chemicals ensure that you read the instructions. I see people using chemicals, yet not even wearing gloves, let alone anything more by way of protective gear. Recently someone I was visiting pulled out a sick seedling and proceeded to spray it as it rested in his hand – applying moreover a pretty heavy duty chemical. I suspect that in this case the prognosis may be better for the patient (the clivia) than the carer! And another practice that I have seen on more than one occasion involves keeping a sprayer of a made-up chemical solution at hand to apply when needed. Vigilance at work, surely! Perhaps, but again if you read the instructions you will likely find the manufacturer stating that once a solution is made up it is to be used within a specified period, often 24 hours. I thought it was rather ironic when I saw one person (not a MCG member) doing this a couple of years back now when dealing with a virulent fungal problem in his seed germination boxes. He kept a prepared solution at hand and

seemed to mist away freely when he had an opportunity. But the chances are that, for the most part, the fungicide had probably lost its effectiveness, so in effect, he was just adding more and more moisture thereby exacerbating his fungal problem. Moreover, the seeming faith in a chemical fix alone meant that issues of excessive moisture, over-heating and humidity, plus a lack of air circulation were not being addressed in that case. So, the lesson as far as chemicals is concerned: read instructions thoroughly, approach your clivia management holistically and in terms of a management plan (this will include rotating the controls you use, e.g. for the likes of mealy bugs), and in the end use a bit of common sense also!

Still on the topic of ailing plants and management practices, if I have a sick plant that I am tossing out, both the plant *and* the potting mix it is in go into the wheelie bin – and *never* the compost heap where any bugs will in all likelihood linger, only to be recycled when you use that compost. Pots can of course be re-used but I always wash and sterilise them first. I am very surprised when I see people re-use old clivia potting mix, blending old and new as if this somehow reinvigorates the lot. This is at best a false economy. More pointedly, it is bad practice in terms of plant hygiene and health, and to re-use mix which sick plants have been growing in is, at best, very unwise.

Seeds and seed-raising

No doubt many of you will have already turned your attention to your seed purchasing and planting intentions for this year. On seed purchases, I'll just make a couple of brief points. First, be wary of buying seed from growers who harvest their seed quite early, before the pods have really coloured (this is, I suspect, often out of a desire to get their product out into the marketplace before competitors). From my



experience such seed is more likely to result in less than vigorous seedlings, or indeed seedlings/young plants that cause problems later on.



Fig. 8 Ripe berries

The other issue I want to mention in terms of buying seeds relates to pollination. Are you getting the cross that you think you are? With some sellers offering tantalising crosses and in many cases charging a lot for seed, caution is warranted. While I am getting some great flowering results from seed I purchased in 2009 and 2010 I am also seeing cases, numerous cases in fact, where I am quite sure that the pollen parent has not done its thing, so to speak. Now there can be many reasons for this and I am certainly not suggesting dishonesty on the part of the seed seller. I will simply say, get to know those you buy seed from and talk about the pollination process they employ. And second, be guided more by the pod parent when you purchase. If you are largely buying the seed because of the purported pollen parent then you should think twice, particularly if it's expensive seed.

The matter of seed raising certainly needs more space than I have here, but I will just make a couple of observations given that many of you will shortly be putting down seed. On seed-raising mix, I know that many members have a love affair with sphagnum moss but I put my seeds straight into small community pots using a commercially available mix (i.e. sterilised and professionally developed), where they remain until I pot them up into individual pots at

about 12 months. I use Debco propagating mix (NOT their seed raising mix which I consider too fine), raising several thousand seedlings over the past five years with a 95% average germination rate and almost no subsequent losses - touch wood! The community pots I use are 85mm square, with one cross to a pot and generally 4-6 seeds per pot. This method of smallish community pots has, I think, several advantages. You can maintain pretty consistent soil temperatures at that germination-early growth stage. More importantly, should the worst happen and a fungal problem emerge, you can easily isolate the problem batch from the rest, which is crucial. In addition, you can easily see how a given cross is progressing and taking shape over the first year.

CLIVIA MARKET

**The marketplace for
Clivia growers
and buyers**

www.cliviamarket.com
info@cliviamarket.com

NEW TRENDS IN CLIVIA BREEDING

Lisa Fox & Michael Barrett

At the MCG April meeting, a presentation and discussion on 'New trends in Clivia breeding' was led by Lisa Fox and Michael Barrett. This newsletter item is a report on the discussions on the night.

It should be noted that the presentation was not intended to dictate to members what seed they should purchase or which plants are

the best. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and it is our individual differences in what we perceive as being a beautiful flower that leads to so much diversity.

The intention was also not to present ourselves as experts in new trends but to display images of plants that are popular, and to discuss with the members, the breeding, history, groups, compatibility and popularity of the plant, particularly in regard to what could potentially be produced. With a few of our members being experienced growers, the intention was that through discussion we may all learn something.

There are some very exciting and beautiful plants appearing as parent plants in seed lists that have become popular in recent years. Many are the result of careful breeding programs from established growers. There are also a number of well-known plants, some from the habitat and others that are the result of chance breeding, that have been popular for many years and still continue to be desired and sought-after plants.

As there were time restrictions on the night, we were unable to discuss all the beautiful plants in the world, so the discussion just focused on a selection of what is currently 'in-vogue'.

A selection of images has been reproduced in this newsletter with permission from the owner. Unfortunately we are unable to print all the photos we would like to or this newsletter would end up being 100 pages long. Where possible, links have been included so you may view these beautiful plants at your leisure.

According to the online Oxford dictionary

(<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/trend>), a trend is defined as:



1. A general direction is which something is developing or changing.
2. A fashion

GREEN

Green flowers have been popular for some years now and continue to still be very sought after. Many people now have green bred seedlings in their collections but flowering size greens are still uncommon.

Perhaps the best known green flower is Hirao, bred in Japan by Toshio Koike from bronze and group 2 yellow breeding (Natal Yellow), making it compatible with group 2 yellow plants. It is often used to increase and emphasize the green throats in plants such as bronzes and oranges.

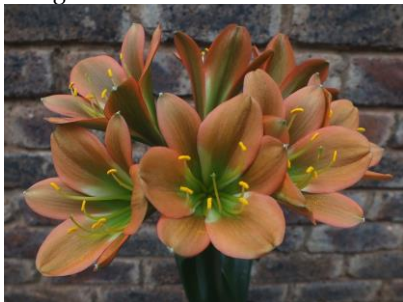


Fig. 9 Gunrao (Gunston x Hirao) bred by Pikkie Strumphfer

Because of the lovely green colouring, some people over the years have crossed their peaches, both African peaches and European peaches, with Hirao hoping to breed peaches with green throats. These seedlings are pigmented and will most likely flower orange as these peaches are not compatible with Group 2 plants.

The following link is a photo of Hirao owned by Lionel Bester.

<http://rs726.pbsrc.com/albums/ww270/hiltonclivias27/2011Floweringseasonpics196.jpg~320x480>

Discussions with members – some Hirao plants are more yellow in colour than

green though the green throat is generally displayed.

Charlsgreen is another popular green flower. Although listed in the Clivia Register as an Interspecific, there is some debate over whether this is an Interspecific or a Miniata, or a miniata-like Interspecific. Charlsgreen is compatible with Group 2 yellow plants and has produced lovely offspring particularly when crossed with Hirao and TK Original.

The following link is to a photo of Charlsgreen owned by Charl Malan.
<http://posting.org/image/1fsmbtvq/c/>

Discussion with members – that Charlsgreen was originally bred by Nakamura and may be the offspring of a plant he bought at a flower shop that must have been a Koike Group 2 yellow.

TK Original is a Group 2 yellow plant often with a green throat also bred in Japan by Koike and often seen in seed lists, compatible with other Group 2 yellow plants.

<http://posting.org/image/1ug57iitg/L>

Discussion with members – TK Original is sometimes seen as TKO or TK.

Another interesting plant that has a green throat and is almost green is Vic's Green, bred and owned by Victor Murillo. This plant is compatible with Group 1 yellows. It is unusual to see a Group 1 yellow with so much green.

<http://www.murillos-exquisite-clivias.com/Vic's%20Green%20%204-27-2009%205-34-08%20AM.JPG>

NEARLY GREEN

A small group of plants that have received worldwide attention in recent years is the 777 series bred by Pikkie and Elize Strumphfer.



Fig. 10 One of the 777 plants bred by Pikkie Strumphfer

Out of his bronze breeding program, Pikkie noticed 5 green based seedlings and set them aside. These flowered and were named the 777 series. Breeding the 777 series together has produced green based seedlings. Seeds from this series crossed together and with a variety of other plants were offered by Cliviamart this year and sold out very promptly.



Fig. 11 A 777 plant bred by Pikkie Strumphfer

Discussions included the 'bleeding' on the petals of the plants and whether they would be compatible with Group 2 plants.

Stargreen is a much sought after plant. It is rumoured to be a sibling to Charlsgreen, bred by Nakamura and raised from seed by Philip Crous.

The following link is to Stargreen owned by Willem and Madeleine Nel.

<http://i1111.photobucket.com/albums/h462/WILLEINE001/b.jpg>

Imsangu, Dagga Cookie, Greensleeves and Zol are very green



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

throated plants that are attracting attention lately. Grouped as the Chubb Narcotics plants, some of them do appear to be green. They were bred by Sean Chubb by breeding Pastel Blush with Hottie's Hirao.

http://www.cliviasa.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=25&Itemid=19#

http://i206.photobucket.com/albums/bb302/henryhp_photos/Hirao_zpscf99524.jpg

Discussion with members - centred around the fact that Pastel Blush must have had Group 2 yellow breeding in the background which has since been reported to be Natal Yellow.

VERSICOLOUR

A colour combination term becoming more widely used is Versicolour. This is where the inside of the petals are very pale and the outside of the petals display a darker colouration and often stripes. Recently Rudo Lotter released a short paper where he describes the breeding of Versicolour plants.



Fig. 12 Rumpelstikskin F2 owned by Pikkie Strumpher

"When I first flowered a versicolour interspecific Harold Koopowitz described the plant as unbelievable, I named this plant after my daughter Chanel. Since then many versicoloured interspecifics were bred all over the world, proving that this is feasible colour variation in clivia but yet unknown in Clivia miniata."

Clivia Forum April 5 2014

Rudo later experimented with Naude's Peach and an orange which was a Group 1 x Group 2 cross. In the second generation, some Versicolour flowers emerged which were Miniata.

The following links are to a variety of Versicolour flowers.

http://i686.photobucket.com/albums/vv222/CarrieKruger/Versicoloured_zps4d31de10.jpg

http://s686.photobucket.com/user/CarrieKruger/media/Chanel2_RL700_zpsbf9028f6.jpg.html

<http://i1111.photobucket.com/albums/h462/WILLEINE001/lovechild2012.jpg>

http://s1308.photobucket.com/user/PantherPta/media/014_zps8773854a.jpg.html

SPLASH

Andrew Gibson is a habitat plant that has been a popular plant for some time now and remains just as popular today. Sean Chubb has line-bred Andrew Gibson and produced a range of signature plants, including the lovely Chubb Super Splash.



Fig. 13 Andrew Gibson owned by Pikkie Strumpher

Another beautiful range of splash plants are the Fairytale series bred by Val Thurston. This breeding program used Andrew Gibson crossed with Msubo Wow and Ngidi Pink Champagne.

The following links are to splash plants.

<http://cliviaregister.com/clivia-register.php?page=2&>

http://www.cliviasa.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=26&Itemid=19

<http://www.hiltonclivias.co.za/sales/item/324>

BRONZE

The bronze seeds on seed lists continue to sell out quickly, with beautiful bronze parents such as Bronze Green Boy, Bertie's Bronze, Gunston, Crown Prince, Efydd, Hattori UQ and many others.



Fig. 14 Efydd 2 bred by Pikkie Strumpher

Breeding bronze plants to group 2 yellows such as Hirao is a popular cross and can produce lovely green throated bronzes. If the bronze has a Group 2 yellow as a parent plant, then there is a strong possibility of breeding a green based seedling that could potentially flower yellow/green.



Figure 15 Runaldo - a bronze Interspecific bred by Pikkie Strumpher

The following links are to images of popular bronze plants.



<http://www.northamericancliviasoci.org/galleryn.php?color=orange>

<http://i686.photobucket.com/album/s/vv222/CarrieKruger/Clivia%20Miniata%202011/BGBed4.jpg>

http://i673.photobucket.com/album/s/vv97/janneman_photos/clivias2012/Darling059.jpg

<http://www.cliviamart.co.za/gallery6.php?id=14>

<http://www.californiaclivias.com/clivia.php?pagex=6&colorx=&nursery=Clivian&type=S>

PEACH

European peach is still very popular and with the lovely group of European peaches from Perth and Toowoomba, Australia has a good source of quality peaches. It is now better understood that European peaches are not compatible with African peaches or with yellow plants.

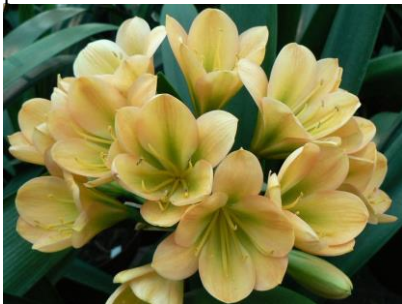


Fig. 16 Cayla - owned by Pikkie Strumphier

The following links are to a variety of European peaches.

<http://cliviarregister.com/cliviarregister.php?page=2>

<http://cliviarregister.com/cliviarregister.php?page=2>

<http://postimg.org/image/m91bhap0/>

<http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-LHGweqwcLbw/T5dY2HHgQCI/A>

<AAAAAAACKc/4xacKGBmmDg/s1600/%2527Sunrise+Sunset%2527+1.jpg>

BI-COLOUR/PICOTEE TYPES

The picotee/bi-colour or large white throat flowers are very attractive and the lovely plants from Roly Strachan make a stunning display. Many crosses of these are offered on the KZN seed list.

<http://www.cliviamart.co.za/gallery6.php?id=11>

<http://www.cliviamart.co.za/gallery6.php?id=11>

http://i182.photobucket.com/album/s/x260/shu_bunkin/Hattori-131_zpsa24774e5.jpg

http://i182.photobucket.com/album/s/x260/shu_bunkin/Hattori-121_zpsc37c881f.jpg

OTHER SPECIAL PLANTS

The Wang Dian Chun (WDC) yellow from China, a broad leaf yellow, has been attracting a lot of interest on forums in the last few years. The plants and seeds are very expensive and there is controversy over whether the plants are group 1 or group 2. It seems that the grower may have yellows in his greenhouse from both groups.

<http://i1091.photobucket.com/albums/i385/Sport234a/wdc3a.png>

Deklan from Nakamura is a lovely white throat pastel that has produced similar to itself in its offspring.

http://s686.photobucket.com/user/CarrieKruger/media/Clivias%202013/Decklaned1.jpg_zps92e01e7a.jpg.html

Cameo is another sought-after pastel plant.

<http://i148.photobucket.com/albums/s/23/gerhardfaber/P9120088.jpg>

Florid White Lips was bred by Dirk Lootens in Belgium and has found its way into many collections worldwide. It continues to be popular due to its compact stature and multiple flowerings per year.

<http://www.pinterest.com/pin/137359857354798280/>

Multipetals or Multitepals never fail to attract interest and particularly the yellow, bronze and peaches are quick sellers.

<http://www.cliviamart.co.za/gallery6.php?id=17>

<http://www.cliviamart.co.za/gallery6.php?id=17>

The Yellow Blush, particularly the Hattori ones, is also a very desirable plant. This is a very interesting coloured plant. It opens yellow and blushes to a pinkish colour. I have seen crosses with other plants such as yellows where the seedlings have all been pigmented.

Discussions from experienced growers indicated that Yellow Blush produces pigmented seedlings when crossed with Group 1 or Group 2 yellow plants. The general consensus was that Yellow Blush should be crossed with another Yellow Blush to retain the colouring.

UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES

Many of us will face an unexpected outcome when a long awaited cross finally flowers after years of waiting. Often it was from expensive seed for which we had high expectations. This often happens when incompatible types are crossed. Crossing a European peach with an African peach will generally produce orange offspring, as will crossing Group 1 yellow with Group 2 yellow. This particularly happened years ago before the groupings were better understood. It can also be through our own lack of knowledge of what the expected outcome may be.



It does all come down to becoming informed and researching before buying seed of a cross. Clivia growers do not set out to breed disappointments. With the increased use of the Internet, there are forums, websites, email and Facebook where people discuss breeding, crosses and unexpected outcomes. It is better to ask questions if unsure, before paying a large amount for seed.

Carrie Kruger put it very well in a recent Forum post.

“To me it is important for the buyers to know about the genetics of clivias when they purchase seeds. The more you read on the forum and also in the newsletters and yearbooks, the more you will learn. This will help you not to make the mistake of buying crosses that look interesting because the grower is using a magnificent pollen parent on all their plants. The pod parent is just as important in making any cross. Therefore I show both my pod and pollen parent pictures on my lists.

Make sure you know about the grouping of clivias and which groups are compatible, because a lot of growers don't mention whether their yellow, peach or green plants are from group one or two. I think it is important for all growers to put as much information as possible on their seed or seedling lists.

We all know that as a seller, you can never guarantee the outcome of seeds or seedlings, but you can have expectations. Sometimes the results are even better than you expected and sometimes not. This is all part of the clivia growing.

I guess it is up to the buyer to decide if he wants to take a chance on a certain cross or not. This is where a lot of the new and wonderful plants are coming from. Buying suckers are good, but it will be a plant that is already out there and in a lot of collections. And are we not all looking for that one very special clivia that no one else has?

All growers don't have access to special plants and that is why buying seed is a good option for them. It is a chance to get hold of those very special genes that you

otherwise could never afford or get hold of as a beginner.

Clivia Forum 29 January 2014

CONTINUING DIRECTIONS

Computers and the Internet have transformed our lives in many ways and this includes buying, growing and selling Clivia plants and seeds. It is now easier to order seed both locally and internationally.

- More collaborative seed lists such as KZN and Cliviamart (and previously Dower/Winter). The benefit to the buyer is the ease of shopping once and the combined postage.
- Seed lists offered in Microsoft Excel format, PDF or online shopping carts.
- Discussions and information on websites, Facebook and forums, plus the ability to communicate more with the grower via email. Become better informed.
- Quality digital photographs and more detailed descriptions of berry and pollen parents on seed lists. It would be beneficial if the grower would outline the expected outcome.
- Payment methods such as Paypal accepted worldwide enables quicker and easier payments.
- Ebay lists Clivia plants and seeds. Often growers will list with a Buy Now price though sometimes an auction can result in paying premium prices.
- Better record keeping is possible through more knowledgeable computer use.

Happy growing!

DONATION OF INTERSPECIFIC SEED

We are grateful to Hugh Williams, a South Australian nurseryman, for his generous donation of special interspecific berries from his crosses of *C. robusta* with *C. miniata*. Thank you also Yvonne for passing on these berries, after preparing them for the April meeting's raffle and Trading Table. Some excellent flowers will surely arise from this seed.

ADVERTISING

Text classified 5 lines is free to members.

Box advertisement with image and black and white text (width is one column)
\$20 per issue or \$100 for 6 issues

¼ page box advertisement with images and black and white text.
\$50 per issue or \$250 for 6 issues

Other custom sizes please contact Lisa Fox



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"Portraits" of *Clivia*: A practical photography workshop with Chris Clarke

Saturday 2 August 10:00-3:30

Venue: Fellowship Hall, Burwood Uniting Church

This workshop is for those MCG members who wish to improve their photography of *Clivia*. The aim is to help people with digital cameras obtain better results, whether it is for photographing *Clivia* in the garden, shade house or on display at an MCG meeting or at CLIVIA EXPO. Even ordinary digital compact cameras can produce great images when the correct settings are used. But whether you use a compact digital camera or a digital single lens reflex (DSLR) camera, the workshop will help you improve the standard of your photos.

The workshop will include a brief review of photographic theory, followed by consideration of the common features of your digital camera. You will be helped to learn how and why to adjust shutter speed, aperture or ISO settings. Advice will also be given on white balance and other settings. In addition, Chris will check the settings of members' cameras.

There will be ample opportunity to shoot portraits of *Clivia* during the day. Chris will also lead us in some critique of prints of *Clivia* photos brought by members. In addition, he will briefly mention some of the post-processing activities that are important in photography.

We cannot expect Chris to know everything about every brand of camera, so it would be helpful if you could also bring your manual/instruction booklet. If you did not receive one with your camera, you should be able to download a copy from the internet.

About the presenter: Chris Clarke is a photographer who combines a passion for Australian plants and his skills as a communicator to help people improve the results they obtain from their digital cameras. He is also a keen gardener and also has a pot or two of orange *Clivia*. Chris contributed many photos to several main publications on Australian plants. Some of Chris's photographs can be seen at <http://www.redbubble.com/people/cjclarke>

To bring on the day: Please bring your lunch, camera, camera manual, and tripod, if you have one, and a few of your printed photos of *Clivia*, if you wish.

To register: Attendance is free for members but we do require you to register in advance (by 18 July).

Tea/coffee will be available prior to the commencement.

Please complete the attached form and submit at the June/July meetings or email to the secretary.

Enquiries to Helen Marriott



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REGISTRATION FORM

Photography Workshop, 2 August, 10:00am-3:00 pm, Burwood Uniting Church

I am a member of the MCG and wish to register for the Photography Workshop.

I agree to bring my lunch, camera and camera manual. (Please note that a tripod is optional.)

Name: _____

Signature: _____

You are also invited to bring a few printed photos of *Clivia*, if you wish.

Please return to Michael Barrett, Secretary of MCG, by 18th July.

We do not expect to be able to accept late registrations.