



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The annual CLIVIA EXPO is always a much anticipated event but with the timing earlier this year, the lead-up was a nervous one for some of us, wondering if we would be able to assemble a sufficient number of plants of a suitable quality.

Accordingly, there was a good deal of discussion at the August meeting not only about how to prepare pots and plants, introduced very well by Peter Haeusler and Brenda Girdlestone, but also how to quicken the blooming time, or in case it was needed, slow down any blooms from finishing.

In the end, many members cooperated fully by bringing along plants for the display, assisting with the set-up periods as well as spending all day Saturday helping out in various ways. The MCG sincerely **THANK** all those members who contributed to making CLIVIA EXPO 2014 a successful one. In addition, we were very fortunate to have a number of other volunteers help us on the day, without whom our operations would have been more difficult. We extend our thanks to all these individuals as well.

Although CLIVIA EXPO is only a single-day event, the amount of preparation which goes into it is huge. The planning sub-committee starts its work in May, with different aspects of the planning occurring over a five-month period. Five sub-committee members worked tirelessly during this period (Isabel Collins, Vu Dang, Lisa Fox, Helen Marriott and Di Mathews), with another four members contributing approximately two and half month's work, either at the commencement (Chee and Ray Perks) or during the latter part (Michael Barrett and Lynn Rawson). On behalf of the club, I extend my sincere thanks to all these members, without whom the day could not have taken place. Further details are contained in the reports in

this newsletter by four sub-committee members on different aspects of CLIVIA EXPO.

Our July meeting also took place since our last newsletter was published. On that occasion we were able to see and discuss various aspects of variegation in *Clivia* and again were grateful to those members who brought along a range of different variegates for members to appreciate. The website contains a short text on variegated *Clivia* which was prepared some time ago.



Figure 1 Chris Clarke and budding photographers

Our first workshop on photographing *Clivia* was held on 2 August, under the excellent guidance of Chris Clarke. Entitled, "Portraits of *Clivia*", 10 members were able to benefit from Chris's wide knowledge and experience with cameras and photographing flowers, and hopefully have gained some strategies for improving their own photography skills. This doesn't mean that practice, and more practice, is unnecessary, just the same.

The Cape Clivia Club seed exchange, coordinated by Lisa, has resulted in the MCG receiving a large amount of seed from that South African club. The contributions from our side started off slowly but a considerable number of seeds were sent in round two. I am pleased that the MCG participated in this initiative of the Cape Clivia Club and, in particular, we need to thank Lisa for the work which she put into the scheme.

The current committee will undertake further planning of the schedule for 2015 at its next committee meeting in early October, after this newsletter is finalised. So far, suggestions for next year include the topics of raising seedlings and potting mixes, the inclusion of an interstate guest, and perhaps another event either in spring during the main *C. miniata* flowering season or else on a Saturday during winter. If you have any requests for the 2015 general meetings, feedback on the recent CLIVIA EXPO or any other ideas, please do pass these on to a committee member as soon as possible.

The November issue of the newsletter will be the last for this year. As its main feature, we would like to invite as many members as possible - those active members who regularly attend meetings as well as other members, including those living close or far away - to contribute a brief description and, ideally, also a photograph, of a plant (or plants) which they enjoyed during 2014. Please send photographs as separate jpg attachments (no smaller than 300K but no bigger than approximately 1MB) to Lisa Fox at lisa.fox@gmail.com by 15 November. We hope that many members will share their enjoyment of *Clivia* by participating in this opportunity.

In order to cover our minimal operating costs, the membership fees of the MCG will rise slightly in 2015. Single membership (with electronic newsletter) will be \$20, single membership (with hard copy newsletter) will rise to \$35, and each additional family member will be \$15 each. Memberships can now be paid and should be finalised by the end of this year. A membership form for 2015 is included in this newsletter. The membership form, which covers both new membership and renewals, can also be completed online via the website.



The last meeting for the year will take place on Friday 17 October (7:30-9:15), when Lisa will coordinate the topic of "Basic care for *Clivia*". We expect that there will be also time to hear some brief reports from members who attended the International Clivia Conference and Show in South Africa or who went to the augural Clivia Show of the Clivia Society of NSW. We hope that some of the new members who joined the group at CLIVIA EXPO or soon after that event will be able to attend this meeting, held at the Uniting Church, corner of Burwood Highway and Blackburn Road, Burwood. Visitors are also most welcome.

In the meantime, let's all enjoy the remainder of the *C. miniata* season to the fullest.

Helen Marriott



GENERAL MEETING
Friday 17 Oct 7.30pm
Uniting Church
Cnr Blackburn Rd &
Burwood Hwy
Burwood

Basic care of Clivia & reports on
other Clivia shows

COMMITTEE

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

Melbourne Clivia Group Phone
Number - 0410 929 510

*Deadline for next issue -
15 Nov, 2014*

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CLIVIA EXPO 2014

Some reflections and comments on the procedures of the day as well as a few evaluations are found in the following texts on the recent CLIVIA EXPO, held on 13 September.

Michael Barrett: An overview

I hope all members would agree with me that CLIVIA EXPO 2014 was a most wonderful public event to increase interest in Clivia and showcase the quality of Clivia grown by members. Not dissimilar to a special party, it is over before you know it and you may not really get to enjoy it as much as your guests. Similarly, much planning and energy goes into making sure everything possible has been done to ensure a successful day for all attending. In many respects what was six hours of public display had been a year in the planning. Unfortunately the majority of sub-committee members responsible for organising this event have already had their fair share of contributing to previous expos. I do hope some other members who receive so much pleasure from CLIVIA EXPO will consider contributing to the next event. The set-up the night before was essential to the day's success. It was wonderful that Greg Anderson from Toowoomba and a few newer faces were able to lend two hands each to help the set-up and staging of the plants. In fact a big thank you to all who helped on the day but especially all volunteers (Pam Rawson, Sarah Poyton, Irmgard van der Spuy, Jules Hogan, Johnathan Hogan, Richard Clifford, Jamil Nawaz) who helped make the day a success.

While the display hall did not have the early crowd of previous years, throughout the day a steady stream of visitors came to admire the display. Once again Vu staged the plants wonderfully. I did notice how

CLIVIA MARKET

**The marketplace for
Clivia growers
and buyers**

www.cliviamarket.com
info@cliviamarket.com

Photos from the 2014 CLIVIA EXPO are now available for viewing on the MCG website gallery - <http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/gallery/gallery-2014-clivia-expo-1/>



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so many members and visitors enjoyed discussing the display in pairs or trios. Certainly this year's display cards looked very professional, were easy to read, and when information was added, provided a rich context to admire the plant slightly better. While we all had some pre-CLIVIA EXPO nerves about the number of plants that would flower in time, I certainly thought I saw a lot of plants for the first time and the quality made up for quantity. I was really inspired to aim higher with growing my own plants as well as possible after seeing such strong healthy plants and wonderfully clean leaves in unmarked shiny black pots. Thanks to the members who took shifts at the door welcoming visitors, handing out printed information and ensuring the safety of the plants.

Another area that seems to have a constant turnover of visitors enjoying themselves were the tables inside and out for refreshments. I really feel the day wouldn't be the same without the good food and a cuppa. Many thanks to Di Mathews and Jules Hogan for heading a team which provided wonderful sandwiches and cakes. Also thanks goes to Irmgard van der Spuy, ever calm and assured who, after working at the EXPO all day, went off to paid work elsewhere.



Again this year, the visiting public was eager to learn about seed sowing and pollination. Having the PA system to announce that another session was to start was great to get the interested people all there to start the demonstration on time. I enjoyed being an MC of sorts, not really used

to this role, but it was more comfortable as the day went on. I feel that both Helen and I get a lot of pleasure explaining the process and trying to answer the questions to the best of our ability. It was great to see so many visitors wanting to give seed peeling and sowing a go after watching the demonstration. Thanks to those who gave berries for handing out. One member of the public was, hopeful, asking politely if we had seeds for the green "ones". Many observers fully intended to go straight home and start the patient activity of growing Clivia. Many of the public were a little disappointed to hear how long the plant takes to reach flowering size, but I tried to promote the long-lived nature of the plant.



Figure 2 Flower display

The MCG Table overseen by Lisa Fox was where membership inquiries were handled and raffle tickets sold. Despite buying many raffle tickets, I failed to win a plant at the EXPO. A big thank you must go to those members who donated prizes. The majority of prizes were won by visiting members of the public, and funnily, on two occasions by people who had come together to the EXPO. Another important aspect of this area was to collect the nomination forms for People's and Members' Choice

awards. Sincere congratulations to Laurens Rijke for the People's Choice for a fabulous bronze *C. miniata* and Peter Haeusler for the Member's Choice of a most striking flower, labelled as 'Moonlight'. Please admire the photos if you didn't see it on the day. What was a real twist was that each winning plant was runner up to the other in the complementary category. It really is fascinating seeing what takes the attention of members and visitors. I wish to thank Jamil Nawaz for photographing the display plants.

I didn't get to see much of the hustle and bustle of the Trading Table hall. I take my hat off to Lynn Rawson for her calm and steady administration of such an important aspect of the day, not only for MCG coffers but also for the public (and members) to access quality plants and members to turn excess plants into cash. I did admire how some members had moved to a professional look with business cards giving contact details. Any information that helps explain the product being sold is of benefit. Some seeds being sold had the parent plants on display in the other hall, thus creating interest and inspiration.

The day is always over too quickly and is quite tiring, especially with the set-up the night before. I hope all members will contribute some feedback at a meeting to help make the next event a big success and as enjoyable as this year was to all attending.

Lisa Fox: The MCG Table

People's Choice Awards

The MCG Desk was quieter this year than it has been in previous years. Four people applied to become members of the club and a few members renewed their membership. Raffle tickets were sold throughout the day, with the draw being held each hour. We were



fortunate to have many lovely plants donated for this purpose. Thank you to all those people who donated plants.

The People's Choice Award remains popular and the chance of winning a \$50 Bunnings gift voucher encouraged people to submit their vote. A total of 138 people voted and, interestingly, the votes were for 53 different plants. Despite the early date of this year's CLIVIA EXPO, we were lucky to have such a great variety of plants on display and the large number of plants voted for shows the diversity of people's taste in flowers.

The winner of the People's Choice Award was a bronze multitepal Daruma hybrid bred and owned by Laurens and Ester Rijke.

Vibrant color, shape, contrast dark green - comment on voting card for winning plant



Figure 3 Winner People's Choice - Bronze multitepal Daruma hybrid - Laurens and Ester Rijke

The second prize for the People's Choice Award went to 'Moonlight' exhibited by Peter Haeusler. Third prize also went to Laurens and Ester Rijke with 'Cameron Peach'.

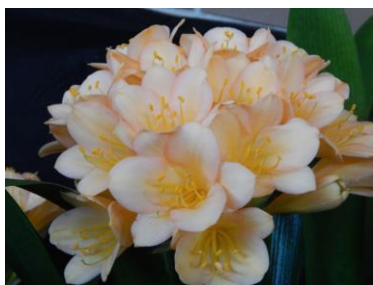


Figure 4 Third place People's Choice - 'Cameron Peach' exhibited by Laurens and Ester Rijke

Members' Choice Awards

This is the first year that the MCG has offered an award for the Members' Choice. A total of 24 members voted for 14 different plants, with the winner being 'Moonlight' exhibited by Peter Haeusler and the second prize being awarded to the bronze multitepal Daruma hybrid bred and owned by Laurens and Ester Rijke. It is interesting to note that the same two plants were selected by both the public and the members, but in reverse order.



Figure 5 Winner Members' Choice - 'Moonlight' - Peter Haeusler

How did the public hear about the CLIVIA EXPO?

On the People's Choice Award forms we asked how people heard about the CLIVIA EXPO 2014. The following is a break-down of their responses.

3AW radio	38
Advertisement	1
Gardening magazine	5
Internet (Facebook, Website, Forums)	9

Knew from previous year	3
Local paper	3
Passing Burwood Highway	3
Postcard sent to gardening clubs	13
RACV	8
RHSV	2
Saw postcard at gym	1
Word of mouth	46

Lynn Rawson: The Trading Table

Following discussions after last year's CLIVIA EXPO, the sub-committee agreed to trial a combined Trading Table for CLIVIA EXPO 2014. The format was a larger scale of the Trading Table conducted at each general MCG meeting. One of the reasons for the change was to free up many of the MCG group members from manning their individual trading tables all day so that they could provide support to other activities during the day.



Figure 6 Tiger variegated plant exhibited by Terry Edwards

The participation of sellers for this year's event was quite similar to last year. A limit of 100 plants per member was set, with family members allowed up to 200 plants. With the late flowering season, no seller reached the maximum allowed number of plants. In total, just fewer than 500 plants and 38 packets of seeds were offered for sale by eight sellers.



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Due to the need to control the very eager purchasers, it was decided to relocate the Trading Table from the outside area to the enclosed meeting room. This facility was also ideal for countering potentially unfavorable weather and providing a facility for a plant crèche for those who purchased prior to viewing the plants on exhibit in the main hall. The CLIVIA EXPO display was quite spectacular, despite the event being held a week earlier so several of the purchasers came back for more after seeing the display. Luckily, we did not have a repeat of last year's request for specific display plants by noting the display plant number.

Most of the plants for sale were mature flowering specimens of *Clivia miniata*. There were a number of requests for smaller plants, both by age and plant type e.g. Daruma and other low growing clivia as the available supply sold quite quickly. All of the seeds were sold early, indicating that even the novice growers were willing to wait for 4-5 years to achieve their goal.

Helen Marriott: The planning processes

The annual CLIVIA EXPO which has been held over the past four years confirms that we are able to assemble an excellent array of a variety of *Clivia* which are representative of our own or other local, national or international breeding. The number of plants on display has fallen slightly over the past couple of years, with 148 plants on display this year, compared to 152 in 2013 and 160 in 2012. The number of exhibitors also fell to 13 in 2014, whereas there were 18 in 2013 and 19 the year before that. However, I think that given the early timing of this year's event, we performed very well in mounting a display in terms of both the quality and quantity of plants brought for this purpose. All

those who contributed plants for this purpose deserve our sincere thanks.

It was certainly not without trepidation that many of us approached the event to be held on the second Saturday of September, fearing that we would not have sufficient plants on the day. Some members brought plants inside and kept them extra warm in the preceding three to four weeks, and it would seem that this strategy helped to promote sufficient early flowers for some of us. At the same time, it was pleasing to see a number of superb interspecifics on display, many more so than has been the case at earlier CLIVIA EXPO events.

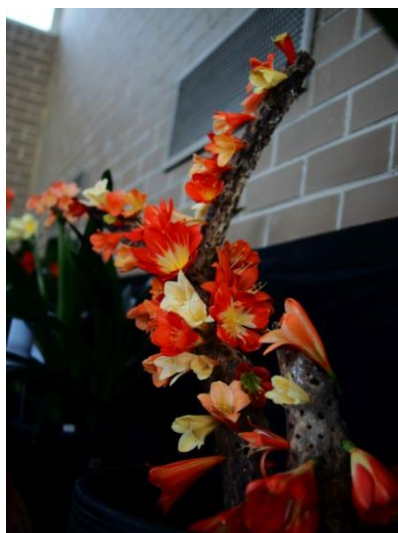


Figure 7 Flowers on display

CLIVIA EXPO was held on the fourth Saturday in September in 2011 and 2012, when both years had five Saturdays in September. The football grand finale, a strong cultural tradition in Melbourne, is always held on the last Saturday in September and, up until this year, the MCG (no pun intended here) has always chosen the second last Saturday, with CLIVIA EXPO thus falling on the third Saturday in 2013 (which also followed a warm winter).

On the basis that numerous members were likely to attend the Toowoomba Clivia show and special 2014 Clivia

tour or attend the conference and/or associated activities in South Africa in the third week of September, the 2013 sub-committee in its final report recommended that in 2014 CLIVIA EXPO be brought forward a week, and this recommendation was implemented by the MCG committee when planning the year's events. Given that this timing only just coincided with the beginning of the *C. miniata* flowering period, we did well to mount a display of the calibre which eventuated this year.

Each year within a couple of weeks of the main event, the CLIVIA EXPO sub-committee conducts a feedback meeting to evaluate that year's planning and implementation, and as a means of improving our processes makes recommendations which is made available to the following year's planning group. This year's meeting will have already taken place by the time this newsletter is distributed but further comments and suggestions for improvements will be gratefully accepted from members over the coming weeks. Accordingly, this year's sub-committee's report and recommendations will be passed on to the 2015 planning group, which can be expected to start work in May of that year.



Figure 8 Flower display



It has been the practice to date to settle the main parameters of CLIVIA EXPO in May so that a flyer - or postcard in 2014 - can be prepared and printed for distribution from June onwards. Other publicity is also planned for the following months and more detailed plans for the preparation of the event are collaboratively made by sub-committee members at meetings and through emails, leading to the update of the annual guidelines. These were expanded substantially this year in order to circumvent any misunderstandings among members regarding certain matters and also to detail the new arrangements for the combined club's Trading Table. These guidelines are printed in the July newsletter, and finalisation of further details, such as the plant cards, are undertaken prior to the August general meeting.

This very brief overview does not in any way do justice to the amount of attention which is paid to the planning of the many aspects of CLIVIA EXPO. Even so, we do not always get the planning right or else the implementation does not go perfectly well, for various reasons. All the sub-committee members liked the new postcard format this year in place of the old flyer, and I thought that the new plant card - now our third iteration - worked well, though the completion process by some members will need to be improved next year.

The event clearly illustrates what can be achieved through good team work, primarily by the sub-committee members in the preceding couple of months, but also by many members and other volunteers whom they co-opted to also help us on the day. This is not to say that further improvements over the 2014 organisation are not needed next year. For instance, the Friday set-up had a very slow start from 4:00 pm onwards and then the disappearance of all male club members to help

finish the set-up of the sales hall after 7:00 until completion was duly noted. Similarly, some members did not fulfil specific roster duties, leaving the MCG Table and the Demonstration and Information Table short-staffed on the Saturday. Fortunately, other helpful members help to fill the gaps, and to them we are very grateful. Furthermore, the sub-committee is aware that the selling procedures on the Trading Table procedures did not work fully as planned, and will need further fine-tuning next time.

Another disappointment was the lower visitor numbers in comparison with 2013, though that is perhaps an unfair comparison since we had an exceptionally large crowd that year. But at least this year we did not run out of award forms, handouts, free berries or plants for sale as a result of fewer visitors.

Further substantial improvements for the future, such as an improvement of the plant registration process when display plants are delivered as well as the selection of a better venue, have been raised by this year's sub-committee. A return to the third week in September in 2015 has also been agreed upon. Nevertheless, the interest and support of all the active members in the club is essential to hold this annual event. It has become a very time-consuming activity for a few individuals, but we would like reassurance from the majority that it is an event worthy of continuation, and confirmation that sufficient members are able and willing to give their full assistance.

Don't forget to send a flower photo and description for the November newsletter.
Please see the President's message for more information.

MCG TRADING TABLE AT REGULAR MEETINGS IN 2014 **Lynn Rawson**

The Trading Table results so far this year have been represented by extreme highs and very lows. On three occasions we have had quite spectacular plants available in large quantities that have almost sold out. In all instances a significant amount of the funds raised have been returned to the MCG through plants which have been donated.

Sales of seeds that were well labelled and of good quality sold out very quickly and more stocks of this type in reasonable quantity can be expected to have a similar result. If possible, the seed description detail should be written on the packet or, if there is insufficient space, a separate typed note should be enclosed in each packet so that the detail can be read or stapled to the outside of each packet.

Clivia seedlings and plants sales have fared very well where the descriptions are of plants which are quite different from those in most members' collections. Once again, a clear description of the plant parentage is likely to provide an increased likelihood of achieving a sale. If the members cannot see that the sale item is different to plants already in their collection (as indicated on a clear label), then the sales opportunity is diminished.

So help yourself and the MCG by supporting the Trading Table with regular small quantities of clivia plants and seeds. The Trading Table guidelines are available on the MCG website. Any other enquiries can be sent to Lynn Rawson on lrawson@howardcomputing.com



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**APPLICATION
FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL OF THE
MELBOURNE CLIVIA GROUP INC. 2015**

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 2015 (electronic newsletter) \$20
- OR**
- Single Membership 2015 (hard copy newsletter) \$35
- Each additional family member \$15

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.