



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to everyone. I trust that it has been an enjoyable and restful period for most people. There have been fires in some areas of the country and temperatures have vacillated between the high 30s and low 20s here in Melbourne. Vu Dang includes some timely advice for us in this newsletter about the importance of watering our plants in pots during this summer period.

As usual, I have enjoyed a continuing display of *Clivia* flowers, albeit in small numbers, during November, December and January in Melbourne and can see a few more new buds emerging. Interspecific hybrids involving *C. miniata* crossed with *C. caulescens*, *C. nobilis* or the related *C. x cyrtanthiflora* are responsible for this continuation of flowering.

At the first meeting for the year on Friday 20 February, some of the members who attended *Clivia* events in Sydney and South Africa will share their experiences through presentations of slides which will be supplemented by commentary. We will have the use of the large screen which is now installed in our meeting room so we look forward to seeing some quality photos using this new equipment. The South African clubs hold their own shows in their respective regions throughout the month of September, with a major event scheduled every four years consisting of the region's show, a conference, auction and visits to growers in the area. Although brief introductions were given by a small number of members at the October meeting, this will be an opportunity to visually see and hear more about *Clivia* in Sydney and South Africa.

The February meeting is an important one for the MCG, with the AGM to take place and a new committee elected. I have the impression at times that some members do not appreciate the

amount of effort put into the running of a club by voluntary members, with committee members assuming the bulk of this work. It is thus only fair that different people participate more actively from time to time and volunteer to become committee members and assume some of the responsible positions, not only to bring fresh ideas to the group but also to share the workload involved. Please remember that only financial members are eligible to make a nomination or vote at meetings.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the outgoing 2014 committee will put the following resolution to the AGM with regard to the number of ordinary members to be included on the committee: That up to three ordinary members are elected to the 2015 MCG Committee.

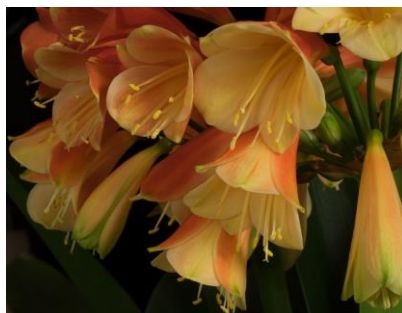


Fig. 1 *C. miniata* x *C. caulescens*

We once again attach a nomination form for the election of committee members, as well as a proxy form. The proxy form only needs to be completed if you want to appoint someone to vote for you in your absence at the February meeting. Elections will be held if multiple nominations are received for any of the four main positions (President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer), and if more than three nominations are received for ordinary committee members, assuming that the resolution foreshadowed above is passed by members.

In the past the MCG has been the agent for facilitating the acquisition by members of important *Clivia*

material. This included the sale of single *C. mirabilis* seeds at one of the 2014 meetings. As previously advised, the remaining four seedlings will be auctioned at the February meeting in the form of a silent auction.

The MCG is also very pleased to be able to offer to members the opportunity to purchase special *C. gardenii* offsets in early 2015. Please see the details which are contained in this newsletter if you are interested in placing an ordering at the February meeting.

We thank those members who have already renewed their membership for 2015. A membership form for both new membership and renewals is attached for anyone who still needs it. Members can also renew their membership online at <http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/membership/membership-application-form/>. Details on membership of the international Clivia Society, based in South Africa, are also included in this newsletter for those who are interested in obtaining their own copy of the annual Yearbook and Clivia News. Once again, all those who are interested in *Clivia*, including on-going members, new members and visitors, are invited to join us on Friday 20 February at the Uniting Church, corner of Burwood Highway and Blackburn Road, Burwood (7:30-9:15), and bring anything for the display table or for the Trading Table.

Helen Marriott

## CULTIVATION NOTES: SUMMER CARE

Vu Dang

It's been a mild summer so far in Melbourne. There haven't been the many hot days and nights like we've been used to in the past. That's no reason however to neglect careful management of our watering regime. A badly managed watering regime



will limit the growth season and create conditions prime for pests and diseases to take hold.

The best growing conditions can be achieved during these warmer months. The task is to maintain an optimum warm and moist environment. The most costly factor of heat is already taken care of so it is just a matter of moisture. The key thing to remember is not to have the growing area too hot or too dry but not too wet either. The optimum temperature is somewhere between 18-25°C and the potting medium kept moist. A short spell of high heat over some days is not detrimental and in most cases not much can be done to limit it. Moisture, by watering, however, is critical during these times. Check the weather forecast for the week and plan to water prior to the hot days. If it is absolutely necessary, wait till evening and using a misting spray, thoroughly mist the growing area to cool everything down before watering. Make sure to open up and allow as much ventilation as possible.

The peak of summer is also a haven for mealy bugs. Make sure that all the plants are well watered each time. Pay particular attention to far reaching corners. Dryness, heat and lack of air movement in these areas are prime mealy bug havens.

## SPECIAL C. GARDENII OFFSETS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Nick Powell from Stanmore Horticultural in Queensland has offered to send some offsets from a special collection of *C. gardenii* which he grows. He originally obtained this *Clivia* material from Val Thurston in South Africa and regards them as worthy plants.

The offsets will come in three sizes: small (\$10 each), medium (\$20 each) and large (\$30 each).

Nick will send the offsets in mixed allotments but says they these plants were described/named by Val Thurston as follows: Gardenii Sonkomo Region, Gardenii Ndwedwe Alpha Region, Gardenii Ndwedwe Msubo Region, Super Gardenii (from Best on Show), Gardenii Midlands Super, Gardenii Super Ndwedwe Region, Gardenii Kranskop Region, Gardenii Ndwedwe Sonkomo Region, Gardenii Everton Region, Gardenii Everton/Krantkloof Region, Gardenii Inanda Region and 'Green Goblin' x 'Gremlin'.



Fig. 2 *C. gardenii*

Nick will send these offsets for collection at the April meeting (17 April) but they will need to be ordered from the MCG's Trading Table in February. He believes that this is an excellent opportunity for MCG members to build up their collections and to even plant massed areas using the smaller ones. Since *C. gardenii* flower in late autumn-early winter, they are certainly an important addition to anyone's *Clivia*

collection. Needless to say, they are also very valuable for hybridising with other *Clivia*, especially *C. miniata*, to produce interspecifics.

Orders will close at the end of February, so please submit your order at the February meeting's Trading Table or otherwise let the Secretary know by the end of that month by telephone or email if you are unable to attend the meeting. The plants then need to be paid for and collected at the April meeting.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 20 Feb 7.30pm

Uniting Church

Cnr Blackburn Rd &  
Burwood Hwy, Burwood

Slideshow of visits to  
other Clivia shows & areas

### 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 March, 2015

### OUR ADDRESS

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

**CLIVIA MARKET**

**The marketplace for  
Clivia growers  
and buyers**

[www.cliviamarket.com](http://www.cliviamarket.com)  
[info@cliviamarket.com](mailto:info@cliviamarket.com)



## MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLIVIA SOCIETY

Many members of the MCG also possess membership of other *Clivia* groups, especially the Clivia Society, which is based in South Africa. The main advantages of membership for overseas *Clivia* enthusiasts are receipt of an annual Yearbook (in June), and periodic newsletters which are now produced three times a year. There is also a website (<http://www.cliviasociety.org/>) and it is indeed pleasing to read that this is currently undergoing a revamp.

The committee of the Clivia Society has been working hard to make the payment of monies to it easier for members and has recently added PayPal as an option.

If you would like to become a member or renew your membership for 2015 there are now two ways to do this from Australia, the first way being through Ken Smith, which is the preferred method and the method used to date. Ken Smith is in control of the Australian database and all its information so he can keep the Society posted about address changes etc. to ensure that your publications reach you successfully. Alternatively, we may now pay the Clivia Society in South Africa directly by PayPal and the Treasurer of the Society will inform Ken Smith about this payment.

I have cut and pasted the relevant information from the Membership Secretary which was included in Clivia News 23, 2, p.36. Please note that it seems most of us who are ongoing members did not make any payments in 2014 and so we will need to update our membership by paying for both 2014 and 2015. (Also note that it appears a little complicated this year because one year is being offered at a reduced amount, due to the non-publication

of a Yearbook several years ago.) New members of course will start simply with the 2015 payment.

"We thank those Australian Enthusiasts who have renewed their subscriptions for 2014 and encourage the rest of the Enthusiasts to settle their payments as soon as possible and consider renewing for 2015.

Australian members who have already paid the normal fee of AU\$35.00 for 2014 to Ken Smith can then pay the reduced fee of AU\$ 23.10 in 2015.

Payments may be made by one of the various methods and to the different contacts listed below.

Please check whether your subscriptions for 2014 have been paid, by contacting your representative [Ken Smith].

For convenience, Australian members can pay their 2014 and/or 2015 subscription directly to the Clivia Society via PayPal with the e-mail address: [corgas@vodamail.co.za](mailto:corgas@vodamail.co.za) in **British £ Sterling or USA \$**. (Please note that Australian dollars cannot be sent to South Africa via PayPal at this point in time.) Please inform Ken Smith by e-mail afterwards of your payment to his bank account or to the Society's PayPal.

AU \$35.00 (2015 - normal fee)  
= £19.20 or USA \$30.70.

AU \$23.10 (2014 fee) = £12.70  
or USA \$20.30."

Ken Smith's details are listed in the Clivia News as follows: Ken Smith: 593 Hawkesbury Rd., Winmalee. NSW 2777. Tel: +61 24 754 3287, e-mail: [cliviasmith@idx.com.au](mailto:cliviasmith@idx.com.au)

## PHOTOS WANTED

Helen Marriott

The MCG appreciates receiving photos from its members for

publication either in the newsletter or on the website/Facebook page. Sometimes, however, the photos received are unintentionally blurry, are poorly exposed, have lots of clutter in the background or else are sent incorrectly with the file size either too small or too large. I am just an amateur photographer but have been trying to improve my photography skills as an adjunct to my interest in *Clivia*. It is also lots of fun as well as challenging to photograph our own plants (or other things). Here are a few basic tips which may help solve the problems mentioned above in relation to photographing *Clivia*, either at your home or at MCG meetings. Note that some terminology may vary slightly according to your camera system/company. It is by no means an exclusive list of tips and, in any case, is very condensed.

### 1. For sharp photos

Use a tripod, lean against something, or else hold your arms firmly to your side and place your feet firmly on the ground to steady the camera.

Use the autofocus, which in most cases should be sufficient to achieve sharp focus.

Increase the shutter speed and/or increase the ISO (which will allow you to further increase the shutter speed).



Fig. 3 *C. miniata* variegated x *C. nobilis*

When subsequently viewing your images after taking the photo, you



can zoom in to check their sharpness but also take multiple photos to ensure that at least some sharp. After you save your photos on to your computer, use image editing software (if you have it, e.g., as supplied with your camera or an alternative, either free or purchased) and zoom in again to check the sharpness and discard those that are blurred.

## 2. *To improve exposure*

Set your camera to centre-weighted metering (rather than matrix metering, which may be the camera's default setting). Because there is a strong contrast between yellow/cream flowers and the dark green leaves of *Clivia*, I always focus and simultaneously exposure the photo on the flower itself and not the leaves. This is what happens anyway when we shoot close-up photos.

It is also often advisable to underexpose any light-coloured flowers, such as cream *Clivia*, by further reducing the exposure compensation (using the +/- button) as you compose your shot.

## 3. *Planning the composition*

At MCG meetings it is very hard to compose good photos because of all the distracting things in the background so try and get up as close as possible in order to fill as much of the image's frame as you can with the plant but with the camera still focused.

If there is inevitably a lot of unwanted background in your photo, try to cropping this out as much as possible afterwards on the computer using your preferred software.

## 4. *Resizing and sending photos to the MCG*

It is always recommended to shoot at the highest possible quality setting and image size on your camera and then resize down later, according to

how the photo is to be used. For the MCG newsletter, resize photos to about 1MB and 300dpi (dots per inch) in JPEG form. For the website, photos can be resized to about 300K and 72dpi, also in JPEG form. It is always better to send at the higher of these two recommended sizes (i.e. 1MB) so that the photo could be used for either purpose.

When sending photos to the MCG's newsletter editor/website manager, you should limit the number of photos you send per email to five and these should not total more than 8MB (unless you have negotiated a different arrangement in advance). In addition, always send your photos as attachments, not embedded in your email text or in a Word document.

## 5. *Improve our knowledge and skills*

It goes without saying that the more we become familiar with our cameras, the better. Start with the camera's instruction manual (most must be downloaded from the web these days) and purchase any other book written on that camera, if one exists. We can also refer to the many books and magazines with useful advice on photography in general or on photographing flowers and other close-up objects. Many local camera clubs, including online groups, welcome novice or more advanced photographers. Attending courses is another useful activity. Last year the MCG ran a special day workshop which was taught by Chris Clarke to the 10 members who enrolled. Other short courses are offered here and there, for example, at some of the leading camera stores (Michaels in Melbourne, Ted's Cameras, or Camera House at Croydon, among others). I have also found courses run by Wendy Clark at Master Your Camera (<http://masteryourcamera.com.au/>), located in Blackburn, to be very beneficial, especially those run over a number of weeks. At times it seems

to me that improving our photography is like an endless pursuit, but with all the exciting improvements and developments being made with camera technology these days, I think I'd rather be in it rather than not in it.

Then of course practice and more practice is beneficial.

## 6. *Phone cameras*

We have noticed a trend at recent MCG meetings for members to rely on their phone cameras. While I believe it is the case that the cameras in phones are improving and that we can expect these to further improve, it seems that the cameras in smart phones have replaced the introductory level compacts only, and remain more limited in the control we can exercise over the settings than is the case with most other cameras available, including most compact cameras. So while phone cameras can be extremely useful when no other camera is available, if you have another camera option with the greater ability to control the settings, then please don't give up on the latter at this point in time.



Fig. 4 *C. miniata* x *C. caulescens*

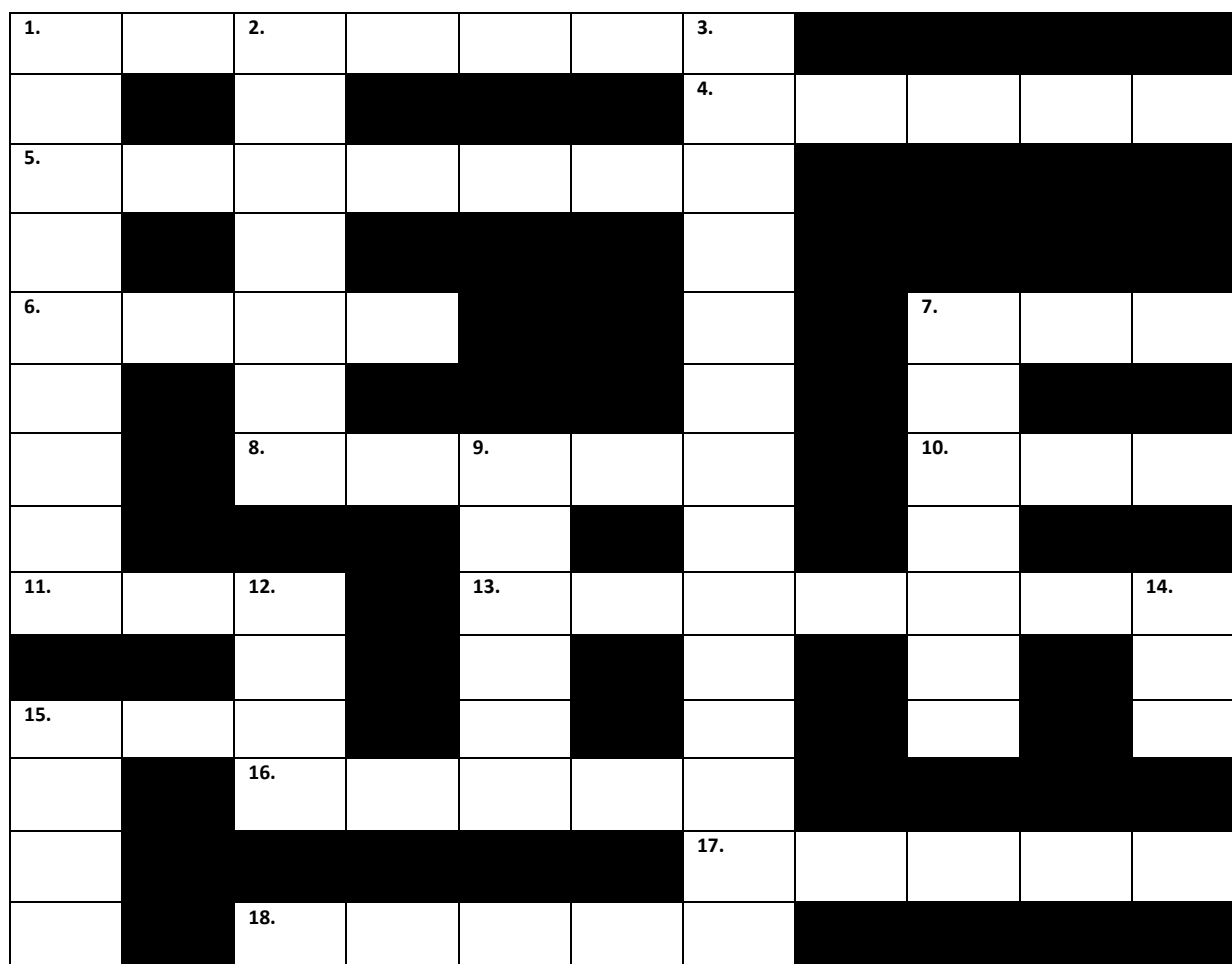


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## CLIVIA CROSSWORD

Lisa Fox



### ACROSS

1. A species of clivia flowering in spring.
4. A common pest that loves the humid conditions \_\_\_\_ bug.
5. A species of clivia that grows very tall and originates from marshy/swampy areas.
6. Well known Australian grower \_\_\_\_ Morris.
7. Another name for an offset.
8. A pest that likes to eat clivia flowers.
10. Clivias prefer \_\_\_\_ to wet conditions.
11. A well-known cultivar from the US \_\_\_\_ John Thoroun.
13. Another word for the embryonic root that grows from a seed.
15. Although the correct term is berry, this item is often referred to as a \_\_\_\_.



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16. Clivias hate sun and prefer \_\_\_\_\_.
17. On page 2 of this newsletter, a region where some *C. gardenii* originate is known as Ndwedwe \_\_\_\_\_ area.
18. A difficult colour to breed which many growers aspire to attempt.

### DOWN

1. The newest species of clivia to be discovered. Often difficult to grow.
2. One of the original species discovered and in the background of *C. x cyrtanthiflora*.
3. The family that clivia belong to.
7. The stalk attached to the flower.
9. Clivia are native to South \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Although officially dark oranges, some refer to this colour as \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Popular pesticides include \_\_\_ oil and \_\_\_ neem.
15. A soft pastel colour not easily available or bred.



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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](mailto:accounts@melbournecliviagroup.org.au) or request an invoice)

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

Name	Signature

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



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## ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS Nomination form 2015

The election of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and ordinary members of the Committee will take place at the AGM on Friday 20 February 2015.

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

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

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Nomination accepted:      Signature: \_\_\_\_\_      Date: \_\_\_\_\_





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

Any member unable to attend the AGM is entitled to appoint another member as proxy by submitting to the Secretary (at the address given above) a nomination form no less than 24 hours before the time of the meeting in respect of which the proxy is appointed.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(name) (address)

being a member of the Melbourne Clivia Group Inc. appoint \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of proxy holder) (address of proxy holder)

being a member of that Incorporated Association, as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the annual general meeting of the Association to be held on Friday, 20 February 2015 and at any adjournment of that meeting.

My proxy is authorised to vote in the case that a ballot is held for the election of a Committee member.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SECRETARY USE ONLY: Date & time received: