



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members
I hope you all had a wonderful festive season and I send my best wishes for 2016. As incredible as it seems, for me January has passed all too quickly and February is here. Whilst I did have grand plans to repot most of my seedlings, sadly that task was put to one side for the time being. I'm grateful *Clivia* are so forgiving. To my eyes the various seedlings all seem to be doing well in the community pots, and with some liquid feed, gaining size. The magnitude of the task does make me momentarily consider how my collection should be maintained and improved over the years ahead.

I guess I strive for my collection to have a variety of flowers with range of shapes, colours, and timing of blooms. In this newsletter, Helen Marriott discusses interspecific *Clivia* and the extended flowering potential these crosses offer. Almost nothing reinvigorates a *Clivia* enthusiast like the sight of flower buds popping up on any plant but especially a maiden flowering plant, and even more so if this occurs outside the main spring flowering season.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the 19th of February at our usual venue starting at 7.30pm, and I hope as many members as possible will attend. Of significant importance is the election of office bearers and general committee members to continue the good work of previous committees. As is standard practice, all Committee positions will be declared vacant at the AGM and a new Committee will be appointed. For the MCG to continue, the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer must be filled before general committee members are elected. The voluntary work of Committee members is vital for the functioning of the group. I would encourage members to

consider how they might support the MCG by serving on the committee, either for the first time, or returning to the committee after a break. The new committee will also require support from the general membership with other aspects of the meetings and the newsletter.

This newsletter contains a nomination form as well as a proxy form if any member is unable to attend the February meeting but wishes to lodge a vote. The nomination form contains a summary of the procedures according to the Model Rules adopted by the club, but anyone who wishes to re-read the full rules can find them on the MCG website (<http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/model-rules-2013.doc>)

Membership renewals for 2016 are being accepted and processed. If possible please renew before the AGM to assist with paperwork on the night. New members who joined at the expo are members for the entire 2016 year. Members can renew their membership online. The link for the online form is <http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/membership/membership-application-form/>

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM meeting at the Uniting Church, corner of Burwood Highway and Blackburn Road, Burwood (7:30-9:15), and bring anything for the display table or Trading Table. I hope we have a good night with supper and catch up conversations after the formalities. Visitors are also most welcome.

Michael Barrett
Acting Newsletter Editor

CLIVIA MARKET
**Plants, seedlings,
offsets & seed
FOR SALE**
www.cliviamarket.com
info@cliviamarket.com
Lisa - 0417 087 667
LILYDALE 3140

**Specialty
Clivias**
Imported & local varieties
Bronzes, peaches, bi-colours,
yellows, ghosts, variegates
& more
Orders now taken for offsets
of selected cultivars
Peter – 0447360524
specialtyclivias@gmail.com
Burwood, VIC. 3125

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 19 Feb 7.30pm

Uniting Church

Cnr Blackburn Rd &
Burwood Hwy, Burwood



COMMITTEE

- Michael Barrett**- President
- Peter Haeusler**- Vice President
- Roger Clarke**- Secretary
- Rae Begg**- Treasurer
- Yvonne Hargreaves**
- Mal Foster**
- Steve Wright**
- Committee members

Melbourne Clivia Group Phone
Number - **Michael 0488998327**

*Deadline for next issue -
15 March, 2016*

OUR ADDRESS

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

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

**Interspecifics flowering over
early summer**

Helen Marriott

After the typical hectic flowering period in early to mid-spring, it is almost a relief to have fewer *Clivia* in flower. However, I am still able to thoroughly enjoy numerous interspecifics and occasional other pendulous flowers throughout the full year, albeit in smaller numbers at any one time. In this first MCG newsletter for 2016, I will briefly describe the interspecifics which have been flowering here in Melbourne during the first half of our official summer period, that is, December to mid-January.

The main flowering stalwarts in my collection over this early summer period are the *C. miniata* x *C.*

caulescens hybrids bred principally by Yoshikazu Nakamura, shown in Figs. 1-6. These plants are largish and produce flowers with nice rounded tepals.



Fig.1 'Orange Caviar' (*C. miniata* x *C. caulescens*) hybrid



Fig.2 (*C. miniata* x *C. caulescens*) x self



Fig.3 (*C. miniata* x *C. caulescens*) x self.
Close up of Fig.2



Fig.4 'Hoop' (*C. miniata* x *C. caulescens*) hybrid



Fig. 5 'Hoop' (*C. miniata* x *C. caulescens*). Close up of Fig.4



Fig.6 *C. miniata* x *C. caulescens* hybrid



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



Fig.7 Multitepal *C. miniata* x *C. caulescens*



Fig.9 'Aurea' x *C. caulescens*



Fig.11 'White Xmas'



Fig.8 *C. caulescens* x 'Aurea'



Fig.10 *C. x cyrtanthiflora*



Fig.12 'Green Flare'

The next group shows three of my own interspecific hybrids using *C. caulescens* as the pendulous parent (Figs. 7-9). Fig. 7 shows a cross of a multitepal *C. miniata* x *C. caulescens* and although it has flowered a few times before, this F1 continues to only have six tepals in each flower. Needless to say, in the past I have crossed it back to the multitepal parent and await seedlings to flower in the future which I hope will display some multitepal characteristics. The next photo, Fig. 8, is a cross of *C. caulescens* with 'Aurea', followed by Fig. 9, the reciprocal cross of 'Aurea' x *C. caulescens*. In the case where I used *C. caulescens* as the seed parent, I did not practice emasculation whereby I removed the anthers before they ripened, and quite a few of the offspring flowered as *C. caulescens*, obviously as the result of selfing.

Also vigorous and reliable growers are the interspecifics with *C. nobilis* in their heritage and the related *C. x cyrtanthiflora* hybrids, as shown in Figs. 10-12. The first one in this group is an "Australian" form of *C. x cyrtanthiflora*, and the next is Nakamura's cross using a *C. x cyrtanthiflora* from Australia and another parent. He named this hybrid as 'White Xmas' because it flowered for him around Christmas time (winter in Japan). Notably, this photo was taken in early January in the hot Australian summer, pointing to a feature which will be mentioned below.

Fig. 12 shows a nice form of *C. miniata* x *C. nobilis*, with some slight variegation in the leaf.

The last three photos of summer flowers are ones which I regard as extra special plants, also bred in Japan. Fig. 13 shows a glimpse of a pastel flower from Nakamura's cross of Light of Buddha x *C. caulescens*, while the interspecific in Fig. 14 was bred by Toshio Koike and has the Group 2 yellow mutation in its background.

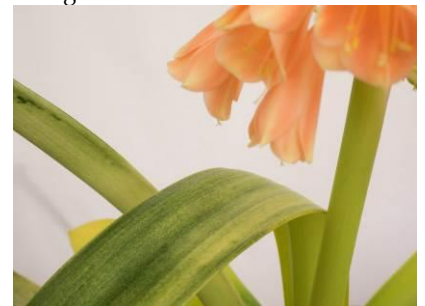


Fig. 13 Light of Buddha x *C. caulescens*



Fig.14 Green & yellow interspecific

The final photograph, Fig.15, shows 'Ambitious', a multitepal interspecific which is thought to have *C. miniata* x *C. nobilis* and *C. miniata* x *C. caulescens* in its heritage. It is unclear whether the multitepal characteristic in this plant is the result of spontaneous occurrence or not. Regrettably, the pollen for both the latter two plants was very poor and will probably be of little, if any use.



Fig.15 'Ambitious'

There are a number of observations we can make about the above-described plants and their flowering patterns. Firstly, some of the plants produced two flowers a year, often flowering in winter and then again in summer. Alternatively, a pot may contain two or three rhizomes as a result of offsetting, and these may flower in either winter or spring/summer, or in two seasons. Some of the photos show evidence of earlier flowering stems, with or

without berries. Sometimes it is possible to have a large pot with multiple flowers flowering simultaneously or in quick succession, or else have one flower blooming at different times of the year.

Secondly and partly related to the above, is the colour of the flowers. I frequently bring flowering pots inside and while enjoying one flower, another bud might develop in the same, or in a different rhizome in the pot. Where it develops fully inside the house, in other words, under lower light conditions, invariably the colour of the subsequent flower is paler. This is seen in the example shown in Fig. six.

Thirdly, although there are exceptions, overall, most interspecifics do not seem to be great seed producers, even after purposeful pollination. As one example, in winter I previously pollinated 15 flowers on 'Hoop' (shown in Fig. 4), but of these only four set seed, along with one other which I did not pollinate. What I have also noticed is that even with the one plant, there are seasons when there is some, or at least a reasonable seed set (for an interspecific), whereas at other times it may be zero. Of course there could be problems with the viability of the pollen used, but I think I have observed this feature on enough occasions to think that there are other factors involved. Although I can't be sure, I suspect that crosses made in summer are less likely to be successful.

Fourthly, when flowering inside and in cases where I do not undertake any pollination, I guess that the seed set which does occur is largely due to selfing, as I would expect other pollination (for example through insects) to be fairly minimal in such a location. Even so, most interspecific combinations, such as shown in these images, do not seem to produce a lot of selfed seeds. On the other hand, I

have plants of *C. caulescens* and *C. nobilis* which prolifically self themselves every time, as do some *C. gardenii*, though perhaps not quite to the same extent. As a result, if we wish to make our own interspecific hybrid, I would recommend using *C. miniata* as the seed/berry parent, with the pendulous parent supplying the pollen. Generally *C. miniata* used as the seed parent has less chance of selfing than does a pendulous flower because of the shape of the flower and its arrangement of anthers and stigma, and it also usually has a better seed set and also produces a larger number of seed.

In relation the viability of pollen, it is disappointing when special plants do not produce good pollen for us to use in other hybridization. Such was the case with the last two plants shown here. The pollen of the green and yellow interspecific did not seem to ripen at all, and so I even wonder whether the cross I made onto it will take or not. It might be different when these two plants re-flower at a different season, but I have also had the experience of extra special plants never producing usable or good pollen.

I admit to some lack of clarity with regard to some of the labelling of interspecifics. I think there are various causes for this but basically it comes down to sometimes not knowing the full details of the crosses we possess. For instance, in some of the examples here I have referred to them as *C. miniata* x *C. caulescens* but because of the size of the flower and its colouration (for instance, contrasting colours in the outer and inner tepals), it is unlikely to be an F1 as this name label suggests but is more likely to be an F2 where it has been selfed, or else a new F1 because the interspecific has been crossed to another different *C. miniata* parent, typically another yellow in the case of Nakamura's interspecific hybridisation.



Finally, I have several more plants beginning to flower now and can also observe a few more emerging buds, all of which fall into the same categories as the plants described above. No interspecific with *C. gardenii*, *C. robusta* or *C. mirabilis* in its heritage was found to flower at this time of the year, and this is in accordance with my ongoing observations. However, I have to admit that the genetic material in Fig. 14 is unclear. Koike originally undertook some further development of interspecifics utilising both *C. x cyrtanthiflora* as well as several interspecifics of *C. miniata* x *C. gardenii*, both of which are thought to have been bred by Nakamura. Koike crossed these interspecifics with his Group 2 yellows and then built up successive generations of advanced interspecifics. The appearance of the rhizome in the interspecific in Fig. 14 suggests that it could be from *C. gardenii*, though summer flowering is not the norm for such hybrids, as mentioned above, so I remain unsure.

I hope that other members of the MCG are able to share my enjoyment in interspecifics. Not only are these plants remarkable for their diversity but also for their breeding potential, even for hobbyists such as myself. Furthermore, if we have a range of these plants in our collections alongside of *C. miniata* and the pendulous species, we can enjoy *Clivia* in flower throughout the whole year.

(Photographs 1-15 by Helen Marriott)



Fig. 16 At the MCG Christmas party from left Terry, Michael, Chee, Ray, Vu and Mal

MCG Christmas Party Report

Mal Foster

On Saturday 21 November 2015 we celebrated the year's end in style - casual and relaxed but lots of fun. Great company, plenty of food, a glass of punch or the odd red and a very pleasant afternoon weather-wise, which enabled us to enjoy the event and the barbie in an outdoor setting.



Fig. 17 Our host, Mal with a lucky door prize

As this year's host for the MCG Christmas Party/Barbeque, I want to thank all those members who attended, to end the year with a very successful social gathering. I had a great time and got to know some of the members on this very social occasion. Sure, we discussed lots of stuff in connection with the MCG fundamentals, but moreover we chatted with both newbies and stalwarts of the Group alike, about gardening in general, got to know a little more about the diverse backgrounds of some of our members and had lots of fun sharing the time together.

I guess that 21 November is quite early to celebrate Christmas. It was a little surreal to be hearing Seasons Greetings and talk of Christmas and the New Year when it's only mid to late November, and I'm sure that my house was among one of the first Down-Under to get a taste of Christmas decorations. But I had fun doing it and it contributed warmly to the spirit of the occasion.

Whether it was the group gathered in the garden area or those in the

kitchen (to whom I owe a great debt of gratitude for their washing up efforts) there was lots of laughter and I think that the event was enjoyed by all.



Fig. 18 John T, John Mc and Brenda



Fig. 19 BBQ Kings, Nick and Mal

So I suggest and share the sentiment with our President - Michael - that these social gatherings are very important to the life and survival of the MCG.

The structured meetings address lots of the technical aspects of our common interest in clivia cultivation and enable us all to expand our knowledge and our collection of clivia. Then there's the stand-out activity of the annual Expo - which our recent experience shows that each year this extravaganza is getting bigger and better. We all hope that the membership can band together yet again to build on this very popular event in 2016, with new faces for the organizing committee



bringing new ideas, as well as to draw on the expertise of the experienced growers in the Group who logically, I believe, should form the backbone of our Executive. I enjoyed my time as a Committee member this year and hope that new and old members alike, will now be contemplating taking a role with the Group, to share the load.

But the main reason for my writing right now is to suggest that we should expand on the social aspect of the Group and to suggest that the 2016 Committee might consider one or two social events in addition to the Christmas Party. These will make a positive contribution to the very fabric of the Organization, in sharing experience and backgrounds in a more relaxed atmosphere, over a bite to eat and a social drink.

A positive suggestion has already been made in this regard by Peter, to include a morning tea type event for new members to get to know the Group and to enjoy the garden/growing environment in the relaxed setting of the home of some of our more experienced growers.

I do hope that all those who were able to attend this year's Christmas Party, feel the same way about expanding our social events and that each of you that attended had a very enjoyable and refreshing day.

Participation, when time and/or work or social commitments permit, will have its own rewards, not only for individual members but also for the lifeblood of the MCG.

Newer Members' Event

Hands on experience is one of the best ways to learn new techniques. Terry and Lorry Edwards from Werribee have kindly offered to host a newer members' visit to a grower's home to see how Terry cares for his Clivia. The event is designed to allow new and not so new members a chance to learn from seasoned *Clivia* growers, so if you feel you would benefit from the experience, please do attend.

The date of the visit is Saturday 18th March with members arriving at 1pm. Terry will take visiting members individually about his growing areas and then show his methods for potting on seedlings, potting medium, and together demonstrate his approach towards dividing mature plants. Other established members will be in attendance to talk about their collections and their care.

Tea, coffee and sweet will be supplied

Please give a courtesy call to Terry on 0476378472 to indicate interest in attending and get address details.



Melbourne
Clivia Group Inc.

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

**APPLICATION
FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL OF THE
MELBOURNE CLIVIA GROUP INC. 2016**

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 2016 (electronic newsletter) \$20
- OR**
- Single Membership 2016 (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)

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

| Name | Signature |
|------|-----------|
| | |
| | |

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



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

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

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS Nomination form 2016

The election of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and ordinary members of the Committee will take place at the AGM on Friday 19 February 2016.

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

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

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

Signed: _____ Date of nomination: _____

Nomination accepted: Signature: _____ Date: _____



Melbourne
Clivia Group Inc.

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

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, 19 February 2016 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: