



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,
The Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne Clivia Group was held on the 19th of February. The minutes of the meeting are attached at the end of this newsletter.

I was pleased to be nominated and elected for President for the year ahead. I am pleased to advise Steve Wright accepted the nomination for Vice President. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer were declared vacant, and with no new nominees the incumbents from the previous year, Roger Clarke and Rae Begg were gracious to accept the vital roles for another term. Joining the committee are Haydn Lomas and John Trotter (John appointed post AGM). I wish to thank these members for the contributions they will make in 2016.

The committee has had its first meeting and a number of decisions were reached.

Number of Newsletters

The number of newsletters will now be four volumes per year. We will attempt to make these volumes worthwhile and entertaining. Please consider contributing any small article of interest or provide a members' profile.

Clivia Expo Venue and date

The venue for last year's expo, Phoenix Park Community Centre now has a sporting group booking for every Saturday morning, making this venue unsuitable for our Expo requirements. The committee have inspected and booked St Scholastica's Community Centre, 348 Burwood Hwy, Bennettswood VIC 3125.

<http://www.stscholsc.org.au/>

It is not far from the Uniting Church, but the facilities will be much better for presenting our plants, and there is also plenty of parking behind the school. The committee booked the

hall for the 23rd Friday night and all day 24th Saturday of September.

One very enjoyable aspect of our hobby growing *Clivia* is the international connections between individuals and groups. In this volume there is, especially for those unable to attend the April meeting, an article following on the presentation, *Clivia* in California. There are also a few important announcements in regards to international *Clivia* activity.

Firstly, I am pleased to congratulate Lisa Fox on being appointed as the new Australian representative for the Clivia Society that is based in South Africa. I wish Lisa well in this important role. I also express my thanks for the hard work over many years by the previous representative, Ken Smith.

If you would like to know about membership to the Clivia Society please contact Lisa via her email lisa.fox@gmail.com

Secondly, planning has begun for a *Clivia* tour of New Zealand in October 2017. Some members have been on the previous tours (2008 & 2012), and all have sung the praises of organizers, the quality of shows and visits as well as enjoying warm hospitality and stunning scenery. The tour will also include a presentation from James Comstock who will be in New Zealand as a guest of New Zealand Clivia Club.

For more details please contact Tony Barnes tony.john@xtra.co.nz



James Comstock
Photo Tom Wells

I look forward to seeing you at the next 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 catch up conversations after the meeting. Visitors are also most welcome.

Michael Barrett
Newsletter Editor

NEXT MEETING

Friday 20 May 7.30pm

Topic: Some observations of interspecifics with *C. gardenii* heritage

by Helen Marriott

Burwood Heights Uniting Church

Cnr Blackburn Rd & Burwood Hwy, Burwood

COMMITTEE

Michael Barrett - President
Steve Wright - Vice President
Roger Clarke - Secretary
Rae Begg - Treasurer
Haydn Lomas and John Trotter - Committee members

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

Deadline for next issue - 15 August, 2016

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"After the flowers" slideshow

Helen Marriott

Combining our *Clivia* images into a slideshow together with a music track is one way to enjoy the images ourselves as well as to share them with others. At the February meeting of the MCG, I showed a five-minute collection of images of berries which I put together using software by Wondershare called Wondershare DVD Slideshow Builder Deluxe. It can be purchased and downloaded from their website (<http://www.wondershare.net/>) and is for both PC and Mac computers. Although it is not difficult to use, it did take me a few hours the first time to become familiar with it, even though I had seen a demonstration of how to use a similar software package. I can now put together a slideshow quite quickly once I have selected, edited and prepared my images, but it is these preparatory stages which can consume a lot of time. Selecting the music to accompany the slides is something else which should be prepared in advance, taking into consideration the suitability of the mood, tempo and the track's length.



Fig. 1 Impression with colour pencil style



Fig. 2 Texture effect with haze

When making the slideshow of berry images, I decided to also try out some additional new software made by Topaz Labs (<https://www.topazlabs.com/>) to enhance or add different effects to images. The software product called "Impression" turns photos into paintings, sketches, watercolours and other styles, as in Fig 1 here. The second one, "Texture Effects", allows us to make a whole variety of adjustments to our images. Figs 2 and 3 show several of the effects possible. I plan to continue using these programs in the future and hopefully can improve my application of them. These two software programs can be downloaded on a trial basis if anyone is interested. Topaz Lab's products are accompanied by guidelines, and they also make training videos available on YouTube. In addition, they run regular free webinars and offer some backup support.

Finally, in making the slideshow I made use of free software by Fotor to group some of the images together into collages. Fotor is marketed as a free online photo editor (though now there is also a slightly expanded paid version)(<http://www.fotor.com/>).

It contains three components, namely edit, collage and design. I am very happy with the collage section and have enjoyed putting images together very easily, as in Fig. four.(Ed. See page 8) I was even able to import a background image of my own to use as a frame in one instance. (I also used the design component to make some electronic Christmas/New Year cards last December.) I could not find any descriptive sections to guide me through the processes but once you familiarize yourself with the basics, it



Fig. 3 Texture effect with a grunge punch style

I have made several slideshows to date and sometimes view these on my computer or iPad. I have also shared them with a few friends via Dropbox, but in addition, they can be uploaded to Facebook or YouTube if anyone so desires. I now need to catch up organizing and editing many past photos as I have various thematic ideas for future slideshows.



Fig.4 Collage using Fotor



Clivia in California

Michael Barrett

The topic for the April meeting was inspired by thought of our Northern hemisphere friends and fellow *Clivia* enthusiasts and the main *C. miniata* flowering season they enjoy in March and April. Whilst there was a marvellous tour of China and Japan, enjoyed by some members, I will have to make that trip another year. My thoughts turned to another centre of *Clivia* excellence, the USA, and in particular to California. I haven't visited California and certainly am not an authority on this topic, but used a variety of print and electronic resources, conversations and emails exchanges to gain an understanding of the past and present activities of *Clivia* folk. Thus this virtual vacation of sorts was a brief overview or a snap shot, as it would be impossible to even just mention all the people involved at a variety of levels with *Clivia* in California. Some MCG members may personally know different personalities from California, via conferences, tours or more commonly online chat groups, and indeed may have offsets from imported named plants, or at least seedlings from named plant crosses in their collections. The committee agreed it would be of interest to a variety of members, especially newer members who may have heard of some breeder or named plants and wish to know more. The presentation took the form of a PowerPoint display, and was highly illustrated. This article is a write up of some of the points covered.

In the course of researching for the presentation, a number of similarities between *Clivia* in California and *Clivia* in Australia came to mind. One of the most striking similarities is with members scattered over various locations, the tyranny of distance made attending meetings and shows a challenge. Another observation is that the beauty of *Clivia* has attracted

nursery people and gardeners alike to hybridize and attempt to improve the genus long before the formation of clubs and associations dedicated to *Clivia*. However, it via organisations such as the *North American Clivia Association*, *Clivia Society* and similar clubs and groups in Australia that *Clivia* can be promoted in a particular way, with knowledge and plant material shared and enjoyed with interested members of the public.

California is located on the west coast of the United States with a coastline of some 1450 kilometers. Driving non-stop without traffic from north to south would take over 18 hours. The climate is principally described as Mediterranean, but of course holds a vast range of micro climates. The discovery of gold in 1848 significantly changed the future of California; its importance cannot be understated. Just like the state of Victoria; with its own gold rushes of the 1840's to 1860's, regional 'boom town' centres became famous for possible overnight wealth creation and activity, population dramatically changed and architecture of significance was built. California's motto is 'Eureka', and for Australians, the Eureka Stockade: is one of the defining moments in our history. The Californian economy is the USA's largest and if measured as a single economy would be the 8th largest in the world, with a trillion dollar gross state product. The major industries are agriculture, mining, electronics and technology, tourism and motion picture production. One in eight US residents live in California, with a population of 39 million, and if considered as a nation would be the 35th most populous. The two biggest cities are Los Angeles and San Diego.

The first section of the presentation was based principally on *Clivias*, by Harold Koopowitz, with photography by James Comstock and a forward by Sir Peter Smithers. *Clivias* is a seminal monograph for

most *Clivia* enthusiasts. It was published by Timber Press in 2002 and now out of print. Second hand copies are available via Amazon, but if possible purchase the hard copy for the photos are better in that format. Personally it has been the best source of information and inspiration, re-read and referred to often, and highly recommended for anyone new to *Clivia*.

Dr Harold Koopowitz is a well-respected botanist, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at University of California and a well-known personality in orchid communities. He played a significant role in the International Bulb Society, and was awarded the Herbert Medal in 2003. He is concerned with research into loss of biodiversity and endangered plant communities. (http://www.faculty.uci.edu/profile.cfm?faculty_id=2583)

James Comstock is a renowned photographer and garden designer living in California, who has been captivated by *Clivia* for the past 30 years. He is still a keen hybridizer, and has in the past commandeered friend's backyard to accommodate his plants. His photography in *Clivias* provides a valuable source of information, as well as being beautiful images.

It is in *Clivias* that Koopowitz looks back to account for the early days of *Clivia* in California. He writes, "The horticultural history of any group of plants is really the story of a set of people who became interested in the plant and then proceeded to develop it" (p.169). A brief summary of breeders covered by Koopowitz follows with additional information.

Koopowitz writes that one person who had a large influence on *Clivia* in California was E.P. Zimmermann, who emigrated from Germany in 1907, and in 1927 at 40 years of age settled in Carlsbad, southern California. Zimmermann claimed his



family had been breeding *Clivia* for three generations or about 75 years. Zimmerman had originally wanted to grow *Clivia* for the cut flower trade, and had 5000 plants growing under "lath" (narrow strips of wood or lattice) presumably similar to a timber fernery. In 1943, his "strains" were described as being a "great improvement in size and shape and colour, ranging from creamy yellow to shades of orange to deep red". Koopowitz, (quoting Drysdale) tells that 10 000 seeds were sent to Europe, and suggests that this germ plasm may be of influence in today's *Clivia* (p.178).

Koopowitz also details another two early breeders of *Clivia*. Horace Anderson had little interest in horticulture until his marriage, but went on to being called the 'father of horticulture' in California. He and wife Mary together ran La Costa Flower Shop and Nursery in Santa Monica in the early years of marriage. Horace and Mary's interest grew in commercial plant production, particularly subtropical plants, including *Philodendron*. Horace's grandson Eric, writing about his grandfather on the Anderson Seeds Company website (<http://www.seedcoseeds.com/aboutus.htm>), tells that Horace was intrigued as to why *Philodendron* were propagated by cuttings, instead of seed. Horace talked with Bill Evens, Head Landscaper at Disney and learned how to produce seed. Horace went on to hybridize a number of *Philodendron* plants and commercially developed and promoted *Schefflera arboricola* (from a cutting obtained from Huntington Gardens) as an indoor plant. Horace also discovered that *Monstera* seed was best obtained from the native habit, rather than trying to pollinate by hand. Anderson purchased 80 acres of land at Encinitas, near Carlsbad in 1954, and Koopowitz suggests Anderson would have dealt with Zimmerman. Anderson was also friends with Ed Hummel, a famous plant hybridizer

of *Euphorbia*, *Echeveria*, *Hoya*, *Aloe* and *Clivia*. Hummel gave Anderson a division of a yellow *Clivia*, but precisely when is not established. Seedlings from the yellow were backcrossed, and as Koopowitz points out, "repeating the paradigm used by Kew to improve its yellow plants" (p.179). After Horace's death Mary was married to Ron Chamberlain another horticultural giant for over 20 years. Their beautiful landscaped gardens north of San Diego had a large *Clivia* collection

(http://www.hortmag.com/gardens-and-gardeners/garden-visits/a_golden_climate).

The Anderson commercial nursery is now run by Eric Anderson, and specializes in bulk seed sales. There is an American 'Anderson's Peach', associated with Horace, totally unrelated and incompatible with the Toowoomba 'Anderson's Peach'. In Sydney, the Mouyat brothers have a number of plants known as Hummel hybrids.

At the time of publishing *Clivias*, Koopowitz was able to pay tribute to two giants of *Clivia* in California, Joe Solomone and Dave Conway. These two significant figures, now sadly passed on are honoured at NACS Californian shows with the best in category awards, for flower (Conway) and for foliage (Solomone). The two gentlemen had very different styles in the way they approached growing *Clivia*. A brief summary of Koopowitz, with additional information from other sources follows.



Joe Solomone
Photo Tom Wells

Koopowitz writes, "Joe Solomone is the king of *Clivia* of North America" (p.180). Back in the 1960's Joe Solomone, a nurseryman from central California saw a pale yellow flower stuck down in the leaves of a particular *Clivia* amongst other *Clivia* for sale. Realizing its importance, he purchased this plant and over the years began crossing and then backcrossing it to build stock of yellow *Clivia*. In the mid-nineties he started focusing more on breeding greater numbers of yellows, with an idea to export, but found local demand took his output. Joe was assisted for over 20 years by nursery worker Maricela de la Toore. Maricela was responsible for pollination and selection of plants. The wholesale nursery called Plant Horizons is over three acres of covered growing houses, and the *Clivia* were mostly yellow and variegates. Joe's son-in-law, Marcel Morales marketed the yellows as 'Solomone Yellows' and previously ran Monterey Bay Nursery. The variegated *Clivia* appeared spontaneously, but were selected out and maintained. In fact very little material was bought in; the diversity came from growing in high numbers.

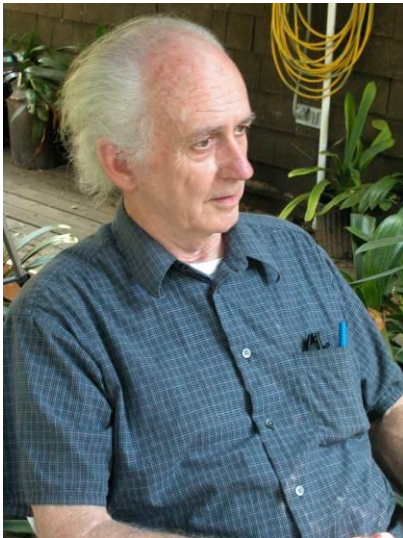


Plant Horizons
Photo Tom Wells

In 2005 a visit was made to Plant Horizons by an international party of *Clivia* folk. Amongst the visitors were Ken Smith, Alick McLeman from New Zealand and Rudo Lötter as well as James and Connie Abel from South Africa. Joe was presented with An Award of Merit from the *Clivia*



Society in 2006. Joe was also awarded a Herbert Medal in 2008, the same year he passed away. Joe's daughter Barbara and son-in-law Marcel now own Plant Horizons and are still assisted by Maricela.



Dave Conway
Photo Tom Wells

David Jay Conway was a passionate man, about his family, trout fishing and *Clivia*. He was born in 1930 in Seattle, while his parents lived there for a short period, but moved back to California when he was six months old, making himself a seventh generation Californian, and married his childhood sweetheart Nancy in 1952 (Bardossy, 2006). Interestingly, Shields Gardens suggest both Dave and Nancy, who had an interest in genealogy, may be distant relations to Hugh Percy, 3rd Duke of Northumberland, and husband to Lady Clive, the *Clivia* genus's namesake. Together they made a large family, and moved about California. In 1970 the family moved to Santa Barbara, where they remained for the rest of their lives. Dave was Supervisor of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department. This position of authority would have given Dave the unique opportunity to be able to select out and buy any plants that were out of the ordinary from

nurseries. Dave is famous for one particular pollen experiment that created some of his named plants. In 1987 or 1988 he mixed pollen from his best plants into a container, and then crossed pollinated them all, harvested approximately 1000 seeds and these plants flowered in 1993.

The wonderful photo named Conway's Tea Party has long been admired for its beauty, and is an inspiration for many *Clivia* breeders. The photo was taken by James Comstock. Dave and Tom Wells worked together to identify and label the plants in another version.



Tom Wells and Dave Conway
Photo supplied Tom Wells

This labelled photo shows that many of the plants were from a variety of sources, including Solomone, and not just entirely the results from the 'pollen bomb' bred by Dave. Interestingly, 'Tessa' and 'Helen' do not appear to be in the photo. Also of interest are two plants, 'Particolor #6' and 'Free love', both displaying particolour blushed flowers. 'Cynthia Ann' and 'Margaret' are named and are known particolours. Joe Solomone also had flowers that changed in colour over time; he referred to these as watercolours. In that Tea Party photo almost all plants have a name, as naming plants was important to Dave. Originally Dave named plants bred by himself after female members of his family, and gave different names to bought plants, however it is not clear if this was a strict rule. Dave gave plants names for his wife and daughters, and granddaughters, apart from one

daughter who wanted a green flowered *Clivia*, something Dave didn't manage to achieve. Tom Wells has an account of when Nancy came home, Dave presented her with a plant named in her honour. She wasn't overwhelmed by this particular *Clivia*, but Dave was not going to unname the plant, so there is 'Nancy' but another plant was also named for her, 'Nancy Marie'. (Personal communication April 2016) Dave passed away in 2006 leaving a *Clivia* legacy still enjoyed today. Shields Gardens exported named offsets around the world, and although his son Dave Jr maintained the collection for some time, Craig Ruggles bought a significant number of plants. Huntington Gardens has almost all his named plants, and is trying to source missing plants to complete the collection.



'Cynthia Ann'
Photo James Comstock

The Conway legacy continues here in Australia as well. A number of named offsets have been imported by different individuals, including 'Tessa' and 'Helen'. Another link is with the MCG and the *Clivia Expo* 2015. A number of years ago Hugh Bollinger in the USA made a cross between 'Cynthia Ann' and a pale Japanese yellow. Hugh sent some seeds to Harry Erasmus in Western Australia and John Craigie in Queensland. Harry named two of these seedlings 'Out of the Blue' and 'The Artist'. Offsets of these plants were offered for auction at *Clivia Expo* last September.



Murillo's Green Series
Photo Victor Murillo

To provide a contemporary element to the presentation, Victor Murillo was contacted. In some ways, Victor has a blend of qualities from both of the previous *Clivia* giants. Victor Murillo has been patiently and methodically breeding *Clivia* for the past 18 years. Victor, his wife Danielle and two sons live in Fallbrook, San Diego County, not that far inland from Carlsbad. Fallbrook is also known as the 'Avocado capital of the world'. This title can give us an idea of the micro climate, certainly different to our growing conditions in Melbourne, and perhaps more like northern New South Wales or South Eastern Queensland. Victor works as an Inventory manager for a large commercial nursery with product line such as *Cyclamen*, *Schlumbergera* (zygo cacti) and ornamental peppers. This nursery had *Clivia* as a product line, but decided to not continue with them commercially. Victor was able to acquire the best of the plants for his personal breeding program. Amongst his original plants were two yellows from Vic Daniels, one clear yellow and the other with a green throat. From these plants he has bred his Green series, with these group one yellows displaying an intense green. Victor has also developed his own Peach series, named Victorian Peach. From these dark, mid and light peach, he has selected out pinker flowers. He is also known for his interest in developing variegated and multi-petal plants. Victor received the Herbert Medal in 2012.

The *Murillo Exquisite Clivia* Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/murillos.exquisite.clivias/>) is a delight for any *Clivia* enthusiast to view.



Victor receiving the Herbert Medal
Photo Victor Murillo



Murillo's Green Series
Photo Victor Murillo

Out of relative isolation from each other, various *Clivia* growers were beginning to hear about each other and build new networks. Randy Baldwin, from California has long been interested in *Clivia* and other drought tolerant plants. In 1981 he was employed as production manager for San Marco Growers, a very large commercial nursery. In 1990 he bought a share of the business and became general manager. This commercial nursery had a networking association with a

number of industry bodies. On the San Marco Growers' website, <http://www.smgrowers.com/info/cliviasymp.as> Randy details two significant gatherings of *Clivia* enthusiasts. In 1996 an informal gathering of people came together at Huntington Gardens to share their passion for *Clivia*. Included were Randy, as well as James Comstock and Dave Conway. In March 2001, (during the *C. miniata* flowering season) a second *Clivia* symposium was held in the new botanical centre at the Huntington. This event was much more formal, and speakers included the director of the Huntington Gardens, Jim Folsom, as well as Harold Koopowitz and James Comstock with a draft of *Clivias*, Dave Conway, and international guest speakers Tino Ferero and Shigetaka Sasaki. James and Connie Abel were in attendance, signing up new members to the *Clivia Society*. Thus a strong link was made between the Huntington and *Clivia* promotion.

As noted by Koopowitz, electronic communications in part has increased interest in *Clivia* (p.19). These new communication platforms enabled people geographically distant from each other to come together to share knowledge and pictures of their plants. Marc Hamel provides an account of the birth of the North American *Clivia* Society.

"Starting I think in the spring of 2000 or 2001, there was a small group that used to meet every Sunday morning in an AOL chat room to talk about our favorite plant - the *Clivia*. The usual participants were Jim Shields, Tom Wells, Mike Morri, Pen Henry and myself. We often had others drop in from time to time but as the arteries in my brain continue to harden I have a tough time trying to remember them all. I know that Chris in Echuca was a frequent participant and Harry Erasmus would join from time to time and we learned a lot from him about his soil mix and feeding schedule. As time went on it became clear to us that the love of *Clivia* was not limited to this small group and



we were finding more and more people who shared our passion. I believe all of us were members of the Clivia Society in South Africa and as we learned more about their various regional clubs and shows, it dawned on us that there was no comparable society here in the US. We knew of so many other societies for flowers such as orchids, roses, chrysanthemums and daylilies just to name a few and decided that it was about time that there was a Clivia Society. After spending a good deal of time trying to come up with a suitable name and realizing that there were probably a good number of Clivia lovers in Canada as well as the US, we decided to call it the North American Clivia Society. And so in 2003 the first board was set up with Jim Shields as president, Tom Wells as vice president, Mike Morri as treasurer and myself as secretary. Mike got a bank account set up for us in Michigan and Jim set about working with a lawyer in Indiana to set us up as a non-profit organization. Jim knew that this fledgling organization would need more people to become involved and invited Kathy Andersen and Mike Riska to join. So now we had a core group dedicated to making Clivia more widely known and loved throughout North America and now 11 years later we have a large membership with some very talented and dedicated people moving us forward into our next decade."

The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens are located in San Marino, near Los Angeles. It is one of the United States largest and wealthiest private and not-for-profit institutions. It is a collection of specialist research and educational departments that were founded as a trust in 1919 by Henry E Huntington and his second wife Arabella. Both were passionate collectors, and had a love of gardens. They built the majority of the art collection in the years immediately after WW1 when 18th and 19th century masterpieces were being sold in great quantities. The art collection, housed in what was originally the Huntington family residence, includes Sir Joshua Reynolds' 'Blue

Boy', as well as significant American art from all periods. The Library has a significant collection of rare books amongst its six million or so items included one of only 11 known remaining Gutenberg Bible, the manuscript of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales and significant collections of letters of American Presidents. The gardens are spread over 120 acres that were once part of a larger working ranch with orchards and livestock. There are a variety of sculptures from classical to modern spread over the grounds. The area is divided into themed garden areas, including by nationality or style Australian, Chinese, Japanese, ranch and Shakespearian, by climate zone; desert, and subtropical or by genus, camellia, palm, and rose gardens. The Huntington website is an informative and entertaining visit in itself, (<http://www.huntington.org/>).



NACS Show 2016

Photo Tom Wells

The NACS has held its show at The Huntington's Brody Botanical Centre for the last eight years. The plants are displayed on low platforms. It is a competitive show, with a variety of classes, including cut flowers, photographic and floral art categories. The quality of plants on display is as exceptional as one could hope to see anywhere, with some international named imports, yet overall with a strong Californian heritage. Entry to the Clivia show is part of the admission to the Huntington Gardens. The 2017 Huntington NACS show and sale will be held over the weekend of the 18/19th of March, one week later than the Longwood show.



Photo Tom Wells

I wish to thank Victor Murillo, Marilyn Paskert and Tom Wells for their tremendous generosity of time and knowledge in the course of preparing the presentation and this article. I hope one day I may thank you in person.

References

- Bardossy, A. (2006) David Conway, *Clivia Quarterly* 4(2), 1-2
Koopowitz, H. (2002) *CLIVIAS*, Portland, Timber Press

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Dave Conway's 'Tea Party', photography by James Comstock



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Minutes of the Melbourne Clivia Group's Annual General Meeting

19th February 2016

Venue: Uniting Church Hall, Corner Burwood Highway and Blackburn Rd. Burwood.

Meeting opened at 7.40 pm

Apologies:

Yvonne Hargreaves, Peter Haeusler, Haydn Lomas, Pam Norton,
Lisa Fox, Di Mathews, John McKenzie, Carl Sorensen

Michael Barrett welcomed new members (1) and visitors (1).

Motion to accept minutes of last AGM (distributed in March 2015 newsletter, vol. 8.2)

Moved: Michael Barrett, Seconded Mal Foster – carried.

Announcements:

New members' visit to an experienced grower's home. New members were requested to contact Terry Edwards if they will be visiting Terry at his home on Saturday 19th March.

Speaker for the April and the new May meetings have not been finalised.

Members were encouraged to consider if they might like to present short talks in the future.

1. Reports

President's report.

Dear Members,

It is a pleasure to present the Melbourne Clivia Group President's Report for 2015. Over the past year, the MCG has been extremely successful at fulfilling its Statement of Purpose. Via meetings, newsletters, website and annual Expo we have promoted the cultivation of, and interest in the genus *Clivia*, and facilitated information and plant material to be exchanged between members and the wider community. I thank and congratulate fellow committee members, your wisdom and guidance has been appreciated. Thanks to Peter Haeusler as Vice president and Expo subcommittee chair for the 'all year' dedication to the Expo, especially the auction and promotions. Thanks to Roger Clarke as Melbourne Clivia Group's Secretary and all the work associated with emails and minutes. Thanks to Rae Begg as Treasurer, Trading Table coordinator and for bringing the library collection back and forth to meetings. Thanks to General member Steve Wright for your service while in the process of selling and moving home. Serving on both committees were Mal Foster and Yvonne Hargreaves. Mal thanks for so many great suggestions, and I wish to thank you for hosting the 2015 Christmas party and making all who attended feel so welcomed. Special thanks to Yvonne for the long distance travelled for all the meetings to have your valued input. I wish to make special mention of the strong financial success of the raffles, and thank Yvonne for her dedication and ability to

solicit such marvelous prizes from our generous members, including out of state members who gave such highly desirable plants. Due to the quality and number of prizes, ticket sales were strong, often covering the cost of the hall for the evening. To all members who gave raffle prizes for meetings and the expo, my sincere thanks. Thanks also to Georgina Haeusler and Maria Clarke for the committee meetings held in your beautiful homes and the warm hospitality provided.

The highlight of the year for many of us is our Clivia Expo. I want to thank all members, and their family members who helped prior and on the day towards its success, and what a success it was! Our combined congratulations must go to the dedicated Expo committee. This subcommittee was a mix of fresh faces as well as members with previous experience on Expo subcommittees. Chaired by Peter Haeusler other members were, Mal Foster, Brenda Girdlestone, Yvonne Hargreaves, Haydn Lomas, Erika Van der Spuy, and Andrea Whitty. Thank you for the innovations and hard work to make the day so successful in the new venue, Phoenix Park Community Centre. This venue was excellent for our requirements. The first Australian public live auction of Clivia was a wonderful suggestion from Mal and credit goes to Peter and Yvonne for the organization of such an impressive list of lots. Congratulation to all involved, including sellers, donors, bidders and those on the stage conducting the auction including Peter's son, Jordan. The auction was a great promotional tool and generated much interest. Thanks also goes to those who made donations of auction lots, including John and Gail Craigie, Terry Edwards and talented botanical artist, Helen Burrows for her beautiful artist proof. I want to thank Georgina Haeusler, Yvonne Hargreaves and Lorry Edwards for the refreshments members and public enjoyed so much. The public engagement, massive display and new memberships attracted, certainly fulfil our statement of purpose.

Our meetings have been well attended with a variety of topics, ranging from cultivation techniques and growing mediums, South African conference and exhibition, background and hybridization of the 'Anderson Peach' strain, and personalities of historical interest associated with *Clivia*. Thank you to all of the presenters, particularly Greg Anderson from Toowoomba, for the information and enjoyable presentations. Some of the meetings have been enhanced with the use of the Epson projector purchased in 2015, and thanks to Kelvin Mitchell and Vu Dang for the times we wrestled with the setup of the screen. I wish to thank all members who attend meetings especially those from out of town, and thank Andrea Whitty for assisting with the attendance record. To the members who made the effort and brought plants for the display table, thanks for making the meetings so colourful and adding these conversation pieces for us all to enjoy and admire.

Other highlights of the 2015 meetings included the well-deserved presentation of Honorary Life Membership to Helen Marriott, celebrating John Trotter's 80th birthday and the visit from Hugh Williams from South Australia, who donated so generously to the group with the sale of his seedlings.

Our immediate past newsletter editor, Lisa Fox was also our webmaster since the website inception. Our website is a credit to the MCG and considerably developed compared to other clubs and plant societies. Lisa did a marvelous job for us all in the group, and some members may not fully appreciate just how much time, creative energy and technical expertise went towards the production and maintenance of these vital communications. Thank you Lisa for your efforts in regards to the website and newsletters and the handover of the roles. I have been acting newsletter editor since October, and had assistance from a professional web maintenance company

for technical aspects of the website beyond my ability. Thanks to the contributors of articles, and proof readers prior to publication. Thank you to Brenda Girdlestone, for printing and sending out the hard copy newsletters. I have administered the MCG Facebook account all of last year, another role previously held by Lisa. As of February we had 755 likes with a maximum reach of 552 just recently. Please like our page and share, comment and like photos and posts to increase our page's reach.

As individuals and a group, at this AGM and throughout the year, we all need to decide our own level of interest and commitment to **OUR** group. Many of us have a strong desire to improve our own collections, and dedicate ourselves to acquiring seeds and plants. I know that the MCG has enabled me to have many beautiful plants otherwise inaccessible without having met fellow enthusiasts face to face, many who are now firm friends. I would encourage members to continue to fulfil our statement of purpose. We must elect a new committee and decide who will take on the newsletter and website and other roles. As a group we also need to consider the annual expo and how it will be conducted.

On a personal level, I have found the role both a challenge and learning experience. I whole heartedly thank Di Mathews for nominating me! I accepted the position not knowing just what may come throughout the year. My outlook on a variety of matters has matured as a result. I wish to thank all of you who encouraged and supported me over the past year. May the MCG and your *Clivia* thrive and grow beautifully in 2016.

Move to accept President's report: - moved Roger Clarke; carried unanimously.

Secretary's report:

Membership

Prior to Clivia Expo 2015, the group had 80 members. At that event, 34 new members joined.

At the end of December we had a total of 51 members financial for 2016, which includes one honorary member, 15 renewals, and 35 new members. We expect a deluge of new members renewing at the AGM in February as per usual, but the membership report is only for the financial year ending 31/12/2015.

The membership is maintained with Microsoft Excel, and I am grateful to Rae Begg for assisting me with maintaining it in good order.

General Meetings

The general meetings have been consistently well attended with an average of 25 members with only minor variation in numbers. Thanks to Andrea Whitty for recording attendances.

Highlights of the years' meetings include Greg Anderson's address on breeding Anderson's Peach in June, and the Life membership awarded to long-serving president Helen Marriott in July. I also found Peter Haeusler's presentation of "From Seed to Seedling" in October personally satisfying, and very informative.

Thanks to Rae Begg for her maintenance of the Library, and for convening the Trading Table, and collecting moneys, assisted by many sellers during the year.

Thanks also due to Yvonne Hargreaves, for coordinating the raffles, prizes, and ticket sales, which have had good results this year.

Newsletter

There were five newsletters for 2015. The newsletters are appreciated especially by members who cannot attend meetings. I want to thank Lisa Fox, and later, Michael Barrett for taking over as editor when Lisa retired from the post. Most members receive the newsletter via email, but some members find it easier to access and read print rather than on a computer or tablet etc. In 2015, 17 members received a hard copy newsletter, and we are grateful to Brenda Girdlestone for printing and posting the newsletter.

Garden club presentations

Thanks to Erika Van Der Spuy who gave a talk to the Preston Garden Club during the year, and Helen Marriott who gave a presentation to the Caulfield Garden Club.....

Peter Haeusler is giving a talk to the Hurstbridge Garden club this July and the Mitcham Garden club have requested a speaker this year, but their request was too late in the year to organize a volunteer speaker for them.

Enquiries from Public

I receive only two phone calls enquiries on landline from the public, but frequent emails seeking information on Clivia cultivation, and diseases, also requests seeking specific cultivars, which were referred to relevant breeders.

I wish to thank the committee, especially Michael Barrett and Rae Begg for their support and assistance in this, my first year as secretary.

Move to accept secretary's report: Michael Barrett. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2015

SUMMARY 2015				Sub-total	Balance
BANK CASH ACCOUNT			\$ c	\$ c	\$ c
Balance 1/1/2015					4,025.49
Income					
	Membership		1,550.00		
	Raffle		730.00		
	Trading Table		380.60		
	Donations		895.00		
	Expo		9,382.60		
	Other		1,408.54		
				14,346.74	
					18,372.23

Expenses	Hall Hire		510.00		
	Newsletter		304.55		
	web site		281.00		
	Consumer Affairs		53.00		
	RHSV		215.00		
	Expo		9,708.36		
	Other		1,807.45		
	Cash to petty cash		377.00		
				13,256.36	
					5,115.87

SUMMARY 2015					
PETTY CASH	2015		Debits	Credits	Balance
9/03/2015					75.20
				377.00	
	Expenses		33.65		
	Banked		280.00		
					138.55

SUMMARY 2015					
PAYPAL 2015					
Balance 11/2/15					251.76
Income					
	Membership		280.00		
	Expo		2,020.00		
	Other		160.05		
	Money Added		140.06		
				2,600.11	
					2851.87
Expenses					
	Refund overpayments		40.00		
	Paypal fees		65.29		
	Purchases		140.06		
	Transfer to bank		542.52		
				787.87	
					2,064.00

TOTAL					
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CREDITS					
Bank Cash Account			5,115.87		
Bank Term Deposit			5,086.50		
Petty Cash			138.55		
Paypal			<u>2,064.00</u>		
			12,404.92		
NETT PROFITS					
Bank			1,090.38		
Bank Term Deposit			86.50		
Petty Cash			63.35		
Paypal			1,812.24		
TOTAL			3,052.47		

Michael Barrett asked for the Treasurers' Report to be accepted.
Moved Brenda Girdlestone, carried unanimously.

3. Election of 2015 office bearers

Michael Barrett vacated the chair. Mal Foster declared all positions vacant and an election for president to be conducted.

The secretary, Roger Clarke advised there was one nomination for President – Michael Barrett nominated by Helen Marriott.

Mal Foster asked if there were any other nomination in the room for President Michael Barrett was elected unanimously.

Mal Foster thanked Michael Barrett for his service to the group, including additional roles relating to the newsletter and website.

Nomination for Vice President

The secretary, Roger Clarke advised there was no nomination for Vice President. Michael Barrett called for nominations from the floor.

Steve Wright was nominated by Vu Dang.

Steve Wright accepted the nomination and elected unanimously.

Nomination for Secretary

Roger Clarke was nominated by Michael Barrett.

Roger Clarke accepted and elected unanimously.

Nomination for Treasurer

Rae Begg was nominated by Michael Barrett.

Rae Begg accepted and elected unanimously.

The secretary, Roger Clarke advised there was one nomination for Ordinary Committee member: Haydn Lomas nominated by Michael Barrett.

Haydn Lomas accepted via signed nomination form - elected unanimously.

Michael Barrett thanked the incoming committee members and wished all concerned every success.

4 Raffle.

Winners of the raffle were: Andrew Palmer, Ray Begg, Nick Cheng, and Brenda Girdlestone.

5. Short Art Movie Presentation by Helen Marriott – The movie was well received by members.

6 Closing Comments Michael Barrett asked the members present about the importance of the expo to them. The members overwhelmingly declared the expo a priority, and all present committed to assisting towards its success.

Meeting Closed at 8.40 pm.

Next regular meeting 15th April 7.30pm.