



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members
I hope you all have been well and enjoying some interspecific and early *C. miniata* blooms now with winter is almost behind us. Since our last newsletter, we have had some enjoyable meetings. In May, Helen Marriott gave an informative and inspiring presentation on the vast range of *Clivia* flowers broadly called interspecific hybrids. In June, despite the gloomy weather, we had a relaxed conversation meeting, with surprise visitors, Arthur and Robyn Gillard, from Narrawong, near Portland, who quickly became new members. In a circle, and with everyone contributing something, we discussed how we became interested in *Clivia*, what we enjoy about the MCG, and what we would like to see in 2017. The main message conveyed was the importance of the social side of meetings, and the welcoming vibe of the group. Also it was agreed to have in 2017, at least one Saturday day time meeting, penned in as June, and perhaps a 'Christmas in July' event as well. At our July meeting we were joined by interstate member, Alan O'Leary, to see a wonderful slideshow of photos taken by my John Mackenzie and Brenda Girdlestone of the *Clivia* tour of Japan they enjoyed earlier this year. It was a delight to see the incredible plants being bred in Japan. A report of the tour appears in this newsletter.

To complement the tour of Japan, we reprint a report from Haydn Lomas and Terry Eakin of their tour of *Clivia caulescens* habitat in 2014. It is amazing to think how an interest in *Clivia* can lead you on such amazing travel!

My special thanks go to John Trotter for his assistance in compiling member articles, and to those members who took the time to contributed profiles and comment.



Photo of winning berry from 'Biggest berry competition' Helen Marriott

Clivia Expo 2016 will be upon us before we know it! I have met with Megan Backhouse from The Age newspaper for an interview about *Clivia* and the MCG that will be published in the coming weeks. We still require more members and willing family to roster on to make the expo a success. *Many hands make light work.*

I look forward to seeing you at the next TWO meeting prior to the expo, at the Uniting Church, corner of Burwood Highway and Blackburn Road, Burwood (7:30-9:15). We have our August meeting on the 19th, and the extra September meeting, featuring a mini auction on Friday the 9th of September.

Please take time to read the guidelines for the expo, and see the website for details regarding the colouring in competition that is a new activity associated with the expo.

Michael Barrett
Acting Newsletter Editor

CLIVIA MARKET

Flowering plants FOR SALE



www.cliviamarket.com
Lisa - 0417 087 667

NEXT MEETINGS

Friday 19th August

Preparation for Expo

Friday 9th September

Mini auction of flowering plants and offsets

7.30pm

Uniting Church

Cnr Blackburn Rd & Burwood Hwy, Burwood

MCG CLIVIA EXPO

Saturday 24th September

St Scholastica's Community Centre,

348 Burwood Hwy

Bennettswood

COMMITTEE

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

Melbourne Clivia Group Phone Number - Michael 0488998327

Deadline for next issue - 15 October, 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



CLIVIA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Lisa Fox

I am pleased to have been appointed the new Australian representative for the Clivia Society based in South Africa. Members of the Society receive an annual Yearbook and quarterly Clivia News filled with interesting articles and beautiful photographs.

Anyone interested in becoming a member or renewing their membership can contact me on 0417 087 667 or by email - lisa.fox@gmail.com. Alternatively, more information and a membership application form can be found on the following web page - <http://blog.cliviamarket.com/clivia-society-membership/>

Profile of a Beginner '101'

Ian Larmer.

My first introduction to *Clivia* was when a friend and our wives went to Melbourne Clivia Group's Expo in September 2015. Up until then I was not aware of *Clivia* and the variety of flower shapes, colour and plant types. At the end of the afternoon I came away a fully paid up member of Melbourne Clivia Group armed with a show bag with seeds, basic information sheets, some sample fertiliser and berries from the demonstration table - more on the seeds later.

My introduction to the group was when I went along to the October meeting which was followed on by Chris, my wife, and I was going to the Christmas BBQ at Mal Foster's home. The friendly atmosphere was the first thing to impress me. Name tag waiting for me at the October meeting and the sitting around chatting and getting to know everyone at the BBQ. The group also organised an afternoon at the home of Terry and Lorry - an afternoon for beginners. Boy, were my eyes opened there. Terry's collection is vast. It was

a great time to learn - no question was too basic for someone on a steep learning curve - this was the place to be. Terry is very generous in passing on knowledge and plants.

I previously mentioned that I got some berries from the Expo. Armed with the information from the demonstration table and the fact sheet in the show bag it was time to get started. Out with the take away food containers, some potting medium and a small spray bottle and taking over the top of the laundry cupboard I was away, - the learning curve starting at the base line. To see the seed start to shoot and become leaves told me I was doing something right. By December and January I was starting to pot up my seed. What amazed me was the length of the root you don't see until you come to pot them. In my case I had a root growing through a 'nail hole' in the bottom of the container. Seed strike rate - 3 from 6 in the show bag and 10 from the demonstration table. Along with friends' contribution and winning a plant from the June meeting I'm on my way. Seedlings and small plants are in a sheltered purpose built area shaded by a camellia bush. The more mature plants are also under cover and well shaded and protected.



Ian's growing collection

As I finish this contribution and reflecting on how far I have come I guess the highlight will be to see the seeds I've planted flower - colour type - who knows? Thank you Members and Committee of

Melbourne Clivia Group for introduce to these wonderful plants.

June Meeting

John Trotter

A small group of members gathered at our usual venue for the June meeting and enjoyed an informal meeting discussing their collections, growing methods, crosses, seeds and possible expectations of Expo. All members contributed and surprisingly the evening proved very successful so much that it has been proposed to hold a similar discussion group in 2017.

At this meeting Ray Argent, a longtime member and very passionate about his *Clivia* gave an interesting talk on his collection and growing methods. Ray is a familiar face and regular attendee at our meetings only too pleased to offer help or give an opinion on *Clivia* to all members alike.

Here is a brief account of his talk:

"I commenced growing *Clivia* many years ago following a gift from Terry Edwards, three *Clivia*, a red, yellow and an orange plus 700 seeds that I grew on and donated to the Werribee Zoo. I have seen a lot of changes in my time growing *Clivia*, the Australia Clivia Club was formed and quickly folded, and we then had an interest group meeting at a church hall in Collingwood. Shortly after this the Melbourne Clivia Group was formed.

I find *Clivia* of enormous interest and great challenge, formulating my own potting medium, watering and feeding methods, and doing my own crosses. My plants grow below a single layer of shade cloth to an extensive area of the garden. When preparing to germinate seeds these and all containers are washed in a weak solution of white king and seeds placed between wet paper



towel. Watering of seedlings and plants is from tanks transferred into a 180 litre drum to which I add 1/2 cup of peroxide to kill or neutralise any agents in the water. It also helps to aerate the mix.

Now the potting medium is interesting. I make it myself with one cubic metre of bark that I have composted using 4 kgs of urea nitrogen plus 40 litres of compost left to sit for two months so my overall mix is bark, coco peat, rice hulls, leaf mulch, horse manure composted. Fertilising is 250 grams of soluble fertiliser once a month, followed by one cup of potassium nitrate once a month. Have even grown *Clivia* in rock wool and they do well. I find that using bark or any potting medium without nutrients, fertilising needs to be spot on to obtain the best results from our plants. This is my passionate hobby and I grow for the best flowers not to be the best collection!

My collection comprises *C. miniata*, *gardenii* and interspecific crosses. This year I will head off in a different direction with my *Clivia* as my daughter says all seeds should be given the right to grow, and I say "but where do I put them??"

Kind regards to all, Ray Argent.

MY FIRST ENCOUNTERS WITH CLIVIA

Maureen Macer

About fifteen years ago while visiting my friends' mother Alice, I was taken for a stroll through her very lush and magnificent garden. She had so many plants, including ones that I had never heard of, or seen before. Alice informed me that her whole amazing garden was a collection of cuttings from all of her friends, neighbors and slips [taken where allowed and sometimes not allowed] from her visits and travels all over Australia.

Alice had a tradition that if you visited her, you always left with a piece of her garden and if she visited you she took a piece of your garden with her.



Maureen's pinky *C. miniata*

My first gift from Alice was a *Clivia*. I planted this plant in the ground of my Frankston garden, under a camellia, and it has multiplied one hundred fold. Then about six years ago, I was given another *Clivia*, with darker and wider leaves and a reddish flower, this also has multiplied and blossomed, both my front and back gardens are graced with these lovely plants along with many pots mostly grown in shady conditions under either tree canopies or under the eaves.

In January 2015 on a cruise to Tasmania we met the lovely John and Joy Trotter. It was John who talked about his passion for *Clivia* and who introduced me to numerous varieties. He sent me photos of many, many *Clivia* and it was on September 19, 2015 at the Clivia Expo that I became a member, enjoying the show, learning about propagation and receiving that wonderful red show bag. I enjoy the club newsletters and now know there is a wonderful world of these beautiful flowers. My grateful thanks go to John Trotter for the introduction to the "*Clivia World*".

MCG Talk on Japan tour 2016

Brenda Girdlestone

Photos by John Mackenzie

As most of you already know, Lisa Fox, John Mackenzie and I, were a part of a Clivia Tour of Japan earlier this year. We three MCG members were joined by 3 people from NSW and 1 person from New Zealand. The tour was organised by MCG member, Shigetaka Sasaki, who was our tour guide, interpreter and negotiator. We were to arrive in Narita on Wednesday the 30th March, with the tour starting on the Thursday. John and I arrived on Tuesday night so we had Wednesday to do some sightseeing. The rest of the group arrived on Wednesday afternoon.

Thursday morning after breakfast we were met by Shige, introductions were done for those that didn't know each other and then we were off.



A display in Shige's poly house

It didn't take us very long to realise that our tour was going to include many hours driving from hotels to growers. Japan is quite spread out, and each car trip was anything from 2 - 4 hours, this time went very quickly and gave us all a chance to get to know each other. Our days were to start at 6.00am for breakfast, and returning to the hotel between 9 - 11pm. They were long days, but no one was complaining, we were there to see *Clivia* and that is what we did. First stop on our tour was Shige's collection. Shige has not long finished building 3 new polyhouses, and was still in the process of moving his plants into their new home. After a



look around it was lunch time, we were treated to a lovely spread organised by Shige's wife, Masako, which was greatly appreciated by us all.

After lunch it was time to be on the move again, we travelled to Mobarra, where we were staying the night.

Friday morning after breakfast it was back in the car for some more travelling, arriving in Chiba where our first visit for the day was Mr Nakayama. Mr Nakayama is also affectionately known as Mr Multi-Petal, and he did not disappoint. Mr Nakayama met us at the bottom of his property with a small van and transported the ladies up to his property, while the men headed off on foot walking between the rice paddies. Nakayama has 2 polyhouses of *Clivia*, with many of them in flower, and quite a variety of colours and forms.

After our good byes it was another drive, with a lunch stop on the way to Mr Tsuruoka, affectionately known as Mr Akebono. And yes he had probably the largest collection of Akebonos that I have seen in one place. Tsuruoka also had many variegates, multi-petals, and everything in between.



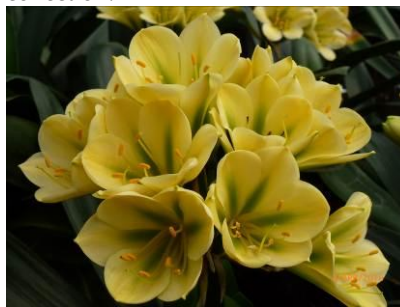
Amazing akebono Clivia from Mr Tsuruoka. also known as Mt Akebono.

In no time at all we were back in the car driving into Tokyo, we had a train to catch!

In Tokyo, after buying some food for tea, we boarded the Shinkansen Bullet train bound for Nagoya. After eating it was time to sit back and relax, once we arrived at Nagoya it

was a taxi ride to our hotel for the night.

Saturday after breakfast we hit the road heading to Gifu, where we arrived at Mr Koike. Mr Koike was kind enough to open his collection up for us to browse. Here we saw many of the breeding plants that have influenced many further generations of plants. We saw many green centre and green flowers within his collection.



An impressive Koike green yellow

We then had an appointment in Aichi, to see Mr Hattori. Here we were treated to visiting 3 separate sites that he uses for his collection. Shige informed us that we were in fact lucky as most groups only see 2 of the 3 areas. Not sure if this was correct, or just a sales pitch so to speak, but none of us were going to argue the point, we were just happy to see as many *Clivia* as we could. Hattori has a good collection with many Tanchoo's, and Tri Colours amongst many others.

Then it was back to the train for the return journey to Tokyo, and drive to Chiba.



A plant in Mr Hattori's collection

Sunday morning we were off to see Mr Nakamura, the man who is one of

the pioneers of *Clivia* breeding, starting the popularity of *Clivia* in Japan, and then the world. It was an honour to meet Nakamura as I know I have plants in my own collection with his breeding in their back ground, as I'm sure many others have.

Mr Nakamura is no longer able to continue his breeding but you can still see many of his wonderful plants that have been a part of a long breeding program. These are plants that will no doubt continue to influence and be used by breeders for many more years to come.



A green frog making this *Clivia* even greener in the throat.

By this stage, we were nearing the end of our tour meeting growers, with the last one being Mr Mitsunashi. Mr Mitsunashi has a varied collection that covers everything, which was a nice way to finish the tour.



A multipetal belonging to Mr Mitsunashi

I would like to thank our tour guide Shige who keep us to our timetable without making us feel that we were being rushed. Also thank you Shige for organising the tour and for all the time involved driving us around.

Also I wish to say big thank you to all the growers who gave us their time



and the opportunity to be able to see their wonderful collections. We were made to feel so welcome.

The Clivia Caulescens Tour 2014 with Connie and James Abel.

By Terry Eakin & Haydn Lomas.
Photos by Terry Eakin

(Previously published in Clivia Society newsletter)

Having spent nine months planning a visit to South Africa for the 2014 Clivia Conference, we boarded Qantas QF63 departing Sydney 10.30 am on Monday, 08 September 2014 and arrived at Johannesburg 4.30 pm the same day. We travelled to the Twin Lodge - Menlo Park, Pretoria, where we met most of our fellow *Clivia Caulescens* Tour group. After having a few drinks during a 'getting to know you session' in the beer garden and a meal at the Dros (a franchise steakhouse), we all went to be quite early. We left at 8.00 am the next morning on a 20 seater luxury coach with Ronnie our driver and James Abel as our guide and Connie Abel as our nurse, eagerly looking forward to our first viewing of Clivia in their natural habitat.



Fig. 1 Bus and trailer

Travelling with us were Stephen and Jeanette Hardcastle, George; Arnu Stassen (Jo'burg); David Loysen, Vermont, USA; Heidi Nerurker (Germany) and Anke and Aart van Voorst (Holland). Within a few minutes we were on the N4 freeway heading towards Witbank and Middelburg. We stopped over for

coffee at Millies, a service station and restaurant. The fields below the service station had ostriches, zebra, buffalo and several species of deer at a dam less than 100 metres away. Our journey continued past Belfast and along a very scenic drive over the mountains through Lydenburg and Pilgrims Rest to our destination at the Graskop Hotel. Here we checked in and collected our pre-ordered lunch packs.



Fig 2 *C. caulescens* on rocky outcrop

The Pinnacle was our next stopover which was about 30 minutes away. A new shopping mall is being developed at The Pinnacle and the building is about 90% completed. The information sign gave the annual rainfall as 3000 mm per annum. A few samango monkeys were seen in pine forest close by. We saw many *C. caulescens* growing on the actual pinnacle which rises up from the valley below. The Pinnacle was about 50 metres away from the adjacent cliff on which we were standing. The cameras were clicking and this was my first opportunity of experiencing *Clivia* in their natural habitat. Only one plant was spotted in flower on the cliff face but it was too far away to photograph. We walked along a track which took us to the other side of the near vertical pinnacle and many *C. caulescens* plants could be seen growing in near full sunlight. Shortly thereafter it was back to the bus and on to God's Window where we parked in the car park and ate our pre-packed lunches.

After eating lunch, we walked up to the lookout and then on to the timber walkways where we saw many *C.*

caulescens, with about 10% in flower or in bud. Many had stems of 700-950 mm long. Some were growing on rocks with very little covering of the roots with moss, lichen and decayed leaf litter only and almost in full sun. Further up the hill at God's Window the *C. caulescens* were more plentiful but some had been damaged by visitors or muti gatherers for traditional medicine. Again many photographs were taken of the plants as well as of the beautiful views of the escarpment and the Blyde River canyon. The sheer drop would be about 500-600 metres but fortunately the area is securely fenced for safety. The walkways were not well maintained despite this being a well visited public place for viewing *Clivia*, wild flowers and the breath taking views.

Next we drove to Wonderview, about a kilometre up the road. This place was neglected and disappointing with very few *Clivia*. We then returned to the Graskop Hotel where we enjoyed snacks and pre-dinner drinks provided free of charge. We enjoyed the meal for dinner and after a few drinks, we had an early night to get ready for our early morning departure. We had breakfast at 7.30 am then we were off in the coach to visit Mariepskop. It was a drive of about two hours on bitumen/tar and then we turned off to follow a gravel road up the mountain for about 40 kilometers. After a short distance later we were faced with a stream crossing with no bridge. The only evidence of the road being closed were a few 100mm rocks placed across the road. The reason for the closure was that the bridge was being rebuilt!



Fig 3. *Caulescens* with berries at Mariepskop

Ronnie had to back up the bus and luggage trailer for about 300 metres before he could turn the vehicle around and then we had to follow a 10 km detour to get back on to the road to Mariepskop. After about an hour we arrived at the forestry offices and they escorted us into the restricted area where the *C. caulescens* grew alongside the cement road up to the radar station. The road to the top was about five kilometres long and is very steep. Fortunately we left our locked trailer at the forestry office, or I'm not sure if the vehicle would have managed to reach the top. From the radar station we walked down the road we had driven up. *C. caulescens* were everywhere right up to the road surface, growing under small bushes with not much shade. This area is often misty with a good rainfall. Only a few plants were in flower and some had the ripe berries of their previous flowering still on the plants with more to be found on the ground alongside the plant. There were numerous seedlings evident especially in the shaded areas. A kilometre down the road there were taller trees and here the *C. caulescens* were greener and healthier but only a few had flowers or berries. A few *C. caulescens* were seen growing in moss on the tree trunks about seven metres above the ground. After photographs and more walking we boarded the bus and returned to the forestry offices where we collected our trailer.

After eating our picnic lunches, we boarded the bus and retraced our

tracks back to the main bitumen/tar road and made our way to Barberton where we were staying at the High School hostel. One of the places of interest to me was the Coromandel *Clivia* nursery near Lydenburg on the first day of the tour. It now appeared to be ruins. The Coromandel Nursery was previously owned by Sydney Press (1913-1997) but closed in 1995. Many of the Coromandel *Clivia* and cultivars have been bought by Clivia Club members. It used to be a wholesale nursery and sold to the trade when it was operational. We arrived at Barberton school, were allotted our rooms and then went to the braai/barbecue area and had a few drinks. Later on an excellent meal was served and we chatted for a couple of hours.

The school gardens had beds of orange *Clivia miniata* in flower. Many of these had strong thick leaves with serrated edges similar to *Clivia nobilis*. On checking the next morning at least 40% had the serrated leaves but the tips were pointed. The only other place I've seen reference to this type of *C. miniata* leaf was in Clivia Club Newsletter Volume 6 Number 3 July 1997 page 5 second last paragraph. The next morning we learned with disappointment that our trip to Bearded Man was cancelled as there were bushfires in the area. Fortunately we were able to visit two growers in the Nelspruit area. One was Paul Kloeck at *Clivia Kingdom* and the other was Chris Welgemoed at Crocodile Creek.

The gravel road to *Clivia Kingdom* was a bit uneven, but the surprise at the end of the road made the journey worthwhile. Acres of *Clivia* were in bloom under the trees and many large shade houses full of potted *Clivia*, many of which were also in bloom. We even noticed pots of *Haemanthus coccineus* that were available for sale.

A trial of shade nets is being conducted on Paul's farm. Small test shade houses of many different

coloured shade net were erected by a shade net company, assessing the effects of the various colours on the plants with regards to growth, health, flower colour, width of leaves and time taken to bloom. (Fig 4) The researcher was on site and he carried out his measurements which take place every three months over a three year period. The aim is to supply growers with the most suitable coloured shade cloth for *Clivia* cultivation. We had lunch in the picnic area near the dam about 100 metres away from Paul's residence.



Fig 4 Seedling growing area of Paul Kloeck

After the barbecue we travelled to Chris Welgemoed's farm.

A rough track of about five kilometres led up to the farm house. The gully to the right of the house had thousands of *Clivia* growing on the banks, amongst the sandstone outcrops, about half of which were in flower. There were many named varieties and many of the blooms were of show quality. Further to the east on the embankment was a large basic shade house full of potted *Clivia* in bloom. The colours including reds, yellows, bronzes, peaches and oranges and many shades in between. Again many photographs were taken. Once the bus was back on the tar/bitumen surface we realised what a luxury it was to have paved road surfaces. We had a short stop along the way and by 6.00 pm we were again at the Town Lodge - Menlo Park in Pretoria. Here we said our goodbyes and many stayed over in the hotel for the night.

2016 MCG CLIVIA EXPO Guidelines

DISPLAY

- Set-up of venue: Friday 23rd September 4:00-6:00pm.
 - Delivery of plants for the display: Friday 6:00-8:00pm, otherwise Saturday 8:00-9:15am.
 - Only members on duty are to enter the display area of the hall before 10:00am on the Saturday.** Members bringing plants for the display will be asked to leave their plants at the tables which will be set up inside the hall entrance to receive these plants.
 - All plants *must* be healthy, and free of diseases and pests. The MCG reserves the right to exclude from the display or from the plant sales any plant or plants which are not disease and/or pest free.
 - Plants and pots *must* be clean and well presented. Saucers will not be used in the display; therefore plants should not be watered for at least the 3 days prior to the day.
 - Exhibitors are asked to provide the Registrar, Haydn Lomas (elomas50@hotmail.com ; ph. 03 95124789) with details of the number of plants they anticipate bringing for the display on Wednesday 21st or Thursday 22nd September. This information helps the stewards plan the allocation of space for the display. At the time that plants are brought in to be benched for the display, exhibitors will be assigned a (consecutive) number for each plant, and provided with two stickers (bearing the same number), one of which is to be placed on the plant card and the other on the pot. This enables the plants to be tracked for eventual return to the owner. In addition, the numbers will be used in voting for the People's Choice award.
 - Display plants **MUST** be accompanied by the MCG's plant card affixed to a card holder (available at the time plants are brought in for the display). The card holder is to be placed in the pot to the front of the plant. Plant cards and paper will be available at the August meeting. A template for the plant card will also be downloadable from our website and can be typed out in advance. It is preferred that plant cards are typed, but if that is not possible then please print the required details clearly, using black pen (only).
- The details to be included on the plant card are:
cultivar name (if there is one) and/or cross (if known),
exhibitor,
breeder (if known), and,
any information of interest (optional).
- Plants on display are not to be handled nor pollen or berries removed by anyone.
 - Members, particularly those who are officiating, are asked to wear their MCG name tags.
 - The People's Choice Award is open to MCG members and members of the public who have the opportunity to select their favourite *Clivia*. Owners of the three plants receiving the most votes will receive a People's Choice Award (certificate), with the first prize winner also being awarded the MCG trophy.
 - Members are needed to assist with various tasks throughout the day so a roster will be set up to cover a variety of functions. We hope that all members will make themselves available for rostered duties. If family members or friends of members are also available to help on the day, they will need to complete an *Application for Volunteer Membership*, preferably in advance of the event, or on the day if necessary. Michael Barrett will coordinate the roster and volunteer applications. The roster will be released on or about the 14th of September.
 - After the hall is closed at 4:00pm, exhibitors are to assemble their own plants in a section and be responsible for checking off their own plants. Following a closing announcement by Brenda Girdlestone, the Chief Steward, plants may be removed. Finally, the furniture will be dismantled and the hall cleaned.
 - When transporting display plants, secure the pots well and stake the flowering stem as these can be easily damaged. Generally the stake should be removed when on display. If a flower is accidentally broken off during transit, it can be displayed on the pot or in a suitable container next to it. It is permissible to stake a stem of berries, and, if you wish, cover this with plastic netting for protection.
 - While utmost care will be taken with the plants on display, the MCG cannot be held responsible for unforeseen events and any damage or losses.

□ To maximise visitor parking, we request that members move their cars away from the immediate hall area after unloading plants and equipment. In addition to the carpark adjoining the main hall, the St Scholastica's Community Centre has plenty of parking available off Starling St.

□ All monies received should be passed to the Treasurer on the day Evidence of expenses to be claimed as expenditure (with prior approval received from the Committee) are to be submitted on the day or within one week.

PLANT & SEED SALES

□ All current members of the MCG are offered the opportunity to sell their *Clivia* plants and seed through the club's Trading Table *or* to sell their plants & seed as independent sellers. All plants will be sold outside in an area designated by the committee.

□ A commission of 15% is payable to the MCG for all plants and seed sold at the Expo. Each seller must complete a Trading Table form, recording details of plants offered for sale. Sales will then be recorded against this and the commission payable calculated at the end of the Expo.

□ Every member who elects to offer for sale their plants and/or seeds at the Expo, whether through the Trading Table or via the Independent Sellers arrangement, is required to contribute 3 hours of voluntary work in connection with the Expo (in the case of Independent Sellers, this time requirement is in addition to the time the member may spend on their own plant stall). This can range from assistance with setting up and/or cleaning up, through to rostered time on reception, assisting with catering, or serving as a steward for instance. Each seller is also expected to provide, if possible, at least six plants for display. If these stipulations present particular problems for anyone who is planning on selling plants and/or seed then please Michael Barrett_well in advance of the Expo.

□ Plant limits. The number of plants that a member may sell through the Trading Table is 50. Independent Sellers have no limit. There are no limits relating to the amount of seed offered for sale. It is expected sellers will, if needed, be able to store excess stock in their vehicles as the sales area is outside the hall.

□ In the case of Independent Sellers, the members concerned are wholly responsible for staffing their stall (note that any non-members assisting a member with their sales will be required to complete before the Expo day an *Application for Volunteer Membership*). More than one member may share a given stall site.

□ Any member wishing to sell plants as an Independent Seller is required to register their intention to do so with the Sales Coordinator Rae Begg (0407510273) no later than the general meeting on 9th September and pay a non-refundable deposit of \$50 at that time (deposits paid will be deducted from commission owing on sales, however if the member does not proceed with plant sales the deposit is forfeited). A ballot will be conducted at an appropriate time to determine the order in which Independent Sellers can choose their stall site from among the designated spaces.

□ All Trading Table sellers are asked to advise the Sales coordinator, Rae Begg (0407510273) or preferably, email, bbrigade1@hotmail.com on Wednesday 21 Sept or Thursday 22 Sept of the approximate number of pots that they will bring for sale. Information regarding pot sizes would also be of assistance.

□ The sales areas will be prepared on Saturday morning, seller expected to assist with set up. Sellers are to bring their sale plants & seed in on the Saturday morning (8:00 am). A completed Trading Table form must be lodged at the time plants are brought to the venue in order that staff can check stock received against the form.

□ When purchasing plants and/or seed from the Trading Table purchasers will pay the designated person at the Trading Table for those items. In the case of Independent Sellers, purchasers will be required to pay the Independent seller at point of purchase. Purchasers should be encouraged to place purchased plants in their own vehicles.

SALES STOCK PREPARATION

□ For the Trading Table it will responsibility of the seller to ensure each plant is clearly identified with the seller' id (initials) and the sales price. Stickers are available if required.

□ The Trading Table form, which needs to be prepared in advance, is to list the number of items for sale, showing the total number at each price. Independent plant details are not required. This form will be available at the August meeting. It can also be downloaded from the MCG website.

□ It is expected that plants will be presented in sound, clean pots. Examination will also be made for any obvious sign of disease or insect infestation. Any problem plants will be rejected and the Trading Table form noted to this effect.

END OF SALES

□ At the end of the sales period or at 4.00pm, a check is to be made of remaining stock. Each plant is to be counted and recorded by price on the Trading Table form provided by the seller. Rae Begg, Treasurer will calculate the total value of the remaining plants which will be deducted from the total value of plants provided for sale.

□ In the case of Independent Sellers, the calculated commission is to be paid to the Treasurer at the conclusion of the Expo. For those selling through the Trading Table, a commission of 15% payable to the MCG will be deducted and the balance paid to the seller either at the conclusion of the Expo or within one week thereof.

□ Sellers are expected to remove their remaining plants as soon as possible after 4.00pm

Melbourne Clivia Group 2016 Colouring Competition

