



**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**D**ear Members,  
I hope you all have been well and enjoying, what is for me, the best time of the year. Since our successful expo, I have been trying to take a few quality photographs of special plants, do a few purposeful crosses between selected plants, and work out which plants are better off in friends' garden beds. For those members unable to attend the expo, this newsletter will attempt to bring you some of the colour and excitement of the day. It was over before we knew it, with a lot of interested public who came along to buy, admire and learn about *Clivia*. There were several new membership applications. Welcome to our group, and I hope you find the MCG helps you grow your *Clivia* to their best, and aids you in getting some different coloured flowers, if that is what you wish.



New member Susan Horsburgh with her raffle prize, a peach donated by Lisa Fox.

We had a good number of members helping out on the day, some staying for part of the day, while others were

there until stumps. Some members really went to a lot of effort to bring a great numbers of plants. Thank you! Again, to those who didn't bring a plant, I hope your collections grow and improve through the interactions within the group.

I'm pleased to advise that following last year's very pleasant Christmas party at Mal Foster's home; this year's event will be once again hosted by Lorry and Terry Edwards. The date is the Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> of November, at 12 p.m. Members and guest welcomed. Please bring a salad to share, something to cook on the BBQ, and something to drink. Please call Terry on 0476378472 for address details and to advise if you are attending, for catering purposes.

Michael Barrett

**NEXT MEETINGS**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

**Richgro Products**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

**Annual General Meeting**

**7.30 p.m.**

**Uniting Church**

**Cnr Blackburn Rd &  
Burwood Hwy, Burwood**

**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 January 2017*

**OUR ADDRESS**

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

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**THANKS TO OUR  
CLIVIA EXPO SPONSORS**





## 2016 CLIVIA EXPO REPORT

Text and photos by Michael Barrett  
(unless stated otherwise)

The MCG 2016 CLIVIA EXPO was the group's sixth expo when the membership took the opportunity to showcase the beauty and diversity of recent *Clivia* hybrids. In a new venue, the St Scholastica's Community Centre made an ideal setting for display, with good natural light and air flow, in an attractive room, and with a good catering area to provide a hospitable atmosphere. The expo was open for one day, 24<sup>th</sup> September, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For these six hours of public engagement, countless hours were invested to make it a success. The main MCG committee took responsibility for planning this year's expo, with assistance from skilled former committee members, lending expertise as required.



'Hoop' an interspecific (*C. miniata* x *C. caulescens*) Grown and photographed by Helen Marriott.

Publicity was vital to the event's success, as we need the public to come and enjoy the display, and get excited about growing *Clivia*. Thus promotion started early, with a collaborative effort to design a semi-gloss coloured flyer, with an image of an interspecific *Clivia* from Helen Marriott, creative ideas from Michael Barrett and implementation and formatting by Vu Dang. One stroke of luck was that the venue was happy to have a billboard to advertise the event being placed on the Burwood Hwy frontage for the month prior to the event. John Trotter approached

Barry Plant Real Estate (Blackburn office), who were happy to supply and install the billboard that was an enlarged version of the flyer artwork and info. Various media outlets were approached, and the two most significant in terms of reach, *The Age* newspaper's Megan Backhouse and 3AW radio with Jane Edmanson, both accepted offers by Michael Barrett for interviews. The newspaper article appeared a month prior to expo, was well written with information about the range of colours *Clivia* come in, allure of hybridisation and the importance of good growing conditions.

<http://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/home/clivias-can-take-tough-love--but-a-little-tenderness-goes-a-long-way-20160819-gqqwb1a.html>

The radio interview was the week before expo, with a number of listeners calling in, eager for information about *Clivia*, and marking the date in their diaries. Both *The Age* and 3AW also gave reminders of the event on the Saturday of the expo. There were two small advertisements and a listing in events section of the *ABC Gardening Australia* magazine. The MCG Facebook page, MCG website, (kindly maintained by Lisa Fox), community radio gardening program on 3CR and local paper, were also used to promote the event.

The hall was set up on the Friday night, with about half of the plants arriving for display, with the remainder being delivered and registered early on the Saturday. Overall there were 141 pots exhibited, from 13 members. Round tables were used for the display, some members filling a table (or two) while other shared a table. As has been the case with every MCG expo, information cards were completed to add context and understanding to the plants



The main hall full of colour and light.

Entry to the display was by gold coin admission. A wonderful merry bunch of members (including Andrea, John, Ian L, Paul, Andy, and Wayne) greeted the public at reception, also giving out nomination forms for the 'People's Choice' awards, and sold raffle tickets for a number of prizes drawn at end of day. Many thanks to the donors (Rae Begg, John Craigie, Mal Foster, Lisa Fox, Peter Haeusler, Helen Marriott and Gerard van Buuren). Once the doors to the display were opened at 10 a.m. the public filled the hall, and smart phones were out snapping photos of the colourful display. A professional photographer, Vrinda Fernando, came at no charge to capture a number of images, in addition to member John McKenzie and others. The MCG hoped to have people add their photos to Instagram, using the hashtag #mcgcliviaexpo2016, with some success, hopefully next time more people upload images to be enjoyed.



Ray Begg admiring the display.





Professor Tim Entwisle, Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens Victoria came in an unofficial capacity, and sadly declined to speak publicly at this event, but he was introduced to many members. Helen Marriott, on behalf of the MCG, presented Tim with an attractive peach Clivia. Tim was most impressed with the expo display and has since written a blog to spread the word about the MCG and Clivia (<http://talkingplants.blogspot.com.au/2016/09/clive-of-syon-park.html>).



Michael, Tim Entwisle and Helen. Photographed by Vrinda Fernando.

Outside the main hall, some members were selling quality plants to the enthusiastic public (and some to each other). There was a combined MCG trading table, as well as some members selling as individual sellers, with no limit on quantity offered for sale. Cream and yellow flowering plants sold quickly, while oranges, including some beauties with green throats, were often selected for purchase, based on price over quality, as many buyers wanted to plant out a larger garden bed. Seeds of peach Clivia also sold well.

There was a very popular refreshment area, with catering supervised by Di Mathews, with support from Jules Hogan, Haydn, Chee and Maria Clarke, Thanks for the delicious food and hot drinks that kept our strength up. There were balloons for decoration, and a table for a colouring-in competition. It was

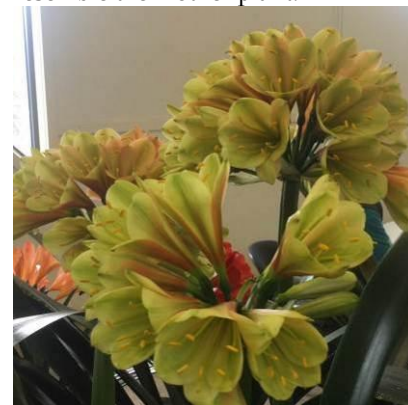
hoped families with children would enjoy this activity, but children appeared just at the end of the day. Unfortunately there were only two entries for the competition, but both beautiful and both awarded gift cards for prizes. Congratulations to the winners, MCG members, Lynn Rawson and Tina Morse. At the information table, Clivia Society publications and gift card with *Clivia* botanical illustrations by member Helen Burrows, sold well, and a number of new membership applications were accepted. New members received a welcome bag, with seedlings and products from expo sponsor, Richgro. Lisa Fox did a marvelous job overseeing the information table. Nearby, Helen Marriott was almost crowded in by people wanting to see the demonstrations on pollination and seed preparation and sowing



Peter with his Peoples' Choice Award.

The winner of the Peoples' Choice was a plant belonging to Peter Haeusler, a wonderful versicolour interspecific, referred to as 'Moonlight F1'. Many members will recall this outstanding plant from the 2014 CLIVIA EXPO; when it won Members' Choice, and was runner up in Peoples' Choice. This year the mother plant and two mature offsets all flowered beautifully. The background to this plant is somewhat a mystery, as it was purchased as a seedling from a grower selling off her collection. Peter has a number of self

pollinated seedlings from this plant flowering for him now that strongly resemble the mother plant.

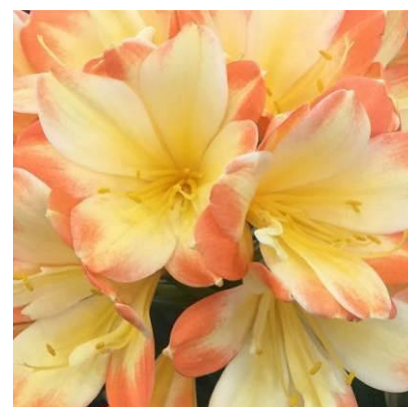


'Moonlight F1'



Well done Terry.

Terry Edwards took out 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places. 2<sup>nd</sup> place was awarded to a magnificent bi-colour, with some multipetals, called 'Leah'. It is a cross between 'Electra King' x 'Tango', and bred by Mark Cant.



'Leah'



3<sup>rd</sup> place went to a specimen tub with a number of variegated offsets, brilliant red flowers, some flowers being multipetals, of Japanese origin.



3<sup>rd</sup> place, Terry's brilliant red.

Impossible as it is to mention all the wonderful exhibits, including a number of green and yellow green *Clivia*, excellent European Peach and bronzes, two talking points were a 'Frats' type displayed by interstate member, Alan O'Leary, and a interspecific with *C. mirabilis* as a pollen parent, displayed by Helen Marriott.



'Frats' brought over by Alan from South Australia to be part of the expo display.



Helen's interspecific, (natural hybrid of *C. caulescens* x *C. miniata*) x *C. mirabilis*. Bred by John Winter.

Since the expo, a number of images from John, Vrinda and others, have been uploaded to the MCG Facebook page and MCG website, under gallery. Please take a look.

Sincere thanks to all the members and volunteers who supported the 2016 CLIVIA EXPO. The event would not have been the success it was without your involvement.



'Rusty' bred and exhibited by Terry Edwards.



('Andrew Gibson' x Best Chubb Splash) exhibited by Peter Haeusler.



'Girlie' bred by Chris de Vry. Exhibited by Lisa Fox.



Floral display arranged by Michael Barrett.  
Cut *Clivia* supplied by Ray and Chee Perks.  
Photographed by Helen Marriott.