



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to you all. I hope that everyone had a very happy time with family and friends over the festive season.

I am grateful *Clivia* are such forgiving plants, as I was away from Melbourne, work, the garden and the *Clivias* for a few weeks, with a friend watering occasionally for me, the collection on whole looked great, and pest free, as I sprayed last thing before going on my break away in the country.

While I was away, I visited a *Lilium* and bulb breeder and various genre plant-collector Paul Rumkorf at Nullawarre. He has chosen to sell up and do the 'bucket list' while he is still well enough to see the world's wonders. I was there to seek out *Erythronium* and *Cyclamen*. I recognized similarities in our natures, especially a love of a wide variety of plants, as well as the enthusiastic acquisition to collection development of almost anything. I and others quickly contacted him enquiring about various plants to add to our own collections. He had some nice *Clivia*, some from Rae Begg, but I wasn't there for *Clivia*, so didn't carefully examine all in that lot, just looked at a few tags. What a contrast to the budding *Clivia* collector I was in years past. Collections are built up, and at some stage, broken up, sometimes there is some regret, while for others, some liberation or relief not to be owned by their collections. For me, my *Clivia* collection is a bit larger than I want, but that doesn't stop me from making a few crosses, and growing new seedlings. I did leave with a car full of goodies from Paul's, and I wish him all the very best for the future and admire his bravery.



Fig. 1 - Michael and Paul

Within our own group, different members have various levels of enthusiasm and time available for the various essential tasks required to 'keep the show on the road'. The

AGM is next month. To paraphrase the famous words of President J.F. Kennedy from his inaugural address, "ask not what your MCG can do for you – ask what you can do for your MCG". We all seem to enjoy the social aspect of the meetings and the expo, so I hope there will be some nominations without broken arms, please! Also, please renew your membership online and pay with bank transfer before the night of the meeting. Once all the formal matters are concluded I trust we can all enjoy a good chat and delicious supper.



Fig 2 - *Liliums*

Peter Haeusler has decided to resign as newsletter editor. As a previous editor myself, I know how hard it is when no content is forthcoming, let alone when moving house. Thanks Peter. I often spent hours trying to compose content for past volumes. If writing longer pieces isn't your thing, think about contributing photos or simple product reviews. We will need a new newsletter editor, and support is available, and I will commit to an article or two. This volume is a bit late, with our apology. Lisa has kindly tidied up the newsletter for release. The articles by Brenda and Rae bring happy thoughts of the friendship gardening brings. Thanks for the articles and photos.

As always, if you wish to contact me please feel free to chat. I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM on the 22nd of February.

Michael Barrett



NEXT MEETING

Annual General Meeting

Friday 22 February 7.30pm

Uniting Church

Cnr Blackburn Rd &
Burwood Hwy, Burwood

The Melbourne Clivia Group will hold regular meetings at the Burwood Heights Uniting Church Fellowship Room in 2019. Meetings start 7.30 p.m. unless stated otherwise.

OUR ADDRESS

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

2019 CALENDAR

Friday 12 April 7.30pm – General Meeting

Friday 21 June 7.30pm – General Meeting

Saturday 30 July 2pm – General Meeting

Friday 16 August 7.30pm – General Meeting

Saturday 21 September- CLIVIA EXPO

Friday 18 October 7.30pm – General Meeting

2019 CLIVIA EXPO

In the 10th year of the Melbourne Clivia Group, there were many factors that contributed to making the 2018 Clivia EXPO the best one to date. After initial concerns from members that there may not be enough flowering plants to display due to the cold weather slowing down development, we ended up with a huge display of beautiful plants in flower. The quality of the plants surpassed other years and the public commented on the huge variety of colours, sizes, shapes and variegates.

There was a steady stream of visitors through the door all day with a rush of people in the morning for the sales plants. Sales were well represented by four individual sellers plus the Trading Table. Visitors enjoyed the display plants, the floral art, demonstrations, raffle, and took advantage of the relaxing atmosphere, enjoying coffee, tea, cake or sandwiches surrounded by a mass of coloured flowers. We were very pleased to see a good number become members on the day and we look forward to welcoming these new members to meetings.



Fig. 3 – CLIVIA EXPO display

We held a live auction of 26 quality plants and one Clivia print. A crowd gathered for the event and bidding was constant and at times, fierce. The auction is an opportunity for members of the public to bid on rare plants that are generally not available, and it was great to see the public bidding and winning plants, not just the enthusiasts. The winning prices varied between \$55 and \$320 with the highest price being paid for the well-known peach, *Comet*. Five green flowering plants ranged from \$150 to \$280 proving to still be very popular with the public. A few well-bred red bronze flowering plants ranged from \$130 to \$200 and offsets of *Sir John Thoroun*, *The Artist* and a yellow *C. caulescens* reached into the \$200s. A few lots were passed in and several sold after the auction. Two lots were very kindly donated to the Melbourne Clivia Group by Hugh Williams and Helen Marriott.



Fig. 4 – Auction in progress

The People's Choice Award voted as the most popular by the public was Tanchoo 1 x Tanchoo 2 owned by Peter Haeusler. Second place was *Best Kept Secret* owned by Alan O'Leary, and third place was a Green bred and owned by Terry Edwards. These were three very beautiful plants and worthy winners.



Fig 5. L to R. Alan O'Leary (Best Kept Secret), Peter Haeusler (Tanchoo 1 x Tanchoo 2) and Terry Edwards (Terry's Green)

To all the people who worked hard to make the 2018 Clivia EXPO happen, we thank you all. Without you, the event is not possible. The challenge for us all now is to strive to make 2019 even better.



Fig. 6 - Floral Art by Michael Barrett

See more 2018 CLIVIA EXPO photos on the MCG website gallery -
<http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/gallery/gallery-2018-clivia-expo/>

CLIVIA CONFERENCE, 2018

Brenda Girdlestone

After attending the Clivia conference at Johannesburg in September, five members of the Melbourne Clivia Group, Terry Egan NSW, Rae and Ray Begg, John Mackenzie and I stayed for the Habitat tour, which had been organised by James and Connie Abel. There was much discussion prior to leaving Australia on the format of this year's tour. In past years a coach had been arranged for the participants, but with lower numbers it was decided that a self-drive format would be adopted.

So, on Monday the 10th at 7.00am we met up with our fellow travellers at Pretoria. After introductions and travelling arrangements were sorted, we hit the road with a total of twelve people and three vehicles. After stopping along the way for breakfast, we reached Graskop, where we booked into our accommodation and collected lunch packs which were pre-arranged and set off again to visit God's Window. After a short hike, we were rewarded with an outstanding view, although being hazy you could see for miles.



Fig. 7 - Gods Window

This seemed the perfect spot to stop and sit on the large boulders for lunch. Then it was time to explore and walk off lunch. You didn't have to go far to see caulescence growing, on boulders, up trees and in the ground. The rewards were great for those that chose to venture further into the bush, even finding a multipetal flowering. Then we were off to The Pinnacle where the views were just outstanding.

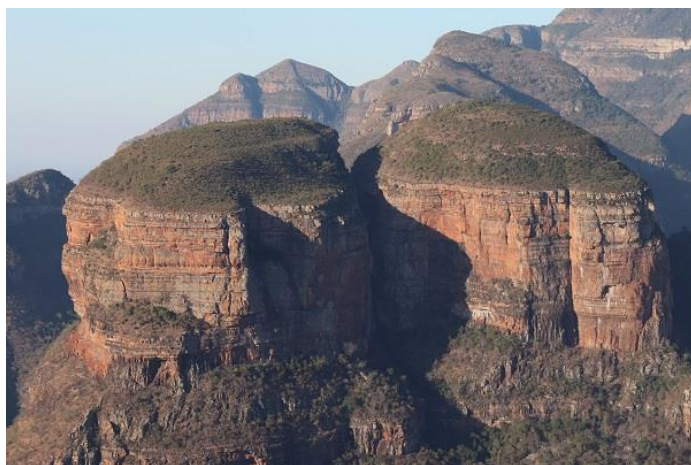


Fig. 8 - The Rondels

Tuesday morning, we were up and out early as it had been arranged to have the lift at Graskop Gorge opened early prior to the general public. The lift has been constructed of steel which descends straight down into the gorge, where *Clivia* Caulescence, many varieties of ferns and trees can be seen while walking along the walkway and even an expansion bridge. Along the walkway there were many informative boards of the plants, insects and wildlife that inhabit the area.

We departed the Gorge for the drive to Mariepskop. This took us onto dirt roads and a couple of the cars found it hard going on some of the steep inclines, even having to unload passengers, but we did all make it and arrived at the office, where we were then given permission to proceed up to the top of the mountain. We still had to pass through a security check point. Once at the top, passengers alighted and walked down the hill, stopping where there were many pockets of caulescence flowering. There was evidence along the side of the road of *Clivia* seeds that had been cleaned from the berries and just left by either animals or birds. There were no signs of these seeds germinating, although they were obviously from the current seed stock. There were also no signs of any seedlings growing along the side of the road, which would indicate that the seed was unable to germinate in such a harsh environment.

On Wednesday morning, we were again up and out early, to have the day at Kruger Park, hoping to get to the gates early to beat the rush. On arriving at the gates, it quickly became evident that it was going to take some time to get the required paperwork and payments made before being given entry. We had picked a time when all residents of South Africa were being given free entry into the park for the week, and it appeared the locals were making the most of it. Once all relevant paperwork was completed, we were in and it was only a short drive before we were seeing our first South African animals. We spent the entire day at the park, no one was complaining, but I think there were many

of us that were happy to arrive at our accommodation for the night. We were happy to have the company of Paul and Sue Kloeck, who joined us for dinner.

Thursday morning again with an early start, it was off to see Paul and Sue at their property. Although their flowering season was nearing an end it was easy to see what a magnificent display they would have when everything was out in flower. Paul is growing many of his younger plants under blue shade cloth believing that this is giving him the best results.

After leaving Paul and Sue's we visited Ian Radman's collection, again Ian was also growing many plants under blue shade cloth. Ian had many plants still in flower, which gave a great display.

We finished our day with a guided tour of the Nelspruit Botanic Gardens. The gardens have several different growing areas and microclimate areas with a large variety of plants thriving in the relevant areas. There were many areas of *Clivia* throughout the gardens, with numerous species present. We returned to Pretoria where we had started on Monday morning. With friendships made and promises to keep in touch, we said our goodbyes to the locals.

The habitat tour is one the I will remember and glad to have been able to take part to see the *Clivia* growing in the natural surroundings, coping with whatever nature throws at them. This is a tour that would be highly recommended for anyone thinking of attending future conferences.



Fig 9 - At Mariepskop

Throughout the Botanic Gardens and members gardens that we visited there were many plants and species that we have over here, and it makes you realise how diverse the plants have become and able to adjust to various conditions to thrive and survive.



10 YEAR CELEBRATION

The October 10 year celebration was well attended by past and present members. See more photos on the MCG website gallery - <http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/gallery/gallery-2018-october-10-year-celebration/>



Fig. 10 – 10 year celebration cake



Fig 11. Supper



Fig 12. Plant display

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

Many thanks to Ray and Chee Perks for hosting the 2018 Christmas function. See more photos of the 2018 Christmas function on the MCG website gallery - <http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/gallery/gallery-2018-christmas/>



Fig. 13 – Christmas function



Fig. 14 – Christmas function



Fig 15 – Christmas function



VISIT TO JOHN AND GAIL CRAIGIE

Michael Barrett

In December I was in Queensland and was determined to catch up with John and Gail Craigie. I was so pleased, being without my own car, a friend living nearby, Melissa who came to a Christmas party at Terry's one year, was able to take me out to Pine Mountain after visiting there many years ago.

It was a hot, humid start to summer, and this afternoon it was near 40 degrees Celsius. The nursery was looking great at first glance, with new water tanks and a few extra growing areas. John and Gail also looked great, both tan and (sorry John) Gail especially lean and strong from much hard work in the Qld sun. Gail took Melissa off to smaller houses while John and I inspected the main *Clivia* house. John had a few other plants about at the entrance, and the initials, TC standing for tissue culture were dropped a few times in quick succession. I admired some wonderful variegated plants, and berries, John informing me the various colour groups the plants belonged to including various peaches and yellows. The atmosphere changed when Gail returned and suggested the overhead exterior watering system be turned on. The sprinklers use recycled water, captured in gutters, to shower down the roof, and it worked dramatically and quickly. It also was an audio delight, the sound creating the effect of an intense subtropical storm.



We went to another growing area, and I was in awe of some unusual ferns including a Fallax fern. Funnily Melissa also had admired these, so a thank gift for her was at hand. I returned to Melbourne with a couple of small pots, and watched John fill in the paperwork for me to declare them fire ant free. Hopefully they grow well for me here. I also went with John down to the Brisbane River bank below their home. This area has been beautifully terraced and planted out, but like most good gardens, are constantly developing, growing and changing over time. This area had been devastated by the 2010/2011 floods.



It was a most pleasant afternoon and good to catch up with great people, and I wish John and Gail the very best in every regard for 2019.



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ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS Nomination form 2019

The election of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and ordinary members of the Committee will take place at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday 22nd February 2019.

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

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

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

Signed: _____ Date of nomination: _____

Nomination accepted: Signature: _____ Date: _____



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APPOINTMENT OF PROXY 2019

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, 22 February 2019 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:

APPLICATION
FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL OF THE
MELBOURNE CLIVIA GROUP INC. 2019

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 2019 (electronic newsletter) \$20
- OR**
- ☐ Single Membership 2019 (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)

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.

OUR SOUTH AFRICAN EXPERIENCE

Garden visits – a brief summary by R. Begg

For two days we experienced the wonderful hospitality of Society members when we visited their gardens and had a look at their *Clivia* collections. The weather was a perfect sunny 24°C.

The overall theme for all the gardens were the large areas under the trees full of *Clivias* regarded as not good enough. Most of us would have liked to have those garden plants in our collections!

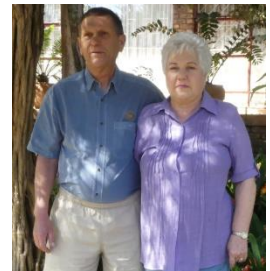
Pretoria Monday September 3rd

Our first visit was to **Pikkie and Elize Strumpher**. Pikkie is known for his plants and seed sales via



Cliviamart, in partnership with Pieter Saayman and Michael Holt.

Pikkie shared with us his knowledge of the cultivation and breeding of *Clivias*. He specialises in bronzes but had a wonderful display of a huge colour range of very desirable plants in flower.



Next was **Rouzell van Collier**. We were greeted by three very large but friendly dogs. After sampling



some local food we then walked through many shade houses full of *Clivias*. We were a bit too early in the season to see them in full flower but saw some wonderful flowers in this shadehouse. Lots of orchids too.



Pieter Saayman and Michael Holt were next, the partners with Pikkie Strumpher at Cliviamart.



They have recently constructed a very large new shade house - well sealed to keep the monkeys out. There was a large range of desirable *Clivias* in flower. It was nice to see the stock plants that they use for their seed production in flower.



Finally, to **Henriette Ströh**. Henriette has an amazing collection of



plants in the garden apart from her wonderful *Clivia*. One shade house had a lot of epiphytic orchids and other plants hanging above the *Clivia*. Here we met well known *Clivia* judge Felicity Weeden, (pictured).



Johannesburg Tuesday September 4th

First stop was **Michael Boyce**. His *Clivia* are in a huge area covered by shade cloth under very large trees. Once again, the majority of plants



had not yet flowered but there were plenty to look at. He had a selection near the back door put aside in preparation for the Johannesburg show. There were quite a few orchids hanging around.



Joubert van Wyk was next. Before we had morning tea we were given a guided tour around the



shade houses. There were *Clivia* everywhere around every corner, but still a lot more flower spikes not open. Aart van Voorst joined the overseas contingent at this visit. On the way out we spied a *Clivia nobilis* in flower in the garden.



We moved next to **Dawie & Ebeth Strydom**. Their property is perched on the side of a very steep hill overlooking the city far away in the distance. Once again we were a bit too early in the season to see the majority of *Clivia* in full bloom. Dawie showed us around and spoke for some time with a small group before Ebeth served afternoon tea.



Glynn Middlewick also lives on the side of a very steep hill overlooking the city. The terraced



gardens climb up the back of the steep property. This is a very interesting garden with a huge variety of plants. His special *Clivia* were secured in a sturdy shade house.



Thank you to all the Society members who made us feel welcome and shared their *Clivia* with us.