



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Annual General Meeting was held on February 22nd and a new committee was elected. The incoming committee members are:

President – Lisa Fox

Vice-President – Di Mathews

Secretary – Brenda Girdlestone

Treasurer – Rae Begg

Committee – Ian Larmer, Ian Johnson, Allan Gibson, John Mackenzie, Chee Perks

Thank you to Michael Barrett for steering the ship for the past few years. The club owes a debt of gratitude to you for all your hard work and dedication. Thank you also to the outgoing committee from 2018.

We welcome the new committee members who have agreed to come onboard and take up the reins for the current year. We have a diverse group of people covering a wide range of interests, experiences, skills and knowledge. It is this diversity in our committee that will give it strength.

Our first committee meeting consisted of a brainstorming session on speakers and topics for the meetings in 2019 and we hope you will be pleased with the speaker line-up and will support the club by attending if you are able.

The April meeting will be a presentation by committee member, Ian Johnson, on *Clivia* record keeping using power-point as a database. This will be of great interest to us all, whether seasoned enthusiast or novice grower. We will also enjoy photos of Ian's plants on the big screen. (*See member's profile for more information on Ian*)

In June we are pleased to announce that Jane Tonkin from Tonkin Bulbs will be our guest speaker. The June meeting is on a Saturday commencing at 2pm. This represents a great opportunity to those who don't like going out on a Friday night to attend an afternoon session. Bulbs will be offered for sale. Tonkin bulbs - <https://www.tonkinbulbs.com.au/>

The July meeting is another Saturday time slot and we are very fortunate to announce the guest speaker is the botanist, Dr. Randall Robinson.

Back to a Friday night in August, our guest speaker is Peter Hey, the President of the NSW Clivia Society. Peter has a great knowledge of *Clivia* and is an enthusiastic and motivational speaker. Peter runs a business called 'Just Cliveas and Rare Things' - <https://jcart.com.au/>.

September is the month of our annual Clivia EXPO and we hope to make this event bigger and better every year. Plans are already under-way for the next few years and we are very grateful that Richgro and Barry Plant Real Estate have agreed to sponsor us again for 2019. The October meeting and Christmas function are still to be determined.

As the new President, I look forward to working with the committee and members in 2019 to progress the club. Please feel free to contact me if you have any ideas for the club, whether for speakers, topics, member offers or improvements. I can be contacted by email: lisa.fox@gmail.com or phone: 0417 087 667.

Lisa Fox

NEXT MEETING

General Meeting

Friday 12 April 7.30pm
Presentation by Ian Johnson
Clivia record keeping

Uniting Church
Cnr Blackburn Rd &
Burwood Hwy, Burwood

The Melbourne Clivia Group holds regular meetings at the Burwood Heights Uniting Church Fellowship Room. 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

Presentation by Ian Johnson on Clivia record keeping

Saturday 22 June 2pm – General Meeting

Guest speaker is Jane Tonkin (Tonkin Bulbs)

Saturday 20 July 2pm – General Meeting

Guest speaker is Dr Randall Robinson

Friday 16 August 7.30pm – General Meeting

Guest speaker is Peter Hey

Saturday 21 September- CLIVIA EXPO

Friday 18 October 7.30pm – General Meeting

To be announced

Christmas function to be announced

MEET THE NEW COMMITTEE



Fig. 1 Left to right: Di Mathews, John Mackenzie, Lisa Fox, Brenda Girdlestone, Chee Perks, Rae Begg, Allan Gibson (Missing are Ian Larmer and Ian Johnson)

Lisa Fox – President

Lisa has been a keen *Clivia* enthusiast since 2006 when she saw an orange *Clivia* flower that her mother owned. She became obsessed and was a founding member of the Melbourne Clivia Group in 2008 as well as secretary for the first few years. Since then she has held positions over the years of vice-president, acting treasurer and committee member, and is the Australian representative for the Clivia Society. Lisa has visited the Australian shows at Toowoomba and Sydney, as well as attended Clivia tours in China, Japan and South Africa. She runs a small online business selling *Clivia* to gardeners and other enthusiasts.

Di Mathews – Vice-President

Di has been growing *Clivia* for about 12 years and is a founding member of the MCG. She was on the committee in the first year and spent five years as Vice-President, as well as two years on the expo committee and newsletter editor. Like many *Clivia* growers, she has too many plants and struggles to exercise restraint with acquiring more. The annual seed lists are a huge temptation, but 'enough is enough' she tries to tell herself.

Brenda Girdlestone – Secretary

Brenda first became interested in *Clivia* after attending an Orchid Spectacular in Diamond Creek around 2006. She purchased a few extremely small seedlings from an orchid grower. From knowing nothing, she has persevered and gone on to grow many plants, seeds and seedlings, as well as continued with her passion for ferns and orchids. Despite different watering requirements, she now has her three favourite plant types happily co-existing.

Brenda has attended the Clivia Society conference twice in South Africa, as well as visiting Japan, New Zealand, and the Toowoomba show. She has previously spent a number of years as a committee person.

Rae Begg – Treasurer

Rae has been interested in *Clivia* for over 20 years and joined the Melbourne Clivia Group as an inaugural member in 2008. She has been on the committee for 9 years and treasurer for 7 of those years. Her favourite *Clivia* is one with bold colours and broad leaves and keeps her *Clivia* in pots at her property. Rae started off selling landscape quality *Clivia* and has gradually become a 'collector'.

John Mackenzie

John's love of *Clivia* started about eight years ago after visiting a couple of members collections along with Brenda. It was at one of these gatherings that he met Alick McLeman from New Zealand. After hearing Alick talk about his passion for *Clivia*, John became hooked. He started going along to some of the



meetings, and later was appointed the unofficial club photographer. At home he started helping out with potting, peeling seeds and anything else that needed to be done. John has attended the Clivia Society conference in South Africa twice, and visited New Zealand and Japan. This is his first time on the committee, and with his knowledge and love of Clivia, he will be a positive influence and benefit to the club.

Allan Gibson

Allan has been a *Clivia* enthusiast since the 1990's. Back then he was a competition gardener in Toowoomba in the Australian Carnival of Flowers. *Clivia* provided colour under trees and in tougher shade areas. They are tough! Allan was one of the founding members of the Toowoomba Clivia Society. He enjoys the colours and leaf variations and has gradually moved into enjoying variegated *Clivia*. The latter is the focus of his seed planting and pollination now. But as a hobbyist he admires the colour range and just enjoys seeing quality plants and collections. Through work Allan travels a little. About 10 years ago he was in Philadelphia and got to see the *Clivia* flowering at Longwood Gardens.

Chee Perks

Chee has been involved with *Clivia* for many years in partnership with husband, Ray. She has been on the committee a number of times including a stint as treasurer. The club have enjoyed the hospitality offered by Chee and Ray for the past two Christmas events and viewed a large collection of plants in shade houses.

Ian Larmer



Fig.2 Ian Larmer

Ian became a member of the group after attending the Clivia EXPO and October meeting in 2015. He is still waiting for his first lot of seed to flower. Being relatively new to *Clivia*, he doesn't have a favourite flower but is partial to the peach colour. His collection is all in pots as he has limited space for garden planting. This is Ian's second year on the committee, and he is looking forward to another good year for the Club.

MEMBER PROFILE

Ian Johnson

I first became interested in *Clivia* when I was employed as an ecology technician within the School of Engineering and Science at Victoria University in 2013. I was fortunate to work under the direction of Botanist, Dr. Randall Robinson and my duties involved supporting the provision of practical classes for the ecology students and some technical support to research students doing PhD's under Randall's supervision. Randall is a keen collector and breeder of Orchids and has a keen interest in *Clivia*. Randall housed a small number of *Clivia* seedlings at the uni and I was gifted these by Randall as well as a number of *C. nobilis* seeds.



Fig.3 Ian Johnson

I kept the seedlings at the uni and germinated the seeds there as well. I also started to germinate seeds from my mother's yellow *miniata* and from a friend's *Clivia*. I brought my first flowering plants from the 2013 Clivia Expo, buying 4 plants. I then brought another 13 plants from the 2014 Clivia Expo and then joined the MCG at the 2015 Clivia Expo. 2019 is my



first year of involvement with the MCG committee and finding it a positive experience.

I have acquired around 160 plants and I have been pollinating and growing my own seedlings for the past several years. I grow my plants under shade cloth and also use a poly-carbonate green house. I have switched to using a hydroponic potting mix and nutrient solution over the past 2 years. My collection is kept in pots however I have a small number in the ground. I have started to do some line breeding but still working out what direction I am going in with my *Clivia*. One of my favourites is (New Dimension x Sunset) x Expectation peach which has large 11cm wide flowers and I am line breeding to other plants with Sunset breeding.



Fig.4 (New Dimension x Sunset) x Expectation Peach

CLIVIA CAULESCENS IN HABITAT

John Mackenzie

One of my favourite moments from our recent trip to the Clivia Conference in South Africa was stumbling across a flowering caulescens in the wild while we were visiting God's Window during the Habitat tour. While the other tour members were enjoying their lunch and the view, I wandered off by myself. I took a path off the main track into the bush exploring. As I scrambled over rocks and boulders through an opening not far from the edge of the lookout, I came across what I had travelled thousands of kilometres to see a flowering *Clivia Caulescens* in the wild.

Although it was growing on a rocky outcrop, I was determined to get up close so I could get a photo of my find, which proved more difficult than I first realised.

Still with my backpack on and holding the camera, and tablet, I had to heave myself up part of the rock face to find the right position for my dream photo. Once up and in position, I found I then had another problem, the sun. Not to be out done by this, I held my hat up to block out the sun while still balancing and keeping my footing, I was then able to take my photo, and just to be sure I didn't waste the moment I took a photo with my tablet and then my phone.



Fig.5 *C. Caulescens* in habitat

CULTIVATION NOTES

Di Mathews

Now we are at the end of a hot and dry summer, it appears that autumn will be warm and dry as well. Continue to water your container plants weekly while the weather remains warm. *Clivia* planted in the garden will still appreciate a good watering weekly while the weather is warm until there is some decent rain.

When watering pots, give each plant a good drench so that water flows freely from the bottom of the pot. This will help to carry air through the mix and keep plants well-aerated.



Container grown plants rely on us for all their nutritional requirements, and a slow-release fertiliser is perfect for those who are time-poor, or who have a lot of plants. Young plants and seedlings will still benefit from regular feeding; half-strength liquid fertiliser is ideal for these plants.

Use a fertiliser that is high in potassium to encourage good flowering. It is believed that a potassium deficiency is likely to be responsible for flower stems that fail to properly elongate or become "stuck."

The warm weather is still providing ideal conditions for pests such as mealybugs, which love to hide deep in the leaf margins, and also live in the top layers of the potting mix in the pot.

Use your pesticide of choice but be mindful of spraying on windy days to prevent drift when it can damage friendly insects such as bees. Remember to drench the soil with the pesticide mix as well as spraying the plant if there is a mealybug infestation.

A good alternative to chemical pesticides is using a non-toxic spray such as Neem oil. Neem oil is not a knock-down spray but affects the ability of pests such as mealybugs to feed and reproduce, and they die. It does not affect friendly insects such as bees and ladybirds. It is also safe to spray around humans and pets. If there are only a few pests, they can often be removed by hand.

Neem Oil spray.

Neem oil at 0.5%

Use 5mls Neem oil to one litre of water.

When mixing, add the oil to a small amount of warm water and add a few drops of a mild dishwashing detergent to help the oil disperse in the water.

Shake well, then add the remainder of the water.

Scale up the quantities to suit your sprayer.

Spray all surfaces of the plant.

To this mix can also be added a small amount of powdered seaweed, or a small amount of liquid fertiliser.

May be used monthly as required.

FIRST FLOWERS FOR 2019

Brenda Girdlestone

My first flower for 2019 is an Interspecific, *C. Robusta* X *C. Caulescens* which has flowered previously in May two years ago. This year it's flowering early, not sure if this is due to the warmer weather or not.



Fig.6 *C. Robusta* x *C. Caulescens*

It was a plant that I brought from Allan Gibson, when he was selling part of his collection. Allan grew the plant from seed imported from South Africa. It consistently has 30+ flowers, which start out pale cream and darkens to a pale orange as it ages.



Fig.7 ((*C. Miniata* x *C. Nobilis*) X *C. Nobilis*) x (*C. Robusta* x *C. Caulescens*)

My second flowering at the moment is a first flowering from a cross I did using the above plant as the pollen parent. Again, it's an Interspecific ((*C. Miniata* x *C. Nobilis*) X *C. Nobilis*) x (*C. Robusta* x *C. Caulescens*). As this is flowering at the same time and colouring being similar to the pollen parent, would it be correct to say that the pollen parent in this case is the more dominate parent? This flower opens cream with green tips, and



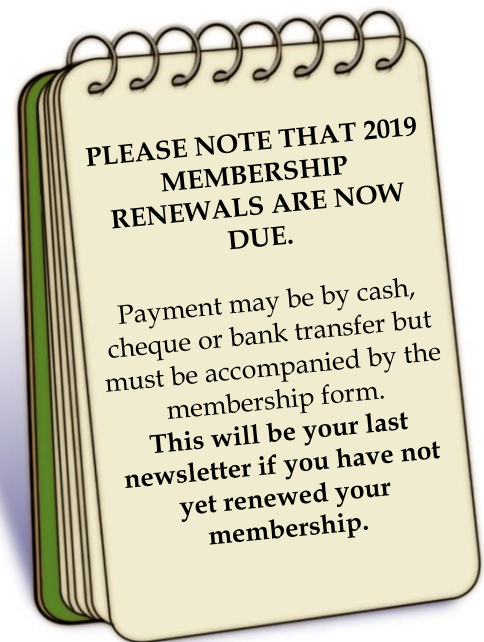
as it ages it does have some blush, but just before the flowers age and start dropping off it develops a pinkish/orange hue around the edges of the petals.



Fig.8 ((*C. Miniata* x *C. Nobilis*) X *C. Nobilis*) x
(*C. Robusta* x *C. Caulescens*)

What I have found interesting is that although this plant is flowering a few weeks after the parent plant, it finished flowering after being pollinated, whereas the parent plant is still going strong.

Is this because it is a first flowering or is there another explanation?



**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.