



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I recently returned from an overseas holiday to discover that Melbourne had turned decidedly cool and wintery. Everyone told me that Melbourne had plenty of rain in my absence. We needed a good soaking and I felt confident that our rainwater tanks would have filled up. Alas no. An underground PVC pipe had split and our 24,000 litre tanks were empty.

What I really enjoy about winter is that it is a step closer to flowering season. Our plants need the cold in order for them to produce flowers. The countdown is on now for spring flowering. Only a few more months to go. I am already seeing spikes on the Interspecific plants which is always an exciting time.

The big news for the Melbourne Clivia Group is that we have changed the venue for the 2019 CLIVIA EXPO and future expos. The new venue - MOUNT WAVERLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE is a well-known location for plant shows and exhibitions with plenty of parking, right across the road from a railway station, and enables us to house the sellers under cover in the building. Another exciting development is that commencing with the 2020 CLIVIA EXPO, we will be running this over two days and introducing competitive classes in addition to our People's Choice Award.

The flyers for the expo are being printed as I type this and all going well, will be available at the June meeting as well as the July and August meeting. Please help us to spread the word about the change of venue as we certainly do not want any members of the public attending St Scholastica's Community Centre by mistake.

Our June meeting is on Saturday 22nd June commencing at 2pm with speaker - Jane Tonkin from Tonkin Bulbs. We are delighted to have Jane as our guest speaker and encourage you to come along to the meeting and bring your pocket money. There will be special bulbs for sale.

We continue with another special guest speaker in July with Dr. Randall W. Robinson and interstate speaker, Peter Hey in August. Read more on Jane Tonkin and Dr. Robinson further in this newsletter.

Bring along any plant you may have in flower for display, as well as any plants or well-grown seedlings you may wish to sell on the Trading Table. We will have a small afternoon tea and don't forget that you are welcome to bring along a visitor.

This newsletter contains winter cultivation notes kindly supplied by Di Mathews, and an article on whether *Clivia* are poisonous to pets. In Appendix A we have reproduced two slides with permission from Alfred Everson on the definition of versicolour and bitonal flowers. More colour definitions will follow in subsequent newsletters.

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

Saturday 22 June 2pm
Presentation by Jane Tonkin
(Tonkin Bulbs)

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

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



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.
presents:

CLIVIA EXPO 2019

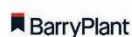
Saturday 21st September
10am - 4pm

Displays • Demonstrations • Sales

\$5 entry / \$4 Seniors card holders
Mount Waverley Community Centre
47 Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley
Enquiries: 0477 134 863

www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au

Thank you to our sponsors:



June Speaker – Jane Tonkin

We are very excited to announce that Jane Tonkin from Tonkin Bulbs will be our speaker at the June meeting. The meeting is Saturday 22 June commencing at 2pm at the Uniting Church Fellowship Room, corner Burwood Hwy and Blackburn Rd in Burwood. Bulbs will be for sale. Visitors welcome.

Jane and her mother, Shirley run Bryan H Tonkin, a rare and unusual bulbs and perennials small retail nursery and mail order business from Kalorama in the Dandenong Ranges. The business dates back to the 1960's where Bryan was able to offer rare plants often not available in Australia. Through selective propagation and hybridisation, the business is able to offer quality plants that have been grown and naturalised to local conditions.



Fig. 1. Michael Barrett and Jane Tonkin

July Speaker – Dr. Randall W. Robinson

Randall developed his lifetime love of plants early, having grown up next to a US Dept of Agriculture trial garden and attending horticulture school just outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His love of plants led him to enter the Professional Gardener Training Program at Longwood Gardens, the premier Display Garden in the USA.



Orchids became a special interest and in 1979 he was selected as the Eric Young Orchid Scholar which took him to the RHS Garden, Wisley and Kew Gardens in England.



Fig 2. Dr. Randall W. Robinson

In the mid 1980's Randall moved to Australia to pursue a career as a botanist/ecologist with the Victorian Government. Taking up studies at Victoria University in 2001, he successfully completed a Masters and PhD in environmental science. Now an Associate Professor, Randall continues his work as an academic, as Deputy Director of Research in the Institute for Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities at the university.

While he has a special interest in Orchids, he also collects various other genera and plant groups including Clivia, Haworthia, Aloe, Pelargonium, Rhipis and a range of terrestrial Bromeliads. His presentation today is about some very special Cymbidium from South-east Asia that are rarely cultivated in Australia.

IS MY CLIVIA POISONOUS TO PETS?

Lisa Fox

I have heard this question raised a number of times lately as people become more aware of the dangers of lilies with cats. Many people think of *Clivia* as a lily, and it is sometimes known as the Bush Lily or Flame Lily. As the owner of a cat and a dog, I was also concerned about this issue, so decided to conduct some research.

Clivia are from the Amaryllidaceae family which is well-known for containing a number of alkaloids including a crystalline alkaloid called lycorine which is toxic to humans and pets. The toxin has an emetic effect, resulting in nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, salivation and diarrhea when only a small quantity is ingested. It is extremely rare for a pet to ingest a large enough quantity to cause life threatening toxicosis as the vomiting symptoms occur quite soon after ingesting parts of the plant. All parts of the *Clivia* contain lycorine but the highest concentrate is found in the berries and the base.

Many ornamental bulbs including daffodils, tulips, hyacinths and autumn crocus also contain alkaloids that are toxic if eaten. Dogs have been known to dig up and consume newly planted bulbs, particularly if Blood and Bone or a similar fertiliser has been used. In bulbous plants, the concentration of toxins is in the bulb and ingestion of the bulb is more harmful than ingestion of foliage. Interesting is that during World War II in Holland, people ate tulip bulbs as they were starving. Reports are that they ate parts of the bulb, removing the centre part as it is the poisonous section.



Fig. 4 Cat and a plant



The toxicity of *Clivia* plants is not to be confused with members of the Liliaceae or Hemerocallis family (true lilies) which can cause renal failure in cats. True lilies are very toxic and even consuming less than one leaf, licking the water from a vase, or a small amount of pollen can lead to severe toxicosis and even death in cats. Cats are unique in their susceptibility to lilies. Dogs who have ingested lilies are known to suffer from minor digestive upsets but not renal failure. Lilies known to cause kidney failure in cats include: (Easter lily) *Lilium longiflorum*, (Tiger lily) *Lilium tigrinum*, (Rubrum) *Lilium speciosum*, (Japanese show lily) *Lilium lancifolium* (Stargazer lily) *Lilium oreintalis*, (Daylily) *Hemerocallis species*.

A number of other family groups have a low toxicity level such as Philodendrons, Calla lilies and Peace lilies. They contain oxalic acid which hurts the mouth and throat, so the pet is not likely to eat large amounts.

If you own cats or dogs, it is advisable to take steps to ensure their safety around plants.

- ❖ Before purchasing indoor plants, research the botanical name and ensure the plant is not harmful to cats or dogs.
- ❖ Do not purchase lilies as cut flowers or bring a pot of flowering lilies into the house if you own a cat.
- ❖ If you wish to use Blood and Bone or Dynamic Lifter in your garden, keep a close watch on the behaviour of your dog. You may have to restrain the dog for a few days.
- ❖ If you become aware of your dog digging in the garden, ensure there are not toxic plants in the immediate area or fence off any plants you are concerned about.
- ❖ If you witness these symptoms from your pet or more serious symptoms such as seizures, paralysis or cardiac arrhythmias, consult a veterinary immediately.



Fig. 5 Playful

At the end of this newsletter (Appendix B) you will find a list of plants known to be toxic to pets.

References

<https://www.dirttonmyhands.com/poisonous-plants-to-cats.html>
http://aspcapro.org/sites/pro/files/f-vettech_0402_1.pdf
<http://www.aspcapro.org/sites/pro/files/h.pdf>
<http://www.pawsdogdaycare.com/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants/clivia-lily>

CULTIVATION NOTES

Di Mathews

Winter has certainly arrived this year with some wild weather, also bringing with it some much needed rain.

Your *Clivia* will still need care and attention over the winter months and will need protection from frost in areas that are very cold. They can be severely affected if left exposed to temperatures below zero for more than a day or two, and in frost prone areas should be under some form of cover, such as under protective eaves or under shadecloth.

Watering requirements over winter are also much reduced, and they can survive for prolonged periods without water due to their large fleshy roots. Container grown plants will still need watering and will benefit from a good drench once or twice a month



depending on the size of the container they are in, and the type of growing medium. Watering requirements will also depend on the age of the plant – seedlings will need more frequent watering than mature established plants.

Watering is best carried out early in the day in the colder months, so that excess water on the leaves can dry and therefore helping to protect plants from fungal attack.

Insect pests can still be a problem in the cold weather, so keep a watchful eye on your plants. Winter is also the time that you will begin to see the first evidence of the flower spikes deep between the leaves. Once these appear, your plants will benefit from some liquid fertiliser feeding; use one that is high in potassium to help the spikes fully elongate.

Keep plants looking tidy by removing old yellowing leaves and keep a lookout for any sick or diseased plants and isolate them from your healthy *Clivia*.

FLOWERING NOW



Fig. 6 (Michael Barrett)



Fig. 7 Harburg Blush *gardenii* (Lisa Fox)



Fig. 8 Green Goblin x Alpha Bush Pastel (Di Mathews)



Fig. 9 Unknown *C. gardenii* type (Lisa Fox)



Fig. 10 Jester x Joker (Brenda Girdlestone)



Fig. 12 *C. gardenii* (Michael Barrett)



Fig. 11 A Clivia spotted in a garden on Lord Howe Island
(John Mackenzie)



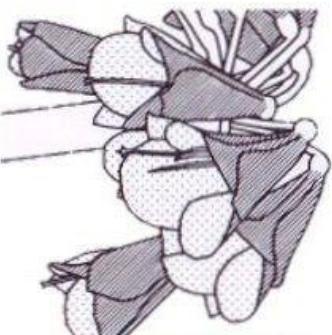
Fig. 13 Goblin F1Yellow x Andrew Gibson (Brenda Girdlestone)

Versi-Colour Flowers

Here the colours on the inside and outside of the tepals are different.



As per Clivia Society Web page description.



The outer surface or back of the tepal is a different color from the color of the inner surface of the tepal.

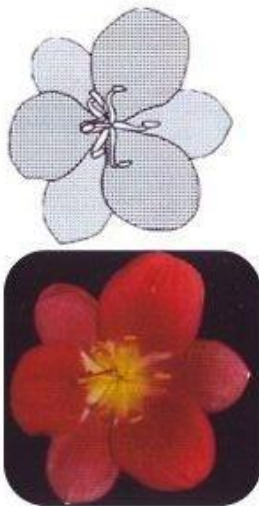
As per Illustrated Terms and Definitions for Describing Clivia
by William McClelland

Bitonal Flowers

These flowers have the inner and outer whorls of tepals having different shades/ hues of the same colour.



Bitonal:



The **inner** tepals are darker but **similar** in color to the outer tepals.

Reverse Bitonal:



The **outer** tepals are darker but **similar** in color to the inner tepals.

As per Illustrated Terms and Definitions for Describing Clivia
by William McClelland

APPENDIX B - PLANTS KNOWN TO BE TOXIC TO PETS

The plants listed below are known to be toxic to pets if parts are ingested. This list is not complete and does not state whether the toxic level is low, medium or high risk.

<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i> (Leek)	<i>Allium cepa</i> (Onion)
<i>Allium sativum</i> (Garlic)	<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i> (Chives)
<i>Aloe barbadensis</i> , <i>Aloe vera</i> (Aloe Vera)	<i>Amaryllis</i> sp. (Belladonna lily)
<i>Andromeda Japonica</i> (Lily of the Valley)	<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i> (Norfolk Pine)
<i>Asparagus densiflorus</i> cv <i>sprengeri</i> (Asparagus fern, lace fern)	<i>Begonia</i> spp. (Begonia)
<i>Brunfelsia</i> spp. (Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow)	<i>Buxus</i> sp. (Box hedge)
<i>Caladium hortulanum</i> , <i>Alocasia</i> spp.	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i> (Elephant's Ears)
<i>Chrysanthemum</i> spp. (Chrysanthemum, Daisy)	<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i> (Lime)
<i>Citrus limonia</i> (Lemon)	<i>Citrus paradisi</i> (Grapefruit)
<i>Citrus sinensis</i> (Orange)	<i>Clematis</i> sp. (Clematis)
<i>Colchium autumnale</i> (autumn crocus)	<i>Crassula arborescens</i> , <i>Crassula argentea</i> (Jade plant)
<i>Cyclamen</i> spp (Cyclamen)	<i>Dahlia</i> spp. (Dahlia)
<i>Delphinium</i> spp. (Delphinium)	<i>Dianthus caryophyllus</i> (Carnation, Dianthus)
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i> (Foxglove)	<i>Dracaena fragrans</i> , <i>Dracaena</i> spp. <i>Dracaena marginate</i> , <i>Ipomoea batatas</i> (Dracaena)
<i>Dracaena deremensis</i> , <i>tradescantia multiflora</i> (Bridal Veil)	<i>Erigeron speciosus</i> (Seaside Daisy)
<i>Eucalyptus</i> spp (Eucalyptus)	<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i> (Pointsietta)
<i>Ficus benjamina</i> (Fig)	<i>Gardenia jasminoides</i> (Gardenia)
<i>Gladiolus</i> spp. (Gladiola)	<i>Gypsophila elegans</i> (Baby's breath)
<i>Helleborus niger</i> (Hellebore)	<i>Hemerocallis</i> spp. (Day lily)
<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i> (Hibiscus)	<i>Hippeastrum</i> spp. (Hippeastrum)
<i>Hosta plataginea</i> (Hosta)	<i>Hyacinthus orientalis</i> (Hyacinth)
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> (Hydrangea)	<i>Ipomoea</i> spp. (Morning Glory)
<i>Iris</i> spp. (Iris)	<i>Lantana camara</i> (Lantana)
<i>Lathyrus latifolius</i> (Sweet Pea)	<i>Laurus nobilis</i> (Bay tree)
<i>Lavendula angustifolia</i> (Lavender)	<i>Lilium asiatica</i> (Asiatic lily)
<i>Lilium longiflorum</i> (Easter lily)	<i>Lilium speciosum</i> (Japanese Show lily)
<i>Lilium</i> sp. (Lily)	<i>Lilium tigrinum</i> (Tiger lily)
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> (Lobelia)	<i>Lycopersicon</i> spp. (Tomato plant)
<i>Malus Sulvestrus</i> (apple seeds including crab apples)	<i>Mentha</i> sp. (Mint)
<i>Narcissus</i> spp (Daffodil, Jonquil)	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i> (Nasturtium)

Nerium oleander (Oleander)

Paeonis officinalis (Peony)

Petroselinum crispum (Parsley)

Phoradendron flavescens, *Phoradendron leucarpum*
(Mistletoe)

Poinciana gilliesii, *Caesalpinia gilliesii*, *Strelitzia reginae* (Bird of Paradise)

Prunus armeniaca (seed from plum, prune, peach, cherry)

Rhododendron spp (Azalea)

Spathiphyllum (Peace Lily)

wisteria spp. (Wisteria)

Zamia furfuracea, *Cycas* spp (Cycads)

Origanum vulgare hirtum (Oregano)

Pelargonium spp. (Geranium)

Philodendron oxycardium, *Philodendron bipennifolium* *Philodendron* spp .(*Philodendron*)

Portulaca oleracea (Portulaca)

Primula vulgaris (Primrose)

Rheum rhabarbarium (Rhubarb)

Sansevieria trifasciata (Mother-in-law's Tongue)

Tulipa spp. (Tulip)

Yucca sp. (Yucca)

Zantedeschia aethiopica (Calla lily, Arum lily)