



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and healthy in this time of great uncertainty and worry. This year has not got off to a good start with the disastrous bushfires experienced in Australia and now the global pandemic with COVID-19.

We have had no choice but to cancel the April meeting, and at this stage, the June and July meetings are also cancelled. This is unfortunate as I am sure you were also looking forward to hearing the presentations by Allan Gibson and Alan O'Leary. Both speakers have agreed to reschedule their presentations when the current situation is over.

The expectation is that we may need to continue the social restrictions and safety precautions for the next six months or so. We are not sure yet whether we will be able to proceed with the 2020 Clivia EXPO or not, and hopefully this will become clearer in the next month or so.

These cancellations are disappointing, but we are very fortunate that we have these lovely plants to care for and keep us occupied during this time of isolation. We can keep in touch through phone calls, email, website, social media and newsletters. I hope that you will send photos to me as your plants flower so I can update Facebook, Instagram, the website and newsletters with beautiful flowers for us to look at.

It is unsure at this stage when we will next hold a meeting, so be assured we will send regular newsletters for the rest of the year to keep you up to date with what is happening.

In this newsletter we have a very brief report on the Annual General Meeting, cultivation notes for Autumn and the minutes from the Annual General Meeting.

As always, you are welcome to contact me if there is anything you would like to discuss, or for any ideas you may like to contribute.

Due to the cancellation of the Melbourne International Flower Show, many stallholders now have excess stock and there are online bargains from websites

including Tonkin Bulbs, Garden Express, Red Earth Bulbs and Tesselaar.

Stay safe, stay healthy and stay home.

Lisa Fox

NEXT MEETING

CANCELLED

**Friday 17 April 7.30pm
Presentation by Allan Gibson
and open floor discussion on Expo**

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

The Melbourne Clivia Group holds regular meetings at the Burwood Heights Uniting Church Fellowship Room. Night meetings start 7.30 p.m.

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RICHGRO
Bring your garden to life

2020 CALENDAR

The remainder of the year's meetings and events are on hold until further notice.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting attracted a good number of members this year, and no doubt this was due to our guest speaker, Jane Tonkin from Tonkin Bulbs and the lure of rare bulbs for sale.

The 2020 committee elected are as follows:

President - Lisa Fox
Vice-President - Di Mathews
Secretary - Brenda Girdlestone
Treasurer - Rae Begg
Committee - Chee Perks and John Mackenzie

Jane presented a wonderful array of rare bulbs during her slide show presentation and members were keen to seek out their favourites when the meeting ended, and the sales opened.

Minutes from the meeting are available at the end of this newsletter and you can view more photos from the night on the website gallery -

<http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/gallery/gallery-2020-annual-general-meeting/>



Fig. 1 2020 Committee (From left, Chee Perks, Rae Begg, Di Mathews, John Mackenzie, Brenda Girdlestone, Lisa Fox)



Fig. 2 Bulbs from Tonkin Bulbs



Fig. 3 Lisa Fox and Jane Tonkin



Fig. 4 Raffle prize winner Ray Perks



CULTIVATION NOTES

Di Mathews

The cooler days have arrived after what was initially a hot summer, and then a mild February.

We are now well into autumn with its glorious sunny days and cool nights. It is important to still water your container plants while the weather remains warm and dry, and any *Clivia* planted in the garden will appreciate the occasional drink as well until we receive some rain.

Make sure to drench the pots when they are watered so that the water flows freely from the bottom of the pot to ensure good aeration as air is carried through the pot with the water.

Continue feeding your plants while the weather is still warm. Seedlings and young plants still require regular fertilising and will benefit from liquid feeding at half strength. Ensure that mature plants still have some slow release fertiliser added.

There have been several comments heard about the prevalence of mealy bugs in recent times. The milder summer weather combined with some humidity seems to have provided a perfect environment for these chewing pests, so keep a good look out for them. An invasion of mealybugs can decimate a plant in a very short space of time, often before you have even noticed they are there. Use a spray of your choice, preferably one that does not harm other beneficial insects.

Fast growing plants can be repotted at any time, so any spare time can be used to pot up seedlings that have grown too big for their pots.

The weather is still warm enough to divide your plants and remove offsets, allowing plants to settle in before the cold weather starts. Dust the cut ends of the divided roots with either sulphur powder or Mancozeb to help prevent an attack of pathogens. Remember also to only use clean implements when dividing plants to minimise the risk of fungal or bacterial attack.

Please still spare a thought for the wildlife and put out some water for the birds.

FLOWERING NOW



Fig. 5 *C. Robusta* x *C. Caulescens* flowering now for Brenda Girdlestone

Important message

The Coronavirus pandemic is causing severe anxiety and stress to everyone, but for those who have been unable to buy hand sanitisers, there is another effective solution. Good old soap will actually kill the coronavirus. Everyone has soap and it doesn't have to be anything special. It is the in the soap that dismantle this and other viruses. Please read this and reassure yourselves that you can still do a huge amount to keep yourself safe.

I trust that we will all get through this current situation in good health.

Stay well, Di Mathews.



The science of soap – here’s how it kills the coronavirus

Alcohol-based disinfectants are also effective, but soap is a highly efficient way of killing the virus when it’s on your skin

Viruses can be active outside the body for hours, even days. Disinfectants, liquids, wipes, gels and creams containing alcohol are all useful at getting rid of them – but they are not quite as good as normal soap

When I shared the information above using Twitter, it went viral. I think I have worked out why. Health authorities have been giving us two messages: once you have the virus there are no drugs that can kill it or help you get rid of it. But also, wash your hands to stop the virus spreading. This seems odd. You can’t, even for a million dollars, get a drug for the coronavirus – but your grandmother’s bar of soap kills the virus. So why does soap work so well on the Sars-CoV-2, the coronavirus and indeed most viruses? The short story: because the virus is a self-assembled nanoparticle in which the weakest link is the lipid (fatty) bilayer. Soap dissolves the fat membrane and the virus falls apart like a house of cards and dies – or rather, we should say it becomes inactive as viruses aren’t really alive.

The slightly longer story is that most viruses consist of three key building blocks: ribonucleic acid (RNA), proteins and lipids. A virus-infected cell makes lots of these building blocks, which then spontaneously self-assemble to form the virus. Critically, there are no strong covalent bonds holding these units together, which means you do not necessarily need harsh chemicals to split those units apart. When an infected cell dies, all these new viruses escape and go on to infect other cells. Some end up also in the airways of lungs.

You can’t, for any price, get a drug for the coronavirus – but your grandmother’s bar of soap kills it
When you cough, or especially when you sneeze, tiny droplets from the airways can fly up to 10 metres. The larger ones are thought to be the main coronavirus carriers and they can go at least two metres.

These tiny droplets end on surfaces and often dry out quickly. But the viruses remain active. Human skin is

an ideal surface for a virus. It is “organic” and the proteins and fatty acids in the dead cells on the surface interact with the virus.

When you touch, say, a steel surface with a virus particle on it, it will stick to your skin and hence get transferred on to your hands. If you then touch your face, especially your eyes, nostrils or mouth, you can get infected. And it turns out that most people touch their face once every two to five minutes.

Washing the virus off with water alone might work. But water is not good at competing with the strong, glue-like interactions between the skin and the virus. Water isn’t enough.

Soapy water is totally different. Soap contains fat-like substances known as amphiphiles, some of which are structurally very similar to the lipids in the virus membrane. The soap molecules “compete” with the lipids in the virus membrane. This is more or less how soap also removes normal dirt from the skin.

The soap not only loosens the “glue” between the virus and the skin but also the Velcro-like interactions that hold the proteins, lipids and RNA in the virus together.

Alcohol-based products, which pretty much includes all “disinfectant” products, contain a high-percentage alcohol solution (typically 60-80% ethanol) and kill viruses in a similar fashion. But soap is better because you only need a fairly small amount of soapy water, which, with rubbing, covers your entire hand easily. Whereas you need to literally soak the virus in ethanol for a brief moment, and wipes or rubbing a gel on the hands does not guarantee that you soak every corner of the skin on your hands effectively enough.

So, soap is the best, but do please use alcohol-based sanitiser when soap is not handy or practical.

• Pall Thordarson is a professor of chemistry at the University of New South Wales, Sydney



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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2020 of the Melbourne Clivia Group Date 21st February 2020.

Venue: Burwood Heights Uniting Church, Fellowship Room, Cnr. Burwood Hwy and Blackburn Rd. Burwood.

Meeting Opens (7.40 pm)

Welcome: President Lisa Fox welcomed members to the new Clivia year.

Apologies: Yvonne Hargraves, Alan Gibson.

Members Present: (22)

Michael Barrett, Rae Begg, Ray Begg, Geoff Brown, John Cochrane, Terry Edwards, Lisa Fox, Brenda Girdlestone, Ian Johnson, Ian Lamer, Haydn Lomas, John Mackenzie, Helen Marriott, Bill Mather, Di Matthews, Kelvin Mitchell, Chee Perks, Ray Perks, Margaret Rackham, Paul Smith, John Trotter, Robyn Williams.

Visitors: David Hales, Joy Trotter, Sarah Poynton, Alex Seale

Motion to accept minutes of last AGM (distributed in April 2019 in MCG newsletter Vol.12.2).

Moved: Di Matthews

Seconded: Bill Mather

1. Reports.

President's report

It is with great pleasure that I present the President's Report for the 2019 year.



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It was with reluctance that I accepted the nomination to be president one year ago as I knew the amount of work and the commitment involved, not to mention the stress. Our earlier two presidents, Helen Marriott and Michael Barrett made a huge contribution to the ongoing growth and professionalism of the Melbourne Clivia Group and I was hesitant to take on the workload.

Indeed, the workload and time commitment in 2019 was huge, but it was made easier and even enjoyable, by the great support and hard work of the committee. Together, we made some changes which I hope will benefit the club in the long term.

We committed to spending more money in 2019 in order to achieve some of these changes. Our reasoning was to use those extra funds to invest back into the club and the members, rather than let the funds sit idle in the bank.

Why are we all here?

I will just read the statement of purpose for those that may not have previously read it. This is the purpose of the Melbourne Clivia Group and why we are all here.

- To promote the cultivation, conservation and improvement of the genus *Clivia*.
- To facilitate the exchange of information on *Clivia* between members and through meetings, newsletters and website.
- To facilitate the exchange of *Clivia* plants, seeds and pollen between members.
- To promote interest in *Clivia* through meetings, demonstrations, open gardens and shows.
- To co-operate with the Clivia Society and with other Clivia clubs and groups in Australia and throughout the world.

In 2019 we have worked toward meeting the objectives of the statement of purpose. The club has also been the conduit for members to meet and become friends. People meeting and enjoying the plant that we all admire and are a tad obsessive about. What could be more perfect?

Thank you 2019 and may 2020 be even bigger and better.

Secretary's report

Secretary Report 2020

Membership:

We finished 2019 with 75 members, which was up from the previous year.

General meetings:

We held meetings



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February - was our AGM

April - Ian Johnson - Clivia -record keeping.

June Saturday meeting - Jane Tonkin - from Tonkin bulbs

July Saturday meeting - Dr Randall Robinson - Orchids

August - Peter Hay - From NSW

October - Margaret Rackham - Gloriosa Lily. Plus, we held a mini auction.

September - Expo, this year we had a change of venue to Mt Waverly community centre. Which was fortunate that our new venue catered for our display and sales area under 1 roof, as we did have rain on the day, we always expected that at some time our luck was going to run out with the weather. A big thank you to all volunteers over the weekend, this event does not run without many volunteers.

November was our Christmas break and get together, this year it was held at the Burvale Hotel, Burwood, with a good attendance.

MCG phone:

This year we purchased a mobile phone for the club, we did receive numerous calls in the lead up of Expo, otherwise there are very few calls coming in.

Newsletters

We had 4 newsletters that went out in 2019, Thank to Lisa Fox for the newsletters.

Garden club speakers

There have been only 1 or 2 requests for garden talks this year, as we have removed mention from our website.

Finally - Website and Social media

Jan 2019 - Dec 2019

The website had 176,075 visitors for 2019 and 176,075 pages were viewed.

The cultivation notes document was the most popular download downloaded 913 times.

Facebook has approximately 1228 page likes and 1248 followers. The Facebook post for the Expo flyer was the most popular with 2,600 views.

On Instagram the MCG has 209 followers.

That is my report.

Thank you



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Move to accept Secretary's report.
 Moved: Terry Edwards
 Seconded: Margaret Rackham

Treasurer's report

Treasurer's report to Committee 6/3/20						
Bank Account		Credit	Debit	Credit	Debit	Balance
		\$ c	\$ c	\$ c	\$ c	\$ c
Opening Balance Bank Acc 11/10/19						6,238.32
Income						
	Membership	730.00				
	Raffles	255.00				
	Trading Table	680.00				
	Mini Auction	1,670.00				
	Others	6.00				
				3,341.00		
						9,579.32
Expenses						



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	Burwood Neighbourhood house 11-10-19		36.00			
	Hall Hire 18-10-19 & 21-2-20		170.00			
	Expo		27.00			
	Mini Auction		1,503.00			
	TT		607.50			
	Xmas Expenses		273.45			
	J. Tonkin		150.00			
	J. Tonkin Raffle Prize		40.00			
					2,806.95	
						6,772.37
	chq not cashed	85.00				
	chq not cashed	150.00				
	chq not cashed	40.00				
				275.00		
	Closing Bank Balance 5/3/20					7,047.37
	Petty Cash					
	Opening Balance					
						74.70
	Closing Balance					



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Current Assets						
	NAB Chq A/c -					7,047.37
	NAB Fixed deposit					5,000.00
	Petty Cash					74.70
	Total to date					12,122.07

Move to accept Treasurer's report.

Moved: Robyn Williams

Seconded: John Mackenzie

3. Election of 2020 Office Bearers

Lisa Fox vacated the chair. Di Mathews took the chair and declared all positions vacant and an election for president was conducted.

The nominations for President:

Lisa Fox Nominated by Bill Maher Seconded by Helen Marriott
Lisa Fox elected as President.

Nominations for Vice President:

Di Mathews nominated by Rae Begg Seconded by John Mackenzie.
Di Mathews elected as Vice President.

Nominations for Secretary:



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Brenda Girdlestone nominated by Di Mathews Seconded by Haydn Lomas.
Brenda Girdlestone elected as Secretary.

Nominations for Treasurer:

Rae Begg Nominated by Ray Perks Seconded by Margrett Rackham
Rae Begg elected as Treasurer.

Nominations for Ordinary Committee members:

John Mackenzie Nominated by Terry Edwards Seconded by Brenda Girdlestone
Chee Perks Nominated by Di Mathews Seconded by Rae Begg

4 Raffle

Raffle prizes were won by:

- o Bill Maher
- o John Mackenzie
- o Chee Perks x 2
- o John Cochrane
- o Di Mathews
- o Lisa Fox
- o Haydn Lomas
- o Geoff Brown
- o Ray Perks

Meeting closed at 9. 30pm.

Next general meeting 17th April at 7.30 pm



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