



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am sure that most of you are now aware that the 2020 Clivia Expo has been cancelled as well as all general meetings up until that time. This is a disappointing development but one which we feel is in the best interest of the public. We hope that the situation will be greatly improved later in the year and that we will be able to hold the October meeting.

Many of us have already felt the *Clivia* withdrawal symptoms and we are still over three months from the main flowering season. A friend joked with me recently that this will likely be the best season of flowering ever and no Expo to show off our beautiful blooms.

We do hope that you will share photos of your flowers online through the MCG Facebook page or MCG Instagram page. If you are not sure how to do this, I would encourage you to send the photos to either myself or Brenda and we will happily share your images to Facebook, Instagram, the website and newsletter. We can all still enjoy each other's flowers even if we cannot see them in person. I will create a new gallery page on the website called the 2020 Members Flowering Season where we can display this year's flowers.

We are very fortunate that Allan Gibson has suggested a Zoom meeting for members, written instructions AND agreed to be the presenter. For those who are unfamiliar with Zoom, it is a free app download for your computer or phone that enables video conferencing with two or more people using camera and microphone. You will find instructions and more information on this exciting venture later in this newsletter. For those unable to attend the Zoom meeting, we'll see if we can sweet-talk Allan into writing up his presentation for the next newsletter.

As this year will be very limited with meetings and with the cancellation of the Expo, as well as being difficult financially for many people, the committee has decided to waive the 2020 membership fee. Members who have not renewed will remain members for the remainder of the 2020 year. For those members who have already renewed, your membership will be carried over to the 2021 year.

For this edition of the newsletter, I approached Michael Barrett to write an article on what inspired him when creating the lovely large floral displays that you have seen at the Clivia Expo for the past five years, and feature on the website gallery. Read his thoughts in this issue, as well as a little background information on our Zoom presenter, Allan Gibson, information on a Clivia database developed for the Clivia enthusiast, cultivation notes for the cold weather ahead and view photographs of a few plants currently in flower.

Stay safe, stay healthy and stay home.

Lisa Fox

NEXT MEETING

Zoom Meeting

On your computer or phone

Saturday 20 June

1.45pm to start at 2 pm

'Clivia passions and lessons learned in the propagation and growing of variegated'

by Allan Gibson

RSVP to Secretary if you want to be sent the invite the week before the meeting. Otherwise just join.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84654760141?pwd=RkxObk1SemdHWS9QWxzNXhPM3p5QT09>

Meeting ID: 846 5476 0141

Password: 091123

Zoom instructions at the
back of this newsletter

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THE INSPIRATION BEHIND OUR CLIVIA EXPO FLORAL DISPLAYS

I was approached by Lisa to write a short article about my floral displays at the Clivia Expo over the past few years. In doing so, I used the MCG website gallery as a handy repository of images and enjoyed looking back at the individual *Clivia* on display as well. In both instances, it is interesting to see the different styles of presentation, including staging at different venues. For the majority, most elements for the floral art came from generous members, with very little spent buying flowers for the displays.

I have always loved flowers and had an orchid collection while still at school. I had worked on and off as a florist for about fifteen years until 2010 including the department store, David Jones, where there were annual spring shows of huge proportions. Sponsored by a major cosmetic firm, and with a different theme each year, this is where I gained skills in large event style displays. In the past year I've returned to freelance florist work, with a large contract at a private members' club, in addition to garden design and makeover.

I had made a flower arrangement for a meeting on the night that Helen Marriott was awarded a Life Membership of the MCG. This is when most members first knew about my skill and pleasure in arranging flowers.



Fig. 1 Floral display for Helen's honorary membership meeting

It was later in 2015, my first year as President, that Peter Haeusler asked me to create a large floral display for the new Expo venue, Phoenix Park. Having seen the venue, I wanted something large and colourful, and as I had been at Peter's house often for committee meetings, knew he had tropical looking elements I could use. This included the Southern Africa native, *Strelitzia nicolai* and *Leucadendron*. I also had the palm seeds from *Trachycarpus fortunei*. The container used is a copper kitchen flue (used the other way around), something that was impulse purchased, in a copper collecting period. The orange and yellow *Clivia* along with the other elements all seemed to work so well together and made the stage, where auction plants were on display, something to draw one's attention.



Fig. 2 2015 Clivia Expo floral display

Following the positive feedback to the display, the committee asked for another display the following year. The Clivia Expo was at another great venue, St Scholastica's Community Centre, for the next three years. The stage was less than a meter from the nicely carpeted room, so not a hall as we had had precious in that respect.



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For the 2016 Clivia Expo I used the same a pot I had from years before, but freshly painted it a 'zattar' green. I used buckets to fill the centre and then had a saucer with a pile of foam bricks above the pot line to construct a lemon, yellow and green arrangement. In particular, the majority of yellow *Clivia* came from Ray and Chee Perks, with more from Helen Marriott. I used *Phormium* 'Yellow Wave' New Zealand flax from my Otway cottage garden, Foxtail asparagus 'fern' *Asparagus aethiopicus* from Terry Edwards and the large leaves, *Tetrapanax* from my local op shop's garden. I appreciated Helen Marriott taking so much care to capture this display so well in her photos.



Fig. 3 2016 Clivia Expo floral display



Fig. 4 2016 Clivia Expo floral display

In 2017, I took my inspiration from a Christian Lacroix fabric 'Canopy'. I sprayed an expanding bamboo lattice pink and sprayed an old cane basket emerald green. The main colour themed around hot pinks and orange. I used Rhododendrons, and masses of orange *Clivia* and *Strelitzia reginae* from Gerard van Buuren. To all this busyness I had *Clivia* seedling and small orchids attached to the lattice, and branches of *Magnolia*, bromeliad and *Ficus japonica* (kumquats), *Ficus elastica* (burgundy rubber plant).



Fig. 5 2017 Clivia Expo floral display

The following year, 2018, I chose to do something different to previous years and use a number of glass demijohns, and fewer types of flowers. Orange *Clivia*, the bulk coming from Gerard van Buuren, were matched with *Anthurium* and mixed foliages and apples for a simple display.



Fig. 6 2018 Clivia Expo floral display

2019 Clivia Expo was held in another venue, the Mount Waverley Community Centre, and luckily as the plant sales were under cover and it was a very wet September Saturday. The whole plant display was so different, borrowing from South African clubs, the plants were on low tables. The floral art display was on a regular table at the end of the room. I used a variety of different size and shape baskets to make a display that had orange *Clivia miniata*, and foliage plus a mass of *Salix matsudana*, corkscrew willow and oranges.

I have enjoyed adding an extra element to the Expo with my displays, however it has always been a huge effort, with sourcing containers or ingredients, and transporting the material there and home again, in addition to a car of display plants. I want to thank my partner David Hales for his assistance throughout, especially as a high school teacher is exhausted as the expo is on the first day of his holidays. Also, a big word of thanks to various members that provided flowers, foliage and support for the displays over the years.

By Michael Barrett



Fig. 7 2019 Clivia Expo floral display



Fig. 8 Michael Barrett

View more of the floral displays created by Michael Barrett on the MCG Gallery website - <http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/gallery/gallery-floral-art/>



ZOOM PRESENTER - ALLAN GIBSON

Allan began his collection of *Clivia* in the 1990's. He was a competition gardener in Toowoomba, Queensland, and realised that *Clivia* make a great display in a shady, dry area. His first yellow *Clivia* was purchased from Bill Morris for \$70 (2 year old seedling) in the mid 1990's. Allan credits the Millers in Toowoomba for teaching him the basics. The Millers had a great display of *Clivia* at that time and grew them from seed. Alan then brought in seed from Japan, England, and South Africa and the *Clivia* bug bit. He was part of the original Toowoomba *Clivia* Society formation and is now a member of the Melbourne *Clivia* Club.



Fig. 9 Allan Gibson

Now on his second *Clivia* collection, having moved overseas to work for a number of years, Allan has around 20 plus plants from the original collection, some of which were the seeds that he bought from overseas.

Allan does not claim to be an expert in *Clivia* growing, but knows bits and pieces and enjoys his plants. (We think he is being modest). He describes himself as a collector, albeit on a strict budget, and is a keen enthusiast for *Clivia* and beautiful gardens. In Melbourne, his space is limited so Allan is learning to be discerning and discard plants from his collection. Most of his pollination and seed sowing has been with the aim of breeding variegates and new colours to his collection.

Allan thinks growing *Clivia* in Melbourne is tougher than in Toowoomba, so in his presentation you will hear of his catastrophes and stuff-ups as well as his enjoyment of the *Clivia* world.

CULTIVATION NOTES

Di Mathews

Winter seems to have arrived early this year, following our wettest autumn for several decades.

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 shade cloth.

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. I have noticed a lot of mealybugs the last few months, and this could be partly due to the humid conditions following the higher than average rainfall. Mealybugs thrive in damp mild conditions and will hide deep in the leaf margins. They can also live in the potting mix so if using a spray remember to drench the pot as well if suffering from an infestation. Many chemical sprays will decimate friendly insects including bees, so if using these remember not to spray on windy days to minimise the risk to beneficial insects.

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*. *Clivia* may also be repotted at any time so if you notice your plants becoming very pot bound, now is a good time to repot to give them room for spring growth.

Lisa Fox

MyCC-Lite is a free Microsoft Access database that is available for download and is specifically designed for the Clivia enthusiast to keep records of their Clivia collection.

I started a database for recording my Clivia collection ten years ago and have refined it over the years. The database stores information such as the name of the plant, the cross, where I obtained the plant from, the colour, whether it is variegated or multipetal, when it has flowered, what I have crossed it from, how many offsets it has and a ton of other information.

In 2019 I created a simple version with the basic features and offered it as a free download via a dedicated website.

MyCC-Lite features:

- Store records of each plant in your collection. The fields include plant name, species, parentage, breeder, colour, variegate, multipetal and many more fields.
- Print out a record of your plants.
- Search for a plant by the name, the breeding or any other attribute.
- Keep notes against each plant.
- Save the database to a spreadsheet.
- Attach a photograph to each plant record.
- Keep contact information for other growers.

MyCC-Lite is easy to use but you do need a basic understanding of how to use a computer and you need Windows. The website contains tutorials and instructions on how to install the program.

A full version is in progress that includes functionality to add offsets, flowering, seedlings, pedigree and seed information.

<https://mycliviacollection.com>



Fig. 10 MyCC-Lite main menu

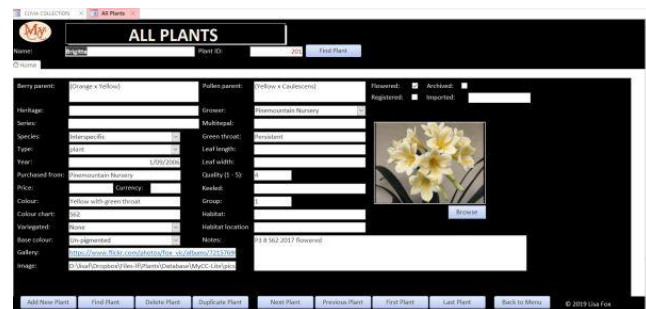


Fig. 11 Plants page

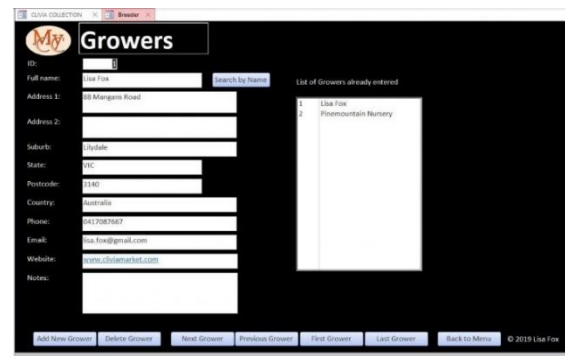


Fig. 12 Growers page

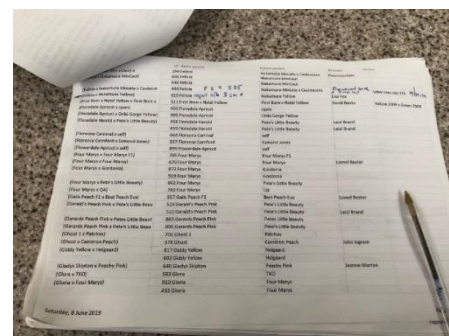


Fig. 13 Plants print out



FLOWERING NOW



Fig. 14 *C. robusta* - Rae Begg



Fig. 15 Harburg Blush Gardenii - Michael Barrett



Fig. 16 Gardenii hybrid - Lisa Fox



Fig. 17 Everton Green Goblin x Alpha Bush Pastel - Di Mathews



Fig. 18 Ivory Blush - Michael Barrett



Fig. 19 Everton F1 Green Goblin x Everton F2 'Stompie' - Brenda Girdlestone

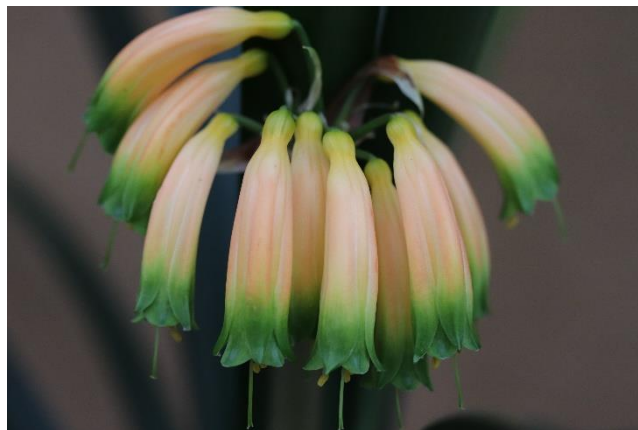


Fig. 20 Everton F1 Stompie x Andrew Gibson - Brenda Girdlestone





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ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS. (Allan Gibson)

The idea of a Clivia Club Zoom Meeting might be greeted with delights (if you have used Zoom before) or hesitation or disappointment (if you haven't been on Zoom before). Don't dismiss it if you haven't used Zoom before! Pre Covid-19 I had been using Zoom through work and family, but it has been a daily companion over the past few months. So, if you are on the Internet, can I encourage you to join our meeting and give it a go?

Our meeting will start at 2.00. But I will be on-line from 1.40 to welcome you to the group and ensure we are connecting. I have introduced several groups to Zoom over the past few months. While not everyone has had success first time, 99% have succeeded. Of course, with new technology, it feels a little unsure. But it works and is reasonably simple.

Instructions:

1. Download the Zoom app onto your computer or smart phone. If you are in an area where your internet connection is not very good, please download the app on your phone. The latter works better in these areas. You only need the free version of Zoom. <https://zoom.us/download>
 2. Your speakers and microphone should work automatically though you may need to turn a computer volume up. If your computer does not have a camera or microphone, you can download Zoom onto your phone and use your phone for the meeting. Please open Zoom before the meeting and check to ensure speaker and microphone are working. On my computer I can find the button on the lower left but what you are using influences where the button is on the screen. Again, normally they are working so no worries if you can't find the prompt.
 3. On Saturday 20th June at 1.40, please click on the link below.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84654760141?pwd=RkxObk1SemdHWS9QWXZsNXhPM3p5QT09>
- I don't think you'll need the **Meeting ID: 846 5476 0141** or **Password: 091123** but here it is just in case.
4. If you have RSVPed, someone will have resent you the link a few days before the meeting as a reminder.
 5. Once you have connected via the link, the administrator – myself or Darren Dickson (a Clivia hobbyist and friend from Toowoomba) will need to



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accept you into the call. Just wait patiently.

6. Once you join you need to become familiar with microphone (so you can mute it) and your video so we can see you. You need to check if they are “on” or “off”. They might be bottom left corner of your monitor– but depending on the screen it varies.

7. I or someone will say hello to you. You can talk to others on the call as Darren or I accept participants into the call. When you talk everyone can hear you, so it isn’t a private conversation. You don’t have to talk if you don’t wish to. Just join the call and watch.

8. At 2.00pm, we’ll begin the meeting. Unless you are presenting, please have your microphone on “mute”.

9. Around 3.00pm we’ll finish the meeting. You can hang up at any time, but I will end the Zoom meeting.

Once you download Zoom, you can actually call someone. There are various instructions on how to do so. But basically, you schedule an appointment and you need their email address to do so. Depending on how clever or lucky you are, you can send it to them as a calendar invite or just send the instructions to them over email. Obviously, a little practice helps iron out the glitches and give you confidence.

Hope to see you on-line.

Allan Gibson



Fig. 21 Zoom screen example