



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Buds everywhere!

Flowering season is almost upon us. Many people have mentioned that they have a lot more buds this year than last year, and the season seems a bit earlier. I do think we had a late season last year as I well remember frantically trying to get stubborn buds to elongate and open in time for the Expo.

Usually, at this time of year, we are excitedly awaiting Expo time, working furiously on rosters and looking forward to the visitors that we can show our beautiful blooms. Unfortunately, this year it is not to be, and we will not be running the Expo, or be welcoming visitors to our homes, but we can still enjoy our beautiful flowers and take lots of photos to share.

Later in this newsletter you will read details of a Virtual Show being run by the Clivia Society. Many clubs worldwide are holding virtual shows where people submit a photo of your plant in flower for judging. We did have this suggestion made by one of our members a few months ago, and it is a great idea. We do have a photo gallery on our website to display our flowers for 2020. We will have two galleries, one for Interspecific/Species flowers and one for *C. miniata* flowers. I hope you will all get those cameras or phones out and snap some photographs of your flowers whether in the garden or in pots. You don't need to be a world class photographer or have an expensive shadehouse in the background. We love *Clivia* of all shapes, colours and environments.

Thank you to the members who sent photos and articles of interest to share in this edition. In this newsletter you will read of our member, Gary Conquest in Toowoomba, who has collated informative articles on *Clivia* into a series of reference books aimed at beginners. Ian Johnson has shared his method for keeping the rain off his plants along with photos. There is a summary and slides from the Zoom presentation by Allan Gibson, and Di Mathews has kindly provided the cultivation notes for spring and collated a great descriptive article with photographs of Blush *Clivia*.

As Melbourne is currently in Stage 4 lockdown for the COVID-19 pandemic, we are still unable to run any meetings or arrange any visits. Although disappointing, we are lucky that the best time of the year for us is about to start. I hope all members and their families are staying well and look forward to seeing everyone again when this crisis is over.

Happy flowering season.

Lisa Fox

NEXT MEETING



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RICHGRO
Bring your garden to life



BLUSH CLIVIA - Di Mathews

Clivia come in many exciting and sometimes new colours, but one particular colouration always manages to captivate enthusiasts, and this is the blush *Clivia*.

Blush *Clivia* are really a type of yellow or cream *Clivia*, with red anthocyanin pigments which appear on the edges of the petals, often intensifying as the flowers age. Some types, such as the Appleblossom types and some of the Chinese types have pigmented bases at germination and have pinkish coloured berries.

Appleblossom

The earliest and possibly the most well-known of the blush *Clivia* would have to be the Appleblossom group. This cultivar group (strain), which comprises eight plants code named Q1 to Q8, was found scattered among a wild population of orange *Clivia miniata*, with some *Clivia nobilis* all flowering at the same time in the former Transkei, Eastern Cape. They were collected by John Winter in the late 1990's. The Appleblossom group have very large seeds and are slow growing. Many growers find they are more susceptible to rot than other *Clivia*.



Fig. 1 Appleblossom

The pale cream flowers are suffused with a blush of peach/pink on the edge of the petals. They were named by John Winter for their colour being similar to the colour of apple blossoms. The flowers of this group, although beautiful, have a fairly low flower count, and therefore often have a sparse head. Later breeding with this group over the years has improved the form of this plant, leading to a better shaped flower. They are highly sought after by enthusiasts.

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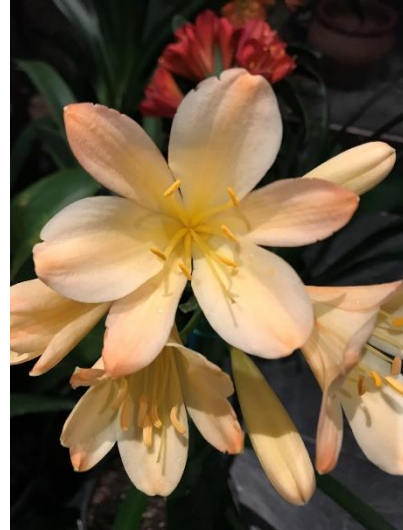


Fig. 2 Appleblossom

Chinese Blush

These have been imported over the years from breeders in China. They are mostly a squat shaped plant, with semi to broad leaves. The flowers are very beautiful and are often nearly white with a pink blush. There are several well-known breeders in China developing these types, and Eddie Pang, a keen collector and breeder from Melbourne, along with others such as Terry Edwards, are developing these *Clivia*. In addition to having beautiful flowers, these plants are also bred to have a desirable form, with broad glossy leaves in a fan shape. Chinese Blush can be fairly slow growing but are well worth the wait for flowering.

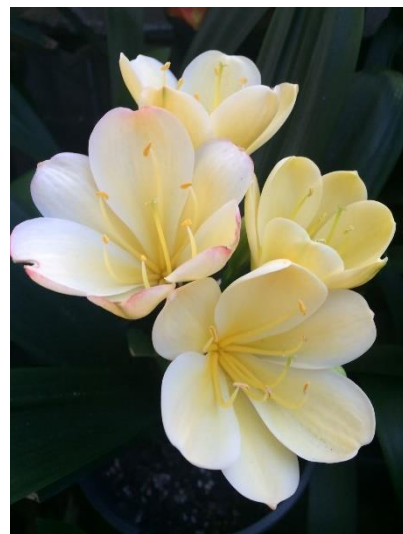


Fig. 3 Angel City x Pleasing Rhythm (Chinese)

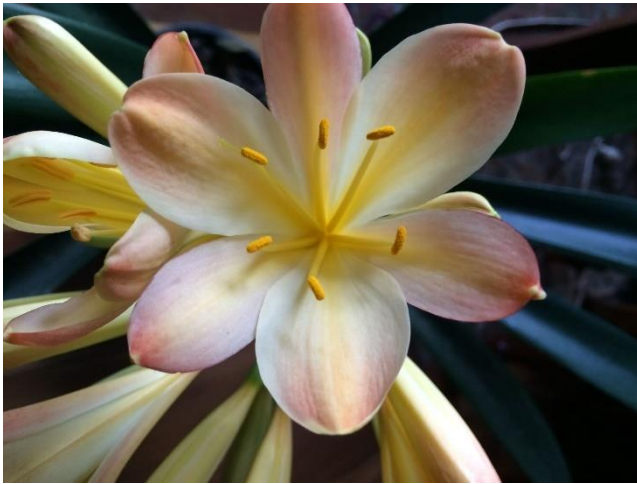


Fig. 4 'Gloria' x 'Hantie'

Japanese Blush

Possibly one of the most well-known breeders for blush type flowers in Japan is Mr Kazumi Hattori. The Japanese plants are bred to be quite compact, and again the form of the plant is considered important, with broad or semi broad dark green leaves. The Japanese blush *Clivia* have unpigmented bases at germination. The colouring of the flowers ranges from a delicate blush to a more pronounced deep pink blush, but all are very beautiful.



Fig. 5 *Mirei* (Japanese)

I cannot talk about blush *Clivia* without mentioning another very well-known clone that is named 'Gloria'. It was originally bred in the United States by Horace Anderson and was subsequently promoted by Victor Murillo. It is very similar to another desirable blush *Clivia*, and that is 'Mopi Hirt'. 'Mopi Hirt' was apparently sourced from the United States and gifted

to the late Mick Dower in South Africa. Questions are still raised and discussed whether in fact 'Mopi Hirt' and 'Gloria' are the same plant, as both originated in the United States, but the jury appears to still be out on this.



Fig. 6 'Gloria'

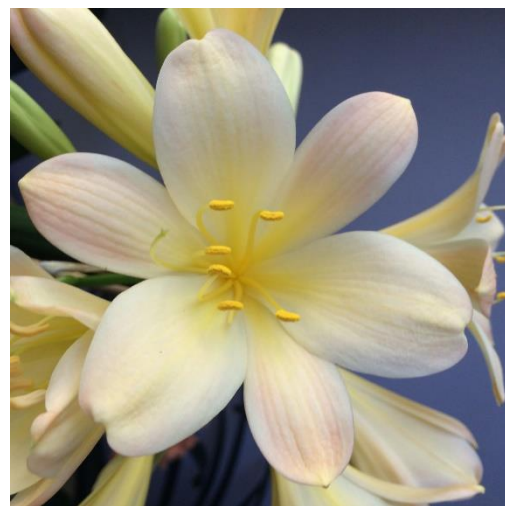


Fig. 7 'Gloria' x self

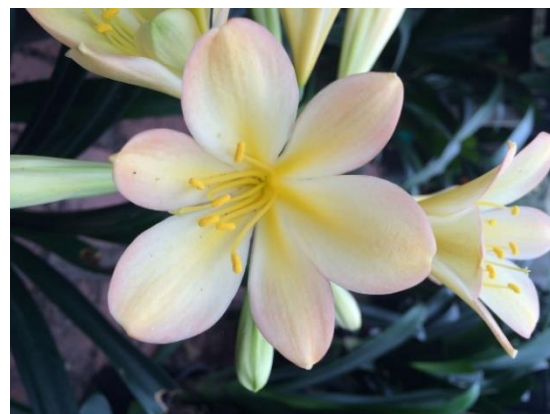


Fig. 8 'Helgaard' x 'Mopi Hirt'



ZOOM PRESENTATION WITH ALLAN GIBSON

On Saturday 24th June, members joined a Zoom meeting where Allan Gibson presented a Powerpoint slideshow - 'Clivia passions and lessons learned in the propagation and growing of variegated clivias'.

Slides and discussion followed on his garden in Toowoomba, his current setup, *Clivia* collection as well as trials and tribulations, and the difference in weather and rainfall between Toowoomba and Melbourne.



Fig. 9 Allan Gibson

The Zoom meeting worked well with interaction and questions from members. Even members without a microphone and web camera were able to join in and watch the presentation, typing messages that popped up on the screen when they wished to communicate.



Fig. 10 Members joining Zoom meeting

Allan has a lovely collection of Clivia and some very special variegated plants. We thank Allan for his time and effort in putting together with presentation.

For those that could not attend the Zoom presentation, you can view the recorded presentation. It is 51 minutes long and is available on the MCG website -

<https://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/zoom-presentation-with-allan-gibson/>

For members without Internet, the following are a number of slides from the presentation.



Fig. 11 Allan's Toowoomba home



Fig. 12 Clivia presentation at Toowoomba



Fig. 13 Allan's Melbourne Clivia house



Fig. 14 A plant from Allan's collection

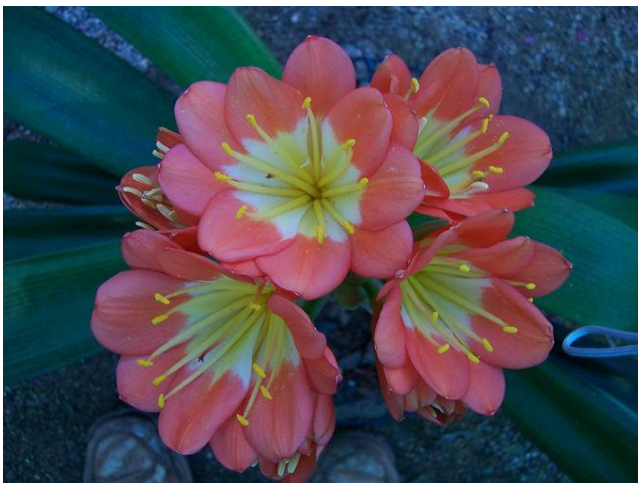


Fig. 15 A plant from Allan's collection



Fig. 16 A rare variegata - Mandarin Duck



Fig. 17 Variegata - Fukurin



Fig. 18 Lovely group of variegates



KEEPING RAIN OFF PLANTS – Ian Johnson

All my *Clivia* are grown in a hydroponic mix of coir, perlite and vermiculite with the larger plants sometimes receiving clay balls as well in the potting mixture. The water retention efficiency (WRE) is around 50% and the air porosity is around 40% which is high. This open mix with good aeration requires frequent watering with a hydroponics nutrient solution. This is also the case throughout the cooler months in Melbourne. An issue for me is that I do not want too much rain falling onto my plants and pots which can result in the nutrient solution being flushed out of the potting mix potentially leaving the plants without nutrients or low in nutrients. This is undesirable as flowering of my *Clivia* in Melbourne begins in July for my *C. miniata* plants and I want the plants to have maximum nutrients available to them during flowering.

Another issue is the risk of fungal attack and rotting of flower spikes or the crowns of the plants. Mealy bugs are still active at this time and can cause problems if not attended to. I routinely use several sprays to either treat any signs of fungal attack or as a preventative treatment. The frequent rain during the cooler months is problematic as it can make spraying difficult. The spray can be washed off easily by the rain so timing of spraying must be matched to the weather forecast. Spraying plants with fungicide or insecticide when they have been wetted by rain only adds to the amount of moisture in the media and trapped between leaves in the crown of the plants.

To overcome these problems, I have used a clear tarp available from Bunnings which has a reinforced nylon weave that resists tearing and is UV stabilised and water resistant. My shade house is constructed of C-channel, so I have used Quick Links to attach to the C-channel as anchor points and then attaching the tarp to these using spring snap lock carabiners. The use of carabiners makes it easier to attach, re-position and remove the clear tarp. In certain positions such as attaching to the corner posts or connecting 2 tarps I have used chains which work well with either the Quick Links or Carabiners. I have attached the tarp in such a way as to create a gutter which is located over the two main walkways in my shade house.



Fig. 19 Tarp with gullies shown in sunlight

In order to maintain the gutter in the correct position over the path and to ensure that strong wind does not blow the tarp about, I have placed either storm water pipes or a length of timber on top of the tarp. I have also attached the tarp so that there is a slope towards one end. If this is not done with sufficient slope, then water will pool in the middle and can tear out the eyelets. I found this out after hurriedly putting up the tarp when the weather forecast predicted 15 mm of rain the following day.



Fig. 20 Storm water pipe in gully of clear tarp

At the lowest end of the gutter I place a large container to collect the runoff rather than falling over the paved floor. At the highest end of the gutter I have drilled a hole in the storm water pipe or timber and wired it through the eyelet to ensure the pipe is not dislodged during wet and windy weather. When the storm water pipe was not sufficiently heavy enough, I placed a smaller diameter pipe inside to give extra weight. Next winter I shall improve on the height of the tarp and method of attachment, but it has worked well and served its purpose.



Fig. 21 Clear tarp attachments

Despite having thrown up the tarp in a hurried manner in the method outlined above, I have found my plants have remained dry which has meant that I can spray any time I wish and I can apply nutrient solution when pots are sufficiently dry enough and require watering. I am hoping that using this method my flowering might be a little better this year given that I can control the nutrient concentration in the media better without the flushing effect of the rain.



Fig. 22 Quick Link

With the use of shade cloth especially if it is not taut, rain falls through with some pots getting drenched from the low spots of the shade cloth, while others at the higher points of the shade cloth get far less rain. My clear tarp has solved this problem, so the plants are more uniformly fertilised, and I have more confidence in them having the right level of nutrition.



Fig. 23 Weatherview screen

CULTIVATION NOTES

Di Mathews

Spring is finally arriving after what has been a fairly long and wet winter. Many *Clivia* will now be showing signs of flowering, either with flower buds visible deep within the leaves, or with flower spikes starting to emerge.

Clivia are heavy feeders, so if you have not fed your plants for some time, now is the perfect time to do it. Many growers prefer to use a slow release fertiliser, but young plants will also greatly benefit from liquid feeding at this time as well. Use a fertiliser with plenty of potassium (K) in it to boost flowering.

We have had some significant rainfall over recent weeks, and if your plants are container grown and under shade cloth or under trees, check that the pots have not become too wet. Often the first sign of a waterlogged pot is that the plant wobbles slightly in the pot when touched. If this happens, it's a good idea to pull the plants gently out of the pot and check the roots for any signs of rot or soggy roots. If this happens, remove any soggy or rotting roots, and repot into a drier mix.

Many people have also had outbreaks of mealybug in the last few months. Keep a watchful eye out for these and treat at the first sign. Mealybugs can decimate a plant very quickly by causing damage to the leaves deep down in the base. The damage to the leaf surface then allows the entry of fungi and bacteria, and the plant can quickly succumb to rot. Keep a lookout for other chewing pests, such as snails, slugs, and cockroaches, which have thrived in the cool and damp conditions, and treat accordingly. It is a good idea to start a preventative spraying program as the weather starts to warm up over the coming months. Neem oil



is a safe spray to use around the garden, but whatever you choose, do not spray on windy days.

The change in seasons also means more sunshine, so ensure your plants are well protected from the sun. Early morning dappled light is fine but do protect from the sun's rays during the day.

Lastly, enjoy your flowers during these very strange times. I hope we all have a wonderful flowering season and receive a much-needed boost to our spirits. It is very exciting to see the first flowering of a seed-grown plant. There will be the inevitable disappointments if a flower is not as good as expected, but also hopefully many happy surprises.

MY CLIVIA BEGINNING

Gary Conquest, Toowoomba QLD

I have been involved with *Clivia* since my youth (now 69 years young) when my parents were very good friends with Kevin Walters. Every year (for over 20+ years) in September during the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers Home Garden Competition, my parents would sell Kevin's *Clivia* for him. My passion began then.

After 22 years in the Australian Army, I retired in 2012 and that BUG caught up with me again. Now living in Toowoomba, Queensland, I have 3 shade houses (small by normal standards). My most loved *Clivia* was bred by Kevin Walters ('Monica Conquest' X Vico Gold). Kevin named and registered 'Monica Conquest' in 2002. Sadly, Mum passed away in 1998 never to know she had a beautiful yellow *Clivia* named after her and registered by Kevin in the Clivia Register.



Fig. 24 *Monica Conquest*

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My fascination with Interspecifics began about 5 years ago when Andrew Kajewski introduced me to them. My Reference Book Series (now up to 3 editions) on Growing Clivias for Beginners and this current Reference Book on Interspecifics, is my education program for Beginners in growing *Clivia*. My Facebook Page, Growing Clivias for Beginners now has approximately 1936 members and with my website <https://www.growingclivias.com>, it all leads to one theme, EDUCATION.

Beginners have so many questions and have very few avenues to gain answers and knowledge. My target audience begins with the beginners out there and if any information helps anyone else that is my bonus. Not one person knows everything, we all know little bits and put together in a Reference Book Series covers everyone.



Fig. 25 *Breeders Clive and Monica Conquest*

While trying to keep up with technology, I have made the viewing of these Reference Books more accessible via <https://www.flipbook.net> where the document stays on line and not on any other device unless you choose to download each PDF document for saving on a hard drive or for printing purposes. A link is provided such as <https://my.flipbookpdf.net/C4diI> that will take you to each Reference Book.



Fig. 26 Breeders Clivia & Monica Conquest

In February 2018, I took up the position of Secretary, Toowoomba Clivia Society Inc. together with the website manager position. A most enjoyable situation with both positions, one directed administration of a 90+ member Club, the other beginning a new website with GoDaddy. I began my own website with them in 2017 so this transition was no concern to me. I completed both positions in the 2020 AGM. Sadly, like most clubs these days volunteers become scarce for management positions as our secretary position remains vacant to this day.

Finally, I hope enjoyment comes from these Reference Books and that interest and passion continues throughout the *Clivia* world. I am also very welcoming to anyone who would like to have an interesting article/s included in the Series.

Reference Books for growing Clivia for Beginners

1st edition

<https://my.flipbookpdf.net/CZDBi>

2nd edition

<https://my.flipbookpdf.net/ZZgwG>

3rd edition

<https://my.flipbookpdf.net/CxzBk>

Special edition on Interspecific hybrids

<https://my.flipbookpdf.net/C4dil>

Gary Conquest

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<https://www.growingclivias.com> and

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CLIVIA SOCIETY VIRTUAL MINIATA SHOW

Due to the current situation with the global pandemic, the Clivia Society has decided to offer a Virtual miniata show.

This is an **International** event and open to all members of the Clivia Society.

From 24 August until 3 October, you can enter a photograph of your plant in flower (limit 2) to an email address for publication on the Clivia Society website and social media.

There are 20 classes available and the plants will be judged on the 4th October.

Even if you are not a member of the Clivia Society, I would invite you to view the photo gallery of entries which will be uploaded daily.

This is the best flowering plants in the world. How do Australian *Clivia* plants compare?

More information is available at the following link:- <https://cliviasociety.com/clivia-society-virtual-miniata-show/>

There is also a gallery page where you can view the photographs from recent Virtual Interspecific shows: - <https://cliviasociety.com/category/gallery/>

Clivia Society membership enquires:

<https://cliviamarket.com/clivia-society-australian-membership/>



FLOWERING NOW



Fig. 27 *Pixie x Faerie* - John Trotter



Fig. 30 *C. gardenii* - Rae Begg



Fig. 28 *Lots a lollies* - John M & Brenda G



Fig. 31 *C. robusta* - Rae Begg



Fig. 29 '*Ruby Red*' x '*Tomato Drop*' - John M & Brenda G



Fig. 32 *Andrews Interspecific* - Lisa Fox



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