



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

March 2021
Vol. 14.2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Annual General Meeting was our first meeting in twelve months, and it was great to see some familiar faces.

Further in the newsletter you will see a list of the new committee members all looking the part in the mandatory masks. Thank you to Chee Perks for all your work and effort on the committee. Chee has decided to take a break from committee work for 2021.

Our first committee meeting is scheduled for this week and we are looking forward to planning a good schedule of meetings and events for this year. More on that in future newsletters.

This newsletter contains information on the MCG member's only seedlist and a seller seedlist form is included for those that will have seed available. Please support the initiative if you are able by becoming a seller or buyer of seed.

There is also an article on shadehouse plastic film and the fun of installing this on a number of shadehouses by my husband Glen and myself, as well as cultivation notes for autumn.

We have a movie night planned for the April meeting. More information on this night further in this newsletter.

The COVID-19 situation over the past year has affected many small clubs and organisations, with rumours of many needing to close down. The Melbourne Clivia Group is financially stable and has a small group of dedicated enthusiasts that continue to support the group. We certainly have lost many members with people choosing not to renew membership for 2021 but the club will continue and will grow and progress. If numbers are lacking at meetings, we may need to reduce the frequency of meetings we currently hold, but the club will remain strong.

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

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NEXT MEETING

GENERAL MEETING

MOVIE NIGHT

Friday 16 April 7.30pm

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

2021 CALENDAR

Friday 16 April 7.30pm - General Meeting
Movie night

Saturday 19 June 2pm - General Meeting
Speaker: Alan O'Leary

Saturday 17 July 2pm - General Meeting

Friday 20 August 7.30pm - General Meeting

Friday 15 October 7.30pm - General Meeting
Speaker: Peter Haeusler



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Friday 19th February, the AGM went ahead despite a snap lock-down in Melbourne that only ended less than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

It was pleasing to see a good number of people attend and great to catch up with people we have not seen for the past 12 months.

The 2021 committee were elected as follows:

President: Lisa Fox

Vice-President: Di Mathews

Secretary: Brenda Girdlestone

Treasurer: Rae Begg

Committee: John Mackenzie, Ian Johnson, Geoff Brown

Congratulations to the new committee and we hope the 2021 year will bring a new and exciting time.



Fig. 1 From left: Rae Begg, Ian Johnson, John Mackenzie, Brenda Girdlestone, Lisa Fox, Geoff Brown, Di Mathews

MOVIE NIGHT

The April meeting will be held on Friday 16th April and a movie night is planned. Manie Maree from Clivias4Africa in South Africa has a wonderful assortment of videos on his YouTube channel which are on *Clivia* cultivation. Each video runs for 5 – 10 minutes and includes topics such as:

- How to remove an offset from the mother plant
- Replanting seedlings
- Damage caused by fungus gnats
- Top tips for growing healthy plants
- How to fix seedling rot
- Secret hack for *Clivia* seedlings

- Breeding tips for beautiful *Clivia*
- ... and more.

A selection of videos will be shown and then there will be a discussion on the method used in the video and which substitute products are used in Australia. This is a good opportunity to learn techniques without making a mess.

MCG SEEDLIST

The Melbourne Clivia Group will be offering a quality seedlist to members for the first time in 2021. This will provide members the opportunity to acquire quality seed crosses that may not readily be available for sale in Australia.

Any financial member is welcome to become a seller or buyer. Sellers are encouraged to complete the seller form attached to this newsletter and submit the form to the secretary either by email, or at the April meeting. The deadline for sellers to submit their form is the 1st May.

A seedlist will then be created and distributed via newsletter later in May. Members are welcome to place an order and when harvested, the seeds will be available at the June, July or August meeting (depending on when ripe), or by post if the buyer or seller is unable to attend a meeting.

We hope to expand on this seedlist each year and encourage you to participate and make this initiative successful.

CULTIVATION NOTES – Di Mathews

Autumn has arrived after what has been quite a mild and damp summer for Melbourne.

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, unless it has been raining. 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 and will also wash any excess fertiliser salts from the pot.



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Container grown plants rely on us for all their nutritional requirements, and a slow-release fertiliser with trace elements 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 or add some sulphate of potash to your liquid fertiliser according to directions on the packet. It is believed that a potassium deficiency is likely to be responsible for flower stems that fail to properly elongate or become "stuck." The flower buds are beginning to form deep within the plant over summer, so good nutrition is essential to good flowering the following spring.

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.

Snails have also been plentiful over summer, probably due in part the milder and damper conditions. Keep a watchful eye out for these if your pots / containers are under trees. Snails can easily climb up pot stands to be found hiding in the pots enjoying the green leaves and can cause a lot of damage.

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.

I have included the Neem oil recipe. I know it has been given before, but for those who don't have it, here it is:

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.



Fig. 2 A late/early flower for Geoff Brown

DURASHADE FILM - Lisa Fox

In mid November 2020 Melbourne experienced a huge wind storm. At my property in Lilydale, it looked like a tornado had hit, with several massive trees down and all three solarweave covers ripped off the shadehouses. One of the covers was able to be fastened back on temporarily but the other two were torn to shreds. It was time to look at replacing all three covers.



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Fig. 3 Damaged Solarweave cover after the wind storm.

There are three shadehouses erected between early 2014 and 2017, each with two layers of shadecloth and a solar weave cover to keep the rain off. The reason for two layers of shadecloth is because I found there was burning with just one layer. Two of the shadehouses are approximately 11 metres by 8 metres and the smaller one is approximately 8 metres by 5 metres.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing and there are things I would have done differently if I were building them today. For example, I originally had one layer of shadecloth attached to the main structure, and another layer as a cover that can be taken off as required. I also had the solarweave as a cover thinking that in summer I would remove the solarweave cover and then I had the choice of leaving a second layer of shadecloth on or removing that cover as well.

It turned out that I did not need to take off any of the covers at all. Both ends of the shadehouses have one layer of shadecloth and the airflow was good enough that even on the hottest days, the shadehouses are relatively cool.

The downside of having the covers is that they are not very secure with rope pulls at either end and attached down each long side with anchor points. The wind can easily get under the solarweave cover and rip the material away from the anchor points. On many occasions we have had to retrieve and repair the covers that have taken off in a storm. We even have

had to cross ropes over the top of the shadehouses at times to keep the covers on which resulted in many tears and rips.

Eventually it was drier standing in the rain than inside the shadehouses so the November wind storm was the kick we needed to go ahead and replace them.



Fig. 4 Cutting the correct length with scissors.

We looked around and found a material that we felt was tougher and more suitable. We have bought Durashade which is a solid white long life film with UV stabilisers, often used for animal shelters and for growers of tropical plants. It reflects a good part of the sun's energy keeping the interior temperature cooler and lets in a good amount of light. Apparently if it tears, the tear will not increase.

To prevent the Durashade film from blowing off like the covers do, we have gone with a film clipping system that is self-locking. Aluminium strips with a channel are screwed to the framework, the film is pulled taut across and a strip is pushed into the channel, followed by a locking bead.

This clipping system is called Duralock and in advertising it states that the harder the wind blows, the tighter the Duralock will grip the cladding.



Fig. 5 Attaching the aluminium clipping strip over the hoop

We attached this clipping system along both long sides of the shadehouse and over the first hoop on either end of the igloo. The aluminium strip was able to be bent (with effort) to arch over the hoop. This means that the Durashade film is secured on all four sides which should prevent the wind from getting under it.



Fig. 6 Aluminium strips in place ready for the film.

On two of the shadehouses we have left the second layer shadecloth cover on and now it is secured as well by the locking system. On the shadehouse which is shaded by trees, we have removed the shadecloth cover so it will only have one layer of shadecloth under the Durashade.

Difficulties and Learnings

Although we could have paid contractors to attach the Durashade and clipping system, we chose to do it ourselves. We had put up two of the shadehouses ourselves and felt experienced with pulling shadecloth and solarweave over the igloo. It couldn't be that different could it? It couldn't be that hard, surely?

We didn't realise how heavy the film is. I imagined it would be like the weight of solarweave, but it is nothing like it. A roll of the film needs a fridge trolley to move it. One of our rolls was 26 metres long and trying to roll it out to cut it in half was very difficult. Two of us had trouble carrying a 13 metre piece down to the shadehouse, even with one of us on each end and dragging the middle section.

The width has been professionally folded over multiple times and with the weight of the film, unfolding it to try to lift it up over an igloo is hard work.

With shadecloth and even solarweave, a piece of rope can be tied around a section of it, secured to a hammer and then the hammer thrown up and over to the other side of the igloo. Then it is not too difficult to pull the shadecloth or solarweave over. This is not the case with this film. It is way too heavy and thick to be able to do anything like that.

Two of us pulled the film part of the way up the end hoop then clamped it. Then we went to the other end of the shadehouse, pulled the film part of the way up and clamped it. Back and forth, getting a little bit further up the hoop each time.



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Fig. 7 Pulling and clamping one side at a time.

TIP: Don't do it on a windy day.

If someone had been videotaping us that day, it would have been amusing to watch later with the Benny Hill theme song, especially when the wind grew strong and started pulling the clamps undone. We would run to one side to prevent the film from falling back down and just save that, when the other side clamp would fail. Off we would run to that side. You get the picture.



Fig. 8 Finally, film over the top

We completed the smaller shadehouse first which was good practice for the larger ones.



Fig. 9 Pulling the film taut.



Fig. 10 Locking the film in.

As of writing this article, two shadehouses are completed and the third one is in the process of having the aluminium strips screwed to the framework.

Time will tell what we think of this product and how it compares with solarweave.

Durashade and Duralock can be seen on the Redpath website – www.redpath.com.au



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Fig. 11 One completed.



Fig. 14 Bebop



Fig. 12 Two completed and one to go.



Fig. 15 Sophia



Fig. 13 Robusta x Caulescens

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Seedlist - Seller Trading Form

Name:	Phone:	Email:

How will your seed be distributed (at a meeting or Australia Post only)?

- Seller must be a member of the Melbourne Clivia Group
- Seller agrees to reserve seed ordered by MCG members
- Seller agrees to pay Melbourne Clivia Group 10% commission
- Seller agrees to harvest, peel and clean seed, placing in small packet with cross written on packet
- Melbourne Clivia Group will accept orders and compensate seller once buyer has paid and seed is delivered. Any postage costs will be reimbursed at that time.
- Seller is to inform secretary as soon as possible if seed becomes unavailable due to accident or miscalculation.
- Seller will receive orders from the secretary when order has been paid for.
- If seed distribution is via Australia Post, seller agrees to send as small parcel with tracking number. Flat rate shipping for small parcel up to 35.5cm x 22cm and up to 5kg is \$9.20 using Australia Post satchel. Receipt and tracking number must be retained.
- If seed distribution is via a meeting, meeting dates are 19 June, 17 July, 20 August and Expo is 18 September.
- The harvesting of seed may vary but must be when berries are considered ripe and not green.
- **Please supply photo of berry plant and pollen plant if available.**

I give consent to the Melbourne Clivia Group Inc. to sell my seed and agree to pay above commission on the sale.

Signature: _____ Date: _____



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Seed cross (State berry and pollen parents)	Description of cross	Number of seeds per packet?	Number of packets available	Month seed available (approx.)	Price per packet



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021 of the Melbourne Clivia Group

Date 19th 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: John Trotter, John Cochrane, Michael Barrett, Helen Marriott, Haydn Lomas.

Members Present: (15)

Rae Begg, Ray Begg, Geoff Brown, Terry Edwards, Lisa Fox, Alan Gibson, Brenda Girdlestone, Ian Johnson, Ian Lamer, John Mackenzie, Di Matthews, Kelvin Mitchell, Chee Perks, Ray Perks, Margaret Rackham.

Visitors: Soo Mei Leong.

Motion to accept minutes of last AGM (distributed in April 2020 in MCG newsletter Vol.13.2).

Moved: Di Matthews

Seconded: Chee Perks

1. Reports.

President's report

The President's Report for the 2021 Annual General Meeting has been an extremely difficult report to write. Usually at the Annual General Meeting, the President presents a Report which contains a summary of the previous year's events, highlights and achievements as well as a proposed vision for the future. I have stared blankly at my computer screen while seeking direction for reporting on 2020.

What can we say about 2020?

For many of us, the 2020 Annual General Meeting was the last time we saw each other, and in fact, it was the last meeting the Melbourne Clivia Group held here at Burwood. It is hard to believe that it has been a whole 12 months since we held a meeting. With the absence of meetings, the Expo or any other functions or visits, the report makes for light reading.

The COVID-19 pandemic has halted all activities such as our Clivia group worldwide. It was the year that never was. It was the year that the whole world changed and the effects of that change will stay with us well into the future.



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All we can say in our report about 2020 is that the club survived. The MCG went into lockdown as well and judging by the number of members here tonight and the membership renewals we have received to date, the club will survive and flourish into the future.

I wish to thank the committee, Di Mathews, Brenda Girdlestone, John Mackenzie, Rae Begg and Chee Perks, who behind the scenes, have continued with online committee meetings and kept the ideas rolling in and official club affairs in order.

We were fortunate in 2020 to have Allan Gibson host a Zoom meeting where a good number of members attended. We had a number of members provide photos of their flowers that enabled us to present a Member's Flowering Season photo gallery on our website. Some of you on the Internet may have seen the Virtual Shows that were run by the Clivia Society worldwide. One of our members, Greg Anderson won a prize with a beautiful bronze flower and Ray Sidoti from NSW won a class with a lovely dark red flowering plant. Clivia clubs all over the world were busy on Facebook and with newsletters to keep members informed and entertained. Our club sent out a number of newsletters to all our members despite the lack of meetings and Expo.

A full calendar of events for 2021 is planned at this stage and we have Alan O'Leary and Peter Haeusler confirmed as speakers later in the year. We are also planning a movie night for the April meeting where we will be showing a series of You tube videos of Manie Maree from South Africa where he demonstrates separating offsets, germinating seeds, caring for seedlings and a number of other relevant topics. We do hope to run the Expo this year. There may be changes we must make in order to proceed with the event, but where there is a will, there is a way, and we all know how dedicated Clivia enthusiasts can be.

So, take care and be safe, and continue to enjoy our favourite plant in 2021.

Lisa Fox

Motion to accept President's report

Moved: John Mackenzie Seconded: Alan Gibson

Secretary's report

There is not very much to report for 2020 due to Covid - 19

General meetings:

We held meetings

February - was our AGM

We had a zoom meeting with a presentation by Alan Gibson.

All other meetings were cancelled including our Expo, and Christmas function.

Due to Expo being cancelled we encouraged members to submit photos of their flowering season, which we then put up on our social media platforms and the web site.



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2020 Website for MCG

Visitors: 18,124

Pages: 151,213

Busiest month: August

Allan Gibson Zoom video was downloaded 103 times.

Cultivation Notes were downloaded 22 times.

Newsletters

We had 4 newsletters that went out in 2020, Thank to Lisa Fox for the newsletters.

That is my report.

Thank you

Move to accept Secretary's report.

Moved: Ray Begg

Seconded: Di Mathew



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Treasurer's report 2020

Bank Account		Credit	Debit	Credit	Debit	Balance
		\$ c	\$ c	\$ c	\$ c	\$ c
Opening Balance Bank Acc 11/10/19						6,206.37
Income						
	Membership	870.00				
	Raffles	125.00				
	Others	31.00				
				1,026.00		
						7,232.37
Expenses						
	Hall Hire	85.00				
	Newsletter	Nil				
	Web site	59.90				
	Consumer Affairs	59.20				
	RHSV	180.00				
	Other	721.20				
					1,105.30	6,127.07
Closing Bank Balance 31/12/20						7,047.37



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Bank Assets					
	NAB Chq A/c				6,127.07
	Nab Fixed deposit				5,166.13
	Total to date				11,293.20
Petty Cash					
Opening Balance	Credit				74.60
	Debit		3.85		70.75
Current Assets	NAB Chq A/c -				6,127.07
	NAB Fixed deposit				5,166.13
	Petty Cash				70.75
					11,363.95
Profit/Loss 2020					
	Bank Credit Incl Interest				1,192.13
	Bank Debit				1,105.30
	Nett profit				86.83

Treasurer's report.

Moved: Terry Edwards

Seconded: Margaret Rackham

Move to accept



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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 Rae Begg Seconded by Terry Edwards
Lisa Fox elected as President.

Nominations for Vice President:

Di Mathews nominated by Brenda Girdlestone Seconded by John Mackenzie.
Di Mathews elected as Vice President.

Nominations for Secretary:

Brenda Girdlestone nominated by Di Mathews Seconded by Rae Begg.
Brenda Girdlestone elected as Secretary.

Nominations for Treasurer:

Rae Begg Nominated by Margrett Rackham Seconded by Di Mathews
Rae Begg elected as Treasurer.

Nominations for Ordinary Committee members:

John Mackenzie Nominated by Ray Begg Seconded by Alan Gibson
Geoff Brown Nominated by Di Mathews Seconded by Lisa Fox
Ian Johnson Nominated by Lisa Fox Seconded by Alan Gibson

4 Raffle

Raffle prizes were won by:

- John Mackenzie
- Ray Perks

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Next general meeting 16th April at 7.30 pm