



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

August 2021
Vol. 14.4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is a hefty newsletter issue with a lot of expo information and forms, so I am keeping the President's message very brief.

We are all well aware that there is a chance the expo may be cancelled if Victoria is forced into another lockdown, but at this stage we are planning to forge on with the planning and marketing. If we can run the expo then we will, even if it is with limited numbers in the hall at one time.

"Que sera sera."

We ask members to help support the expo and events during these difficult times. Without member's help, the club will not survive. If you are able to volunteer at the expo for a few hours on either day, or both days, please let Geoff Brown know. Areas needed are:

- Set up (Friday night and Saturday morning)
- Door (welcome, count visitors in and out)
- Foyer (collect entry fee)
- Trading Table (sales, info)
- Point of Sale (collect money from sales)
- Display (set up and security)
- MCG table (info, membership, raffle tickets)
- Kitchen (assisting with dishes, refreshments)
- Clean up (Sunday afternoon)
- Other as required

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

Friday 20 August 7.30pm

Speaker: Alan O'Leary
How I grow Clivia - tips & tricks

COVID safe measures apply

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.

Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.
Burwood East LPO
PO Box 4225
Burwood East, VIC 3151
Ph: 0477 134 863

2021 CALENDAR

Friday 20 August 7.30pm – Alan O'Leary – How I grow Clivia – tips & tricks

Sat 18 & Sun 19 September 2021 CLIVIA EXPO

Friday 15 October 7.30pm – General Meeting



Fig. 1 Glen Fox looking for a shadehouse under the fallen tree



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2021 CLIVIA EXPO

Fingers and toes are crossed that COVID-19 will stay away and allow us to run the 2021 Clivia Expo this year. There is a good chance that there will be a limited amount of people allowed in the hall at one time, but we can live with that.

FLYER

The postcard sized flyers will be available at the August meeting. Please take a number and distribute far and wide. If you cannot attend the August meeting but would like flyers to distribute, please contact the secretary to identify the closest person to collect from.

The four images on the flyer are the past four winners of the People's Choice award.

ADVERTISING

There are a number of advertisements for the 2021 Clivia Expo including the following:



Fig. 2 Gardener's Gazette magazine published by the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria. Photo is 'Leah' owned by Terry Edwards.



Fig. 3 Gardening Australia magazine



Fig. 4 Community Board sponsored by Phillip Webb will appear on the corner of Canterbury Road and Dorset Road Bayswater for 3 weeks before.

AUCTION

An auction of quality plants is planned for 1pm on Sunday 19th September which is the second day of the 2021 Clivia Expo.

Entries are invited. If you have a quality offset or quality seedling of 3 years old or older, and would like to submit it, then fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and send to the secretary.

You can enter a plant right up until one week before the expo but the sooner you enter, the more we can promote via social media and create some interest around the plant and the auction. The plant does not need to be in flower at the time.

AWARDS

As always, we will run the People's Choice award with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners receiving a framed certificate and a rosette.

Also offered is the Member's Choice award where the most popular vote from members will be counted towards a 1st place winner receiving a framed certificate and rosette.

For the first time, we will also trial a novelty class called 'Best First Flower'. This will also be a popular vote from members with the winner receiving a framed certificate and rosette.

WHEN A PLANT JUST WANTS TO FLOWER - Brenda Girdlestone

This plant has been growing in sphagnum moss for the last 12 months or so, due to losing its roots. I can feel the roots starting to distort the pot and some roots can be seen at the bottom of the pot, so it was nearing time to repot into potting mix.

What a surprise to find that it is now sending up a flower spike. There has been no fertiliser or any other nutrients while it's been in sphagnum moss, just some water to keep the sphagnum moss damp.

It makes me wonder how important the growing medium really is!



Fig. 5 Plant budding in Sphagnum Moss



AUGUST SPEAKER

How I grow Clivia - tips & tricks - Alan O'Leary

As of the time this newsletter reaches you, the August meeting is still planned to go ahead. Alan O'Leary is from South Australia, and from the 28th July, South Australia and Victoria are out of lockdown but still have restrictions in place.

We are hopeful by Friday 20th August, that a lessening of restrictions will mean we can accommodate a good number of people at our usual venue at Burwood with COVID safety measures in place.

Please check with the secretary a few days before the meeting to confirm that the meeting will be taking place. We are all looking forward to Alan's presentation, so fingers crossed.



GARDEN VISIT IN JULY

It was greatly disappointing that we were unable to attend Allan and Mandy Gibson's beautiful garden for the July visit as planned.

A snap lockdown forced us all to stay home for a number of weeks.

We appreciate that Allan put in time and effort to have the garden looking perfect for the visit and hope we can all visit in the future.

The following photos are a taste of what we missed out on.



Fig. 6 Allan's colourful garden

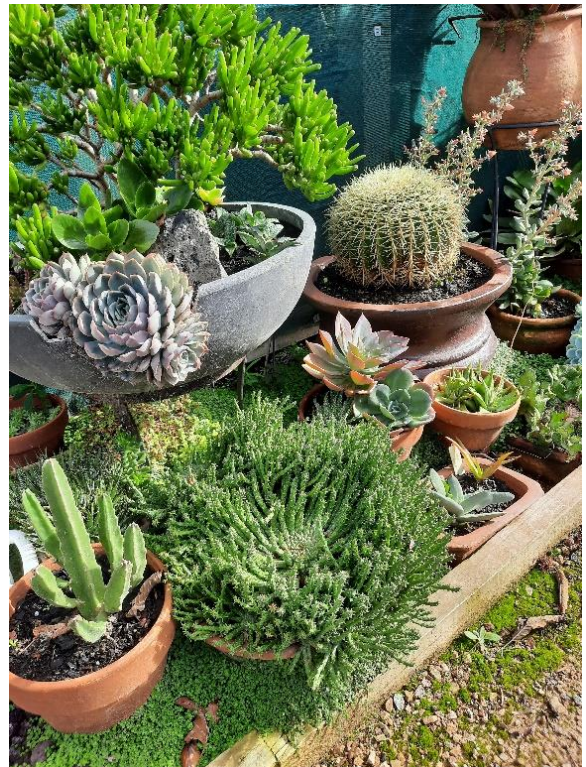


Fig. 7 Different textures and shapes



Fig. 8 A lovely selection of variegates

MCG SEEDLIST 2021

The first ever MCG seedlist has now closed and seed will be distributed at the August meeting for those able to attend or by mail for others.

Six sellers offered 97 crosses from quality plants and 13 buyers purchased a total of 129 seed packets.

Lessons were learned and the process will be refined next year and possibly opened up to the public, once MCG members have ordered.

It was a great opportunity for members to secure quality seed and also gave sellers the chance to showcase their crosses and participate in a seedlist that they may not have attempted alone.

CULTIVATION NOTES - Di Mathews

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

Clivia are very 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. Remember, if you use a liquid fertiliser, frequent half strength feeds are preferable to occasional full-strength feeds.

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, or you may find the outer leaves turning yellow all of a sudden. If this happens, pull the plants gently out of the pot and check the roots for any signs of rot or soggy roots. If there are signs of rot, remove any soggy or rotting roots. Perhaps dust with a Sulphur Powder or Mancozeb powder if necessary and repot into a drier mix.

Many people have also had outbreaks of mealybug in recent 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. An ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure when it comes to dealing with these pests.

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 always wonderful to see our old favourites flowering, but very exciting to see what unfolds with a first



flowering plant. There will be inevitable disappointments, but also hopefully some delightful surprises.

HOW TO TREAT A CLIVIA WITH CROWN ROT – Di Mathews

Any *Clivia* grower will sooner or later lose a plant to crown rot. You suddenly notice that there is no new leaf growth from the centre of the plant, and further investigation will reveal the inner leaves are missing, and there are signs of rot in the plant centre. Once this occurs, the plant will not regrow, and you may fear that all is lost.

It seems to be Murphy's Law that it will inevitably happen to one of your favourite plants!!



Fig. 9 Growth from the stump

However, *Clivia* are amazingly resilient plants, and will endeavour to survive and thrive, even in adverse circumstances such as this.

The first thing to do is to remove all the rotted leaf material, and then be brave and remove the rest of the leafy growth. You may need to scrape or cut into the base of the plant to ensure thorough removal of any soft material, although try to keep well above the roots. Then dust the top of the plant with an anti-fungal like Mancozeb, or spray with an anti-rot product, for example Yates Anti-Rot. Keep the plant in a mix that is not too wet and be patient. Others have recommended a very weak solution of Hydrogen peroxide in water

be applied the top of the plant to kill any residual fungi.

Usually within a few weeks to months, you will hopefully see some tiny new green shoots coming from the sides of the stump. These will develop over time into offsets, and you may get two or three of these growing from one stump. Allow the plant to grow normally after this, and in time, you will have new plants.



Fig. 10 Growing into offsets

IN FLOWER



Fig. 11 Green Imp - Brenda and John



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Fig. 12 Honeysuckle - Lisa Fox



Fig. 13 Effie - Michael Barrett



Fig. 14 Green Goblin x Hirao - Brenda and John



Fig. 15 Sophia - Lisa Fox



Fig. Michael Barrett



Fig. 16 *Gardenii* x *Apricot Queen* - Brenda and John



Fig. 17 *Honey Dew* group - Ian Johnson



Fig. 18 *Gardenii* x (*Gardenii* x *Miniata*) #1



Fig. 19 *Gardenii* x (*Gardenii* x *Miniata*) #2



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2021 CLIVIA EXPO GUIDELINES

DISPLAY

- Set-up of venue: Friday 17th September 4:00-8:00pm. Please lend a hand with set-up.
- Delivery of plants for the display: Friday 6:00-8:00pm, otherwise Saturday 8:00-9:15am.
- **Only members on duty are to enter the display area of the hall before 10:00am on the Saturday.** Members bringing plants for the display will be asked to leave their plants inside the foyer area.
- All plants *must* be healthy, and free of diseases and pests. The MCG reserves the right to exclude any plant from display or sales which shows signs of disease or pests.
- Plants and pots *must* be clean and well presented. Saucers will not be used in the display therefore, plants should not be watered for at least the 3 days prior to the day.
- Exhibitors are asked to provide the Registrar, Paul Smith (gizellea666@gmail.com; ph. 03 95475561) with details of the number of plants they anticipate bringing for the display by Wednesday 15th or Thursday 16th. This information helps the stewards plan the allocation of space for the display. At the time that plants are brought in to be benched for the display, exhibitors will be assigned a (consecutive) number for each plant and provided with two stickers (bearing the same number), one of which is to be placed on the plant card and the other on the pot. This enables the plants to be tracked for eventual return to the owner. In addition, the numbers will be used in voting for the People's Choice award.
- Display plants **MUST** be accompanied by the MCG's plant card affixed to a card holder (available at the time plants are brought in for the display). The card holder is to be placed in the pot to the front of the plant. Plant cards and paper will be available at the **August meeting**. A template for the plant card can be downloadable from our website and typed out in advance. It is preferred that plant cards are typed, but if that is not possible then please print the required details clearly, using black pen (only).

The details to be included on the plant card are:

cultivar name (if there is one) and/or cross (if known),

exhibitor, breeder (if known), and,

any information of interest.

Download the plant card template from <http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/>

You can also download an instruction sheet on how to use the template.

- Plants on display are not to be handled nor pollen or berries removed by anyone.
- Members, particularly those who are officiating, are asked to wear their MCG name tags.
- The People's Choice Award is open to members of the public to select their favourite *Clivia*. Owners of the three plants receiving the most votes will receive a People's Choice Award (rosette and framed certificate) with the winner's name being engraved on the MCG trophy.
- Member's choice is open to MCG members who may select their favourite display plant. Winner is the plant with the most votes and receives a certificate and rosette.



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- A Best First Flower award will be awarded to the most popular first flowering plant as voted by the members.
- Members are needed to assist with various tasks throughout the day so a roster will be set up to cover a variety of functions. We hope that all members will make themselves available for rostered duties. If family members or friends of members are also available to help on the day, they will need to complete an *Application for Volunteer Membership*, preferably in advance of the event, or on the day if necessary. A committee member will coordinate the roster and volunteer applications. The roster will be released on or about the 18th of September.
- After the hall is closed at 4:00pm on the Sunday, exhibitors are to assemble their own plants in a section and be responsible for checking off their own plants. Following a closing announcement by Brenda Girdlestone, the Chief Steward, plants may be removed. Finally, the furniture will be dismantled, and the hall cleaned.
- When transporting display plants, secure the pots well and stake the flowering stem as these can be easily damaged. Generally, the stake should be removed when on display. If a flower is accidentally broken off during transit, it can be displayed on the pot or in a suitable container next to it. It is permissible to stake a stem of berries, and, if you wish, cover this with plastic netting for protection.
- While utmost care will be taken with the plants on display, the MCG cannot be held responsible for unforeseen events and any damage or losses.
- To maximise visitor parking, we request that members move their cars away from the immediate hall area after unloading plants and equipment. There are plenty of parking space toward the Maroondah Secondary College on Rosewarne Lane.
- All monies received should be passed to the Treasurer on the day. Evidence of expenses to be claimed as expenditure (with prior approval received from the Committee) are to be submitted on the day or within one week.

PLANT & SEED SALES

- All current members of the MCG are offered the opportunity to sell their *Clivia* plants and seed through the club's Trading Table, by Auction or to sell their plants & seed as independent sellers. The Trading Table and Independent Sellers will be located inside the main hall.
- A commission of 15% is payable to the MCG for all plants and seed sold at the Expo. Each seller must complete a Trading Table form, recording details of plants offered for sale. Sales will then be recorded against this and the commission payable calculated at the end of the Expo.
- Every member who elects to offer for sale their plants and/or seeds at the Expo, whether through the Trading Table, auction or via the Independent Sellers arrangement, is expected to contribute a minimum of two hours to assisting with the roster, as well as donate a plant for the raffle or bring plants for the display tables.
- Plant limits. The number of plants that a member may sell through the Trading Table is 50 per day. Independent Sellers have no limit. There are no limits relating to the amount of seed offered for sale. It is expected sellers will, if needed, be able to store excess stock in their vehicles.
- In the case of Independent Sellers, the members concerned are wholly responsible for staffing their stall (note that any non-members assisting a member with their sales will be required to



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complete before the Expo day an *Application for Volunteer Membership*). More than one member may share a given stall site.

- Any member wishing to sell plants as an Independent Seller is required to register their intention to do so with **the Sales Coordinator Rae Begg (0407510273) as soon as possible and pay a non-refundable deposit of \$50** at that time (deposits paid will be deducted from commission owing on sales, however if the member does not proceed with plant sales the deposit is forfeited). A ballot will be conducted at an appropriate time to determine the order in which Independent Sellers can choose their stall site from among the designated spaces. PLEASE NOTE: An independent seller may choose to sell on just the Saturday or Sunday or both days. The deposit of \$50 remains the same.
- All Trading Table sellers are asked **to advise the Sales coordinator, Rae Begg (0407510273) on Wednesday 18th Sept or Thursday 19th Sept** of the approximate number of pots that they will bring for sale.
- The sales areas will be prepared on Saturday morning with seller expected to assist with set up. Sellers are to bring their sale plants & seed in on the Saturday morning (8:00 am) or Sunday (9:00 am). A completed Trading Table form must be lodged at the time plants are brought to the venue in order that staff can check stock received against the form.
- PLEASE NOTE: There is a room nearby available for storing sales plants. Plants can be brought out to the sales tables as required.
- When purchasing plants and/or seed from the Trading Table purchasers will pay for all plants at the Point of Sale desk. This will be positioned near the sales exit area so all plants are paid for in one transaction whether purchased at the Trading Table or at an Independent Seller stall. Purchasers should be encouraged to place purchased plants in their own vehicles and re-enter the hall to view the display plants however plants may be minded at the Point of Sale desk if necessary.

SALES STOCK PREPARATION

- For the Trading Table, it will be the responsibility of the seller to ensure each plant is clearly identified with the seller's ID (initials) and the sales price. Stickers are available if required.
- The Trading Table form, which needs to be prepared in advance, is to list the number of items for sale, showing the total number at each price. Independent plant details are not required. This form will be available at the August meeting. It can also be downloaded from the MCG website at <http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/mcg-expo-2021/> and is reproduced in this newsletter.
- It is expected that plants will be presented in sound, clean pots. Examination will also be made for any obvious sign of disease or insect infestation. Any problem plants will be rejected and the Trading Table form noted to this effect.

END OF SALES

- At the end of the sales period or at 4.00pm Sunday, a check is to be made of remaining stock. Each plant is to be counted and recorded by price on the Trading Table form provided by the seller. Rae Begg, Treasurer will calculate the total value of the remaining plants which will be deducted from the total value of plants provided for sale.



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- In the case of Independent Sellers, the calculated commission is to be paid by the MCG within one week of the conclusion of the Expo. For those selling through the Trading Table, a commission of 15% payable to the MCG will be deducted and the balance paid to the seller within one week of the conclusion of the Expo.
- Sellers are expected to remove their remaining plants as soon as possible after 4.00pm on Sunday

AUCTION GUIDELINES

- An auction will be conducted on Sunday 19th September of the 2021 Clivia EXPO at 1pm and members are invited to enter plants to be sold at auction.
- The auction plants will be displayed on a table near the stage and given Lot numbers.
- The seller may set a reserved price beforehand or on the morning of the auction and this information is to be kept confidential with only the auctioneer and assistant able to view the reserve.
- To bid on a plant, a person must register their name at the MCG Desk and be allocated a bidding number.
- Starting at 1pm on Sunday 19th September, bidding will commence starting with Lot 1. The winning bid is the highest bid received above the reserve price.
- If a reserve price has not been met then the plant will be offered again after the other Lots are complete. If the reserve is still not reached then the plant is passed in.
- Any buyer not able to be present must assign a proxy bidder to bid on their behalf.
- Payment must be made directly after the auction. Cash, bank deposit or Paypal/Credit Card is accepted though Paypal and Credit Card incur a 2.5% additional cost.
- Sellers must complete an Application to Auction Items form for any plants they wish to auction. It is preferred that auction plants are known in advance so they can be promoted. The deadline for entries is Wednesday 15th September. Please notify Lisa Fox on 0417087667 of your final auction plants.
- A 15% commission is payable and will be deducted from the sale price. The sum of the final bid price less commission will be paid by the MCG to the seller within 5 working days after the auction. Seller must ensure that their bank account details are on the expo auction form.
- Any passed in plant that is sold after the auction has ended will still incur the commission.
- Any unsold plants must be collected by the seller at the end of the day.



Melbourne
Clivia Group Inc.

***APPLICATION
FOR VOLUNTEER MEMBERSHIP OF THE
MELBOURNE CLIVIA GROUP INC.***

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: (H) _____ (W) _____

Mobile: _____

E-mail: _____

- ☐ I wish to become a member of the Melbourne Clivia Group Inc. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to support the purposes of the MCG Inc. and to comply with the rules of the group.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Note: This form is specifically for non-members who will be assisting at the 2021 Clivia EXPO, and needs to be completed to ensure that such volunteers are adequately covered from a public liability viewpoint. All such volunteers are required to complete this form and lodge it prior to the Expo.



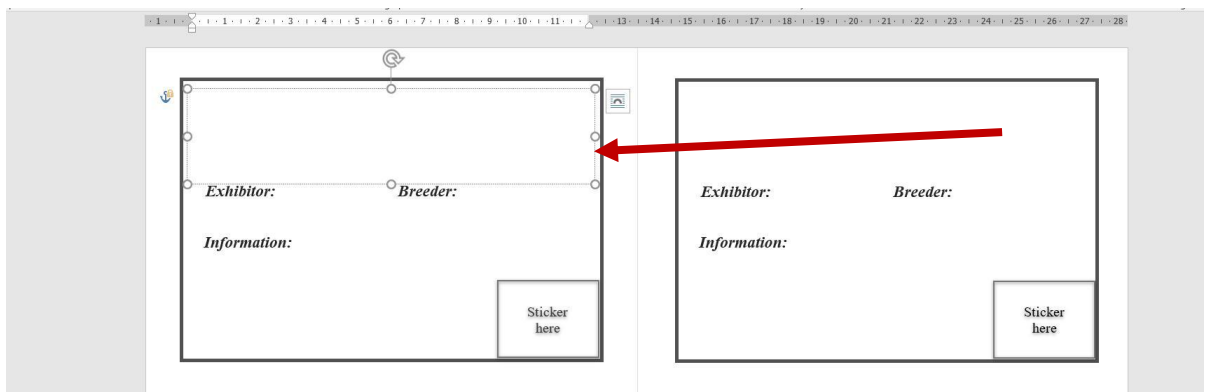
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COMPLETION OF DISPLAY PLANT CARDS

- ☐ All plants on display at the Expo MUST be accompanied by a plant card, which will be placed in a fork in the pot at the front of the plant.
- ☐ Plant cards (approx. 200gsm satin white paper) will be available at the August meeting, as will stock of the paper for those wishing to print off their own cards.
- ☐ Exhibitors are strongly encouraged to use the plant card template to print out the card.
Download from the MCG website.
- ☐ Hand-written cards will be accepted if written clearly and neatly using BLACK PEN.
- ☐ The details to be included on the plant card are:
 - o cultivar name (if there is one) and/or cross (if known);
 - o exhibitor;
 - o breeder (if known); and,
 - o any information of interest.

HOW TO USE THE PLANT CARD TEMPLATE

- ☐ Download the plant card template from the MCG website and save it to your Desktop.
- ☐ Place the cursor where the name is to appear and mouse-click. You will note a box appear.



- ☐ Type the plant name or cross. You DO NOT need to change font or size. It is automatically set to the right size. If you do not know the name or the cross, type the botanical name such as *Clivia miniata* or *Clivia nobilis* etc.
- ☐ Hold your cursor under the Exhibitor field and click. A box will appear. Type your name.
- ☐ Hold your cursor under the Breeder field and click. A box will appear. Type the breeder. If the breeder is not known, leave this blank.
- ☐ Hold your cursor under the Information field and click. A box will appear. Type some information about the plant such as what colour it is, how you obtained it or any other interesting fact that the public will enjoy reading.
- ☐ When complete, save and print your plant card.



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TRADING TABLE - APPLICATION TO SELL ITEMS

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of items to be sold	Type of sale item (seed, plant, seedling, pollen, other)	Description (include botanical name, breeding or any other relevant information)	Price each	No. sold	Value Sold	Commission Meeting TT 10% Expo 15%

Total

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this completed form to the TT co-ordinator _____



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www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au

APPLICATION TO AUCTION ITEMS

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Account name _____ BSB Number: _____

Account number: _____

Type of sale item (Plant, offset, seedling, other)	Description (Cultivar name, breeding, colour, age, history)	Final Bid (office use only)	Commission 15% (office use only)	Reserve	Amount to be paid to seller (office use only)

Total

I give consent to the Melbourne Clivia Group Inc. to sell my plant/offset/seedling via auction and agree to pay above commission on the sale.

Signature: _____ Date: _____