



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well, it is a little hard to believe that I was elected as the President of the Melbourne Clivia Club. I'm happy to serve as much as I can. It is definitely an honour! I have some limitations of engagement but am willing to do what I can. We have a dedicated committee which is led by Di Matthews (our Vice-President). Brenda Girdlestone is our very able secretary and Rae Begg, our treasurer. Other members of the committee are John Mackenzie, Ian Johnson and John Cochrane. Lisa Fox was such a great President and thankfully she's continuing to engage with our club despite now living in NSW.

I do enjoy my *Clivia* and have really appreciated being part of the club. I have been a member for about 6 years but involved with *Clivia* for probably 25+ years. I recall buying my first yellow, when they really were quite 'rare'. I have had two collections - I sold most of the first and went overseas for 5 years but then restarted when I moved to Melbourne 9 years ago.

I have really appreciated our Clivia club. I have found people friendly and also willing to share their knowledge. I have also appreciated people willing to exchange plants, give seeds and sometimes sell a special plant. I have been challenged to do likewise. There is just something good for the spirit to be generous and kind to one another and it definitely fosters loyalty to the club and an enjoyment of *Clivia*. Who doesn't love being on the tail-end of someone's gift? I have also been quite inspired by various club members who are on the cutting edge of *Clivia* growing and breeding and this is exciting and encouraging.

Every club, church and not-for-profit has been impacted by our two years of being locked down. It has been somewhat shocking hearing of clubs and organisations that are really struggling and have shut their doors. Some of us have also been impacted by worry about the virus and then influenced also by some isolation. Even though it is not compulsory I am still wearing a mask in a few settings. **I want to encourage you to come along if you can to our next meeting, catch up with friends (or meet some new ones) and be encouraged with your *Clivia* hobby.**

I'm leading the next meeting in June with a focus on variegated *Clivia*. I want to bring several plants so you can see some of the joys and challenges. I've only been focused on breeding variegates for about 6 years. I have just had recent success crossing tigers with various striata's and have a bunch of really interesting seedlings. On the negative side my tigers that were supposed to be split for yellow produced 100% pigmented base plants. They were not split for yellow at all, but I again have many orange tiger plants. So, with breeding you live and learn, winning some and not others. I am glad to not be waiting 5 or 6 years to see my result. I mention my efforts so that you can see I am learning and experimenting and enjoying the hobby. I'm excited to share a little of my variegated adventures and hope to encourage you also to include them in your collection. I love the different coloured foliage that I can enjoy all year around and then have the bonus of the colours in spring. I'm not giving up on my green leafed ones!!!! I'll be bringing some 3 year plus plants to buy so perhaps you might be tempted.

The club meeting in June is followed by a garden visit and lunch in July so these two events are your opportunity to engage together. After those meetings we begin preparations for our Expo. So please join us! Please also invite any old club members or friends who enjoy their *Clivia*.

Allan Gibson





NEXT MEETING

GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 18 June 2pm
Interspecifics and Variegates
Speaker: Allan Gibson on Variegates

Uniting Church
Cnr Blackburn Rd &
Burwood Hwy, Burwood

VISITORS WELCOME

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
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2022 CALENDAR

Saturday 18 Jun 2pm – Meeting
(Variegates & Interspecifics – Speaker: Allan Gibson)

Saturday 16 Jul 2pm – Garden visit and lunch

Friday 19 Aug 7.30pm – Meeting (Expo preparation)

Sat 17 Sep 2022 CLIVIA EXPO

Friday 21 Oct 7.30pm – Meeting (Speaker TBA)

RICHGRO
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CULTIVATION NOTES – Di Mathews

I hope you are all enjoying the wonderful autumn weather we are having – it really is Melbourne at its finest.

Winter, however, is just around the corner, and it is time to think about the care of your *Clivia* during this time. Your *Clivia* still need care and attention over the winter months, and this will include 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 protected under some form of cover, such as under eaves or under shadecloth.

Watering requirements over winter are also greatly 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 help to protect plants from fungal attack. If you have small seedlings, they will still appreciate a regular feeding regime. Half strength liquid fertiliser applied regularly will encourage good growth.

Insect pests can still be a problem in the cold weather, so keep a watchful eye on your plants. Mealybugs seem to be an ever-present problem for some growers, and they 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. Slugs and snails are also very damaging to *Clivia* and are prevalent after periods of rain. Snails can easily climb up the sides of large pots and plant stands and can cause enormous damage to *Clivia*.



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 greatly benefit from some liquid fertiliser feeding; use one that is high in potassium to help the spikes fully elongate. Winter is also the time when we will see many of our interspecifics flowering – always an exciting time, especially for those that are flowering for the first time. 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 extra room for spring growth.

I hope we all see a lot of spikes emerging in a few months.

JUNE MEETING - Saturday June 18 at 2pm.

Our new President, Allan Gibson, will be sharing on variegates. So come along, see a small display and even purchase a couple for your collection and breeding. If you have a nice variegate or a nice Interspecific in flower, please bring it along for us to view. Variegates may not be flowering at this time of year, but Interspecifics may be.



MCG SEED LIST 2022

The MCG Seed list 2022 is now complete and ready to view. If you are receiving this newsletter as a hard copy in the mail, then the seed list is attached. If you receive this newsletter as an email, please visit the following web page to view the seed list. Please ensure you read the Terms and Conditions.
Happy viewing!

<https://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/mcg-seed-list-2022/>

APRIL MEETING PHOTOS





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