



## President's Message

Dear Members

Autumn and early winter can be cold and wet but also such a beautiful time of year, with colourful foliage along with perennials and grasses forming interesting seed heads. For the *Clivia* enthusiast, *Clivia gardenii* and *C. robusta* come into centre stage, flowering with their pendulous green skirted flowers. There is quite a variety of flower shapes and colours. Interspecific *Clivia* also feature around now, and I encourage you to bring plants for display at our meetings.

The April meeting was a great night. Peter Haeusler gave an interesting perspective on aspects of curating a living collection, with a focus on *Clivia*. For me, his last point was perhaps the most significant, be patient. Often the passion of the collector can drive accumulating to outpace other considerations, including personal resources to maintain a collection well. Peter's suggestion of specialisation was an interesting one for anyone interested in plant breeding, as well as his recommendation to grow more than a few seeds from one cross to see more variable results. The raffle had some fine plants donated by generous members and there were many happy prize winners. The display table had some much admired and educational non-*Clivia* plants, with a *Veltheimia capensis* and *Cryptostephanus vansonii* displayed by Roger Clarke and Ian Johnson respectively. We concluded the evening wishing Di Mathews a happy birthday and shared a delicious cake; one Di didn't have to make herself. Thanks Lisa for organising the cake.

This year's 'Clivia Expo' flyer has been printed and a copy is shown in this newsletter. My thanks go to Vu for all his time and energy in making the artwork for this and for the billboard. The umbel shown is Mark Cant's *C. miniata* 'Elektra King'. Part of the success of our Expo is the promotion to get interested gardeners to come along, learn about, buy, and grow *Clivia*. Please make the effort to circulate flyers, getting them up at shopping centres, libraries and on other notice boards. Do let me know if you cannot attend a meeting but wish to distribute flyers, and some can be sent to you.

On a very sad note, I regret to advise you that the committee were recently informed that one of our interstate members, Odette Stimburys, died late last year. On behalf of the MCG members, we sent our sincere condolences and a small posy to her daughter.

I hope to see many members at our next meeting, a **daytime meeting**, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, starting at 2 pm. The topic is 'Back to basics'. We will be looking at potting mixes, dividing plants and more.

Michael

## Next Meeting

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2:00 pm

'Back to basics'

Presentations by Lisa Fox, Brenda Girdlestone  
and Di Mathews

Uniting Church, Cnr Blackburn Rd & Burwood Hwy,  
Burwood



## CLIVIA EXPO 2018

Melbourne Clivia Group celebrating 10 years

Saturday 22nd September 10am-4pm  
Displays \* Demonstrations \* Sales

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## Mark Cant's *C. miniata* 'Elektra King' (featured on 2018 Expo flyer)

### A brief note by Mark Cant

Elektra King (EK) is one of my 'Bond' theme plants: yellows = allies; oranges = villains; and pinks/pastels = Bond girls.

Parentage: Morris Yellow x Bill Morris Buff. To be honest I couldn't tell you the exact yellow, but I was breeding for



soccerball shaped heads of recurved broad petalled flowers. It's possible 95/1 ('Best Kept Secret') was the pod parent. Buff was a line of gorgeous pastels Bill was working on when he passed on his collection. EK shows the colour of Buff with the shape I was looking for.

Loving the large rounded head and the recurved petals of EK, I thought I'd try this again using Bill Morris' 'Tango' for pollen as I love its colouration and flower size. About 10 plants were flowered that I have seen and I was very happy with them. Terry Edwards' plant 'Leah' is one of these. The shape of 'Elektra King' was dominant in all F1's as was Tango's colour.



Elektra King x Ngome Yellow. A Mark Cant cross

## The Beginnings of a *Clivia* Club

### Helen Marriott

Following an invitation from Michael Barrett to speak on this topic at the February (2018) meeting of the Melbourne Clivia Group (MCG), I presented a short outline of my own experiences and recollections leading up to the formation of the MCG, and briefly referred to the launch of the club and its beginnings. I also thought it of value to provide some contextual background to the topic in relation to other international and national club developments.

#### International context

The Clivia Club commenced in South Africa in 1992, starting first as a newsletter and then was formally established with a committee in September 1994. Over time, different activities took place and subsequent groups were formed in different locations, leading to a revised and expanded constitution, and the renaming of the Clivia Club to the Clivia Society in May 2001. The Clivia Society acts as an umbrella body to constituent clubs, of which there are

now 10 in South Africa as well as four interest groups, and to overseas members. Australia has always had a substantial number of individuals who are members of this Clivia Society. Ken Smith acted as the Australian representative of the Clivia Society for a number of years and Lisa Fox has been fulfilling this role since 2016.

The various separate clubs in South Africa run impressive competitive shows and the Society is continuing to work on the standards and judging of Clivia to become more consistent across the various clubs. Every four years the Clivia Society runs a quadrennial conference in association with the show of the host club. This year the conference will be hosted by the Joburg (Johannesburg) Club in early September. This event is often accompanied by a habitat tour or tours.

The New Zealand Clivia Club was formed in March 2003, with Keith Hammett elected as the Chairperson, and incorporation followed in May of that year. This club was preceded by a group of growers staging a show the previous year and it has been stated that the club was born "from the interest generated from this exhibition" (<http://www.nzclivia.org/AboutUsPage.htm>). Shows are now held regularly in Auckland, Tauranga and Palmerston North. Newsletters were issued by the club between 2003 and 2014 and are available on line.

The North American Clivia Society (NACS) issued its augural newsletter in the autumn of 2003, where it outlined its leadership team, consisting of a President (Jim Shields), Vice-President and Board of Directors. They simultaneously announced the establishment of a website (<http://www.northamericancliviasociety.org>). This site, along with the newsletter, have been maintained since. In mid-March 2018 the organisation held its 15<sup>th</sup> annual show and sale at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California. Originally commencing as a display, the club moved to a competitive show some years ago. Another show is generally held at the Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania a week prior to the show in California.

#### National context

There are three Clivia clubs in Australia. In order of their establishment these are the Toowoomba Clivia Society, the Melbourne Clivia Group and the Clivia Society of New South Wales.

The Toowoomba Clivia Society was established over 12 years ago and often promotes Toowoomba as being the 'Clivia Capital of Australia'. A document on its website (<https://toowoombacliviasociety.com.au>) outlines how its formal beginning in August 2005 was preceded by some earlier displays of Clivia:



The Toowoomba Clivia Society had its beginnings as an incorporated body in August 2005, but for a couple of years before that operated as a non-incorporated club when several members pooled their resources and held the first Clivia exhibition at Walsh's Garden Centre, Toowoomba.

The annual Clivia shows at Toowoomba are always part of the bigger Carnival of Flowers in that city. The club has produced short newsletters and in recent years has added a club website.

The Clivia Society of NSW was the third Australian club to get off the ground, with their first newsletter published in summer 2014 when they announced their establishment and founding members, with Chris Ong as inaugural President. They have run an annual show since 2014 and updated the format of their newsletter several years ago. The club has plans to hold its first RARE CLIVIA EXPO in June 2018, which will focus mainly on interspecifics. So far, their online presence is maintained through a Facebook page.

### Melbourne context

At the local level, there were attempts to organise a small group of Clivia-interested people in Melbourne, but it took until 2008 for a continuing group to be established. In 2001 a small exhibition was organised by Judy Shevlin and her husband. Laurens Rijke was the main exhibitor of splendid *Clivia*. In the ensuing years this was followed by a couple of meetings convened by Bryan Patten and subsequently by David Bearlin.

By around 2008 I was personally feeling frustrated and had the feeling that we Melburnians weren't working hard enough to get a Clivia club off the ground in comparison with what has happening in South Africa in particular, but also in Toowoomba, New Zealand and the USA. I had been growing Clivia for 10 years at that time and had started my own crosses with 'Aurea' and other material. I joined the Clivia Society around 2000 and collected and read all of their back literature, participated in the Yahoo internet group, and had been to the Toowoomba show five or so times. I had attended the quadrennial conference of the Clivia Society in 2006 where I delivered a presentation on Nakamura's breeding, as I had started to visit him regularly in Japan from 2003.

I had attended all the small events in Melbourne which all promised follow-on but which did not. Obviously, there were also others in Melbourne who had developed a strong interest in Clivia by this time and shared a similar keenness to get a club going. I am sure that many of those people who were present at that time in 2008 and who remain keen members of the MCG will have their own personal stories

about their developing commitment to Clivia up until 2008 and/or since that time.

Fortunately, there was a sufficient number of people present at the meeting on 15 August 2008 who wanted to start afresh by forming a new, independent group and they elected a committee to run a new club. This was done by nomination on the spot or by others volunteering their services. This first committee consisted of myself (President), Lisa Fox (Secretary), Rae Begg (Treasurer) and Di Mathews (member, then Vice-President) and subsequently expanded to include Brenda Girdlestone and George Simmler.

On that night in August, we brainstormed a name together, coming up with the Melbourne Clivia Group (MCG). Friday nights were chosen as the night to suit most working people for the meetings. The committee started meeting soon after to commence planning, which included a decision to commission a logo from John Bannenberg and to affiliate with the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria (RHSV) for insurance purposes. The step to incorporate the Group was also commenced and lodged in November of that year.

I convened the first full meeting of the MCG as president on 12 September 2008 and another meeting was held on 17 October. From 2009 onwards approximately bi-monthly



First meeting of the MCG in 2008 (above, and following)



meetings were held, a regular newsletter was produced (hardcopy and electronic formats) and a website was developed. A major new development in September 2010 was the launch of the first MCG CLIVIA EXPO, the name being chosen because, still being a small group, we designed a number of activities for the day in case there were insufficient plants for the event to be called a "show". This event has been continued annually and in 2016 an auction of *Clivia* plants was held as part of the CLIVIA EXPO and definitely added to the excitement of the day.

From the outset, by designing an annual calendar of events and activities an effort was made by the MCG Committee to cater to both novices and experienced growers. A program to utilise or specifically invite interstate speakers once a year was also commenced. Among other initiatives along the way was the systematisation of the club's electronic filing system as well as the introduction of an online sharing of documents by committee members, online banking was established and PayPal was added for members' convenience. A Facebook page was also established a few years ago to facilitate members' communication.

In conclusion, I have attempted to briefly explain that it took a number of years and attempts to finally get a Clivia club up and running in Melbourne. I think that effective leadership through the committee is essential for the operation of a successful club but so too is the active participation of members and their willingness to behave as good citizens within that community. At times it was harder than it should have been to develop and implement fair and appropriate policies and practices for the MCG, especially in those earlier years. Since 2018 marks the tenth anniversary of the MCG, I hope there will be reason to celebrate our various achievements as well as reflect on how we can do better. I also hope that there will be sufficient committed and capable persons who will continue to do the work needed for the club to thrive in the future.

## My passion for interspecifics

Kerrie McElroy

Growing and breeding interspecifics has always appealed to me, and I fell in love with the pendulous interspecifics shown in the book *Clivias* by Harold Koopowitz. Although I still love pendulous interspecifics, my breeding has largely moved away from that type, as I have selected the best of my early efforts to work with.



I began in 2003 with what was available to me then, namely a few *C. miniata* and a few *Clivia* x *cyrtanthiflora*. Soon I added a couple of minigards (*C. miniata* X *C. gardenii*) to my collection and in 2006 I began buying seed from South Africa. Then in around 2007 I obtained an offset of Stanmore Bronzed Green Girl (SBGG). So, in addition to some of the ongoing breeding from my first humble

beginnings, I am doing further breeding with some of the interspecifics grown from South African seeds, and a great deal of breeding using SBGG. In reality I have too many breeding goals, because whenever I can see further potential, I try to pollinate and grow n as much seed as I can!

I am not concerned about working with particular species of *Clivia* because I have generally moved on to using more advanced interspecifics, and in many cases I am using interspecifics to breed new colours and patterns into more or less miniate-like flowers. For example: many of my early *C. miniata* x *cyrtanthiflora* have very pretty flowers, with a slight tendency towards being versicolour (one colour or shade outside and another inside), but the flowers are generally smaller than a typical *C. miniata*. I have undertaken a few sibling crosses with these, which unfortunately are quite slow growing, and I have crossed some of these back to *C. miniata* in the hope of increasing the flower size and maintaining the colour of the interspecific. I am beginning to flower this second generation with mixed results.

One of my favourites so far, from this type of breeding is a cross between a Vico Yellow Hybrid with my 'Tutti Frutti' (below), a Belgian Hybrid x *cyrtanthiflora*.



Perhaps this plant typifies my approach, because if this *Clivia* was judged purely on the appearance of the flower, it is not especially exciting. But I look at it, knowing that it carries some genes from 'Tutti Frutti', also that it has maintained a good-sized flower and recurved petals, and therefore has more potential than a pure *C. miniata* to achieve some of my goals in the next generation. I often think about the genes that I know are/or could be present in a particular *Clivia*, rather than just about its appearance when deciding on breeding goals.

Some of my most exciting results have come from crossing Stanmore Bronzed Green Girl (SBGG) onto a range of other *Clivia* (SBGG is an interspecific raised by Nick Powell of Stanmore Horticultural in Queensland). I am beginning to flower my second generation of plants from these lines. There is, however, so much variety among them that one could develop numerous new strains from them. Thus I come back to trying to do too much and running out of space etcetera, but I am still moving forward with these breeding lines albeit more slowly than I would like to!

For me, there is no ideal interspecific. The plant should be vigorous with a reasonable flower count, and have either very beautifully shaped flowers or an exciting colour combination, or preferably both. Examples from my breeding with SBGG include 'Emiko' (below) and 'Green Jessica'. 'Emiko' is basically a soft orange and although very beautiful, its flowers do not have an unusual or exciting colour. However, I have chosen to continue using 'Emiko' as a berry parent because it has a good flower count, well-shaped flowers that are quite large for an interspecific, and it is a vigorous plant.



'Green Jessica' (below) has resulted from my second generation of breeding with SBGG. It is a smaller plant than 'Emiko' with, so far, a low flower count. However, its colour is exceptional and in my opinion it is an improvement on SBGG. So rather than backcross SBGG to Emiko, last year I chose to pollinate Emiko with Green Jessica. I am, of course, hoping for a strong plant like 'Emiko', with the colour of 'Green Jessica', however it could go the other way around. From my experience it is a numbers game. So once again, I will try to grow too many seeds, but thoroughly enjoy doing it!



## Clivia Terminology

### Petals, sepals and tepals

Sepals, tepals, polytepals and polytepalous ... life was so much simpler when we could just call them petals! Yes, some people like to dazzle with their esoteric knowledge, but by the same token we are a specialist group and there are correct and, well, less correct if not incorrect terms of identification.



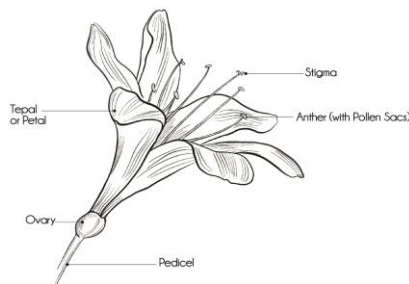
So, what do some authoritative sources say about sepals, petals and such?

- Duncan, *Grow Clivias*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (2008, p. 79). Tepal - 'a collective term for a petal and sepal of a flower where the calyx and corolla are not clearly distinguished.'
- Koopowitz, *Clivias* (2002, p. 369). 'Sepals. The three outer colored segments of a clivia flower. They are usually narrower than the inner petals. Tepals. The name given to the sepals and petals when they are both colored and when they resemble each other.'
- Swanevelder & Fisher, *Clivia: Nature and Nurture* (2009, p. 84). Their diagram of a *Clivia* flower simply has labels 'inner' and 'outer' tepals. [The three outer or backmost tepals are generally somewhat or substantially narrower than the inner tepals. Ed.]
- McClelland, *Illustrated Terms and Definitions for Describing Clivia*, (2011, p. 19). 'Clivia flowers consist of 3 petals (inner) and 3 sepals (outer) which together account for the 6 tepals that are typically seen in clivia.'
- Clivia Society ([www.cliviasociety.org/clivia-terminology/](http://www.cliviasociety.org/clivia-terminology/)) 'The perianth [flower] consists of three outer and three inner perianth members, called tepals.' [Note that what we commonly term the 'flower' is more technically the 'perianth' or floral envelope and includes all the tepals. Ed.]

It is rather surprising how unhelpful some definitions are, and the degree of inconsistency over what should be a fairly clear-cut matter!

McClelland (2011, p. 19) arguably provides the most helpful summation at least:

*When people have general conversations regarding clivia the term petals is acceptable to use. The term tepals should be used to discuss clivia flowers when detailed descriptions are necessary for scientific or registration purposes.*



## From the Archives

### Whither?

**Dr Keith Hammett, New Zealand**

(Reproduced from Clivia Club newsletter, Vol. 3 (7) 1994)

*The following item was published at about the time the Clivia Club (RSA) was holding its inaugural meeting. I think its timely to reproduce it here given Helen Marriott's article in this issue about the formation of the Melbourne Clivia Group, and the fact that this year marks the MCG's first decade. Of course, Dr Hammett is addressing the role of the 'governing' Clivia body, but it is perhaps grist for the mill here as we reflect on the MCG's achievements and our aspirations for the future. Ed.*

I have now belonged to, and been active in specialist societies for over thirty years.... Societies...change over time. Often there is an initial burst of enthusiasm, followed by a period of stagnation and sometimes demise. ...

To date I have derived great benefit from belonging to the Clivia Club by receiving the newsletter and I assume this will be true for others. People have contributed information and given opinions, contact with other enthusiasts has been possible and I know that a great deal of genetic material, largely in the form of seed, has moved around the world. I have had the privilege of visiting experienced growers such as Nakamura san in Japan and Kevin Walters in Australia as a result of joining the Club. However, it must be recognized that if the Club does not set specific objectives it could soon reach the stagnation stage.

Before suggesting a few possible goals [for the Clivia Club], I must caution against the Club becoming too formal and turning into a self-perpetuating bureaucracy. All too often societies which take this route lose sight of their chosen plant. To date Nick Primich has achieved a great deal on a largely informal basis. We must be careful not to spoil what we have.

Here are a few suggestions of things we might do and which would give the Club direction for the immediate future.

1. Establish a register of cultivar names.
2. Apply for recognition as the International Registration Authority for the genus *Clivia*
3. Establish a genetic database to establish who holds what in their collections. This is important to determine availability and vulnerability of taxa and cultivars.
4. Create a bibliography of *Clivia* references, both botanical and horticultural.
5. Encourage a revision of the genus *Clivia* to establish a key to identify naturally occurring taxa.



6. Establish a horticultural classification of hybrid forms. This would provide a framework for exhibitions, competitive or otherwise, and would facilitate communication internationally.
7. Establish a seed distribution scheme.
8. Encourage research projects at university level. Many questions of interest could be tackled as MSc or PhD theses topics.
9. Detail the history of the development of *Clivia* in cultivation.

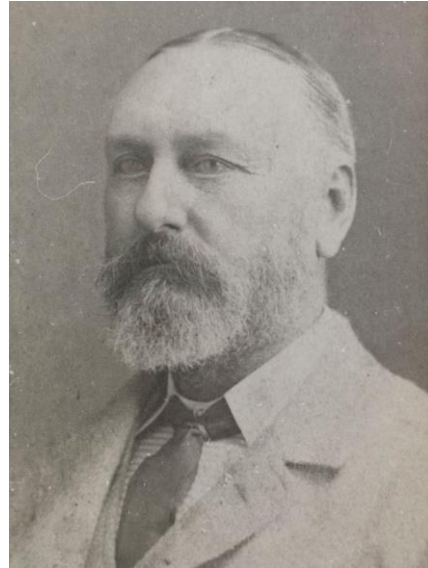
Clearly these suggestions reflect my particular interests and I recognize that others will have suggestions regarding other aspects such as cultural and physiological considerations. Equally, each suggestion needs amplification, and it is unlikely that all of them could be tackled at the same time. It is, however, important to set goals and to monitor our progress towards such goals.

## The *Clivia* enthusiast who got away

### Michael Barrett

In the course of researching *Clivia* and the personalities and history of this genus, I have observed that many well-known names connected to *Clivia*, were at essence, plantsmen interested in a wider variety of plants from all over the world. In documenting George Keith Cowlshaw (Vol. 6.2), Sir Peter Smithers and Sir John Thouron (Vol. 8.3), and most recently, James Dearing and Fred Pollard (Vol. 10.2), *Clivia* were but part of a marvelous array of plants grown. For some gardeners, *Clivia* did not take hold of their time, energy and imagination in the same way as others, and I will present over the next few newsletters, a few names, and their plants of choice, that are a few degrees of separation away from the better-known personalities in the history *Clivia*.

Many of you are aware that *Clivia* were also known as *Imantophyllum*, as named by William Hooker (*Curtis's Botanical Magazine* 80: t. 4783, 1 May 1854, 'Imantophyllum miniatum'). On the National Library of Australia's Trove, I discovered an article referring to *Imantophyllum* and a famous Victorian daffodil grower, Leonard Vine Buckland, and thus my research journey began.



Source: <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/items/2186202>

The *Camperdown Chronicle* of 22 September, 1923 (p. 2), citing *Courier* reports on the Ballarat Daffodil show of September 1923 observes: "Looking down the stand were shown for the first time in Victoria, five types of the *Imantophyllum*, which were introduced to Australia by Mr L Buckland from Beach's London." One can imagine the reporter misheard the name of the nursery. Bill Morris wrote in *Herbertia* (1998) that Arthur Yates & Co., and possibly Mr Cowlshaw, had imported *Clivia* from the well-regarded Veitch's Exeter nursery prior to 1923 (Veitch & Sons operated from two locations, but their Chelsea nursery closed in 1914).

There are earlier references to *Imantophyllum* in Australia from as far back as the 1870's. Perhaps Mr Buckland had plants from the same importation as Yates, or had some shipped separately. The September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1923 date points to these plants being most likely *Clivia miniata*, and there must have been some differences in flower shape and markings. After this newspaper report there is little information about Mr Buckland and *Clivia* directly, but he certainly mixed in esteemed horticultural circles and would have competed in competitions in 'friendly rivalry' with Mr Alister Clark (the famous Australian rose breeder, and fellow daffodil enthusiast) and Mr James Dearing of Rippon Lea.

Leonard Buckland was a solicitor in Camperdown, Victoria. He is believed to have imported King Alfred daffodils into Australia. Buckland is credited with introducing many new hybrid seedlings, winning many major awards, and was regarded as a very successful grower. Museum Victoria holds in its collection, the Geelong Horticultural Association Daffodil Cup. Mr Buckland won it three times, and it was given to him His grandson donated it, and three presentation cups to the museum. In 1905 Mr Buckland



joined the Camperdown Public Park committee (as the Camperdown Botanical Gardens were known as then) and is credited with introducing rainbow trout to Lake Bullen Merri, to boost a tourism and recreation drive the committee continually promoted.  
(<https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/>)

A keen fisherman and hunter, Buckland died from the accidental discharge of a firearm while on a hunting trip in 1930. In 2014, members of the Camperdown Botanic Gardens and Arboretum (CBGA) Trust dug some 30 varieties of daffodils from Buckland's homestead, Keyham, to start a commemorative planting in the Camperdown Arboretum. Janet Ohehir, President of the CBGA wrote, "A catalogue of Buckland's daffodils was found and we began to identify the plants. Unfortunately, this plan was thwarted when Corangamite Shire Council made a decision to lease that section of the Arboretum for cattle grazing. It continues to be leased. The bulbs were then planted in a 'holding bed' next to the Botanic Garden..." (Private correspondence).



CGBA Trust members collecting daffodils from the garden at Leonard Buckland's Keyham homestead.  
Source: <http://www.camperdownchronicle.com.au/2014/11/living-legacy/>

The Ferny Creek Horticultural Society's Spring Show 2016, had the RHSV Leonard Buckland Memorial Trophy for best exhibit of six distinct red/orange centred daffodils.

## Cape Clivia Club

*In March the Melbourne Clivia Group wrote to the Cape Clivia Club in South Africa expressing our support for them in the very difficult circumstances they face, with the severe drought and water shortage affecting the region. No doubt you are aware of the water situation over there from reports in the Australian media this year.*

*The Cape Clivia Club's response is reproduced below as we felt it would be of interest to all our members.*

Dear Melbourne Clivia enthusiasts

Thank you sincerely for your message and kind thoughts. Yes we are experiencing a severe drought which is indeed a challenge.

Some people are fortunate to have underground water – but even this has strict rules and may only be used twice a week for one hour.

At the moment in Cape Town we are limited to 50 litres of water per person per day, this includes 1 litre of water for pets and no municipal water can be used for washing cars, watering gardens, etc. The businesses selling large water storage tanks are making a fortune – but this is only effective when we have rain – we continue to blissfully hope that the heavens will open and we will be wallowing in glorious water!!

Many thanks for your concern and sympathy – we hold regular discussions to share experiences of how best to cope with the drought and keep our Clivia well maintained. We are ensuring that we will be able to maintain our standard at our annual exhibition in September.

Kind regards, Joy  
(Joy Woodward, Secretary, Cape Clivia Club)

## Cultivation Notes

### Peter Haeusler

Yes winter is the time when some creatures go into hibernation, but this does not include *Clivia* enthusiasts! For us it's a time of opportunity, so throw on an extra jumper and get out there. Here are a few things to do:

- Remove fallen leaves from the centres of your *Clivia* plants as litter can harbour snails and other bugs. Excessive litter may also impede the emergence of flower spikes.
- Keep an eye on your habitat plants and interspecifics as spikes can shoot up quickly this time of year and you may need to stake these. In addition, you might want to pollinate flowers or at least think of saving pollen from them for use later in the season on some *C. miniata* for instance.





Val Thurston, RSA, cross involving *C. gardenii* 'Everton Green Goblin'. Raiser P. Haeusler

- Remove old, yellowing leaves as these harbour mealybugs and other pests.
- Start your attack on snails – don't wait until the buds and flowers are being eaten!
- Be careful that plants aren't getting too wet (e.g. if they have ended up under a drip line or the pot is sitting in a depression) as this can mean that rot soon sets in.
- Check those plant labels. Now and then I find that a dodgy 'permanent' marker means that descriptions on tags fade. Systematically looking at each plant in this way is also an opportunity to take stock of how plants are going more generally.
- Berries on your flower spikes from last season are ripening. I leave harvesting until the berries are quite coloured, letting nature do the ripening. From my experience, seeds that are harvested early while the berries are still green can result in seedlings that lack the vigour of those raised from fully ripened berries.

I let the harvested spike rest in a well-ventilated space for a week or so before removing the berries. After removing the flesh from around the seeds they are rinsed in warm water (to which I add a drop or two of dishwashing liquid). Seeds from a given cross are then placed on paper towel in a small open dish (e.g. the round takeaway food containers) and kept in a well-ventilated area. At this point I leave the seeds for at least a week or two before sowing (they can be stored in this way in a cool area for quite a few months if need be). Keep careful track of which berries (and seed) are from which cross as you clean and store them!

- Planting seed. I wait until after the winter solstice before planting my seed so that they start to germinate as the days begin to lengthen. Due to

problems with product consistency and the over-reliance on coir in some commercial propagating mixes I now germinate my seed in my normal growing mix, *however* I remove (winnow out) the bark that is 0.5cm and larger in diameter. I have done this for a couple of years now and find that it works brilliantly. I plant my seed in small (85mm square X 100mm deep) community pots (the last thing you want is a large mass of cold mix surrounding your seeds!), taking care to keep the mix damp but not wet.

## July Meeting - Interspecifics & Variegates

Members are reminded that our July meeting will take the form of a special daytime event focused on interspecifics and variegates.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2pm**

**Uniting Church, Cnr Blackburn Rd &  
Burwood Hwy, Burwood**

**Members of the public are welcome.  
Feel free to bring a friend!**

***Clivia display & plant sale***

We are expecting a good display of plants, and some members have indicated that they will be bringing along a selection of interspecifics and other crosses for sale.



*C. gardenii*. Blush form. Raiser Rae Begg



## Selling & distributing *Clivia* at MCG meetings

Members are encouraged to bring plants along to meetings with a view to selling these or simply making them available to other members (i.e. at no cost). Please note, however, the following conditions:

- All plants must be clean and healthy;
- Plants need to be about 2 years old or more (to ensure that they are relatively well established);
- Plants should be clearly labelled, showing colour and/or cross;
- Members are responsible for removing any of their plants that remain at the conclusion of the meeting;
- If you are offering plants for sale then you *must* complete a Trading Table form. See <http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/downloads/>



Val Thurston *C. gardenii* cross. Ndwedwe Magnum X Ndwedwe Daddy Long Legs. Raiser P. Haeusler



*C. robusta*. Raiser Peter Haeusler

### Deadline for next issue 20<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Email contributions to the Newsletter Editor,  
Peter Haeusler - [phaeusler99@gmail.com](mailto:phaeusler99@gmail.com).

*I would love to receive pics of your flowering clivias (with details of the variety or cross) for inclusion in the next newsletter!*

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