



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our spikes are coming and perhaps you even have a few in flower now. I love this time of year and observe that a number of my plants are budding for the first time. I was particularly pleased to see some of my Light of Buddhas in bud again. A couple of years ago, when I had a shadecloth roof, they got over-wet and haven't flowered since. So, I am looking forward to them flowering and experimenting with more crosses. The regular bloomers are coming along as well. I am delighted to see some of my four year old variegates in bud. I shall soon see the quality of their flowers, although no doubt with age they will also improve.

It is wonderful to have a bunch of new members in the club so far this year. Some have been attending our meetings. Whether in person or just through the newsletters, I hope you have felt welcome and have been inspired with your hobby.

Our Clivia Expo is just around the corner. It is one of the highlights of the year for the club as together we produce this incredible display. We'll see plants and colours that we can only dream and drool about. But we'll also see plenty of colour.

We really need your help to pull it off well. How you ask? Firstly, please bring plants along. I used to feel a little intimidated to bring my plants but the reality is that the public will be inspired by the mass of colour. Some of our members can't bring plants because they flower later so if you have plants in bloom, please bring them along. Secondly, there are many tasks on the day where people power is needed. While some of us can be there all day and will be active with the public for the whole time, there are plenty of jobs that you could do to assist. Perhaps you can be on the door for an hour or two or help in the kitchen. Any help is most welcome and many hands certainly do make for an enjoyable day for all. Thirdly, bring your gardening friends along. If you haven't been to an Expo before, it really is beautiful and worth people viewing.

Outside of helping, there will be an auction with some extra special plants available. Many of the club members bring plants for sale also, so you are likely to

pick up greens and peaches and many other colours. But there will also be some lovely oranges and yellows available. I know I am hoping to have a few variegates for sale. If you have 50 to sell you probably need to have a stall yourself. But if you have a smaller number that you'd like to send to a happy home and get some pocket money to invest in other *Clivia*, feel free to bring them along. The club will sell them on your behalf.

There will be a few informal presentations or seminars during the day. I'll be leading one on raising plants from seeds and will have some seeds available for you to give it a go. In this newsletter you'll find out more details of how to display plants, the form you need to fill in regards selling plants and also other information about the day.

I look forward to seeing you at the Expo. If you are a newish member or perhaps an old member who hasn't been involved recently, please say hello to me and introduce yourself to others from the club. We will be wearing something that identifies us as club members. Until then, enjoy your buds and blooms.

Allan Gibson



RICHGRO
Bring your garden to life



NEXT MEETING

GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 16 October 2022

GARDEN VISIT - MEMBERS ONLY (Details soon)



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.
presents:

2022 CLIVIA EXPO

Saturday 17th September

10am - 4pm

Displays • Demonstrations • Sales

AUCTION 1pm

\$5 entry / \$4 Seniors Card holders

Central Ringwood Community Centre
Rosewarne Lane, Bedford Park Ringwood 3134
Enquiries: 0477 134 863

www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au

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SPRING CULTIVATION NOTES

Spring will finally arrive soon after what has been a 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. Some people have noticed an early spiking this year, while many have noticed the opposite, with buds only now starting to appear.

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 months, with more forecast to come, so if your plants are container grown and under shade cloth or under trees, check that the pots have not become too wet. Frequently, 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 suddenly turning yellow. If this happens, remove the plant gently from 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, dust with a Sulphur powder or Mancozeb powder if necessary, and repot into a drier mix. Do not over-pot your plants. Use a pot big enough to allow for some root growth, but not so big that the roots are surrounded by too much potting mix, which can become over-wet quite quickly.

Many people have also had outbreaks of mealybug in recent months which seem to thrive throughout the seasons. 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.

AUCTION LIST

Comet
Jelena
Esmond Jones
Out of the Blue
Yellow Daruma - Group 2
Bronze Multipetal - Nakamura breeding
Orange GT Peony type - Shige breeding
Four Mary's - imported from Pikkie
Stanmore Bronzed Green Girl
Mature yellow caulescens with offset
Two proven green plants
Mature yellow Robusta (has flowered)
Mature 777 Versicolour cross
Kevin Walters Green Girl

FOR SALE - PROPAGATION UNITS

Heat 'n Grow brand, thermostatically controlled, heated propagation trays, complete with dressed pine boxed frames and hinged laserlite lids. (see pic)

2 large units each 1320mm x 400mm. The box frame fits over the unit and is 235mm high. \$180 ea
2 double units, each 700mm x 400mm. Again with boxed frame and hinged laserlite lid or cover. \$100 ea
The double units hold two 300x350mm trays, and each of these comfortably hold 12 x 85mm square pots. The larger units hold double this.

I have successfully used these units to raise thousands of *Clivia* seedlings. The bottom heat improves germination and helps ensure that seedlings get off to a good start. The corrugated laserlite lids ensure good airflow which is essential in reducing the risk of damping off fungal attack.

Contact Peter Haeusler, Monbulk. 0447360524.





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2022 MCG CLIVIA EXPO Guidelines

DISPLAY

- Set-up of venue: Friday 16th 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 either just inside the entrance or outside depending on space at the time. The entrance to the building is quite small.
- 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 14th or Thursday 15th. 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 and the Member'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. 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 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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- 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 15th of September.
- After the hall is closed at 4:00pm on the Saturday, 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. The hall must be vacated and cleaned by 5pm as another function is booked there for that evening.
- 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 spaces 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.
- 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. Independent Sellers have no limit. There are no limits relating to the amount of seed offered for sale. At the Ringwood there is a room adjacent to the kitchen which can be used to store excess stock.
- 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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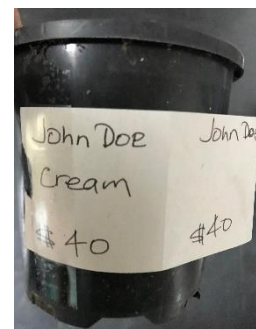
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complete before the Expo day an *Application for Volunteer Membership*). More than one member may share a given stall site.

- 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.
- All Trading Table sellers are asked **to advise the Sales coordinator, Rae Begg (0407510273) on Wednesday 14th Sept or Thursday 15th Sept** of the approximate number of pots that they will bring for sale. Information regarding pot sizes would also be of assistance.
- 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).
- When purchasing plants and/or seed 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

- 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.
- This year the Trading Form form has been discontinued. All sales will be at the one sales point. Sellers are to label each plant with their name, and price of plant. A ticket system will be used, where this year it will be raffle tickets written on the back of the ticket which is plain.. These tickets will be available on the morning of the Expo. The name and price should be written on **both** parts of the ticket. This ticket should be attached to the pot / plant where it can be clearly seen. At the sales point, half of the ticket is removed at the serrated edge and handed to the cashier. This will provide a paper record of all plants sold. Sellers will be paid within a week, minus their commission. This has been done to simplify sales for all concerned. It is how it is done at the Toowoomba and Sydney shows.





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END OF SALES

- For all sellers, a commission of 15% payable to the MCG will be deducted from monies received by the cashier 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

AUCTION GUIDELINES

- An auction will be conducted on Saturday 17th September of the 2022 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 Saturday 17th 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 is accepted, although Paypal incurs a 2.5% additional cost.
- 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 Di Mathews on 0438330284 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.



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***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 2022 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.



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

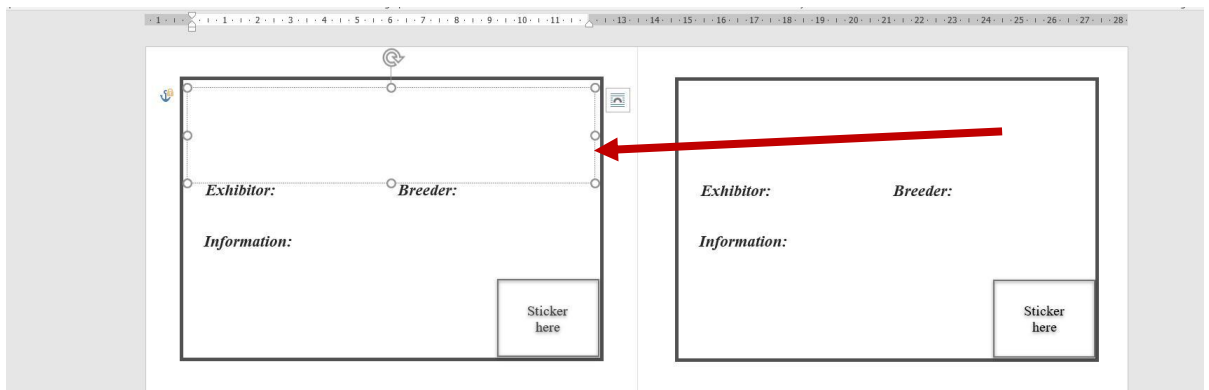
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COMPLETION OF DISPLAY PLANT CARDS

- 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.

Exhibitor:

Breeder:

Information:

Sticker
here

Exhibitor:

Breeder:

Information:

Sticker
here

Exhibitor:

Breeder:

Information:

Sticker
here

Exhibitor:

Breeder:

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here