



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As a Queenslander trying to be a Victorian it just wasn't right when winter began in April. I have been out taking a stock take of the collection. Clivia growth is slow but it is amazing how the spacing that was ok in spring is now crowded with plants having grown.

We are approaching our third meeting this year and hope if you are local that you will attend. Our June and July meetings are at 2 pm on a Saturday afternoon. The days are 17th June and then 15th July and at the usual Burwood venue. Please note the June meeting is in the Main Hall.

It is the flowering time for gardenii currently. I see a few for sale currently including this one on facebook by one of our members. I have bought a couple of flowering plants and will bring them to our next meeting for anyone wanting to add a gardenii to their collection. The flower will be finished though. For space reasons I don't grow them anymore but they sure are pretty and cross well with miniatas.



In this newsletter you will find a couple of interesting articles. One is written by our own Alex Dumas. So a big thankyou for dipping your toe in the water of writing for us Alex.

Did you know as a member that you can look at our library at our meetings and borrow books for

free? I had never used this service last meeting I took a few of the lighter publications home. They have been so interesting and I'll be a regular from now on. So hope a few more of us can make use of the service. Thanks John Cochrane for facilitating this for us.

We have many new members attending and many of them are looking for interesting clivia. We did have quite a few interesting clivias and bulbs for sale last time including some nice variegates. It is definitely a great way to distribute our plants to our members. So please bring something for the table. You have to fill in a trading table form which is under downloads on the website or here:

www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/downloads

Please fill it out before you come. That will assist Rae (our treasurer) immensely. But she will have forms available on the night. It can be a bit chaotic right at the beginning of our time.

Our 2023 seedlist has gone out to all members. It will go to the public in July. There is quite a wonderful selection of seeds from your greens, oranges, bronzes, yellows, and combinations through to interspecifics and variegates. A big thankyou to those who contributed.

Allan Gibson





General Information

MEETING VENUE

Burwood Heights Uniting Church
Cnr Blackburn Rd &
Burwood Hwy, Burwood East
347 Blackburn Road if using a GPS

CALENDAR DATES FOR 2023

Saturday 17th June 2pm
Saturday 15th July 2pm
Friday 18th August 7.30pm
Expo 23rd September 10-4pm
Friday 20th October 7.30pm
Late November Christmas Party

WEBSITE

www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au

FACEBOOK GROUP

To keep up to date with activities and tips from the Melbourne Clivia group please join us on Facebook:<https://www.facebook.com/melbournecliviagroup>

POSTAL/EMAIL CONTACT

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

secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au

April Meeting

What's a reliable method of raising seeds? I think the answer to this question must be something like "how long is a piece of string." many stars in the sky. It was great in the meeting to hear from three people up front about how they raise their seeds. Thankyou Alex, Rae and Brenda. And we had a bunch of props to help us understand.



Above: Alex was a hit during the night.

A few of the common ingredients spoken about were

- Make sure you clean your seeds before putting them on heat



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

June 2023
Vol. 16.3

- When sowing in winter they need some help with heat – heatpad, waterbed heater, or a warm spot in the house. It will then about a month before they shoot. But remember seeds have a mind of their own sometimes.
- Spagmoss, coconut, perlite all can used.
- Be careful of fungus.
- Careful to not damage the root when transplanting. Some leave seeds in their mixture for a year before transplanting while others transplant when leaf is 1-2cm high.
- Use liquid fertilizer (preferably non-organic).
- Most pot up in communal pots (ie more than 1 seedling per pot) and ensure the mixture is not too coarse.



Above: Some of the presentation props

Other snippets from the meeting:

- When buying a clivia, particularly from Bunnings or a nursery, repot it with your own mix. Why? You want to grow your plants in a similar mix as then watering needs will be the same.

- A yellow sucker on a plant may always be parasitic. If it never really grows cut it out. It just drains the energy of the mother plant.
- Watch for moths and then grubs. *Below is the result of white butterfly grub in one week.*



It was great having some visitors and new members at the meeting. We had three great raffle prizes, a variegated orange, a peach and Richgro Bag. *Congratulations to one of our winners below.*





WINTER CULTIVATION NOTES

(Di Mathews)

Winter seems to have arrived early this year following the recent cold snap, and after a cool autumn.

Your clivias will still need care and attention over the winter months and will need 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 under some form of cover, such as under protective eaves or under shade cloth.

Watering requirements over winter are also much 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 maybe once 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 therefore 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. The wet weather will encourage chewing pests like snails and slugs, which can climb quite high distances to reach your plants. I have noticed a lot of mealybugs in the last few months, and this could be partly due to the humid conditions following the higher-than-average rainfall. Mealybugs 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.

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 benefit from some liquid fertiliser feeding; use one that is high in potassium to help the spikes fully elongate.

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 clivias. Clivias 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 room for spring growth.



“Arisa” from Lisa Fox and seed is available from our seedlist.

RICHGRO
Bring your garden to life

Richgro Ant and Wash Killa Dust

Several of the club members have been using this Richgro product successfully with their mealy bug. It is available at Bunnings.



Club Polo Shirts are available again. Rae

Begg will take orders at the June meeting with samples of different sizes available to try on. Payment up front of \$20 must accompany order. Colours are with red or orange trimming.



SEEDLIST PROCESS 2023

Here's a reminder of our seedlist order process.

June 5th is the first day that orders will be taken. Seed is allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. Note that members order by email, mail, phone or at a meeting. Members only is available from 6 June until end of June.

Brenda keeps a tally of orders and after initial orders of one pack per member per cross is allocated, then requested numbers can be allocated appropriately.

When allocation to members is complete, the seed list is opened to the public on the 10th July. After this date please promote it on social media and with friends. You'll see it advertised on our Facebook page and Australian Clivia Enthusiasts. If you can "like it" or share the post in other forums that would be appreciated.

Seed will be available in August at our meeting or by post. You will see that postage is a flat rate.

Orders that come in late after orders are allocated can only buy what is left or communicate directly with the seller. But for privacy reasons, a seller's private contact details cannot be given out to any buyer without the seller's permission.

A big thankyou to the seed sellers and to Lisa Fox for compiling. It is quite a task to put it all together.

Raising your Seeds

There are many methods to successfully raise your seeds. Just search You-Tube. There is also an article on our website with some tips. It is under articles.



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

Burwood East LPO
PO Box 4225,
Burwood East 3151
Ph: 0477134863
www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au

Setting Breeding Objectives to Improve Interspecific Clivias:

By Carrie Krüger - Utopia Clivias (This article is reprinted with Carrie's permission.)

Goal setting is the process to establish the desired results that you would like to achieve with your breeding. Setting realistic goals are important in breeding Clivias. It is important to know the background of your parent plants to be able to plan your pollinations accordingly. The main purpose is to outline a set of objectives and means by which you will be able to achieve the desired outcome.

We all want to breed improved flowers in the future. For this very reason, setting goals becomes imperative. Striving for superior characteristics should be the final goal of every breeder. Every flowering season we set certain goals we would like to achieve with the breeding of a specific interspecific plant.

1. improving flower size and/or shape
2. achieving a specific colour range,
3. improving the flower count if necessary

Make sure you keep records of all your pollinations every season. Breeding with a special plant without any specific breeding history remains a challenge.



Interspecific "Tiger's Eye" from unknown breeding

It is important to understand the shortcomings of your crosses and to know how to eliminate or improve them in the future. And, most importantly, it is necessary to decide which of the new seedlings you will be selecting for further breeding.



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

Burwood East LPO
PO Box 4225,
Burwood East 3151
Ph: 0477134863
www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au

The 2020 flowering season has proven successful with many superior first flowers from our interspecific breeding lines. We hope that sharing our experience and information will inspire all Clivia breeders with their breeding goals for the future.

2020 Breeding results:

Fig.1 –4 These plants were all bred using a variety of plants from our “Secret Series”, either as pod or pollen parent or both. All the original “Secrets” (Refer to Clivia News Vol.25 no.1 2016 pg.19) were bred using a versicolour interspecific as pollen parent. Although the versicolour is a recessive trait in the first generation, this trait has carried down into the f2 generation.

Fig.1 “Sweetheart” (*Berry Blaze x Dreamcatcher*)

Fig.2 “Whole of the moon” (*New moon x Secret Strawberry Parfait*)

Fig.3 “Aspiration” (*Secret Strawberry Parfait x Soft Whisper*)

Fig.4 “Obsession” (*Desert Rose x Secret Desire*)

Fig.5 “Secret Strawberry Parfait” (*Pollen parent of “Whole of the Moon” and Pod parent of “Aspiration”*)

Although some of these may seem to have lower flower counts, keep in mind these were first flowers that will improve with their next flowering season.



Fig.1 “Sweetheart” (*Berry Blaze x Dreamcatcher*)



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

Burwood East LPO
PO Box 4225,
Burwood East 3151
Ph: 0477134863
www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au



Fig.2 “Whole of the moon”
(*New moon x Secret Strawberry Parfait*)



Fig.3 “Aspiration” (*Secret Strawberry Parfait x Soft Whisper*)



Fig.4 “Obsession” (*Desert Rose x Secret Desire*)



Fig.5 “Secret Strawberry Parfait”
(*Pollen parent*)

Fig.6 “Lucky 8” was a clear favourite of our 2020 first flowers. This plant was bred from “Lucky Girl” (fig.7) x “QO8” (fig.8). The objective was to improve the shape and increase the size of the flower. We were hopeful that the versicolour trait would be dominant and carry over to the next generation. This first flower exceeded all expectations with regard to shape, colour and umbel.



Melbourne
Clivia Group Inc.

Burwood East LPO
PO Box 4225,
Burwood East 3151
Ph: 0477134863
www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au



Fig.6 Lucky 8 (“Lucky Girl” x “QO8”) Fig.7 Lucky Girl (Pod parent of “Lucky 8”)



Fig.8 QO8 (Pollen parent of “Lucky 8”) Fig.9 “Rainman” (f1 Interspecific x QO8)

Fig.9 “Rainman” was bred from a f1 Interspecific x QO8. Once again QO8 was used only as the pollen parent. The versicolour was carried over beautifully. Although the flowers were smaller compared to “Lucky 8” both the shape and colour were great.

“Success” is to achieve these breeding goals you have set for yourself. It could take one or more generations to accomplish this. Be patient and never give up. Great things take time.

(A big thankyou to Carrie for allowing us to reprint the article.)



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

Burwood East LPO
PO Box 4225,
Burwood East 3151
Ph: 0477134863
www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au

ROLES OF ORGANISMS AND MICROORGANISMS IN CLIVIA CULTIVATIONS. (ALEX DUMAS)

Pollinators.

Clivia plants rely on pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, to transfer pollen between flowers and facilitate reproduction. Without these organisms, Clivia plants may not be able to produce hybrid seeds and may eventually die out.

Soil microorganism:

The health and fertility of the soil in which Clivia plants are grown can have a significant impact on their growth and development. Soil microorganisms such as bacteria and fungi, help to breakdown organic matter and release nutrients that are essential for plant growth. Additionally, some soil microorganisms can form beneficial relationships with plant roots, helping to increase nutrient uptake and improve plant health.

Organisms such as earthworms, insects, and other small animals can help to aerate the soil and improve its structure, which can promote healthy root growth in Clivia plants. Some beneficial organism, such as ladybugs and predatory mites can help control the populations and reduce the need for chemical pesticides.

In addition, some microorganisms form symbiotic relationships with plants, such as mycorrhizal fungi. These fungi form a mutually beneficial association with the roots of plants, helping the plant to absorb water and nutrients from the soil, while the fungi receive sugars and other nutrients from the plant.

Therefore, in growing clivia, it is important to maintain healthy soil that supports a diverse and active microbial community. This can be achieved through practices such as composting, avoiding the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, and using natural soil amendments like organic matter and mycorrhizal inoculants.

Pest control:

However, it's important to note that not all microorganisms are beneficial to Clivia plants. Some types of fungi and bacteria can cause disease and other problems in Clivia cultivation, particularly in situations where the soil is too wet or there is poor air circulation. As a result, it's important to maintain a healthy balance of microorganisms in the soil and take steps to



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

Burwood East LPO
PO Box 4225,
Burwood East 3151
Ph: 0477134863
www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au

prevent the growth of harmful pathogens. Clivia plants can be susceptible to various pest like MEALYBUGS and diseases or pathogens, which can damage or kill the plants if left unchecked and untreated. Some beneficial organisms, such as ladybugs and predatory mites can help control the populations and reduce the need for chemical pesticides. There are pesticides that are organic base like Neem oil which is recommended for organic gardening. Here is some basic method to eradicate mealybugs infestations.

Mealybugs are a common pest in Clivia plants and can cause damage to the leaves, stems, and flowers. Here are some ways to control mealybugs in Clivia:

1. **Manual Removal:** Use a cotton swab dipped in rubbing alcohol to remove visible mealybugs from the plant. Be sure to dispose of the cotton swab and any mealybugs that are removed.
2. **Insecticidal Soap:** Spray the plant with a solution of insecticidal soap, which can be purchased at a garden center or made at home. This will kill the mealybugs on contact.
3. **Neem Oil:** Neem oil is a natural insecticide that can be used to control mealybugs. Mix 1 tablespoon of neem oil with 1 quart of water and spray the plant. Repeat every 7-10 days until the infestation is gone.
4. **Encourage Natural Predators:** Ladybugs and lacewings are natural predators of mealybugs. You can attract them to your garden by planting flowers like daisies, marigolds, and sunflowers.
5. **Quarantine:** If you have a severely infested plant, it may be best to quarantine it until the infestation is under control. Keep it away from other plants to prevent the mealybugs from spreading.

Remember, prevention is always the best approach. Keep your Clivia healthy by providing it with proper light, water, and nutrients, and monitor it regularly for signs of pests. Early detection and action can help prevent a small infestation from becoming a big problem.

Author:
Alexander Dumas
Clivia Enthusiast base in Australia
Member of Melbourne Clivia Group
Moderator of Clivia Cultivation (Facebook Page)



Melbourne Clivia Group Inc.

Burwood East LPO
PO Box 4225,
Burwood East 3151
Ph: 0477134863
www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au
secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au