



The New Zealand Clivia Club Inc. newsletter is designed for electronic delivery to members and friends of the club and to communicate the aims of the club. –Ed

Coming Events

ANNUAL CLIVIA EXHIBITION 4th & 5th October 2003 9am- 4pm Auckland Regional Botanical Gardens Manurewa Auckland
CLIVIA IN WHANGAREI Open Garden & Sale
Nymet Gardens, Cemetery Road Whangarei
11 October 9am – 3pm
Clivia Show & Tell for Members End of November (*further details to come*)

Communications to the Club

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Chairman's Piece A Show for the 21st Century

As a young club we have the luxury of being able to explore new ways of holding shows. We are not bound by a long tradition of how a show "must be organised".

All too often, when flower shows are competitive the focus of interest moves from the plants themselves to how well different people are able to grow them. The thrust of our upcoming show to be held on 4th and 5th October will be education, maximum involvement and fun.

The genus *Clivia* offers enormous scope for development in many directions and it is important to foster exploration of different forms and styles of plant. Individual *Clivias* can be very beautiful, but we sometimes forget to stop and discuss what it is that makes a particular plant especially beautiful. Equally gardeners tend to forget that they are involved in an aesthetic activity akin to painting or music.

This year the NZCC is privileged to be able to combine with six of Auckland's leading ceramic artists to explore new ways to display our plant to best advantage. Each contributing artist has a quite different approach to his art and this will mirror the diversity of the *Clivia*.

In plant breeding the combination of different species often results in hybrid vigour. It is hoped that by combining with another art form we will be able to explore ways of displaying plants appropriate to the Twenty First Century.

To foster maximum involvement, every visitor will be encouraged to vote for the plant they like best. As most people are newcomers to *Clivia*, informal workshops have been organised so that you can have your questions answered. Newcomers are especially encouraged to bring at least one plant to display.

Background information will be clearly displayed with each plant and *Clivia* blooms and berries will be used in various floral arrangements. Photographs will also be displayed. Sales stalls will enable you to purchase plants and ceramics of various types.

On the Saturday evening we will hold as brief an AGM as possible followed by drinks and an informal dinner. The important thing to remember is that it is your show and the more you contribute the more you will derive. Our shows can be whatever we collectively want them to be.

Keith Hammett
Chairman

Contemplations from the Long Drop

- The club received a donation of seed from Mick Dower of the Cape Clivia Club SA and distributed them domestically as little surprise packets. Big thanks to Mick. We have received much positive feedback
- John van der Linde (a member living in South Africa) has kindly donated seed, which will be for sale at the Exhibition. Thanks John.
- *Clivia* are in flower in the Domain by the duck pond, in Albert Park also in the University of Auckland gardens by the old Government House..
- Don't bother checking out the ones at One Tree Hill Domain, some uneducated gardener has severely chopped back the leaves – not a good look.
- Or the ones outside the Mission Bay Community Police Station, burnt to a frazzle. New plantings at Auckland International Airport also.

NEWS

- Watch The Good Morning Show TV1 the last Wednesday in September, see *Clivia* on the Gardening slot.
- Did you check out the article on Keith Hammett in last week's Sunday StarTimes. Great article about his *Clivia*
- Advertising and articles should be appearing in your local papers and magazines over the next 2 weeks. Hope you catch them all!
- The *Clivia* Society Year Book publication is now out. Wonderful reading and stunning pictures. If you haven't got a copy, you should be able to purchase one at the Exhibition from Touchwood.

POLLINATION – GROWING YOUR FUTURE SHOW PLANTS

Spring is in the air and its time for our beloved *C. miniata* to come into flower. It's also time to 'make like a bee' to ensure effective pollination of your plants.

Motivation may simply be the beautiful berries produced by well pollinated plants next winter or, perhaps, you dream of "Best on Show" at the 2008 Clivia Exhibition. Either way, here are some thoughts on pollination.

All *Clivia* are bi-sexual and each flower has a female part, the stigma which connects to the ovary at the base of the flower, and 6 male parts, stamen, tipped by anthers bearing the pollen. Pollination is simply the process of transferring pollen from the anthers to the stigma. This can be done by hand, by lightly pinching an anther until pollen adheres to the finger and then lightly pinching the stigma until some pollen adheres. Alternatively, use a narrow water-paint brush or cotton bud to transfer the pollen. Some tips:

- q **Keep your hands/brushes clean**
- q **Some plants are not receptive to their own pollen. Crossing different plants will usually produce better results.**
- q **Removing the anthers of the ovary parent will prevent accidental self pollination.**
- q **Pollen can be stored in a freezer for a year or more. Simply pluck the anthers with tweezers and store in a suitable container.**

Consider your objectives. Remember, each generation takes 5 years to produce. A better yellow may be achieved by obtaining pollen from a friend's prized yellow to cross on to yours and you will see the results five years down the line in the F₁ siblings.

(Note: The crossing of two yellows will only produce yellow if they are genetically compatible, but most yellows in New Zealand are so-called type 1 yellows, which are compatible) Results-wise,

a better alternative could be to use your best yellow as the pollen parent and cross it with an orange/red flower having a notably deep yellow throat. The F₁ siblings will all be orange, but when crossed will produce in turn 25% yellow F₂ plants which will have gained yellow pigment But you're 10 years older.

Similarly, you can cross yellow into broad leaf plants and out again to improve the foliage of your yellows, or just selectively line-breed your best broad leaf plants with a view to gradually improving form, leaf width, etc., or you can cross yellow on to orange to lighten the red pigmentation towards the pastel shades. Or you can use stored pollen to cross with *gardenii*, *caulescens*, *nobilis* to produce inter-specific plants. But then the best inter-specifics are produced as F₂ plants, so it would be good if you could start with an inter-specific plant or get pollen from one to cross back into *miniata*.

A tip. Its very difficult to produce a good plant from a miserable parent. So invest in a few quality plants to start with. There will be plenty available at the October Clivia exhibition.

As you see, the possibilities are endless and will keep you going for years and years to come.

Happy pollinating in 2003.
Alick McLeman – Clivia Breeder & Grower
Glen Innes Auckland



"Yellow Berries & Friend"
Grower: Murray Gow
Photo : S Hill

PREPARATION OF YOUR CLIVIA FOR EXHIBITION

Although our shows are non-competitive, it is important that we take pride in our plants and present them as well as possible.

Preparation of your plants cannot be left to the last minute. Plant care is a year long activity, regular watering, fertilising, grooming and pest/disease control will ensure your plant is in the best possible condition to then be groomed for exhibition.

It is desirable to present the plant in a nice container (ie. not a planter bag), and for the plant to be of an appropriate size in relation to the container.

Immediately before the show, wipe the leaves and pot with a soft damp cloth, to remove dust and spray deposits. If leaf tips have browned, they can be cut back carefully, shaping the tip to look natural. Ideally flower heads should be fresh and undamaged. In some cases it may be appropriate to remove the oldest flowers. Above all, DON'T BE SHY! We want to see as many people and their plants as possible!



Clivia Miniata yellow
Grower M Gow
Photo S Hill

Cindy Barnes

Cindy is responsible for all the Workshops at the Exhibition – Talk to her if you have any questions - Ed

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

INTRODUCING ANDREW BOOTH from Titoki, Whangarei



Andrew at home on the farm in Titoki

Photo S Hill



Andrew's cyrtanthiflora F2 segregate

Photo S Booth

Hi, I'm Andrew Booth, and I've been told that I am the youngest member of the New Zealand Clivia Club.

I am 16 years old and I am very interested in Horticulture. I live on a dairy farm at Titoki, which is 30km west of Whangarei. I attend Whangarei Boys' High School where I am in the 6th form studying Maths, English, Biology, Chemistry, Economics and Horticulture. I have to take horticulture by correspondence this year as there are only three students interested. I like growing everything! I look after our vegetable garden (especially the strawberries).

The Clivia interest started in the 3rd form when I potted up some offsets of our orange *C. miniata* and sold them off the back of our ute at the markets. Mum and I went to the Clivia show last year and we have been hooked ever since. At the moment we have commandeered a shelf in the hot water cupboard for germination and the kitchen bench has been taken over by pots of tiny seedlings. I was amazed at the range of different Clivias at the show. I would really like to develop the plants further and see what more can be produced. I am thinking about going to Lincoln University in 2005 and maybe doing some sort of Agriculture/Horticulture course.

I would like to especially thank Keith and Cindy and Alick and Lisa and Di for helping me to get started.

*Andrew – Congratulations. Great work you are doing ! We will follow your career with great interest and assist you wherever we can.
Keep us posted - Ed*

COPING WITH FROST IN NEW ZEALAND

They have had a devastating frost in South Africa recently and there has been a great deal of discussion and posting of pictures on the Clivia e-group. Without overhead cover they would be much more likely to be frosted than if under a canopy of trees, i.e. nothing to block the outward radiation of heat when a clear sky occurs.

Last year I saw clivia plants quite happy under trees in Taranaki, but the frosts had been sufficient to badly damage pongas in the forest canopy nearby. Unfortunately one all too often sees clivias and other plants planted in inappropriate positions at the suggestion of garden designers.

The aerial parts of bulbous plants die down during unfavourable parts of the year. The bulbs enable such plants to survive such periods. Clivias are evergreen and in habitat in South Africa survive under forest cover. Clivias are pretty tough and pictures have been posted of plants flowering after frost, with no leaves. Pretty ugly. Many plants should be large enough to have formed a thickened basal stem from which they will regenerate.

If your plants are without overhead shade you should move them somewhere where they will receive overhead protection. You will need to be patient, it will take time, and all of them may not make it.

I guess also that you will not want to look at maimed plants for a long period in an ornamental setting. Make sure to remove all damaged tissue, otherwise it will provide a platform for secondary invasion by bacteria or fungi.

Keith Hammett
Breeder/Grower Massey Auckland

From the Ed

REMINDER – AGAIN ! THE CLIVIA EXHIBITION IS ONLY 2 WEEKS AWAY – BE THERE or BE SORRY !

We have been frantically preparing for the great event – So exciting, a load of new 2003 Clivia hybrids from the growers will be exhibited. Simply Stunning ! I have had a sneak preview of some of the blooms and they will blow you away with their beauty. You will have had your latest Update from our Secretary. Di has kept you up to date with everything that has been happening. Don't forget to say hi to us . **Also a reminder to GET YOUR DINNER TICKET NOW !** There are still tickets available, only \$25 . Great time to get together. Guest Speaker is Terry Hatch.

NOTECARDS FOR SALE

We have printed a selection of beautiful packaged notecards depicting Clivia. These are now for sale at \$5.00 per pack of 4 notecards (envelope included). Lisa Mannion and Keith Hammett have kindly donated photos of their Clivia for us to use. Thumbnail size photos of the cards are shown here :



You can order your sets now to ensure that you don't miss out. They will be on sale at the Clivia Exhibition, however, members have the exclusive option of purchasing them now, before they run out. Great for birthday, general greeting or Christmas cards.

For mail order – send your cheque made payable to “NZ Clivia Club”, to The Secretary, Di Smith, 71 Taylor Road, Mangere Bridge, Auckland. Please include an additional \$1.00 for p&p (within NZ) for each order

Beware ! New MAF charges.

General Inspection rate NZ\$72.30/Hr Minimum NZ\$36.15
NPPRL organism identification NZ\$130.55 each specimen.
You must have green Declaration, clean and fungus free and the package marked “Clivia miniata seed”
- Ed

Coming Up In The Next Newsletter – Summer 2003

- ◆ Member of the Month – Lisa Mannion Breeder Extraordinaire from Kare Kare
- ◆ Profile from an Overseas Member (hint as to who it is, it's a “he” and he lives in the Republic of South Africa, is a great Clivia breeder and has prize winning blooms)
- ◆ Pests in Your Garden (not the 2 legged variety)
- ◆ Photographs & Highlights from the 2nd Annual NZ Clivia Exhibition
- ◆ Handy Tips
- ◆ And much more

We appreciate all contributions, whether great or small, from articles to handy hints from photos to letters to the Editor – please send all your contributions to dismith@clear.net.nz or 71 Taylor Road, Mangere Bridge, Auckland

Club Library

We have a collection of publications and media relating to Clivia available to members at a nominal fee/p&p, contact our Secretary Di Smith dismith@clear.net.nz 09-6346807

The use or dissemination of material from this newsletter requires the Editors approval

Handy Hints

- Polish for you Clivia- Try a tea spoon of Neem Oil in a cup of full cream milk and a cloth.
- **Clivia food** Murray Gow says “try processed sheep pellets round your Clivia” Works a treat !

FROM THE WEB

Our Club website is getting a pounding, add to your favourites and keep the clicking going, info is being loaded there regularly . Links to all the local growers and suppliers is there along with links and info to overseas sites including other Clivia Societies

www.nzclivia.org.nz

