



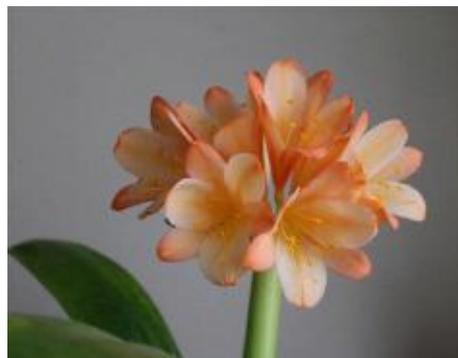
Nz CLIVIA CLUB INC NEWZLETTER

Volume 11.1 Summer 2013

2013 Favourites

Autumn is here and with the change in season comes some much needed rain. Clivias have certainly shown their usefulness in the garden this summer, continuing to provide some hardy green foliage in the shady parts of the garden when many other garden plants are drying out or are requiring copious amounts of water to sustain them. As so many people are now on metered water throughout the country this can be a bit of a shock to the wallet as well!

Still, while many have had to water new seedlings more than usual this summer, enthusiasm can always be maintained by imagining the potential beautiful blooms to come. Here are a few photos to wet your appetite for the '2013 Favourites' meeting on Saturday the 13th April at 2.00pm at the AHC rooms, 990 Great North Road, Western Springs. See you there!



Contacts:

Chairman

Editor

Librarian

Archivist

Treasurer/Membership

Postal address:

Website: www.nzclivia.org

Ian Baldick

David Olsen

Jocelyn Day

Dr Keith Hammett

Alick Mcleman

26 Merfield Street, Glen Innes, Auckland 1072

shirleybjp@xtra.co.nz

d.olsen@pl.net

jocelyn.day@xtra.co.nz

khammett@clear.net.nz

clivia@xtra.co.nz

Dweller in the mist

Clivia x nimbicola - natural hybrid in the genus *Clivia*

The epithet *nimbicola* means 'dweller in the mist', and refers to the mist belt habitat in which this hybrid and its putative parents are found. *Clivia x nimbicola* is intermediate between *Clivia caulescens* and *Clivia miniata* with regards to rhizome, leaf, umbel and flower morphology. Flower colour ranges from pastel orange to pastel pink, with green tepal apices in some specimens. Flowering is erratic, occurring all year round, mainly from July through to December, with some specimens flowering twice yearly-February to May. This long flowering period connects the flowering periods of the two putative parents in the Bearded Man Mountain locality, namely October- November in *C. miniata* and October-December in *C. caulescens*. The extended flowering period of *C. x nimbicola* is regarded as further evidence in support of the taxon's hybrid origin. The formal description of *C. x nimbicola* is also supported by the observation that the hybrid plants bear berries in the wild, thereby inferring fertility and the possibility to maintain populations by means of subsequent breeding among hybrid plants. The holotype of *Clivia x nimbicola* was collected on the Bearded Man Mountain near Barberton, on the border between South Africa and Swaziland. In this area these natural hybrids are quite common (50 or more individuals) in sympatric stands of *C. miniata* and *C. caulescens*. Judging by plant sizes and the height of aerial stems, original hybrids are as old as their putative parents. Toppled plants with long aerial stems, from either parentage of hybrid, freely produce suckers when in contact with the soil. Seedlings, when present, were usually distributed around its putative parent. The natural distribution range of *C. x nimbicola* is confined to the Barberton Centre of Endemism, the only known region in which the distribution ranges of *C. caulescens* and *C. miniata* overlap.

Extracted and edited from Swanevelder, ZH, Truter JT and Van Wyk, AE. 2006. A new variety of Clivia robusta. In Bothalia 36:1. pp. 77-80.



Photos of the Nimbicola in the Bearded Mountain habitat and as a potted plant.

Below: Native South African plants in the fynbos habitat surrounding the mountain.



Well Done! Melbourne



Saturday 22nd September 2012 dawned mild & fair and I was fortunate to be in Melbourne for their 2nd annual CLIVIA EXPO. And the Clivia on display were dazzling.

Like the clubs in Auckland and Toowoomba, the Melbourne Clivia Group have opted for the non-competitive exhibition of their plants in order to encourage individuality and diversity, in contrast to the South African model where plants vie with one-another in competitive array.

Visitors were greeted by a collection of stalls selling a good variety of clivia at tables outside the exhibition hall and in a gazebo-style club sales tent. Business was brisk for most of the day.



Entering the exhibition hall one came face to face with a 'clivia mountain', a kaleidoscope of colour and form which encourage exploration. Exhibition clivia were arranged with no specific grouping in a four tier pyramid running centrally the length of the hall. There were so many outstanding plants amongst the hundreds on display that it would be unfair to isolate individual growers. Suffice to say that many of the plants would have been show-stoppers anywhere in the world. Informative display cards conveyed data on the ownership, breeding and background of each plant. A walk around the 'mountain' took quite some time as it was with some reluctance that visitors passed on from one desirable plant to another, but always accompanied by many 'oohs' & 'ahs' as they came upon another delightful surprise. A small criticism would be that the high tiering prevented one from getting up close and personal with some of the high-up plants.



And the exhibition was very user friendly. A left turn at the entrance way brought visitors to the Information Desk ably manned by Lisa Fox, Di Mathews and other club members. Around the corner was a demonstration table manned by Helen Marriott and her helpers, who not only explained things like pollination and seed germination, but took visitors on guided tours of the plants on display. Then on to floral art and displays of individual flowers, and then a display of photos and plants of 'other' species. And not to be overlooked was the catering department of Haydn Lomas and his team of able volunteers who supplied refreshing tea, coffee and sandwiches to visitors and helpers alike, all very attractively presented. It really all made us visitors welcome.



Finally, there was an outstanding display of oriental plants by club member, Eddie Pang, who has travelled extensively in China and the Far East and has acquired a great deal of knowledge of their plants. Eddie exhibited a representative selection of clivia of Chinese breeding and a number of outstanding Japanese clones, and was on hand to tell people about them. I would say that this was the finest exhibition of these plants ever outside of China itself. A real feather in the Melbourne cap.



Well done! Melbourne. And thanks for a great day.

Alick McLeman

From the Forum- nzcliviaclub@yahoo.com

Kevin

I don't think there is a magic formula for growing clivia in pots and you seem to be doing a great job already. There is no doubt that they grow better in the garden where they have access to the natural nutrients in the soils. Growing them in pots they seem to show some signs of stress from time to time, perhaps because of a build-up of salts, and we take whatever remedial action comes to mind, like repotting or feeding or whatever.

Regards, Alick

Do you think things do better in the ground - maybe stability of moisture levels and even mycorrhiza associations may help. I've heard lots about the Hatch's massive plants under the Totara and always wondered if there was a fungus relationship helping things along. But from what I've observed down here plants I've planted out have grown much slower than plants I've kept in pots in my greenhouse. Maybe they take a longer time to establish in the garden and then catch up as time passes. (Kevin Luff)

[Always an interesting discussion at the Forum!](#)

Editors Two Cents worth: If you have high diffuse light, a temperature above 16% all year round, consistent moisture, a reasonably free draining medium and a little feeding often then you can grow clivias quite fast. In New Zealand that is probably best done in pots and indoors. But over time if you want your bigger plants to retain their health it's possibly a good idea to plant them outside or expose the potted plants to the rain and let them have contact with the ground and tree duff. This helps flush out the salt build-up and helps with the uptake of mycorrhiza.

What's Happening

Club Meeting- Some 2012 Favourites

Saturday 13th April, 2013, 2.00pm
AHC Rooms, 990 Great North Road,
Western Springs, Auckland.

Interspecific Day

Saturday 29th June
488 Don Buck Road, Massey, AK

Auckland Show

Saturday 5th October, 2013
9.00am – 3.00pm Auckland Botanic Gardens

Tauranga Show

Sunday 6th October, 2013
1.00pm – 4.00pm Plant Struck Nursery

Lower North Island Show

Saturday 12th October, 2013
10.00am – 3.00pm Knox Church, New
Plymouth



Cosmic Aurora x Cameron Peach – Alick McLeman



Compact Bronze Green Throat/Hattori – Diana Holt