

KiwiClivia



Nz CLIVIA CLUB INC

NEWZLETTER

Volume 6.2 Autumn 2008

KiwiClivia2008 Update

With only 5 months until our exciting KiwiClivia2008 event, plans are coming together nicely.

We have a fully booked bus of keen Clivia growers from around the world. We even have some of our own folks from other parts of NZ joining in the fun.

For members, who are not on the full journey, we have events in 4 towns were you may join in to meet the tour. Full details will come out later, but a brief note so you can pencil the dates into your diary!

In Auckland there will be an opening Dinner, the cost is to be confirmed, but will be on the Friday evening, 3 October. As there is limited space, bookings will be essential but we will give you plenty of warning.

Saturday of course is Show Day. We want to make this the best Show ever and hope you pot up your very best Clivia and enter them in the display for all to see. Even one or two would be great as we want to show them we have some great plants here in NZ.

Sunday is at our own great plantsman's property, Dr Keith Hammett. The morning will start with a discussion forum on various aspects of clivia cultivation to be held at St Paul's School next door in case of wet weather. This will be followed by a lunch which is being put on by the Club for all current members. Although no payment, bookings will be essential for catering purposes.

After lunch there will be rambles through the gardens and being spring, sure to be many beautiful flowers to see. The gardens will also be open to the public at the same time.

On Tuesday, 7 October we will be in Tauranga for the afternoon so hope to see local members joining in. Again exact details are coming so book the time.

Wednesday morning, sees us in Rotorua at Jim and Juanita Elly's Garden where local members are most welcome to join us for a cup of tea and walk through the 2 acre show garden

On Saturday 11 October in New Plymouth, is Show Day at Tony Barnes Ngamamaku Gardens.

Again, we ask our members in the area to sort out their best clivia and come along to meet the tour and talk Clivia.

With your help, we can make this week an event to be enjoyed by all who participate.

Volunteers

In Auckland, we will be seeking people to assist at the Show and our catered lunch on the Sunday.

On the Saturday Show, we are catering lunch for the workers of the Show plus our visitors so a couple of people to help here would be appreciated. The lunch on Sunday also needs a couple of extra helpers. Shirley Baldick is taking charge of the catering and would love to hear from you.

Ph: 09 294 8714 or see her at our upcoming Gardenii Day, 24th May.

Show Day, assistance at entrance, welcoming people etc. Please let Ian Baldick, our President know if you can assist. Ph: 09 294 8714 or on the 24th May. A free lunch plus great company to all helpers!

Gardenii Day

Join us at Keith Hammett's garden, 480C Don Buck Road, on Saturday, May 24th at 10.00am

There'll be talks, a ramble, plants for sale and the big berry contest. Bring your own lunch and make a day of it.



Bulk up those berries for the Big Berry Contest



The berry with the most seeds wins on Gardenii day!

NOTICE OF AGM

In terms of the Club's rules we hereby give notice that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 23rd August 2008 at Joy Plants, 78 Jericho Road, Pukekohe East, Auckland.

The agenda will be circulated with the next newsletter. Please advise the secretary of any items you wish to see included in the agenda.

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Green Throat Pollination by Mick Dower

I have been blessed with an out of season clivia flower to share with you especially as it is most appropriate to this time of the year – a bronze with a strong and persistent green throat which has been in flower for the past 3 weeks – picture attached.

I grew it from seed bred by Christo Lotter from two green throat parents – the late Tienie Oosthuizen's 'Tienies Treasure' and Louis Swanepoel's 'Green Star' Its flowers are 8.5cm in diameter and the petals 37mm wide. The leaves are 38cm long and 8cm wide – a very attractively sized compact plant ideal for a pot.

How do I breed with it? I could pollinate it with a similar green throat – sort of line breeding which will produce more of the same type - but I have always preferred the excitement of a lot of uncertainty about the probable results but with some predictability built in.

So what are the possible results if I pollinate it with Toshio Koike's 'Hirao'?

I always look to Harold Koopowitz' 'CLIVIA' for guidance. On p. 77 he tells us that Clivia pigments fall into three types: orange/red anthocyanins found in the surface of the petals; yellow carotenoids and green chlorophyll found in plastids in the deeper tissues of the petals. Plastids producing green chlorophyll are called chloroplasts.

Plastids producing the yellow and green colours “are only inherited through the mother plant” (p.135) but they can be stimulated to produce (“synthesise”) their colours by nuclear genes which also control in what parts of the petal they manifest themselves (p.127&134).

Nuclear genes are inherited from both parents. They occur in pairs, one inherited from each parent (p.131).

So:

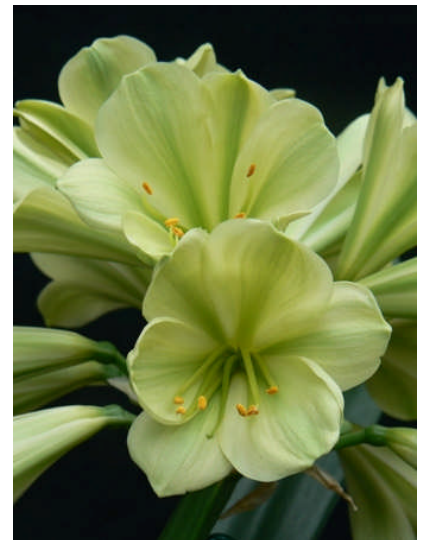
1. In my green centred plant there are chloroplasts inherited from its green centred mother, Tienies Treasure. Christo Lotter tells me that in other crosses where he has pollinated a yellow centred mother (especially his C10 x C16) with either Tienies Treasure or Green Star the seedlings had green throats. This tells us that the nuclear genes inherited from either Green Star or Tienies Treasure can control/stimulate how much green is produced by the chloroplasts and where it is placed in the flowers of their seedlings.
2. In 'Hirao' the green colour is placed throughout the flower indicating that the nuclear genes inherited from its parents do control strongly the production and placement of the green colouring by its chloroplasts, even though they were inherited from only its pod parent (mother). We must also bear in mind that this plant was bred from Group 2 yellows and therefore has inherited a mutated gene from each parent which block the production of anthocyanin (red/orange) because they have paired up. Only one of this pair will be inherited by the hybrids I have in mind, which means that the production of anthocyanin in those hybrids will be unblocked, i.e. they can all produce red/orange colour in the surface of their petals.

Crossing these two plants therefore opens up the following possibilities, as I see it:

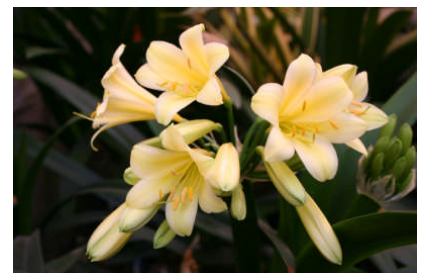
1. The green producing chloroplasts will always be inherited from the mother.
2. The nuclear gene that controls the production and spread of chlorophyll throughout the petal will be inherited from Hirao and will pair up with a nuclear gene from the mother that apparently also has that characteristic.
3. There could therefore be some seedlings with flowers that are all green and which have the more intense green of the mother.
4. In any event even if the flowers are not all green, there should be more green in them resulting in deeper green throats and bronzer reds. The yellow tone to the green in Hirao will not be there because, as explained above, the anthocyanin has been unblocked.
5. In any event the flatter flower with wider petals and the shorter and broader leaves of the mother will also influence the seedlings for the better.
6. There seems to me therefore to be good potential for breeding better all green flowers by doing this cross and in any event for improving my green throat at least as much as I would if I followed the more predictable line breeding route.



Tienies Treasure



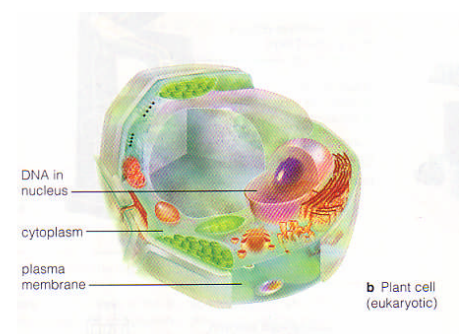
Hirao



Natal Yellow (Group 2 Yellow)



Bertie's Bronze



Dr Maxwell George Goodey

1922 – 2008

Life is full of ironies, both large and small. Just a few months ago I was asked to write a short article concerning people who had been instrumental in introducing accessions of *Clivia* to New Zealand.

For me Max Goodey, and his fellow physician Ray Freeman, were important as they introduced seed of *Clivia* species and hybrids, several decades before the current heightened interest in the genus.

Max was a passionate plantsman and was generous with both plants and knowledge. Unquestionably, *Clivia* plants from Max formed much of the basis of my breeding programme with the genus. However, when I started to marshal information about Max and Ray I realised that my knowledge concerning them was shallow and stretched little further than my own sporadic interactions with them.

Happily, both men were still alive; Max with his family in Sydney and Ray still in New Zealand. Although Max was ill, his son Rhys acted as an enthusiastic conduit and I reflected how good it was that I was not writing an obituary. I took pleasure in the knowledge that Max, although physically impaired, was still keen of mind and was pleased that someone was taking an interest in recording some of his work with plants.

Unhappily Max died suddenly of a second massive stroke on 8th March 2008.

Rhys supplied the biographic details that follow. Max was born in 1922 in Te Kuiti where his father was a printer and type compositor, who started a local paper called the King Country Chronicle. I had had it in mind that Max himself might have come from Britain; at the very least he seemed to be an Anglophile and to my ear had more of an English accent than Kiwi. However, it was Max's father who came from Britain (Northumberland).

At sixteen, Max went away to Wellington to work for the Lands and Survey Department and subsequently undertook a BSc degree at Victoria University. WWII interrupted this and he was called up in 1942, joined the NZ Engineers and served in the Pacific.

After the war he was offered a returned serviceman's place to study medicine and he graduated from Otago with a MB and ChB in 1951. He did his house surgeon's time at Thames, "where he was well known for cooking and growing plants".

In December 1954 Max married wife Margaret and they settled in Henderson, Auckland, where they built a home on an acre of land. This gave Max plenty of opportunity to grow plants, in addition to running his first medical practice. Six years later they moved into Auckland city establishing a practice in Parnell and a home in Judge's Bay. Both gardens were soon filled with an eclectic collection of plants from around the world.

In addition to his regular practice Max was Auckland University Medical Officer for twenty years and Chief Police Surgeon for twenty-four.

Max had an encyclopaedic knowledge of plants and was well respected by professional botanists and horticulturists alike. I well remember his contributions at meetings of the RNZIH in Auckland; he was stickler for botanical accuracy and correct pronunciation.

Max had a special interest in Palms and wrote an article on them in the RNZIH Journal of 1973.

He had a worldwide network of correspondents, in addition to leading plants-people within New Zealand, from whom he sourced and exchanged many plants. A number of us were impressed/surprised to see that he potted plants in his surgery and raised seedlings on his sterilization cabinet. Resulting plants were grown on in all manner of containers outside until they became too large when he "re-homed" them. Many went to the University gardens, the Domain and Auckland Zoo, plus many other locations further afield.

Max had a close relationship with botanists and the herbarium at the Auckland Museum where he lodged herbarium specimens of many of his introductions when they reached flowering stage. A list of over three hundred taxa that he introduced and for which he prepared herbarium specimens has been supplied to me. Many of these names have yet to be recorded on the official Plant Biosecurity Index now maintained by MAF.

Such a thorough approach coupled with his passion for plants is a testament to his intellect and clearly distinguishes him from the dilettante.

It is perhaps fortunate that Max lived in an era when he was able to freely import plants and make the contribution to New Zealand horticulture that he did. I for one am grateful to have known Max and to have been inspired and encouraged by him.

Keith Hammett.



Newspaper article from the 1960's featuring Dr Goodey.

An early *C. miniata* accession from Dr Goodey used by Keith Hammett in his breeding program.

April Meeting

It was nice to see about 30 people attending our meeting at the Auckland Horticulture Centre on a Monday evening including Juanita and Jim Elley all the way from Rotorua.

The evening talks were mainly about methods of raising seeds. Like potting mixes, everyone has their own mixes but it is always good to look at other ways of doing things.

David opened the talk, showing his seed sprouting method using quite large plastic containers full of sphagnum moss kept in warm conditions. Once there was good root and shoot growth, he then potted them up, approx 10 per PB8 and placed them out into his bush areas. He has noted that his plants in the bush do not attract mealy bug compared to plants kept in more confined growing areas.

Alick then talked about his seed growing methods. After using a fungicide such as 'Sporekill' to wash the seed, his seeds are placed in small plastic containers such as those you get takeaway food in. He lines them with dampened paper towels and places them in the alcove between the fridge and cupboard, using the warmth to sprout the seed.

Diana also spoke on another subject, and brought along a selection of Chinese 2 year old seedlings, some variegated, some showing the Light of Buddha colourings. She also showed a Chinese Book printed in 2000, which had photos of a wide range of variegations although not many of these plants are available here yet. She has a special interest in this type of Clivia and has been trying to learn more from all the lively discussions on the subject on the Clivia enthusiasts group on the internet.

There followed a slide presentation on clivia in their South African habitat, part of a PowerPoint presentation sent to us by James and Connie Abel in Pretoria.

The evening finished with supper and a chance to look at the books available for sale from the Club. There were plants also available for sale from members which is an area we would like to expand so members coming to meetings get a chance to pick up different types or colours.

Members who may have an excess of plants may now sell these at all our meetings with 10% going to the club.

What's Happening



C. Gardenii



Strawberry Float



Apricot Delight



Japanese plant – Diana Holt

Gardenii Day
Saturday 24th May
Join us at Keith Hammett's gardens at 480C Don Buck Rd, Massey, at 10.00 am.

Club Meeting
Wednesday 30th July at the AHC rooms 990 Great North Road, Western Springs.

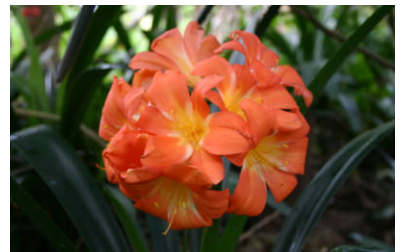
Interspecifics Show and AGM
Saturday 23rd August

Auckland Show
Saturday 4th October

Tauranga Show
Tuesday 7th October

New Plymouth Show
Saturday 11th October

Club Meeting
Saturday 6th December



Equinox



We have all been warned about the couriers that arrive with a parcel at your door. They want the \$5. 00 delivery charge to be paid by eftpos, as their firm does not allow them to handle money. Well in Orewa the President of the Whangaparaoa Horticultural Society was rung up by a man to say his Mother had passed away, and that she wanted her prized flower plants to be donated to the garden club. So the courier arrived with the boxes of plants, and the president had to pay with her eftpos, and the very next day they were using her card in Australia. They got away with \$8000. Take care Rita Watson.