

CLIVIA CLUB Inc NEWZLETTER

Volume 1.3 Summer 2003



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CHAIRMAN'S PIECE

The *Clivia miniata* flowering season is now past its peak, although we still have plenty of colour to enjoy. It is interesting to note how long flowers will remain in good condition on a plant, if they are not pollinated. If you are interested in having a long display and do not want seed, you might consider cutting off the stigmas as the flowers open to prevent pollination.

Similarly I am surprised at just how long individual flowers will last when removed from an inflorescence. Over a week ago I removed individual flowers to photograph. Despite being left lying on a bench without water, albeit with the ovary intact, they are still looking as good as they did when picked. This augers well for the use of *Clivia* as a cut flower.

Our second show season is behind us and we approach our second year as a club. We have achieved a great deal in a short time and it is rewarding to be involved in an activity with so much grass roots enthusiasm. Broad based involvement is important as it is your club collectively and the more that everyone contributes individually the better. The management team actively solicits feed-back and suggestions as we move forward.

The main show and garden visits in Auckland were a success, despite adverse weather and consequent last minute changes. A good range of plants was displayed and we are particularly grateful to members who travelled some distance to show us their plants. The whole point of holding shows is that it enables plants to be compared side by side and engenders discussion. Thank you also to those of you who contributed photos and staged floral displays, these add to the depth and texture of a show.

The foray to Whangarei was especially successful as it brought *Clivia* enthusiasts out of the woodwork and introduced other experience gardeners to the modern *Clivia*.

Coming Events

1. **End of Year Party - 4PM SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER** At David Brundell's Gardenza Gardens (more further on..)

It is important that we are a truly New Zealand Club and not one centred only on Auckland. For this reason we must take the *Clivia* to the people. Your management committee would like suggestions regarding where the Auckland show might be staged and the form you would like the show to take. We would also like suggestions and possible dates where other displays and events might be held outside Auckland.

Keith Hammett
NZCC Chairman



Displays at the Auckland Exhibition Oct 03 Photo S Hill





"Clivia Hui At the Gate" Grown by T Barnes Photo T Barnes

And the Winner of the "PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD" IS..

Tony Barnes from Ngamamaku Gardens, New Plymouth. Tony's *Clivia miniata* (shown below) was the voted the most popular Clivia at the NZ Clivia Exhibition in Auckland (and he took out 2nd place as well) Congratulations Tony !



"Ngamamaku Big Red" Grown by T Barnes Photo T Barnes

COLOUR CHARTS - The Colour Charts from the Cape Clivia Club in South Africa have been very popular and sorted out a lot of the inconsistencies as to whether a clivia is flowering as a "red" or a "perceived red". The solution is the Colour Chart (as demonstrated below on one of Alick McLeman's "Reds". The Club is organising another bulk order from CCC – if you would like one, please email the Secretary, they are only \$12.00 each.



TIPS FOR THE SUMMER

– by Alick McLeman

The summer and the holiday season are almost upon us. To mark the change in season your *caulescens* should be coming into flower. Spare a thought for the needs of your Clivia in the coming months.

- The summer sun will scorch leaves. Are your plants well shaded from the midday and hot afternoon sun? If not, you may have to consider moving them to a more favourable location.
- This is also a good time to divide your plants. Large clumps can be cut through with a spade or separated with a garden fork. But if you're looking to take offsets without damaging a prize plant, dust off the soil/growing medium and then "surgically" remove with a sharp knife the offsets, if possible with a few roots from the parent plant, but don't damage the main stem of the plant. Dust the raw wound on both plant and offset with flowers of sulphur to prevent fungal attack and plant offsets out in individual pots. You'll get better results in striking the offsets if you use propagating sand, but this is not essential. The offsets will soon develop a root system of their own, even if started with no roots at all.
- This is the growth season and next seasons flowers are busy forming. Whether in pots or in the garden give your plants a liberal sprinkling of a general slow-release fertilizer.
- Pots will dry out rapidly. Water twice a week through the summer. While well-shaded plants in your garden will survive on the residual moisture in the soil, they too would benefit from the occasional watering if it doesn't rain for a week or two. They would enjoy a good mulch as well.
- If you're lucky enough to get away for a few weeks, please arrange for someone to water your pot plants at least once a week. Give your garden plants a goods watering before you go and they'll be thriving when you return. It'll most probably rain once or twice anyway. Have a great summer.



Alick McLeman's Shade House – Oct 03 Photo S Hill

Inspiration by Lisa Mannion

The aim of this article is to inspire you new Clivia enthusiasts to not only enjoy the plants available but to attempt creating something new and special of your own.

I started growing Clivia ten years ago; at that time it was very difficult to source good seed. My first shipment of 2000 seeds arrived from a large Australian distributor as a stinking wet mess; have you ever smelt rotten clivia seed en masse? It is very distinctive and disappointing. The only other seed I could find was wild sourced South African narrow leaf orange miniata.

Fortunately I met Keith Hammett, and not only did he generously instruct me in the finer points of Clivia breeding but he also rewarded my efforts with some marvellous seed, or should I say germ plasm. Keith put me in touch with other international breeders such as Ken Smith who made a whole new array of seed available, and so the foundation of my breeding base was established.

The situation is different now, the plant and seed available is diverse and wonderful. Seed of sophisticated breeding outcomes are available through e group and in New Zealand we have what has been described as a "world class" standard of Clivia being cultivated. So for the amateur breeder the scope of your hybridizing palate is wide and accessible. The South African society's Year Book Five has just turned up and it is testimony to the advances in breeding worldwide

With a vision, lots of time and a good gene pool to work with you can produce your own hybrid, something new and special that you can say you helped create. Let's face it; nature is the real genius here.

So begin by imagining your dream plant; it becomes your breeding goal. Pull together the features you most appreciate and work to combine these traits to achieve your ultimate clivia. Don't forget to record the crosses you make along the way.

I won't let on what my ultimate clivia is, except to say that it will be small and perfectly formed. I can get pretty excited imagining this mythical plant. As far as time goes I have estimated I am about twelve years away from achieving the reward I strive for. I guess with longevity a necessity I ought to cut down on the wine and increase the walking.

Lisa will have a stand at the Ellerslie Flower Show (Stand GM3) – catch her there with her stunning Clivia blooms - Ed



Lisa Mannion pollinating in her shade house – Oct 03



A "Soccer Ball on a Stick" to Envy – Lisa Mannion KareKare Gold – Oct 03

NOTE CARDS

**There are still Notecards for Sale...
ONLY \$5 FOR A PKT OF 4 (with envelopes)**

(not enough Mb space to show you the photos again)

You've seen the cards and know how popular they are! 4 beautiful Clivia photographs in the pack . How about sending them as Christmas Cards this year or put a packet into your friends Christmas presents?

The extra funds that the Notecards generate allow us to hire rooms for lectures, publications, advertising etc.

*Send your Cheque to : Di Smith
Secretary
NZ Clivia Club Inc
71 Taylor Road
Mangere Bridge Auckland*

NASTIES IN THE CLIVIA GARDEN

Each NewZLetter will bring you another nasty and tell you how to either deal with or eradicate it.

No. 1 – The Mealy Bug

- Clivia in NZ are sometimes infested with the Longtailed Mealy bug *Pseudococcus longispinus*.
- This species infects the aerial parts of the plant. It is not uncommon to find Mealy bugs on the roots of some plants. Often when one digs up a dock or dandelion plant the roots can be infested with Mealy bug. Mealy bugs which live underground are a different genus to the ones which live only above ground. This explains why they are often never found on the roots of Clivia.
- The other beast which can be mistaken for Mealy bug is the Woolly Aphid. This is frequently seen on unsprayed apple trees in the home garden. This however is a true aphid which produces a similar waxy matting.
- *Treat with : Neem Oil, Methylated spirit and Canola oil or Confidor*

We cant acknowledge the contributors of the photos or you will know who has had mealy bugs lurking in their Clivias – some hints – A South African and a Kiwi and both recognised Clivia breeders (phew ! glad the experts have nasties in their Clivia patch too!) - Ed

"Shot Gun Approach To Pest Control".

However, joking apart it is a very good example of how damage which occurs six or more months earlier can develop with time. Note especially the defined corky margin around each pellet hole. The plant is effectively sealing off the damaged areas. In a similar way insect damage which occurred six months early may show up as irregular corky areas, but with a six month lag time between the crime and appearance of well defined symptoms, it is very difficult to say with certainty that a specific insect species caused these specific symptoms. No doubt a linkage could be established if appropriate research were to be carried out. – Keith Hammett



The mealy bug image shows the beasts, but note also the black fungi growing on the exudates from the insects. Note also the cotton like material associated with the insects.



Note the damage left by the mealy bugs. The necrotic [dead] areas of the leaf have started to dry and go brown and are becoming infected with secondary saprophytic fungi. These occur as black pin heads.

The red areas have been less damaged and over the subsequent six months or so may become raised corky areas, as the leaf continues to grow and react.



Mealy Bugs in South Africa (Photo courtesy of "Anon"). Squeeze them dead between your fingers at the first sign of them. Exam your Clivia plants regularly for Mealy Bugs. Don't let them get away on you and ruin the look of the leaves.

Meet An Overseas Clivia Enthusiast, Breeder or Member

John van der Linde from South Africa is all 3 of the above categories – he writes

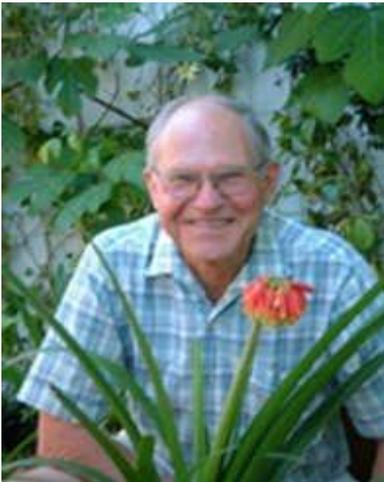
I first became seriously interested in South African indigenous plants, and clivias in particular, when I retired to Cape Town in 1996, with my wife and the youngest of our four children, from Johannesburg where I ran a life insurance company.

I joined the Cape Clivia Club and soon made many good clivia friends, and became really interested in all aspects of breeding clivia. My aim is to use interspecifics in crosses to produce unusual colours, and I want to breed darker orange/reds, and also peaches, apricots and pinks, and what about a yellow with broadish variegated leaves? Not surprisingly, space is a problem!

I currently serve on the CCC Committee, am vice Chairman to Chris Vlok on the Clivia Society executive, and this year have become Chair of the Yearbook editorial team. I enjoy history, genetics at layman level, researching early clivia personalities, and helping keen new members of our club get established.

It is good to enjoy the support of my wife Beth in my hobby. She appreciates the plants but leaves the work to me!

I suggest you go back through your Year Books, CS Newsletters and check out all the articles that John has written. Also, John donated seed to our Club earlier in the Year. Many of you will now have the seedlings sprouting away. Thanks John, we appreciate and are honoured to have you as a member of the NZCC - Ed



John van der Linde admiring a Clivia nobilis owned by Mick Dower, bred by Ian Brown Photo kindly taken by Jill Dower

Order your 2004 Year Book

A good opportunity here, next to John's article to remind you – if you would like to order a 2004 Year Book, published by the Clivia Society and edited by John van der Linde, contact Di Smith. The NZCC will bulk order on behalf of the members. If you would like to join the Clivia Society, check out our website for a membership form www.nzclivia.org.nz

Meet Our New Committee Member

Murray Gow was elected to the Committee at the recent AGM. Murray writes a little about himself for us –

Born Whakatane 1929. The night I was born, the whole earth shook, but it was the Murchison earthquake!!!

From farming family....always been interested in plants. Stuffed a pocketful of acorns from the Rotorua Railway Station, watching them grow in the perennial border!!! They are huge trees now!!!! (I was three years old) Attended Auckland University scraping up an arts degree, married Bev in 1955 & ruined her career in singing, with farmwork, a huge garden & four children. Farmed for 20 years then in the grip of 'male menopausal madness' moved to Auckland to run the John Leech Gallery.

I got hooked on clivias through planting large drifts of Clivia miniata under the trees where they conquered 'wandering jew'. Then Barry Ferguson, a lifelong family friend sent me seeds from his 'Sir John Thouron' offset. They stole our hearts & we have been obsessive ever since. Still learners but planting heaps of seeds, from overseas & friends & members of the Clivia Club. Pleased to be of assistance to any club members.

Contemplations from the Secretary's Long Drop

- **Check out some of our Members exhibiting at the Ellerslie Flower Show, they include – Terry, Pam & Lindsey Hatch (Joy Plants), Keith Hammett, Lisa Mannion, Ian & Barbara Duncalf (Parva), Tony Barnes, David Brundell (Gardenza)**
- Did you know that Keith and Di are part of an International Clivia Group that meet (via a Chat Room monthly with executive members from various overseas Societies/Clubs ? Meetings are usually at 1am in the morning (Yawn Yawn!). More updates on these meetings next year.
- **End of Year Party – Sunday 14th December at 4pm.** This year we have decided to have a "Bring and Show" Clivia End of Year Party. Bring along your Clivia, your steak and salad to Davids place. 450Glenbrook Beach Road, Glenbrook. Take a look around his lake and garden and view the splendid subtropical plantings. Phone Di if you want to know more 09-6346807. Everyone is Welcome !



Murray & Bev Gow

Photo D Smith

Another New Series Starting this NewZLetter

INTERESTING CLIVIA including NAMED CULTIVARS

Our Chairman, Keith Hammett has been encouraging us, here in NZ, to register 'Named Cultivars' with the Club (if you want more info on this, please email your request to our Secretary). This month's article of interest is written by Alick McLeman (Glen Innes, Auckland).



Offspring of 'Wittig Orange'
Photo A McLeman

No. 1 in the Series "WITTIG ORANGE"

This striking 4 year old orange miniata was exhibited at the Auckland Show in October. Flowering for the second time, the plant was notable for the huge football size inflorescence containing 30 large, open, burnt orange florets set well above the strap-like leaves. The plant placed third in the vote by visitors to the Show on the plant they would most like to take home.

The tale attached to this plant is that it is a F₁ seedling of the famous Emmy Wittig's Pink. (*Koopowitz page 264/5 "the clearest and truest pink I have ever seen"*) In 1999 Emmy Wittig, who is now in her 80's and lives on the family sugar estate near Pietermaritzburg in Natal where she has a fabulous collection of Clivia, gave Alick a berry off her Pink. It produced 8 or 9 seedlings of which only one had a green base and might have reproduced the Pink. True to form, Alick managed to lose this particular seedling, but brought one of its red-based siblings to New Zealand when he immigrated in 3 years back. It was well worth the effort.

Alick has now crossed the Wittig Orange with Chubb's Peach as pollen parent. Surprise! Surprise! About 40% of the F₁ seedlings have green bases. Could this be the regeneration of the Pink? Watch this space three or four years from now.

2004 SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE !

Yes, its that time of the year again. Subscriptions are now due for the 2004 year. The subscriptions are only \$15.00 per year. They cover photocopying, postage and incidental costs.

You will receive 4 NewZLetters per year, various Updates, information on "things Clivia" and of course notifications of meetings, lectures, shows etc.

Send your \$15.00 to the Secretary ASAP. If you require a form to complete, email nzclivia@clear.net.nz or print one off the webpage www.nzclivia.org.nz

And finally... from the Editor's Keyboard..

2003 is nearly at an end. We can look back with pride at the achievements of the NZ Clivia Club. The formation of the Club, well attended and informative meetings/lectures, 3 successful shows (Gardenii, Auckland and Whangarei), increasing membership and most of all, support from you the Members.

New Societies/Clubs have, since our Club formation, begun in North America and Australia. Together with members of the various South African Clubs, we are in regular contact NA and Aussie, swapping ideas and information. It is a privilege to share with such enthusiastic Clivia friends. I hope that you have enjoyed the piece from John van der Linde. We will introduce you to more of our friends from afar in future NewZLetters.

A special Thank you to those who have assisted with the contribution of articles and photos. To you all, whether you are in NZ or overseas, have a wonderful Christmas, and a splendid New Year and may all your Clivia continue to bloom abundantly for you – and don't forget to take photos for next years NewZLetters.

*Regards and Good Wishes
Stuart Hill - Editor*

Communications to the Club If you have something you would like to say, an article you would like to contribute to the NewZLetter, please send to

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Committee, Volunteers and Sellers at the 2003 Clivia Exhibition

Front Row from Left Keith Hammett, Stuart Hill, David Brundell, Alick McLeman, Lindsey Hatch, Ian Duncalf
Back Row Peggy Pike, Bev Wade (red hat) Craig Benson, Tony Barnes, Bev Gow, Murray Gow (hiding), Mary Colqhoun (Blue Hat), Cindy Barnes, Pam Hatch, Di Smith (hiding) Terry Hatch, Lisa Mannion
Sorry for small photo we have run out of room

The views expressed in this document are not necessarily those of the Committee or the NZ Clivia Club Inc.