



Nz CLIVIA CLUB INC NEWZLETTER

Volume 11.2 Autumn 2013

A Great Day Out At Keith's



Autumn sunshine and a good turnout made for a convivial day out at Keith Hammetts' garden spent catching up with one another and taking in the interspecific display. Portrait photos are by Murray Gow.



NOTICE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the New Zealand Clivia Club Incorporated will be held on Saturday 17th August 2013 at 1.30pm

Venue:

Joy Plants, 78 Jericho Road, Pukekohe East

The financial accounts for the year ended 30th June 2013 and minutes of the previous AGM accompany this newsletter.

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My Marvelous "MIRABILIS"

As a member of the New Zealand Clivia Club, in April 2008 I purchased 3 seeds of *Clivia mirabilis* that the club had imported into New Zealand for members.

At \$10.00 each for seeds, which were reportedly difficult to propagate, I decided three were my limit.

On 24th April 2008 I sowed the seed with great expectations

I used CAN fines as the base of the mix, larger pieces of mix sieved out, and Pumice 1-7 grade at 1/1 ratio This gave me a fairly open mix which was free draining but with some moisture retention. I place *Clivia* seeds, generally, keel down on the surface of the mix, and then press down until top of the seed level with the mix. I put all three in the one pot.

I placed the container where I usually put my seeds to germinate on a plank 30 cm above ground level, against the wall of the house, under the eaves, facing SSE.

This means a shaded position, by the house and the eaves, with no direct sun except late afternoon in the middle of summer but with no reduction in light levels.

I watered the seeds sparingly keeping the mix just moist and the seeds germinated readily.

They were potted into individual pots November 2010 when the plants were 19mths old using mixture of

2 parts Just Potting Mix from the Warehouse (it has no wetting agent and minimal fertilizer)

3 parts 2" milled bark (Orchid Bark)

3 parts Pumice 1-7

Fertilizer (9mth slow release) Nutricote.

It was evident by this stage at the discrepancy in size between the three plants.

The largest of the three plants had a greater root system and a higher number of leaves, although they were the same size and length of the other 2 plants, one of which was also larger than the other.

By 16th January 2012 they were repotted when they were 3 3/4 yrs old, using the same mix as above and situated in the same place outside as previously. Each plant now required a different sized pot. The middle sized plant had grown much longer leaves than the other two plants but had less leaves.

The largest and smallest plants had similar dark green leaves some of which had a grey stripe down the centre. The middle sized plant had paler green leaves with only a very faint grey stripe. The difference was quite noticeable.

October 2012, *Clivia* Club Show time, the largest and most marvelous of the plants by now had 2 small offsets emerging some distance from the main stem and it was also apparent there was some growth activity at the base of the main stem. There was much lively discussion and mirth at the show as to the outcome. It subsequently grew rapidly, emerging as leaves the same width as the main plant and is growing rapidly. Unfortunately one the other side rotted after becoming too wet as it was slightly covered with the potting mix.

Feb 2013. It would seem this plant is in a great hurry to mature and is now using another strategy to increase its size by dividing also at the apex of the main plant which means there are now 2 growing points producing new leaves.

There is great speculation as to when this plant will flower. ? November 2013.

At present it has totally filled the pot it is in with some of the roots bursting out of the mix. I have been reluctant to re pot the plant while it has been actively growing almost continuously,

I will need to do so soon.

Meanwhile the other 2 plants continue to grow well, both are quite different in respect to the length of their leaves, the second largest having leaves now much longer than the "marvelous one" but the plants overall still only have one growing point and are nowhere near the size of the "marvelous one."

All have heavily pigmented bases so I expect orange flowers.

I have tried to give my plants conditions similar to those found in habitat, very good drainage, high light concentration, and watering only when the potting mix seems to be drying out as *C.mirabilis* have very thick velamen like covered water storage roots and also some enlarged fleshy roots. They are found in a dry summer and winter rainfall habitat similar to ours. (sometimes)

It is difficult to understand why one plant seems to be growing exponentially compared to it's siblings, all grown under the same conditions, but I think nature must surely be winning as it is obvious the 'MARVELOUS MIRABILIS' has it "all in the genes"



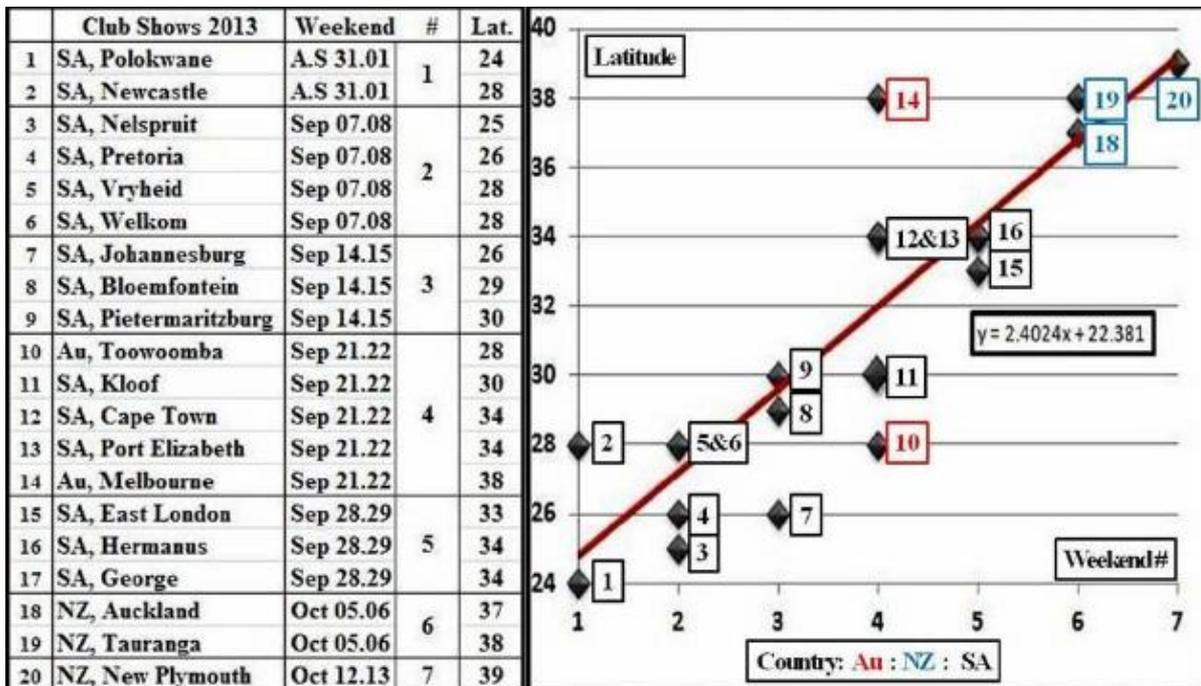
Margaret Mathews' Clivia mirabilis plant, and with C. miniata plants for comparison

Clivia's latitude correlations

In the late 1990s some excellent research into the physiology of miniata was done at the University of Pretoria by Prof Hannes Robbertse and MSc student Craig Honiball. The results were published in the Clivia News and Yearbook, and indicated little time-of-flowering response to extended lighting.

In S Africa, this spring we will be spoiled by having 15 clivia shows. Each show committee decides on the date when its miniata flowering peak is likely to occur. There is a well established pattern from the north (24S) to the south (39S) - this year dates are from Aug 31 and to Oct 13. In the graph three data points are duplicated, and much of the spread is due to close neighbours avoiding clashes. That is 15 degrees of latitude over an interval of six weeks, and the correlation of about 2.4 degrees per week is good and appears to contradict Robbertse & Honiball.

Glynn Middlewick (Johannesburg) discussed additional aspects regarding the show dates, and we now include the Australian and New Zealand shows, with no significant reduction in correlation, as well as location identifiers for each show.



QED ??But !! In the US this year the Huntington CA show (34N) was held on Mar 16.17 while the show at Longwood PA (40N) was held on Mar 09.10. That is more than half as far apart as the SA extremes over only one week, but in the wrong direction' ?!

Queries to Marilyn Paskert, Tom Wells and Alan Petravitch in the US promptly obtained the reason from all three - controlled environment at Longwood. Alan, in charge of clivias at Longwood, explained "We grow Clivia miniata in heated greenhouses for the winter months here in the East. I give my plants a chill from November through January. I try to keep my temperatures below 50°F [10°C] and above 40°F [4.4°C] for as much of that time as possible. Two months before the selected show date, I gradually raise the temperatures up to 60°F [15.5°C] over a one week period. I can delay flowering as long as I have cool temperatures outdoors, so I have much more flexibility than the West Coast of the USA, and can move the show date at Longwood to any date in March.

What's Happening

AGM

Saturday 17th August
 1.30pm Joy Plants
 78 Jericho Road, Pukekohe East

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

Two weeks after I raise the temperature to 60°F, I start to see flower buds. I can speed or slow flowering by adjusting the greenhouse temperatures. I can keep them in bloom and in good condition a long time (three weeks or so) if I can keep the temperatures cool." So it seems that any ambient day-length effect on flowering time is indirect through less predictable late winter/early spring temperatures.

Bridget Randall from the S Cape has summarised nicely " - I must admit I have always felt temperature rather than day length was an important factor in *C. miniata* flowering and could explain the too early or too late syndrome at the southern shows, whereas day length will not change - ". There are also apparent correlations between latitude and:

1. Location of *clivia's* forested habitats - up to 1900 metres altitude for *caulescens* in the north and dropping steadily through *miniata*, *gardenii* and *robusta* to sea level for *nobilis* in the south – a negative correlation, also indirect through temperature.



2. The seasonal (spring) appearance of transverse bands on our Akebono Hikari Yellow, bred by Yoshi Nakamura. In this case we have no idea of the relative importance of day-length vs temperature.

The photo from the 2003 spring shows the then current bands emerging and the previous year's spread wide (due to the remaining normal leaf elongation).

We plan to expand on these thoughts in the Clivia Society's "Clivia News".

With best wishes to all

Connie and James Abel, Pretoria, South Africa



Ian Baldick Interspecific



Ian Baldick Interspecific

