



CLIVIA SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES 2024 SPRING NEWSLETTER ISSUE # 025

In this issue:

- President's Report
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Spring Clivia Show Highlights
- From our Members: Insights, Updates & Images.
- Allan Gibson: Growing variegated Clivias
- Adrian Bligh & Shuting Jin: Visit to Sunset Nursery
- Jose de Aquino - Clivia Cultural Notes
- Adrian Bligh - Visit to Lisa Fox Clivia Market
- Jorn Villien - RHS Chelsea Flower Show
- Letter from the Editor
- Dates to Remember
- Office Bearers Contact Details
- Your Notes



PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dear Members,

This past year has been one of growth and further development for our Society. It has also been a time to reflect on the memory of members that have passed.

In the early days of the Society there was steady growth in membership, however during the pandemic our membership declined. Over the course of this year and our Annual Spring Show, membership numbers received a boost, and I welcome all new members and encourage you to participate and build on our shared passion for clivias.

Education is a key focus of our Society. Your engagement and attendance of meetings are critical. Topics from basic clivia care and propagation techniques to advanced hybridization methods are regularly discussed. Meetings also assist in developing network building and friendships.

In the coming year it is my hope that we will continue our endeavours to attract interesting guest speakers to our meetings. Should you have a contact or if there is a suggestion, please let us know.

The Annual Clivia Show was again undoubtedly the highlight of our year, held at Thornleigh Community Centre in September.

Thanks to Adrian Bligh for his patience and persistence and his efforts on Facebook, social media and the re-launch of our Newsletter.

Looking ahead, I believe that we are very close to enhancing our digital presence. Shuting Jin has been very busy working on the development of the Society's Website. I understand that a draft is soon to be submitted for consideration, comment and ultimate approval followed by a launch.

There is a need to increase our outreach to younger generations and fostering a new wave of clivia enthusiasts. It is also important to support, encourage and build on the talents and skills of our existing membership. How do we share the load, encourage our new members to participate and reap the rewards?

Our achievements this year would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and contributors, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to each one of you who have given your time, energy, and expertise to support our Society. Your contributions have been invaluable, and I am grateful for your commitment.

In conclusion, I wish you all and your families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous, healthy and happy 2025. Stay safe and well.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our Society.

John Layton

President, Clivia Society of NSW Inc.



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear Members,

We are thrilled to announce that 15 new members joined the Clivia Society at our Spring Clivia Show! It's incredibly encouraging to see fresh faces eager to share in our passion for these beautiful plants, and we look forward to the vibrancy and ideas they'll bring to our community.

Additionally, we are delighted to welcome back 2 past members who have rejoined our society.

Together, these new and returning members signify exciting growth and renewed enthusiasm for the club. A warm welcome to all – we are so glad to have you with us!

Chris Clark

Michael Chester's

Brian Cox

Jocelyn Cox

Michelle Healey

Patricia Henn

Talone Higgins

Katherine Hopcroft

Tyler Howard

Tony Mc Namara

Des Mitchell

Janice Shaw

Karen and Michael Taylor

Terrie Waters

Ron Wilton

Ray Sidoti
Secretary Clivia Society of NSW Inc



TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Members,

Peter has expressed that he is finding it difficult to continue fulfilling his role as Treasurer and has requested assistance. The meeting acknowledged and expressed appreciation for Peter's valuable contributions to the Society. A request will be made to the membership to identify anyone who may be willing to take on the role of Treasurer.

Balance of account ANZ Ingleburn as at 11/05/2024

\$ 6,508.25

INCOME

13/05/2024	SQUARE PAYMENT		\$ 9.84
2/08/2024	NEIL HAMATY	MEMBERSHIP	\$ 25.00
2/08/2024	K.R.S. AUG MEETING	AUCTION	\$ 119.50
9/09/2024	SHOW FLOAT	REBANKED	\$ 1,500.00
9/09/2024	SHOW SALES	SQUARE SATURDAY	\$ 7,310.03
9/09/2024	SHOW SALES	CASH SAT & SUN	\$ 7,812.95
9/09/2024	SHOW SALES	SQUARE SUNDAY	\$ 3,371.71
23/09/2024	REBANKED AMOUNT PAYMENT BOUNCED	FACEBOOK ADVERT (A. BLIGH)	\$ 211.86

RECEIPTS

\$ 20,360.89

**EXPENDITURE**

20/05/2024	EFT	DEERING STREET	PRINTING	\$ 395.00
13/06/2024	EFT	RAY SIDOTI	MEETING CATERING	\$ 83.10
5/08/2024	EFT	A. BLIGH - META	FACEBOOK ADVERTISING	\$ 82.50
6/08/2024	EFT	KEN SMITH	DOMAIN REGISTRATION - INVOICE NO. 342	\$ 15.00
19/08/2024	EFT	ADO VAN RENSBURG		\$ 253.95
20/08/2024	EFT	KEN SMITH		\$ 105.00
2/09/2024	EFT	JUST CLIVEAS	SHOW FLOAT	\$ 1,500.00
10/09/2024	EFT	H.S.C.	VENUE RENTAL	\$ 321.00
10/09/2024	EFT	H.S.C.	VENUE RENTAL	\$ 1,385.00
12/09/2024	EFT	DE AQUINO	SEED SALES	\$ 16.00
12/09/2024	EFT	VAN RENSBURG	PLANT SALES	\$ 24.00
12/09/2024	EFT	JUST CLIVEAS	SEED SALES	\$ 44.80
12/09/2024	EFT	LAYTON	REIMBURSEMENT SHOW EXPENSES	\$ 124.40
12/09/2024	EFT	RUSSELL BANBURY	PLANT SALES	\$ 136.80
12/09/2024	EFT	VAN RENSBURG	SEED SALES	\$ 240.80
12/09/2024	EFT	VINCENT CHAN	PLANT SALES	\$ 336.00
12/09/2024	EFT	JUST CLIVEAS	PLANT SALES	\$ 2,176.00
12/09/2024	EFT	JIM KOUTS	PLANT SALES	\$ 2,296.00
12/09/2024	EFT	MARK CANT	PLANT SALES	\$ 3,060.00
12/09/2024	EFT	DE AQUINO	PLANT SALES	\$ 4,096.00
13/09/2024	EFT	A. BLIGH	SEED SALES	\$ 360.00
18/09/2024	EFT	DE AQUINO	REIMBURSEMENT SHOW EXPENSES	\$ 114.26
23/09/2024	EFT	RICHMOND TROPHIES	ENGRAVING	\$ 26.40
23/09/2024	EFT	A.BLIGH	FACEBOOK ADVERTISING	\$ 211.86

PAYMENTS **\$ 17,403.87**

AVAILABLE - CURRENT FUNDS **\$ 9,465.27**

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT (INCLUDES \$0.57 INTEREST) **\$ 8,000.00**

SOCIETY ACCOUNTS TOTALS **\$ 17,465.94**



Clivia Society of NSW September 2024 Show

The Clivia Society of NSW hosted a spectacular 2024 Spring Show at the Thornleigh Community Centre, showcasing 152 breathtaking Clivia plants, including 18 first-time bloomers, contributed by twelve dedicated members. The vibrant display highlighted the diversity and charm of this beloved genus.

The event was officially opened by Mark Massey and graced by our esteemed Patron, Sandra Ross, whose presence added to the show's prestige. Visitors were captivated by the colourful array of plants and the elegance of the event's setup.

We express our heartfelt thanks to members who contributed their plants to the display:

Mark Cant, Russell Banbury, Vincent Chan, Joe & Josie de Aquino, Peter Hey, Shuting Jin, Jim Koutsoukos, John Layton, Richard Makin, and Joe Mouyat. Special appreciation goes to Samantha Harper for her artistic flair in wrapping raffle plants, decorating ballot boxes, and arranging table vases, adding a touch of sophistication to the show.



John Layton – President thanking all involved in the 2024 Spring Show



Clivia Show Display





Highlights of the Show

Sales Success:

Despite slightly quieter foot traffic compared to 2023, plant and seed sales were phenomenal, with stock flying off the tables. Overnight restocking ensured visitors had plenty of opportunities to purchase rare and beautiful Clivia varieties.





Show Awards



John Layton, Jim Koutsoukos, Mark Cant & Ken Smith

People's Choice Award:

Congratulations to Mark Cant for winning the award for the second year in a row with his stunning Clivia '**Favourite.**'



Mark Cant



Jim Koutsoukos

First Flowering Plant Award:

Kudos to Jim Koutsoukos for his remarkable '**Son of Big Daddy**' yellow Clivia, securing this prestigious accolade.



Raffle Winners

The raffle was a crowd-pleaser, with tickets rolling over across both days and some exciting prizes:



Saturday:

- 🏆 1 Jan Shaw - Green Clivia
- 🏆 2 Rod Best - Multipetal Bronze
- 🏆 3 Sonia Makin - Genesis F1

Sunday:

- 🏆 1 Colin - Peach Clivia
- 🏆 2 Des Mitchell - Multipetal Bronze
- 🏆 3 Stuart Diamond - Genesis F1



Cultivating Variegated Clivias

Allan Gibson, Melbourne Australia, July 2022

While I have been collecting clivias for 30 years and had my first variegated clivia about 20 years ago, it is just in the past 7 to 10 years that I have been actively learning about and growing them. So I should note that for experience with growing variegates I still consider myself a “newbie”. The paper was written after a presentation at the Melbourne Clivia Club. It is not aimed at being scholarly.

This article seeks to answer some of the foundation questions about growing variegated clivias.



Variegated clivias are those whose leaves are two or more colours.

They are usually vertical stripes or horizontal, although a few seem to not fit either of these descriptions. The colours might be white, gold, yellow, or various greens. Variegated clivias are far less common than the green-leafed varieties but that doesn't mean the plants are difficult to grow.

How much shade do they need?

A decade or so ago, I was told that growing variegates need extra shade. I am not convinced of this and my current position is that they need at least as much light as other clivias and perhaps even a little more light. This past year I experimented with seven *striata* plants with 30%-50% non-green variegation in sun in summer till about 11.30 in the morning. They did well in the position. It is important to note that I didn't just place the plants in the sun. Instead as the sun moved the plants went from full shade in winter to the full morning sun in summer. Melbourne can sometimes have 40 degree days and there were none of these days last season, so that is important to note. So while I'm not suggesting all my variegates would do well in that position or that all variegated clivias should have some direct sun, I am advocating really good light for the plants. Don't put them under shelves or in the darker corners of the greenhouse.



Can variegation change?

The variegated gene seems to be not set for many clivias. So while on some plants it appears that each leaf is very similar, on others there can be significant changes over the short term (within a year) or noticeable changes over 10 years. For example I have a plant that 10 years ago had one stripe down the middle and now has two. I have a fukurin (coloured on both out-sides of the leaves and green in the middle) that is getting close to being fully white. The change is definitely bad news for the plant. Fully white means no chlorophyll in the leaves to sustain the plant. It will die if it continues in this direction.

In contrast some other plants in my collection have decreased in their level of variegation. I suspect decreased variegation is more common, but it might be that my disappointment is highest with this result. I can note that a number of plants with minimal variegation in their first few years have increased in leaf desirability. This is especially true of the Light of Buddha crosses.

I have not noticed a seasonal change in variegation. But I am aware that others believe there can be changes.

I have experienced with Mandarin Ducks (ie where half the leaf is white or yellow the other half green) that the variegation can change. Thus after the first two, and even with six or eight leaves, where the Mandarin Duck variegation is evident, the next set of leaves on one or both sides may change. It is beautiful but not the Mandarin Duck type. Others are staying the course as Mandarin Ducks.





Can position change the variegation?

I don't know the answer to this question. I have heard growers mention this but haven't seen that in my collection when I move plants. My hunch is that it is more the changeability of the gene.

Pups or offsets don't necessarily mimic the parents. Some may be green, more variegated or less variegated. I have had a new pup with no chlorophyll from just an averaged variegated plant. It struggled and looked bad for 3 seasons before I cut it off. And of course some pups actually do look like the original plant. A to-the-eye green plant, with variegated heritage can produce some variegated offsets. Some may even be highly variegated. My practice when a variegated plant produces a green offset or mildly variegated offset is to take it off. The pup will grow more strongly than the parent plant and eventually be the dominant plant in the pot. The green or mildly variegated pup could produce some good variegated seedlings, so it may be useful in the collection. As is the case with green leafed plants, allow the pups to grow for several seasons before removing. The pups grow faster attached to the parent plant.

So my attitude now with variegates is to not become too overjoyed or devastated as the plants change their colours. They are beautiful, interesting all year round and all seem to be unique.

Is it a fungus or just lack of chlorophyll?

Frustratingly in beautiful variegated leaves the part of the leaf that is yellow or white can experience some die back in the non-green part of the leaf. (Below left) I wondered if this was a fungus but spraying never helped. And it seems to happen regardless of position. (It is not sunburn!) If it happens with just a few leaves in the pot, I am happy to just remove the leaf or part of the leaf. But with plants where multiple leaves and new leaves are continually impacted I think it is bin time. For whatever the reason for the plant's struggle it is undesirable. I definitely don't want to breed from it.





There is a brown spot or circle fungus that I need to be aware. See above right. It is recognisable as a circle that appears both on the top of the leaf and the underside. It starts as a yellow speck, can grow to 50c coin size and sometimes be elongated. The lesson with this fungus is get it as soon as it appears or it will soon invade your collection. Once the leaves are damaged they are forever marked and will sometimes cause holes in the leaves. I spray with a fungicide and also physically remove the diseased leaf or section of the leaf. Don't buy a plant with it or bring one into your collection with this disease. I don't think this disease is any more prevalent in variegated clivias than green-leafed ones. The disease makes a mess of all clivias!

Any special fertilisers?

I have not fertilised my variegates any differently to the other plants. I use a slow release fertiliser (6 or 9 month Osmocote), worm wee sometimes and very occasionally have used Seasol. They seem to grow fine. I do observe that some of the variegates have a great first leaf but then are slow for a year or two and then seem to pick up the pace. I am unsure if this issue is fertiliser related or can be improved with fertiliser. But I am frustrated enough to experiment. One of the characteristics of growing clivias that have attracted me to the plants is that they are tough. I've been reluctant (or lazy) to consider any kind of labour intensive fertiliser regime. I have noticed that some of my variegates have not done well after producing a good crop of berries. I am currently trying to specifically boost this group with fertiliser. Various people have given me this suggestion. This year I have mostly given all my collection a break from seedbearing. Producing off-spring in much of the animal and plant world year in and year out is often tough for "mums" and I suspect it could be similar with clivias.



Left: The berries of variegates are also varying colours.



Right: Seedlings from the same cross but growing at different speeds.



Are they more susceptible to rotting?

I learnt the hard way in Melbourne that continual rain and low temperatures in winter impacts the clivias including some of the green leafed ones. My experience is that some of the horizontal variegates like Light of Buddha are a little more susceptible than the vertical variegates. But clivias generally don't like weeks of waterlogged pots. Now, most all of my clivias in pots are now under cover. I use a plastic over the shade cloth. I water weekly in summer with almost all size plants. In especially hot weather the smaller pots will sometimes get a second watering. In winter I continue once a week with the 6" pots but reduce to every 2-4 weeks with the mature plants.

I do note that mostly in my 2-4 year olds that the variegates have smaller root systems then I would have expected. So the plants may be a good size but the roots don't fill a 6" pot. In comparison, my green leafed seedlings fill the pot at this age. This difference means that I have to be careful about repotting. Why?

Because a plant with a small root system in too big a pot can easily result in rot. The rot is brought on as the pot doesn't dry out quickly. So my desire to care for the plant and repot has been unwise. I have had rot in summer and in winter because the variegate was in too big a pot for its roots. I don't desire a collection with multiple different watering requirements.

Are variegated clivias slow growing compared to the green leafed?

My original advice from friends was that "yes" they grow slower and even after getting to 14 leaves may not flower for many years later. Friends have 10+ year old plants that have not yet flowered. But my answer from my own experience is "perhaps" and "it depends".

In observing the 3-4 year olds growing pattern there is much variation. To me it seems that some variegates grow as quickly as the green leafed ones regardless of their level of variegation in the leaves. But if there are 30 plants from the one cross, there is often a range of size and growth rate of the plants. This is genetics so a blanket statement of variegates are all slow is incorrect. Recently much of my breeding has been with smaller growing plants. I am trying to breed a good flower colour range into the LOB plants but to do this I am pollinating with larger green leafed plants. The size variation is quite evident.

So while I think it is true that variegated clivias may overall be slower to grow and flower. Just as well they are pretty!!!! In my collection with my growing conditions my green leafed clivias start flowering at 4 or 5 years. My expectation with the variegates is after 5 years but with variability.



What about mealy bugs?

I have not found them any more susceptible to mealy bugs. I would note that sometimes the variegation camouflages mealy bug. The lower growing variegates and green leafed clivias often have less space between the leaves and this growth habit can conceal mealy bugs. Having space between your plants and maintaining a healthy collection is the best way to avoid the mealy bug infestations. It pays to keep an eye out for mealy bug and remove them quickly.

Conclusion

Variegated clivias are generally pretty hardy like the regular green leafed clivias. Their colours can provide interest all year round. Each plant is a little different. Observing variegated clivias, their changes and their needs, provides added interest to the clivia collection. The beautiful plants below are Light of Buddhas.





FROM OUR MEMBERS: INSIGHTS, UPDATES & IMAGES

Please forward any insights, updates, and images, along with your permission to publish, directly to the Editor at clivia.nsw.editor@gmail.com. Your contributions will be featured in the next available newsletter.

Meet Peter Hey: The King of Clivias

In a recent episode of Gardening Australia, Costa visits Peter Hey, affectionately known as the King of Clivias. Peter, a renowned breeder of clivia cultivars, shares his passion for these hardy, low-maintenance, winter-flowering perennials. He explains that their name is pronounced 'Clive-ia' after Lady Charlotte Clive, governess to Queen Victoria.

Peter showcases the vibrant colour palette of his clivias - ranging from deep red-orange to green-white - and discusses his work on developing dwarf varieties for indoor spaces. His meticulous breeding process involves selecting traits like strong, V8-like leaves and thick, waxy petals, with each cross documented in a master notebook.

The episode also explores Peter's mid-life career change from landscaping to clivia breeding, a journey that helped him recover from a stroke 20 years ago. His work now includes breeding rare and unusual plants, including succulents and cacti, and experimenting with new hybrids.

Watch the full episode to dive deeper into Peter's fascinating world of clivias and rare plants: Copy and paste Link into your search bar.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZQo4gsx35g>



Peter Hey
Photo by Linda Ross



A Visit to Sunset Nursery – A Hidden Gem for Clivia Enthusiasts

By Adrian Bligh

On Sunday, 22nd September 2024, Shuting Jin and I (Adrian Bligh) had the pleasure of visiting Sunset Nursery, a Clivia lover's paradise, owned and operated by the passionate and talented Jose & Josephine de Aquino. Located at 41 Eltons Rd, Silverdale, NSW 2752, the sheer variety and the impeccable health of the plants are a testament to Jose's & Josephine dedication and expertise in growing and breeding Clivias.

Sunset Nursery has a rich history, having been established in 1981. For decades, it gained a stellar reputation across Australia for its exceptional bougainvilleas and other exotic plants, including mandevilleas and dipladenias. However, in 2010, the nursery took a turn when its directors, Jose and Josephine de Aquino, decided to scale back and retire. But as any true plant lover knows, when growing is in your blood, it's impossible to step away from the passion entirely.

Jose & Josephine chose to focus their efforts on cultivating the plants they love most: clivias and orchids. Today, Sunset Nursery continues its legacy, offering the same exceptional quality and value-for-money plants it has always been known for. Jose's passion for collecting, growing, and breeding clivias shines through every plant, and his meticulous care is evident in the robust, vibrant specimens that fill the nursery.

During our visit, Shuting and I were in awe of the stunning variety of clivias on display. We couldn't resist taking home several beautiful plants to add to our own collections. We also captured plenty of photos of the incredible blooms, which you can see below.

For any clivia enthusiast or gardener looking for top-quality plants and a touch of inspiration, a visit to Sunset Nursery is an absolute must. Thank you to Jose & Josephine for sharing their passion and allowing us to experience such an incredible collection firsthand!



Group photo depicting a mixture of Group 1 and Group 2.





Sunset Nursey
Photo by Shuting Jin

This is a TK. Group 2



Sunset Nursey
Photo by Shuting Jin

Mixture of Greens Euro Peach



Sunset Nursey
Photo by Shuting Jin

Green, Group 2



Sunset Nursey
Photo by Adrian Bligh

Group Photo



Sunset Nursey
Photo by Adrian Bligh

TK, Group 2, Yellow Green



Sunset Nursey
Photo by Adrian Bligh

TK, Group 2, Yellow Green



Sunset Nursey
Photo by Shuting Jin

Vico x Yellow, Group 1



Sunset Nursey
Photo by Shuting Jin

European Peach—Group of their own



Cultural Notes for Clivias

By Jose De Aquino

Our love for clivias began many years ago when a friend gifted me a beautiful specimen. That single plant sparked a passion, and soon I was collecting Belgian hybrids, miniata yellows, and any other clivia I could get my hands on. Today, my fascination with this stunning plant is stronger than ever.

Growing Conditions

Clivias are as resilient as they are beautiful. However, to thrive, they require protection from direct sunlight. A shaded or semi-shaded location is ideal. In their natural habitat, clivias grow beneath the canopy of trees, with roots nestled in decaying leaf litter. Instead of planting them directly in soil, I recommend making a small depression, spreading their roots, and covering them with good-quality compost. This method mimics their natural environment and ensures proper drainage, which is crucial because clivias do not tolerate waterlogged conditions. Remember, it's much easier to kill a clivia with too much water than with too little.

Pests and Diseases

In the garden, clivias are relatively low-maintenance and rarely encounter significant issues. However, keep an eye out for caterpillars, especially the lily borer caterpillar, which can appear in large numbers and quickly devour a plant. Mealy bugs can also be a problem, particularly if your clivias are kept in a sheltered environment.

Fertilising Your Clivias

During the Clivia Show, while managing the Sales Section, the most frequent question I heard was, "What should I feed them with?" My answer is simple: "It doesn't matter what you use, as long as you feed them." In general, any food is better than no food at all, and small, regular applications are preferable to one large dose. The fertilising routine you choose will depend on the number of plants you have and the time you can dedicate. For smaller collections, a weekly liquid fertiliser works well - use a high-nitrogen fertiliser from August to February, then switch to a high-potassium one. Some people opt for organic fertilisers, but I find they are most effective when integrated into a broader fertilising program rather than used alone.



Since I manage a larger collection, I prefer slow-release fertilisers like Osmocote. I apply a 5 to 6-month slow-release fertiliser in early spring and then switch to a high-potassium Osmocote in February for another 5 to 6 months. If my plants need an extra boost, I apply Triabon, which has a 2 to 3-month slow-release period. Well-fed clivias reward you with lush foliage, striking flower spikes, and greater resistance to pests and diseases.

Breeding Clivias

I'm not an expert in clivia breeding, but I've learned that understanding and sticking to specific groups can significantly improve your chances of success. For example, crossing Group 1 Yellow with another Group 1 Yellow can result in a 90% success rate. The same principle applies to Peach varieties, particularly Chubb's Peach Group 1. European Peaches belong to a unique group and should be cross-pollinated within their own group. Although crossing between different colours can be unpredictable, sticking to their respective groups increases the likelihood of favourable results.

When it comes to Peach varieties, I prefer working with Chubb's Peach Group 1. They are superior garden plants because their flowers are more resilient in rainy conditions and can handle high temperatures better than European Peaches. My best results have come from crossing Chubb's Peach Group 1 with Yellow Group 1, leading to robust and beautiful blooms.

This love affair with clivias is a journey, and I hope my experiences inspire and guide fellow enthusiasts to grow and appreciate these wonderful plants.



Sunset Nursey
Photo by Shuting Jin

Moonlight Bronze x Japanese Red—Group 1



Sunset Nursey
Photo by Shuting Jin

Bicolour, Group 1



Sunset Nursey
Photo by Shuting Jin

*Chubb's Pretty Pink Lady x Chubb's Pretty
Pink Princess X European Peach*



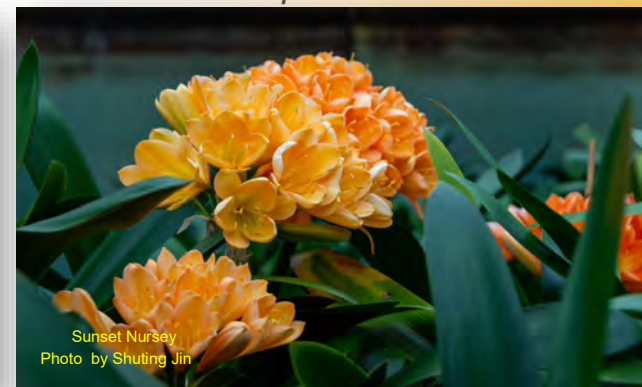
Sunset Nursey
Photo by Shuting Jin

*Chubb's Pretty Pink Lady x Chubb's Pretty
Pink Princess X European Peach*



Sunset Nursey
Photo by Shuting Jin

Green Gage x Hirao Original x Hottie Hirao,



Sunset Nursey
Photo by Shuting Jin

European Peach



Sunset Nursey
Photo by Adrian Bligh

Bicolour, Group 1



Sunset Nursey
Photo by Adrian Bligh

Bicolour, Group 1



Bicolour, Group 1



Japanese Red x Berties Bronze, Group 1



Sunset's Multipetal x Japanese Super Multipetal, Group 1



Sunset's Multipetal x Japanese Super Multipetal, Group 1



Sunset's Multipetal x Japanese Super Multipetal, Group 1



European Peach, Group of their own



Lisa Fox: A Journey of Passion and Dedication to Clivias

By Adrian Bligh

During my recent visit to the Mid North Coast of NSW, I had the pleasure of spending some time with Lisa Fox at her nursery Clivia Market. As a dedicated clivia enthusiast myself, I was excited to learn more about Lisa's journey with these beautiful plants, and she graciously shared her experiences and insights.

Lisa's story with clivias began back in 2006, shortly after she returned to Melbourne from a stint in Alice Springs. Her fascination with clivias was sparked by an orange clivia in bloom that her mother had in the garden. She recalls being struck by its beauty, describing it as one of the most gorgeous flowers she had ever seen. This chance encounter with the plant set her on a path that would eventually transform her into a passionate grower and breeder.

Like many beginners, Lisa's first attempt at growing clivias didn't go entirely smoothly. She purchased her first clivia on eBay, and to her surprise, it arrived looking more like a stick of celery than a plant—its leaves and roots had been completely cut off. Undeterred, she planted it in her garden, and to her delight, it eventually bloomed. Reflecting on that first experience, Lisa now realises that her plant was a *Cyrtanthiflora* hybrid, known for its unopened flowers. At the time, however, she thought she had done something wrong because the flowers didn't fully open. This early challenge didn't deter her; instead, it deepened her commitment to learning more about clivias.

Since then, clivias have become the central focus of Lisa's horticultural pursuits, though she also has a soft spot for South African bulbs. Now based on the Mid North Coast of NSW, Lisa has discovered that clivias thrive in the warmer climate compared to Melbourne's cooler weather. With adequate shade, water, and fertiliser, along with protection from frost, her plants grow vigorously. Over the years, she has experimented with various techniques for watering, fertilising, and potting but eventually settled on a simple, consistent approach that works well for her.

Relocating from Melbourne to the warmer, more humid climate of the North Coast brought its own set of challenges. Lisa had to adapt her practices to suit the different environment. She struggled to find well-composted pine bark for her potting medium, perhaps due to supply disruptions following the bushfires. Additionally, she encountered pests that she had never dealt with before, and the humidity in her shade house created issues with airflow.



Lisa now rotates her plants between sheltered outdoor areas and the shade house, depending on the season and the plants' growth stages, to keep them healthy. Beyond the practical aspects of cultivation, Lisa finds immense satisfaction in seeing the results of her breeding efforts. She particularly enjoys watching her Hattori crosses flower, especially those derived from her favourite Australian-bred plants. Lisa has been an active participant in the Melbourne Clivia Expo since the club's inception and has also visited shows in NSW, Toowoomba, and even South Africa, which gave her a broader perspective on clivia cultivation globally.

Her clivia journey has been punctuated with unforgettable experiences. She reminisces fondly about visits to Japan, where she met renowned growers such as Nakamura, Nakayama, Tsureoka, Hattori, Shige, and Koike. Her travels have also taken her to China, where she enjoyed lunch with local growers in Changchun, and to South Africa, where she attended a clivia conference and connected with enthusiasts from around the world. Closer to home, she cherishes road trips with friends to Australian clivia shows, where she finds camaraderie and inspiration.

For Lisa, the clivia community has been invaluable. She emphasises the importance of joining local clubs, where enthusiasts can learn from experts, share experiences, and find camaraderie. She sees social media as a powerful tool, breaking down international borders and allowing growers to exchange knowledge and inspiration. However, she is also aware of the challenges facing clivia clubs in Australia, particularly in recent years with the impacts of COVID-19 and rising living costs. She hopes that these clubs will continue to receive support, as they are crucial to the community's growth and the success of public shows.

When asked about advice for newcomers, Lisa encourages them to join a local club, attend meetings, and soak up as much information as possible. Clivias, she says, are more than just beautiful flowers in trendy colours. They represent a rich, social experience, and being part of the clivia community is as rewarding as cultivating the plants themselves.

On a personal note, Lisa's passion for clivias runs deep. She eagerly awaits flowering season each year and could happily spend days surrounded by the vibrant colours of her shade house. Her connection to clivias is so profound that when she and her husband moved from Melbourne to the North Coast nearly three years ago, the plants took priority over household furniture. As she puts it, "The flowers were coming, or I wasn't."



Shade House Views



Shade House View



'Scoria'



'Daphne Loddington X Kieth Cowlshaw'



'Gallivant'



Shade House View



'Comet and Catwalk'



'Arisa'



Use of natural bushland for protection



2024 Chelsea Flower Show

Jorn Villien attended the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show in May 2024, and was kind enough to share some beautiful clivia photos with us. His images capture the vibrant colours and unique beauty of the clivias showcased at the event, offering us a glimpse into this world-renowned floral exhibition. A heartfelt thank you to Jorn for bringing a piece of the Chelsea Flower Show to our community!





Clivia miniata 'Hoylands Green Dragon'



Seed Sales



Letter from the Editor

I sincerely apologise for the delay in distributing this newsletter, which is significantly beyond the initially advised date. Unforeseen circumstances have impacted my ability to prepare and deliver it on time, and I deeply appreciate your understanding and patience during this period.

Despite these ongoing challenges that continue to demand much of my time, I remain committed to preparing and delivering newsletters for the society.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to those who have contributed to this edition, including John Layton, Ray Sidoti, Shuting Jin, Allan Gibson, Jose and Josephine de Aquino, and Jorn Villien. Your efforts and support are truly appreciated.

I also want to encourage other members to share their insights, updates, and images for future newsletters, along with your permission to publish. Your contributions play a vital role in enriching our society's newsletter and fostering a sense of community."

Adrian Bligh

Editor - Clivia Society of NSW Inc.



DATES TO REMEMBER

MEETINGS AND SHOW DATES FOR 2025

VENUE: All meetings and the show will be held at Thornleigh Community Centre Thornleigh corner of Phyllis and Central Ave Thornleigh.

MEETINGS FOR 2025

- * FEBRUARY SATURDAY 8TH -12 PM - 4 PM
- * MAY SATURDAY 10TH - 12 PM - 4 PM
- * AUGUST SATURDAY 9TH - 12 PM - 4 PM
- * NOVEMBER SATURDAY 8TH - 12PM - 4 PM

SHOW DATES FOR 2025

SEPTEMBER

- * FRIDAY 12TH FROM 10 AM - 8PM TO SET UP
- * SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 8 AM - 4 PM
- * SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 8 AM - 3 PM

NEXT NEWSLETTER ISSUE #026

- * SUMMER/AUTUMN 2025

Calling All Members!

If you have any insights, updates, or images of your spring / Winter lowering Clivia's, we would love to see them! Additionally, if you have any wholesome recipes you would like to share with fellow members, please send them our way. Your contributions help make our society vibrant and engaging.



CONTACT DETAILS OF NEW SOUTH WALES CLIVIA SOCIETY OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT — John LAYTON

Phone: 0417 258 812

PO Box 566, Ulladulla NSW 2539

Email: j.layton@bigpond.net.au**VICE PRESIDENT** — Ado van RENSBURG

Phone: 0404 599 712

24 Exeta Road Wahroonga NSW 2076

Email: adojvo@gmail.com**SECRETARY** — Ray SIDOTI

Phone: 0413 089 639

96 Moana Street Woy Woy NSW 2256

Email: rmsidoti@hotmail.com**TREASURER** — Peter HEY

Phone: 0408 113 457

PO Box 176 ALLAWAH NSW 2218

Email: heypete@tpg.com.au**ASSISTANT SECRETARY****& EDITOR** — Adrian BLIGH

Phone: 0430 473 470

15 Rutland Ave Baulkham Hills NSW 2153

Email: bligh74@gmail.com**PUBLIC OFFICER** — Ken SMITH

Phone: 0415 181 449

593 Hawkesbury Rd Winmaee NSW 2777

Email: cliviasmith@tpg.com.au



YOUR NOTES