



Clivia Society of NSW Inc. NEWSLETTER — Winter Issue #20 July/August 2020

Covid-19 Issue # 20 Winter-July/August 2020

President's Message

July is nearly at an end. I note that some *Clivia* plants are now starting to display flowers and that in the main most plants are starting to develop the flowers ready to present for spring bloom. Hard to believe the many impacts that have occurred since the Clivia Spring show spectacular of September 2019 that have impacted us all. Our daily language now includes expressions and conversation topics that include social distancing, face masks, PPE, jobseeker, job keeper, pandemic, Covid-19, Covid-2.0, all words previously not spoken or used, but now part of our everyday conversation.

I hope that all Society Members are faring well at this time. Challenges can be many and no doubt affect us all in some way. People speak of the new normal. I wonder what that really means, what does it mean for the future and the months ahead.

I believe that the Clivia Society represents a membership of enthusiastic people who care deeply about supporting the *Clivia* plant and who remain keen to promote and introduce the plant and its flowers to others. To share in our over abundant enthusiasm.

It would seem that we are now getting used to living in the moment – the new normal. Life is especially tough right now –especially if you're unemployed or operating a business that has been heavily impacted by the economic downturn. But winter is half over and some plants and trees are showing signs that Spring is coming, and with Spring comes greater warmth, flowers and sweet-smelling air. It is a good time to be gardening and to be tending natures glorious diversity. And with the Government wish for people to remain in lockdown there's never been a better moment to garden. So, enjoy your plants of all types, your garden, your nursery, your time being a grower and a cultivator. Be connected and enjoy every moment.

I hope that you all enjoy this latest newsletter and the information within. Share it with others if you can. How fantastic if we can engage with others to share the beauty and diversity of the *Clivia* plant.

Best wishes to all,

Stephen Reid

Secretary's Report

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak there is not a great deal for me to report. I hope everyone is well and I wish all the very best to anyone who may be under the weather.

It is difficult to predict when we can hold the next General Meeting and it is a great pity that we have had to cancel this year's show. (Editor's note: it has been proposed to hold Committee Meetings and General meetings by Zoom. Favourable discussion so far, decision yet to be made.)



Clivia Society of NSW Inc. NEWSLETTER — **Winter Issue #20 July/August 2020**

Meanwhile, please enjoy reading the Newsletters and if anyone has any contributions e.g. photos of *Clivias* or any comments you would like to make please don't hesitate to contact either myself or Editor Peter.

Kind Regards to all,

Diane Godwin

Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Our ANZ balances are as follows:

1. (Main account) \$8,423.92 as at 30.06.2020
2. (Main account) \$8,923.92 as at 10.07.2020 after getting back the \$500 from Hornsby Shire on the 10/07/2020
3. We have \$3000 in our Investment account as at 10.07.2020

Regards

John Chng

Treasurer

BREAKING NEWS

SPRING SHOW 2021

As a result of the efforts of our intrepid member Neil Hamity, our Committee is currently preparing a submission for a Not for Profit Grant to waive significant fees associated with hiring a terrific venue for our 2021 SPRING SHOW. Fantastic exhibition space, heaps of parking, adjacent to a significant main arterial road.

Thank you, Neil, your persistence and efforts are appreciated.

Watch this space for developments.

In the mean-time: President Steve has agreed in principal to consider a nursery visit to Wedderburn to view the Spring flowering. Particulars and date are to be confirmed by the Committee. Covid-19 restrictions will govern the number of members who can attend each session. Probably 12 to 15. The prevailing Health guidelines will determine what evolves as we proceed through these unsettled times.

SOMETHING FROM THE MEMBERS



Clivia Society of NSW Inc. NEWSLETTER — Winter Issue #20 July/August 2020
Please forward any images and permission to publish in the Society's Newsletter, direct to the Editor at – heypete@tpg.com.au and they will be published in the next available newsletter.

Following are images of Interspecifics.



Left: Harburg Blush X Hottie Hirao



Right: Ken Russell Interspecific

CARE and CULTIVATION of Clivias

Some Winter activities

It is now time to harvest the berries from your precious *Clivias*.

Most of the *C. miniata* Group One and European Peach berries will have commenced ripening and the colour change should be evident. Group Two will be somewhat slower and slight colour change should have commenced by early August.

If you are undertaking a breeding project, ensure you carefully separate the individual berries belonging to each cross. Carefully remove the skin from the berries together with the underlying membrane. I wash/soak the seeds in dilute Phosphorous acid and/or a few drops of detergent per litre of water. Rinse the seed and store in a plastic clip-lock bag with a small piece of damp kitchen towel. Store in frig until ready to germinate (for up to 4 months), check once a week to ensure they remain in good condition, repeat the wash/soaking treatment if necessary.

Next Newsletter, we will provide details of a number of methods of successfully planting and germinating *Clivia* seed.

As a matter of interest, I harvested the majority of my *Clivia* berries in mid-July.

BERRY INTERESTING DIFFERENCES



Clivia Society of NSW Inc. NEWSLETTER — Winter Issue #20 July/August 2020



Both are EUROPEAN PEACH – left flowered pink and right flowered peach in 2019

Just goes to demonstrate that the berry colour does not always indicate the flower colour. In the case of the left-hand berry above, the dominant berry skin pigment appears to be pelargonidin-3-rutinic acid or scarlet. If you dilute scarlet you end up with a soft baby pink. Interesting!



Left: Speckled EUROPEAN PEACH. Right: Striped EUROPEAN PEACH, both flowered pink edged peach in 2019

Centre: Variegated Group One Yellow *Clivia miniata*

More breaking News – EARLY FLOWERING

A number of members (N.S.W., Queensland, South Australia) are reporting an early flowering this season. Following are a few images from the Just Cliveas Nursery. There are nearly 100 umbels emerging already, well in advance of the usual 5% or so that I generally record during the last week of July, each year.



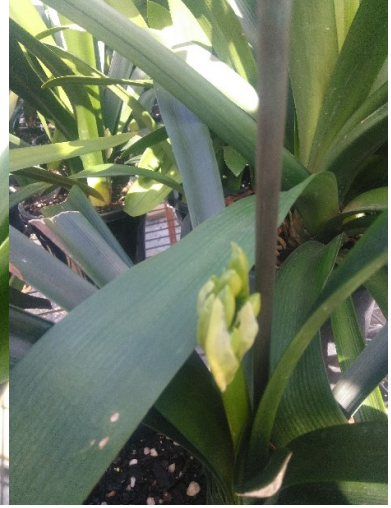
Clivia Society of NSW Inc. NEWSLETTER — Winter Issue #20 July/August 2020



Left: EUROPEAN PEACH.



Centre: Group One Peach.



Right: Group 2 Green.

Currently emerging at the Just Cliveas Wedderburn Nursery are selections of the following: Andrew Gibson hybrids, “The Chameleon” hybrids, F2 Green centred Group 1 Yellow, ‘Appleblossom’ hybrids, numerous Group 2 greens, pink edged green Interspecifics, lots of European Peach, pinks, yellows, creams as well as what should flower “777” type.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT AT OUR 2020 AGM



Show Chairman John Layton and Committee member Ray Sidoti deep in discussion.

Who would have thought what was just around the corner – LOCKDOWN!!



Clivia Society of NSW Inc. NEWSLETTER — Winter Issue #20 July/August 2020

SOMETHING COMFORTING

Baked Granny Smith apples

Inspired by love of Winter warmth 'Indulgence Food', a member has supplied the following recipe.

This recipe is easy to cook, helping stay warm and comfy, happy and healthy during Australia's Covid-19 Winter.



Granny Smith apples are currently in season and readily available from most general stores, supermarkets and marketplaces. They are now seasonally ripe and ready to cook in a myriad of ways, their tangy sweetness absolutely delicious and they keep their shape when cooked.



The Apples – Granny Smith, one per person



Clivia Society of NSW Inc. NEWSLETTER — **Winter Issue #20 July/August 2020**

Method: slice around the cap/stem and remove, place to one side for reuse as a later garnish.

Hollow out the body of the apple [use an ice cream scoop], leaving an undisturbed base and sides a minimum of 1 cm in thickness. Sprinkle a little fresh lemon juice over the caps and inside the hollowed bodies – this will provide a delicious tang and also prevent oxidation and discolouring while the rest of the steps are undertaken.

The filling – suggested Ingredients: brown sugar, melted butter, lemon juice, a tiny pinch of salt, a few sultanas, a little vanilla paste, desiccated fine coconut and a couple of finely chopped strawberries. Garnish with a few blueberries. Quantities of each to suit your pallet.

The pictured dish suggests the addition of some fresh blueberries to hold to cap up while the contents heat up and caramelise. As it cooks, the brown sugar, butter, lemon juice, strawberries and desiccated coconut combine to form a beautiful emulsion that the sultanas absorb and result in a delicious mouth feel and flavour. Looks great, beautiful taste, definitely moreish.

Absolute indulgence, indeed!

SOMETHING FOR NEXT MONTH

Unfortunately, it seems the pandemic is going to hang around and challenge us to a changed way of life. Members - If you have a recipe to share to help keep your fellow members and their families to warm and healthy during the challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic, please send it in. Images - Remember, a picture says a thousand words.

Check your Interspecific *Clivias* – if flowering - some images for the Newsletter would be gratefully appreciated.

SOMETHING FROM NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Stay safe, eat well, exercise and be happy. Keep in touch with your friends as well as fellow members. Please follow the Covid-19 guidelines and help keep all of us safe. Check your *Clivias* for emerging umbels/scapes, you may be in for quite a surprise.



Clivia Society of NSW Inc. NEWSLETTER – Winter Issue #20 July/August 2020

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YOUR NOTES