



Clivia Society of NSW Inc. NEWSLETTER - Issue #19 June 2020

Covid-19 Issue # 19 Winter-June 2020

President's Message

Hard to believe that six months of the year have gone. I am sure for most people it has seemed not only very worrying but interminably long as well.

Has this time period changed the way we think and the way we live? It will still be some time before things return to the 'normal' we once knew, if ever!

Covid-19 restrictions are starting to be lifted. Hopefully at some point soon the society members can recommence our meetings as a group, together.

The Clivia Society is yet to meet the challenge of finding a new venue for the annual Clivia Show in spring of 2021. As referenced in the previous society newsletter the desire is to find a new venue as quickly as possible. One that is suitable having good location, size with great facilities. A venue that will enhance and showcase the Clivia Show to the many we hope will attend. A venue with good passing traffic and which is accessible to all.

Please nominate a suitable venue if you know of a hall/community building that may offer facilities and location that would best showcase the event. We must look to secure a premises that will showcase the bounty of Clivia that will bloom in the Spring of 2021.

I advise that our Secretary, Narelle, with regret has tendered her resignation from the position. Narelle still maintains her commitment to the society as a member. I am thankful for Narelle's strong commitment and achievements whilst Secretary. Further I welcome Di Godwin, who everyone will know as the new Secretary. Thank you to Di for taking on the Secretary position.



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Again, I thank Peter Hey for publishing the newsletter. Peters time and effort are very appreciated. Also, I thank those who may also contribute to the newsletter perhaps through providing photographs of flower displays at their ever best.

Kindest regards,

Stephen Reid

President

Secretary's Report

Dear Members,

Correspondence from Garden Clubs of Australia continues to be forwarded out to members, please read as they contain some useful information.

I thought I'd share with you that C. C. Craig has donated two boxes of envelopes to the Clivia Society. Apparently, they were left over from a business that she used to run. They will be useful for when I send out hard copies of the Newsletter etc to those members without email addresses. I now have them, as she delivered them to me, and I have let her know how appreciative we are of her kind donation.

Hope you are all well and in good spirits.

Kind Regards,

Di Godwin

Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Our ANZ Cheque a/c 012318 285703753 has \$8,4823.92 and our Cash Management a/c has \$3,000 as at 26th June 2020,

We remain in a healthy financial position. (Ed.)

Regards

John Chng

Treasurer

SOMETHING FROM THE MEMBERS



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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.

The following images of Interspecifics, kindly provided by member Ken Smith, they both are currently in flower.



About CARE and CULTIVATION of Clivias

Some Winter activities

It is now time to harvest the seeds 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 commence by mid-July.

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 seed in dilute Phosphorous acid and/or a few drops of detergent per litre of water. Dry the seed and store in a plastic clip-lock bag with a small piece of damp kitchen



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towel. Store in frig for up to 6 months, check once a week to ensure they remain in good condition, repeat the wash/soaking treatment if necessary.

Next Newsletter, I will give details of a number of methods of successfully planting and germinating Clivia seed.

In the meantime, do not leave any 'breeding' berries on your plants as a number of Nature's foragers will be soon on the prowl as the Winter sets in and food sources become scarcer.

Following is one native animal that has caused me great disappointment, in the past.

PESTS AND DISEASES –

***Antechinus* - MARSUPIAL SHREW**

A cute, round eared, pointy nosed native marsupial shrew, soft fur, lightly speckled grey/brown back, lighter belly, males are larger than females and are noted for their very vigorous and extended copulation, after which males generally die.

Dainty eaters, mainly carnivorous BUT they can dismantle Clivia berries, albeit neatly.

Though they do have plenty of attractive points; they cannot read Pollination tags or plant labels! Hmmm!

Identification and tell-tale signs

Antechinus will forage through Clivias in autumn as food begins to become scarce and males are seeking to build up reserves for their extraordinary mating activities. There are a number of tell-tale signs indicating their presence. One is damage to the green berries.

Once you are reasonably sure you have *Antechinus* foraging, start looking for the mother lode of seeds. These can generally be found in a place where they can safely nibble away, protected from predators, removing the outside skin to get at the inner [desirable] lining. I have noticed they rarely damage the seeds themselves and limit their Clivia diet to the placental membrane lining separating the ovule capsules containing the seed.



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Antechinus – a cute native marsupial but can be destructive – The Mother Lode

Missing berries, freshly chewed pedicels are a good indicator. If you see this symptom have a good look around for further evidence. Occasionally you can observe where they have begun to nibble the berries without removing them.



If you see these examples you may have problems with Antechinus.

Treatment

- Providing an alternate food source is an alternative, however this can back-fire by attracting the vermin Rat pest *Rattus rattus*.
- Optionally, if your plants are not really precious, let Antechinus have their feed and collect the ready-cleaned seeds for growing on.
- Please respect them as they are Australian native fauna.
- Be timely-vigilant. References - Australian Museum



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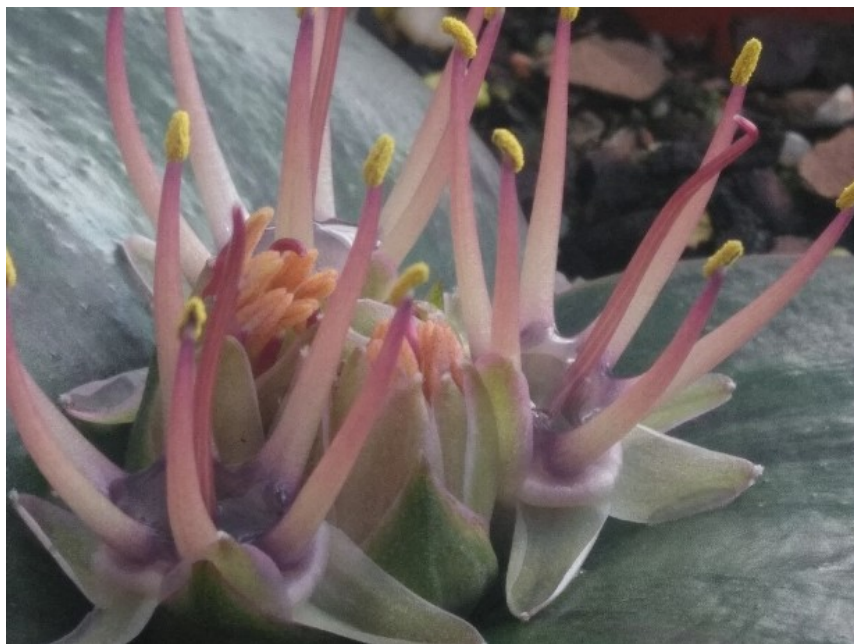
SOMETHING FOR SPRING 2021

A reminder.

As a response to the global Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 Spring Clivia Show was cancelled and the prepaid hire costs have been refunded to the Society (less an administration fee – see previous President's & Treasurer's Reports).

Like our Spring Show, many other events, weddings and functions have been cancelled due to the global pandemic, accordingly, others will be keen to secure venues for their 2021 events. With this in mind, the President and Committee would welcome any suggestions from members regarding suitable venues for our 2021 Spring Show. Venues in the Hills District through to Sydney region central, Parramatta/Blacktown would be suitable. It is your society and your event, so, have your say. Make a recommendation, or two.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT





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Above is an image of a *Massonia mimetica/depressa* hybrid – Nature's palette, gorgeous soft pink and pastel mauve tones.

SOMETHING COMFORTING

Baby Blue Pumpkin and Mustard Chicken Bake

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

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



Baby Blue pumpkins can be sourced at 'Grower's Markets' and are currently in season. Optionally, grow them at home, they are a miniature cultivar and the vines can be grown on a sunny balcony/verandah.



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They have a relatively thin flesh which makes them ideal for dishes like this one. This recipe is simple and delicious. The pictures speak for themselves.

Tip – Cut a small ‘flat’ on the bottom of the fruit to sit in a stable way while cooking in the oven.

Tip – cook the filling for the pumpkin ‘pot’ in a separate saucepan, season to taste.

Tip – Blind bake the hollow pumpkins until the flesh is just cooked and can be easily pierced with a fork/skewer, then add your filling. The cheese and bacon topping are optional extras.



After adding the hot cooked filling/soup, continue to cook at approximately 180°C until the skin begins to caramelize and the contents bubbling. Care – it will be hot. The skin is very thin and quite edible. Yum, bring on Winter!

Reports are in of using this basic ‘pumpkin pie’ method to cook and serve other fillings: like Cottage Pie, beef shin bone casserole, as well as a variety of soups. Healthy and hearty!

SOMETHING FOR NEXT MONTH

Members - If you have a recipe to share and help to keep your fellow members and their families to keep warm and healthy during the challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic, please send it in.

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

SOMETHING FROM NEWSLETTER EDITOR



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Stay safe, eat well, exercise and be happy. Keep in touch with your friends. Follow the Covid-19 guidelines – it's working.

Don't forget – my nursery is open for inspection/trading, by appointment, please.

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YOUR NOTES