

Newsletter of the
CLIVIA
SOCIETY OF
NEW SOUTH
WALES INC



AGM SPECIAL

12th Edition January 2018

The Clivia Society of NSW Newsletter**12th Edition January 2018****CONTENTS**

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From The Editor's Desk**PATRON – Jeanne Marten**

We are delighted that Jeanne Marten has agreed to be our Patron for the foreseeable future.

Health and mobility permitting, Jeanne will be joining us in September for our annual show which will be an honour for us and an opportunity for members to meet this Clivia notary in person.

Thank you Jeanne.

Message from the President

Dear Members

As my current tenure draws to a close, I look back on a good year in the development of our society. We've had a great deal of continuity in the administration over the last four years and we can be proud of the polished performance of the executive and committee. I believe this will continue in 2018.

I thank all the membership for the honour of being selected as President. Also for the support of said committee and volunteers during our show and meets. It has been a pleasure to see the successful result of all our work.

As the AGM dawns, I give you notice of my departure as President but I'll look forward to continued participation in the society. I extend to the future President my best wishes and my thanks in advance.

See you at the AGM.
Michael Mouyat
President

Secretary's Notes**NEW MEMBERS**

WE EXTEND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO:-

- Maree KNAPP – TAREE NSW
- Gary CONQUEST – TOOWOOMBA QLD
- John Macintosh – WYONG NSW
- Jenny CALE – CORINDA QLD

New Members, please advise Secretary Ray (contact details in rear of Newsletter) if you only require ELECTRONIC COPY, this will save us some distribution costs.

MEMBER'S REFERENCE LIBRARY AND REFERENCE BOOKS FOR SALE

Members wishing to access the library's books can do so by contacting either the Secretary or Newsletter Editor.

Ray Sidoti

Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Herewith is a summary of the interim results for our financial year to date.

Audited funds as at 20/12/16 \$9,005.06

For the period 31/12/16 to 18/12/17

Income \$24,659.35 Expenditure \$22,777.29

General account balance 18/12/17 \$7,887.12

Premium Saver A/c 18/12/17 \$3,000.00

Unaudited funds as at 18/12/17 \$10,887.12

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2018

If you are not pre-paid for 2018, please deposit your membership due by EFT, please include YOUR NAME. Bank details are below.

Bank details - Clivia Society of NSW Inc.

BSB 012 318 A/C 2857 03753

FEES :-

- With electronic newsletter \$25
- With hard copy newsletter \$30

Bruce Fishburn

Honorary Treasurer

Diary Dates

Pen/pencil please, jot the following down

**Next Meeting for
Members**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 17th February 2018
Venue – Thornleigh Community
Centre 2.00 to 4.00pm

AGM AGENDA

- Notice of the AGM has been forwarded to all members.
 - 1.30 Registration & Welcoming of members.
 - 2.00 pm Meeting will be called to order.
- AGM Agenda:
1. Opening address by President– Mick Mouyat
 2. Confirmation of minutes from last AGM – November 2016
 3. President Report – Mick Mouyat
 4. Treasurer Report – Bruce Fishburn
 5. Secretary Report – Ray Sidoti.
 6. Talk on “Grooming Plants for the Show” – Ken Smith.
 7. Positions declared vacant and Election of Office Bearers for 2018
 8. New Vision – Interspecific Show
 9. Lucky Door Prize Draw
 10. Meeting Close –

Election of OFFICE BEARERS for 2018 and NOMINATIONS received to date

- President Michael Mouyat will NOT be standing in 2018
- Nomination for President has been received for Peter Hey to fill the position.
- Ken Smith has indicated he will be standing

MEMBER’S GENERAL MEETINGS

(SATURDAYS 2.00PM TO 4.00PM)

Thornleigh Community Centre as follows

- **16/6/2018 Interspecific Show**
(in lieu of General meeting)
- **17/11/2018 General meeting**

- **Interspecific Spectacular** at Thornleigh – open to the public.



Saturday 16th June 2018 (one day only)

- Specialist guest speakers on a variety of Clivia related topics
- Opportunity for members to buy/sell/swap interspecific plants and seed.
- Bruce Fishburn has agreed to be our Chairman for the ‘spectacular’ and will be calling for plants and helpers.

EMBROIDED SHIRTS FOR MEMBERS

Would members wishing to purchase an embroidered shirt please contact Ken Smith. Cost \$55.00 Email cliviasmith@idx.com.au

COVER IMAGES

Front cover – “Gibson Pink” (‘**Andrew Gibson**’) X
 “Emmaline” (‘**Wittig’s Pink**’)

Back cover –

- ‘Andrew Gibson’
- ‘Wittig’s Pink’
- ‘Alisa Dearing’
- ‘James Dearing’
- ‘Best Kept Secret’
- ‘Skychase’

CLIVIA HERITAGE IN AUSTRALIA

BY Kenneth R. Smith

A compilation of notes prepared to supplement the power point presentation given at the International Clivia Conference....Cape Town...September 2010

There is a long history of Clivia cultivation in Australia, but, where to start regarding the heritage that we have?

The earliest record I have is the importation of *Clivia nobilis* by Bidwill in 1843. The material was included in a shipment of plants sent to Australia for William Macarthur, to be grown at Camden Park Estate. Another early Australian record shows that *Clivia* was listed in a nursery catalogue in 1866. The species listed was *Clivea* (sic) *nobilis*. Whether or not this was the true species remains a mystery as there is still much confusion about *C. nobilis* today. The garden magazines have depicted *Clivia miniata* photographs captioned as *C. nobilis* for many years. Even in publication today the misnaming is still occurring.

By far the most widely planted and grown species is *Clivia miniata*. The Botanic Gardens in the major cities is the likely source for the movement of the earlier types of Clivia. Even the smaller regional Gardens seem to have plantings of Clivia that “have been there forever”. We in Australia know it as a narrow foliage plant, that produces narrow segment flowers of a pale apricot colour, or at least that is how it is most often described. It is first choice for planting in a shady garden. I, like most other Australians studying horticulture, was taught that it represented the species *miniata*, but I have come to realize that the variety to be found within *miniata* is still being

uncovered. This pale flower, narrow leaf *miniata* plant, along with the so-called *C. nobilis*, are commonly encountered right up the eastern seaboard of Australia, in South Australia, and also in the SW corner of Western Australia. Many people are aware of the “common” *miniata* of gardens and the broad leaf “improved” *miniata* that are available from nurseries. They have been part of the nursery marketplace in Australia for many years. When it comes to our “*C. nobilis*”, it is a bit more confusing. The plant is widespread but not often seen in nurseries. It is referred to as *Clivia nobilis* or *Clivia x cyrtanthiflora*, depending on who you speak to. It may well be a *cyrtanthiflora* type, but the origins are lying somewhere in the pages of a Botanic Gardens register. It is a pity that no descriptions accompanied those initial imports. Within the many garden plantings of “*nobilis*”, some slight variations are to be found. Some are paler some are darker. Our “common” *miniata* on the other hand is very consistent in form. The situation is very rapidly changing now that imported hybrids are being sold and planted amongst the more common *miniata*.

There is documented evidence that Arthur Yates & Co. imported the “improved” Veitch’s hybrids in 1923. They may have been used by one of our earlier Clivia breeders, Mr. G. Keith Cowlshaw. The plants from his work show “improved” flower form and plant size, due to the hybridizing he did. The picture remains unclear as to the fate of the early material but at least we know that the Cowlshaw material is safe in the hands of a few enthusiasts.

The two cultivars that we know of from Mr. James Dearing (who was the head gardener at “Rippon Lea”, a stately home in Victoria) are ‘**Ailsa Dearing**’ and ‘**James Dearing**’. It is questionable whether all the “named” material attributed to Mr. Dearing is the actual clonal material, as some seedlings may have inadvertently been distributed. The two named forms are being maintained by collectors.

The cultivars developed by Mr. Duncan Sinclair are also in a couple of enthusiast’s collections to my knowledge, and hopefully more are grown elsewhere, but the stock is certainly not well known. ‘**Salmon Queen**’ and ‘**Giant No 3**’ have been mentioned in past Clivia Society Yearbooks. Mr Sinclair ran a small nursery and the stock was distributed when the business closed down.

An interesting yellow clone called ‘**Golden Age**’ has a history going back over 100 years. It is said that two plants (a yellow and an orange Clivia) were given to

Percy W Dyson in 1900. Percy named the yellow **'Golden Age'**, and it remained in the Dyson family for the next seventy years before being sold. Just where this clone fits in to the yellow Clivia story in Australia remains to be seen, but the search is on. Marie Jordan is selling this clone and she has named the second orange plant **'Lillian Lucy'**, after her mother. It is a lovely soft orange.

There are two gentlemen known to us that have done a lot to develop and popularize Clivias. Mr. Bill Morris is well known to Clivia Society members through his thoughtful articles in the newsletters and yearbooks. Bill's development of a yellow strain is documented in various journals and he continually improved his stock through careful selection of "better" breeding stock. It has taken over fifty years of growing, selecting and learning about the plants to achieve the quality of some of the Morris Yellows today. The many yellow seedlings on the Australian market are probably from Bill's stock. As well as working on yellows, Bill also cultivated a diverse collection of Clivia plants from breeders around the world. These were grown both for interest as well as development. There are many lines of improvement that came under the careful eye of Bill. He has grown variegates for many years. He has interspecific hybrids in various shapes and colours. His Australian hybrids show development of reds, pastels, bicolours, and a range of *nobilis*, *gardenii* and *caulescens* hybrids. Two very fine yellows developed by Bill have been named **'Best Kept Secret'** and **'Skychase'**. Another famous named plant of Bill's is the bicolour **'Tango'**. His material is now eagerly sought by collectors.

Mr. Kevin Walters has produced an array of beautiful forms, many of them named, from his breeding work covering the past fifty odd years. Many collectors Australia wide covet the cultivars developed by Kevin; that is if they are lucky enough to secure an offset. Kevin started his 'pollen dabbling' in the mid 1970's using his Belgian Hybrid coded "1964", which was grown from seed acquired from Goodwins Nursery in Tasmania in 1964. His clone **'Relly Williams'** is well known in Clivia circles. The flower form of cultivars like **'Valerie Martin Supreme'** and **'Daphne Lodington'** show the broad petal flowers typical of the Walter's material. Several years later he crossed **'Aurea'** again and developed some stunning yellows; one of them, a green throat yellow was named **'Monica Conquest'**. His broad petal yellows and rich oranges are truly beautiful and he is always ready to help promote Clivias in Toowoomba. There are more great Clivias to appear yet from the work Kevin started many years ago. Quite a dedicated group of enthusiasts

live in Toowoomba and shows are now an annual event. The Toowoomba Clivia Society, Inc. is playing a major role in popularizing the newer forms of Clivia.

The collection started by Mr Cliff Grove in Western Australia was sold to Pen Henry, trading as Clivia Gardens. Pen is well known to us in the Clivia fraternity and she probably had the first dedicated nursery for Clivia, selling material started by Cliff and also adding her own acquisitions and selections. Pen's collection represents material from breeders worldwide.

Kevin and Coral Larsen, from Queensland, have had their Clivia collection described in the Australian horticultural magazines, as has those of Mr. Don Barrett, of South Australia.

There are collections expanding all over Australia as enthusiasts grow more and more plants. They are enjoying their breeding work, the flowering season being sufficient reward for them. Other members of the Society are developing their own strains, perhaps to swap with other enthusiasts, perhaps with the view to commercial sales. Members that are nursery operators are growing Clivia now in thousands, with much of the seed stock being imported. By far the majority of nursery stock sold Clivia in Australia is the broad leaf hybrid type. These are generally produced in Queensland nurseries. They have always been popular as potted specimens and they sell well in flower, to be enjoyed for the duration of the blooms and then perhaps to be planted in the shady garden. I have seen the impact of this within the Sydney Botanic Gardens, where the purchased plants are used to fill in the bare spaces in the garden beds, only to add to the "cross pollination potential" of the Clivias. Whether these nursery sold plants are Belgian Hybrids, European Hybrids, Sahin's Twins, or in more recent times, Japanese, American or New Zealand material, the result is the same, a complete mixing of forms. There is little consideration given to names, or flower colour; in fact, most are referred to as "Belgian Hybrids" whether they are or not!

The situation in Australia of growing Clivias in shady gardens, irrespective of what name it has or where it came from, has been going on for over 100 years. The situation in the last twenty has changed dramatically. The generosity of Mr. Yoshikazu Nakamura has seen a wealth of forms flowering in the collections of enthusiasts. Now the "name" of the cultivar is all-important and the flower colour description has taken on a new meaning. Special clones like **'Vico Yellow'**

are sought and found, sometimes correctly named, most times, not. The rare yellows that were selling for hundreds of dollars years ago are not so rare now. The clone that we know in Australia as **'Aurea'** has been on the market for the past fifty years at least. The first sales I know of were by Mr Harold Pollard, trading as Hippeas Nursery in Caulfield, Victoria. This was in the late 1960's early 1970's. Jean Kent, also in Victoria, sold them from her Flowerdale Nursery, as well as through the trading section of "Your Garden" magazine. Her daughter, Sally, continued selling offsets for some time. Later, **'Aurea'** was being sold by Mrs Elizabeth Azzopardi in Adelaide. Now there are many nurseries offering yellow seedlings which impacts on sales.

Red flower forms are in demand, but what is a red Clivia? Certainly, selection for the deeper orange-red is warranted but I note that different people see the same Clivia flower as a different colour. Red can be orange and orange can be red. There are plants in the hands of enthusiasts that are from "redder" stock, but most nurseries treat the "Belgium Hybrids" as being the red Clivia, whether the plant for sale has flowered or not.

Variegated foliage Clivias are also part of "the new range" being offered in Australia. It is not uncommon to find a variegated specimen in a batch of green leaf plants at a nursery. These are purchased at the "normal" price, if you are lucky enough to spot one. Now there are nurseries offering various variegated Clivias at prices that range from \$120 to \$1,500. Not too many get sold unless it is to a serious collector. Some nurseries are even offering seedlings at high prices. The variegated Clivia population is now much larger due mainly to the importation and sales of Chinese seed. Everyone wants to have an evenly striped, broad leaf plant with short leaves. The Light of Buddha cultivar group is also on the increase, although not as keenly sought as the *striata* type. Growers are now selling their seedlings on eBay.

Then, there are the peaches. Anyone who has looked through the wonderful photographs in the Clivia Society Yearbooks will know what impact the peach forms have on them. Peaches and Pastels; very tempting indeed! There is confusion within Australia as enthusiasts want the peach forms and actively search them out. Unfortunately, some sellers use the term "peach" or "pastel" for a pale orange that has no link to the peach Clivia mutation found in South Africa. Some stunning plants are coming out of Queensland, namely **'Vannary Imam'**, **'Esmond Jones'** and **'Andersons Peach'**.

Plant importation of named peach clones is one way to ensure flower colour quality and a few of our Society members are obtaining selected material this way. Other nurseries are investigating plant importation and tissue culture as a means to increase their stock (with varying degree of success).

So, we have the well-accepted use of Clivia for the shady gardens and now the new found enthusiasm for special forms. How do we get those special forms if plant importation is too expensive? By seed. A noticeable appearance on the gardening scene in Australia over the past few years is the increase in Clivia specialists advertising plants in the gardening magazines. These newer nurseries are offering a vast array of material. The plants on sale are generally one or two year old seedlings with fantastic names that don't mean much unless you have seen a seed list from overseas. Quite often the list just gives the seedling cross with no guarantee of flower colour. All of these plants hold promise but most won't be what is stated. For an enthusiast that might not matter much, but for the gardener, several years wait might end in disappointment. This is an area where the marketplace needs to do some reflection. It is pleasing to report that several enthusiasts have been importing very large numbers of seeds that they plant, grow and plan to evaluate when the flowering starts in years to come. It is a learning curve.

Sales of plants via eBay are also impacting on the way Clivia is distributed in Australia. Everything from the common garden Clivia to Chinese seedlings is being sold. And we now have two new species to contend with, namely *Clivia mirabilis* and *Clivia robusta*. They will greatly enhance the gene pool in collections as enthusiasts cross their plants in the hope of creating a new flower.

Ken Smith

Editor's note.

A number of related images are on the back cover. Ken thank you for supplying this informative and interesting paper.

Members may find a visit to the beautiful heritage Vaucluse House interesting and enjoyable, especially if you include a meander through the Clivia beds, some of the oldest (circa 1860's) in Sydney. There, you will observe at least two of the original species of Clivia imported by WC Wentworth and possibly an interspecific cross that has developed naturally, in situ.

Enjoy the visit. There are open days and organised garden tours.

Address: 69A Wentworth Rd, Vaucluse NSW 2030

Hours:

Open daily 10am–4pm

Phone: (02) 9388 7922

Ed.

CORRECTION

The following incorrectly named image appeared in Newsletter issue #7, titled as ‘Db6’,



“Db6” image by Editor

Following is the correct image of Kerry McElroy’s ‘Db6’



Image by Kerrie McElroy

PESTS AND DISEASES

– Identification and treatment –

Lily Borer

The article to control active Lily borer caterpillars in the last issue created a lot of interest.

Following is a tip that may save some grief.

INSECT SPRAY

YES, simply insect spray! Household type.

Just spray onto the active munching caterpillars and Bingo!

For the NEW MEMBERS’ benefit I have included parts of a previous article on Lily Borer.

Aka *Brithys crini* the Lily borer caterpillar (pictured below) is quick to destroy plants.



Lily Borer caterpillar eating the surface of a leaf.

Egg clusters are laid generally on the underside of leaves. They quickly enter the leaf and eat their way down to the base of the plant. If left unchecked they can kill Clivias, eating the whole plant including the vital meristematic tissue, leaving just the roots!

In the early stages it is easy to spot tell-tale signs of their presence, tissue-like sections where the caterpillars have consumed large areas of leaf tissue leaving a thin parchment-like layer.

You can sometimes spot the green waste pellets indicating the presence of Lily Borer. Be vigilant, inspect your plants regularly during the Summer months.

Crush the caterpillars and any pupal casings when you find them, search down into the middle of the plant, look both sides of the leaf for the tell-tale signs of tissue damage.

Handy Hint: - Plant a sacrificial Crinum Lily near your precious Clivias as the Lily Borer are known to start with an entrée of Crinum before the main course of Clivias.

SEASONAL CULTIVATION and GROWING TIPS

- Do not overwater as the build-up of seasonal temperature continues. Doing so may increase the incidence of collar rot.

Once the flowers have dropped and the seed appears to have set treatment as follows is recommended. – A little gypsum to each plant will encourage strong cellular wall strength – and – a light organic or foliar feeding will help the plant develop the seeds over the Summer period and aid resistance to sun damage.

WE CARE

To the best of our knowledge all members are well

HELP FORUM

Members with specialised knowledge will answer questions to solve Member's problems presented in this Help Forum. If we do not have a ready answer we will find out for you by networking through our membership and international Clivia contacts.

CONTACT DETAILS of NSW Society Office bearers

PRESIDENT – Mick Mouyat

1007 Old Northern Rd DURAL NSW 2158

Phone: 0458 534 735

Email: mmouyat@optusnet.com.au

SECRETARY – Ray SIDOTI

96 Moana St., WOY WOY. NSW 2156

Phone mob. 0413 089 639

Email: rmsidoti@hotmail.com

TREASURER - Bruce FISHBURN

48 Llewellyn St., RHODES. NSW 2138

Phone: 02 9743 1845

Email: rhodesside@iinet.net.au

VICE PRESIDENT – Ken SMITH

Email: cliviasmith@idx.com.au

NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Peter HEY

PO BOX 176, ALLAWAH NSW 2218

COMMITTEE MEETINGS for 2018 Sat 19/5/18, 18/8/18 and 20/10/18.

PROPOSED SHOW COMMITTEE MEETINGS - 21/4/18 (Interspecific Spectacular planning) and 14/7/18 (Annual Show planning)

NEW TIMES – Please note, start time for all committee and planning meetings is now 9.00am on the Saturdays nominated

Committee members, please advise the President or Secretary if you are unable to attend.

Members are welcome to attend and listen in at the Committee meetings, however, please give notice of your intention to be present by contacting Secretary Ray (details above).

<u>INTERSTATE MEETINGS</u>

TOOWOOMBA CLIVIA SOCIETY, Inc. – Meetings will be held 1.00pm to 3.00pm at Toowoomba Council Immunisation Rooms. Cnr. Little and Victoria Streets. Toowoomba. Please advise their Secretary, Brian Mahoney on email: bdmahoney@bigpond.com or mobile: 0408 808 437 if you propose attending.

President Kerrie Robinson. Contact us on our website: www.toowoombssciviasociety.com.au

MELBOURNE CLIVIA GROUP, Inc. www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au

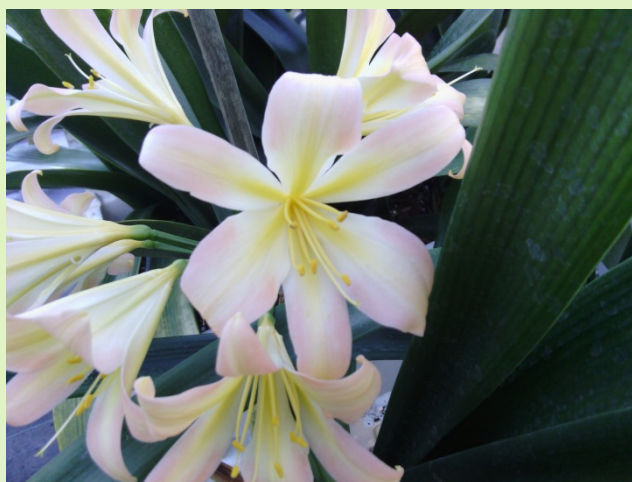
Meets 3rd Friday of the month, 7.30pm, at Burwood Uniting Church Hall, Cnr Blackburn Rd and Burwood Highway, BURWOOD. VIC. **If you propose attending** the Melbourne Group meeting, please contact:- Secretary Roger Clarke, by Email: secretary@melbournecliviagroup.org.au or

President Michael Barrett – mob. 0488 998 327

‘Andrew Gibson ‘



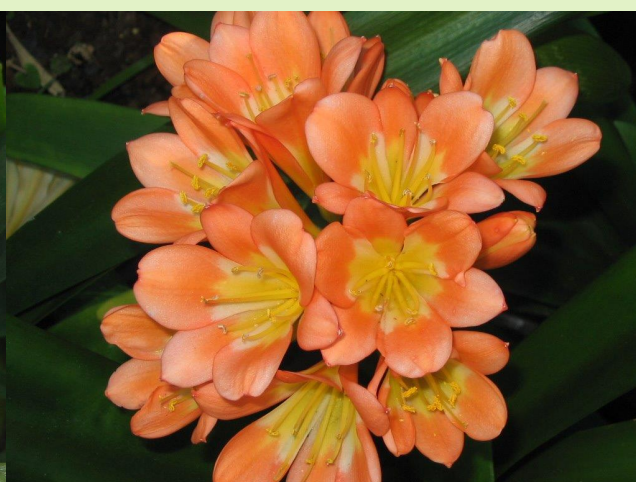
‘Wittig’s Pink’



‘Alisa Dearing’



‘James Dearing’



‘Best Kept Secret’



‘Skychase’



Ends E & OE