



# CLIVIA SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES 2025 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER ISSUE # 026

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## **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Dear Members,

John Layton

President, Clivia Society of NSW Inc.

### **Website Launch Update**

I am thrilled to announce the launch of the Society's website! I encourage all members to visit the website and explore the members-only section by using the provided password. Please remember to protect this password to ensure that the members-only section remains secure and exclusive. Additional information for members will also be available on the website.

### **Internet Scam Awareness**

I would like to remind all members to be vigilant about internet scams. There have been incidents of fake emails circulating among some members. If you receive a suspicious email, please carefully check the source.

### **2025 Spring Show – 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

The flyers for the 2025 Spring Show are currently at the printers and will arrive shortly, in time for the Plant Collector's Fair on April 12th and 13th. Please let us know if you are available to assist in any way.

### **Appreciation and Acknowledgements**

I would like to express my appreciation for the support of all members. A special thanks to Shuting Jin for her excellent work in developing the website. Additionally, I extend my gratitude to Adrian for his continuous efforts with the Newsletter and Facebook.

### **Upcoming Events**

I hope you enjoy Easter and look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the next meeting, scheduled for May 10th.

John Layton

President

Clivia Society of NSW Inc.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Members,

Treasure's Brief Report:

At present the books are essentially the same with a small uptick in cash held since the Feb meeting.

We are sitting with the following cash position:

- \$8,000 - Held in short term investment
- \$9,172 – Operating account

The \$8,000 should be moved to a Fixed term deposit to earn better funds and will be tabled at the next meeting. AS these are not earmarked for specific funding it can be invested into a longer term holding deposit.

With most of our major expenses already paid for the show and the rest of the year; we should consider pre-paying the hosting and domain name for at least 3 years.

We can also consider spending a little more on targeted marketing.

Donation or regular sponsorship of a cause that will either promote clivias or a worthy charity is worth considering as at present the society is accruing funds without any major outflows at present.

Regards

Ado van Rensburg



## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear Members,

To date we have 53 financial members . We would like to welcome our latest member Gerry Smee. Gerry lives on the Central Coast of NSW and we now have 5 members from this same area .

Congratulations to Shuting Jin on developing and launching the Clivia Society of NSW website.

Welcome to our new committee members for 2025.

### **Executive Committee**

**President :** John Layton

**Vice President :** Mark Cant

**Treasurer :** Ado van Rensburg

**Secretary :** Ray Sidoti

**Assistant Secretary :** Adrian Bligh

**Public Officer :** Ken Smith

### **Committee Members General**

- Alf Tortell
- Steve Rickard
- Shuting Jin
- Peter Hey
- Russell Banbury

**Catering :** Josie and Jose de Aquino

**Editor :** Adrian Bligh

Ray Sidoti

Secretary Clivia Society of NSW Inc



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# Clivia Society of NSW, Inc.

A society for appreciating, cultivating, and conserving clivia plants. Join us to connect with growers, share knowledge, and celebrate the beauty of clivias.

ABOUT US

Dear Members,

Our website has now been launched by Shuting Jin. (Website Manager)

We would like to thank Shuting for her time, new ideas and computing skills she brings to the roll.

Website address <https://clivasocietynsw.org.au>

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## 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](mailto:clivia.nsw.editor@gmail.com). Your contributions will be featured in the next available newsletter.





## THE SEDUCTIVE ART OF CLIVIA POLLINATION

# The Birds, the Bees, and Show-Worthy Clivias



### *How to Seduce Your Clivias Into Blooming Stardom*

It's April, and while Spring may still feel like a distant lover (she won't arrive until September), now is the perfect time to start preparing for her grand return. Your *Clivia miniata* is quietly gathering energy, and before you know it, they'll be bursting into bloom ready to show off and steal hearts.

So why not get a head start and channel your inner bee minus the wings, but hopefully with better aim and start planning your pollination strategy? Whether you're dreaming of dazzling Winter berries or claiming glory with a "People's Choice" or "First Flowering Plant" win at the next Spring Clivia Show, understanding the art of pollination is your secret weapon.

Choose your blooms wisely, match them with flair, and don't be afraid to get a little intimate with your pollen brush. After all, every showstopper begins with a great love affair - one that starts now, in the quiet months, before the world blooms again.



## How to Play Cupid with Your Clivia



***Master the art of floral matchmaking - one pollen brushstroke at a time.***

**Get Hands-On (but Gentle):** Pinch an anther between your fingers until you see a dusting of golden pollen. Then, like a whisper of affection, gently tap it onto the waiting stigma. No sweet talk necessary - just a tender touch.







**Bring in the Romance Tools:** A fine watercolour brush or cotton bud is perfect for precise application - think of it as painting with passion. With a steady hand and a little finesse, you're setting the stage for a spectacular genetic duet.

**Keep It Clean, Keep It Classy:** Clean tools and fingers are a must. Mixing up pollen sources may lead to unexpected results - and nobody wants a paternity scandal in their Clivia lineage.



**Avoid Unwanted Flings:** Remove the anthers from your ovary (female) parent to prevent self-pollination. This ensures your cross is deliberate, desirable, and drama-free.





**Freeze Time (and Pollen):** Collected a particularly fine suitor? You can preserve that potential! Pluck the anthers with tweezers, pop them into a small sealed container, and store in the freezer. It's cryogenic storage - but for love stories yet to unfold.



## Patience is Passion in Disguise

Love - like Clivias - Doesn't rush.

With each generation taking around five years to bloom, this is a slow dance through time. But every thoughtful pairing, every careful cross, lays the groundwork for something extraordinary.

So take your time. Choose your partners well. Play Cupid with intention and a touch of flair.

Because when those glorious blooms finally appear, they'll be more than flowers - they'll be the legacy of a love story you helped write.



**Mark Cant with 'Favourite' with many decades of breeding to achieve this beauty.**



## Yellow Fever: Finding the Perfect Match

Dreaming of the perfect yellow? Think of your yellow as a charming bachelor or bachelorette looking for "the one."

Pair them with pollen from a friend's dazzling yellow preferably a Type 1, genetically open to romance. Sparks may fly, and the results could be golden.



## Crossed Desires: When Opposites Attract

Instead of pairing two yellows (which only works if they're genetically compatible), turn up the heat. Use your best yellow as the pollen suitor and cross it with a sultry orange or deep red. While the first generation (F1) will all wear orange, their offspring (F2) may surprise you -revealing 25% yellows with improved pigment. It's a love story that unfolds over a decade, but one worth waiting for.

## Leafy Affairs: The Lure of Lush Foliage

If broad, luxurious leaves make your heart flutter, consider mixing things up. Cross a yellow with a broad-leaf Clivia, then double back to reinforce those voluptuous curves. Or keep it in the family - line-breed your best broad-leaf's for steady, satisfying gains in form and structure.

Either way, this is a slow burning romance with a payoff worth the wait.





## Forbidden Fruits: Inter-Specific Encounters



Ready to spice things up? Don't be afraid to explore inter-specific territory. Use stored pollen to cross *C. miniata* with the exotic charms of *gardenii*, *caulescens*, or *nobilis*.

These steamy pairings may not reveal their full beauty in the first generation - but keep your eye on the F2s, where the real magic happens. Whether you start with a solid inter-specific plant or hunt down some choice pollen, this is where Clivia breeding gets excitingly unpredictable.

## Final Seductions: Choose Your Lovers Wisely

You can't breed a showstopper from a wallflower. If you want fireworks, you need strong, vibrant stock to begin with. Think of it like dating - if the genes don't thrill you, the offspring probably won't either. Luckily, the Spring Clivia Show in September will offer a smorgasbord of irresistible options.



Keep your standards high, your imagination open, and your pollen brushes at the ready - and who knows, you may just begin a Clivia love story that lasts generations.

Happy pollinating... and may your blooms be bold and breathtaking.





## THE LONG SEDUCTION : BREEDING THE BLUE CLIVIA OF DREAMS

By Adrian Bligh

For nearly three decades, I've chased a dream with leaves as vivid as brushstrokes and flowers that exist only in whispers - a Clivia as rare and mysterious as love itself.

It began, not with blooms, but with foliage. Twenty-five years ago, I became obsessed with variegation - not just the predictable striata with white or yellow stripes with green, but bold, painterly strokes of white, emerald green, and deep crimson margins. I spent years refining these lines, selecting only the most vibrant, structurally elegant leaves. It wasn't glamorous work. Each cross was a slow conversation between plants, seasons of hope, and heartbreak.

I wasn't breeding flowers - I was crafting living art. These were Clivias that stopped people in their tracks before a single bud had formed.

But fate, as it does, had other plans.

One season, in a moment of whimsy - or perhaps horticultural madness - I crossed a multi-petal red (an unpredictable diva of a plant with wild, layered blooms) with a Hirao x hybrid known more for its pristine form and unusually cool-toned foliage with green metallic, star dusted petals. It wasn't a planned cross, not like the others. It was a curious flirtation - a side project, an experiment born of a spare afternoon and a pollen brush still sticky with ambition.

I didn't think much of the seeds. I nearly gave them away.

Years passed. The plant grew, slowly, quietly hidden along the back fence. When it finally bloomed, I did a double take. Then I fell silent. There, nestled among the boldly striped leaves I'd spent a quarter of a century refining, was a flower I wasn't supposed to see - not yet, maybe not ever.

It was blue. Not the cobalt of delphiniums or the sky-blue of agapanthus, but something altogether different: a dusky, moody blue, like twilight caught in velvet. Multi-petalled. Perfect symmetry. A bloom that shouldn't exist.

I had to sit down.

There's no scientific explanation I can offer - not yet. Maybe it was a rare convergence of pigments, a fluke genetic alchemy hidden in the bloodlines. Maybe it was just the universe tipping its hat to a gardener who had waited patiently, lovingly, obsessively. But there it was. A whisper from the future. A flower for dreamers.

The Blue Clivia.

And now, I wait again - nurturing it, observing it, wondering what magic it might pass on.

Because that's what Clivia breeding is, in the end: a long seduction. A dance of time, passion, and chance. You can plan all you like, but sometimes the most breathtaking love stories - and blooms - come from the unexpected.





Since contributions have been a little shy this season, I've taken the liberty of adding a touch of creative flair - just to keep things blooming for all our readers. . This is an Ai created Image



## INTRODUCTION OF ADO VAN RENSBURG - NEW TREASURER

G'day all. My name is Ado van Rensburg, if my surname does not give it away my accent will, I am an expat South African who has called Australia home since 2010.

I work in the property industry and have held varying roles from Financial Controller, Relationship Manager providing Development Finance, selling Real Estate Technology. Although I am not a qualified accountant, I hold a Bachelors and Honors degree in Financial Management and have done more than my fair share of accounting work.

I got my love of gardening from my parents whether willingly or by force I am unsure, by having to help Dad maintain the garden. Growing up in Pretoria you are around Clivia and Agapanthus all the time but sort of do not notice it while you are a child. Due to my Dad's love of Roses I hate anything with a thorn due to carrying rose and bougainvillea branches - you will not find a plant in my garden that has any thorns.

I actually lived on a small holding about 6 km from Pikkie Strydom without knowing about him at all. We were breeding parrots and deer at the time.

When we bought our home in Wahroonga in the middle of COVID the old timer we bought from had a lot of old school Sydney Miniata clivias, my intention was to replace them with broad leaf Belgians, so I started buying a handful. Then all of a sudden one Saturday while driving on my way to look at a boat at Bakes Marine I came across a sign that said Peach Clivias.

I took the turn, and bought a dozen or so plants from Rourke Hartwig. On the way back I bought a few more and 10 mins later saw a Green one at Mark Massey's Mother Earth Kenthurst nursery. I filled the back of the Prado that day.

I unloaded all of these into the small courtyard of the apartment as settlement had not occurred yet. Despite the courtyard overflowing with Clivias, you would not be able to see where those plants are today.

I then discovered the variegated forms. Oh boy was I in trouble then...

When I go into a hobby I tend to go a little overboard, so I started buying seeds, plants and anything I could get my hands on that I liked or thought would be good.

Seeds I struggled with till I started harvesting and propagating my own. This was a little bit of an expensive lesson but I have learned a lot since then with fungus gnats being my largest challenge and the odd rot.

The yard is circa 1,200 sqm with a creek dividing it in half. There are 12 Angophora, 12 turpentine and a few swamp mahoganies (not the correct name but what I call them) the small front has several Japanese maples in an almost rock garden, so the setting is perfect for Clivias as it is hard to get shade growers that flower well.

After 3 years I can honestly say that the only Clivia I have left of the originals are a few yellows. There are no normal clivias in the Garden, if I lose the tag I tend to push it into a Garden bed - more and more of them are flowering and I keep getting greens popping up. If the plant keeps struggling I put it in the ground, if there are too many seedlings left I put spares into open spots. I do not like throwing things away, so I find a spot when I can.





I have a bed where I am growing Mark Cant's Petit Rouge's, unfortunately the bed is a little sunny at times so I have had to replant trees to put shade in place so that the whole bed (around 18 m) can become a petit bed. They are awesome, they flower through out the year. This suits me well as my goal is to have something in flower throughout the year.







## PROPAGATING CLIVIA SEEDS IN AUSTRALIA: FROM BERRY TO BLOOM

There's something deeply satisfying about growing Clivia from seed it's slow, meditative, and incredibly rewarding. Whether you're a seasoned grower or just dipping your toes into Clivia propagation, this guide will walk you through preparing your seeds for the best possible start in Aussie conditions.

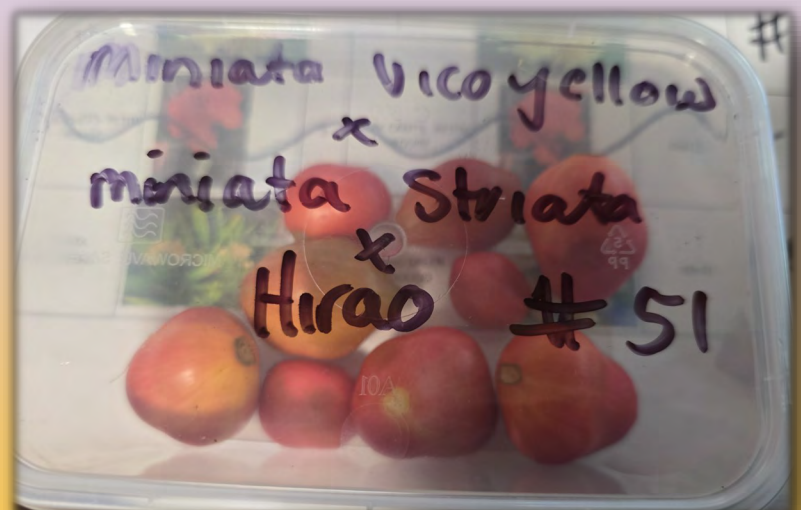


### When to Harvest: Timing is Everything



The first sign that your Clivia berries are ready? A shift in colour usually a softening from green to red, orange, or yellow, depending on the parent plant. In many parts of Australia, especially in *Clivia miniata* varieties, harvest usually kicks off from June onward.

Let the berries sit for one to two weeks after harvest just enough time to loosen their skins and make peeling easier. Of course, if they're left too long, the local wildlife (or curious children) may beat you to them. Aim to harvest them at around nine months on the plant to strike the right balance.







## Handling with Care: Extracting the Seeds

Gently open the berry, it's a bit like unwrapping nature's gift. Inside, you'll find anywhere from one to several seeds, the most I have found was 28 sometimes already showing signs of life with a tiny white root emerging. If so, be especially gentle. Remove the pulp by hand and carefully peel away the thin membrane from each seed

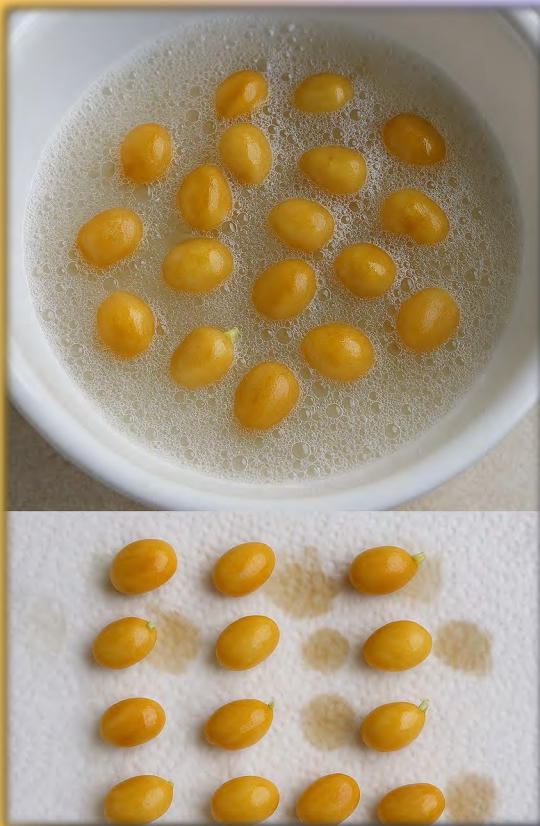


## Cleanliness is Key:

### Preventing Fungal Issues

To give your seeds a clean start and minimise fungal infections, soak them in a mild solution of dishwashing liquid (just a teaspoon per litre of water) for about two hours. Alternatively, a thorough rinse with clean water will do in a pinch.

Once they're squeaky clean, lay them on a paper towel in a dry, shaded spot for a few days. This helps toughen the outer surface and makes them easier to handle



## A Final Tip from the Trenches

Label everything - especially if you're sowing multiple crosses. There's nothing more disappointing than a mystery pot after five years of waiting for a bloom! Patience is key, but so is good record-keeping when it's time to plant..





## Sowing Clivia Seeds: 10 Ways to Wake the Magic

Clivia seeds are like quiet promises - full of potential, but they need just the right nudge to come to life. With a little warmth, a dash of moisture, and a lot of patience, you'll witness those first white roots stretch out and say, "I'm ready."

Seeds are usually harvested during the cooler months of winter, which makes maintaining a warm, stable environment a little tricky - but never fear. Here are 10 tried-and-true germination methods used by growers across Australia. Choose the one that suits your setup (and your personality!).

### 1. The Sphagnum Moss Cocoon (Container Method)

This is the gentle hug your seeds need.

- Line a clear container with moist sphagnum moss.
- Nestle the seeds on top (or lightly cover them).
- Seal the container and tuck it somewhere warm and cosy.
- Mist if needed. In 4–6 weeks, roots should appear like tiny whispers of new life.



### 2. Zip-Lock Germination

Perfect for tight spaces - or the top of your fridge.

- Add damp moss or a moist paper towel to a zip-lock bag.
- Drop the seeds in, seal it, and place somewhere warm and dark.
- Peek in regularly to check for moisture and progress.
- Once roots pop, it's potting time.





### 3. The Heat Pad Kickstart

A little luxury never hurt a seed.

- Set your heat pad to 20–25°C (68–77°F).
- Place seeds in moss and gravel in an open container - no lid (fungus loves it too much).
- Mist lightly every few days.
- When roots and leaves show, transplant.



### 4. Direct Potting – No Fuss, No Frills

Let nature take the lead — but help her along.

- Fill a pot or tray with sandy, well-draining mix (sand, peat, perlite).
- Press seeds in gently, leaving their tops visible.
- Keep warm, shaded, and lightly watered.

### 5. The Paper Towel Fold

Simple. Satisfying. Surprisingly effective.

- Sandwich seeds between two damp paper towels.
- Slip them inside a container or zip-lock.
- Keep somewhere warm.
- Watch for roots, then move to pots.





## 6. Rockwool Cubes (For the Hydro Curious)

Moisture control made easy.

- Insert one seed per cube.
- Keep cubes in a shallow water tray.
- Cover with a plastic dome or tray lid.
- Keep warm and check moisture levels regularly.

## 7. Perlite or Vermiculite Nest

A light and airy cradle for tiny roots.

- Fill a clear tub with moist perlite or vermiculite.
- Gently press in seeds and cover slightly.
- Keep warm with gentle light.
- Mist occasionally. Watch the magic happen.



## 8. Outdoor Shade Bed (Natural Charm)

For the patient grower who loves surprises.

- Scatter seeds on a shaded, rich garden bed.
- Cover with leaf litter or mulch.
- Keep moist.
- Germination will take longer, but the payoff is all natural.





## 9. Greenhouse Method (Controlled Elegance)

Precision and humidity meet horticultural love.

- Sow in small pots or seed trays.
- Maintain 70% humidity with good air flow.
- Keep warm.
- Transplant when roots reach 2–4 cm.



## 10. Hydroponic Germination (The Techie's Delight)

Soilless and sophisticated.

- Use a net pot with rockwool or clay pebbles.
- Place in a water bath with no nutrients.
- Keep warm and humid.





## Final Thought

There's no one-size-fits-all method. Try a few, experiment, and enjoy the journey. Every seed that sprouts is a tiny triumph — and one step closer to that long-awaited bloom.





## Letter from the Editor

Dear Members,

Unforeseen circumstances have once again impacted the time I've had available to prepare this newsletter, and for that, I offer my sincere apologies for the delay.

Despite these ongoing challenges that continue to demand much of my time and attention, I remain deeply committed to preparing and delivering newsletters for the Society. It is a labour of love, and I thank you all for your patience and understanding.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to those who have contributed to this edition: **John Layton, Ray Sidoti, Shuting Jin, and Ado van Rensburg**. Your efforts and support are truly appreciated and have added great value to this publication.

Lastly, I warmly encourage other members to share your insights, stories, updates, and images for inclusion in future newsletters—along with your permission to publish them. Your contributions are vital in enriching our Society's newsletter and fostering a stronger sense of community among us all.

Warm regards,

**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**

- \* MAY SATURDAY 10TH - 12 PM - 4 PM
- \* AUGUST SATURDAY 2ND - 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 # 027**

- \* WINTER 2025





Let's get straight to the point: apart from the Executive reports (thank you kindly!), contributions from the broader membership have been *almost non-existent*. Many have said they'd send something in... but it rarely materialises. It's becoming frustrating.

The editors position is a voluntary and elected position, and while I do genuinely enjoy writing the newsletter I'd enjoy it a lot more if I wasn't doing *all* the writing myself. This latest edition has, once again, taken weeks of my time and unless you're happy to keep enduring my solo, slightly saucy take on the world of Clivia, I encourage you to please chip in.

Here's what we're after:

Got photos of your glorious Clivia blooms—spring, winter, or totally out of season?



Had a pest or disease breakout? Send us some images and a quick note—or even a full page—on how you overcame it.



Have a rare or unusual Clivia flowering, or something quirky going on in your garden? Share the story behind it!



Know a wholesome recipe you think fellow members would enjoy? We'd love to feature it!



Honestly just something would be fantastic. Your contributions don't need to be long, fancy, or formal. They just need to be yours. These little snippets of experience, discovery, or delight are what make the newsletter vibrant, personal, and community-driven.

Please send all contributions (and your permission to publish) directly to the Editor at: [clivia.nsw.editor@gmail.com](mailto:clivia.nsw.editor@gmail.com)

Let's not make this the *Adrian Show* every time... though I'll do it if I must!



## CONTACT DETAILS OF NEW SOUTH WALES CLIVIA SOCIETY OFFICE BEARERS

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## Reference List

1. Most of the images in this issue were thoughtfully generated using AI to help visually represent our stories and ideas.
2. **Clivias** by Harold Koopowitz
3. **Grow Clivias** by Graham Duncan







YOUR NOTES