



# CLIVIA SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC 2025 SPRING NEWSLETTER ISSUE # 028

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## President's Report

Dear Members

President's Report - January 2026

I would like to wish all members of the Clivia Society of NSW Inc and your families a very happy New Year and hope it brings good health and prosperity. I hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful festive season filled with joy and relaxation.

As we look ahead, I am optimistic and excited about the year to come, and I look forward to sharing a positive and productive year together as a society.

The Mt Annan trip is shaping up well, with interest suggesting it will be a successful and enjoyable event for members.

I can now confirm that we have a guest speaker for the February meeting, Evan Marsh, Product Development Horticulturist at Yates. Evan regularly pops up at media events and I am sure his talk will be of interest to members.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on 21st February.

Kind Regards

John Layton

President



## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Greetings members,

At our recent AGM meeting there were changes made with current members standing down as their term has finished. In my position of secretary for the Clivia Society I have filled this position over the time twice. More recently for 5 years and prior to this 3years. I felt it was an opportunity now for another member to take over. Ken Smith who was our very first Secretary graciously took up the offer.

With his years of prior experience, I know it is in very good hands.

May I thank all those that assisted me on my secretarial position namely John Layton, Ken Smith and others over the years.

Other members who stood down from their positions:

John Layton - President (position is still vacant )

Mark Cant - Vice president - filled by Adrian Bligh

My secretarial position will be filled by Ken Smith

Treasurer - Adolf Van Rensburg - will be filled by Chris Clarke

Adrian Bligh our editor - filled by Rowena Miskelly

I would like to wish the new Committee members well in their new positions.

Kind Regards,

Ray Sidoti

(previous secretary)



## TREASURER'S UPDATE

Dear Members,



**CLIVIA SOCIETY of NSW Inc.**  
**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**DATE 16/ 2/2026**

**Balance of account ANZ INGLEBURN as at 06/11/2025 \$ 13,684.69**

**Opening Balance (last report) \$ 13,684.69**

10/11/2025	Nov Cash	Raffle & cash at meeting	20.00
10/11/2025	Square	Raffle at meeting	59.04
29/01/2026	Joanne Goodlet	Membership	25.00
16/02/2026	S Rickard	Membership	25.00
	Peter Hey	Membership	25.00
	John Macintosh	Membership	25.00
	Erika Faust	Membership	25.00
	Christopher Clark	Membership	25.00

**Receipts \$ 229.04**

13/11/2025	AJ Bligh	Facebook Ads	114.37
13/11/2025	Shuting	Website renewal	316.80
14/11/2025	HSC	Meeting Room	320.00
14/11/2025	HSC	Hall for Show	3,135.50
14/01/2026	GCA	Garden Club Fee	95.00
14/01/2026	GCA	GCA Mag	100.00
20/01/2026	CI Janse van Rensburg	K Russel Plant Sales	120.00

**Payments \$ 14,201.67**

**Available - current funds \$ 9,722.06**

**Investment account \$ 8,001.37**

**Interest .20 \$ 8,001.57**

**AVAILABLE FUNDS \$ 17,723.63**


Expenses Due for processing

Statement - copy attached  ... A van Rensburg TREASURER 21 / 2 / 26



## From the Editor's Desk

Dear Members,

At the recent AGM I formally stood down as Editor of the Clivia Society of NSW Newsletter. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve the Society in this role. Preparing the newsletter and sharing the knowledge, achievements, and passion of our members has been both enjoyable and rewarding.

I am pleased to advise that Rowena Misikelly has kindly agreed to take over the role of Editor. Rowena brings a wealth of horticultural knowledge and enthusiasm, and I am sure the newsletter will be in excellent hands. Hopefully under Rowena's guidance members will continue to receive a timely and informative publication.

Over the past 18 months I have unfortunately been unwell, and I have found it increasingly difficult to find the energy and drive required to produce the newsletter to the standard I would like. For this reason, stepping aside felt like the right decision at this time.

I would like to thank all the members who contributed articles, photographs, and support during my time as Editor. The strength of the newsletter has always come from the generosity and passion of our Clivia community.

I wish Rowena every success in the role and look forward to continuing to enjoy the newsletter as a reader.

Warm regards,

**Adrian Bligh**

Former Editor – Clivia Society of NSW Inc.



# Clivia Breeding for Beginners

*A simple step-by-step guide to growing your own unique Clivias*

Why breed Clivias?



Clivias are one of the easiest ornamental plants to breed at home. They grow well in Australian shade gardens and containers, and every seed you grow can produce a completely new plant.

That means:

- You don't need expensive equipment
- You don't need a greenhouse
- You only need two flowering plants and patience

Many award-winning Clivias started in ordinary backyards.

## Step 1 - Pick two good plants

Choose healthy flowering plants you like.

You might pick:

- A bright orange plant with many flowers
- A yellow plant with beautiful shape
- A compact plant ideal for pots



## Step 2 — Pollinate the flowers

When flowers are open:

- Take pollen from one plant (the father)
- Rub it onto the centre of another flower (the mother)
- Label the cross if you want to remember it

That's it - nature does the rest.

If successful, the flower base will swell and form a green berry.



## Step 3 - Wait for the berries to ripen

This is where patience begins.

Clivia berries usually take:

- They take **8 to 12 months** to ripen.
- They will turn red, yellow, or orange and become slightly soft.
- Only pick them when fully ripe.



## Step 4 - Remove and plant the seeds

Inside each berry are large fleshy seeds.

Important beginner tips:

- Do NOT let seeds dry out
- Clean off the pulp
- Plant immediately
- Place seeds on top of moist seed mix and press lightly.

Keep:

- Warm
- Shaded
- slightly moist

Roots usually appear first.



## Step 5 - Grow your seedlings

Clivias are slow but very reliable.

Typical timeline:

- Germination → weeks
- Small plants → 1-2 years
- First flowers → usually 3-5 years

Yes, it takes time.

But when your first home-bred flower opens...

...it feels like Christmas morning for gardeners.

Just start.



## Beginner mistakes to avoid

- Letting seeds dry out
- Picking berries too early
- Overwatering seedlings
- Expecting instant results

*Clivia* breeding rewards patience more than anything else.

Don't aim to create the perfect show plant straight away.

Just start.

Because the most exciting *Clivia* you will ever grow might be the very first seed you plant.

**Kevin Atkins Breeding USA**





## Questions and Answers

Hello all, I'd love some help with a tricky spot.

I have a SW facing balcony in Sydney which is fully undercover. I would consider it full shade other than the occasional hour or so of direct western sun or dappled sun which changes seasonally, and it can occasionally get very windy or hot.

I would like a small feature shrub, tree, or herbaceous plant suitable for a medium to large container that will either have edible fruit, flowers, or leaves in these conditions. Something attractive or with an architectural form with medium to large leaves would be ideal as it will be the feature plant in some large mixed planters (each in it's own separate plastic pot but all placed in a large 60 cm planter). Something with orange fruit or flowers would be a bonus (to match the clivia!).

There are currently 2 vireya rhododendrons and an osmanthus there that are surviving but I wouldn't say thriving. Clivias, hoyas, miniature cymbidiums, chilis, betel leaf, and goldfish plants seem to be enjoying it. Would Cedar Bay cherry or Tasmanian pepper berry work in this space and would anyone have a source for these? Please send your suggestions on other edible plants that would suit this space to [shutingsclivias@gmail.com](mailto:shutingsclivias@gmail.com).

Thank You !

Shuting Jin

Questions from Members

Shuting - this is actually a very interesting microclimate you've described. An SW, fully undercover Sydney balcony behaves almost like a bright-shaded rainforest edge, but with occasional heat spikes and wind stress. Many plants fail there, not because of light, but because undercover areas are dry, reflective, and temperature volatile.



Cedar Bay Cherry - Excellent Choice

### ***Eugenia reinwardtiana***

Why it suits your balcony:

- Naturally, an understory rainforest plant
- Handles bright shade extremely well
- Large, glossy architectural leaves
- Orange-red fruit (perfect with Clivia - excellent visual echo)
- Container-tolerant
- Responds beautifully to pruning - you can shape it into a feature shrub



**BUT — critical success factor:**

It hates cold wind. Your SW exposure means you should buffer it with other pots or place it slightly back from the balcony edge.

Pro tip (advanced):

Use a chunky, free-draining rainforest mix rather than standard potting media.

My preferred formula:

- 40% premium potting mix
- 25% orchid bark
- 20% perlite
- 10% coco chips
- 5% worm castings

You'll get explosive root health.

**Tasmanian Pepperberry - Marginal**



***Tasmania lanceolata***

Verdict: It will survive... but it won't impress you.



Here's the issue:

- It wants cool air movement
- Prefers mountain conditions
- Dislikes reflected heat
- Can sulk in containers

In Sydney, balconies often become

- Sparse
- Leggy
- Slow

Not the feature plant you're imagining.

If this were a shaded Blue Mountains courtyard - different story.

## **Why Your *Vireyas* Are Only “Surviving”**

Classic undercover mistake:

Most balconies are too dry at the root zone, even when humidity feels high.

Try this once:

- Top dress with sphagnum + bark
- Deep soak weekly
- Mist foliage during hot winds

You'll likely see a noticeable shift.

A Plant I Strongly Recommend Instead (You May Love This)

Orange flowering, architectural, shade-tolerant, container happy:

### Orange *Justicia*



### *Justicia aurea*

This plant is criminally underused in Sydney.



Why it's almost perfect for you:

- Thrives in bright shade
- Huge tropical leaves
- Brilliant orange flowers
- Loves containers
- Fast growing but controllable
- Creates that “botanic garden planter” look

Placed near clivias - it will look curated, not accidental.

**Another Expert-Level Option (If You Want Something Rare Looking)**

Another Expert-Level Option (If You Want Something Rare Looking)

## Orange *Anthurium* types



## *Anthurium*

- People think “indoor plant.”
- Not true in Sydney.
- On a protected balcony, they become spectacular - almost like living sculpture.

Another thoughts is:

## *Gardenia radicans*





*Gardenia radicans* is a compact, low-growing gardenia with glossy evergreen leaves and highly fragrant, white to cream flowers. Unlike taller gardenias, radicans stays smaller and more manageable, making it well-suited to containers.

### How Well It Suits Your Balcony

Your SW-facing, bright shade to partial sun balcony in Sydney is actually a great match for this plant.

- Light
- Prefers bright, indirect light (excellent)
- Tolerates a few hours of dappled or late afternoon sun
- Too little light → weak flowering

Your location's shade majorly with some seasonal western light fits this beautifully.

### Shade + Warmth

Gardenias love warmth and humidity, but they don't want harsh, unfiltered sun - exactly what your undercover space provides. They'll bloom well without getting fried.

### Wind

Like most Gardenias:

- They don't like constant strong wind, especially dry wind
- Your undercover balcony helps buffer this
- You're already growing clivia and hoyas- shades of similar tolerance.

### Character & Aesthetic

- Lush, glossy evergreen foliage
- Flowers are strongly fragrant, especially in the evening
- Adds a classic garden feel next to tropicals like *Justicia* or *Clivia*
- Great contrast against architectural foliage plants

This is NOT a plant that "just fills space" - it gives sight, scent, and softness.



## Growing in Containers

### Potting Mix

Gardenias need:

- Good drainage
- Acidic to neutral pH
- Moisture retention without waterlogging

### Mix suggestion:

- Premium potting mix
- 20% pine bark
- 10% perlite
- small handful of compost
- Mulch top lightly with sphagnum or wood chips.

## Watering

- Keep evenly moist (not soggy)
- In hot, windy periods, check twice per week
- Avoid letting it dry out completely

## Flowering

Expect:

- Repeated flushes of jasmine-like blooms
- Peak in warmer months (but can flower off and on year-round in protected sites)
- Fragrance alone is worth it.

## Companion Planting

Pairs beautifully with:

- Cedar Bay Cherry (foliage contrast)
- Orange Justicia (flower colour counterpoint)
- Clivias (layered shade planting)
- Anthuriums (textural backdrop)





### **In a 60 cm planter:**

- Place *Gardenia radicans* in the centre or front
- Taller or architectural behind (*Justicia* / Cedar Bay)
- Soft groundcover (*Clivia* / Betel leaf) below
- This gives depth and season-long interest.

### **Challenges (and How You Beat Them)**

May react to:

- Nutrient imbalance
- Salt buildup in pots

### **Solution:**

1. Light feed with slow-release fertiliser formulated for acid-loving plants every 8–10 weeks.
2. *Gardenia radicans* is a perfect feature plant for your SW shade balcony - for scent, foliage, flower, and year-round presence.
3. It's not merely survivable - it can thrive in your conditions and pulls together a lush, layered container arrangement.

### **Where to Source Quality Specimens (NSW)**

Since you clearly appreciate good plant material, skip hardware stores.

### **Look toward:**

- Collector's Plant Fair - elite growers attend
- Sydney Rare Plant Nursery - excellent tropical stock
- Exotic Nurseries - often carry Cedar Bay Cherry
- Australian Plants Society NSW sales tables can surprise you
- Friends of Botanic Gardens Sales
- Mother Earth Nurseries
- **Daley's Fruit Tree Nursery and Ladybird Nursery (Cedar Bay Cherry)**



### **One Strategic Suggestion (Most People Miss This)**

Because your balcony is undercover:

- Use heavier pots
- Large foliage plants catch wind like sails.
- Plastic inner pots inside a heavier outer planter = smart.

### **My Professional Pick for You:**

Cedar Bay Cherry - feature edible

Orange Justicia - colour + architecture

Orange Anthurium - sculptural accent

**Pepperberry would be a far distant fifth.**

**Hope this helps you out, I will bring you an Aloe vera Plant.**

## Summer Growing Guide: Protecting and Propagating Your Clivias

By Adrian Bligh — Editor, Clivia Society of NSW Inc.

### Introduction

As summer settles in and the days lengthen, the heat can quickly take its toll on your beloved plants. The midday and late-afternoon sun can scorch tender leaves and stress even the hardiest Clivias.

**Ensure your plants are well protected** beneath trees, shade cloth, or positioned where they receive only the gentle morning light. If your plants are still exposed, consider relocating them to a more favourable position before the real heat arrives.



### Dividing and Taking Offsets

Summer is an ideal time to **divide mature clumps** and **propagate new plants**.

Large clumps can be separated with a sharp spade or eased apart using a garden fork. However, for a treasured plant, take a gentler approach:

Dust off the soil around the base.



Carefully *surgically remove* offsets with a clean, sharp knife.

## Summer Growing Guide: Protecting and Propagating Your Clivia

Retain a few roots if possible but **avoid** damaging the parent stem.



Offsets

Dust both parent and offset wounds with **flowers of sulphur** to prevent fungal attack.



Parent



Flowers of Sulphur



Offset

Pot the offsets individually in a **well-draining mix** (propagating sand is excellent). Even rootless offsets will soon form their own healthy root systems with patience and care.



Potted Plants

## Feeding for Growth

This is the **active growth season** and next year's flower buds are already forming. Give your plants a balanced boost with a **slow-release fertiliser**,

A slow-release fertiliser such as Osmocote is commonly recommended for clivias grown in pots because it releases nutrients gradually over several months.

### How to apply:

- Sprinkle a small amount of pellets on the surface of the potting mix around the plant.
- Keep the pellets away from the crown of the plant.
- Lightly water the pot after applying.



### Typical feeding schedule:

- Apply slow-release fertiliser once or twice a year (often in spring and early autumn).
- A common rate for an adult clivia is about one dessert spoon per plant.

### Why growers use it:

- Provides steady nutrients for months.
- Encourages strong leaves and better flowering.
- Convenient “set-and-forget” feeding for potted plants.

This method is widely used by clivia growers, especially when plants are grown in pine bark or free-draining potting mixes where nutrients can leach out quickly



## Watering & Mulching

Potted plants dry out rapidly in summer heat. Water deeply twice a week, allowing water to soak right through the root zone.

Garden-grown plants, especially those in shaded beds, often rely on residual moisture but will still appreciate a good soak every week or two if rain is scarce.



A thick organic mulch (e.g. sugarcane, lucerne, composted bark, leaf litter) conserves moisture, cools roots, and feeds the soil. Your plants will reward you with vigorous, glossy growth.

## Before You Go Away

Heading off for a summer break? Arrange for a neighbour or friend to water your pots once a week. Before leaving, give everything a deep watering and refresh the mulch.

Garden beds can usually handle your absence and with a bit of luck, a few summer showers will see them thriving when you return.

## Final Thought

Summer can be challenging, but it's also a time of quiet preparation. With thoughtful shading, regular watering, and a dash of fertiliser, your Clivias will store strength for next season's magnificent blooms.

Stay cool, garden wisely, and enjoy the rewards of a thriving Clivia collection this summer!



## **MEETING AND SHOW DATES 2026**

MEETING ROOM SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY AGM 12 NOON - 4PM

MEETING ROOM SATURDAY 9TH MAY 12 NOON - 4PM

MEETING ROOM SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST 12 NOON - 4 PM

MEETING ROOM SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 12 NOON - 4PM

## **CLIVIA SHOW DATES**

WHOLE CENTRE FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 10AM - 5PM FOR SET UP

WHOLE CENTRE SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 8AM -4PM

WHOLE CENTRE SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 8AM - 3PM

VENUE: ALL THE MEETINGS AND THE SHOW WILL BE HELD AT THORNLEIGH  
COMMUNITY CENTRE THORNLEIGH



## References

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- Duncan, G. (2005). The genus *Clivia* (Amaryllidaceae) in South Africa. *Herbertia*, 59, 1–14.

## Images

- Ray Sidoti
- Kevin Atkins
- Adrian Bligh
- Shuting Jin
- <https://www.strangewonderfulthings.com/index.html>
- [https://www.biodiversityexplorer.info/plants/amaryllidaceae/clivia\\_caulescens.htm](https://www.biodiversityexplorer.info/plants/amaryllidaceae/clivia_caulescens.htm)
- <https://botany.cz/cs/clivia-caulescens/>
- <https://www.monstera-app.com/fr/plantes/varietes/clivia-caulescens>
- <https://www.inaturalist.org/taxa>



## CLIVIA SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

**Gary Fry**

Members new to the Clivia world may not be aware there is a Clivia Society based in South Africa established in 1992. The Society exists to facilitate the common interests of Clubs through the publication of a Yearbook and quarterly Newsletters, the registration of named cultivars, development of judging criteria and fostering research on Clivia.

The Clivia Society website is a wealth of knowledge with all Yearbooks and Clivia News available online (with the exception of the most recent 12 months), documents relating to judging standards and colour classification, cultivation notes, galleries of photographs from the annual Virtual Show, information on shows and events, and the Clivia Register.

Membership is offered to individuals who wish to join and receive the Yearbook publication mailed to you, as well as three digital Clivia News per year. More information on joining the Clivia Society is available on the following page -

<https://www.cliviamarket.com/clivia-society-australian-membership>

### **Clivia Society Links**

Clivia Society website - <https://cliviasociety.com/>

Clivia Society Publications - <https://cliviasociety.com/publications/>

Clivia Register - <https://cliviasociety.com/clivia-register/clivia-register-list/>



## Contact Details of NSW Clivia Society Office

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## NOTES