

CLIVIA SOCIETY

newsletter



Volume 14 No 1 Autumn 2005



**Herewith the first official notice of Clivia 2006,
the 4th International Clivia Conference,
to be hosted by the Northern Clivia Club
on September 6th and 7th, 2006
in Pretoria, Republic of South Africa.**

**A South African Championship Show will
be held on September 9th & 10th, 2006,
& a Clivia Auction of rare and special Clivia
on September 9th, 2006
to coincide with Clivia 2006**

For more information regarding the
Conference, Championship Show,
Auction, Accommodation & Tours
please visit www.cliviasociety.org or contact

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E-mails, faxes and telephone messages
will be forwarded by Dr van der Merwe
to all relevant committee members.

**Clivia 2006 promises to be a
memorable occasion!
Don't miss out!
Be there!**

Watch www.cliviasociety.org for updates

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Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Committee and the Clivia Society.

The New Year starts with all the announcements of the forthcoming shows in South Africa, and we also look as far ahead as 2006 to the International Clivia Conference and Show. A programme has been planned for tours in 2006 so that Clivia enthusiasts can plan ahead to see whether they can afford the time, money and effort to join us for our festivities.

I suppose it is inevitable that when we have a Society the size of ours made up of many middle aged and elderly members there is bound to be an obituary in almost every newsletter. This quarter we announce the passing of Fred Gibello, another of our Founder Members. He will leave a big gap in the hearts of many clivia friends.

John van der Linde is on holiday in the Maldives and the Galapagos Islands but still managed to glean sufficient information about the clivias depicted on this issue's cover before he left. Roger Fisher has filled the gap John left when he finished his series on 'Some early names associated with clivia'. During the academic vacation Roger did some 'Musings' the first of which appear in this newsletter. Please note that the deadline date for the photographic competition has been extended to Sunday 10 April.

The 'Correspondence' section deals with various matters. Andre Wiese thanks members for their sympathy and caring on the death of his father, Gert Wiese, and tells us what he intends doing with his father's clivia collection. It is also gratifying to have news about the Cynthia Giddy clivias. Wilma Tindall, Cynthia's sister is trying to find out more about the origins of the collection. Those who placed orders for *mirabilis*

seedlings will hear about their orders. There is a brief note on the uses of *C. nobilis* in traditional medicine. Cobus Roos makes suggestions on starting a clivia collection.

Many members have contributed to 'Practical hints for beginners' and different aspects of clivia cultivation are discussed. A new section, 'Questions and answers' should also prove stimulating and bring up interesting points for discussion. Dickie Gunston and Tom Whitehorn have posed some very interesting questions. Many of the subjects chatted about on the Clivia Enthusiast Group also have merit, especially as there is instant feedback.

When I first heard that a fifth Clivia species had been discovered, I immediately thought it must be the 'Swamp Clivia', found in Pondoland in the Transkei. However, it turned out to be *Clivia mirabilis*. Now the sixth species, the 'Swamp Clivia', has been described in the Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society, 2004, 146, 369-374 by Murray, Ran de Lange, Hammett, Truter and Swanevelder. This new species, very similar in appearance to *C. gardenii*, has been named *Clivia robusta*. However it differs from all the other pendulous species in that it has a unique morphology, distribution, karyotype and molecular fingerprinting. The paper has been on the Clivia website, but will probably also be reproduced in the Yearbook. The Newsletter would not do justice to the photographs.

This is my penultimate letter as editor of the Clivia Society Newsletter. I look forward to spending more time with my clivias and not having to worry about meeting deadlines.

Editor.

From the Chairman

I will keep it extremely short and hopefully sweet too. Thank you so much to those who have responded to our appeal to send us Practical Hints for Beginners and questions that we can refer to experts. Please, it was not a once-off appeal. Let us know what works for you and keep sending the questions.

Three members, Keith Hammett, Dirk

Swanevelder and Jaco Truter, of the Clivia Society are co-authors of the article that officially describes *Clivia robusta* as a new taxon. The article, as it appeared in *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*, 2004, **146**, 369 - 374, can be viewed at www.cliviasociety.org.za.

Chris Vlok

Obituary

Dear friends,

It is with great personal sadness that I have to inform you of the passing away of a very good Clivia friend, whom a lot of you also know, Fred Gibello.

Fred died this morning [17 February 2005] from leukaemia here in the C. Louis Leipoldt Hospital. He will be buried at the Dutch Reform Church in Melkboschstrand on Monday at 12:30.

We will all remember him for his great enthusiasm and dedication to the society and its cause.

There are many plants in private collections that bear a name tag of "Fred Gibello", bringing great pride and joy to their owners.

Kind regards,
Johan Schoombee
From a very windy Cape Town

"When we are willing to share, others will share in return. If we are afraid to disclose our imperfect selves we cannot expect others to feel secure enough to do so and we continue to remain strangers." Leo Buscaglia

IN MEMORIAM - A TRIBUTE TO OOM

FRED GIBELLO - A TRUE FRIEND OF ALL CLIVIA ENTHUSIASTS.

Alfredo - better known as Fred - born on 11 December 1925, passed away peacefully on the morning of 17 February 2005.

The Chairman, committee and members of the Eastern Province Clivia Club wish to extend their deepest sympathy to his wife Hilda, their children and grand children. May the Good Lord comfort and carry you through these sad times.

The name, Fred Gibello is, amongst others, synonymous with Clivia throughout South Africa as well as some of the other countries where there are Clivia enthusiasts.

As far as can be ascertained, Oom Fred, a lover of indigenous South African Flora, became involved with Clivia some 38 years ago. He derived much pleasure from sharing his passion of Clivia as well as his plants with others. He was a founder member of the first Clivia Club established in South Africa during 1992. Driven by his enthusiasm he appointed himself as "Agent" of the

Club to promote interest in Clivia and recruit members, so much so, that he was awarded free membership for a year for his "active interest in the Club and bringing in valuable support needed to continue".

At this stage Oom Fred also established friendly relationships with Bill Morris and Ken Smith of Australia and Yoshi Nakamura of Japan. Many of the plants he cultivated were from seed exchanged with these gentlemen, and found their way to the gardens and shade houses of other enthusiasts throughout South Africa. Wherever he and his family settled, he managed to create a following of Clivia lovers.

Oom Fred entered the lives of the Eastern Province enthusiasts after he moved from Cape Town to Great Brak River and eventually to Jeffreys Bay in 1998. In 1999 he was involved with the inception of the Port Elizabeth Clivia Interest Group. He became Public Relations Officer of the new group and went on to organize the first Clivia show in Port Elizabeth which was a wonderful success. Through his love for Clivia, his lively enthusiasm and excellent knowledge he gladly shared with others, he contributed to

a large degree to the healthy growth in membership. He was also the driving force behind the idea to apply for full Club status for the Eastern Province, which was granted during 2002. In 2003 he was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Clivia Society for his contribution to the promotion of Clivia.

Oom Fred was well known for his charitable and open handedness and was forever handing out seed and plants, which included the well-known yellow and orange Fred Gibello miniata, to beginners, friends and even strangers.

In 2004 he decided to relocate to Melkbosstrand due to Hilda's ill health. He however, assured us that he would carry on with his Clivia activities and kept us informed up to his last days.

Oom Fred was a great inspiration to all who knew him and I am sure that if it were possible to backtrack his footsteps, it would surely be a path lined with beautiful Clivia.

He will always be in our hearts.

Willie le Roux
Chairman, Eastern Province Clivia Club.

Clivia Society Photographic Competition

This is a reminder of the Photographic Competition. It has been decided to marginally extend the cut off date to Sunday 10th April 2005 in order to give Northern Hemisphere growers a better chance of including this years flowering season.

For those of you who missed the entry form and rules with the initial announcement there

is a copy can be found on page 31 of the newsletter.

I URGE ALL WHO HAVE PHOTOS OF FLOWERS TO ENTER.

This is not a competition for experts but for Clivia enthusiasts. It also helps to support the production of the Yearbook with new and interesting photos.

Claude Felbert

Stories behind the cover photographs

This quarter we feature flowers in the apricot to peach range - very much the rage for the past few years, with peach perhaps being "flavour of the month".

How do you describe these pastel colours? It isn't easy. Well, you could look at the 'diverse' colours shown on the Cape Clivia Club Colour Chart, which many of us use to colour code our plants as they bloom. You could also look at Harold Koopowitz's superb "Clivias" - an essential book for enthusiasts. He describes apricot as "honey amber with a touch of pink. This is quite a different colour from those in the paler pastel oranges found in the standard clivias." He says that in peach flowers the pink is more obvious, with some yellow still in the background. It is worth studying his book, and these cover pictures, to see exactly what he is driving at, for there really is a continuum of shades involved, as there is with the colours of the peach varieties we eat.

As more breeding results become available from around the world we will be able to understand more about the production and inheritance of this type of coloration. However, we already know that there are several quite different forms of inheritance that give rise to the pastel colours, including the very rare pinks and mauve-toned flowers.

Note that the stem colours of seedlings from pastel breeding can be a range of different colours. Harold points out that some have no pigment, whilst others can be quite dark. He suggests that those without pigment will probably yield pastels, but I would not discard the ones with pigmented stems too easily; who knows what colour their flowers will be? After all, seedlings from a light apricot 'Gladys Blackbeard' x 'Lötter yellow' are

heavily pigmented, but nevertheless produce light apricot coloured flowers.

Anyone wanting to read more is referred to Harold's book. Also, every one of the 6 Clivia Society Yearbooks issued so far has had one or more articles on peaches, apricots and other pastels, besides some truly beautiful pictures which illustrate the range of colours very well.

Now, something for those who are planning on attending the 2006 International Clivia Conference in Pretoria: it is said that plants from the 'Cameron Peach' strain, which are currently being held back from the market, will be released then, priced for international buyers. Better start saving up now if you want one!

Photo no. 1 - Front cover

To me this flower is really special - a lovely colour, and it doesn't look too 'man-made'. To Ken Fargher, its proud breeder, it was a lovely surprise when it first flowered. Ken bought a plant from Sean Chubb at the second Northern Clivia Club Show he attended. Although only one flower was open it was a peach colour he fancied. Ken felt it would be ideal for breeding and took it home, and looked through his then small collection of yellows in flower. He selected the best yellow of Nakamura origin that he had bought from Geoff Meyer the previous year. As the peach flowers opened one after the other, he put pollen from the yellow onto his peach. This resulted in about 40 seeds, and most of the resulting seedlings flowered in 2004.

Ken first came across clivias in the early 1980s, when he helped his wife's godmother Joan Provis plant out clivia seeds at her Nursery (mainly azaleas) on her farm across

the road from the Magoebaskloof Hotel, in Northern Province. The bug bit him seriously when he attended his first Show some years later. Today he is a keen member of the Johannesburg-based Metro Interest Group and has about 30,000 plants grown from seed. He says he is concentrating on breeding variegated yellows and peaches, amongst other exciting things. Ken is hot on keeping records to assist in his breeding, noting, for the plants he chooses to keep, source, seed accession number, description, flower and leaf dimensions, and photograph.

Ken runs a computer software business and, as a hobby more than a business venture, has used those skills to develop "The Clivia Store" www.clivias.co.za, selling clivia seeds and plants over the internet to buyers from all over the world.

Coming back to the plant pictured, Ken's 'Chubb Peach' x yellow cross, some breeders are of the view that flowers with broader, more overlapping petals are produced if the cross is done the other way around, i.e. by using 'Chubb Peach' pollen on an appropriate Group 1 yellow with the desired flower characteristics. Incidentally, be warned, 'Chubb Peach'/Group 2 yellow crosses result in plants with orange flowers.

Today we know that all seedlings from a 'Chubb Peach'/Group 1 yellow cross should be unpigmented and that all such green-stemmed seedlings will flower peach. However, don't forget this: If a peach flowering plant from this breeding ('peach split for yellow') is crossed with a Group 1 yellow, ALL seedlings will have unpigmented stems, but only 50% will flower peach; the rest will be yellows - you will have to grow the lot through to flowering to see which is which! The only clue to help you, Rudo Lötter says, is that the bases of the ones that will eventually flower peach are a more olive green than the lighter green of the eventual yellows.

Terri and Sean Chubb's article, "Natal Peaches", in CLIVIA 3, gives a lot more useful information about peaches, including 'Chubb Peach'. Interestingly, they say, "The intensity of peach pigment in the offspring seems to vary and some seedlings flower considerably darker than the original clone. Seedlings carrying green markings in the throat of the flowers seem to be the darkest peach".

Photo no. 2 - back cover

This is Andre Calitz's light apricot, awarded first place in the 'Apricot - one umbel' class at the 2003 ECCC Show. It is one of two apricot flowering plants out of a batch of 15 that Andre bought from Floradale Nursery in East London in 2001, when they were not yet flowering size. He has found this plant to be self-sterile, but when he used its pollen on a 'Vico Yellow' about three quarters of the resulting seedlings were green-stemmed. What colour will they flower? He will only know in 3 or 4 years time.

I phoned Floradale Nursery and spoke to its long-time proprietor and Border Clivia Interest Group member, Gerald Muller, who told me this interesting story: In the early 1970's he had imported seeds from New Zealand, which originated from Santa Barbara, California. (Di Smith, Secretary of the NZ Clivia Club, tells me that 'Santa Barbara Reds', were probably derived from these American plants and are still sold in NZ today. According to Harold Koopowitz some Californian plants can possibly be traced back to plants/seeds imported from Germany in the early 1900s.)

Gerald's plants turned out to be mainly broad-leafed, with flower colours ranging from light orange right through to darkish orange/red, some with green throats. He planted them in the ground and moles destroyed some of them. His eyes opened

when he saw the survivors in flower so he quickly saved them from the moles and put them in pots. He has since, over a thirty - year period, intercrossed them and their offspring on a haphazard basis, keeping seedlings with features that he liked and selling the rest. His aim is to have clivias in flower throughout the year, having selected clivias with a tendency to flower out of season.

Mick Dower, a Cape Town member of the Cape Clivia Club, also has one of these apricots from Floradale. It is pictured in CLIVIA 5, on page 125 and is well worth looking at. He tells me that it is genetically the most interesting plant that he has. Since 2001 he has crossed it with, amongst others, 'Chubb Peach', 'Lötter Peach', 'Gladys Blackbeard' light apricot, 'Kirstenbosch Yellow', and a 'Vico Yellow' (meristem), obtaining varying proportions of seedlings with unpigmented stems. All seedlings from a cross with a yellow that was not a Group 1 Yellow like 'Kirstenbosch Yellow' and 'Vico Yellow' have pigmented stems. Mick, who keeps very good records, but who emphasizes that some of his samples are too small to draw conclusions based on the actual proportions of seedling stem colours, should get his first flowering results from 2006 onwards. We await them with interest.

I wonder whether these plants are not closely related to some of the peach and apricot plants being bred in California by people like Jim Comstock, Dave Conway and Victor Murillo, which may also have Santa Barbara and German plants in the background? And what about similar colours cropping up in Australia, grown from seed imported from Schenkel in Germany? Maybe someone can

follow up on this possible "German Connection"?

Importantly, it would seem that the mutation(s) which cause apricot in the broader leaved Floradale plants are different to the single gene mutation which has resulted in 'Chubb Peach', a plant found in the wild in the 1950's in KwaZulu-Natal. It is interesting that Mick Dower has had some green-stemmed seedlings when crossing the two types.

Photos 3 and 4

Due to pressure of time before going on holiday I have not been able to follow up on these plants to tell you more about them.

Photo no 3 is a good example of the wide range of colours appearing these days. To me, judging only by the photo, the front flower fits in the peach category, though clearly it is a different peach to that shown in photo 1. It probably breeds differently too. What colour would you call the flower at the back of the picture?

Note how the owner has tagged each of the crosses that he has made to his two seed parents. It would have been nice to know what they were?

I doubt whether many people would get too excited about the shapes of the flowers in photo 4, but I am sure we agree that the colours are very special, and probably do not crop up too often. The combination of the lighter and darker colours is most attractive. Note also the "keels" that are visible on two of the petals of the flower at "six o'clock" in the photo.

John van der Linde

The late Gert Wiese - acknowledgement

Dear Clivia friends

Thank you so much for the phone calls, flowers, e-mails, cards and personal visits to my mother over the past week. Thanks also for the wonderful turnout at the church service on a sweltering Friday afternoon.

Many people are asking me what will now become of my father's Clivia collection? Nothing definite has been decided, but various members of the family will be keeping some of the best plants, mainly for sentimental reasons - and the rest will have to be sold as no-one in the family has the time or the space to accommodate the 2700 large plants and 2400 seedlings (approximate count). I shall be sorting out as much as I can over the next week or so, and it is possible that a small "auction" might be held in a fortnight's time, possibly on the Internet or on site in Durbanville. Your thoughts on this would be welcomed.

I do not wish to stir up too much controversy with this next statement, but I wish to caution all gardeners. From what I have read on the Internet, I have reason to suspect that the cause of my father's lymphoma could be attributed to excessive (and unnecessary?) exposure to chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Please be very careful with the chemicals you use in your garden or nursery! (This might be an interesting field of study for an aspiring young biologist, botanist or medical researcher.)

Once again, thanks from the family - as I mentioned on Friday after the church service, the Clivia "Circle of Friendship" meant a great deal to Gert Wiese. It will be my aim to return his ashes to the farm from which he obtained his first yellow Clivia in KwaZulu-

Natal, South Africa, where I shall plant 83 Clivias back in their natural environment - one for each year of his wonderful life. Should you one day come across a patch of yellow and orange Clivias blooming profusely in the bush somewhere in KZN, it is possible you will have found Gert Wiese's last resting place and private "Circle of Friends".

Kind regards,
Andre Wiese (eldest son)

Clivia search

Cynthia Giddy was my sister. I am aware that her name causes different reactions in different people, but I believe that through distribution of her original yellow (where DID it come from?), she is an integral part of the "great yellow clivia puzzle", to quote Brain Tarr. - or has it become a controversy? I am not in any way suggesting that she is the only one that contributed to the yellow developments.

Cynthia left very few written notes about her collection and not many of the plants were labeled. I believe she had good reasons for this. We have little information about exactly what is what and where plants came from. While she was alive, I was not as interested in Clivia as I am now (and also quite scornful of hybrids then) so we didn't discuss these or the origins of her plants. Now we are trying to gather as much information as possible so that we can document the collection and its history.

Since her death in 1998, Caitlin, one of her daughters, and I have been tending her collection of clivia - Caitlin in the Eastern Cape and I in the Western Cape (mostly from seed/seedlings). Caitlin has kept the collection of mother plants intact in spite of many

requests for plants or suggestions to relocate the collection. There have been ups and downs with mole rats and monkeys and drought and disease and friendly visitors and chancers.

At the time of her death her collection included:

- Some 300 or more plants, not only yellows, but wonderful broadleaf orange hybrids and variegated leaves etc., probably all from Yoshikazu Nakamura
- At least 3 or 4 yellow strains (Northern branch newsletter Vol. 7 No. 3) - from the Saunders clone?, from a Bainsfield (?) find; there is reference to an USA strain and a possible Vico plant. There certainly are at least 4 strains amongst the mother plants.
- At least 2 yellow hybrids she bred herself (I think) - 'Cynthia's Best' which shows the typical lime coloration but has laxer umbels/individual flowers (now marketed by Showers of Flowers - Spring 2004 catalogue - from a different source) and a 'Best X Vico' cross which is a lovely butter yellow with a rounded head.

For us the most pressing issue is about which yellow is which and where they came from. I have had some 'Giddy yellows' (or are they 'Natal yellows?') in my possession for years - we always thought of them as family heirlooms! We know she sent most of her yellow seed and offshoots to Yoshikazu Nakamura in Japan in the early days. As Dr. Rourke has suggested (Yearbook 3 p.3) the 'Giddy Yellows' live on in breeders' collections both here in South Africa and around the world.

Other questions that intrigue:

- When/where DID she get her first clivia? Ted and Cynthia moved to Natal in 1963 or thereabouts.
- Are 'Giddy yellow' and 'Natal yellow'

the same or different? The pictures are confusing. Compare Yearbook 2 Page 10 with Graham Duncan's "Growing clivia" page 20. My own "original" yellow is different from a 'Cynthia Giddy yellow' recently given me by Fred van Niekerk. (Fred has been so helpful and generous - many thanks!)

- Did she really only send a yellow to Kirstenbosch in 1984? (She also donated one of the first Veltheimia, 'Lemon Flame', to them by the way.) She grew and sold yellows as early as 1978 (Jim Holmes Yearbook 3 p.68).
- When did she sell that yellow to Mrs. Hollis? (Newsletter 2001 Vol. 10 No 1 **P 11**).
- When did she first link up with Nakamura? How did this happen?
- Did she supply/know Dr. Hirao?
- Where was she going with her own breeding programme?
- What is the parentage and history of 'Cynthia's Best'?
- Where and when did she get her *Cyrthanthiflora*?
- From whom did she get her American yellow' strain?
- Did she get a yellow from Australia?
- She acknowledges help from some one in Australia about getting 100% yellow seedlings. Who was her Australian "mentor" referred to in an article by Kristo Pienaar?
- What was the date of that Pienaar article? What was it in response to?
- What of her contacts with Marne and Jill Hulme, Joyce De Villiers and the Van Rooyen family from somewhere in Northern Natal?
- Did she have any contact with the Schofield family from near Richmond, Natal. They were horticulturalists and plant people and may know some small detail.

I have scoured the Newsletters and

Yearbooks and have had contact with a few wonderful people who have provided useful additional information. I believe there is more information “out there” that would be helpful. I would be most grateful if those with answers to some of the questions or interesting snippets would contact me by phone or email.

Greetings Wilma Tindall
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Email: katetindall@telkomsa.net

Clivia mirabilis seedlings

John Winter has asked me to explain to you all that handling a big seedling order does not fall within the usual Kirstenbosch activity and must be dealt with subject to staff availability. Orders have been received from 425 persons for 1356 seedlings. Kirstenbosch is permitted to sell 1200 seedlings but John is not satisfied that there are that number that are big enough to sell.

Consequently he has decided that all orders will be met, but subject to a maximum of 3 per person. That maximum applies to the individuals in group orders.

Different circumstances apply to most individuals which requires that an individual letter must be prepared for everyone explaining the allocation and what payment must be made. These are now being prepared and hopefully will go out together within the next couple of weeks.

Mick Dower, Cape Town.

Traditional uses of *Clivia nobilis*

Recently one of my students from Elliotdale in the Eastern Cape visited me in Pretoria. I asked Mr. N Yuke whether he knew *Clivia nobilis*. At first he did not know what I was talking about. However, after I showed him the nobilis pictures on the Clivia Society

website, he immediately recognized the plant. Afterwards he posted me a letter in which he wrote:

“This plant is mainly used for medicinal purposes, both for human beings and animals (especially domestic animals).

Animals

- 1 *Clivia nobilis* stimulates levels of appetite.
- 2 It helps in cases where the animal has rejected its young one. When the mixture from the plant is given to the problematic animal, bonding takes place.

Human beings

The mixture is used for washing because it is used as a herb for complexion- especially among the blacks.”

Chris Vlok, Pretoria.

A beginner’s perspective

Many a beginner has been faced with the question - “Where to from here?”

You get interested in Clivia, and join a club or Society. You get yourself some of the available literature, and you’re on your way. Not so easy I’m afraid. A year or two down the line you have all these wonderful plants you bought in the beginning, and you realize that they’re not at all what you initially thought they would be. So off to the garden they go, and you need to almost start from scratch ... two years down the line.

It happens, but fortunately it’s not the end of the world. I was very fortunate to have one of the most wonderful mentors anyone could ever wish for, my beloved friend and “Clivdad”, the late Oom Ammie Grobler. He sorted me out very quickly, and pointed me in the right direction. I wanted mature plants that could flower for me, and I bought quite a

few, even from him. He allowed me to make my own mistakes in the beginning.

Then one day he confronted me with the naked reality. His advice was to buy lots of seed from very good plants. My argument was that it would take me 4 years to see the first flowers. His reply was that this was indeed so, but if I did that every year, I would have new flowers every year after that first year. And this changed my outlook completely about collecting plants and to choose those which would be worthwhile.

I now buy about 300-700 seeds a year, and another 50-100 seedlings from very special plants. I've decided to build up my collection of mature plants very slowly, although it will rapidly increase when I have my own first flowerings next year. I'm buying very selectively when I buy mature plants now, and concentrate mostly on suckers/offsets of such plants.

This is my advice to all beginners. Buy lots of seed from different breeders. I know exactly the frustration of waiting for them to flower, but I assure you that it will be worth-

while in the end. Buy lots of seedlings. And rather than buying plants at bargain prices that might not be up to standard (sometimes a very special plant can be bought at a bargain price), buy less plants at higher prices that you know is going to fit in with your idea of what you want to achieve in your breeding program.

I am honoured to have had the opportunity to be taught by a master teacher, and I share with you his vision, knowing that his legacy will be with us for many years to come. I sincerely hope that the above advice will bring you closer to your objectives as a beginner, and that all beginners will grow with their collections, and in future become masters in their own right.

Cobus Roos, Pretoria, South Africa

Last laugh

How about the term CUVIATUS NEUROSIS to describe the sickness we all seem to suffer from?

Andy Falk, Cape Clivia Club.

MUSINGS

Musing 1 - The Sick Clivial¹

*O Clivia, thou art sick!
The invisible worm
That flies in the night,
In the moonlit balm,*

*Has found out thy bed
Of verdant joy:
And his dark secret love
Does thy life destroy.*

(With apologies to William Blake, 1757-1827)

I have been contemplating clivias now for a while - I'm one of Lily Borer's typical past-fifty males² gone a little dotty in the presence of the allure of this plant.

My attentions have been briefly diverted by an infestation of the dreaded amaryllis worm which has devastated a stand of crinum (*C. bulbispermum*). I'd collected a good crop of its seed, the plant having flowered particularly well this season. Its first seedlings from the first set I sowed back in 1998 also produced their own first flowers and seeds as well. I, as a matter of course and habit, put down these seeds around the bed to germi-

nate and grow, so there are a number of generations of seedlings about. Up until now I'd taken their pollination and germination for granted - these just being the things that plants do. After my session with the moth at the clivias³ and having recently read an article on moth pollination in a back issue of *Veld & Flora*⁴ I have started to wonder a little more deeply (and darkly) on matters of plant reproduction.

Having the moth in mind, I let a large clump of potted clivias bloom without hand pollination. These I'd inherited after my sister's move from a house where she had in turn inherited them from their previous owner, which makes them at least forty years old. They were still in the same fibre cement pot, although I have, once only, replaced the grow-mix. They are now under net after the frost devastation of 2003, and I'm pleased to add, thriving. They are now known as the 'Jolly Clumpers'. Only two peduncles out of twenty-one have produced three fruit, one and two respectively. The nineteen others are barren. When this plant stood in the open it produced fruit regularly and it was the only bloomer about, so these must have been selfed. Also, prior to their move, they have been subject to lily borer infestations. There has been none this year. I deduce that the net keeps the pollinators and terminators at bay.

I explain the fruit that has set as follows - the one lot are of the blooms eaten by snails. These I discovered early one morning on that particular umbel and removed and crushed them before their work was done. The other is on an umbel next to where I brush past the plant. Therefore the snail and I are in all likelihood the pollinators, both unintentionally so. But realising that the destructive action of the snail is also the agency of pollination has led me to consider the lily borer.

Is the terminator also the pollinator?

My observation of the devastated crinum is that those plants that flowered most prolifically are the most infested, and that the infestation is in a circle of diminishing intensity around these plants.

There are three possible explanations.

- This is all coincidental.
- The attractive aspects - perfume and lightness of blooms attracts moths, both pollinators and terminators.
- The pollinator is the terminator, namely one lily borer in its Blakean "invisible worm" stage, namely as moth.

I do not know enough about the habits and lifecycle of both species⁵, but it would appear that there is enough time between blooming and setting of seed for the plant to complete its reproductive cycle before the cycle of the parasitic caterpillar reaches a devastating phase. This would all make perfect evolutionary sense.

It does not, however, suit our aesthetic sensibilities. Hence we resort to Malathion or tobacco dust. Or, perhaps, Margaret Roberts.

Roger Fisher

- ¹ A parody on 'The Sick Rose' in 'Songs of Experience' in Bronowski, J. 1973. *William Blake*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books. p48.
- ² Borer, Lily. 2004. On the compost heap. *Clivia Society Newsletter*. Vol. 13 No. 4 (Summer) p32.
- ³ Fisher, Roger. 2004. Pollination by moths?. *Clivia Society Newsletter* Vol. 13 No. 2 (Winter) pp18-19.
- ⁴ Johnson, S & Botha, M. 2002. The nightlife of Maputaland. Encounters with hawkmoths and their long-tubed flowers. *Veld & Flora*. June, pp. 52-53.
- ⁵ Although I've attempted to find something on *Brithys pancratii* in the array of specialist and

reference literature at my disposal. I did however find that of the family Noctuidae there are feeding habits that are quite remarkable - tears of zebras and the fresh blood of tapirs amongst other things.

Brithys pancratii (alias the *Amaryllis* cater-

pillar) is a species that was introduced to South Africa and it is unlikely that it is the natural pollinator. As *clivia* pollen is very dry and light pollination was most likely achieved from pollen spores in the air or transported by other vectors.

Editor.

Practical hints for beginners

A Wysneus (Wise guy), Cape Clivia

Club

Watering:

1. It is well known that *Clivia* should not be over watered. But *Clivia* can also suffer from under watering. Roots become desiccated and will be slow to regenerate. Leaves become a dull greyish or yellowish green. If a pot has become bone dry, almost all water will simply run through the mix or down the insides of the pot. So regular small quantities of water should be given rather than 'droughts' and 'floods'. At least twice a year, the pots should be flushed with lots of water to get rid of unused chemicals.
2. Before and after your pots have been in an extremely dry condition, from being on a display veranda, inside your house or simply from neglect, the whole pot can be dunked under water up to 1 cm. below the pot rim. I find an old baby bath to be very useful. Keep this in for about 20 minutes. You will be amazed by the quantity of water absorbed. Let the pot drain at a slight angle for at least 1 hour before putting it on a saucer for display. Now you can leave it for at least 2 to 3 weeks.
3. How often do you water? This is a question recently asked by a puzzled grower, an experienced class winner at a show. *There is no answer to this.* It depends on your own situation - your macro and micro climate, the relative humidity in your green house, the surface on which your pots stand, your growing mix, the size of your pots, the size of the holes in your pots, etc, etc. Take the practical hands-on approach. Identify a few plants, from large ones to seedlings that you need to repot. Water them as you normally would. Then stagger your repotting over the next two weeks, carefully noting the dampness of your growing mix. Obviously do this at least twice, at the wettest and driest time of the year. If you significantly change anything in your growing situation (as mentioned above) you will have to do the experiment again.
4. Watering should be done at a time that the plant has the opportunity of drying out at the surface of the leaves and the stem - in my experience mostly on a dry day before midday. If your leaves are dusty, from accumulated dirt, pollen and previous sprays, wait for a really dry, windy day and use a really strong but thin spray.
5. If you have the time and energy, leaves

can be cleaned, first with water to which a few drops of dishwashing liquid has been added and then with a 50% milk solution. Use two small cloths, one above and the other below, firmly held between the thumb and forefinger and pull gently outwards towards the tip of the leaf. Surprisingly, milk on a plant seems to have an antibacterial effect. Ignore the strong cheesy smell. It will disappear in a day or two.

Feeding:

6. What and how often should I feed?
Feeding has an interaction with the watering. Ideally we should measure and analyse the inputs and outputs of our systems and adjusting the dosages. But this can only be done in a few computerised closed systems, like the large orchid growers or the commercial Clivia growers. The rest of us just have to guess and hope.
7. The plants need different substances at different times of the year: Medium Nitrogen (N) all year round; medium Phosphates (P) when the roots are growing or need to be stimulated; high Potassium (K) when the flowers and stems form and grow. You must observe when this occurs in your situation. Calcium (Ca) and other trace elements must be present all year round. Calcium Nitrate can be used once a year and a balanced hydroponics mix can be used.
8. An organic, slow release fertiliser, such as Bounce Back or a little well aged, dry horse manure can be used twice a year.
9. In my experience most bark mixes are too acid for Clivia, especially seedlings. Again, either measure and monitor it accurately, or guess and hope. To a mix I regularly add some Dolomitic Lime and/or

a handful of charcoal and ash (from the braai fire).

Spraying:

10. Whenever spraying your plants, even if just on the soil, use a spreader - sticker, such as Nu-film P7. It is a fallacy to use soap or dishwashing liquid. These may be spreaders, but they are certainly not stickers, and are designed to be rinsed off immediately.

Lighting:

11. How much light should my Clivia get?
Again, no answer. 50 to 80% shade from above and 20 to 50% from the sides seems to be the norm. Watch your plants. If you are feeding and watering well, but the leaves seem narrow and light green, they are probably getting too much light. If your leaves are a very dark green, they probably get too little light and they will not flower well.
12. Clivia dislike direct sun, but can tolerate some early morning sunlight. However, most sun damage is done when the leaf is hit with a direct shaft of light at a right angle to the surface (therefore often on the bend of the leaf). The worst is when the plant and the environment are very dry. Also, if a Clivia is moved from a dark to a very light or sunny area, damage can occur within the first day. Be careful of sun damage, the lesions very often occur on the younger, more sensitive leaves, disfiguring the plant for a very long time.
13. Forget the exotic names and complicated formula used for light in scientific literature. Use the simple formulations as stipulated in the environmental and facilities regulations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The unit is lux and as a reference, an office building should

be between about 400 to 1000 lux. Outside in the sun, the intensity is up to about 30,000 lux. Don't depend on your eyes to measure light - the iris opens and closes as needed. Use a proper light meter or borrow one from your cricket umpire friend. The measurements on your old-fashioned photographic light meter can be converted, but it is a tedious and confusing calculation.

Pollination and seeds

14. There are many more seeds around than we could possibly grow to maturity. Every year the older plants again produce seeds, while the younger ones and shoots also come on line. We should all be very selective in which plants we pollinate and allow to set seeds. If you enjoyed the flower, but do not want seed, cut off the head just below the top. Leave the stalk to age and wither naturally.
15. If you do decide to pollinate, use the pollen immediately after the anthers have opened. Usually the stigma matures after the anthers, so pollinate from most recently opened to a somewhat older flower.
16. Cover the stigma (which should be somewhat sticky when mature) completely with pollen. A medicinal capsule could be used to catch the pollen and then inserted over the whole stigma. A gentle shake will allow much more pollen to stick than a finger or brush would. Doing this several times over a week, will probably reward you with beautiful, large colourful berries - after all Clivia is known as the 4 season plant.

B How I pot up my clivias - Roger Fisher, Northern Clivia Club

This is probably audacious since I'm pretty

much in my own nappies as far as clivias are concerned but - for better or worse - here it goes (with reasons):

- 1 I take the plant out of whatever medium it is in and discard its original growth medium.
Why? To get rid of parasites, pathogens, earthworms (these turn any coarse medium into a fine clayey mix - good for gardeners, bad for cliviators).
- 2 I shake out as much of the potting medium with as little as possible disturbance to the roots and then wash the roots out under a spray nozzle while disentangling the roots, taking as much care as possible not to cause damage.
- 3 I soak the plant in a mild soapy mix (I use sunlight liquid but am beginning to wonder about something like Sannex antibacterial).
- 4 While the plant is soaking I prepare the pot. I cut off all ridges on the bottom and extend the holes round from the bottom to the sides if the pot does not already have them.
Why? Clivias need the water to run clear through and not perch. Most pots are designed for water-needy plants. Clivias are, in effect, succulents. Pots must be placed on and in direct contact with a solid base so that water is drawn clear through the potting medium through capillary action, so preventing perching of the water in the growth medium.
- 5 I prepare an empty plastic soft drink bottle - 2l for a 250ml pot, a 1l for anything smaller up to 200ml - by cutting off the tips of the base ridges
Why? To allow for aeration through the medium
To prevent flotation, the reason for which will become apparent as you read further. The inverted bottom end of the bottle becomes the central support for the plant
Why? There are several reasons:

It allows you to only use one hand and not three

It removes from the centre of the plant that wet core that does not drain.

It keeps the medium at the place where the roots feed, that is the outer surface of the pot

So reducing the amount of potting medium required

Thus reducing the amount of watering needed for the plant

Hence optimising the use of growth additives

It keeps the roots at the height of the top level of the growth medium

It keeps the roots from cross-matting

It provides a support for the plant to stop it dropping back into the pot as the medium composts or washes out, hence stopping the base of the plant from becoming buried

It stimulates vegetative reproduction by way of stolon formation by providing a hard base which acts as stimulant to meristematic tissue

It lightens the mass of the pot (which for ageing arthritic hands is a bonus, particularly when plants need to be marched in and out of doors between summer and winter!)

- 6 I soak the plant in a pre-prepared condy's crystal - enough to just still see the bottom of the container - and Hadeco Margaret Roberts Growth Booster mix, up to the rim of the pot for approximately 30 min.

Why?

Condy's crystals act as an antibiotic and also provide the potassium for flower, stem and seed formation.

It drives out or drowns any earthworms - pity, but there it is!

It grades the mix from coarse on top to less coarse beneath - root hairs are at the tips of the roots and need the most intimate contact with the medium, which

should therefore be finer at the growth tips, while the top where the older roots are, are aerated for respiration.

It makes sure the mix is in contact with the roots and there are no voids left

It flushes out the fines in the mix as the pot is lifted from its bath.

The organic booster has micro-growth stimulants.

- 7 I use a removable label so that the label can follow the plant as it is potted on (hence do not write on the pot).
- 8 I drain the pot on a sieve over the bucket used as bath

Why? Because I've Scottish blood and the liquid can do a fair number of plants!

Does it work?

I've already had to pot on plants recently acquired because of vigorous growth, which was a simple task because they lifted easily and cleanly from their pots and could be moved as is into the next size pot, support and all. My *Coromandel selecta* now look like *Coromandel robusta*!

C Felicity Weedon, Cape Clivia Club

Seedling containers

I am short of space for growing seedlings - aren't we all? The solution I have come up with is to plant the seedlings, after germination, in 5 litre ice cream tubs, and then cover with old plastic crates (used for bottle deliveries). The seedling box/crates receive half-day sun, some get morning sun and some afternoon sun. Apparently they are getting sufficient shade as there is no sunburn and the leaves are all dark green and glossy.

Reducing drip areas in the shade house

I am presently making changes to the construction of my shade house. It is construct-

ed of 90% shade net, poles and wire and has a flat roof. Result - lots of drip areas as the shade net is too heavy for the support.

So, the roof has been raised by 1 meter down the center and already the benefits are apparent. The drip areas have drastically reduced (we have just had a nice 23 mm rain) and the green house is much, much cooler. This could of course mean that I will have late blooming plants this spring. We will see!

It is my intention to put a solid roof over the whole shade house to completely cut out any natural water supply and control all irrigation.

Clivia mix

I have been potting up clivias lately and have been amused at how different people use different mixes which they absolutely swear by. My mixture is a little different and goes like this:

- Approx. 70% medium to coarse bark - also sold as mulch. If bark is short, crushed fruit pips suffice.
- Some horse compost.
- NO SAND - as I always have trouble with rot if using it - and I have tried a few different kinds of sand.

Bone meal and Bounce Back and sometimes 3.2.1

Variation

I have been inspecting my variegated plants and have one that I find rather interesting. It was selected as a random seedling for variation. Now three years down the line, it is displaying very definite 'Light of Buddha' characteristics, although the leaves are quite long and narrow.

This surprised me until I learnt that the origi-

nal LOB plants did have long narrow leaves. So I presume somewhere along the line an original LOB was used in its breeding.

D Tom Whitehorn - EP.C.C.

Drainage slots

I have found the advice regarding extra drainage slots on page 15 of Newsletter vol 13 no 4 summer 2004 to be very helpful. I have however found a masonry disk CS 24T - Superflex - 115 6,4x22.2 (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ " 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ "") that is now available, that does an excellent job instead of using two discs to make the slots it does a fine job when using the 6,4 mm disc. I also found that three slots on all the available plastic pots (except the small ones) works very well.

I have found a difference in the smoothness of the cut, depending on where you start your cut. I prefer to start the cut on the side of the pot with the angle grinder rotating towards the side whilst the pot is kept upside down. The best results are obtained when you keep the distance that the disk moves into the plastic equal on the side as well as the inside of the base of the pot.

D John Ingram in L.A., CA. (Clivia Enthusiast E-mail Group)

I have always cleaned the seed when they are still fresh and moist. But I got a little behind this year on a few piles and they dried out a little. Why didn't someone tell me/us that they are much easier to clean after they have sat a week? They are not nearly as slimy and all the seed coat comes off nearly completely in one pull. Had I known this, I wouldn't have been so anxious to get the seeds all cleaned at once. Well, I guess we all live and learn.

What is an oleum mixture? - Dickie Gunston, Cape Clivia Club

Congratulations to the instigator of "HINTS FOR BEGINNERS Doc 4." and all those who contributed so constructively. I am sure we the beginners will be afforded the privilege to submit a question or two.

Mitch Rundle - EASTERN PROVINCE "All leaves shine as though they have just been wiped with "Oleum Mixture". Could you kindly define the "Oleum Mixture"? Is it something that can be used on the leaves of the plant prior to "SHOWING"? To give them that lovely shine? Please Tell.

Clivia Regards,

Dickie, Southern Peninsula, Cape of Good Hope. R.S.A.

Temp. 25 degrees Celsius.....

And the Lobster season in full swing.

Response

Oleum is a pasty insecticide used with great success to eliminate Mealy Bug. It leaves a glossy (oily) film when sprayed on the leaves thus preventing the insect from gripping the leaves and inserting its suckers into the leaf.

Oleum is mixed at the ratio 10 ml to a litre of water for spraying for Mealy Bug. This is a lot weaker than recommended by the manufacturer. It can also be used in grooming the Clivia leaves prior to being displayed at a show. A still weaker solution is used at a ratio of 5ml to a litre of water when washing or polishing the leaves using a soft cloth or soft brush. If the mixture is too strong then the leaves will have a heavy shine and there is a good possibility of the pores being blocked and suffocating the plant causing it's departure to the Shade House in the Sky.

Take note that some of our Judges do not fancy very glossy leaves and will penalize such a plant.

Best Clivia regards

Mitch Rundle

Tom Whitehorn, Eastern Cape Clivia Club

I am extremely happy to hear that our newsletters will in future cater for a Q & A section. For my benefit as well as all other beginners I will appreciate some clarity on the following:

Question 1

Some growers are inclined to refer to Tulip, Iris, and Posy, etc. shapes when discussing the form of some Clivia flowers. This is confusing, as I cannot find any illustrations to explain these shapes.

Response

A small section of what appears in the Guide to the Classification & Exhibition of Clivia (Draft 2004-08-09), by Roger Dixon & Keith Hammett has been inserted here. The entire section on flower shapes can be viewed at http://www.cliviasociety.org/clivia_guide_main.php#Classification. The club representatives serving on the Standards and Judging Committee have copies of the entire document.

Chris Vlok

Flower Form

Flower form is determined by the width and presentation of the tepals to the viewer. In order to quantify the basic forms the angle of flexure of the distal portion of the tepals in relation to the axis is used

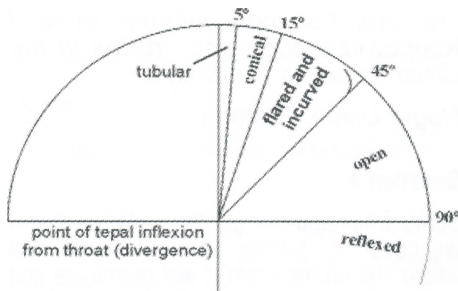


Figure 1: Angle of divergence of tepals from throat in *Clivia* flowers and the terminology. A reflexed tepal is recurved.

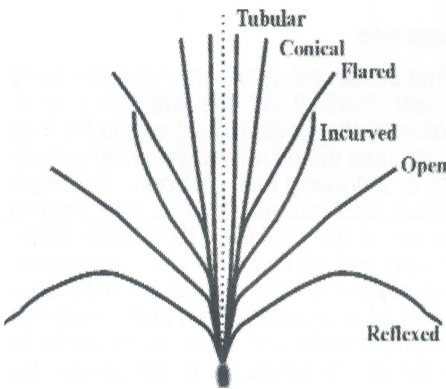


Figure 2: Section through idealised *Clivia* flowers showing the divergence from the throat.

Definitions

- A. Tubular Flowers. Tepals are essentially parallel with a maximum divergence of 5°.
- B. Conical. Tepals are essentially straight with an angle of divergence of 5° - 15°
- C. Flared. Tepals are mainly straight with an angle of divergence of 15° - 45°.
- D. Incurved (Tulip). Tepals orientated as in flared but tips curve inward.
- E. Open. Angle of flexure from throat 45° - 90°.
- F Reflexed. Tepal flexure from throat is greater than 90°

Question 2

The Ella Van Zijl saga - are the markings on the leaves and flowers a virus or not? From a judge's point of view, will such a plant be disqualified should it be displayed on a show? (I can recall Willie Le Roux asking this question some time ago but never received any reply). I have recently received a few Ella Van Zijl seeds but understand that the chances are very slim that any of these will ever look like the mother plant.

Responses

I am at the disadvantage of not having seen either flowers or leaves of Ella Van Zijl in the flesh. I am however, familiar with virus symptoms linked to specific virus particles in Clivia. It is important that we [Clivia enthusiasts] do all we can to encourage the maintenance of symptomless and hopefully virus free stocks of all plants in cultivation. I work on the basis of "If in doubt - Throw it out".

My personal feeling is that Clubs and Societies should certainly not encourage the exhibition of plants thought to be infected with a virus.

In the USA in the middle of last century levels of virus infection in Dahlias became very high. To counter this, blooms were required to be exhibited with leaves so that judges might determine the health of the plant. Any plant showing symptoms was eliminated from competition and for a period things improved. Over time the reason for having leaves on blooms was forgotten and today they are judged as part of the overall aesthetic appeal of an exhibit. On a recent visit to the USA I was disappointed to note very high levels of obvious virus infection in exhibition Dahlias.

Because currently the vast majority of Clivias are raised from seed and in general plant viruses are not seed transmitted, virus infection in Clivia appears to be at a very low level. However, as clones become more

common and more widespread we will need to be vigilant.

Keith Hammett, Auckland.

I have a Ella van Zyl and can only say what a beaut - but then again I agree with Keith. According to paragraph 1.9 of the Show Rules and Standards of the Northern Clivia Club in Pretoria "plants entered for show purposes must be of good quality, healthy, preferably undamaged and well groomed. It remains the judge's discretion to disqualify a plant on aesthetic grounds", and 1.10 "Plants showing signs of present disease or insect infestation may not be showed". Verdict - I will not allow an Ella van Zyl or any other plant showing signs of virus infection on our benches.

Koos Geldenhuys, Pretoria (Judge)

Question 3

The expression "pigmented seed" or "seed pigment" sometimes referred to in publications is mind-boggling and I have no clue what they are referring to. I cannot find anything where this has been properly described or discussed.

Response

What is seed pigment? There are a number of words relating to Clivia seed which are incorrectly used. The fruit of a Clivia is a berry. This berry can be different colours, depending on the genetics of the plant. A yellow-flowering *C. miniata* usually has a green berry; a dark red flowering *C. miniata* can have an almost purplish red berry. Within the berry are the seeds, which are usually a glassy translucent off-white colour. In *C. nobilis* the outer covering of the seed is usually pigmented and red in colour. All other Clivia have an uncoloured seed covering, although some *C. miniata* have been seen to have pigmented seed coverings as well, but these

are rare. For more information read Koopowitz's book and articles in the Clivia Society's yearbooks.

Roger Dixon, Pretoria

Question 4

Some while ago our gardener told us that if we cover the berries of a Clivia with soil whilst still on the stem it will germinate and produce seedlings. We didn't believe him but great was our surprise when we heard Keith Kirsten saying the same thing on a TV programme. How and when is it done?

Response

Clivia seeds will germinate inside the berry if you leave it on the stem too long. However, the rootlet will wither and the food in the seed will be wasted if it is not put into soil or a growing medium soon. Yes, Keith Kirsten (and your gardener) is right; putting the whole berry or even the cluster underground will have some seeds germinate. But why would one want to do that? They would be crowded, the skin of the seed may become mouldy and some seeds would be in the air. In nature, or in the garden, the rate of germination and survival is very low.

Please note, however, the skin and fruit of the berry seems to contain a germination retardant. If you are unable to use your seeds immediately, leave them on the plant in the berry. They will last for many more months, much better than storage in a refrigerator or cleaned and stored. I have just harvested viable seeds which could or should have been planted 6 months ago.

Wysneus/Wise guy, Western Cape.

I wish to encourage other beginners to also air their questions via the newsletters as it can benefit all of us.

Thank you

Tom Whitehorn
Tel: 046 - 6224573

Proposed Show Dates

Date	Club/Interest Group	Venue	Contact person	Contact detail
4 June	KwaZulu-Natal Gardenii show	Kloof Baptist Church, Abelia Road, Kloof	Val Thurston Ken Rosling	031-7635736 031-7663952
20 Aug 2005	Waterberg Boslelie Interest Group	Mokopane Mall, Mokopane, (Potgietersrus)	Ernst Ferreira	015 491 6013
25 - 28 Augustus	Zoutpansberg Interest Group	Dutch Reformed Church, Soutpansberg, Louis Trichardt	Zanette Wessels	084 5700 347 015-5177108
27 Aug. 2005	Waterberg Boslelie Interest Group	Susan Strydom School Hall, Modimolle, (Nylstroom)	An Jacobs	014 717 3674
3-4 September 2005	Northern Clivia Club	Safari Garden Centre, Pretoria	Christo Topham	082-4975879
10th and 11 September	Metro Clivia	Garden World Nursery on Beyers Naude Drive in Muldersdrift.	Braam Opperman Adri Haxton	011 476-2586 011 802-7985
10/11 September	KwaZulu-Natal	Royal Show Grounds, Pietermaritzburg	Val Thurston Sean Chubb	031-7635736 031-7811978
10 and 11 September	Lowveld Clivia Interest Group	To be confirmed	Jeanette de Witt	084 512 6898
17 September	Northern KwaZulu- Natal	New Tech, Newcastle	Hottie Human Dries Olivier	034-3181327 034-3182586
24 and 25 September	Eastern Province Clivia Club	To be confirmed	Andre Calitz Gideon Botha	082 574 9058 083 463 5416
24 September	Free State Clivia Club	Bloemfontein Primary School	Hennie vd Mescht	083 5119519
1 and 2 October	Garden Route Clivia Club	Outeniqua Primary School, Corner of Cathedral and Mead Streets, George	Gerrie Britz	044-8028420

2006 International Clivia conference and show

We have pleasure in sending you this update on the International 2006 Clivia Conference and Show, a five-week programme saturated with clivia activity. Delegates will be able to "mix and match" their dates and activities. It will be an ideal opportunity to:

Listen to, and interact with, an international panel of speakers and a large number of delegates. The highlight of the five weeks will be the 4th quadrennial conference held in South Africa, in Pretoria on September 6 & 7, with a conference dinner on the 6th.

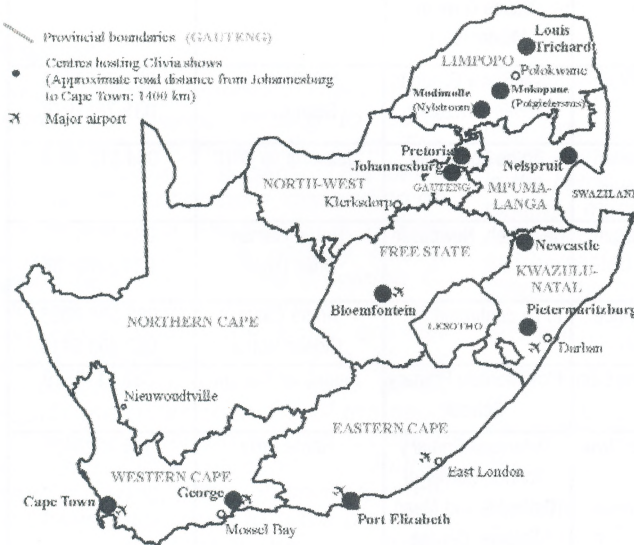
See prize hosting clivias in all their forms, exhibited at twelve shows spread over five weekends. The date of each show is determined by the interest group concerned, based on their estimate of peak flowering time - seven have already been set and are given in the schematic. The Pretoria show will include an

international auction on the 9th, with some of the rarest clivias in the world on offer.

See natural habitats of all six species of clivia, in some of the most scenic parts of the country - the eastern escarpment, the eastern seaboard and the floral wealth of the W Cape and Namaqualand. For an indication of the vistas that will be opened for you, share in a 2001 virtual tour by visiting <http://www.concentric.net/~ellipsis/Clivia/>

Visit other S African attractions such as game parks with the 'Big Five' top of the list, the 'Cradle of Mankind' with hominid fossils dating back 3.3 million years, and many others.

Most importantly, meet new (and old) clivia friends from around the world. These friendships cemented at the conference will be a legacy for many years.



By a happy coincidence, IBSA, the Indigenous Bulb Association of SA, will be holding a symposium and tours in the W Cape from Aug 28 to Sep 1, immediately preceding the first clivia tour. Clivia/Bulb enthusiasts should not miss this twin opportunity.

The 2006 organizing committee will be offering guidance on all aspects, including travel, tours and accommodation, and costs will be given later.

September 2006 International Clivia Conference and Shows - Provisional Program

Date	Option 1 Option 2 Option 3		
Mon 28 Aug to Fri 1 Sep	Bulb Society conference in Cape Town and Western Cape tours		
Sat 2	Western Cape Tour: Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, Western Cape flower show, and via Clanwilliam to view <i>C mirabilis</i> * at Oorlogskloof (Northern Cape)		Northern Kwa-Zulu-Natal Show in Newcastle
Sun 3 Mon 4			One and two-day trips around Gauteng
Tue 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pretoria; 17:00-18:00 early conference registration • 18:00 Informal social function 		
Wed 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:00 Conference registration • Day 1 of conference • Conference dinner 		
Thu 7	Day 2 of conference		
Fri 8	Gauteng day trips - Soweto, de Wildt and Rietvlei Nature Reserves etc		
Sat 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clivia show in Pretoria • Evening - Clivia auction 		
Sun 10	• Clivia show in Pretoria		Day trips to local growers in Pretoria
Mon 11 to Thu 14	View <i>Clivia caulescens</i> in habitat		Four day tour to Kruger National Park
Fri 15	Travel or at leisure		
Sat 16 Sun 17	Metro Clivia Show in Johannesburg, Gauteng	KwaZulu-Natal show in Pietermaritzburg and tours (Sunday 17) to Strachan & Chubb collections	Garden Route Clivia Show in George
Mon 18	View <i>C gardenii</i> & <i>C miniata</i> in habitat plus collections in KZN midlands		
Tue 19	View <i>C robusta</i> , <i>gardenii</i> & <i>miniata</i> habitats in KZN south coast		
Wed 20 to Thu 21	View <i>Clivia nobilis</i> in habitat		
Fri 22	Travel or at leisure		
Sat 23 to Mon 25	Cape Clivia Club Show in Cape Town, Western Cape		
Tue 26 Wed 27	Western Cape Tour: Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens and via Clanwilliam to view <i>C mirabilis</i> * at Oorlogskloof (Northern Cape)		
Thu 28 Fri 29	At leisure		
Sat 30 Sun 01 October	Port Elizabeth -Show of Eastern Province Clivia Club		

Important Notice: After the newsletter was submitted for layout we received the following information from Mr Coen Calitz, coordinator of the Western Cape Tours.

I am sorry to have to inform you that permission for the access to the Mirabilis location has been refused. The policy is to not allow anyone specifically to the Clivia. (They are concerned about theft, illegal entry and unregulated trade. The whole position of mirabilis as a protected specie is still in process.) At my request the policy will be reconsidered in due course, but the time and outcome is unknown.

All potential delegates, individually or in groups, are requested to please help us with our planning by completing (and posting back) the form that appears on page 31.

James Abel
Pretoria, South Africa
+27-12-3616406

2006 Clivia auction

In September 2006, during the International Conference to be held in Pretoria, an auction will be held of scarce, rare and sought after Clivia plants.

As time will be a limiting factor on the evening of the auction, only 60 plants will be selected from the entries received from members. A few more plants will be accepted, if the owners wish to part with their plants, from the group winners of the Northern Clivia Club's show. This show will be a South African Championship show.

An entry form will be published in Clivia Society Newsletter No. 2 / 2005 as well as on the Clivia Society website www.cliviasociety.org.

Herewith a friendly invitation to all members of the different Clivia Clubs /Societies, to enter plants for the auction.

Entries for the auction must be accompanied by a completed application form giving the owner's particulars, together with a short history of the plants parentage as well as a digital photo of the plant in flower. If you enter a sucker which is yet to flower for the first time, then a digital photo is needed of the mother plant in flower. A good photo-

graph is essential as this will be used as part of the selection criteria.

The next flowering season is therefore of the utmost importance in order to obtain a photo of the plant to be auctioned, if you have not already done so.

Rules and regulations as well as the auctioneer's requirements, applicable to the selection and sale, will be published in the January 2006 newsletter as well as on the Clivia Society website.

Entries for the auction should be submitted by e - mail before 25 February 2006 to clivia2006@cliviasociety.org.

All persons who have submitted plants for acceptance will be notified of their success by 14 April 2006, to allow enough time for overseas entries to be shipped to South Africa.

An illustrated catalogue, with full details of the plants to be auctioned will be published on the website on 1 July 2006. All persons registering as potential buyers will be issued with a printed catalogue on the evening of the auction.

All persons who have plants accepted for the

auction will be personally responsible for the transport of such plants to the Northern Clivia Club in Pretoria, who will care for the plants at the owners risk until the auction. After the auction, or as soon as possible thereafter, the proceeds of the sale will be made available to the owners, less 15%

commission which is due to the Clivia Society.

Further details will be made available closer to the auction date.

Sakkie Nel
(Convenor of Auction Committee)
4 / 02 / 2005

For Sale

Advertisements. Tariffs for advertising in the Clivia Society Newsletter:

Smalls (1 to 6 lines):	R25.00
Smalls (7 to 10 lines):	R30.00
Quarter page:	R70.00
Half page:	R125.00
Full Page:	R250.00
A5 separate page insert:	R600.00
A4 separate page insert:	R800.00

(You will be sent an account from the treasurer for the appropriate amount.)

From the Clivia Society:

Overseas members can order back volume copies of the yearbooks and newsletters (since 1992) via the society. South African members

should approach their local branches. We must point out that it is difficult to quote a fixed price without knowing the method of payment and delivery. We suggest you contact Bossie de Kock (the treasurer) via e-mail at: bossiedekock@absamail.co.za or by fax at +27 12 804 8892 and list the items you are interested in as well as the name of the country in which you reside. Bossie would then be in a position to suggest the most economical option. Australian, UK, New Zealand and USA members are reminded that they can order via Ken Smith, Dr Hamish Sloan, Di Smith and Michael Morri respectively — see covers for contact detail. Also note that further discounts can be negotiated with Bossie for orders exceeding 10 of a specific item. The following items are available:

Item	Approximate price (US \$)*
Yearbook 6	15
Yearbook 5	15
Yearbook 4	10
Yearbook 3	10
Yearbook 2	10
Yearbook 1	10
Volumes 1(1992) to 11 (2002) of newsletters	10 per volume
Set of volumes 1 to 10	available on request
Hints on growing Clivia - hard copy	3
Hints on growing Clivia - electronic PDF format	2
International membership list - hard copy	2
International membership list - electronic format	No charge
* Including postage and banking charges if paid by credit card. Contact Bossie de Kock for quotation re payments made by cheque.	

Private advertisements:

Clivia species, interspecifics and specialities.

Participate in our coordinated imports and exports of seeds and plants - Asia, ANZ, N. Am. & Eu. Connie Abel, Pretoria, +27-12-3616406 or jcabel@absamail.co.za

Yellow Nogqaza strains from R15 to R120. Orange from R1 to R6 for mature plants. Delivery anywhere. South African Clivia Plantation Box 855, Hilton 3245. Call 082- 955 5433.

Clivia miniata. Seed R100 per kilogram. Year old plants R2 each. Roly Strachan, Box 57, Highflats 3306 or Tel. (039) 835 0085 evenings only.

Swamp gardenii and miniata seed and seedlings available from various Natal and Transkei locations. Phone Andrew (039) 3135024

a/h or cell 082 7845401.

Clivia miniata: Creams, yellows, peaches, apricots, reds, pastels and polychromes. Seed, seedlings, mature plants and offsets of stock plants bred and selected over 25 years. Contact Bing Wiese, Pretoria tel/fax (012) 460 6382 to view.

Thurlow Flora: We have on offer a large variety of carefully bred seedlings and mature plants for sale. We specialize in pastel colours, oddities, species and original wild collected and named clones of clivia. Mail order and visitors welcome. For our latest plant list please contact Sean and Terri Chubb. Tel: 031 7811978 e-mail: terric@iafrica.com We also have available a few hundred different named daylily clones.

Beginner's luck

Mealy bugs

There was a question on the Clivia Enthusiast e-group by Joan Claybrook, from Perth, Western Australia, who asked how she could get rid of Mealy bugs.

Here are some of the replies:

Pen Henry, Western Australia

I found mealy bugs on a few of my Clivia yesterday so I sprayed them straight away. I use Yates, Confidor which is a systemic, active constituent 50g/kg IMIDACLOPRID. You can purchase Confidor in an aerosol can from the supermarkets but it's cheaper from the local nursery, hardware or stock feed supplier for \$14.95 per pack of 5 sachets.

If you don't like using poisons try 50/50 metho & water. Keep a spray bottle of this on hand so that every time you see them you can zap them before they do much damage.

Sam Mak, New York City, USA.

Ralph Snodsmith, a gardening expert who has a nationally syndicated gardening radio

Q&A show here in the U.S., advises, here and there on his show, on the treatment of mealy bugs. According to him, there's really no need to resort to such exotic potions like malathion (I'd avoid its use as much as I can, since it's not a friendly product). Simply, household rubbing alcohol is all that's needed. Use a Q-tip dipped in alcohol to rub off the woolly critters from the plant. Of course, if the problem is extensive, then you'd have an extensive Q-tip task. Or you may want to spray with the alcohol.

Also, he advises that it may require drenching of the soil, since they often hide just below soil surface. 50% dilution household rubbing alcohol will do. But, it may require 2-3 applications.

Gretchen Mercer, 36F, wet and dreary Wilmington, DE

Using rubbing alcohol for mealy bugs is the way I recommend to eliminate both mealy bugs and scale. My clivia plants are wintered over inside my house and since both

my husband and I are cancer survivors, I'm an absolute tyrant about what chemicals are used around here. I acknowledge that having hundreds of plants present problems far beyond the realm of individual bugs being wiped out with a q-tip, however spraying with malathion isn't the only effective method. Please consider using insecticidal soap. This can be prepared in small quantities and applied with a q-tip as well as mixing large batches for sprayer applications. Further consideration for the soap solutions is that the aroma is noticeably less offensive in an enclosed area.

Tony Start

Sorry to keep the mealy bug theme growing but I've not seen the mail for a few days. There is one critical aspect that has been

missed. Mealy bugs get on to the roots too so cleaning all the leaves and other visible bits with whatever won't fix the problem. They damage the roots too and re-invade the leaves from there.

Two solutions I've found useful are insecticides - different brands in different countries- but make sure it is a SYTEMIC insecticide. That is, one that is absorbed by the plant and distributed through out its tissues through its vascular system (in Aus Confidor does the trick). That way it will get to critters on the roots as well as those hiding deep in a crevice between leaves etc.

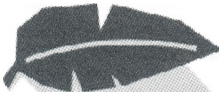
The other less toxic method is to soak the plant in a detergent solution then stand the pot in a bucket full of "soapy water" over night. The mealy bugs naturally have a waxy coating that ensures water runs off and can't block their spiracles (breathing pores). The detergent overcomes that so they are simply deprived of oxygen and suffocate.

Mick Dower, Cape Town

We have found Confidor the most effective - used as a drench it gives protection for at least a year.

Flowerer, if you prefer the 'green' route try what our grape and wine farmers use - pheromone traps. The mealy bug males are attracted by the pheromone pills which simulate the presence of females. They are used to lure them into boxes where sticky pads trap them. Their natural predators - ladybirds and wasps, then control the females. Because ants protect mealy bugs in exchange for the honeydew which they excrete, keep ants off your plants if necessary by putting a sticky ring on the pot.

A trap costs the equivalent of 3 USD here and the pads 5 USD for 10. Only one trap is needed to protect a couple of acres. I should think that grape farmers in Australia, New Zealand and the USA must use similar controls.



DYNAPLANT

The Netherlands

For sale

**Seed of *Clivia miniata*
"Dyna's yellow**"**

- Minimum amount 1000
- Price € .450 per 1000
(excl. transport costs)
- Period: Jan. to March 2005

**www.dynaplant.nl
info@dynaplant.nl**

I just love those peaches and apricots depicted on the cover of the newsletter this quarter. I would give my stripes to have a 'Victorian Peach.'

I feel very sad about the Clivia enthusiast e-group ganging up against a friend of mine, the Mealy bug. We all have our role to play in the ecosystem and I'm sure the mealy bugs must do some good. Just look how they help those ants.

I would like to remind everyone that the deadline date for the photographic competi-

tion has been extended to 10 April 2005. I would be happy to pose any time if there are no clivia in flower for you to photograph.

Lily Borer (*Brithys pancratii*).



Win seed with your Clivia photos

Society Yearbook 7 announces the second Clivia Society Photographic Competition. It is open to all and the object is to encourage clivia enthusiasts to submit photographs from around the world. We would particularly like photos of plants that flower outside of the normal Clivia Show dates and therefore are not seen by many people. We intend that this will be an annual event that brings entries of photographs of attractive, as well as some unusual, Clivia flowers and plants. Prominent space will be allocated in the Yearbook to all category winners. The name of the Photographer and Grower will be publicized along with any other relevant information. There will be prizes for winners as shown below. The Best Photograph and Runner-up will be selected from all entries and will then not be eligible to win other categories. Prizes will be a selection of some of the rarest and most sought-after seed and/or seedlings to the value shown below and will be awarded next year when we know what is available.

Categories are as follows:

Best Photograph:	R300
Runner-up:	R200
Each of four Species Sections: (<i>miniata</i> , <i>caulescens</i> , <i>gardenii</i> & <i>nobilis</i> .)	R100
Best Interspecific:	R100
Best Habitat Picture:	R100
Single Flower any specie:	R100

The conditions and rules of entry are:

1. The completed entry form (see page 23) must accompany submissions.
2. All entries are welcome, but due to publishing deadlines must be received by Sunday 10 April 2005, to be eligible.
3. Publication rights for entries will rest with the Clivia Society.
4. Entries are limited to six per class per person.

5. Photographs may be mailed to
Clivia Photographic Competition,
P O B o x 53219,
Kenilworth. 7745.
Cape Town. South Africa.
Or emailed to: accolade@ibox.co.za
6. Photos must be submitted in one of the following formats:
 - i. A Print in portrait or landscape at least 10 x 14 cm but no larger than 14 x 18 cm.
 - ii. A plastic mounted 35mm slide or larger format not mounted.
 - iii. On CD-R where the image is recorded in a tiff or jpeg format. The pixel size should be a minimum of 1600 x1200 pixels as that should give a printable picture of approximately 14 x 10cm. The resolution of the image would be preferred at 300 dpi or greater but don't let a lower resolution stop you from entering.
- iv. Photographs must be on their own and not embedded in another program, e.g. MS Word.
- v. An email in jpeg format at 72 dpi with picture size 10 x 14 cm.
N.B. The type of submission in v. above must be available on a CD as all emailed photos that reach the final selection of 12, or on request, will have to be submitted to the specifications in iii. above to remain eligible.
No scanned Pictures to be submitted by email.
7. If you wish your Photographs returned after the competition then you should include a suitably addressed envelope. (S.A. Entrants must include a stamp).
8. The decision of the Editorial Board on the Winners of the Competition is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR CLIVIA CLUBS AND INTEREST GROUPS

- Cape Clivia Club: Joy Woodward (Secretary). PO Box 53219, Kenilworth, 7745.
Tel (h) +27 21 671 7384, Tel (w) +27 21 799 8768, Fax +27 21 797 0002. E-mail: capeclivia@ibox.co.za or woodward@nbict.nbi.ac.za
- Eastern Province Clivia Club: Willie le Roux (Chairperson) PO Box 19292, Linton Grange, Port Elizabeth, 6015. Tel & Fax: +27 41 -360 3480.
E-mail: girly@absamail.co.za
- KwaZulu-Natal Clivia Club: Sean Chubb (Chairperson). Thurlow Farm, PO Box 126, Eston, 3740. Tel & Fax: +27 31 781 1978. E-mail: terric@iafrica.com
- Northern Clivia Club: Lena van der Merwe (Secretary). PO Box 74868, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040. Tel & Fax: +27 12 804 8892. E-mail: nclivia@mweb.co.za
- Border Interest Group: Stella van Gass (Chairperson). 16 Greenan Street, Berea, East London, 5241. Tel +27 43 721 2964
- Free State Clivia: Hennie van der Mescht, 18 Mettam Street, Fichardt Park, Bloemfontein, 9322. Tel. +27 51 522 9530.
Fax: +27 51 436 4340. E-mail: vandermescht@absamail.co.za
- Garden Route Clivia Interest Group: Gerrie Brits (Chairperson). Tel: +27 44 8028420.
Fax: +27 44 8707550. Cell: 082 7385 842.
E-mail Gerrie.Brits@za.sabmiller.com
- Metro Group: Glynn Middlewick (Chairperson). 2 Willow Road, Northcliff, 2195.
Tel +27 11 476 1463. E-mail: gcmidd@mweb.co.za
- Northern KZN: Dries Olivier. PO Box 8783, Newcastle, 2940.
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E-mail: dries@sawa.co.za
- Waterberg Bostelieklub: An Jacobs. PO Box 3893, Nylstroom, 0510.
Tel & Fax: +27 14 717 2674. E-mail: johanana@pop.co.za
- Zoutpansberg: Anneke Stroebel (Secretary). PO Box 1712, Louis Trichardt, 0920.
Tel +27 83 326 6073. Fax +27 15 516 5710.
E-mail: alstroebel@lantic.co.za
- Lowveld interest group: Ian Radmore (Secretary). PO Box 1146, White River, 1240
Tel: +27 13 751 2051. E-mail: ian@nelvet1.agric.za

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PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Cobus Roos. Tel 082 416 6178, E-mail: cobusroos@telkomsa.net

CLIVIA SOCIETY

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

ENTRY FORM

ESSENTIAL ENTRY DETAILS				
NAME OF ENTRANT:				
POSTAL ADDRESS:				
.....				
.....Postal code/Zip:				
TEL:		CEL:		
E-MAIL:				
DATE PHOTO TAKEN:				
NAME OF GROWER:				
ENTRY NUMBER (1 to 6):				
CATEGORY ENTERED: X relevant box				
<i>C Caulescens</i>	<i>C gardenii</i>	<i>C nobilis</i>	<i>C miniata</i>	<i>C robusta</i>
Single flower	Interspecific		Habitat	
TYPE OF SUBMISSION: X relevant box	Print	Slide	CD-R	Email
OPTIONAL ENTRY DETAILS				
REGISTERED PLANT NAME:				
NAME OF BREEDER:				
PARENTAGE OF PLANT:				
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PLANT:				
SUGGESTED PHOTO CAPTION:				
PHOTOGRAPHIC DETAILS: CAMERA TYPE:				
FILM DETAILS OR DIGITAL:				
EXPOSURE DETAILS:				
OTHER COMMENTS:				





Please complete and return to:

Fax: +27 12 804 8892

Clivia 2006 Secretary

PO Box 74868

Lynnwood Ridge

0040

Republic of South Africa.

Name:
(individual or group organiser)

Total number of delegates:

Postal address:

E-mail address:

Telephone:

Attendance: Mark applicable box with "x"

Definite

Probable

Possible

Probable dates:

Arrival:

Departure:

Preferred type of accommodation

(Mark appropriate box with "X")

With club members

Hotel

Bed and Breakfast

A more detailed form (Share your intentions) can
be downloaded from www.cliviasociety.org

CLIVIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman:	Chris Vlok, PO Box 99583, Garsfontein 0060, Tel H +27 12 998 5942, e-mail: vlokac@wol.co.za
Secretary:	Lena van der Merwe, PO Box 74868, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040, Tel & Fax +27 12 804 8892, e-mail: cliviasoc@mweb.co.za
Vice-Chairman:	John van der Linde, 1 Wheelan Str., Newlands, 7700 Tel & Fax +27 21 671 4535. e-mail: vandal@iafrica.com
Treasurer:	Bossie de Kock, PO Box 38539, Garsfontein, 0042, Tel +27 12 998 3620, e-mail: bossiedekock@absamail.co.za
Office Bearer:	Ken Smith, 593 Hawkesbury Rd., Winmalee, NSW 2777, Australia. Tel +61 2 47543287. E- mail: cliviasmith@hotmail.com

REPRESENTATIVES OF CONSTITUENT CLIVIA CLUBS

Cape:	Claude Felbert, Felicity Weeden, one position vacant
Eastern Province:	Willie le Roux, Chari Coetzee
Northern:	Lena van der Merwe, Peter Lambert, Bossie de Kock
KwaZulu-Natal:	Sean Chubb

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Aart van Voorst. Frederick Hendriklaan 49, Hillegom, TE 2181,
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Michael Morri, PO. Box 192, Union City, Michigan 49094 USA.
Direct enquiries to Michael at either tel. (517) 741-4769 or
E-mail: MorriGardens@cbpu.com
(From 1st May) 625 Tuttle Road, Union City, Michigan 49094-9563,
USA

OTHER OVERSEAS CONTACT PERSONS FOR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

United Kingdom	Dr Hamish Sloan, 40 Wendan Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 7AF, England, UK. Tel: 044 1635 47417; e-mail: Hamish.sloan@virgin.net
New Zealand	Di Smith, 71 Taylor Road, Mangere Bridge, Auckland, New Zealand. Tel: (09) 634 6807 or 021 231 9200; e-mail: dismith@clear.net.nz



Clivia Society

P. O. Box 74868, Lynwood Ridge 0040, South Africa

Membership: R.S.A. R80.00 p.a. Overseas US\$20 (or equivalent)