

# CLIVIA SOCIETY

## newsletter



Volume 12 No 3

Spring 2003

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(Continued on inside back cover)

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

Gardenii and Interspecific shows are now over and anticipation is mounting as growers prepare plants for the Spring shows. Unfortunately no one can ever predict the winter temperatures. If the winter is generally mild with the colder part coming early, clivia will flower earlier than when the reverse is true and there are late frosts. This has happened this year and as a result flowers are coming to maturity much later than in previous years. So, many growers are wondering whether they will have sufficient material for their shows. Late frosts have destroyed many clivia and other plants on the highveld this year. The Cape also had severe cold and snow in late August so flowers may also be late at the Cape show which is a week earlier than usual.

In this newsletter much new ground has been covered in various articles. John van der Linde is now doing 'Stories behind the cover photographs' which have been done so well in the past by Mick Dower. His input in the last four newsletters is much appreciated. He now also retires from production of the Clivia yearbook. 'Clivia 5' is out and has been well received. Mick Dower describes a new Clivia Colour Chart which is available from the Cape Clivia Club. Claude Felbert who is still on the Yearbook committee is encouraging members of the Society to enter photographs for the photographic competition. Jaco Truter discusses the merits of crossing *C. mirabilis* with other clivia species and poses questions to John Winter about this. Willie le Roux has some suggestions on how to do close-up photography correctly, wonders when *Cyrtanthiflora* should flower and asks about the legality of showing an "Ella van Zijl" he has acquired. Another local article comes from Gert Wiese

who has made interesting contributions in the past.

A blow to the Clivia Enthusiast Group has been the removal by the server 'Yahoo' of all stored pictures from its archives as from 7 August 2003. Rudo Lötter and other members of the Group have saved these on CD's preserving a complete record of pictures since the Group's inception. The Clivia Enthusiast Group has been as busy as ever and some of their discussions are reported. John van der Linde has found another individual who was associated with clivia in the nineteenth century and this time he writes about Eduard Regel.

Cape Town is hosting an international flower show at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 11 to 14 September. This will be the South African equivalent of London's Chelsea Flower Show. The National Botanical Institute at Kirstenbosch will be displaying posters of the gardens and other interesting material and exhibiting specimens of indigenous flowers. Although the Cape Clivia Club show will be held on the same weekend at Belville, the Club will be manning a stand, promoting the Club and the Show, selling plants, giving advice, etc. Mick Dower is the coordinator for this.

Good luck to all those involved with shows both in South Africa and overseas.

Editor.

## Errata

An apology is in order for the errors in the previous newsletter (Vol 12 No 2 Winter 2003). The author of the article "Proposal for control

led breeding programmes" (page 25) was Dr Louis Potgieter, not Louis Swanepoel. Although correct in the 'Contents' page it was incorrect at the end of the article. The heading "Begin-

ner's luck" (page 32) is also incorrect and should read, "Matted roots".

Editor

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## *Stories behind the cover photographs*

The purpose behind this series is to focus on the breeding of the plants shown, their owners and their plans for their plants, and to see what 'do's and don'ts' we can learn that can help us. What we look for are interesting plants that may be either 'Good luck stories' or the results of many years of planned breeding, and of course, photos that do them justice.

### **Front cover**

The Northern Clivia Club show has two classes in its 'Miniata any other colour and green throat' section. 9A is for plants with one umbel and 9B for two flower heads. Bertie Guillaume won the latter class with the plant pictured here. It is one of the many plants from his vast nursery near Louis Trichardt. Bertie has no details of its breeding but says the green throat arose spontaneously. Because it was a good-looking plant and because there were two spikes in flower, he pulled it out from amongst all his others, drove 375 kms down to Pretoria with it and other plants, and, as they say, the rest is history. Incidentally, Bertie's entry in Class 9A, his well-known "Bertie's Bronze", won that class and was Reserve Show Champion. He does not think that the two plants are related.

Wessel Lötter, in his article "Clivia mutations

and modifications" in Clivia 5, points out that the early green often seen in the throats of flowers does not persist, but tends to disappear as the flowers age. Other plants with green throats do not necessarily have flowers with green throats every year. He suggests that persistent green may be maternally inherited. So, if you want to breed for green throats, then you should use a suitable green-throated plant as the mother plant, and not as the pollen parent. (See also the comments below on Johan Botha's green-throated plant).

### **Backcover, photograph RO.2**

This plant, the fruit of many years work, was John Winter's entry in the 'Own-breeding' section at the 2002 Cape Clivia Club Show, where it was awarded third place. John has been breeding clivias for many years and, unlike many of us who pollinate more or less at random, he has a disciplined approach, working only with certain proven plants towards his main longer-term goal of producing a more compact yellow with broader leaves and the flower characteristics he likes. The plant here is one of the steps on the way.

The mother plant was one he bred, his JW27, a selected "Kirstenbosch Yellow" having a tall sturdy peduncle, compact inflorescence and

flowers with protruding anthers. He chose his "Kirstenbosch Supreme" (Clivia 2, back cover), an orange with yellow genes, as the pollen parent. This has similar flower characteristics but broader leaves. As you can see, the plant pictured has the type of flower and umbel he likes. It is a smaller plant with broader leaves.

As the next step in his programme he pollinated it after the show with pollen from the well-known yellow, "Noyce's Sunburst" (Clivia 2, photo 12 on page 12). One-half of the seedlings produced will be yellows. John then intends to select those plants with broader leaves. With that parentage all of the seedlings should produce very attractive flowers, in the umbel shape he is trying to establish.

He also used pollen from this plant to backcross to the mother plant, JW27. Again, 50% of the seedlings will have unpigmented stems and he will select further from them.

### **Back cover, photograph no. 3**

There is an encouraging story for all behind this plant, which as a first-time flowerer, was awarded first place in the 'Multi-petal section' at the 2002 Eastern Cape Clivia Club show in Port Elizabeth. The photo does not show it to its best advantage, but we are sure we will hear more of this plant in the future.

The proud owner is Johan Mostert, a long-time cycad grower, who has been growing clivias since 1987. He joined the Cape Club in the early days and was a founding member of the Eastern Cape Clivia Club. He ordered Nakamura 'multi-petal x multi-petal' seeds when these were offered to Club members, bought 20, grew them on and then sold 10 before they had flowered. Of the 10 he kept, 6 have since flowered - all with one or more

multi-petal florets! The florets on his winning plant all had 10 to 14 petals, some chrysanthemum-like, as shown on the front cover of 'Clivia 3' featuring Ian Brown's plant. Johan was not able to pollinate the florets as the stigmas were fused to the petals, a feature of some multi-petal plants. However, he collected pollen and has used it on some of his other plants - so watch this space!

Shaun Chubb, who was one of the judges, said that this was one of the best multi-petals he had ever seen. Now, do you own one of the plants that Johan sold, or did you buy some of the same seed? Has yours flowered yet? Note that multi-petal flowering may vary from year to year in number and quality, so you may need to be patient.

### **Back cover, photograph no.4**

This plant, owned by Johan Botha, was awarded first place in the 'Green throat' section at the Cape Clivia Club show last year. Johan sold his entire cycad collection some years ago, reinvested in top quality clivias and hasn't looked back since. He has a range of plants but is probably best known for his variegated Daruma-type plants.

The plant in this picture has flowers with rich, dark orange petals and persistent green in the throat, which shows up well in the photograph. It was one of a batch of 30 that Johan bought from the widow of the late Nico Frick. (He named another in the batch, also a winner, "Nico's Dream"). Nico in turn had purchased the batch from Eric Heine, who had grown the plants from seed obtained from Neels Carstens from Paarl, who had crossed some of his own 'Old Belgian' plants. GertWiese, who has seen a plant or two in his time, says this flower is the closest in colour to "Bertie's Bronze" that

he has seen. About 10 of the 30 plants have green throats, but few are as outstanding as this one.

Johan pollinated it last year, its second year of blooming, with pollen from darker orange green-throated flowers of plants from other growers. His aim is to intensify the green and to breed a range of plants with darker orange to bronze florets. As Harold Koopowitz has pointed out in his book, "Clivia" (page 198), "When green underlies the orange colours, rich shades of terracotta or even brown can appear". Unfortunately this lovely plant will flower too early for the Cape Show this year.

#### **Back cover, photograph no. 5**

Here we have the winner of the 'Orange miniata, first flower from seed' section at the Cape Clivia Club show in 2002. The proud grower is Jaco Lötter, the youngest member of the Club, from one of the well-known Lötter Clivia-growing families. It comes as no surprise therefore to realise that Jaco, a keen breeder, has access to some top-class plants. His winner, which also appears in Clivia 5 (photo 21 on page 22),

arose from his backcrossing of C10/4T on to C10/4. These two plants, bred by Christo Lötter, Jaco's grandfather, were described in the last Clivia Newsletter Vol. 12 no. 2, Winter, 2003. Three first place winners have already come from this breeding line. Jaco's father, Riël, cares for the plants.

During 1998, Riël was concentrating on his yellows, so Jaco (then aged 11, by the way) grabbed his chance and cross-pollinated these two plants, remembering Christo's lesson that one should always do a reciprocal cross, and then again cross-pollinated the next generation of plants.

When this plant as a 3-year old flowered for the first time in 2002, it had large open flowers and a very attractive inflorescence. Jaco immediately realised that he had a possible winner and the judges clearly felt the same. When plants from crossing the other way (i.e. C10/4 x C10/4T) flower, probably this year, he intends cross-pollinating them with his winner. Clearly, a young man with a disciplined long-term plan! I am sure Jaco also keeps detailed records.

John van der Linde.

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## *Correspondence*

#### **The Clivia Colour Chart®.**

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart is the accepted standard generally used to describe flower colours, including clivia. Its advantage is that it contains a very wide range of flower colours but relatively few of these colours relate to clivia. However the main de-

terments are that it is cumbersome to use and it is very expensive. It costs over £100 sterling, which is well beyond the means of most clivia enthusiasts.

The **Clivia Colour Chart®** has been specifically designed for clivia, to be used as an easy reference tool to describe clivia colours, especially to anyone who has the same chart. It is

available in two versions. The majority of charts have solid half circles of colour, the edge of which is used to compare the petal colour. The other version has a 6 mm centre hole punched in each colour through which one can view and compare the petal colour (similar to the RHS Charts). These are slightly more expensive to cover the cost of the cutting die. The cost is R40 for a solid chart and R45 for a chart with holes, plus R5 p&p. They may be purchased from your own Club or the Cape Clivia Club, PO Box 53219 Kenilworth, 7745 South Africa, or e-mail to [capeclivia@ibox.co.za](mailto:capeclivia@ibox.co.za).

Waterproof and UV resistant inks have been used and printed on a long-lasting plastic base. However, even these inks will slowly fade when exposed to light and a sleeve has therefore been provided to protect the chart. Please ensure that the chart is kept in the sleeve when not in use, and that both are stored out of direct sunlight.

It is obviously not feasible to depict the complete spectrum of clivia flower colours. A total of 23 colours in three groups have been selected to cover the range of colours that are found in clivia, and this enables one to make descriptive comparisons that others are able to identify. Two of these groups fit logically

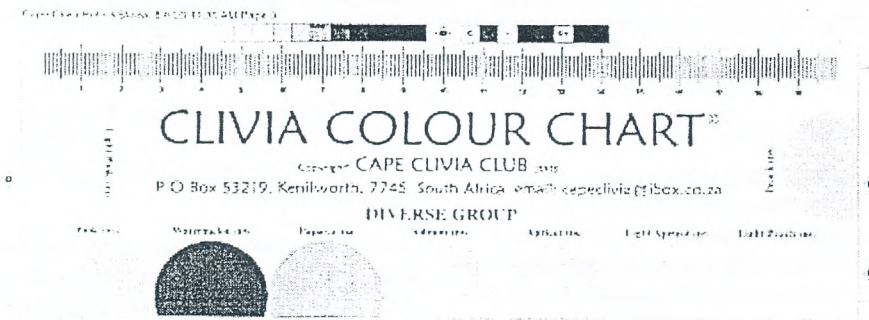
together while the third contains a number of diverse colours, some of which are unrelated - hence the name 'Diverse Group'. 'Pastel' colours have not been grouped together as they appear in every colour spectrum, and grouping would make comparisons with related colours difficult.

Every colour has been given a name and a code for easy reference in any medium. A millimetre rule has also been provided on one edge to measure petal, flower and leaf sizes.

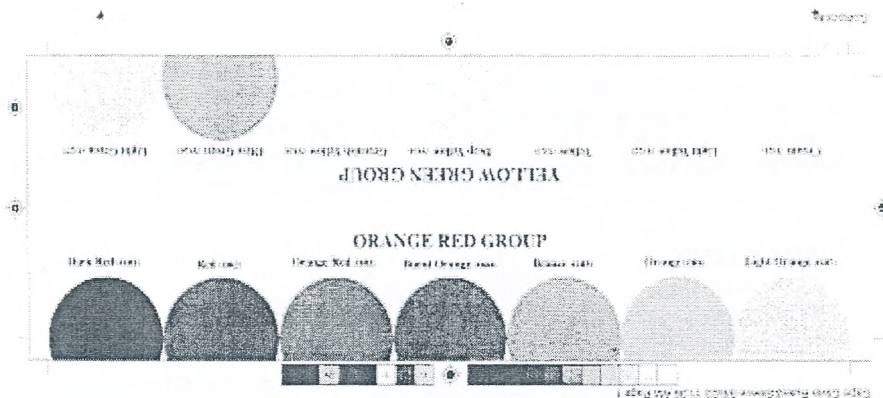
**Colour and tone descriptive terms:**

In time, common usage will develop terminology for describing flower colours using the Chart. In the meantime bear the following examples in mind:

- a colour may be 'tinted' by another colour - e.g. *C. miniata* "Apple Blossom" is light Yellow (YG2) 'tinted' with 'shades' of Light Pink (D1);
- there are 'shades' of Apricot (D6) in *C. miniata* "Floradale Apricot";
- the flower's colour is a 'red' which is similar to, but with a darker or lighter 'tone' than Red (0R2);
- the flower's colour is between Papaya (D4) and Salmon (D5);
- the flower colour is slightly paler than







Orange(OR6) and has a green throat which is darker than Light Green(YG7)

Remember too that background can influence the perception of the tone and hue of the clivia flower being examined. It would be interesting to make a comparison of readings taken in different lighting conditions. Therefore it should be recorded where this is done, e.g. shade house, bright sunlight etc.

Mick Dower.

### Win seeds with your clivia photos

The Editorial Board of the 2004 Clivia Society Yearbook 'Clivia 6' announces the launch of a 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 the normal Clivia Show dates and therefore are not seen by many people. We intend this to 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 published along with any other relevant information. There will be prizes for winners as well as two lucky draw prizes for entrants. 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 Species Section:	R100
( <i>miniata</i> , <i>caulescens</i> , <i>gardenii</i> and <i>nobilis</i> )	
Best Interspecific:	R100
Best Habitat Picture:	R100
Lucky Draw Prizes:	R 75

The conditions and rules of entry are:

1. The completed attached entry form must accompany submissions.
2. All entries are welcome but due to publish

ing deadlines must be received by the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2004 to be eligible.

3. Entries are limited to six per class per person.
4. Photographs may be mailed to Clivia Photographic Competition Entries,

**POBox 53219,  
Kenilworth. 7745,  
Cape Town.  
South Africa.**

**Or e-mailed to: [accolade@ibox.co.za](mailto:accolade@ibox.co.za)**

5. 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 18cm.
  - 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 x 1200 pixels as that should give a printable picture of approximately 14x10cm. 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. An email in jpeg format at 72 dpi with picture size 10x14 cm.

N.B. This type of submission must be available on a CD as all e-mailed 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.

6. If you wish your photographs returned after the competition you should include a

suitably addressed envelope. (South African entrants must include a stamp).

7. The decision of the Editorial Board on the winners of the competition is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Claude Felbert.

### **Learning the hard way**

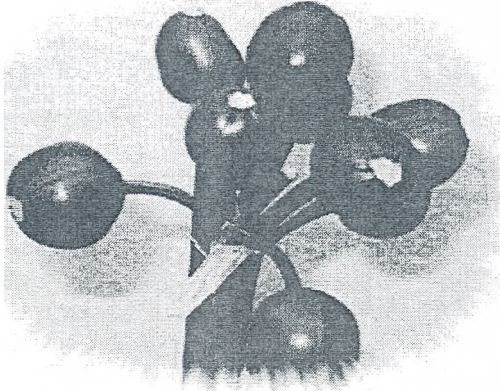
Throughout the year the Yearbook Committee begs us for good quality photos for the newsletter covers and yearbook. Unfortunately the majority of us argue that our flowers and plants are not good enough to be photographed or we are too amateurish to take good quality photos, as we do not possess sophisticated cameras. A while ago I shared my experience of photographing a green centred Clivia with our good friend Mick Dower and he prompted me to share it with all via the newsletter.

Some of us are inclined to take short cuts when it comes to operating instructions. About two years ago I bought a good quality automatic zoom camera and did just that. Although I produced reasonably good-looking photos I could not get a close-up that was not out of focus. A green centre will show up as a dirty yellow. Something that I was quite sure of was that I could not take a photo if the led (light) was flashing, as it was an indication that the camera was out of focus. Armed with my camera and instruction book I approached the camera shops in the city and ended up phoning the agents of the camera in Johannesburg. After speaking to five different people, some telling me that the camera should have a "close-up" mode, I was none the wiser and eventually gave up.

My wife, Cynthia won a raffle plant donated by Chari Coetzee at one of our earlier meetings.

# CLIVIA BROTHERS SEED AVAILABLE FOR 20Q3

(Winner Cape GC shot\* 2001 CCC: trvsrall omj bsst jr«ll#w, brwad leaf, m<rat unusual  
Z892: poach, br^ad



## Hand pollinated seed available:

Daruma: X-large, norrnal, minature kind, green throat

Nakamura: yellow Vico hybrids, Xlarge orange, split yellow, pastel, peach, apricot, gohst(baleached centre), white throat, dark orange, tulip, multi petal (3)

Belguim: Broad le.áf, dark orange, tulip, green centre, bronze, multipetal (3)

Variagated: Shima-fu & Tera-Fu, Normal long leaf, Daruma. mmiature kind, green throat. yellow(Viico)

Interspecific: Crossed with Nakamura yellow

- Orders filled on first come first served basis**
- Payment before delivery (min of R200 excluding P&P)**
- Delivery will be from July 2003**
- Seed list with pictures available at:**

<http://users.iafrica.com/f/fy/fynflor/Seedlist2003.htm>

## Only ripe seeds harvested

**Contact: A.P. Melan, Kleineweide 4, Stellenbosch, 7600, RSA**

**Phone: 27(0)21-8864345**

**Fax: 27 (0)21-8877357**

**Email: fynflor@iafrica.com**

Within two weeks it started to flower and produced beautiful large light pastel flowers with an exceptional green centre. Naturally I was very keen to capture it on film and decided to sit down and study the operating instructions of the camera very carefully from A to Z. I came across a section called "macro photography" where it explained that in this mode the green led (light) would flash fast when out of focus **and slowly when in focus**. I was absolutely amazed with the results. The flowers were close-up with a lovely sheen and a fantastic green centre. (I sent Mick copies of the photos) These quality photos, I am sure, will compete very well with the best for a place on the cover of a newsletter or the yearbook.

So, read the operating instructions carefully and let's go all out to provide the Committee with good quality photos of outstanding flowers and plants and leave it to them to be the judges.

Regards

Willie Le Roux.  
13 August 2003

### The value of crossing with *C. mirabilis*

More and more clivia growers are realizing the potential of Interspecifics where new colours and shapes are concerned.

What of *Clivia mirabilis*? What makes this species so desirable as a potential parent? Herewith a list of plus factors, which hopefully, in combination with the other species in the genus, will produce magnificent new hybrids.

- 1 Erect scapes held well above level of leaves,
- 2 Intense bi-coloured flowers
- 3 Many (up to 48) flowers per umbel
- 4 Colour changes in scape, pedicels,

- flowers and berries
- 5 Very robust plant
- 6 Flaring mouths of flower tubes
- 7 White stripe in center of leaf
- 8 Wintergrowing
- 9 Drought resistant
- 10 Intense cold (frost/snow) resistant
- 11 Sun resistant
- 12 Heat resistant
- 13 Quick maturation of berries/seed ( $\pm$  4-6 months)

I asked John Winter some questions and these are given below with his replies:

Q Which hybrids have Kirstenbosch attempted?

A The only cross that I have managed to do is with *C. caulescens* and the seedlings are doing well.

Q Was *C. mirabilis* used as both berry and pollen parent?

A I only had pollen of *C. mirabilis* and no flowering plants.

Q How long did the berries take to ripen?

A The berries took 8 to 9 months to ripen.

Q How long did the seed take to germinate and do you have photos?

A The seed germinated within 4 - 6 weeks after sowing. There are no photographs at this stage.

Q Did any of the hybrids retain the deep carmine colour at the leaf base?

A The seedlings have narrow leaves and produce the deep carmine colour at the leaf base.

Q Have you noticed any hybrid vigour?

A The seedlings do have hybrid vigour

- Q What seedling mix and watering regime have you used?
- A The growing medium I used is a mixture of milled pine bark, milled pine needles with an organic fertiliser added. Watering is very much the same as in any other species of *Clivia*.

- Q When will seed and seedlings be available from Kirstenbosch?
- A Seed is being germinated at the moment and seedlings will be made available at the end of 2004. The Department of Nature Conservation of the Northern Cape does not want to release seed at the moment.

More questions:

- Q Were no *C. miniata* x *C. mirabilis* hybrids successful? If not, would you not consider that quite surprising due to the ease of *C. miniata* hybridizing with all the other known species?

- A I am confident that *C. mirabilis* is compatible with all the other species. No crosses were done as there were no other flowers to pollinate at the time.

- Q From what locality was the *C. caulescens* that did work as the berry parent?

- A The pod parent was from the 'Bearded Man' which is the northern boundary of Swaziland.

The article published in *Clivia Yearbook 4* entitled "Growing and Propagating *Clivia Mirabilis*" featured on page 13 provides detailed information.

Jaco Truter.  
8 April 2003

## Bits and pieces

There are a few matters bothering me and I would like to record these before I forget them.

### Short peduncles

According to my observations short (malformed) peduncles and flowering between the leaf bases occur only out of season. I have never seen the phenomenon during a normal flowering season. Invariably the same plant will flower again normally in the flowering season without additional fertilizer. Short peduncles occur only amongst *Clivia miniata*. I have never seen it happen in other species.

I have also noticed this out of season flowering happens more frequently in the summer rainfall areas. I blame it on the sudden changes in temperature. During rainy weather it turns cold and then with clear days turns warm again. The plants get confused with the changes in temperature. Last year in the Western Cape we had early winter rain resulting in a cold spell and my Interspecifics flowered early. This year we did not have it, with the result that my Interspecifics are flowering six weeks later than last year. My plants receive the same fertilizer and other treatment. Why do some behave differently to others?

I always believed that the sudden changes in temperature had something to do with it and not a shortage of certain fertilizer. I have been experimenting during the last couple of years by feeding a teaspoon of hydroponics fertilizer to a plant when the first signs of a flower appear, and repeating this treatment a week later. I had nearly 100% success with this method and peduncles grew to the normal length and flowers were normal. This explains our friend's treatment with the sheep manure, which is rich in nitrogen, thus having the same effect.

Keith Hammett and Cindy Barnes have now given us a more acceptable explanation that makes sense to me. Thanks Keith and Cindy. The following is their explanation:

One of the good things about having established a large collection is that one is more willing to sacrifice plants for science than when one had just a few precious plants.

Cindy has been looking at the anatomy and morphology of plants as well as trying different treatments. At the end of May we cut up a number of plants of *C. miniata*. Normally we would expect such plants to be in full bloom between late September and mid October in our neck of the woods. [However] flowers were fully formed nesting deep in the plant four to four and a half months prior to flowering. For many bulbous crops the stages in flower production and the environmental conditions that interact with these developmental stages are very well known. The Dutch industry in particular has become very skilled at forcing bulbs, with knowledge of the requirements of different species, sometimes even down to the level of individual cultivars. Johan van Huylenbroeck has carried out similar studies on Clivia in Belgium (Yearbook 1998).

It is however good to remind ourselves that Clivia blooms are poised unseen on the starting line many months before flowering time. These plants were growing happily as a planting under trees.

This information helps to explain why peduncle growth is so rapid immediately prior to flowering and also why sometimes malformed blooms try to push themselves out between the leaf bases

"out of season" presumably having misinterpreted some environmental signal.

Keith Hammett (and Cindy Barnes).  
Auckland. New Zealand.

**Stem (peduncle) damage.** See 'Clivia Four' page 75.

This can be put down to potassium deficiency. My observations are the following:

It very seldom happens in my planthouses. Plants outside, under a tree were badly affected. This can be explained as follows: During rain the plants absorb a lot of water and the peduncle at this stage is very tender. With the shrinking and (or) contraction due to severe cold winds the damage is possible.

Matted roots.

Re: Val Thurston's problem with a lot of roots. Firstly I do not like the term "potting on". The plant will do far better if the roots are untangled so that the mixture can get in between the roots. Otherwise you may find the plant will not be very stable and will fall over.

The first step is to select a pot of the correct size. I find that any root that has been cut will rot, and very seldom will it make side roots. If roots have to be cut away, cut the lower roots (old roots) away completely and treat with fungicide. I have often looked at these old brown roots and wondered if they still serve a purpose.

Comments are invited.

Interspecifics.

I am very fond of the F1 interspecifics. I would like to increase the size of the flowers on the F2 plants. What do I do? Cross with *miniata*

again or not? There are conflicting ideas about this.

Can some of the experts please help with advice and some photos? My time is running out for experiments. I would appreciate comments on all of the matters raised, good or bad. This is the only way to learn.

Gert Wiese.  
12 van derWesthuizen Ave.,  
Durbanville. 7550  
8 August 2003

### **Cyrtanthiflora flowering season**

I have a few *Cyrtanthiflora* plants that originated from Dr. Bing Wiese and Gordon Mc Neil via other friends of mine. The first one started to flower during May with the last in August. A *Cyrtanthiflora* is a cross between a *nobilis* and *miniata*, both of which normally flower during September/October. One would expect that offspring of such a cross would also flower during the same time as its parents. Yet it flowers from May to July.

Can you please call on our *Clivia* experts and perhaps many of our other *Clivia* friends to solve this puzzle for me?

Regards,

Willie Le Roux  
13 August 2003

### **Ella van Zijl pastel**

A day prior to our 2000 show, Fred Gibello brought in some plants for sale at the show. I asked him whether he perhaps had a good pink to sell to me. He handed me a plant labeled "*C Miniata*, Apricot ex G. Wiese 9/95".

When it flowered with two peduncles prior to

our 2001 show I was actually disappointed as it was nothing more than an ordinary light orange. About a week prior to the show we had some heavy rains and I decided to bring all the plants that I would like to show, to an undercover area. Three days later I noticed that all the tepals on this particular plant had light 'bleached' stripes down the flower and I thought that the flowers were in some way all rain damaged and not suitable for showing. For some unknown reason I decided to self-pollinate it. A couple of months later whilst repotting the plant, out fell a marker with the inscription "Ella Van Zijl ex Pat Gore (Elme)". Being quite new in the *Clivia* world the marker did not have any special significance to me. It was only months later whilst paging through the '*Clivia Review 98*' that I noticed on page six a flower with identical markings which was awarded the 'Best Pastel' at the Central Branch's 1997 September show. Further enquiries revealed that the plant was in fact an Ella Van Zijl.

Interesting, is the article by Dr Bing Wiese on page 3 of Newsletter no 1, Autumn 2002 in which he explains the "symptoms" as well as the mosaic pattern on the leaves of the Ella Van Zijl plant.

I have had some conflicting comments from growers/judges on my question as to whether I would be allowed to enter the plant at a *Clivia* show and whether the judges would be entitled to disqualify it.

Can the Judging Committee please give me a ruling on this ?

Thank you

Willie Le Roux,  
25 August 2003

# *Snippets from the Clivia enthusiast e-mail group*

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## **Images**

Hi everyone,

Until recently this was the only e-group that I had joined. Having now experienced some others, I better appreciate the overall high level of contributions.

The group has contributed enormously to the worldwide interest in the genus *Clivia*. We are all indebted to Rudo Lötter and those who have helped him run this group.

A picture is worth a thousand words and one of the reasons this group is so informative is because of the many images that are contributed.

I fully concur with Jim Comstock's sentiments with regard to Loukie Viljoen's images. The quality of the image that Loukie posts is extraordinary and something to aspire to.

At the same time it is very important that no one, especially the newcomers, should hesitate to post an image [of appropriate size]. With

problems and questions about culture it is essential to have images to see what is going on.

Kind regards to you all.

Keith Hammett.  
Auckland.  
New Zealand.  
27 June 2003

## **Leaf tips yellowing**

The tips of the leaves of some of my seedlings (2 years) are starting to turn yellow. Could somebody please tell me what causes this? The seedlings are in full shade and do not appear to have any insect infestation.

Daryl Lewin-Burt  
Randburg,  
Gauteng  
South Africa  
20 August 2002

Daryl,

I am fairly new to this, but I have some seed-

**U.S. Clivia Nursery**  
**[www.cliviacreations.com](http://www.cliviacreations.com)**



lings with the same "problem". I thought it was the cold we had. The more they are exposed to the cold (those that are not fully under a tree) the more leaves are affected. I may have it all wrong! Hope some of the more experienced people will give their opinion as well.

Ronel le Roux  
Centurion,  
South Africa

### Acclimatizing clivia

I would like to know your views on acclimatizing imported clivia plants from the southern hemisphere into the northern hemisphere in the following situations?

- A) Imported plants about to start active growth now having to cope with sudden autumn (fall) or winter situation. Should these plants be allowed to grow on in a heated environment and then be subjected to a short forced cool and dry spell at the end of our winter to induce flowering in spring? Should these plants receive usual dosages of fertilizer?
- B) Imported plants about to go into a dormant state now being imported into a spring or summer situation, thus a reverse situation of point A).

Thanks

Hans van Verseveld  
The Netherlands  
e-mail: je.vanverseveld@quicknet.nl  
24 July 2003

Clivia can be kept in active growth year round. Keep them warm and don't over-water. I think they should be among the easiest plants to acclimatize moving from Southern Hemisphere to Northern Bulbs that have a strict

dormancy requirement, on the other hand, are a bear to acclimatize! I try to keep immature seedlings in active growth until they are large enough to bloom. Only then do I let them go completely dry in autumn and cool them off for a month or so at 50 - 55°F (ca 10-13°C). Plants coming into you own hemisphere from the opposite one (north-south and vice versa only, of course) should be kept growing until you reach your own season for chilling, and subsequent blooming.

You can bloom Clivias twice a year if the weather does not cooperate. A strong chilling 4 or 5 month's after a normal bloom period will trigger a fresh round of blooming in many of the plants. Such off-season bloom is not at all uncommon, but in my experience it is never as heavy as in-season bloom.

So you see, Clivia are just not all that picky about the calendar! Your main task will be to avoid killing them by over-watering and over-feeding while they are adjusting.

Moving Haemanthus, Scadoxus, or Hippeastrum from one season to the opposite presents a whole different set of problems.

Regards,

Jim Shields  
in central Indiana (USA)  
28 July 2003

### Frost damage

This winter we hardly had any cold weather, with spring in the air, I removed all the winter protection, and anticipated a wonderful flowering season. Most of plants were in full bud, and there were a lot of first bloomers. Who could predict the black frost that hit us last night?

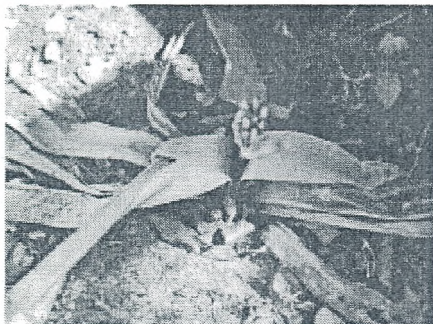
Nearly all the clivia growers in Gauteng were affected with what must have been one of the coldest nights in AUGUST! [-3° C], The frost cloth neatly folded away in the garage did not offer any protection. A sad sight awaited me this morning, nearly 50% of all my flowering plants were gone, the rest seem OK because they were at an early stage of bud development. Some plants also seem to be more frost hardy than others, or perhaps the cold jumped some and destroyed others. It is with mixed feelings that I wait for tomorrow, this time all my plants are covered with frost cloth, if we can believe the weather bureau it will be -1° C again, without the wind. With the frost they predicted 1 degree Celsius, wonder if we can take them to court for poor predictions?

Rudo Lötter.  
21 August 2003

Rudo, Also had a bad smack of frost, but the Phoenix will rise. Enclosed a clivia after the frost of Aug 2000, taken on 7/9/2000, the next photo taken on 27/9/2000, just 20 days later shows how tough they are, but I know it is disappointing. Jammer ou maat"

Cheers,

Loukie Viljoen.  
22 August 2003.



So sorry to read about the frost losses. I know now that the frost cloth works. We were down to - 3 C and not a bit of damage was experienced. I will only remove my cloth once the flowers are ready to open. That excludes my strelitzias, elephant ears, some cycads, tree ferns and my daisy bushes. These are just mush.

I hope that your plants all make a big come back.

Regards

Denise in South Africa (Gauteng)

Frost cloth is sold under the name of "Crop Cover". It is sold in 3x10 m packets. I bought mine from Flora Farm in Boksburg. They are sister nursery to Lifestyle in Randburg.

I paid R50.00 per pack.

In order to ensure that there was no damage, I folded mine in 4 and used it that way. I did this as someone in Bloemfontein told me that they still had damage when they used it singly at temps under -1° C

Good Luck

Denise in Gauteng South Africa  
23 August 2003.

Hi members,

I agree with Denise that the frost protection sheeting needs extra thickness.

I only get mild frosts of minus 1 or 2 degrees Celcius. I have had some plants damaged, only on the leaf tips, inside the shade house. Generally, the shade house gives enough protection but the cold air just flows through one layer. It seems to have picked out certain plants and left others untouched. Lucky me. I shall have to re-arrange my plants.

Regards

Ken Smith, NSW AUSTRALIA  
23 August 2003

Rudo

Sorry to hear of the frost damage. I guess all meteorological stations are the same - inexact! Your case does not sound too severe and the plants (and you!) should recover in time. Where the leaves are all terminal but the root system is still sound, I have found trimming the leaves off at their base is the surest way to saving the plants. That way, there is nothing left to rot and two or three new shoots will come up from the remaining base so you lose a few years but gain a few plants. It's an ill wind.

Winters in the UK are nothing like as severe as they were 20 or 30 years ago but we still get weeks of frost down to about -10° C around January and I rely totally on electricity for heating. My plant shed is well insulated with polystyrene sheeting just in case.

Ian Coates  
Cheshire,  
England  
23 August 2003

I am truly sorry to hear about the frost damage.

Frost is something that I battle with every year. This year it has gone down to minus 4.5 degrees Celsius. Last year down to minus 6.5. We keep our clivias in two 17m by 6m tunnels. We protect our clivias by increasing the ambient temperature by the use of lanterns lit at around 4.30-5.00 in the morning. Extreme care must be used to ensure the lanterns are secure and will not cause a fire - it seems to work for us. We use pump up lanterns with mantles, kero lanterns and in extreme cases candles. Since we have been using this method we have never had any frost damage in the tunnels. Whereas the garden at our house is partly destroyed after frost damage this year - some golden cane palms look totally dead and even duranta hedges are nearly dead, plus lots of plants dead. We get frosts to about mid-September.

We have a cheap battery operated temperature monitor (about AU\$30.00) in our bedroom which has a temperature alarm setting. It has a temperature sensor on a long wire which is affixed to the metal gutter on the roof. We set the alarm at minus 1. On days when the frost is going to be bad it usually sounds off at around 3.30 am in the morning.

I hope this information may be useful to those that expect a frost later this week. It is a cheap alternative for dealing with frost but as I said extreme caution must be used to prevent fires. When the lanterns are lit they are constantly monitored.

We also have the other extreme - a week of temperatures over 40 degrees and the tunnels are not good enough to stop fungal damage due to hot humid days. For many months I have been investigating what to do to protect our growing clivia collection from these ex-

terne temperatures. We have opted to build two white solar weave greenhouses with winch roof, side and end vents. Wall height is 4m at the sides and 6m in the centre. As an added protection they will have internal curtains at shoulder height that can be extended across the buildings and trap the air and hopefully create an insulation barrier. Construction should be completed in about eight weeks. I will take some pics.

Regards

John Craigie,  
Pine Mountain Nursery,  
PO Box 5016, Brassall Qld 4305  
www.pinemountainnursery.com.au  
24 August 2003

Clivia pollination

Your kind assistance. Which becomes active first, the receptive trfid tips of the stigma of the pollen sacs of the stamens? i.e. Does pollen ripen first and the tritid tips of the stigma become receptive to the pollen later or is the proc-

ess vice versa? Or - do the events happen simultaneously?

Dickie Gunston,  
Southern Peninsula,  
Cape of Good Hope.  
24 August 2003

Hi Dickie and all,

This is a very sensible question!

In Clivia, as in most other members of the Amaryllidaceae (Amaryllis Family), the pollen sacs open (anthesis) and the pollen ripens a day or so before the stigma becomes receptive.

I collect the anthers to store the pollen the day before I start applying other pollen to the stigma for umbels that I am hybridizing.

How do others do it?

Jim Shields, in central Indiana  
25 August 2003

*Some early names associated with clivia -  
No. 5: Eduard Regel — John van der  
Linde*

---

*Clivia miniata* was introduced to Europe in the early 1850s, and rapidly became popular as a showy pot-plant, yet it took until 1864 to get its current name.

The story begins 90 years earlier in 1774, when a bulbous plant with lovely large trumpet-shaped flowers resembling those of *C.*

*miniata* was collected in the Southern Cape. It was taken back to Europe and, because it readily made offsets, was soon quite widely grown. It was named *Vallota speciosa* (meaning 'showy') for Pierre Vallot, an early French botanical writer, and was the only plant in the genus *Vallota*. More about this plant later. First, the confusion it caused.

James Backhouse, a nurseryman from York had imported plants we now know as *C. miniata* from Natal (with seeds?). One of these plants, in full and glorious flower, was exhibited at a meeting of the Horticultural Society in London in February 1854. It created quite a stir, and within a few years seedlings were being grown in several countries. Yet no one was sure what it was!

Lindley, who had named *C. nobilis* back in 1828, scratched his head over this one, which had leaves described as 'stout' (interesting?), and such a different flower to *nobilis*, that he was not convinced they belonged in the same genus. Because the flower seemed similar to that of *Vallota speciosa*, he doubtfully identified the plant as *Vallota? miniata* (meaning 'coloured with red lead').

Hooker, on the other hand, felt this new plant was nearer to *Clivia* than *Vallota*, but, because of the very different flowers, wasn't sure either. So he doubtfully named it *Imantophyllum? miniatum*.

Anyway, this confusion caused by the Vallota-like flowers, seems to have existed for 10 years until 1864 when Eduard Regel (1815-1892), the eminent German botanist, settled the matter. In a short one-page article in "Gartenflora", the journal for German, Swiss and Russian plant people, he pronounced that, although the flowers were trumpet-shaped and more upright, unlike the tubular pendulous flowers of the other two *Clivia* species then known, the plant belonged in the genus *Clivia*, as established by Lindley.

His words carried weight, his brief C.V. being:

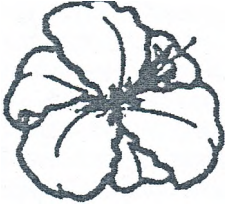
he worked at botanical gardens at Gottingen, Bonn, Berlin, Zurich (where he lectured at the University and got his Ph.D.) and St Petersburg, where he was Scientific Director and finally Director General. Regel introduced many plants, chiefly from Central Asia, described them and distributed them liberally to botanic gardens and nurseries outside Russia. He was a founder of both the Swiss and Russian Horticultural Societies and a prolific author. The genus *Regelia* of five flowering shrubs from W. Australia was named in his honour.

So, at the end of the day, that is why Regel's name is included in the full botanical name of our favorite plant, which is now so admired throughout the world: *Clivia miniata* (Lindl.) Regel.

Now, to return to the plant which had given rise to all the confusion, *V. speciosa*. It has been known over the years by various names including *V. dumbletonii*, *Amaryllis purpurea*, *A. elata*, and *Cyrtanthus purpurea*. You may know it by one of its common names, George lily, Knysna lily, or Scarborough lily. In some parts of the world it is still known in the trade as *Vallota* but it is indeed the most famous of all the *Cyrtanthus* species, *C. elatus*, with its beautiful trumpet-shaped scarlet flowers. Almost as desirable as *C. miniata*? Certainly the amaryllis lily borer thinks so!

For brevity I have not listed references, though I have them available. I would like to thank Keith Hammett for sending me information on Regel and also the article from "Gartenflora".

John van der Linde



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\_\_\_\_\_ *News from overseas clubs and societies*

A brief update for you on the progress of our new Clivia Society of Australia. We now have 50 members and growing steadily since we started a few short weeks ago.

Membership applications have come in from every State, so we already have a wonderful geographical spread of interest in the new society.

The founding Committee members, for those enthusiasts that are interested, are as follows

The North American Clivia Society now has its permanent web site on-line. Please visit us at

<http://www.northamericancliviasociety.org/>

The first issue of our newsletter, The Clivia Quarterly, is in preparation; we expect publication in a couple of months.

Jim Shields, president

President	Bryan Paten from Melbourne Vic.
Vice president	Pen Henry from Perth, WA
Secretary	<u>(we still need one. any volunteers?)</u>
Treasurer	Alister Willcox from Adelaide SA
Membership Secretary	Ron Redding from Hervey Bay Qld
Newsletter editor	Bruce Newton from Toowoomba Qld
Committee member	Allan Clarke from Adelaide SA
Committee member	Chris Verstage from Echuca Vic.

There is still a great deal of work to be done of course but we are up and running.

Regards

Bryan Paten  
Melbourne

Just an update from the New Zealand Clivia Club. Our exhibition is nearly here (4th & 5th October) and we are working on the final preparation details for it.

We would like to formally invite any of you who are down this way to join us in the cele-

bration of the Clivia. Many of our breeders/growers will be displaying their new hybrids, together with a 'novice' category. This will be a great opportunity for new comers to Clivia growing to exhibit.

If you would like information on the NZ Clivia Exhibition 2003, or you are planning on visiting NZ at some time in the near future and would like to meet up with growers/breeders, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards and happy growing.

Di Smith  
Secretary  
NZ Clivia Club Inc.

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## *From the Clivia Society:*

**Clivia miniata**, pendulous species, hybrids and other specialties available - seed, seedlings and mature plants. Visitors welcome. Connie Abel, Pretoria, tel/fax +27-12-361.6406ore-mail jcabel@absamail.co.za

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Back volume copies of the yearbooks and newsletters (since 1992) are now available to overseas members. 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 and USA members are reminded that they can order via Ken Smith, Michael Jeans or Mike Morri respectively - see cover for contact details. 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 5	15*
Yearbook 4	10*
Yearbook 3	out of stock
Yearbook 2	6*
Yearbook 1	6*
Volumes 1(1992) to 10 (2002) of newsletters	10 per volume*
Hints on growing Clivia — hard copy	5*
Hints on growing Clivia — electronic PDF format	not yet available
International membership — list hard copy	3*

International membership — list electronic format

no charge

\* Including postage and banking charges if paid by credit card. Contact Bossie de Kock for a quotation re payments mae by cheque.

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## *Beginners' luck — immature berries*

Hello group

I was wondering what has been the youngest anyone has harvested berries and sowed the seeds successfully? I recently had some berries start falling off a variegated orange hybrid I've been working on. The berries are barely 4 months and 3 weeks old. The seeds have been sowed and they seem to be working. The root is now popping out of the seed.

Victor  
Fallbrook CA

Hi Vick,

I had some seed broken off the plant at barely 4 months. They germinated well, but the seedlings were very small for a long time, then they caught up at about 7 to 9 months and after that you couldn't tell the difference.

Regards,

Felicity Weeden,  
Hermanus, South Africa

---

## *On the compost heap*

The Editor has been reading a delightful book by Charles and Julia Botha called 'Bring nature back to your garden'. Eve Gibbs has cleverly illustrated it with line drawings. The book is full of useful information about how to create an ecologically friendly garden with indigenous plantings.

As an Amaryllis caterpillar I was surprised to see I also featured in it in the chapter about 'imported garden pests'. The first line of this chapter reads: "These are REAL pests - know your enemy"! Evidently my ancestors were introduced from South America and therefore there is no natural enemy to the Amaryllis caterpillar here in South Africa. The authors suggest that only humans can keep us in check and suggest many horrible ways of getting rid of us. One of them not already mentioned in

previous correspondence (handpicking and insecticides) is to feed larvae to the Tilapia in the garden pond! Ugh!! Please don't buy this book! You may get some terrible ideas from it.

Lily Borer (*Brithys pancratii* from South Africa and *Brithys crini* from Australia!),



# CLIVIA SOCIETY PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

ESSENTIAL ENTRY DETAILS					
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ADDRESS & CONTACT DETAILS:					
PHONE:	AND/OR EMAIL:				
NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER:					
DATE PHOTO TAKEN:					
NAME OF GROWER:					
ENTRY NUMBERS: (1 to 6)					
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REGISTERED PLANT NAME:					
NAME OF BREEDER:					
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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PLANT:					
SUGGESTED PHOTO CAPTION:					
PHOTOGRAPHIC DETAILS: CAMERA TYPE:					
FILM DETAILS OR DIGITAL:					
EXPOSURE DETAILS:					
OTHER COMMENTS:					

## NOTES

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### **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: girty@absamail.co.za
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