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CLIVIA NEWS

▼ QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CLIVIA SOCIETY ▼



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APRIL - JUNE 2008

CLIVIA NEWS



THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CLIVIA SOCIETY

1. To coordinate the interests, activities and objectives of constituent Clivia Clubs and associate members;
2. To participate in activities for the protection and conservation of the genus *Clivia* in its natural habitat, thereby advance the protection of the natural habitats and naturally occurring populations of the genus *Clivia* in accordance with the laws and practices of conservation
3. To promote the cultivation, conservation and improvement of the genus *Clivia* by
 - 3.1 the exchange and mutual dissemination of information amongst Constituent Clivia Clubs and associate members;
 - 3.2 where possible, the mutual exchange of plants, seed and pollen amongst Constituent Clivia Clubs and associate members; and
 - 3.3 the mutual distribution of specialised knowledge and expertise amongst Constituent Clivia Clubs and associate members;
4. To promote the progress of and increase in knowledge of the genus *Clivia* and to advance it by enabling research to be done and by the accumulation of data and dissemination thereof amongst Constituent Clivia Clubs and associate members;
5. To promote interest in and knowledge of the genus *Clivia* amongst the general public; and
6. To do all such things as may be necessary and appropriate for the promotion of the abovementioned objectives.

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▼ Eastern Province	André Calitz, Elroy Johnson and Gideon Botha
▼ Free State	Hennie van der Mescht
▼ Garden Route	Piet Theron
▼ Joburg	Glynn Middlewick and Koos Geldenhuys
▼ KwaZulu-Natal	Sean Chubb and Liz Boyd
▼ New Zealand	Tony Barnes
▼ Northern	Lena van der Merwe, Peter Lambert and Bossie de Kock
▼ Northern Free State	Louis Chadinha

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The Clivia Society Newsletter started as a black on white news-sheet dated July 1992, numbered Volume 1 number 1, called 'Clivia Club'. It formed a means of communication for people interested in the plant genus *Clivia*. It was edited/written by Nick Primich with a frequency of 3, 5, 8 & 5 during the first 4 years, using the publication month in the volume.

The frequency was fixed on four annually with Vol. 5 No 1 of March 1996.

The date changed to the southern hemisphere seasons with Vol. 8 No 1 of Autumn 1999. The first three used yellow paper as cover. The name changed to 'CLIVIA CLUB NEWSLETTER' with Vol. 9 No 1 Autumn 2000 with full colour photos on the cover pages. Another name change to 'CLIVIA SOCIETY NEWSLETTER' came with Vol. 10 No 4 Summer 2000, and in 2005 reverted to a quarterly number.

CLIVIA NEWS is the continuation of this series.



EDITORIAL

This report covers Volume 16, Number 2 through to Volume 17, Number 1, those published since the last AGM. Since I have also taken on editorial duties for the *Clivia* Yearbook I have had to clarify in my own mind the purpose of *Clivia News*. I see it as the vehicle to meet those objectives of the *Clivia* Society (CS) to which the medium is most suited, namely "the exchange and dissemination of information amongst Constituent *Clivia* Clubs and associate members" (Clause 3.1).

While many Clubs have their own in-house magazines and Newsletters, some of high quality and containing information important to a broader audience, it would be useful if these were circulated to the Editor of *Clivia News* in order that pertinent information be extracted to meet this objective.

The format is now established and newsletters generally have something on habitat forms of *Clivia* as a focus, this to meet the objective in Clause 2 of the CS, namely "the protection and conservation of *Clivia* in its natural habitat". To that end it is endeavoured to use habitat forms as features for covers.

To meet the objective in Clause 1 "to co-ordinate interests, activities and objectives of the constituent *Clivia* Clubs and associate members" the first issue of a year is given to the Minutes (unapproved) of the previous AGM, and the preliminary agenda and salient information of the upcoming AGM.

It is also useful to be able to publish a calendar of events and more especially show dates, but Sakkie Nel, PRO to the CS was proactive this year and we managed to get a show calendar to print. Many thanks for this, Sakkie. Your efforts are much appreciated.

Issue 2 is given to a select number of

Committee reports, which are of interest to the membership. Issue 3 usually has some feedback from the shows, where these are available, not detailed prize lists but general reports of attendance, and success in engendering public interest and increase membership, which then also helps establish whether the objective "to promote interest and knowledge of the genus *Clivia* amongst the general public" (Clause 5) is being met by the Clubs. Issue 4 has the Annual Reports of Clubs and Interest Groups (where these are forthcoming!).

The section on 'Growers' and Breeders' Notes' satisfies the Objective of Clause 3.3 "To promote the... improvement of the Genus *Clivia* by the mutual distribution of specialized knowledge and expertise amongst Constituent Clubs and associate members". These are normally gleaned from the electronic media rather than by way of direct contribution.

Tributes to members by way of Life Membership of the Clubs or Society are featured when this information is provided.

The articles featured range more broadly than the activities of the membership of the CS and the Toowoomba *Clivia* Society Inc are generous with information and keen to see it published...

Helen Sanders provides a quarterly cartoon '*Cliviarta*' with in-joke humour that can sometimes only tickle the funny bone of the *Clivia* fanatic...

The advertisement section are a service to the membership but the demand for this seems on the decline, possibly with the advance in the electronic media as a more immediate vehicle.

Chris Vlok offered his services as final check for the factual correctness of content. For this I thank him and can only apologize for the times

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PHOTO: ROGER FISHER



– more often than not – when the protocol has gone out of sync.

Fréda van Wyk does a sterling job of giving *Clivia News* visual allure and puts up with the sometimes-unreasonable demands of an editor behind schedule. Fréda, *baie dankie hiervoor!*

John van der Linda's interest and support is appreciated and acknowledged.

Fred van Niekerk is a mine of information on his particular passions and keeps me informed on matters of interest to him and gives me access to interesting material in bloom in his Clivia-torium. This helps fill gaps in the newsletter.

Thanks, Fred.

The support of the Executive is valued, and in particular the logistic support of Lena van der Merwe and Bossie de Kock. To you all, my thanks.

To all those members who make contributions and alert me to the error of my ways my greatest appreciation.

Please, get the next lot of contributions flowing in! ▼

Roger Fisher
Editor

After years of great breeding of Clivia Joe Solomone has now gone home to the Lord. Joe died last night within an hour so of talking to his son in law Manuel. Joe will be missed but his plants will live on. Joe, you will be in our hearts, thoughts and in our prayers. Victor Murillo June 01, 2008 (Clivia Forum).

The condolences of the Clivia community go out to his friends and family. His memory will live in the plants he bred and shared.

CLIVIA SOCIETY MATTERS

2008 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN - Clivia Society

The executive committee consists of Johan Spies (Chairperson), Peter Lambert (Vice chairperson), Lena van der Merwe (Secretary), Bossie de Kock (Treasurer) and Chris Vlok (Additional member). It was a quiet year and the committee met once. The rest of the time they communicated through e-mail.

During the past year some time was spend on problems within some *Clivia* Clubs. It is a pity that we have to waste time on petty problems that should never have occurred. If this time was spend on *Clivia* instead of people involved with *Clivia*, more progress would have been possible with our beloved plant.

Two months ago Nature Conservation confiscated more than three tons of indigenous bulbs and rootstocks from a multi-shop in Welkom. Among these rootstocks were approximately 300 *Clivia caulescens* stems. Let us try to fight this destruction of *Clivia* populations, rather than fighting fellow lovers of *Clivia* who said something unactful!

I want to use this opportunity to thank Roger Fisher and his team for producing high quality Newsletters. This happened in spite of major moves, computer problems and a typesetting glitch. The Newsletter always acts as substitute for Prozac in my life! I am looking forward to *Clivia 10*. Thank you for the hard-work put into this effort.

The *Clivia* Society was again appointed as ICRA (International Cultivar Registration Authority) by the ISHS (International Society for Horticultural Science). Ken Smith will act as registrar for the *Clivia* Society {Information available at <http://Clivia.plantsmith.idx.com.au/csocregh.htm>}.

The different *Clivia* Clubs form the heart of this Society. I want to thank all the people willing to organise the activities of these Clubs. Without the different shows and your other activities the interest in *Clivia* will definitely diminishes.

The Chinese *Clivia* Club who wants to affiliate with us approached us. This is the fruit of the initiative started by Chris Vlok and the previous committee. However, this may cause some problems in our Society. How do you get an affiliate with more members than your own? How do you handle reports (Newsletters, Yearbooks, etc.) to people with a foreign language? Do you apply the same rules as to people in New Zealand (where no language problems exist) for example?

On the political level, affiliation with the Chinese, with their attitude towards Tibet, may cause a rift with existing co-workers in the West. This affiliation should take high priority with the new Committee.

The *Clivia* Society is getting closer to a crossroad in their existence. The number of enquiries on cultivar identification and registration, on standards for shows and on the protection of natural populations increases. We will have to re-evaluate the position of the *Clivia* Society and *Clivia* Clubs. Should the Society act only as a coordinator for the different Clubs and be responsible for the Newsletter and Yearbook, or should more powers be imposed on the Society?

I think every Club should discuss their position and their expectations of the Society and send their suggestions to the Society. This is the only way in which the Society can grow and fulfil the expectations of the members.

I want to thank Connie and James Abel for organising another *Caulescens* Tour. Their organising capabilities ensured another success. Lastly I want to thank the Committee members for their contributions throughout the year. A special word of thanks to Lena and Bossie who did the majority of work for the Society. Without them we could not have functioned. ▼

Johan Spies: Clivia Society Chair

2008 ANNUAL REPORT - RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Research continued at the University of the Free State and progress was made on *Clivia* diseases, genes responsible for colour formation in *Clivia* and genetic diversity in *Clivia*. Progress on natural pollination in *Clivia* progressed at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (Pietermaritzburg).

A virus was identified infecting natural populations of *Clivia caulescens* near Graskop in Mpumalanga. The virus was identified as the "Tulip colour breaking virus". The virus starts with lighter green spots on the leaves of an infected plant. These spots turn yellow and appear as uneven "variegation" on the leaf. The yellow is a darker yellow than normal variegation. Eventually the whole leaf turns yellow. The final effect of the virus on the plant is not known yet. The growth of an infected plant is stunted. The time from infection to the development of symptoms is not yet known. A side-effect of the virus is a mottled effect of the flower, as the virus influences the formation of anthocyanin near high concentrations of the virus.

The "strange colouring" of flowers produced by virus infected plants, may be desired by many breeders. However, the effect will not last and the plant will eventually die and infect neighbouring plants. The effect is slow to show and we may lose many plants if this virus is distributed widely.

Three genes responsible for colour formation are being studied. One gene has already been isolated and the DNA sequence studied. Various colour forms are now studied to determine whether this gene differ in the different colour forms.

Preliminary microsatellite data indicate that *Clivia* is a tetraploid plant and not a diploid as generally believed. More studies are needed to test this hypothesis. Microsatellite work progress well and nine sets of markers have been identified. The time-consuming task of getting enough profiles to make meaningful deductions is now in progress. At least 3 000 plants should be studied to determine the validity of microsatellites as reliable identification for a specific cultivar.

The study on pollination in *Clivia* should be completed by the end of the year. This will contribute to our knowledge on the conservation strategies for wild populations of *Clivia*.

The series of e-books on *Clivia* is progressing too slowly. At this stage only two chapters on the basic genetics needed for *Clivia* breeding has been completed. As seven chapters are envisaged, the progress is unsatisfactory for the *Clivia* community. If a basic royalty can be agreed upon, people can be contracted to complete the work faster. By referring every case back to the executive committee to decide on a royalty, it is more problematic to contract people outside the *Clivia* community to contribute.

SUGGESTION: A royalty of at least 20% of the money earned for a specific book must be paid as a royalty to the author, who can redistribute it to any co-authors involved. This will not cost the *Clivia* Society a cent and it will contribute to a faster output of books. ▼

Johan Spies

Clivia Society Research Co-ordinator



Clivia2006 Conference DVD's now available

The Clivia Society has decided to make the Clivia2006 conference proceedings available on a double DVD. The presentations have been recorded, edited, and shortened to almost eight hours viewing time. The DVD set can now be ordered from the secretariat of the Clivia Society at a

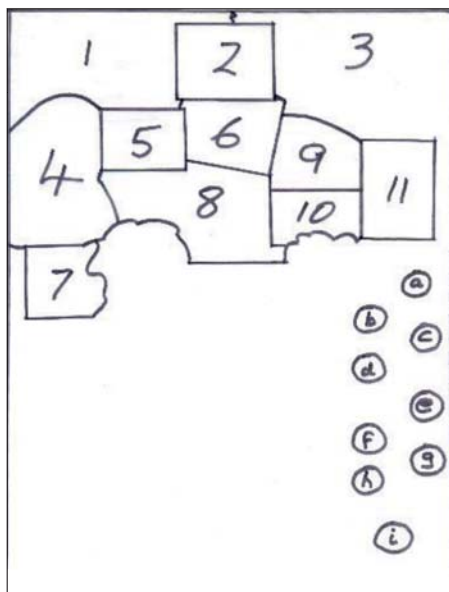


price equivalent to ZAR 220.00 (including postage and packaging). Should you be interested, please contact Bossie de Kock at one of the following addresses: Clivia Society, P.O. Box 74868, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040 Pretoria, South Africa. Fax: +27 12 804 8892; E-mail: bossiedekock@absamail.co.za

Special certificate of recognition for Connie and James Abel

Connie and James Abel were presented with a special certificate on behalf of the *Clivia* Society in recognition of their efforts in the regular organising of the Caulescens Tour.

Key to photo-composite of Certificate [Source – James (JA) and Connie (CA) Abel]



Scenes from tours and photos of friends:

1. Cliffs above McNeil's Shack, 2002 (photo J Abel).
2. Bakkie ferrying participants to the Shack, JA holding it together, 2006 (photo W Malan).
3. Forestry personnel carrier taking participants to Bearded Man (enjoyed by most, very bad news for those who were claustrophobic), 2006 (photo I Coates).
4. JA & CA at the Pinnacle, 2006 (photo Wynand Malan).
5. At the Conways in Santa Barbara – Henriette Stroh, JA, Nancy, CA & Dave, 2005 (photo T Wells).
6. Umtamvuna Valley, 2002 (photo J Abel).
7. Participants at the McNeils, 2002 (photo J Abel).
8. JA, CA, Rudo Lotter and Alick McLeman on coastal Highway One in California, 2005 (photo T Wells).
9. CA & Roger Dixon in Umtamvuna Valley, 2002 (photo J Abel).
10. Yoshikazu Nakamura, Masashi Yamaguchi & Shigetaka Sasaki, 2003 (S Sasaki).
11. The Pinnacle, 2002 (photo J Abel).

And of some of our favourite plants:

- a. Four Marys – one of the earliest classics from the McNeil collection.
- b. Chinese Lantern – a happy find in our collection, with tepals straining to open against their tip adhesion.
- c. Frats No Petal – no tepals, from Mirriam Meltzer's collection – love it or hate it!
- d. Akebono Hikari Yellow – from seed from Yoshi Nakamura in 1994, in 2000 the first to flower anywhere.
- e. Frats Fine Petal – tepals only 3 – 4 mm wide, discovered at Tipperary nursery in 1990.
- f. Chinese Lantern – when the tepals finally spring apart they are left in the shape of a mechanical grab, from all the opening tension (see b. above).
- g. Berry with 23 seed – our cross between a thin leaf striata and Connie's Red below – heterosis at play!
- h. Connie's Red – a beautiful dark orange with leaves 80 mm wide.
- i. "Umbel.leaf" - photographed at Pierre and Isabelle De Coster's in Belgium, 2001.



With this

Award

to

*James &
Connie Abel*

*the local & overseas visitors
would like to show their appreciation
of an unforgettable experience
seeing clivia in habitat
through tours organized
by them since 1994.*

HABITAT CLIVIA

Observation of seed set and dissemination in habitat of *C. mirabilis*

Ever wondered what the natural seed set of *Clivia mirabilis* is in Habitat?

I have read a lot about the poor seed set of *C. mirabilis* but found that to be incorrect. On the majority of plants the pollination rate is close to 100% and the berries yield 1-5 seeds each with an average of 2-3 seeds per berry. Nature is by far the best pollinator as I cannot achieve the same success rate with hand pollination.

These observations are the result of careful planning as a week later I would have found only a couple of berries on the peduncles. Remember I am +/-800km away from the farm. Within two days after a berry starts turning colour it disappears from the plant and this time I was very fortunate to witness a bird flying away with a berry in its beak. I could not identify the bird but described it in detail to the farmer.

When the farmer recently visited me in George he reported that he caught the bird red handed as it was stealing a ripe berry in his greenhouse. It is *Laniarius ferrugineus* (Southern Boubou) or in Afrikaans, Suidelike Waterfiskaal and it positively resembles the bird I saw. I was baffled because these birds are insect eaters but after further research learned that they do indeed eat small fruits. The reason one never sights them is because they are very shy birds that hide in the thick bushes (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Boubou for further information).

Well, I got lucky and at least now know how the *C. mirabilis* seeds are dispersed in nature. This shy bird has helped *C. mirabilis* to survive over the ages. Wow! Isn't Mother Nature just



www.gardenbirds.co.za/images/boubou_Southern_...

incredible.

The close to 100% seed set in habitat is also a very interesting observation that questions all other published info on this matter. Because I know these plants so well I questioned a small seed set in habitat and decided to study the plants this year before the seeds ripen. What I saw confirmed what I found two years ago when I visited the habitat again exactly one month after flowering time, full heads of swollen pea size berries.

The reason other people reported on the poor habitat seed set is because the birds take the berries so quickly from the plants. Another factor that convinced me was that nearly all *C. mirabilis* plants are settled underneath trees. I found numerous trees where the fresh skin leftovers of the berries were still on the branches with seeds lying scattered underneath the trees. ▼

Gerhard Faber

(Originally posted on Clivia Forum - cliviaforum.co.za)

Visit *Clivia mirabilis* country - Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve - Nieuwoudtville

Sakkie Nel offers the following information, should you wish to visit this wonderful habitat. Overnight at VanRhynsdorp for at least one night will be essential. The place to stay is the Vanrhynsdorp self catering Chalets of

Jasper (027 / 219 1810) & Annatjie Nieuwoudt (072 453 6766). The chalets have two bedrooms with two bathrooms each and at present the tariff is R150.00 per person per night. One chalet (Krymekaar) has three bedrooms, two

bathrooms, lounge and kitchen at the same price per person per night. Meals at the Vanrhynsdorp Caravan park (027 / 219 1287 or 076 293 2578) are excellent if you do not want to braai or cook in your own kitchen or wingerdstompieskerm. Imagine a fire of waboom wood.

First Habitat

Mias and Erika Vollgraaff stay in the town of Van Rhynsdorp and the plants on their farm, Klein-koebee, is an absolute must see. Their e-mail address is mekdril@mylan.co.za. P O Box 107, VanRhynsdorp, 8170. Telephone 082 495 7277. Booking is definitely necessary, because Mias takes you the 25 km to the farm in the mountains in his Pajero.

For a fee of R250.00 per person, we had the trip, a wonderful farm breakfast at the farmhouse, before departing in Mias's little Rhino-Yamaha into the mountain habitat on a road which is definitely not for the fainthearted. But please do not worry, Mias is very responsible and will look after you if you can succeed in leaving your city manners at home and behave yourself on the mountain. The little Rhino is as strong as an ox but can take only three people plus Mias as the driver.

This drive takes you to about four meters from the plants. On the up-side of the mountain it is quite steep but plants are easily reached and photographed. On the side below the road it can be seriously dangerous if you are not careful and must know what you are doing. Good rubber sole walking shoes are essential. Long walking sticks which can help to stabilize you while climbing down very big rocks to get a next foothold way down below can be quite tricky. Wearing long trousers as well as a shirt or top that covers your arms is also essential because crawling through the bush on the down side may leave you looking like you have left a war zone.

When you have had your fill of this beauty, try and walk down the road to observe the hundreds of other little plants this Cosmos has to offer. Mias can follow with the Rhino and stop occasionally to tell you their names and point out other interesting ones.

Back at the farmhouse the smell of Erika's wonderful lunch will fill the air, while you and

Mias's Agent/Manager (Hein Grebe – HT 021 / 461 9882 – WT – 021 / 483 5529 – Cell 083 641 5149 – e-mail address: Hgrebe@pgwc.gov.za) negotiate material that may be for sale. A permit is issued for the plants you buy.

If the Namaqualand mist is covering the veld the morning you drive out towards the mountain, please ask Mias to stop somewhere so you can photograph the spider webs on the wire fence on both sides of the road. You may get competition winner shots.

Hein needs to travel from Cape Town to meet you and it may entail certain costs so you better check on that.

Second Habitat

Permits to visit Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve must be booked in advance and cost R15.00 per person per day. The warden, Wessel Pretorius, can be contacted at P.O.Box 142, Nieuwoudtville, 8180. Try to obtain the map – "Nieuwoudtville, A Biodiversity Hotspot" – from him or Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. The map of Oorlogskloof is also a must have. In the reserve you can walk a bit and try to see the canyon as well as the cliffs where *C. mirabilis* grows, but Wessel won't tell or show you on the aerial map (in his office) where the beauties survive. I do recommend that you visit his office in Nieuwoudtville as well as the Reserve.

Should you need accommodation in Nieuwoudtville Mr. Hendrik van Zijl (e-mail: nieuwz@intekom.co.za) has Hendrikshof farmhouse which can sleep 8 people in separate rooms or his Waenhuisie with two bedrooms, lounge, dining room and kitchen. Also Van Zijl Gastehuis and Smidwinkel Restaurant 027 / 218 1535 or Cell 082 829 6855. He can supply a very nice A3 size map of the environs.

If your visit is in September/October please ask to see his *Clivia* collection at the back of his restaurant where breakfast is served. He has quite a variety and may still be a club member. Middle October all his plants were in full bloom. He does not know about *C.mirabilis* or do not want to discuss it with anybody!

Try to visit the waterfall outside Nieuwoudtville on the tarred road to Loeriesfontein. The Kokerboomwoud (Aloe tree forest) at Brandkop on that same road is also worth a visit.

Nieuwoudtville Publicity Association Tel. 027 / 218 1336 Fax 027 / 218 1336. Please contact me if I can be of any further help, except with advancing money or petrol. Please leave my beloved Bushmanland as clean and crisp as you have found it. You may only leave your very small footprints under its vast horizon.

Please give my regards to all the people who I have mentioned by name, because they are all my friends. Yes, and if you miss-behave there, I will hear and come after you!

Kind Regards

Sakkie Nel, Lynnwood, Pretoria.
Public Relations Officer

Clivia Society and Northern Clivia Club.

E-mail address:
corgas@vodamail.co.za

Ht: 012 / 361 6415
P O Box 35235
Menlo Park 0102

My postal address is included for when sending me some precious seeds! ▼

DISTANCES

Johannesburg to Vanrhynsdorp over Springbok	1295 km
Cape Town to VanRhynsdorp	297 km
Durban to VanRhynsdorp/ Colesberg/ Carnavon	1640 km
Bloemfontein to VanRhynsdorp/Colesberg/Carnavon	992 km
Port Elizabeth to VanRhynsdorp/ B. West/ Carnavon	1020 km
George to VanRhynsdorpB.West/Carnavon	800 km
Nelspruit to VanRhynsdorp over Kenhardt	1763 km
Pretoria to VanRhynsdorp over Kenhardt	1433 km

CLIVIA HISTORY

A card with Clivia plants on

In *Clivia News* 7(1) page 9 (January 1998) Minnie de Klerk mentioned and sent a card depicting *Clivia* for the archives. She could not remember in which publication she found it fifteen or more years ago. (In whose archives did this card land up? I (Lena) did not receive it with all the documentation of the *Clivia* Society).

However, I happened to buy the publication way back in 1978 with this card in. With this *Woman's Value* launched a drive to publish a collectable set of cards describing garden plants. You could order a box/ holder for the cards, which were to be published every month. As far as I know, this project was dropped as I never saw any other cards published. I still have my card as it reminds me of my beginning years with a *Clivia* plant.

I visited Mr. & Mrs. Van Zyl in Villieria, Pretoria during September 1965 where I saw a flowering *Clivia miniata* for the first time. Mrs. Van Zyl grew up on a farm between Machadodorp, Baberton and Badplaas in now Mpumalanga. She took the *Clivia* plant from the habitat on a family friend's farm. The plant had several offsets and she promised me one, which she

never gave.

In February 1971 I visited Willie and Babs Botha on the Farm Riverside – the last farm before you enter the Kruger Park at the Malelane gate. Babs was a keen gardener and on a tour through her garden there I saw a container full of *Clivia* plants. She immediately offered me an offset and tried to take it out of the growing medium with her hands. It broke off without any roots. She then got her gardening tools and removed a second offset. She told me that on a trip, visiting friends at Havelock, she had taken the plant out of the habitat in the region of Barberton close to the Swaziland border.

I came back to Pretoria with my two *Clivia* plants and nurtured them in my flat in Sunnyside. Both grew and so as to ensure that I did not lose my precious *Clivia* plants through one or other mishap, I gave one to my sister who lived in a house in Val de Grace, Pretoria. She did not really want to care for the plant in her house and cast it outdoors under a shrub, where it proliferates – the ideal growing conditions for *Clivia*. I did not know it at that time and was dissatisfied with her doing so, but I had given her the plant and could not take it back! Low

CLIVIA MINIATA KLYE-vee-uh min-ee-AY-tuh

Native to South Africa, these spectacular tender-flowering bulbs are members of the amaryllis family. They have broad, straplike, arching green leaves and large, rounded clusters of trumpet-shaped blooms of orange-red with yellow throats. The flowers appear in spring or early summer on a tall, succulent stalk, and are followed by red berries.

Size: Leaves, 18 in (46 cm) long and 2 in (5 cm) wide; stalk, 12-15 in (30-38 cm) long; flowers, 3 in (8 cm) long; berries, 1 in (3 cm) across.

Light: Moderate sunlight. Flowers last longer with lower light levels.

Water: Let soil surface become slightly dry between through soakings when actively growing and flowering, from late fall until summer.

Let the soil dry out between waterings in the fall, but never let the plants wilt.

Humidity: Moderate.

Temperature: 65-75°F (18-24°C) days and 50-60°F (10-15°C) nights. In areas without frosts, *Clivia* can be grown outdoors.

Fertilizer: Feed monthly with flowering-houseplant fertilizer when actively growing.

Propagation: Divide bulbs in late spring, after flowering.

Repotting: Plants bloom better when potbound, so repot, using standard potting soil, only when very crowded. Cover the top of the bulb with 1 in (3 cm) of soil.

Pests: Aphids, mealybugs; spray with malathion.

Growability: Moderately challenging.

Gardener's note: Flowering-size plants are often rather expensive, but worth the immediate effect. Younger, less expensive plants may take several years before they bloom. Several named varieties and hybrids are available with flowers in other shades of red, yellow, and orange.

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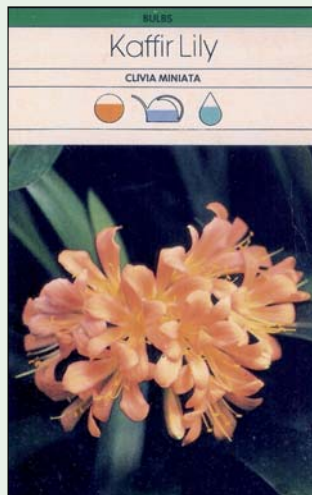


Figure 1. The front and back of the card published in *Woman's Value* in 1978

and behold – hers flowered and mine only suckered, making offsets prolifically. In September 1972 my sister's plant flowered and on seeing the flower, she also got hooked on this beautiful orange lily and started searching for more *Clivia* plants to plant in her garden.

This card with the information of *Clivia* on, gave me the clue as to why my plant did not flower – it needs adverse conditions to flower in order to survive. I stopped watering my plant during the winter, but still kept it nice and warm. I was rewarded with a bouquet of flowers come end of August 1979. I took 36 photos of my flowering plant with five umbels! ▼

Lena van der Merwe

Figure 2. The reward of not watering my *Clivia* plant way back in 1979.



HOT ON THE TRAIL OF HISTORY

A *C. gardenii* population in New Zealand

Our [NZ *Clivia* Club] librarian, Diana Holt, has a sister who has lived on Kawau Island in the Hauraki Gulf for the past 10 years. Because of Diana's interest in *Clivia* her sister was excited to report that there are large clumps of *Clivia* growing on the island. Initially it was thought that these might be the original 'Van Houtte' *C. cyrtanthiflora* introduced into New Zealand.

(Van Houtte was a famous horticulturist and editor of various horticultural journals in Belgium and France at the end of the 19th Century. The original, and strictly speaking only, *C. cyrtanthiflora*, was given the cultivar name "Van Houtte" in his honour. From work done by Dr Keith Hammett and others on chromosomes he is pretty sure that we have this specific genotype here in New Zealand, as well as plants from subsequent generations.) However it turns out that the *Clivia* are in fact *C. gardenii*.

Now this is where the account gets really interesting. History buffs will know that Sir George Grey was Governor of New Zealand in the 2nd half of the 19th century at which time he brought many plants from around the world into New Zealand. He established beautiful gardens with these plants at Mansion House on the island. However back then Sir George was also Governor in South Africa at which time he had a close friend who shared his interest in flora and fauna. And his friend's name? Major Robert J Garden, who discovered and after whom *C. gardenii* was named in the 1850s. Could these be descendants of the original *C. gardenii* discovered by Major Garden and that he perhaps gifted to Sir George? ▼

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STORIES BEHIND THE COVERS

***Clivia nobilis* CONTINUES TO AMAZE**

A few months ago I was contacted by a *Clivia* friend, Bridget Randall, who told me there was a huge *Clivia nobilis* growing in a garden in the area known as "The Island" in Sedgefield. We all went down to the property and had a look at the plant in question.

What we saw was clearly an old plant with many off-sets. In diameter, it measured about 1.5m but the astounding thing was the height of the plant. The plant measured close to 1.5m from ground level to leaf tip. The leaves are typically *C. nobilis* with notched ends.

Unfortunately the owner of the property was away and so we were not able to find out

anything about the history of this plant. It is clearly a happy plant, growing in the typically sand-loam found here in Sedgefield.

At the other end of the scale I had a dwarf *C. nobilis* plant flowering last spring – the variety known as "East London Red". This is the reddest *C. nobilis* I have yet seen. Even the immature fruits are red. The height of the plant in flower is about 35cm.

We look forward to using this plant in the development of future red interspecifics. ▼

Welland Cowley
Cape Flora, Sedgefield.



CLUBS AND ENTHUSIASTS

CLIVIA CLUB SHOWS, DISPLAYS, EXPO'S AND EXHIBITIONS FOR 2008

NAME OF CLUB	DATES 2008	TIMES	VENUE	ENTRANCE FEES	CONTACT PERSON / S
KwaZulu Natal Clivia Club - Pietermaritzburg	2 August 2008 - Interspecific DISPLAY	Saturday : 10:00 – 16:00	SANBI Botanical Gardens Pietermaritzburg	R 5.00 per person Children under 12 free PLUS fee for entrance to Botanical Garden	Val T : 031-763 5736 John H : 083 660 1275 Brian T : 033 – 344 3585 Carole B : 033 – 344 2471
Waterberg Bosleieklub – Nylstroom	29 – 30 Augustus 2008 - SHOW	Friday : 08:00 – 18:00 Saturday: 08:00 – 15:00	Dopper Hall, Nylstroom	R10.00 per Adult	Ans J : 014-717 3674 082 372 0765
Northern KZN Clivia Club – New Castle	30 August 2008 - SHOW	Saturday: 9:00 - 16:00	Newtech, FW Beyers Drive, Barry Hertzog Park, Newcastle	No Charge	Hottie H: 034-318 1327
Lowveld Clivia Interest Group – Nelspruit	30 – 31 August 2008 - SHOW	Saturday: 09:00 - 16:00 Sunday : 09:00 - 12:00	Bergvlam High School, Geelhou Avenue, Nelspruit	R10.00 per person over 12 years R 5.00 per vehicle No Charge	Maria G : 083 457 1176 Paul K: 082 578 5289 Ian R: 082 379 0405 Louis C : 057-357 6067
Northern Free State Clivia Club – Welkom	4 – 7 September 2008 – Expo	08:00 – 17:00 Sunday : 09:00 – 13:00	Alma Nursery, Alma Road, Welkom	No Charge	Christo T: 082 497 5879
Northern Clivia Club – Pretoria	6 - 7 September 2008 - SHOW & Clivia Market	Saturday: 08:00 – 17:00 Sunday : 09:00 – 15:00	Anton van Wouw Primary School, C/O Dey & Lange Streets, New Muckleneuk	R15.00 per person over 12 years old	
Cape Clivia Club – Cape Town	6-7 September 2008 -- Display	09:00 – 17:00	Sanlam Hall, Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden, Newlands	Fee of Kirstenbosch	John W : 082 575 7202 Ian B; 021 689 3901
Cape Clivia Club – Cape Town	13 – 14 September 2008 – Display	09:00 – 17:00	Willowbridge Shopping Centre, Durbanville	No Charge	Eugene M: 021-914 0465 083 444 9709
Overberg Clivia Interest Group – Hermanus	12 – 13 September 2008 – SHOW	09:00 – 17:00	Round Hall, Dutch Reform Church Hermanus ,Central	R10.00 per person over 12 years	Felicity W : 084 5898 297 Felicity W : 028 316 3092

NAME OF CLUB	DATES 2008	TIMES	VENUE	ENTRANCE FEES	CONTACT PERSON / S
KwaZulu Natal Clivia Club - Pietermaritzburg	13 - 14 September 2008 - Miniata SHOW & Clivia Market	Saturday : 9:00 - 16:00 Sunday : 9:00 - 15:30 Demonstration Sunday 11:00 am	Royal Show Grounds Pietermaritzburg	R 10.00 per person Children under 12 free	Val T : 031-763 5736 John H : 083 660 1275 Brian T : 033 - 344 3585 Miranda : 083 254 0796
Border Clivia Interest Group - East - London	13 - 14 September 2008 - SHOW	Saturday 08:00 - 17:00 Sunday : 08:00 - 12:00	Pioneer Nursery, Conubie	No Charge	John R: 082 567 7069
Joburg Clivia Club - Johannesburg	13 - 14 September 2008 - SHOW	Saturday: 08:30 - 17:00 Sunday : 08:30 - 16:00	Garden World Nursery, Beyers Naude Drive(M5), Muldersdrift	R10.00 per person over 12 years	Braam O: 011-475-2586 Glynn M : 082 650 1463
Free State Clivia Club - Bloemfontein	20 September 2008 - SHOW	Saturday: 8.00 - 14.00	Bloemfontein Primary School, Bloemfontein	R 5.00 per person: Children R2.00	Hennie vd M: 083 5119519 Piet L: 051-5228963
Eastern Province Clivia Club - Port Elizabeth	20 - 21 September 2008 - SHOW	Saturday: 08.30 - 17.00 Suncay : 08.30 - 16.00	Verkenner School Hall, Salvia Crescent, Linton Grange, Port Elizabeth	R 5.00 per person over 12 years	Andre L R: 082 574 9058 Gideon B: 079 490 0550
Cape Clivia Club - Cape Town	20 - 21 September 2008 - SHOW	09:00 - 17:00	Belville Civic Centre, Voortrekker Road, Bellville	R10.00 per person over 12 years R 5.00 Pensioners	Joy W: 021-671 7384 Gerrit v W: 021-976 8924
Overberg Clivia Interest Group - Hermanus	22 - 29 September 2008 EXIBITION	09:00 - 17:00	Peregrine Farm Stall & Nursery, Grabouw	No Charge	Felicity W : 084 5898 297 Jessie W : 083 458 3790
Garden Route Clivia Club - George	27 - 28 September 2008 - SHOW	Saturday: 09:00 -17:00 Suncay : 09:00 - 13:00	Outeniqua Primary School, C/O Cradock & Cathedral St. George	R10.00 per adult Children free	Ida E : 072 613 6066
Cape Clivia Club - Cape Town	27 - 30 September 2008 - Display	09:00 - 17:00	Sanlam Hall, Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden, Newlands	Fee of Kirstenbosch	John W : 082 575 7202 Ian B: 021 689 3901

GROWERS & BREEDERS NOTES

ADDING THOSE RARE CLIVIA PLANTS TO OUR COLLECTIONS

I was involved as a witness in a High Court case in the Johannesburg High Court before the late Mr Justice Levison. It was an expropriation case and argument was being put forward regarding the value of the expropriated property. At a stage the Judge stopped proceedings and said: "But things don't always have the same value. Take a coin or a stamp collection for instance. When you start a collection, the coins or stamps purchased could be relatively inexpensive, but when you get to the stage where you need that one or two special coins or stamps to complete the collection, they could prove hard to find and very costly."

I think the same principle applies in some degree to a *Clivia* collection. Some of our collections could do with those few very special plants to enhance the collection, and such plants are hard to come by, and if available, normally prove to be fairly costly. This is a very real problem faced by many of our keen collectors who do not have such deep pockets.

The solution does not seem to lie in cheaper prices for the plants. Such prices are determined by supply and demand. I have always advocated that one of the best routes to go is via the seeds.

It involves a long round-about route, but is very rewarding in the end.

The following example illustrates this view. Apple Blossom plants are unavailable to most collectors in South Africa at present, even young seedlings. Some of our members have been buying available Apple Blossom seed over the past few seasons and are now reaping the benefits and the most beautiful Apple Blossoms are coming into flower in their collections. I suppose the seed was purchased for say R40 or R50 a seed. Just imagine what the value of the plants now are.

I am the first to realize that seed cannot be guaranteed and that we all have had our deep disappointments from plants grown from seed. This is no reason, however, to stop growing seed. If I look at my own collection, I see that many of my most beautiful and valuable plants have been grown from seed. Right from the outset I decided to plant seed every year, and I intend to continue as long as possible.

As plants grown from seed come into flower, the top ones become those special plants we need to enhance our collections that have been out of our reach due to scarcity and costs. I was

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- Thurlow Flora: We have on offer a large variety of carefully bred seedlings and mature plants for sale. We specialise 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: 031 781 1978 e-mail: terric@iafrica.com. We also have available a few hundred different named daylily clones.
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- *Swamp gardenii* and *miniata* seed and seedlings available from various Natal and Transkei locations. Phone Andrew (039) 313 5024 a/h or cell 082 784 5401.

given a number of seeds by Dr. Keith Hammett some time ago. I was fortunate and had a good germination and the plants will be coming into flower in 2009. Just imagine the beauties I will be adding to my collection.

But it requires patience. A new enthusiast came to buy plants and was quick to let me know that he did not want any seeds or seedlings because: "Ek is nie meer vandag se kind nie" (I am no longer today's child). He did not have the time or desire to grow seeds. Upon me asking, he eventually told me he had just turned fifty-five and had taken early retirement. I remember thinking: "Oh, if I could just be fifty-five again!"

How different was the attitude of Braam Opperman one of our senior members from the Johannesburg Club. He phoned me when he was seventy-nine years old and very excitedly told me that he had just made the best crosses ever and hoped he would be spared for the next five years. Those five years have come and gone and he has had the wonderful joy of adding many very beautiful home grown plants to his collection.

Never stop growing seeds. By doing that, we will be adding those rare and expensive coins and stamps to our collections. One is never too old or busy to grow seeds. ▼

CLIVIA EXPERTS OF TOMORROW

The Eastern Province *Clivia* Club is fortunate to have a few youngsters as members and who are passionate about growing *Clivia* and are going all out to learn as much as possible about this wonderful hobby. I decided to find out how they became interested and more about their *Clivia* activities :-

LUKE KRÜGER

Luke became interested in *Clivia* plants at the age of 10. His mother, Carry, being a well known collector and breeder down at Sedgfield, often asked him to give her a hand with the preparation and displaying

of plants at their shows as well as the selling of plants and seeds. This triggered his enthusiasm and soon he started to collect his own seeds, seedlings and plants from various growers who were so impressed with this keen youngster that some of them donated the items to him.

He developed a keen eye for unusual plants and one day while strolling through his mother's nursery spotted a plant with unusual flowers which she after repeated requests eventually gave to him. He decided there and then to enter the plant under his own name at the show and was delighted to be awarded gold in the unusual flower category. He has since also won silver with a flowering red and gold for one of his miniature flowers. He's been pollinating and harvesting his own seeds for the past 3 years and is hoping to see some of his own crosses flowering during the next year or two.

He is now 15 years of age and is the proud owner of a special collection of about 50 mature plants as well as numerous seedlings. He is eagerly awaiting the coming harvesting season and 2008 show. Judging from the passion for *Clivia* plants displayed by this youngster I am convinced that he will become one of our future experts.

Good Luck Luke!



CHRISTIAAN VAN NIEKERK

Christiaan recalls that as a youngster his family regularly visited his grandparents in Pretoria. Being very fond of his grandfather he would accompany him on his daily visits to the *Clivia* house on the property. At first the *Clivia* plants were just another bunch of plants with no significant meaning to Christiaan. It was only when his grandfather started explaining to him the origin of the plants and telling him stories about a certain British Army Major, Robert Garden and Lady Clive and how the first *Clivia* plants were taken out of South Africa with some finding their way into the Botanical Garden in London that he started showing more interest in *Clivia* plants.

His interest was enhanced when his grandparents came to visit them in Port Elizabeth and grandpa pointing out some special *Clivia* plants growing in their garden and told him how to harvest and germinate the seeds. Realizing that this youngster has been bitten by the *Clivia* bug his grandfather, no one other than the very well known South African collector and breeder Fred Van Niekerk, put paid to it during a later visit by presenting Christiaan with his very first yellow *Clivia*.

As a proud owner of a few *Clivia* plants he keenly and very successfully germinated his first seeds. Accompanied by Fred they visited Charl Coetzee where Christiaan was bombarded with information and shown the difference between the various species and explained how to cross pollinate the flowers.

By now his interest in *Clivia* plants grew into a full fledged hobby. He maintains a healthy balance between his studies and his hobby and prefers to spend his spare time attending to his plants. He's also supported by his parents, Matie and Santie and has become the custodian of the numerous *Clivia* plants in their garden. He has in the region of 60 special plants in his shade house over and above a few hundred seedlings. He is posing in the photo with his yellow gardenii of which he is very proud. He is eagerly looking forward to participate in his first *Clivia* show during September 2008. He would like to take this opportunity to thank his grandfather for introducing him to a very interesting and most enjoyable hobby and his support as well as Charl Coetzee for sharing his experience with him.

As his mentor it is a real pleasure to have him under my wing. He is very eager to broaden his knowledge and has enrolled as a learner judge. This passionate youngster has undoubtedly the potential to become one of our future experts and I wish him well in his venture.



DIAN NORTIER

Dian, the youngest of our members, was introduced to the *Clivia* plant by his aunt Adelie Botes who grew lots and lots of *Clivia* plants with red, orange, pastel, yellow and peach coloured flowers in her garden in Oudtshoorn, South Africa. The peaches originated from cross

pollination with a yellow obtained from the Chubb's farm.

About 3 years ago Adelie decided to immigrate to Australia. She realized that she couldn't take her *Clivia* plants with her and didn't like the idea of leaving it to someone who might not look after them the way she did.

Knowing Dian's love for plants she decided to

enter into a partnership with him and a few weeks later arrived at his home in Port Elizabeth with a bakkie as well as a trailer load of her best *Clivia* plants.

He immediately joined the E.P. Clivia Club to learn as much as possible about growing *Clivia* plants. He attended all our meetings and workshops and is continuously asking questions in order to broaden his knowledge.

He does his own pollination, germination, re-potting and dividing of his *Clivia* plants.

At the young age of 14 he is tending to about 200 adult and 300 young and seedling plants. He is particularly proud of his collection of Adelle peaches (named after his aunt).

He's supported by his mother Erna, is very dedicated to his hobby and is anxiously looking forward to his first *Clivia* show. It's a real pleasure to be his mentor and with his dedication and eagerness to learn all

about the ins and outs of *Clivia* breeding, I'm positive that he will become one of our future *Clivia* experts. ▼

Willie Le Roux

Tel: 041 360 3480

girly@absamail.co.za



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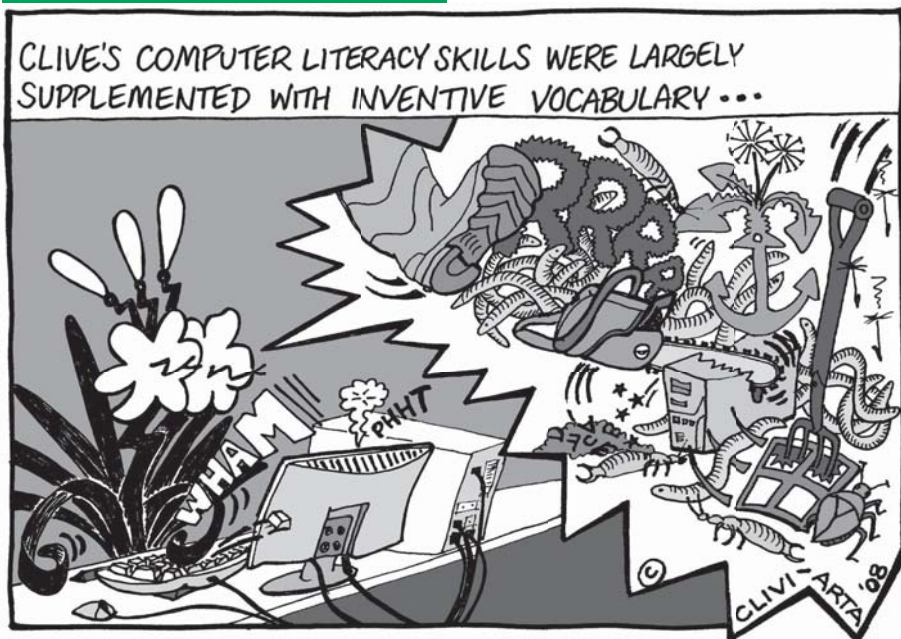
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Smalls (1 to 6 lines):	R25.00	Full Page:	R250.00
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Quarter page:	R70.00	A4 separate page insert:	R800.00
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CLIVIA SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

Overseas members can order back volumes of the Yearbooks and volumes of 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@absmail.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, Jaco Nel, Alick McCleman and William McClelland respectively – see inside back cover for contact details. Also note that further discounts can be negotiated with Bossie for orders exceeding 10 of a specific item. The items listed in the table are available. ▼

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Yearbook 8	15
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Yearbook 2	10
Yearbook 1	out of stock
Cultivation of Clivias	15
Newsletters after 2002 per number	1,5
Volumes 1(1992) to 11 (2002) of quarterly newsletters	10 per volume
Set of volumes 1 to 10 of quarterly newsletters	available on request

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Contact Bossie de Kock for quotation re payments made by cheque.

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- ▼ USA & Canada William McClelland. 1048 Bollin Avenue, Camarillo, CA 93010-4708, USA, Tel: 1-805-484 1484; e-mail: william_g_mcclelland@yahoo.com

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- ▼ Eastern Province Clivia Club André Calitz (Chairperson). Tel: +27 41-367 4476; Fax: +27 41 368 6195; e-mail: calitzap@absamail.co.za
- ▼ Free State Clivia Club Hennie van der Mescht (Chairperson). 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 Club Ida Esterhuizen (Secretary). PO Box 1706, George 6530. Tel: +27 44-871 2214; e-mail: kobuse@xsinet.co.za
- ▼ Joburg Clivia Club Glynn Middlewick (Chairperson). 2 Willow Road, Northcliff, 2195. Tel: +27 11 476 1463; e-mail: gcmidd@mweb.co.za
- ▼ KwaZulu-Natal Clivia Club Miranda Train (Secretary). Cell: 083 254 0796; Tel: 033 387 6309; E-mail: mbrits@3i.co.za
- ▼ New Zealand Clivia Club Alick McLeman (Secretary). 26 Merfield Street, Glen Innes, Auckland 1072, NZ. Tel 64-9-5213062; e-mail: clivia@xtra.co.nz
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- ▼ Border Interest Group John Roderick (Chairperson). PO Box 2429, Beacon Bay, 5205. Tel: +27 82 567 7069; Fax: 0865114606; e-mail: jroderick@sainet.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
- ▼ Northern KwaZulu-Natal Interest Group Mrs Joey Dovey (Chairperson). PO Box 8402, Newcastle, 2940. Tel: +27 34-318 4179 / 083 344 0572. e-mail: doveyw@telkomsa.net
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