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# CLIVIA NEWS

& QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CLIVIA SOCIETY &



VOLUME 20 NUMBER 1 & JANUARY - MARCH 2011

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### The Clivia Society [www.cliviasociety.org](http://www.cliviasociety.org)

The Clivia Society caters for *Clivia* enthusiasts throughout the world. It is the umbrella body for a number of constituent Clivia Clubs and interest Groups which meet regularly in South Africa and elsewhere around the world. In addition, the Society has individual members in many countries, some of which also have their own Clivia Clubs. An annual Yearbook and quarterly Newsletters are published by the Society. For information on becoming a member and / or for details of Clivia Clubs and Interest Groups contact the Clivia Society secretary or where appropriate, the International Contacts, at the addresses listed in the inside back cover.

### 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 above-mentioned objectives.

More information on the Clivia Society available on  
[www.cliviasociety.org](http://www.cliviasociety.org)

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### ADVERTISEMENTS

WILL ANYONE WISHING TO ADVERTISE OR WHO KNOWS OF POTENTIAL SPONSORS OR ADVERTISERS PLEASE COMMUNICATE WITH SAKKIE NEL IN THIS REGARD - SEE INNER COVER FOR CONTACT DETAILS.

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

The volume number says it all – we're into the twentieth year of the existence of what is now the Clivia Society, once merely an international grouping of "friends of the Clivia". Such groupings say as much of the strangeness of human nature as it does of the intrigue to us of the nature of that genus or species on which we focus and lavish our time and attentions – in our particular case the genus *Clivia*. There are many studies that could be done and a ream of statistics that could be generated from studying such a dedicated circle of devotees. Just some that come to mind:

Why is the average age probably far older than that of the general population?

With its rider:

Does loving *Clivia* more than is absolutely necessary guarantee longevity?

Why is the Clivia Society male dominated?

With its rider:

What do the 'Clivia widows' do?

What is the economic scale of the hobby (as opposed to that of the genus in the floral industry)?

What are the savings on health care bills through such intensive engagement in this hobby?

Conversely -

Does competitive behavior such as elicited by Clivia Shows add costs to the health care bills?

If there's a plant out there you MUST have, why, if you can't eat it, are you prepared to pay so much to have it?

With the Clivia Society being representative of the greying brigade we are forever bidding farewell to people who seem as perennial as the

*Clivia* itself. Since our last issue two well known names have joined the ever-growing circle of *Clivia* devotees on the other side. It is with sadness that we report the departure of Erda Guillaume and Fred van Niekerk. We trust their family will be comforted in the thought they are remembered and the memories cherished by so many who shared their hobby and passion for *Clivia*.

In this issue we visit a new observation on the phenomenon of how interspecifics between the cross *C. miniata* x *C. nobilis* present phenotypically and a fascinating insight from Johan Spies by way of explanation.

Then we present the first of four parts of Lena van der Merwe's recording of the heritage of the Society as presented at the last Clivia Conference in Bellville, Cape last September.

These, amongst others, to make for reading while listening to your *Clivia* plants grow. &

Roger Fisher

Editor – *Clivia News*



Bertie and Erda Guillaume.

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CLIVIA  
TWELVE

## Yearbook errata

On page 3 it should state Miss Cynthna Forsmann (nee [not 'later'] Letty).

The page 49 that is labeled 2nd Runner-Up is the Mick Dower Photo that appears on page 4 and *vice versa*.

Correction of page 4 of Mick Dower's 'Winner - Best Own Breeding'.

The winner was in fact his plant registered under the name 'JULIA D.' As it ages the white turns pink and later the flowers take on a slight peach bloom in the pink. It is the offspring of the cross (Photo right).

(Photo top right) a 'Floradale Apricot' x 'Oribi Gorge Yellow'.

On page 57 the photograph titling went awry. It should read: 1st [in Habitat section] Rod Randall – Red form of *C. miniata* blooming at Oribi Gorge. &



## CLIVIA 13

We are in preparation for the next issue of the Clivia Yearbook.

## Photographic Competition:

Judges comments on the previous competition were that they:

*were of the opinion that a great numbers of the images were not up to standard as they were either out of focus or the colours had been over intensified (especially the reds and greens). There were also a number of white balance, compositional and background mishaps. These factors led to the affected images not being considered for the competition.*

*In the end it was those images where the photographers had taken extra effort to get the composition, balance, lighting, exposure and backgrounds correct that were the successful images.*

Categories [Preferably a file folder with the submission - Judges keep the right to change this]

*C. miniata*-like flowers

Pendulous species

Interspecifics

Novelty plants and flowers [New category – can be leaf, plant or flower]

Single Flower

Clivia in Habitat

Clivia Art Photography [New category]

Please attach as much information into the labeling of the photograph so as to ensure its retrieval.

Please send digital photos of 2010 show pictures and entries with WELL LABELLED digital photos or scans which clearly indicate:

Grower [Full name]

Breeder [Full name]

Breeding of plant

Registered name [if applicable]

Prize awarded [if applicable]

Photographer [Full name]

With your Club Representative to the AGM

Or post them to

PO Box 1039, White River, 1240. &



**CLIVIA SOCIETY MATTERS**

**NOTICE OF AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE CLIVIA SOCIETY  
TO BE HELD ON  
SATURDAY 21 MAY 2011  
AT THE ASSAGAY HOTEL, SHONGWENI,  
KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA  
www.assagayhotel.co.za**

Starting times and venues:

**FRIDAY 20TH MAY**

14h00 onwards Check-in at Hotel.  
18h00 for 19h00 Braai (cash bar will be available)

**SATURDAY 21st MAY**

09h00 Breakfast  
10h00 – 12h30 Will arrange shade house visits on request.  
13h00 Light lunch  
15h00 Annual General Meeting.  
18h00 for 19h00

**SUNDAY 22nd MAY**

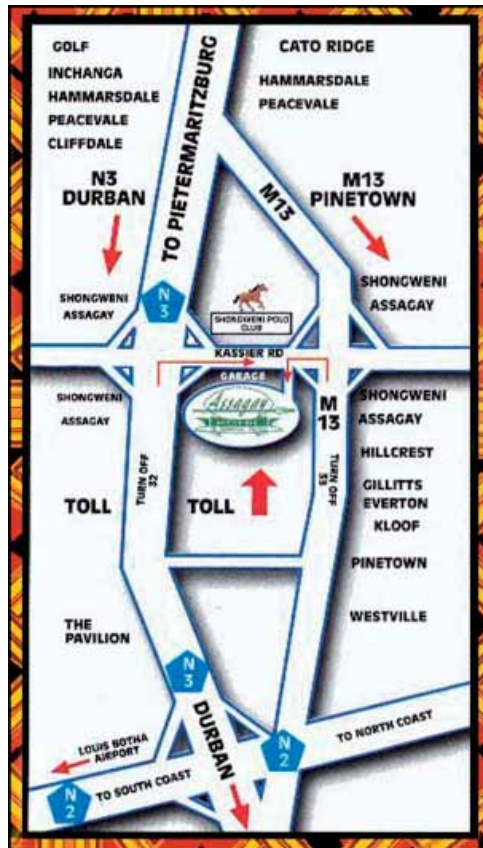
09h00 Breakfast. Special arrangements to be made for those leaving early.  
10h00 Check-out time.

All correspondence should be forwarded to the Society at one of the following addresses:

Clivia Society, PO Box 74 868, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040.

Fax: +27 12 804 8892

Email: cliviasoc@mweb.co.za



Directions to ASSAGAY Hotel]

## The Clivia Society Annual General Meeting and *Gardenii* Show

**21 & 22 MAY 2011**

The rates for the Assagay Hotel and Conference Centre, which is the venue for the 2011 AGM of the Clivia Association, are as follows:

Accommodation:	Single – bed and breakfast	R500 pp per night
	Double/Twin – bed and breakfast	R400 pp per night

If you are staying at the hotel – THE ABOVE Price DOES include finger lunch on Saturday and teas, coffees during the weekend.

The DINNER prices BELOW need to be added to the ABOVE package if you are staying at the hotel and attending either one or both of the dinners.

Dinner:	Friday – buffet	R100 pp
	Saturday – AGM Function Supper	R100 pp

Please let Yolandi know if there are any special diet requirements.

For those delegates NOT using the accommodation facilities of the Assagay Hotel, there will be a charge of R115 pp for the day. This will include bottomless tea/coffee/juice, finger lunch, 1 soft drink and 1 bottle of water.

Bookings for accommodation may be made by contacting Yolandi Badenhorst, Conference Department, Assagay Hotel.

PLEASE – State your NAMES and the Club or Interest Group you belong to CLEARLY when you make your bookings.

See you there! &

**READER'S VIEWS**

### When is 'Clivia' not a *Clivia*? 5 - *Solanum tuberosum* L. cv. 'Clivia'

*Greig Russell – Cape Clivia Club*

**T**ouring the British Isles in a Dormobile in March - May 1993 was one of the great adventures of my life. Having an onboard gas stove meant that it was not necessary to waste money on over-priced British restaurants offering lousy British food (which so satisfied my Scottish roots). One of the great delights of the Scots leg of the journey was being able to pop into a little store and be offered 15 or 20 labeled varieties of potatoes from which to choose. And they all tasted glorious, simply boiled and buttered. The best South African 'Up-to-Date', 'BP1' and 'van der Plank' don't hold a candle to the very worst, most boring Scots-grown potato.

I cannot remember being offered 'Clivia' in Scotland, but as this is a German potato cultivar, I was probably not in quite the right place. *Solanum tuberosum* L. cv. 'Clivia' was bred in Berlin from two nameless, numbered cultivars and placed on the German national potato list in 1962. It is a white-skinned, yellow-fleshed, medium potato with white flowers, that is considered to be multi-purpose - presumably baking, boiling, mashing and chips?.

Although not notably fertile as a breeder, it has, nevertheless, given rise to a goodly number of useful progeny, including: 'Belladonna', 'Maja', 'Elvira', 'Gigant', 'Miranda', 'Quarta', 'Culpa', 'Isabell', 'Vally', 'Salvia', 'Linda', 'Viki', 'Aula', 'Sava', etc. Gosh, they all sound so delectable. What about a potato-munching trip to Germany, with *sauerkraut* on the side? &

## CLIVIA NATURE NOTES

## Another Clivia-chomping worm in prison garb

Greig Russell – Cape Clivia Club

In the insect order Lepidoptera (butterflies & moths), a great many of the pest species are moths of the family Noctuidae. Most of the caterpillars which feed on amaryllids belong to this family. In South Africa, we are all probably familiar with old *Brithys crini*, the lily borer/ amaryllis caterpillar, neatly dressed, as he is, in his spotted prison pyjamas. This species is also found in much of the Old World, particularly around the Mediterranean and as far as South East Asia, Japan and northern Australia. In the New World, around the Caribbean and along the eastern littoral of South America as far south as Argentina, the Spanish Moth, *Xanthopastis timais*, occurs; the larval form of which is known as the convict caterpillar. It is closely related to our lily borer, but the caterpillar is generally striped on each segment, and the moth is much more gorgeous, in shades of pink, black, orange and grey. There are a few other closely related genera of amaryllid/lily-chomper; the African *Diaphone* (not to be confused with the other diaphone = foghorn), which includes the cherry spot lily borer, *D. eumela* from the Western Cape and Namaqualand - the blotchy pattern of its caterpillar resembling a convict in camouflage; the South Asian *Polytela* (which has beautiful black caterpillars marked with bands of white spots in the middle and bright red spots at either end); and the lesser-known genera, *Brithysana*, *Capillamentum*, *Chlanidophora* and *Polytelodes*; although these latter genera are not considered to be pests. This whole group was variably considered to be in either best placed in the subfamily Hadeninae, tribe Glottulini or the subfamily Glottulinae of the noctuids; but recent research has abandoned these two subfamilies, and now the tribe Glottulini is seen as a component of subfamily Noctuinae.

Distantly related is the Asian and Australian amaryllid pest *Spodoptera picta*, from the subfamily Noctuinae, tribe Prodeniini - closely allied to cutworms/armyworms. Also a potential prisoner caterpillar, being striped longitudinally in black and white, and having a yellow mid-line

stripe and bright red head, it is particularly fond of crinums and clivias.



The clivia-chomping caterpillar.

One would have thought that that was enough worms to consider, but no. Here on the Southern Cape Peninsula, we have another 'cliviovore'; one that sneaks in in the dead of winter when you are not watching your seedlings as closely as usual, since they need less frequent watering. Coming back ten days later, one is confronted with white strands of leaf margin where once a healthy emerald glow existed; and piles of black frass (the nice name for worm s\*\*t). Down on



Young seedlings of Clivia under attack by a herd of caterpillars.

the bottom of the pot, by day, the caterpillars will be hiding as best they can under the remaining seedlings or in the corners. As they are squished between fingers, one reflects upon how damn pretty they are; and how sad their immediate fate - oh, if only they hadn't.

A year or two ago I spared one's life, popped her into a bottle, one quarter filled with sand, and fattened her up on clivia flowers. Apparently reading the calendar, she disappeared on the 1st of October. On the 1st of July of the following year, she reappeared transformed into a fairly boring moth with a penchant for camouflage. A few days later she laid a few eggs (hence I knew she was a she), and then I zapped her. Vengeance is a dish best served cold - or really cold in this case.

I duly set her for photography (you will observe from my preparation that I am not about to be employed as an entomological technician in the near future) and thereafter I attempted to identify her.

In the meanwhile, I wondered around looking for examples of these caterpillars on plants other than my clivia seedlings. They certainly have catholic tastes. I have encountered them in the veld feeding on the grass, *Hyparrhenia hirta*, *Albica* spp. and even the tough-as-nails *Bobartia*. In my garden, I have found them on my star flowers, *Ipheion uniflorum*, and feeding on the soft-leaved *Agave attenuata*. In my greenhouse, aside from clivia seedlings, although never seen on adult clivias, they can be found feeding on the pregnant onion, *Ornithogalum longibracteatum*; they graze cymbidium flowers; and this year they ate the young leaves on my pony palm, *Beaucarnea recurvata*. All the above foodplants are monocotyledons and aside from the grass, they are all classified in the Order Asparagales.

Having found an image of the caterpillar on the web labelled "possibly *Diaphone* sp.", I thought I may have solved my identification problem, but on looking up a picture of the very beautiful Cherry Spot moth, I knew that this was wrong. Next, I had to search through the very many pictures in the 1975 book, *Moths of Southern Africa*, by that great Southern African Lepidopterist, Elliot Charles Gordon Pinhey (1910 - 2000). Here I identified only one

possible match - based on the placement of the wing-pattern elements; namely *Polia poliastris* (# 892), given the common name of 'Grey Shears'. This moth was described from an East African specimen by Sir George Francis Hampson (1860 - 1936), an amateur lepidopterist who, following a period as a tea-planter in India, returned to England to work at the British Museum on his obsession with butterflies and moths. Hampson named this species *Mamestra poliastris* in 1902. It is currently called *Mythimna (Morphopoliana) poliastris*.



*Mythimna (Morphopoliana) poliastris capensis* (by my guess) - a female that got on my nerves; notice the needle stuck through her thorax.

Pinhey described it as "a lichen-like moth".



*Mythimna (Morphopoliana) poliastris capensis* - still alive and at rest - a lichen-like moth. Whereas the East African form is greenish, the Southern African form, known as *capensis*, is brownish. The caterpillar has not been described. The moth has been collected in the western and eastern Cape, the old Transvaal, Zimbabwe and East Africa.

Unfortunately, DNA phylogeny of non-descript noctuid moths is still in its infancy and various attempts to base a phylogeny on anatomical characteristics yields mixed results, so how this species may be related to the *Brithys-*



*Xanthopastis* group is unknown. *Mythimna* is considered to be a member of the subfamily Noctuidae, tribe Leucaniini. The genus *Polia*, as used by Pinhey, seems to have been a catch-all for many species that defied other placement. The preceding species in Pinhey's list, *Polia speyeri* (# 891), is now considered to be *Brithysana speyeri* of the tribe Glottulini.

Most of the noctuides have caterpillars decorated with either longitudinal striping or occasionally diagonal striping, the transverse striping being limited to members of the tribe Glottulini and our subject. To quote from Malcolm J. Scoble's 1995 book, *The Lepidoptera: Form, Function and Diversity*: "Glottulini are peculiar and include species with brightly coloured larvae that feed on

bulbs of Amaryllidaceae". The transverse striping and bright colours of my caterpillar, as well as its taste for amaryllids amongst others, make me wonder whether it is not a member of the tribe Glottulini, and either I have misdiagnosed the species, or its taxonomy has been inadequately investigated. Time will tell. The caterpillars of the tribe Glottulini have two subventral hairs on the mesothoracic segment (where ever that is) while the other noctuides have but one hair. I hope to closely examine a caterpillar of what I currently believe is *Mythimna (Morphopoliana) poliasis capensis*, as well as one of *Brithys crini*, in the coming season, to see whether I can further clarify my understanding of this annoying pest. &

## HABITAT CLIVIA

### UMTAMVUNA GORGE CLIVIA

Mick Dower – Cape Clivia Club  
[Story behind the Covers]

Umtamvuna Gorge is situated in the south of KwaZuluNatal near Port Edward and the Transkei border. In 1998 John Winter, John Rourke and I explored it under permit to investigate habitat plants, including *Clivia*.

We found that the Umtamvuna *Clivia* are of the species *C. miniata* with very distinctive leaves - wide and long, but grey-green in colour and soft like other *C. miniata*, but stiff (not as stiff as *C. nobilis*) and with a rounded leaf tip finishing with a beak-like point. We found no yellows and, as far as I know, no yellows have ever been reported there.



Beaked leaf tip.

Umtamvuna Gorge.



Umtamvuna 29B.

Two of the plants which we brought back were named 'Umtamvuna 29B' and 'Umtamvuna 32C', being the RHS Colour Chart numbers for their flower colour (29 and 36 respectively on the New Colour Chart). 'Umtamvuna 32C' suckers readily but even mature suckers are slow to flower.



Umtamvuna 32C.

I also brought back about four seedlings, all from the same location and of the seedlings, only one has flowered – last year! Its flower colour is quite exceptional and it is aptly registered as 'Pink Lipstick'.



Umtamvuna 'Pink Lipstick'

Umtamvuna 32C selfed produced an exceptional Yellow and crossed with Group1 yellow all the seedlings have been green stemmed, establishing that Umtamvuna 32C is Group 1 and probably meaning that the whole Umtamvuna population is Group 1.



Umtamvuna 32C x self.

Umtamvuna 29B crossed with Kirstenbosch Supreme (which has both Group 1 and Group 2 Yellow genes, being a cross of Kirstenbosch Yellow x KSB Natal Yellow) has also produced a good yellow flower, probably Group 1 as above.



Kirstenbosch Supreme x Umtamvuna 29B.

Floradale Apricot has been crossed with Umtamvuna 32C with an acceptable result. These outcrosses have flowered within 6 years without any growth stimulation, but none of them has inherited the 'Umtamvuna leaf'.

Extensive further outcrosses were made last year, including the two yellow offspring and 'Pink Lipstick' and Oribi Gorge Yellow, the only yellow (not Group1 or 2) found in Oribi Gorge.

The results of breeding with these new habitat genes should be very exciting. &



*Floradale Apricot x Umtamvuna 32C.*

## GROWERS' NOTES

### WICKING

*Maria Mancini - NACS*

**M**y mom and I have been AVSA (African Violet Society of America) members for several years and wick watering was something I learned from them. I use cheap synthetic yarn - one that will not rot/decompose.

It's a "foolproof" way of watering and feeding AVs. This is something I will be doing with some of my seedlings this winter. It will save me some time and worrying if they are being watered and fed enough. The wicking method will keep them watered and fed continuously as well.

The water solution does have fertilizer (1/4 strength of recommended rate). I won't need to



water them for at least a week using this method. When I see that water solution going down, I just fill it up again. So far, so good. The seedlings are loving it.

Plastic wicking containers still had some fert-water in them after 1 month/4 weeks. It was no longer so clean so the need to change it. Seedlings were given a shower in the



kitchen sink and leached at the same time.

Then they are let to "drip out" the excess water in their medium. Once the dripping stops they are placed back in the wicking containers. This whole set-up can be sat in a tray filled with fert-water.

Communal wicking is convenient but this can spread problems (fungus etc) easily if ever. Pikkie Strumpher's seedlings at 5 months old now have grown their second leaves.

Aren't they so healthy and green? &

## BREEDERS' NOTES

### BATCH STUDY of *C. miniata* x *C. nobilis* CROSSES

#### A report and findings on the *C. miniata* x *C. nobilis* hybrids

*Welland Cowley - Eastern Cape Clivia Club*

#### SUMMARY

Total number of plants in study: 114

Nature of crosses: *C. miniata* x *C. nobilis* species

Number of plants found with *C. miniata* vegetative or floral characteristics: 100

Number of plants found with distinctive interspecific characteristics: 14

Percentage of interspecific Groups: 12.3%

Typical mother plants (berry parents) which resulted in plants with interspecific characteristics

Yellow Tulip

'Athrie's Jade' - *C. miniata* with green centre

Yellow with green centre - Group 2



'Citrina Aurea'

Dwarf Belgian - green centre

Pastel *C. miniata* - thought to be a Group 2 plant

Typical mother plants (berry parents) which resulted in plants with *C. miniata*-like characteristics:

Variegated yellow - Nakamura Group 1

C4 Yellow - Nakamura Group 1

Dr. Hirao yellow

Vico Yellow

Variegated Bronze green centre

Japanese yellow Group 1

Best yellow - Group 1 plant with large flowers

Variegated orange - Nakamura

I did not include *C. nobilis* x *C. miniata* in this study as it is already known that the progeny are usually plants with interspecific characteristics,

From the above it is clear to me that Group 2 plants will make the best berry parents when aiming at interspecific crosses when *C. miniata* is the berry parent. In addition it would appear that Yellow Tulips, resulting from interspecific crosses also make good berry parents. The basic species - 'Citrina Aurea' also definitely promotes interspecific dominance.

The fact that the largest percentage of the progeny is *C. miniata*-like tells me that by selfing this first generation of *C. miniata*-like plants you should get interspecifics appearing in the second generation, I have already done some of these crosses so time will tell if this will be true. &

## OBSERVATIONS ON 'BATCH STUDY of *C. miniata* x *C. nobilis* CROSSES'

*Johan Spies - Free State Clivia Club*

The longer I work with clivias the more I discover that normal Mendelian genetics seldom works for Clivia. The fact that the reciprocal crosses give another phenotype may be attributed to genomic imprinting - that is where the cytoplasm has an effect on the expression of a gene. The cytoplasm is inherited from the mother, whereas the genes are inherited from both parents. It also appears as if the way in which the flowers are carried is governed by more than one gene pair.

Let us assume the following:

aabb (N - *C. nobilis* cytoplasm) {drooping} x AABB (M - *C. miniata* cytoplasm) {upright} gives you AaBb (N) {intermediate}



*Athrie's Jade x Pearl of the Cape sibling.*



*Athrie's Jade x Pearl of the Cape.*

PHOTOGRAPHER MICHAEL KENNEDY



*Tubular Yellow x Pearl of the Cape.*

PHOTOGRAPHER ROGER FISHER

The reciprocal cross

AABB (M - *C. miniata* cytoplasm) {upright} x aabb (N - *C. nobilis* cytoplasm) {drooping} gives you AaBb (M) {upright}

When you get either M or BB in *C. nobilis* cytoplasm - you will get upright flowers. When you get aabb in any cytoplasm - you will get drooping flowers. If you get either Aa or Bb in *C. nobilis* cytoplasm - you will get intermediate flowers. If you get either Aa or Bb in *C. miniata* cytoplasm - you will get upright flowers.

So the plants that gave intermediate flowers in *C. miniata* cytoplasm was not breeding true for upright flowers.

To get back to the question on the self pollination of the plants with the upright flowers:

They are all AaBb (M). Self pollination should give you 1/16 intermediate flowers since the pod-parent still contain M cytoplasm. It was also interesting to note that the plants that behaved "normally" are mostly yellow/pastel with green throats. Perhaps they originated from interspecific hybrids and contained a different type of cytoplasm or as mentioned above they do not breed true for upright flowers.

Thank you very much for this information. It is indeed a very interesting phenomenon. &

## MP7

*Piet Theron - Garden Route Clivia Club*

Clivia Breeding presents many challenges to those of us who are forever trying our best to breed that elusive 'Special One'. We do the pollination to the best of our ability with the knowledge available as well as the gaps in our knowledge. We are hampered in our endeavours by the inherent time frame that exists between pollination and eventual flowering - one of approximately 5 years. Flowering your plants from seed could present in the following



manner –

Three years from seed if you are fortunate to select well and grow well;

At 4 years probably on average, a good flowering could give you much joy and encouragement for further improvement.

At 5 years, it is definitely more up to its full potential.

At 6 years a first flower is also greatly appreciated, hopefully on a big strong plant at this stage.

However, when at 4 years a plant of your own breeding flowers and it really is regarded as being very good, a sense of achievement and reward is felt that seems to justify the long years of diligence and dedication. To me, MP7, for lack of a more appropriate name, is such a plant.

MP1 x MP2 = MP 7

My Multipetal 1 is a plant that I acquired from André Wiese, son of the late Oom Gert Wiese,



PHOTOGRAPH GORDON FRASER

when he made his father's plants available. I was fortunate enough to be able to make an early choice from Oom Gert's plants and settled for the multipetals available, as good MP's are always difficult to acquire. 'Rose' as the plant subsequently became known, promptly flowered the second year and was entered on the Cape

Town Show and came second in the MP category. Pollination proved unsuccessful when selfing was attempted.

The following year cross pollination was done, using MP2 as pollen parent and only 5 seeds were eventually harvested. In subsequent years Rose proved extremely difficult to breed with, accepting pollen only on odd occasions. The pollen, however, has been used on many occasions and has proved very fertile.

MP2 is a plant also originating from Oom Gert at the time of the last Show that he



MP2 'Rose'



PHOTOGRAPH GORDON FRASER

attended. It was too large to be taken to the Cape Show with the transport he had available, being a mother-plant with a few suckers on and he had to display it at home. It was one of those 'must have' moments, that resulted in the promise of a sucker at a later stage. After his demise, the plant was entrusted to Gerrit van Wyk who

managed the division and distribution. The plant has been known to us as having originated from Bertie Guilleme as this was the name on the available marker in the pot. Maybe someone like Celia could help the identification. I know of at least four other Clivia Enthusiasts who are also in possession of an offset. It has flowered yearly on a regular basis and varies in its presentation, but always good. In 2009 it was entered at the EPCC Show where it came first in its class and MP1 second.

The crossing of MP1xMP2 resulted in the bearing of only 5 seeds that were sown in June 2006. Three of the seedlings were gifts to other collectors, and having only two, their flowering was always anticipated with much interest and great was the excitement when at last a peduncle appeared and the first one eventually flowered. It presented a 100% multipetal at first flowering with 10 flowers and the beginning of an acceptable umbel. The colour was a surprise, as the orange red of the seed parent seemed to enhance the slight bronze tones of the pollen parent. The white and green throat also comes from the pollen parent but is expressed with greater intensity in the offspring. &





**CLIVIA SOCIETY HISTORY**

**THE HERITAGE OF THE CLIVIA SOCIETY:  
1992 TO 1996**

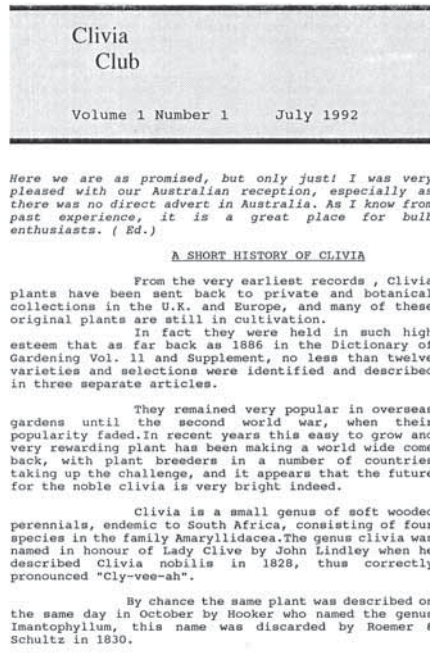
**Part 1 of an address delivered to the  
Fifth Quadrennial Clivia Conference, Bellville, Cape**

*Lena van der Merwe – Northern Clivia Club*

The heritage of the Clivia Society is that of people dotty about a specific species of plants – Clivia. Before 1992, they conducted this hobby or occupation of theirs as individuals. One of these individuals was Nick Primich. To further his



*Nick Primich*

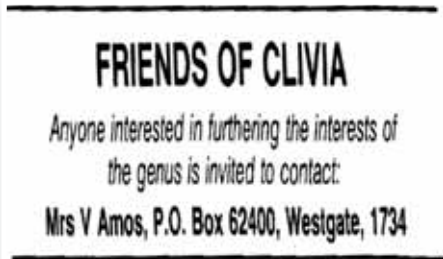


*First newsletter.*

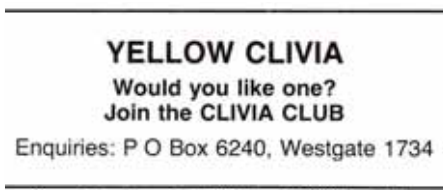
One letter received in response to this advertisement was dated April 1992. It was from Laila van Heerden, still a member of the Northern Clivia Club. Jim Holmes, a member of the Cape Clivia Club



*Jim Holmes*



*First advert in Veld & Flora.*



*2nd advert in Veld & Flora June 1992.*

knowledge (and expand his collection) he placed an advert in *Veld and Flora* March 1992 edition March 1992 followed by a second advert in the June 1992 edition to make contact with other growers of Clivia interested in furthering this genus. They were named "friends of clivia".

wrote a short history of clivia in the Clivia Club's first newsletter published in July 1992. Bill Morris, a member from Australia, placed an advertisement for yellow *Clivia miniata* seed and other bulbous plants. On page 10 a list of 23 members' names appeared - 15 from RSA (and the editor Nick Primich), five from Australia, one from Hong Kong, one from Japan and two from the USA - as the first group forming the "Friends of clivia".



*Keith Hammett*



*Ken Smith*

By September 1992 enough letters/articles were received for a second "Clivia Club" letter and the third letter is dated 3 November 1992.

The list published in the newsletter Clivia Club 2(1) of January 1993 includes the name of Connie Abel of 89 Brampton Road, Pretoria.

The first visit to gardens of clivia growers was reported in Clivia Club 2(5) of October 1993. Nick Primich, Mr. & Mrs. Mey and Celia van Vuuren journeyed to Pretoria to Mrs. Alison where the Abels joined them. They then visited Laila van Heerden's garden that was planted with one or two thousand clivia plants that originated naturally from two plants. From there they visited the Abels where a wide range of clivia was viewed. This was the first recorded "gathering" of clivia enthusiasts in the RSA and



*Kevin Walters*

was organized by Nick Primich.

The second mention of a meeting between Clivia Club members is recorded in Clivia Club 3(1) published in January 1994. Nick Primich reported on a trip instigated and organized by Connie and James Abel to God's Window on 29 October 1993. The party consisted of the Primiches, the Abels and Laila van Heerden.



*Laila van Heerden*



*Lien Joubert*



*Sir Peter Smithers*





*Yoshi Nakamura and 1st Akebono Hik Yellow.*

The newsletter Clivia Club 3(2) of February 1994 was called "EDITION EXTRAORDINAIRE". The first paragraph reads: "January, 22nd, 1994, was an auspicious date in the annals of Clivia. What is probably the first and only Clivia association was formed on that day. On that historic date, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Abel, the following people were present:



*James and Connie Abel.*



*Bing Wiese*

Connie Abel, James Abel, Wendy Allison, Pat Gore, Yvonne Gore, Meg Hart, Adri Haxton, Toy Jennings, Lien Joubert, Sumia Lombard, Wessels Lötter, Joe Pretorius, V Pretorius, Nick Primich, Roselyn Primich, Michael Stevenson, Renee Stevenson, Laila van Heerden, and Miekie Vuyk. Apologies were received from Dan Mey, Lukas Otto, Grobbie Grobler, Cameron McOnie, Arnold Prozeski, Bing Wiese, and Petro Lemmer.



*Cameron McOnie*



*Adri Haxton*



*Meg Hart*

These people had gathered at the home of the Abel's for a meeting summoned by phone and post of Transvaal members only. It was thought that the logistics of others attending was hardly worthwhile, that is why only Transvaal members were asked. The main purpose of this meeting was to organise a Clivia day in September of this year.

Nick Primich called for the election of a Chairman, and proposed James Abel. Pat Gore

seconded this and as there were no further nominations, James took the chair unopposed. All present thought this was very fair, as it was James' idea to have the Clivia Day, and he soon showed that he had definite ideas about it.



*Michael Stevenson*



*Pat Gore*

He proposed that the Clivia Day consist of various sections.

- 1) Garden visits. Suitable gardens would be sought out and visits arranged, tentatively for the afternoon. According to demand, several groups could be accommodated under different guides. Convener - Toy Jennings.
- 2) Seminar. A series of lectures would be arranged for the afternoon. Tentatively, a two-hour program, with four to six speakers was envisaged. Papers could be read from overseas members unable to attend, some professionals, botanists and horticulturists, and a few from the amateur ranks. Convener - Nick Primich.

- 3) Brag Bench. Selected plants could be brought along and put on show. Plants could also be made available for sale. The Club would take a percentage of the sales. Plants could also be donated and sold. Convener Connie Abel.



*Toy Jennings*

- 4) Photographic exhibition. Selected photos would be called for from the international scene, and each picture would be displayed with a descriptive paragraph. This section leaves a lot of scope for both local and distant members. Convener - Nick Primich.



*Wessel Lotter*

- 5) Tours. Tours could be arranged to suit the response. Either local tours to the Eastern Transvaal, or extended into Natal and the Eastern Cape Province as demand required. Convener - Renee Stevenson.



*Venue of first meeting.*





Connie Abel and Di McOnie (left are the original peaches).

Members in other areas are encouraged to plan similar activities. Depending on the interest from other provinces and in particular from other countries, some of the above can be combined. Even if it is out of season for some species, visitors will be able to see the species growing in their native habitat on a single trip.

It was mooted that this special newsletter be got out and that it would contain a questionnaire, which we beg each and every one of you to complete and return just as soon as you are able to. The Clivia Day would be moulded to meet the lines of the requirements. We would also hold a meeting and elect a more formal and permanent committee, where our



Garden visit to Anna Meyer.



James and Connie Abel and Cameron McOnie in the Lowveld Botanical Gardens, Nelspruit.



First Tipperary Peaches blooming ca 1994.

members from all over the world would have a say, and not feel that they were dictated to by a Transvaal minority."

The birth date of the Clivia Society and the now Northern Clivia Club is thus 22 January 1994.

Clivia Club 3(3) March 1994 now lists only new members – Mick Dower, Ammie Grobler and Fred van Niekerk – who have joined.

The announcement of the first Clivia Show planned for 17 and 18 September 1994 appeared in Clivia Club 3(5), page 11 of May 1994 [13 First show 1994]. Nick Primich, Wessel Lötter and M Stevenson will act as judges. The inaugural AGM – the main function

– will take place on 17 September 1994 at 10:00. Three overseas visitors – Keith Hammett, Penn Henry and Yoshi Nakamura – attended the AGM, conference, show and tours arranged to coincide with the flowering period of clivias in the spring of 1994.

September 1994 Clivia Club 3(7) listed Koos Geldenhuys as a new member.

Clivia Club 3(8) of October 1994 started with: "Our first Show has come and gone. The four members of the show committee were elected unopposed to the first official committee". The other members of the first show committee were co-opted.

**First Official Committee Elected for 1994/95**

Chairman	James Abel
Treasurer	Michael Stevenson
Secretary	Reneè Stevenson (Deschamps)
Editor	Nick Primich
Co-opted members	Connie Abel Adri Haxton Toy Jennings Wessel Lötter

**Committee members elected for 1995/96**

Chairman	James Abel
Chairman (KwaZulu Natal)	Sean Chubb
Treasurer	Koos Geldenhuys
Secretary (membership)	Adri Haxton
Secretary (communications)	Toy Jennings
Editor	Meg Hart
Show organizer	Frikkie Potgieter





Mick Dower

Example of phot exhibition panel.

Clivia Club 3(8) of October 1994 listed Sean Chubb's name as a new member together with Frikkie Potgieter, Val Thurston and Norman Weitz. In Clivia Club 4(1) of January 1995 Nick wrote that he would like to resign as editor by September and that a new editor has to be found. Nick was editor of the Clivia Club newsletter from Clivia Club 1(1) (July 1992) till Clivia Club 4(3) of August 1995 – that is for three years.

James Abel as chairman wrote in Clivia Club 4(2) of April 1995 that the new address of the Clivia Club was PO Box 74868, Lynwood Park, 0040, South Africa. Over the years Lynwood Park has changed its name to Lynnwood Ridge, while the post-box stayed the same.

Nick Primich and Reneë and Michael Stevenson have resigned [Clivia Club 4(2)] from the committee. Toy Jennings will stand in as secretary; Koos Geldenhuys was co-opted as treasurer, Adri Haxton as librarian and archivist, while Meg Hart will understudy Nick Primich to become editor. Frikkie Potgieter will chair

the show committee. Nick Primich accepted the nomination as Honorary Member of the club and as Emeritus Editor of the Newsletter. Ian Brown was now listed as a member. The next AGM will coincide with the show on 9 September 1995 in Pretoria.

The Newsletter Clivia Club 4(5) of November 1995 was the first published with Meg Hart as Editor. James Abel stated in his chairman's report in this letter that "We are delighted that during the *C. miniata* tour a local branch was formed in Natal and from now on the original one will become the Gauteng branch. On page 4 of this newsletter Des Anderson reported on the new branch formed on 26 August 1995 in Natal with Sean Chubb (chairman), Brain Tarr and Des Anderson as the first committee of the Clivia Club in KwaZulu Natal.

There was also a letter from John Winter, curator of the National Botanical Institute, Cape Town in which he requested James Abel to appeal to his members to donate their surplus clivia seed to Kirstenbosch. The second



Amie Grobler (2003)



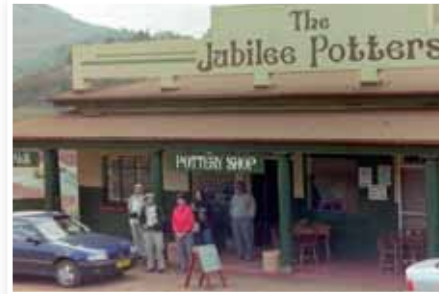
Fred van Niekerk



Koos Geldenhuys



Sean Chubb



1994 caulescens tour in Pelgrimsrest.



From left to right: John Winter, Mick Dower and Jim Holmes 1994 show.

AGM took place in Pretoria on 9 September 1995 and James wrote (page 4) the committee members were elected unanimously for 1995/96.



Brian Tarr

**CLIVIA CLUB MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1996 to 1998**

Position	1996/97
Chairman	James Abel
Chairman (KwaZulu-Natal)	Sean Chubb
Chairman (Western Cape)	-
Treasurer	Koos Geldenhuys
Secretary (membership)	Adri Haxton
Public Relations	Elda de Witt
Show organiser	Frikkie Potgieter
Technical Advisor	Louisa Liebenberg
Editor	Meg Hart
Co-opted member (show)	-
Co-opted member (show)	-



Frikkie Potgieter



Val Thurston



Norman Weitz



Ian Brown



Show table 1996.

On 7 September 1996 the third AGM was held coinciding with the show. Clivia Club 5(4) listed the managing committee for 1996/97.

## FOUNDER MEMBER SUBSCRIBERS AS AT FEBRUARY 1995

## No Founder Member subscribers 1995

- 1 Ron May (Australia)
- 2 Bill Morris (Australia)
- 3 Ken Smith (Australia)
- 4 Kevin Walters (Australia)
- 5 Yoshikazu Nakamura (Japan)
- 6 Dr Keith Hammett (New Zealand)
- 7 Jim Holmes (RSA)
- 8 Nick Primich (founder, RSA)
- 9 Laila van Heerden (RSA)
- 10 Sir Peter Smithers (Switzerland)
- 11 David Casebier (USA)
- 12 Dr C Barker (RSA)
- 13 Howard Cook (RSA)
- 14 Denise & Russell Currie (RSA)
- 15 Fred Gibello (RSA)
- 16 Claerwen Howie (RSA)
- 17 Lien Joubert (RSA)
- 18 Mary Lynne Lubke (RSA)

- 19 Michael Stevenson (RSA)
- 20 Celia van Vuuren (RSA)
- 21 Dr Piet Vorster (RSA)
- 22 Andrew Hankey (RSA)
- 23 Cliff Grove (Aus)
- 24 John Henderson (Aus)
- 25 Borje Svenson (Sweden)
- 26 Tony Gosden (UK)
- 27 Renee Deschamps, (RSA)

*To be continued.*

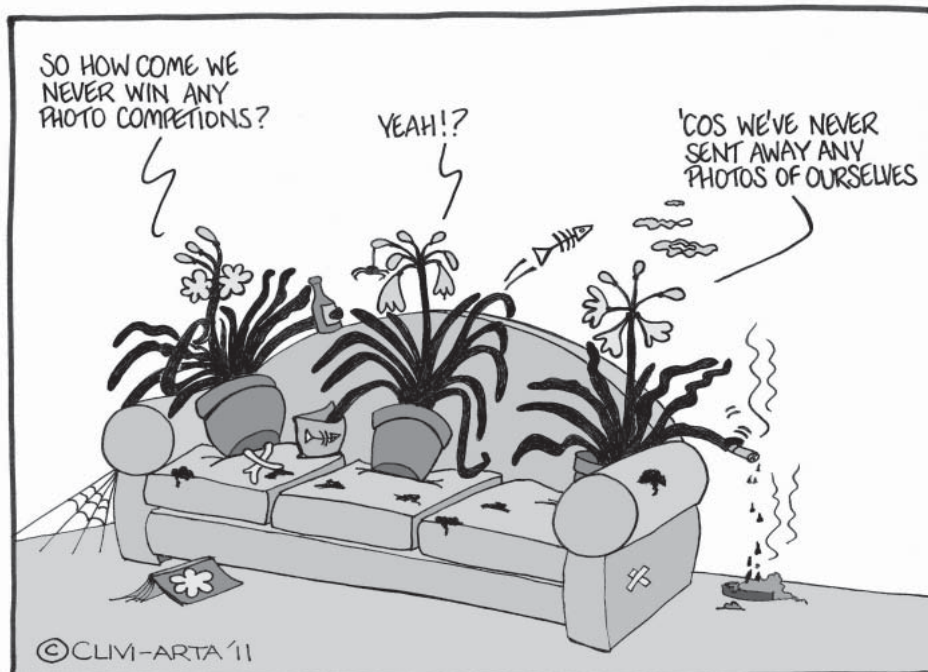
## References

Newsletters of the Clivia Society from volume 1 to volume 4.  
E-mails of the Executive committee.  
Conference proceedings of 1994.

## Photographs

*A hearty thank you goes to members making photos available. (James & Connie Abel; Pat Gore, James and Adri Haxton, Peter Lambert and others). &*

## CLIVI-ARTA - HELEN SANDERS



## The Clivia Society

[www.cliviasociety.org](http://www.cliviasociety.org)

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## CLIVIA CLUBS

Cape, Eastern Province, Free State, Garden Route, Joburg, KwaZulu-Natal, Lowveld, New Zealand, Northern and Northern Free State

## INTEREST GROUPS

Northern KwaZulu-Natal, Overberg and Waterberg



