

ISSN 1819-1460

CLIVIA NEWS

& QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CLIVIA SOCIETY &



VOLUME 20 NUMBER 4 & OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2011

CLIVIA NEWS

The Clivia Society 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

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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

We've bustled into 2012 and I'm not yet done with the business of 2011, this last Newsletter included.

Freda van Wyk, layout artist for the 'Clivia News', has given up her family home and moved to something more suited to her present circumstances. We wish her all joy and happiness in her new home.

The making of the newsletter is a team effort and it needs all the cogs to turn to get it to press and delivered to your homes. The odd spanner gets into the works from time to time and Freda's life changes have come with their own little dramas of builders and delays. Luckily those who have Clivia as a hobby have the gift of patience and I thank you all for yours. I hope the Newsletter and Yearbook (which should arrive together) were worth the wait.

The year 2011 brought its own losses. This was the year I lost some of the important men in my life – my father died on Easter Friday after an op to repair a fractured femur. His death was quick and comfortable and his life was full and rich. He was still playing the piano at church on Sundays at the age of 85! Johannes van der Walt, who I considered my sage, died at the age of 86. He was a world renowned mycologist associated with the CSIR, University of Pretoria and the University of the Free State and the Vrije Universiteit of the Netherlands. He came of the old academic tradition, being versed in both classical Greek and Latin. When not naming and describing new yeasts, he advised on botanical nomenclature. He was a stickler for purism, insisting that names be either entirely, and preferably, from the Greek, or Latin but not have these languages mixed between genus and species. Then there was Fred van Niekerk, one of my Clivia confidants. Mick Dower was an acquaintance but always ready to write on a Clivia topic when asked,



although he always insisted on being given enough time to perfect it. All are missed but in a spirit of gratitude for their legacy.

We present the final episode of Lena van der Merwe's the 'Heritage of the Clivia Society', while even as it enters the annals new episodes are being written. The year 2011 was one of new endeavours – in this issue we read of the first Clivia Expo in Melbourne.

The Lowveld Clivia Club, my new Clivia home, will be hosting the Clivia Society AGM in May – the 20th as the Society celebrates its 20th Anniversary in June. The preliminary programme is published in this issue. The organisers need a quick response so as to be able to make arrangements. Please be proactive and immediately give Maria Grové a call if you wish to partake in the activities and tours.

Since the numbers of the Clivia News volumes changes with the new year, the next is the 21st.

All reasons to celebrate the Society and its future in 2012.

Clivia greetings. &

Roger Fisher

Editor – Clivia News

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&**PRINTING** CPD Graphics (Pty) Ltd., Pretoria Tel: +27 12-342 1978/9

IN MEMORIAM

A TRIBUTE TO NICK PRIMICH TINO FERERO – Northern Clivia Club

On 5 January 2012, some members of the Clivia Society received the following SMS: "*Nicholas William Primich died from a heart attack in his sleep in Phalaborwa. 16 January 1933 – 25 September 2011.*"

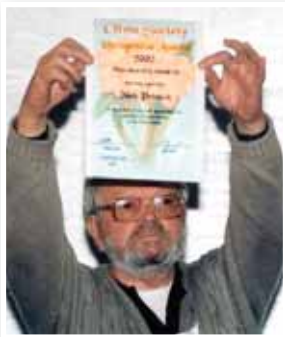
Daughter Dianne Drake."

I first met Nick Primich at a meeting of members of the Clivia Club at the home of James and Connie Abel in 1995. Even at that stage Nick was regarded as quite a legend by newcomers to the Clivia Club. This was the beginning of a close friendship that lasted for a long time until Nick eventually sold his clivia collection and moved from Roodepoort.

Much has already been written in the Clivia publications about Nick Primich and the very pivotal role he played in establishing the Clivia Club. This need not be repeated here, except to say that if it was not for Nick and the dream he had and the personal effort he put in, one wonders whether such a successful Club would ever have come to fruition.

Nick had built up a relationship with some of the very top clivia growers in the world, including Yoshi Nakamura from Japan and Bill Morris and Kevin Walters from Australia. They had exchanged seed and Nick built up one of the finest clivia collections in South Africa.

His philosophy with clivias was to help other growers wherever he could. Pollen from his collection was always available to other growers, but he worked very sparingly with such pollen. I would phone him when I needed specific pollen and he would say I



could come and fetch it. After a round trip of 120km, I returned with two nodules of pollen with the following advice: "You can get very far with such pollen. Use it carefully."

He once gave me a mature clivia plant. When I asked him what plant it was, he replied: "I've lost the tag and I don't know. At least you will call it a Nick Primich." I still have the

plant in my collection – a beautiful dark orange green throat.

Nick had three different lines of yellows:

A high quality line, a lesser quality line and a rather poor garden variety line. When I asked him why he kept the latter two lines, his reply was that he sold seed, and that he had to provide R5 and R10 seeds not only R15 seeds, since some growers could not afford the more expensive seeds.

Nick will not only be remembered for his contribution to the creation of the Clivia Club, but will be remembered by many clivia enthusiasts both in South Africa and world wide for the beautiful clivias he bred. Many of his pastels, bronzes and red green throats still grace our collections.

In the earlier formative years of the Clivia Club, I often visited Nick for advice and guidance. He made a mean sandwich that he called a "toebie" and I treasure the memories of those special times with him and his wife.

Nick should be remembered as the father of the Clivia Club, his love for clivias and for helping so many enthusiasts to improve and enhance their clivia collections.

"Totsiens" to a great clivia friend. &

CLIVIA SOCIETY MATTERS



LAEVELD CLIVIA KLUB / LOWVELD CLIVIA CLUB

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21 November 2011

Lena van der Merwe
Secretary, Clivia Society

Dear Lena,

CLIVIA SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We hereby forward a few proposals for the Clivia Society AGM for your consideration. Please forward to your committee members for comments and suggestions before finalisation. I shall discuss this with our members at our closing function this weekend and maybe we can finalise everything next week.

Regards,

Paul Kloeck
Chairman, Lowveld Clivia Club

Our proposal is as follows:

Clivia Society Annual General Meeting

We could make use of this opportunity to visit various caulescens and miniata habitat locations and propose as a preliminary programme the following:

DAY	ACTIVITY
Thursday 17 May 2012	Arrive and take up accommodation. (Bundu Lodge would appear to be the most practical and affordable accommodation. It is conveniently located on the R40 between Nelspruit and White River. We attach info in this respect. Please note rates are valid till 29 February 2012. Delegates are responsible for their own reservations.
Friday May 2012	06:30 to 17:00 - Mariep's Kop: Full day trip to Northern Drakensberg (Blyde 18 National Park) to view tens of thousands of <i>caulescens</i> in habitat with no fewer than 20 sites where several caulescens are growing naturally in trees. In addition the species diversity of fynbos in the Blyde National Park protected area exceeds that of Cape Point National Park. Transport can possibly be provided by LCC members who will also obtain the required permits to enter the State Forests and Blyde River Protected area. Approximate costs will be R200 per person including transport, entrance permits to both parks, refreshments and lunch. (alcohol for own account)

DAY	ACTIVITY
Saturday 19 May 2012	<p>08:00: Visit collections of Chris Welgemoed/Neethling du Toit, Annette and Johann Rademeyer, Greg Jones (Entabeni – Heritage Site), Attie le Roux, Paul Kloock etc.</p> <p>11:00: Tour of Lowveld National Botanical Gardens (LNBG) by Willem Froneman – Besides the numerous <i>Clivia</i> species, Willem who has spent 26 years at the LNBN is an expert on cycads, aloes, indigenous trees etc.</p> <p>13:00: Finger Lunch at Educational Centre of LNBN.</p> <p>14:00: AGM starts at LNBN Educational Centre. (Approximate costs R45,00 per delegate for use of LNBN facilities)</p> <p>18:00 till late: Dinner at Kazuri Restaurant in the Botanical Gardens. This restaurant Overl overlooks the Crocodile River cascades and is a spectacular spot. Should time allow it during the AGM, we could request Knittex to give a short presentation on their shade net trial at <i>Clivia</i> Kingdom.</p>
Sunday 20 May 2012	<p>07:30: Visit to Bearded Man to view <i>Clivia miniata</i>, <i>caulescens</i> and <i>nimbicola</i> in habitat. Short presentation by Stephen van der Linde on <i>miniata</i> flowers of Bearded Man.</p> <p>Transport, lunch and refreshments provided by LCC members. Approximate costs R150 per person.</p>

Members must please advise well in advance if they are interested in any of the tours (as in directly after reading this!).

Once we have an idea of numbers we will be able to plan accordingly. &

CLIVIA RESEARCH

Building the *Clivia* puzzle

Johan Spies (Department of Genetics, UFS, Bloemfontein) – Convenor of the Research Committee of the Clivia Society

Growing *Clivia* and discovering the ‘secrets’ of this beautiful plant compares with building a puzzle. Contrary to images seen on Television or scenes from Hollywood, research is a very time consuming process. Quite often 80% of the results are obtained within a month to three months but the final proof may take years to find.

Let’s look at an example: in 2006 we observed a virus in the God’s Window population of *Clivia caulescens* and to a lesser extent in some other populations. Within three months we determined that Tulip Colour

Breaking Virus was present in the affected plants. To put scientific proof to this hypothesis, another plant must be infected with the virus and if the same symptoms should develop, you have proof and the results may then be published. It is five years later and in spite of all our efforts we could not re-infect another plant. So no publication yet, or to put it in other terms: no money received for a lot of effort¹.

We observed with other diseases that you have to duplicate the right environmental conditions to successfully infest a *Clivia* with

¹In a simplified way it can be said that South Africa scientists receive their research money from publishing. So no publication leads to no money for further research.

a particular disease. The easiest way to do this would be to infect a plant with the disease in nature, where the exact conditions are available for full scale development of the disease. Even a scientist with a low sense of ethical behaviour will cringe at such a suggestion. This will be an invitation to disaster! So we prefer to do ethical research in spite of a lack of funds.

The aim of this paper is to give a quick overview of the research conducted by my team. We are working on the following broad fields: diseases, fertilization, growing conditions, breeding, formation of leaf colour and variegation, identification of cultivars and the relationships between different populations. We did a bit on insects but this topic needs further investigation.

1. Diseases

VIRUSES

We are still working on the Tulip Colour Breaking Virus and the Tobacco Mosaic Virus and will report as soon as we get proof. Test for a virus infection: scientific tests are rather expensive; in general if a plant reacts positively to fertilization (lose the chlorotic [yellow] regions) it was not a virus.

BACTERIA

Crown rot is suspected to be caused by a bacterium. This bacterium has not been identified yet. The main reason for this is the presence of a multitude of different bacteria in the rotting zone.

FUNGI

The main culprits are *Fusarium* (root rot) and *Cholitotricum* (brown leaf spot). Both diseases can be controlled by cultivation practises and better results are obtained this way than through chemical treatment (use of fungicides). A multitude of different fungi are described in the popular scientific *Clivia* literature and chat groups but no scientific proof for any of these have been obtained.

STRUCTURAL DAMAGE

The overwhelming majority of leaves send to me contain structural/physical damage with maybe a secondary fungal infection of the

damaged tissue. The majority of *Clivia* growers usually vehemently deny the possibility of any physical damage! Scar tissue is often formed after insect damage. Many growers describe the little brownish raised dots (pustules) as rust. No rust fungus has ever been identified in these pustules. These pustules are formed through scar tissue formation after damage caused by sucking insects.

Similarly many growers look at secondarily derived symptoms and consider them to be the main disease. This lead to the description of diseases unknown to science for 'leaf tip die back', where the latter is usually only a reflection of the health of your plants roots! Die back of the leaf tips is usually a result of root rot, except in plants genetically inclined to this phenomenon, such as Natal Yellow.

2. Fertilization

Fertilization experiments with a plant like *Clivia* are extremely difficult because the plant takes so long to react to treatment (reaction occurs in second year). The growing conditions also influence the effect of the fertilization. In addition, one fertilizer improves plant growth (leaves) but may reduce the number of flowers formed; or it may contribute to more viable seeds being formed. The genetic background of the plant also contributes to its reaction to fertilizer. To do any experiment of this nature you should start with genetically similar plants and they should receive different treatments under the same conditions over different seasons. At least 90 plants (same clone and similar size) are needed to do such a controlled experiment. At this stage we tested various organic fertilizers and none were statistically superior to commercially available (and cheaper) 3:1:5 slow release fertilizer.

Tests on the influence of fertilization on disease susceptibility are currently under way.

3. Growing conditions

Once again it is a very difficult subject to study scientifically. Factors like temperature and humidity will influence the shading and watering regime. Results already obtained indicate that the correct growing conditions

will eliminate certain diseases. Contrary to the early publications on Clivia where it was mentioned time and again that the soil should dry out completely before watering again, we discovered that this is the best stimulus for root rot development!

Similarly brown leaf spots can be avoided by increasing ventilation and watering in the morning rather than the evening.

4. Breeding

A prerequisite for breeding programmes is knowledge of the characters and their mode of inheritance. The first step is making crosses in both directions to determine whether any maternal influences exist. The hybrids produced are all self-pollinated and all seeds are grown.

The ratios of plants with different traits are then calculated. So on average 10 years are needed to produce results. With traits where many genes are involved it may even take longer to determine the number of genes involved. Then you get setbacks! After eight years one very cold spell destroyed a whole project on the inheritance of leaf width in *Clivia*!

One thing soon became clear during our study: very few (if any) genes in *Clivia* are inherited in a normal mendelian fashion. The majority of genes are inherited in a polygenic fashion (many genes contribute to the same trait) or they function in an epistatic fashion (one gene influences the working of another). So instead of the approximately 100 offspring needed to grow to maturity with normal

mendelian inheritance, more generations and consequently proportionally more plants are needed to determine the exact mode of inheritance.

Traits included in our study are leaf length and width, petal form and width, flower form and shape, flower colour, cold tolerance and leaf variegation.

4. Leaf variegation

Preliminary studies immediately indicated that leaf variegation is more complex than believed by growers. It is not merely a case of maternal inheritance. Next year (2012) we are starting a new project on DNA level to determine the specific mechanism of variegation. When the mechanism is known, it will be tested by making specific crosses and eventually we will look at ways to manipulate plants to become variegated.

5. Flower colour

This part of our research is progressing quite well. The whole process of colour formation in *Clivia* flowers should be resolved within the next 10 years. The determination of the genes involved in colour formation is the easy part. However, the whole process is complicated by various other genes influencing the expression (intensity) of the colour genes. Effective manipulation of the colour genes lay far in the future with current techniques.

6. Cultivar identification and relationships among populations &

CLIVIA NOTES & MUSINGS

When is 'Clivia' not a *Clivia*? 8 – *Clivia*, an operetta in three acts

Greig Russell – Cape Clivia Club

If you had asked me a few weeks ago, for the prize of a million rand, which Austrian composed the operetta, *Clivia*, I would be just as poor now as I ever was. I can't admit to

having ever heard of Nico Dostal (1895–1981) before. He also composed film music. 1933 celebrated the first performance of *Clivia*, the most successful of his 24 operettas.

Here is the synopsis of the plot:

ACT 1:

Patterton, a shady American financial magnate with interests in the South American country, Boliguay, is thwarted in his plans following a revolutionary overthrow of the government by one General Olivero. Patterton uses the cover of a film crew to attempt to enter the country, but it is proclaimed that only Boliguayans may get work permits. He thus plans on getting his gorgeous leading lady, one Clivia Gray, to 'marry' a local, at which time, the entire film crew would get permission to enter the country. She 'marries' one Juan Damigo.

ACT 2:

The crew now moves into a top-class hotel in Boliguay, where Patterton commences with his plans to have, in its turn, the revolutionary government overthrown. Clivia and Juan, in the meantime, start falling in love for real and then we discover that Juan is in fact Olivero, the Acting President of the Republic, and Patterton and his crew, including Clivia, are thrown into jail for their plot against the Revolution.

ACT 3:

Later, back at the Presidential Palace, Olivero can not keep Clivia from his mind. He decides to allow her, together with Patterton, to escape, and then see what happens. Clivia turns to Olivero, telling him how Patterton has tricked her, and how she now wants to make the marriage real. The operetta ends to the cheers of the people for the President and his future First Lady.



Clivia Opera image of a record cover of a version of the operetta *Clivia*. The record was bought by a clivia-grower in Australia through e-Bay from Barbados, and given to John van der Linde.

Ja, well, no, fine.

Anyone who is familiar with any Germanic operetta, such as the works of Franz Lehár (1870-1948 – who was actually Hungarian), will feel completely at home with *Clivia*. The best known aria, *Ich bin verliebt*, sung by Clivia herself, is a very pleasant piece, which you can experience on Youtube – and I would certainly suggest you listen to the version sung by the superlative Anneliese Rothenberger (1926–2010), it is magnificently performed.

In 1954, a film of the operetta was made, directed by Karl Anton, with Claude Farell (a woman) in the title role. &

HABITAT CLIVIA

Clivia mirabilis

Ian Coates - 11 Coker Hill, Yeoville, England

A presentation to the Fith Quadrenial Clivia Society Conference

Last year I visited all the known *Clivia mirabilis* habitat sites. For some of these sites it was a return visit for me, which enabled some interesting comparisons to be made. There are rumours of the discovery of further sites over 50 miles to the south, but these have not been confirmed. Perhaps the

surprising thing is that there are apparently so few sites. The four major known ones are within a ten mile strip to the south of Nieuwoudsville. They are becoming increasingly well known because of specialist tours to them and because one is on a hiking trail. They vary in size from just a few thousand square



Clivia mirabilis habitat.



Typical *Clivia mirabilis* habitat.

metres up to several hectares. Although all are below the escarpment on steep ground with sub-tropical thicket, each has its own characteristics. Together with others I have to wonder, why so few sites? The existing habitats show differences in the amount of cover, their altitude, the direction faced and the surrounding vegetation. Such conditions seem to be present for hundreds of miles of escarpment, so why does just a handful have *C. mirabilis* sites?

The weather on the sites also surprised me. Having been led to believe that even a little water in summer would be the death of my pot grown *Mirabilis*. With the flowers in full bloom, I have found the sites in mist, with light showers and even with continual moderate rainfall.

The rhizomous roots in some cases have been in saturated clay and yet the plants look very healthy. Some areas will be quick drying because of the nature of the site, but not all. Many areas have a covering of moss due to the high moisture levels. Clearly, we still have a lot to learn about these habitats and the conditions tolerated by the plants.



Underneath the thicket.



I should not have been surprised to see the variety of flower colour. This is apparent in all other *Clivia* species so it should be expected with *C. mirabilis* also. I had been preconditioned to expect just the most common red flowers and my lack of previous knowledge showed the limited amount of research and publication there has been. I was delighted to find that the reds varied from very pale to a deep, rich shade. The darker colours tend to be in the areas subject to more direct sunlight.



There were also pastels and yellows although both of these were extremely rare. The number of flowers found in an umbel varied from as little as 24 up to an impressive 74.

The leaves are variable. A pale median stripe is a distinctive feature, as is a retuse tip although some leaves have neither feature. There are a large number of each variant and it is not uncommon to find all three features on the same plant. This mixture is not solely due to the age of the leaf. The leaf length can vary from little over one foot to over six feet in length. The largest plants were found in areas noticeably high in nutrients which would appear to account for at least some of their impressive size. The lower portions of the leaves and, usually, the peduncle have a distinctive magenta pigmentation although this is not present on those which flower yellow or pastel.



Variegation is to be found but is extremely rare. All in all, *C. mirabilis* does not appear different to the other species in the variety it can produce. The future seemed secure for all but one site. Here many buds were being eaten before the flowers had even opened.



Those that did form were then taken by scavengers or else failed to germinate in the difficult conditions. Just one single seedling, about two years old, was found on the entire site. Consider then that the plants are slow to grow and mature, and that it must survive for another twelve to fifteen years or so

before it can produce seed of its own. Times are hard indeed.

My sincere thanks to all those who helped to arrange my visits and to the landowners. &

CLUBS AND INTEREST GROUPS

Toowoomba Clivia Society Inc. Clivia Show

Brian Stephens – Toowoomba, Australia

The show was held between September 16 to 23 in absolutely beautiful Toowoomba. Spring weather, with record crowds and record takings.

The Toowoomba show must be the only show in the Clivia world held for a full week. Although some of the flowers were wilting at the end of the show, most held up well. &



A general view of the Toowoomba Show with display board.



Bill Morris, well-known Clivia grower, a visitor from New South Wales; Kevin Larsen, Nick Ferero, and Ian Anderson of Anderson Peach fame.



Tino Ferero and Brian Larson.

PHOTOS: BRIAN STEPHENS

First Clivia Expo For Melbourne

Helen Marriott - Melbourne Clivia Group, Australia

At three years of age, the committee of the Melbourne Clivia Group (MCG) decided that the timing was right to organize our first big public event. A little unsure of our ability to mount a full-blown "show", we settled upon the label of CLIVIA EXPO and, accordingly, planned for a display of plants in conjunction with a variety of other activities such as displays of posters and photos, demonstrations of seed sowing, pollination and division of plants, sales of plants and seeds, as well as walking tours of the display. Held on 24 September, 2011, a total of 106 plants were exhibited, along with many individual flowers and some flowering umbels.

The main *C. miniata* flowering season commenced early here this year, but just the same we were able to assemble enough plants to justify the event. In comparison with the other well-established Clivia shows, ours may have

been more informal but it was an excellent start for a club with a relatively small number of active members.

Given that members of the MCG are geographically spread throughout Melbourne and regional areas, we limited the effort to one day. Gratefully, our careful planning was facilitated by drawing upon the experiences of other groups in Toowoomba, New Zealand and South Africa. Furthermore, the meeting prior to CLIVIA EXPO was a workshop on displaying plants, based on notes especially prepared for us by Felicity Weeden. The pooling of expertise from both the CLIVIA EXPO committee and the membership at large resulted in a well-coordinated and excellent day.

What was unexpected was that the hall filled up quickly and remained a buzz of activity all day. We were keen for the event to be as beneficial and enjoyable to members as to non-member visitors, and from our observations of





Apricot-Queen' - The People's-Choice winner.

the enthusiasm of the former in viewing the diverse range of display plants and flowers and seeing the networking which took place throughout the day of the latter, I am sure that members' participation was positive. In particular, we were excited to welcome some interstate (including Toowoomba) members and visitors to our event.

I expect that many members of the public were extremely surprised to see the diverse range of Clivia flower shapes, sizes and colours, since few would be familiar with the remarkable developments which have taken place in Clivia breeding in recent times. Although three seed sowing and two pollination demonstrations were scheduled throughout the day, from the beginning to end the demonstration table was inundated with visitors seeking basic knowledge, particularly of how to grow Clivia from seed.

Photos taken by George Simmler can be viewed on the gallery of the MCG's website: <http://www.melbournecliviagroup.org.au/gallery.html>

Free entry was provided and thus the raffle provided a small source of income. Three draws were staged over the day for a total of six plant prizes which consisted of donations from members of four flowering Clivia and two special seedlings. It was a surprise to many of us that the plant selected by the first winner was an orange with a small flower (which we considered not at all special) but which was a mature plant with offsets – so perhaps the choice was one of quantity over quality.

Two flowering yellow Clivia were the next plants chosen, leaving a nice, first flowering peach and the two seedlings (a Tiger pattern/variegate, and a Kevin Walters-bred centre Akebono). Whereas the first three plants were selected by visitors, the fourth winning ticket owner, who was a MCG member, chose the small Akebono seedling, leaving the peach and Tiger for the third and final raffle draw. Happily, the peach was selected by Irmgard, the thirteen-year-old daughter of our Secretary, Erika van de Spuy. Irmgard had helped all day with the refreshments and some of us were relieved that the peach (a very promising first flower of a Nakamura yellow x 'Chubb Peach') found a good home.

Also, luckily, the final seedling went back to Toowoomba with another member who visited that day. These events made me reflect upon the fact that the colour we commonly describe as peach, as found in the colouration of the 'Chubb Peach' hybrids, does not seem to be noticed by members of the public who are unfamiliar with Clivia. I have observed this phenomenon before and the raffle event seemed to confirm this observation.



Seed-sowing demonstration.



Demonstrating dividing clivia.

A pleasing 181 entries were lodged by members and visitors in the Peoples' Choice competition, with Brenda Girdlestone's 'Apricot Queen' (a hybrid bred by David Banks) scoring the most (28) nominations. Peoples' reasons for nominating this plant included, "colour", "beautiful", "flower size", "apricot and gold", "stunning", "health", "petal edge", "pastel watercolour", "clean", "shape", "leaf shape", "height", "contrast", "strength" and "subtle". Of the 181 entries, 48 plants actually attracted peoples' votes, indicating a wide spread of interest in the Clivia on display.

The same Peoples' Choice form elicited people's source of knowledge of the event

and hence constitutes valuable data allowing us to evaluate the effectiveness of our various publicity activities. The stand-out drawcard for 40% of the respondents was a feature article on Clivia which appeared in *The Age* newspaper that morning and which included a mention of our event, followed by an announcement on the gardening section of a radio station on the same morning. The next most important sources were word of mouth/MCG member, our website, flyers, other garden shows and so on. Interestingly, "wife" was given as the reason for one visitor's attendance, as was "wife made me" for another.

Undoubtedly, other groups have much more experience and expertise in organizing Clivia shows, but our inaugural Melbourne event went well because of careful planning and good teamwork from the CLIVIA EXPO organising committee in conjunction with many other members. We now look forward to 2012 and the next CLIVIA EXPO, planned for Saturday 22 September, when we believe we can make it an even better event. &



Visitors studying the plants.

CLIVIA SOCIETY HISTORY

THE HERITAGE OF THE CLIVIA SOCIETY 2006 TO 2010

Lena van der Merwe – Northern Clivia Club

A brief explanation on page one of *Clivia News* 15(1) 2006 pointed out that the now *Clivia News* is a continuation of the previous Clivia Society Newsletter. The publication now changed to a full colour one.

Sakkie Nel wrote in 15(1) on page 18 that on 6 September 2006 on the first day of the International Clivia Conference to be held in Pretoria, the South African Postal Authority will issue a set of six stamps with Clivia artwork; all six will be standard postage tariff (R 1-85). On the back cover page stamps from different countries depicting clivias were reprinted.

Willie le Roux announced the end of his term as Chairperson of the Eastern Province Clivia Club on page 3 of this issue.

In *Clivia News* 15(2) on page 20 the Post Office poster advertising the new series of stamps depicting clivia artwork of the six known species was reprinted.



Poster of RSA standard stamps issued at Clivia 2006 Conference

CLIVIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2006 to 2008

Position	2006/2007 COMMITTEE	2007/2008 COMMITTEE
Chairman	Chris Vlok	Johan Spies
Vice-Chairman	John van der Linde	Peter Lambert
Secretary	Lena van der Merwe	Lena van der Merwe
Treasurer	Bossie de Kock	Bossie de Kock
Office Bearer	Ken Smith	Chris Vlok

REPRESENTATIVES OF CONSTITUENT CLIVIA CLUBS

Cape	Claude Felbert, Gerrit van Wyk, Johan Schoombee	Claude Felbert, Gerrit van Wyk, Johan Schoombee
Eastern Province	André Calitz, Willie le Roux & Wimpie Maas	André Calitz, Elroy Johnson & Gideon Botha
Free State	Hennie van der Mescht	Hennie van der Mescht
Garden Route	Gerrie Brits	Piet Theron
Joburg	Glynn Middlewick & Koos Geldenhuys	Glynn Middlewick & Koos Geldenhuys
KwaZulu-Natal	Sean Chubb & Liz Boyd	Sean Chubb & Liz Boyd
Northern	Lena van der Merwe, Peter Lambert, Bossie de Kock	Lena van der Merwe, Peter Lambert, Bossie de Kock Louis Chadinda

REPRESENTATIVES OF OVERSEAS MEMBERS

New Zealand	Tony Barnes	Tony Barnes
Australia	Ken Smith	Ken Smith
Europe	Aart van Voorst	Aart van Voorst
USA	James Black	Jim Shields
UK	Dr Hamish Sloan	Jaco Nel

OTHER OVERSEAS CONTACT PERSONS FOR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

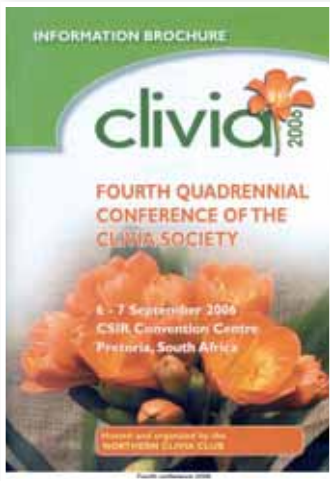
New Zealand	Di Smith	Alick McLeman
USA		William McClelland

CLIVIA CLUBS

Cape	John Winter	John Winter
Eastern Province	André Calitz	André Calitz
Free State	Hennie van der Mescht	Hennie van der Mescht
Garden Route	Gerrie Brits	Piet Theron
Joburg	Glynn Middlewick	Glynn Middlewick
KwaZulu-Natal	Sean Chubb	Sean Chubb
Northern	Peter Lambert	Peter Lambert
Northern Free State	-	Louis Chadinda

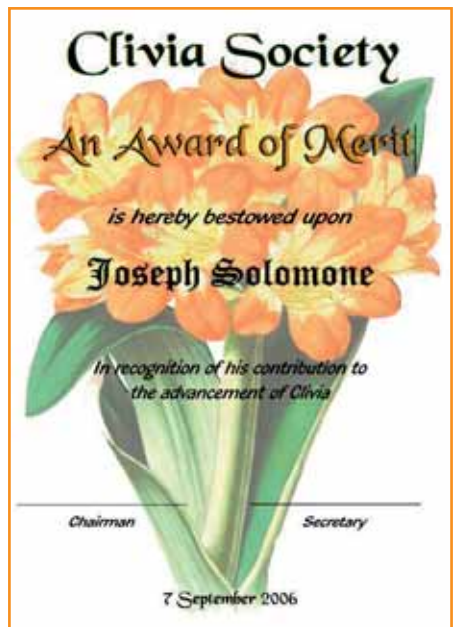
INTEREST GROUPS

Border	John Roderick	John Roderick
Northern KZN	Hottie Human (Chairperson)	Joey Dovey
Waterberg Boslelieklub	An Jacobs	An Jacobs
Lowveld	Daan Dekker	Daan Dekker
Overberg	Felicity Weedon	Felicity Weedon
Welkom	Louis Chadinda	-
Zoutpansberg	Anneke Stroebel (Secretary)	Zanette Wessels (Secretary)
EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER	Roger Fisher	Roger Fisher
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER	Roger Fisher	Sakkie Nel
YEARBOOK EDITORIAL	John van der Linde	John van der Linde

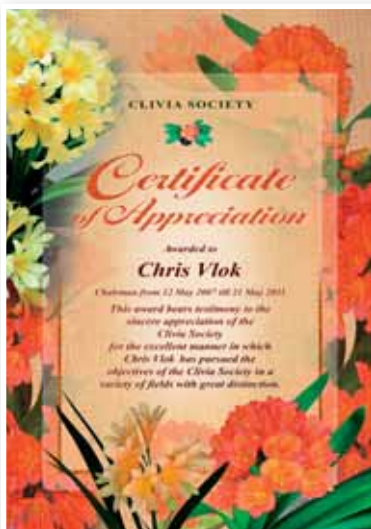


Clivia News 15(3) was a bumper publication dedicated to all of the activities of the Fourth Quadrennial International Clivia Conference in Pretoria. It incorporated the brochure on the auction plants in the centre of the book. The papers delivered at the conference were made available on a double DVD for a nominal amount.

At the 2006 Annual General meeting a decision was taken to award merit certificates to persons



Merit certificates 2006.



Certificates to Chris Vlok (above) and John van der Linde (below).



who have made a difference in the Clivia World as nominated by the Clivia fraternity (*Clivia News* 16(1) page 7). These special merit certificates were awarded to the following recipients at the conference:

Ian Brown, Sean Chubb, James Comstock, the late David Conway, Bossie de Kock, Mick Dower, Claude Felbert, the late Ammie Grobler, Dr



Johan Spies



Peter Lambert



Christo Topham

Keith Hammett, Pen Henry, Toy Jennings, Prof Harold Koopowitz, Willie le Roux, Christo Lötter, Rudo Lötter, Brenda Nuss, Ken Smith, Joseph Solomone, Brian Tarr, Val Thurston, Dr Lena van der Merwe, Kevin Walters, the late Dr Bing Wiese and the late Gert Wiese.

In issue 15(4) on page 21 Louis Chadinda reported that the Welkom interest group's formal application to become a constituent club of the Clivia Society is pending. They joined the ranks of constituent clubs of the Society as Northern Free State Clivia Club (*Clivia News* 16(1) page 3).

A change in leadership took place at the AGM of the Clivia Society held on 12 May 2007 at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein. Chris Vlok as well as John van der Linde stepped down from their positions and were succeeded by Johan Spies and Peter Lambert as chairman and vice-chair respectively (*Clivia News* 16(2)). Chris and John received a certificate of appreciation for their services at the helm of the Clivia Society.

At this meeting Tino Ferero, the second chairman of the Clivia Club/Society and Mick Dower (*Clivia News* 16(2)) received honorary life membership for their contributions for promoting clivias.

On page 5 of *Clivia News* 16(2) Chris Vlok mentioned that the New Zealand Clivia Club sought affiliation with the Clivia Society and so New Zealand became the first overseas Club to become a constituent club. This is reflected on the inside front/back page of *Clivia News* 16(3) with Tony Barnes as representative and Alick McLeman as contact person.

The group of clivia enthusiasts on the habitat tour at the end September 2007 were weather wise unfortunate not to be able to travel to

CLIVIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2008 to 2010

Position	2008/2009 COMMITTEE	2009/2010 COMMITTEE
Chairman	Johan Spies	Johan Spies
Vice-Chairman	Christo Topham	Christo Topham
Secretary	Lena van der Merwe	Lena van der Merwe
Treasurer	Bossie de Kock	Sakkie Nel
Office Bearer	Ken Smith	Ken Smith

REPRESENTATIVES OF CONSTITUENT CLIVIA CLUBS

Cape	Heinie Heinerich, John van der Linde, Claude Felbert	Dave Garriock, John van der Linde, Claude Felbert
Eastern Province	Sam Plaatjies, André Calitz and John Roderick	Albie Braun and Willie le Roux
Free State	Hennie van der Mescht	Piet Loubcher
Garden Route	Piet Theron	Piet Theron
Joburg	Glynn Middlewick & Koos Geldenhuys	Glynn Middlewick & Maylene Turner
KwaZulu-Natal	Brian Tarr and Francois van Rooyen	Brain Tarr and Francois van Rooyen
Lowveld	-	Paul Kloeck
New Zealand	Tony Barnes	Tony Barnes
Northern	Lena van der Merwe, Peter Lambert, Bossie de Kock	Peter Lambert, Lena v/d Merwe, Tino Ferero
Northern Free State	Louis Chadina	Louis Chadina

REPRESENTATIVES OF OVERSEAS MEMBERS

Australia	Ken Smith	Ken Smith
Europe	Aart van Voorst	Aart van Voorst
USA	Jim Shields	Jim Shields
UK	Jaco Nel	Jaco Nel

OTHER OVERSEAS CONTACT PERSONS FOR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Zealand	Alick McLeman	Alick McLeman
USA & Canada	William McClelland	William McClelland

CLIVIA CLUBS AND INTEREST GROUPS

Cape Clivia Club	Mickey Hoctor	Mickey Hoctor
Eastern Province Club	Sam Plaatjies	Willie le Roux
Free State Club	Hennie van der Mescht	Piet Loubcher
Garden Route Club	Piet Theron	Piet Theron
Joburg Club	Glynn Middlewick	Glynn Middlewick
KwaZulu-Natal Club	Brain Tarr	Brain Tarr
Lowveld Clivia Club	-	Paul Kloeck

New Zealand Club	Tony Barnes	Tony Barnes
Northern Clivia Club	Peter Lambert	Peter Lambert
Northern Free State Club	Louis Chadinda	Louis Chadinda
Border Interest Group	John Roderick	Glen Miles
Northern KZN Interest Group	Joey Dovey	Joey Dovey
Waterberg Boslelieklub	An Jacobs	An Jacobs
Lowveld interest group	Paul Kloeck	-
Overberg Clivia Interest Group	Felicity Weedon	Felicity Weedon
Zoutpansberg Enthusiasts	Zanette Wessels (Secretary)	Zanette Wessels (Secretary)
EDITOR OF NEWSLETTER	Roger Fisher	Roger Fisher
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER	Sakkie Nel	Sakkie Nel
YEARBOOK EDITORIAL	Roger Fisher	Roger Fisher



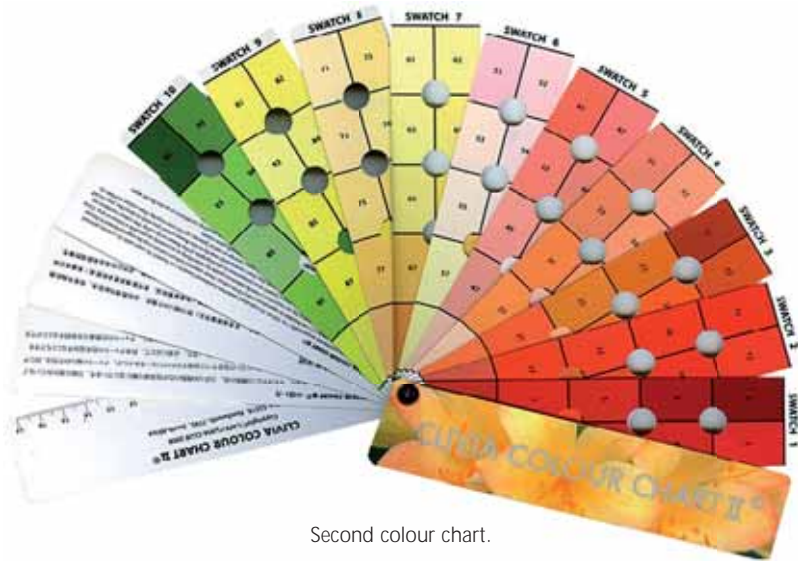
Bearded man. The chairman and secretary decided that the most appropriate token of appreciation of Connie and James Abel's able conducting of habitat tours would be a certificate showing our appreciation.

This award (*Clivia News* 17(2)) was handed to James and Connie at the AGM on 24 May 2008 at the Thatcher's, in Krugersdorp. Both were speechless with a lump in the throat.

At the 2008 AGM a change in the management committee took place – Peter Lambert stepped down as vice-chairman and Christo Topham succeeded him.

On page 33 of *Clivia News* 17(3 & 4) Claude Felbert wrote about the making of the first and second colour chart (which became available then) and explain its usage.

Clivia News 18(1) brought the sad news of the death of the treasurer Bossie de Kock. He was on the executive



Second colour chart.

committee from 20 April 2002 till 13 February 2009. Honorary Life Membership was awarded to Bossie posthumous at the AGM on 16 May 2009 in Cape Town (*Clivia News* 18(2)). Chris Vlok also received Honorary Life Membership of the Clivia Society at this AGM.

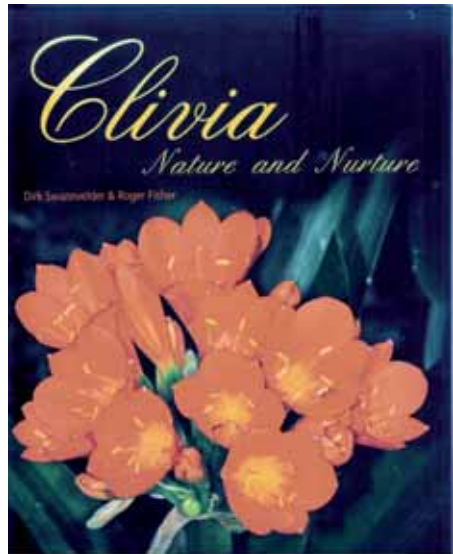
Sakkie Nel offered to be caretaker treasurer after Bossie's death and tabled the financial documents at the AGM. Sakkie was elected as treasurer and additional member at the 2009 AGM. The Lowveld Clivia Club became the tenth constituent Clivia Club at this AGM with Paul Kloeck at the helm.



Sakkie Nel

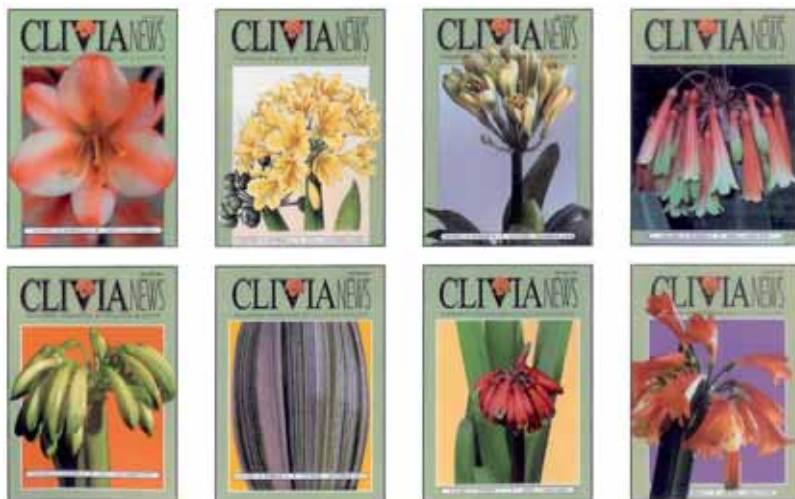
A new book on clivias – "*Clivia - Nature and Nurture*", written by Dirk Swanevelder and Roger Fisher – saw the light in September 2009. This book deals with each Clivia species as a natural occurring plant and explains its specific characteristics and presents the genus as exemplar of the family Amaryllidaceae.

A silver certificate was awarded to the Clivia Society's exhibition at the Floraliers flower show in Ghent, Belgium. Pierre de Coster was the



Nature and Nurture.

organizer of the exhibition of the Clivia Society. At the AGM on 15 May 2010 in Port Elizabeth Francois van Rooyen was elected as additional member on the executive committee of the Clivia Society.



Newsletter covers

The first photocopied newsletter in July 1992 is now superseded by a full colour publication.

Since the election of the first committee on 22 January 1994 to the present committee elected on 15 May 2010 17 committees were elected and five chairpersons were elected.

From the single Club in the beginning the Clivia Society now has ten clubs and six interest groups. Since 1992 Clivia Clubs/Societies were founded in the USA and Australia with members belonging to both the local club and the Clivia Society. Will they follow the New Zealand Clivia Club and become constituent Clubs of the Clivia Society? The Chinese are seeking affiliation (*Clivia News* 17(2)). This is a large community of non-English speaking enthusiasts joining the Clivia Society. How will we handle the language challenges?

Many of the earlier members of the Clivia Society have passed away and present members are all blondes. Is there enough interest in

young people to carry this organization into the future? They will inherit the knowledge gained by the pioneers and written into the publications of the Clivia Society.

REFERENCES

Newsletters of the Clivia Society from volume 15 to volume 18.

E-mails of the Executive committee.

Conference proceedings of 2006.

PHOTOGRAPHS

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



Francois van Rooyen

CHAIRMEN OF THE CLIVIA SOCIETY

James Abel	17 September 1994 to 5 September 1998	4 years
Tino Ferero	5 September 1998 to 17 September 1999	1 year
John Winter	17 September 1999 to 20 April 2002	3 years
Chris Vlok	20 April 2002 to 12 May 2007	5 years
Johan Spies	12 May 2007 to present	4 years

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- Vuvuzela



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- & Northern Free State Clivia Club Rachel Maree; (Secretary): Tel: 057 357 6048; Cell: +27 83 257 4801;
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www.clviasociety.org

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Member:	Johan Spies: Mobile: +27 83 652 6130, e-mail: SpiesJJ@ufs.ac.za

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PORTFOLIOS

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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

Border, Northern KwaZulu-Natal, Overberg, Waterberg, Highway, Ngome, Vryheid and Dundee

