



# Nz CLIVIA CLUB INC NEWZLETTER

Volume 12.3 Spring 2014

## CLIVIA SHOWS



**TAURANGA**  
Plantstruck Nursery  
139 Te Puna Road, Te Puna  
28th September 2014 Sunday  
1.00pm to 4.00pm

**AUCKLAND**  
Auckland Botanical Garden  
102 Hill Road  
Manurewa, Auckland  
4th October 2014 Saturday  
9.00pm to 3.00pm

**PALMERSTON NORTH**  
Community Leisure Centre  
569 Fergusson Street, Palmerston North  
11th October 2014 Saturday  
10.00am to 3.00pm

## 2014 CLIVIA CARNIVALS

The Annual Clivia Shows are almost upon us, and every year these events seem to get better and better with more plant variety and different flower colours appearing in the displays. As the clivia collections of our club members grow in number and diversity, so the selection of blooms on display throughout the country is increasing in quality and quantity. Some growers will be having open days in conjunction with their local show. In Auckland Gardenza will be having their Spring Festival, the Hatches garden at Joy plants will be open in the second week after the Auckland show and Cosmic Clivias will be having a sale day on the 27-28<sup>th</sup> Sept at Paeroa.

### AGM

Our current President and committee were re-elected at the recent AGM. Various issues were discussed and the minutes for that



meeting are enclosed with this newsletter. There has been a good programme of events during the past year and thanks are due to club members for coming along and supporting the Gardenii Day, the Auckland Botanic Gardens visit and the various speakers we have hosted.



Spring Interspecifics

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## Golden Bengal

When I first started out growing clivias about 4 years ago, I was looking out for a nice yellow clivia. I have also just joined the Clivia Club then. Being a TradeMe junkie, I found a listing of Peter Gray who also a member of NZCC selling his yellow clivias. I went on a road trip to Tauranga to visit Peter to pick out the clivias. When I was at Peter's, at this stage I didn't know much about clivias, I saw a yellow clivia in the back corner of the shade house with one last flower on the umbel that had 8 tepals with deep yellow colour. Peter told me it was Yellow Tiger. I just knew I had to buy that plant and I left Peter's place that day with two yellow clivias, the other was a Moonglow strain.

The plant, a few weeks later, decided to throw out a second umbel for the season and I was thrilled that I didn't have to wait another year to see what the umbel was like. When the flowers finally opened I was quite impressed with the depth of the colour. I pollinated the flowers and the berries started to swell. I noticed there were stripes on the berries which was unusual as the plant wasn't variegated. I asked around and found that the Yellow Tiger is a cultivar group bred by Ian Duncaif. The information I got from Ian is as follow, "Yellow Tiger is bred from Striped Pod crossed with a Solomone yellow. Striped Pod is good dark yellow tulip shaped flower, compact, broadleaves and late to flower for a miniata but mostly the seed pods are consistently striped yellow and green." Ian also mentioned that he has flowered quite a number of offspring but have not seen the striped pod in the seedlings back in 2010 when I emailed him, which makes this plant even more special.

The flowers are improving each year as the plant matures and it is definitely one of my favourite clivias. The berries of the plant are also very decorative but it doesn't produce variegated seedlings. The plant is an outstanding clone of Yellow Tiger and I have chosen the name Golden Bengal for it in keeping with the Tiger theme and not confused with the tiger variegation from Japan. I am using Golden Bengal in my breeding goal for even deeper yellow clivias and compact habit.

*By Michael Loh*



2010



2011



Striped berries of Golden Bengal



Side by side with Keith's near white Iceberg (2013)

## Mealy bug battle

Tired of being bugged by mealy bugs like I have been? Well , I have tried all sorts of sprays for the last 3 years in my battle against the mealy bugs plaguing my clivias which haven't worked all that well. Physical control using the sure kill fingers and thumb method, though effective, is very time consuming. I dislike the idea of going further to the more toxic and potent chemical sprays if I can help it. The plants left out under trees are less affected by the mealy bugs but the plants under cover are affected the most due to the nice dry environment they thrive in.

When I was visiting George Simmler in Melbourne while on a work trip earlier this year, we got talking about insect control and he showed me what he used to control insects in his plant collection. He uses ant sand and he suggested I give it a go. So after my trip, I went to Bunnings and managed to find only one brand that has the product, No Ants Ant Sand from Kiwicare. The sand granules are slightly larger than what they can get over in Australia.

The description of the product on the bottle says "No Ants Ant Sand (NAAS) is a fast acting and extremely effective product to control ants outside home before they get inside. NAAS is safe to use around soil and plants when used as directed, is odourless, biodegradable and will remain active for up to 2 months. NAAS contains a potent synthetic pyrethroid insecticide, which is not adversely affected by rainfall or UV light."

I sprinkled the ant sand down in the crown and leaf axils of my clivias where the mealy bugs tend to hide and sprays can't get to sometimes. After a couple of weeks of treatment, I went to check the plants for mealy bugs and noticed some of the mealy bugs had started to dry up. I have been using it for a few months now and I am very pleased with the result as I don't enjoy spraying.

If you want to try this product, I suggest you wipe off all the mealy bugs on the underside of the leaves first to get ride off the bulk of the mealybugs before you sprinkle on the ant sand for a faster result and the ant sand will target the mealy bugs that are hiding in the mix or the plant. And hopefully you don't have to worry about using sprays again.

*By Michael Loh*



# Pink Flamingos



Pink Flamingos – the original plant

“Pink Flamingos’ was a pink seedling from Alick McLemans’ F2 Orange Wittig’s Pink x ‘Alick’s Peach’, It seems that the F2 Wittig’s Pink was heterozygous for Type 1 Yellow and therefore somewhat compatible with ‘Alick’s Peach’, a Type 1 Peach, therefore giving approximately 50% Pink/Peach types although in fact the number of reasonable pinks was small compared to peach tones. I guess ‘Wittig’s Pink’ original has had a small influence on colour two generations down the line. The interesting point is that in ‘Pink Flamingos’ we now have a Type 1 Pink!

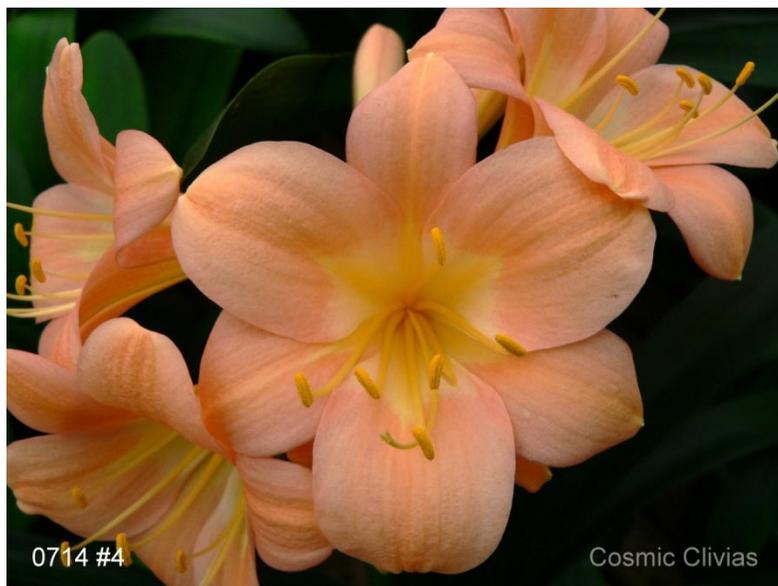
It should be noted that in early attempts to breed quality pinks many of us crossed Wittig’s Pink strains with Type 1 Peach strains resulting in orange progeny which may be disappointing to some but I see these as a great ‘Stepping Stone’ on the way to producing quality pinks.

Seeing the potential in ‘Pink Flamingos’ we crossed ‘Blushing Bride’, a Type 1 Vico soft pink/peach with a full umbel and reasonable flower form on to it with the pictured first flowering results, quite good form and a range of colour depth, although not clear pink they are on the way to producing some great blooms.

*-From a conversation with Rex Williams*



Blushing Bride (above). Crossing Blushing Bride onto Pink Flamingos resulted in the progeny shown on the right and below.



## MY GOLDEN DUSK STRAIN     Alick McLeman

In pursuing my clivia hobby, one of my pet interests has been the recovery of colour patterns inherent in the genetic material available to me. A plant which interested me was a habitat miniata from the Ndwedwe area of KwaZulu Natal found by KZN grower Val Thurston and named Thurston Ndwedwe Pink Champagne. I had obtained some seed from Val where she crossed her Pink Champagne with her Thurston Beta Yellow, the result of which were a number of orange siblings.



Ndwedwe Pink Champagne

At the time it was thought that Ndwedwe Pink Champagne had been lost to a stem rot, which made the recovery all the more challenging. (The plant was subsequently saved from a small piece of the stem by Sean Chubb and I am hoping to see it 'in the flesh' when I am in KwaZulu Natal for the conference in September) The first of the sibling cross to flower I named and registered as 'Golden Dusk' and to my mind it has the best flower form of the plants I've produced thus far. A lovely open flower with wide petals displaying the unusual colouring at its best. A feature of Golden Dusk is that it opens a very pale pastel with pink tones, but as the flowers age the anthocyanins respond to the light and the red pigments become more prominent,



Golden Dusk – initial colouring



Golden Dusk – later colouring

I have since flowered a number of Golden Dusk siblings and all have this same trait in that they open a pale pastel and then deepen in colour over the life of the flower.



Golden Dusk Sibling #1



Golden Dusk sibling #2



Golden Dusk Sibling #3

Perhaps the most striking of the siblings is one that I have named 'Chameleon' because of the remarkable difference in colour between younger and older flowers, as well illustrated in the photo below.



Chameleon

As can be seen from the photos there is some difference in the flower forms, some having quite narrow petals. However the flowers are fairly small and there is lots of room for improvement in flower size.

# What's Happening

## Tauranga Show

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September – 1pm to 4pm,  
Plantstruck Nursery, 139 Te Puna Road,  
Tauranga

## Auckland Show

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October – 9am to 3pm, Auckland  
Botanic Gardens, 102 Hill Road, Manurewa

## Palmerston North Show

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October – 10am to 3pm,  
Palmerston North Community Leisure Centre  
569 Fergusson Street, Palmerston North

Recently at the **Gardenii Day** at Keith Hammett's he commented about the number of volunteer seedlings springing up throughout the Clivia plantation.

When preparing the seed offered by him I found on opening them up that two seeds, one in particular, had a real "head start", although both still totally enclosed within the seed "berry".

No wonder some get away so well.

An enjoyable meeting and a good response from members about any future meetings.

Thanks Keith.

John Meyer

## SALE DAY - COSMIC CLIVIAS

(REX & DEE WILLIAMS – PAEROA)

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September 9am-1pm

Due to overcrowding we need to sell excess  
Plants.

Red, yellow, peach, green throat etc. Plants  
from \$10

All welcome, please contact for directions.  
(Sorry no Eftpos)

Phone. 027 6768626

e-mail [cosmicclivias@clear.net.nz](mailto:cosmicclivias@clear.net.nz)



Spring Interspecifics