

# Nz CLIVIA CLUB INC NEWZLETTER

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## CHAIRMAN'S PIECE

*Dear Members*

*Among the attractions of horticulture are its diversity and unpredictability. Certainly no two seasons are alike and our Gardenii Show scheduled for 22 May may well prove to be a post-Gardenii Show despite the date having been moved a week earlier than originally planned.*

*No matter, a great deal has been taking place so there will be much to see and discuss.*

*The visit of Ken Smith from Sydney will be a focal point. Ken is the International Registrar for Clivia cultivar names, is part of the management team of the Clivia Society based in South Africa and has a long history of growing and researching Clivia in Australia.*

*Over Easter I spent a very intensive few days writing draft Classification and Judging Guidelines for Clivia with Roger Dixon, a scientist and Clivia enthusiast from South Africa. After illustrations have been drawn and a little polishing has been carried out, these will be presented to representatives of other national Clivia organisations for consideration.*

*Cindy and myself have been busy over the last year in carrying out a number of experiments on the nutrition of young Clivia plants and various seed treatments to facilitate optimum storage conditions for Clivia seed. We intend presenting our results at the Gardenii Show.*

*We have recently found what appears to be a leaf roller caterpillar on a young Clivia plant. This is currently with MAF entomologists for identification as it will almost certainly be a new record for New Zealand.*

*I have visited and spoken directly with the Minister of Conservation regarding the ludicrous suggestion by DOC officers that Clivia has weed potential. The current state of play is reported separately ( see page 7) You can be assured that I will continue to push for a public retraction by DOC.*

**Keith Hammett**  
Chairman  
NZ Clivia Club Inc

*An ingenious Roger Dixon imparts his knowledge & ideas with the Committee over Easter. (Left is Keith Hammett)*

## AUCTION

The Committee are planning a BIG project in the near future – and we need to raise funds to support it.. (details will be in the next NewZLetter). To kick start this fund-raising, we are excited that we are able to offer an 'On-Line Auction' for autographed books as follows :

### **Auction One**

**'Clivias' by Harold Koopowitz** personally autographed by Prof Harold Koopowitz, author and James Comstock, photographer. This 'Bible' of Clivia is a must for every enthusiast.

### **Auction Two**

**'Appreciation of Chinese Clivia' by Zhu Jifu and autographed** (Vice President of the China Clivia Association) Mr Zhu is renowned well-respected clivia veteran in China. He has been studying Clivia for over 20 years. He heads the 'Golden City' nursery. The Chinese Clivia are noted for their short, bright, broad, rigid, thick and round tip leaves, shaped liked a fan. An excellent book if your interest is in this area of Clivia. Includes an **English translation and CD.**

Here's how you put in your bid. Email your bid to : [nzclivia@clear.net.nz](mailto:nzclivia@clear.net.nz)

eg "Auction One \$NZ60.50 Joe Smith"

Bids must be in NZ Dollars (excl p&p)

Top bids will be posted at [www.nzclivia.org.nz](http://www.nzclivia.org.nz) each evening. Non members please include FULL contact details. If you are not on email, please phone your bid to the Secretary. International bids are welcome. The Chairman's decisions are final.



### C. nobilis



Although gardening books have tended to identify any pendulous *Clivia* as *C. nobilis* it is in fact rare in collections. Almost invariably plants claimed to be *C. nobilis* turn out to be *C. gardenii*.

The species is easily recognized, as the leaves are stiff with a scabrous, cutting leaf margin. The leaf tips are blunt, often with a concave indentation [retuse – emarginate]. Plants are very slow to establish from seed and even when mature they flower only erratically. Inflorescences contain more flowers than other species. Accessions vary in flower colour and, in my experience, coastal accessions tend to be red while those from further inland tend more to pink.

The identification of plants as *C. nobilis* is further complicated as a hybrid between *C. nobilis* and *C. miniata* was created in Belgium in the second half of the nineteenth century. This was styled *C. cyrtanthiflora* and has been vegetatively propagated; quite large plantings are found in some Australian Botanic Gardens. Leaves, even on the same plant, can vary markedly with some closely resembling leaves of *C. nobilis*. However, flowers are flared and are much less pendulous than those of *C. nobilis*. It is likely that seedlings have been produced from this F<sub>1</sub> hybrid, which exhibit combinations of characteristics that make them difficult to assign to either parental species.

### C. caulescens



Mature stands of *C. caulescens* in the wild are perhaps the most spectacular of the genus, not for floral display, but for their very long sinuous stems. These can reach several metres in length and trail over rock outcrops. This species is now finding its way into collections. It is a robust species, which establishes itself quite quickly.

### C. mirabilis

This species is currently known only to its discoverers and is barely into cultivation. “It is apparently confined to the Oorlogskloof Nature Reserve in Northern Cape where small groups of plants grow rooted in humus between cracks in the sandstone talus of the rock scree”. The plant has an extensive root system that is large in relation to its aerial parts. This appears to be an adaptation to its habitat. *C. mirabilis* has pendulous flowers that are most likely pollinated by sunbirds, although there is a good likelihood that the plant is self-pollinating.

The fact that the plant is reported to be able to bear full sun will be of interest to gardeners and plant breeders and it will be interesting to discover whether it is able also to grow in shade. With the current interest in the genus it is very important that wild populations of this newly discovered plant are protected.

### Swamp Clivia (yet to be formally named)



Over time different pieces of information in addition to plant shape have been taken into consideration when delineating a species. For instance chromosome numbers and biochemical data have been used for various genera. Increasingly DNA data are being used.

Recently Dr Yidong Ran completed a cytogenetic analysis of the genus *Clivia* as a PhD. study here in Auckland jointly supervised by Professor Brian Murray and myself. As shown in our scientific paper (Ran *et al.* 1999) it is possible to identify the different named species of *Clivia* on the basis of banding patterns that develop when the chromosomes are stained in various ways.

In my collection were some plants originally given to me as seed by Graham Duncan at Kirstenbosch in 1994. These plants were referred to as a robust form of *C. gardenii*. Initially the seedlings looked pretty much like those of any other *Clivia* except *C. nobilis*, but as they became older the plants stood out from anything else. They were very vigorous and with a tall stiff habit and rounded leaf tips quite distinct from the very pointed lax leaves of *C. gardenii*, although they did have the pale green almost white lower leaf surface that one associates with *C. gardenii*.

When Yidong looked at the chromosomes of the “Robust” *gardenii* he found that while the banding pattern was closer to *C. miniata* and *C. gardenii* than to *C. nobilis* or *C. caulescens*, it was distinct from either.

We hear much about DNA analyses and fingerprinting in connection with forensic work and criminal trials. Similar techniques are available to plant scientists and Yidong used two distinct methods, namely random amplified polymorphic DNA analysis (RAPD) and DNA sequencing.

Two regions were sequenced, the internal transcribed spacers (ITS1 & ITS2) of nuclear ribosomal 45S DNA and the non-transcribed spacers between the 5S RNA genes. When these methods are combined with appropriate statistical models it is possible to estimate how closely related different species and varieties may be. Our DNA analyses showed that Robust gardenii was distinct from the four species already named but most closely related to *C. gardenii* and *C. miniata*.

Additional collections have been made in an area between Port St Johns and Umtamvuna at Port Edward and a site in Natal. These have proven to have the same distinctive karyotype as the original accession of Robust gardenii.

Ecologically the species is very distinct from the named species of *Clivia*. It is found in patches of Syzigium forest that occur in grassland. These are situated in depressions that fill with water during summer. It also occurs along riverbanks and small streams. The other species are almost invariably found associated with rock outcrops on well-drained soil. Flowering takes place in June and July in South Africa but occurs in April and May here in New Zealand. The flowers are pendulous, tubular and orange-red, and the inflorescences tend to have relatively few flowers. In contrast to *C. gardenii* the stigma and stamens are retained within the flower tube, barely protruding at most.

With all the species it is important to realise that different populations of a species growing in the wild will vary from each other. The longer populations are separated from each other the greater the differences; eventually the differences may be so great that they are considered to be different species. All too often plants in cultivation have all been derived from a single collection or accession.

## Interspecific Hybrids



Despite the production of *C. cyrtanthiflora* a century and a half ago very little further interest seems to have been taken in crossing the other species until relatively recently. Probably because *C. miniata* has the showiest flowers it has attracted the most attention from breeders. Indeed the so-called Belgium Hybrids are intra specific hybrids between variants of *C. miniata*.

There appear to be no breeding barriers between *Clivia* species and crosses have now been produced between all the previously known species in every permutation. Many hybrids are primary hybrids at the F1 stage, but breeders in South Africa and Japan are now flowering plants of more advanced generations. Primary hybrids between the pendulous species and *C. miniata* tend to exhibit characteristics, which are intermediate between the parents.

The use of winter flowering *C. gardenii* has the potential to greatly extend the flowering season, while *C. caulescens* and the swamp *Clivia* are producing seedlings of considerable vigour.

The combination *C. gardenii* x *C. caulescens* has produced populations that have grown quickly and have demonstrated an ability to naturalise, readily suppressing competing weeds. Flowers are produced over an extended season and it is common to have flowers and fruit at all stages of development in a planting. It is possible that such hybrids have potential for the florist trade where both foliage and fruits are currently in demand in addition to flowers.

Considerable scope exists to develop quite new forms of *Clivia* by sib-crossing, backcrossing and further out-crossing. Already hybrids exist which have input from three and four species.

## Propagation

*Clivia* plants are most commonly propagated from seed. Mature plants produce additional shoots from below soil level and these can be removed and potted individually. Different plants vary considerably in their propensity to produce side shoots. Because *Clivias* are slow growing, named clones produced by division are relatively uncommon; the original 'van Houtte' form of *C. cyrtanthiflora* and the *C. miniata* yellows 'Vico Yellow' and 'Sir John Thouron' are examples.

*Clivias* can be propagated by tissue culture, but cultures are difficult to establish from somatic tissue despite extensive research in various countries. Growth in culture is slow and the explants are small compared to seedlings, where the residual seed provides a reservoir of food.

## Summary

*Clivia* is a genus that is currently gaining an enthusiastic following around the world. They make an ideal house and conservatory plant in areas that experience frosts. In frost-free locations they can be naturalised to produce impressive drifts under trees where few other plants will flower. They are a surprisingly tough plant that can survive a degree of neglect both in pots and the garden. This is an important factor in determining a plant's popularity in today's fast moving world.

From a breeding point of view they are an exciting plant with enormous scope for further development both as a pot and garden plant. They also have many characteristics, which could make them a good florist flower. I am confident that we are, in reality, only at the beginning of the development of a major ornamental plant.

## Reference

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- Ran, Y., Hammett, K.R.W., & Murray, B.G., 2001. Hybrid identification in *Clivia* (Amaryllidaceae) using chromosome banding and genomic *in situ* hybridization. *Annals of Botany* 87: 457 – 462.
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## When is a cultivar a cultivar and why a seedling from 'Vico Yellow' should not be

For newcomers to the hobby of Clivia cultivation the name issue is a confusing one. The more we talk about named Clivias, especially now that there are enthusiasts in many countries, the more we have to be careful that we are actually referring to the same genetic material. Just what is a cultivar? The word cultivar comes from "cultivated variety"; it is just shortened to make conversation easier. By naming a cultivar, plant growers around the world can be fairly sure that the material they refer to is the one plant. There are of course many thousands of plant cultivars. In the Clivia fraternity we already have listings of over 700 named types. This is only going to increase given the explosion of interest in the past few years. But, with the proliferation of named Clivias and the tens of thousands of Clivia seedlings being grown around the world, there is a special problem cropping up that needs explaining. That is the practice of calling seedlings grown from named Clivias the same name as the parent plant. This is wrong and needs to be stopped. What is worse is when these seedlings are sold under the name of the parent, as the new owner will be incorrectly referring to their plants as a named form. Doesn't seem much of a problem, does it?

Once a plant is pollinated and it sets fruit with developing seeds, the genetic material has been mixed. That is, it is not exactly the same as the named parent plant. This is the important point to remember here. Seedlings are NOT the same as the parent plant. The vast majority of cultivars are reproduced vegetatively so that the resultant plants are genetically identical to the parent stock. Yes, there are some seed lines of plants available and they have a name that denotes the strain. That strain will have a set of characters that are the allowable tolerances for the strain. But a named Clivia, with a defined set of characters, can only be reliably reproduced by offset. If someone is offering a named Clivia, you would reasonably expect to get the correct plant, not something that is "pretty close to the original". Ask questions of the seller to see if they are offering offsets or seedlings.

*Kenneth R Smith  
NSW Australia*



*And just to prove that Ken grows great clivia..... this is his Yellow x VY x Peach*



## CONTEMPLATIONS FROM UNDER THE PONGA TREE...

*(Sorry, the Longrop is full!)*

- q **Lena van der Merwe is secretary extradoinare for the Clivia Society . She writes : "Kimberly James Pentecost of Canada sent me a remedy for mealy bugs. She uses orange oil. 2 tbspn per gallon of water. She also drenches the soil with it and she claims it is a good boi-friendly way of getting rid of mealy bugs. (If you are metrisized it works out to 30 ml. orange oil to 4.5 litres of water; that is imperial gallons. American gallons is 3.8 Litre)**
- q And Chris Vlok very helpfully submits..... "Another question which is often asked is, whether the yellows will turn orange if planted amongst orange flowers - my answer to that is "lady, did your looks change after your honeymoon night ?"
- q **Peter Goodwin writes... "did you know that if one of my mares was mated on the same day that I pollinated a Clivia flower, the resultant foal would have gone to the yearling sales, and completed its career on the racetrack before the Clivia seedling had flowered for the first time."**

*I know Peter, but that's the price of being addicted to clivia and not horse racing - Ed*

- q And finally .... You know youre addicted to clivia when youre watching 'Nip/Tuck' late on Monday night TV to see which species of clivia are planted in the 'set' garden and havent a clue what the story-line is!

*If you have something you would like to add to the 'Ponga Tree' – please drop a line to the Editor at [nzclivia@clear.net.nz](mailto:nzclivia@clear.net.nz)*

## Letters to the Editor.....

Dear Editor

The update was very helpful re 'Rotting Clivias'. Here in Taranaki, we are fortunate that we have a very free draining soil, but I know that there are parts of NZ where the soil is very heavy and impenetrable. The following is tips or hints that I normally give to customers/friends when asking for advice with problems related to drainage and heavy soils:

\* Some plastic pots on the market have insufficient drainage holes, especially for use with clivias and orchids. To aid in drainage I have seen orchid growers make additional holes in the sides of the pots. ( a few more in the bottom won't hurt either)These can also help with aeration and encourage drying of the mix.

\* If you have a clump of clivias in a heavy pot too difficult to move undercover in frequent heavy down pours, you can stick an open umbrella in the pot to let the rainwater run down clear of the pot's edge. Don't try this with stormy/windy showers! My partner's mother uses this method to protect her precious Marantha's in summer from the scorching midday sun (she uses one of those big sun umbrella's) !

\* I also recommend if somebody wants to plant clivias or orchids directly into their gardens to dig a large hole (2 to 3 times size of root system) and remove the soil. place a thick layer of good garden bark in the bottom of the hole and plant with a mix of potting soil and bark. This will provide good drainage and aeration in the immediate vicinity of the plant's root system. Because clivias have spreading roots, the hole should rather be wider than deep. If digging shallow holes proves to be a problem due to rock deposits or very hard soil - dig a shallow wide hole, place the plant gently in the hole and mound a good soil/bark mix around it, almost like potato mounds. Take care not to cover the crown or leaves, as this will lead to problems with rot. Rasied beds made with edging borders and filled with a soil/bark mix could also be helpful.

And where there is a will there is way!

*Antoinette Roberts New Plymouth*

## GROWING CLIVIA UNDER PODOCARPUS TOTARA

*Podocarpus Totara* which are extremely hungry trees with very vigorous root systems produce a thick mat of feeder roots at the surface of the soil. Digging is almost impossible as there are also very large woody roots which spread well beyond the canopy which is very dense creating dark shade.

To plant young *Clivia* in these conditions shallow holes have to be chopped out and the roots of the plants spread out. Extra soil is needed to fill the hole and a good mulch of sawdust, then leave to nature.

The amazing results from this type of culture need thinking about. The plants quickly grow into large leafy dark green clumps and produce super stems of rich coloured flowers, the breeding helps but even the old orange form grows and performs well. It isn't that they have plenty of care, fertiliser or water all of these are lacking although the few weeds are culled out.

We must look to the trees or rather the roots, each root has many nodules which house mycorrhizal fungi and these would provide much needed nitrogen for the tree and *Clivias*. The addition of sawdust provides humus which stimulates the growth of fungi. The addition of sawdust each season builds up reserves of humus and a constant supply of nitrogen and other trace elements are available to the plants. Indeed the addition of sawdust to the surface plant beds helps smother the weed population, and as long as it is not mixed with the soil it is beneficial and a no dig type of gardening can be carried out, the only digging being done by worms and other soil organisms.

Smaller native shrubs suitable for growing *Clivias* under include :

- *Caldcluvia roseifolia* 3m
- *Coprosma* – some of the taller varieties
- *Griselinia*
- *Hoheria*
- *Leptospermum*
- *Macropiper*
- *Pittosporum*

Mid-size exotic evergreen shrubs suitable for growing *Clivias* under include :

- *Arbutus*
- *Acuba*
- *Camellia*
- *Drimys*
- *Ilex*
- *Laurel*
- *Myrtus*
- *Rhododendron*



Terry Hatch suggests planting *Clivia* under *Camellias* – Photo of 'crysthania' taken at Nuccio's *Camellia* Nursery by Di Smith

By Terry Hatch  
Joy Plants  
Pukekehe

## AND FROM ONE OF OUR AUSSIE MEMBERS...

I have a great interest in an exciting new Australian Peach that has come to my attention. Given the growing interest worldwide in pastel and peach *clivias*, I think this clone, named "Vanery Iman", is very worthy of attention. I

first encountered "Vanery Iman" last flowering season in the collection of Ray Sidoti of Sydney and was captivated by it. The pic herewith of "Vanery Iman" has a yellow cast over it - the actual colour is much more "peach" and very similar to Sheila's flower. I haven't been able to get an RHS or Colour Chart reference on "VI's" colour yet. The story behind VI is interesting and my research has unfortunately stirred up a hornet's nest of resentment and anger among a few fanciers. Seems someone has been selling / sharing offsets without the agreement of the John Henderson, the guy who discovered the plant. Oh, the intrigue and mystery of the *clivia* world.

### "VANERY IMAN" A NEW PEACH CLIVIA DISCOVERED IN AUSTRALIA

The late Eddie Bunker, proprietor of a wholesale nursery in Brisbane named "Redlands Greenhouses" imported *clivia* seed to produce "Belgian hybrid-type" *clivias* for wholesale.

A Cambodian woman named "Vanery" (and the author of a book named "When Elephants Fight") married a Lebanese man by the surname of "Iman" (hence "Vanery Iman"). She is a resident of Brisbane with no particular interest in *clivias* other than she purchased a number of *clivia* seedlings from "Redlands Greenhouses" and planted them in her suburban garden.

One of these seedlings flowered peach and was discovered in Vanery's garden by John Henderson (also the breeder of "Green Walters"). John has given pieces of "Vanery Iman" to (Dr.) John Roper, Glen Calcott and a friend in Toowoomba (who is also looking after the original plant). John Henderson is raising "Vanery Iman" x Walters Yellow, and "Vanery Iman x ???? Peach" seedlings. The results are eagerly anticipated.



Garry Murphie  
Sydney  
Australia

'Vanery Iman' – Photo  
supplied by G Murphie

Ed notes – We are grateful for contributions from all *Clivia* Enthusiasts – especially from our mates across the Ditch'

## Meet the New Area Representative

Antoinette Roberts has recently been appointed by the Committee as the Area Rep for the Taranaki Region. She reports as follows :  
The recent floods on the North Island appear not to have affected the Taranaki region too much. Folks just accepted that it was a wetter than usual Autumn and got on with it. And it now feels like we are going to have a colder than usual winter.....

I only recently caught Clivia Fever and am keen to meet with fellow enthusiasts, especially in the region. My enthusiasm was encouraged when I mentioned this to Di Smith and a couple of weeks later I was asked to be Area Rep! I would like to arrange regular informal meetings for members in this region, so please e-mail me if you are interested.

([robertsantoinette@xtra.co.nz](mailto:robertsantoinette@xtra.co.nz))



## COMING EVENTS

**GARDENII SHOW – SATURDAY 22  
MAY 1PM – 4PM  
488C DON BUCK ROAD WEST  
MASSEY KEN SMITH IS COMING  
TO TOWN !**

- Free Entry
- Introduction and Brief Talk by Keith Hammett on 'Nomenclature'
- **Lecture by Ken Smith (Clivia Registrar) - topics to include 'Registration, Name Check-List, Where Clivias are at in Australia'**
- Question Time
- Guided Tour of Keith's *Clivia* plantation, including *Gardenii* in flower
- Display of Members' *Gardenii* & other *Clivia* in flower
- Sale of *Clivia* plants/seeds \*
- Afternoon Tea will be provided
- *Clivia* literature and associated product for sale
- Raffle
- Bring a beach chair & walking shoes

### AND ... Note your diaries –

- Ø 7<sup>th</sup> August Meeting & Guest Speaker – Hort Council Rooms, Western Springs
- Ø 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> October Clivia Show – Auckland (includes AGM & Dinner on the Saturday)
- Ø 16<sup>th</sup> October Clivia Show - Tauranga
- Ø 16<sup>th</sup> October Clivia Show – Whangarei
- Ø 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> October Clivia Show – New Plymouth

## Plant breeding.

*"If you want to be happy for a day, get drunk.*

*If you want to be happy for a week, kill a pig and eat it, give its guts to the poor.*

*If you want to be happy for a month, get married.*

*If you want to be happy for ever, establish a garden and breed plants."*

Chinese Proverb.

*"Gardens are not made by sitting in the shade and saying 'oh, how lovely'."*

Rudyard Kipling.

Plant Breeder. *"One who attempts to nudge nature in a certain direction – usually for pecuniary gain."*

Peter Goodwin - Waikanae

## FROM OUR OVERSEAS FRIENDS

### CLIVIA SOCIETY (South Africa)

If you would like to become a member of the Clivia Society, click on their website [www.cliviasociety.org](http://www.cliviasociety.org) to pick up the membership form, or contact Di Smith (09-6346807). Subscriptions are \$US20 pa. Membership includes a copy of the Year Book – due to be published in June/July, plus regular newsletters.

An alternative, is to order the Year Book only, via our Secretary. Cost will be approximately \$26. Great informative articles, wonderful photos. A must for any Clivia enthusiast.

### 2006 Clivia Society Conference – Pretoria South Africa (Sept 2006)

Included will be the conference with guest speakers, day trips to clivia collections, NBI, Gold Reef, Lion Park, Clivia Shows, Miniata, Gardenii and Nobilis Tours plus much more. An excellent opportunity to see the home of Clivia

We are looking at booking a 'group discount' – so far 10 members have indicated their intention to travel. If you would like to part of the NZ contingent, please contact the Secretary.

*Next Month – an article from the President of the Clivia Society of Australia – Brvan Paten*

## LIBRARY BOOKS

- 'Clivias' by Harold Koopowitz
- 'Growing Clivias' by G Duncan
- The Chinese Clivia Books
- Clivia Society Year Books

The above books are now available for loan. Please contact the Secretary for further details. Take the opportunity to borrow the books for 2 weeks before you decide to buy. Cost is \$10 (for the courier/postal charges anywhere in NZ)

## THE SEED & PLANT BANK

The Seed Bank has been a resounding success. Its an opportunity for members and non-members to donate seed to the NZ Clivia Club Seed Bank. This is then either sold or disseminated. All new members receive a packet of seed and growing instructions with their 'Welcome to the NZCC' letter.

To extend the services of the Seed Bank .. we are requesting donations from members of not only good quality seed (ie. not normal orange clivia seed) but also plants or seedlings that can be sold for fund-raising.

If you have any seed or plants to donate, would you kindly contact Di Smith (Secretary) [dismith@clear.net.nz](mailto:dismith@clear.net.nz) or 09-6346807, 021-2319200

Thankyou for your support !

## Ø 'GROW CLIVIAS'

by Graham D Duncan

The NZCC has for sale a limited number of 'Grow Clivias' by G Duncan, published by the National Botanical Institute, Kirstenbosch, South Africa. A great book and guide to the species, cultivation and propagation of the genus *Clivia*. We encourage you to avail yourself of the opportunity to purchase this outstanding book.

Price \$15.00

- Ø Colour Charts – A must for all enthusiasts, still a few available - \$15.00 each.
- Ø Note Cards – These are selling like "hot cakes" Great for gifts. 4 cards to a pkt \$5/pkt

Email the Secretary (Di Smith) to place an order [nzclivia@clear.net.nz](mailto:nzclivia@clear.net.nz) 90cents p&p per order

### And Finally....

This has been a monumental NewZLetter . Its taken a lot of time and energy compiling and editing it. A grateful thanks to all those who have contributed articles, photographs and snippets of information.

If you have anything you wish to add, comment on etc. please do not hesitate to contact us at [nzclivia@clear.net.nz](mailto:nzclivia@clear.net.nz) With the membership now well over 200 (this includes overseas members) we will no doubt have an abundance of contributors for future NewZLetters. We are especially grateful to our overseas members for their input and support of our Club, by emails or visit. Special thanks to Sam Hay (USA) for his educating article on "Taking a photo of your Clivia". You no doubt read "Keith's Piece" where he mentioned Roger Dixon's visit. This was an advantageous and interesting time to all who met with him. We encourage more of our overseas friends to visit us. Also grateful thanks to Jim Shields (President of NACS) and Bryan Paten (President of CS of Aust) for encouragement.

Coming up in the next NewZLetter (Spring)...

- Results of an experiment by Andrew Booth on the best ways to germinate your clivia seeds
- Report on the Gardenii Show and Ken Smith's visit
- Part 1 of "How to take a good photo of a Clivia" by Sam Hay
- We look at – The best pencil and tagging system to use for ID of Clivia plants
- Documenting the history of Clivia in NZ
- More on Interesting 'Named Clivia Plants'
- Clivia Shows around the North Island – Updates and Info
- And.... Coming soon...an exciting announcement to be made... !

Stuart Hill  
Editor

## Update on DOC and Clivia weed potential.

(contd from page 1)

*I went and saw the Minister as planned.*

1. He kept me waiting while he gave a radio interview extolling the virtues of homosexual marriage.
2. He had not read either of my letters on the basis that he received about 60 letters per day and could not personally read them all.
3. He said it was late on a Friday afternoon when he signed "his" reply and he had not read it.
4. He acknowledged that he had not personally checked out the Australian web-site as was claimed in his reply.
5. He indicated that he usually put a personal note "to go and talk to him personally" if letters were local. It was not specific to my enquiry.

*He did finally acknowledge that his officers should be accurate, and was clearly going to get one of his PR people to come up with something which might satisfy me "within a week".*

*That was on the 13 April. It is now 5 May, clearly a long week.*

Keith Hammett.  
Chairman

## CLIVIAS – LA STYLE !

Los Angeles - the city of perceived wealth, glamour, and 'Lala' Land. Would it live up to my expectations ? I was there in March of this year to tour with Clivia internet friends the length of California and to check out a few Clivias. I had been assisting from afar, for some months with preparations for the inaugural North American Clivia Society Clivia Show at Fullerton Arboretum. So was looking forward to it being a happening thing !

First day – a grand entrance into LAX Airport ! A 'missed approach' – if I could have escaped off that plane, in any way possible, I would have. After nearly 13 hours of flying, the last thing I wanted was a crash landing ! I had visions of my clivia days ending in a whirl of smoggy marine layer, splat on the LAX runway.....

After a few days of doing "touristy" things.. we met up with Jim and Irma Shields, William, the lovely Sam, Mike E, Karl, Barbara & Rashid, Arnol, Lili Singer (shes the LA journalist and a wonderful vibrant person), Victor and a few others. How exciting to at last meet the Clivia enthusiasts that I chat to weekly (dare I admit sometimes daily?).



*Eric Andersen (left) in his shadehouse  
(Jim Shields is on the right)*

We travelled down to San Diego to Eric Andersons. An amazing family establishment, 3 generations growing Clivias in fairly arid conditions. Eric is a generous man with a fabulous personality and that showed in his Clivias, lovingly grown and cared for. Huge heads of yellow inflorescence. Then off to Quail Gardens to see the Clivia there. The 'wild' population is very different to what we have here in NZ – nothing like the 'crappiatas' that we see in many of our gardens. CA ones are darker orange, broader leaved, and bigger flower.



Huntington Gardens is a must for all Clivia lovers! An amazing collection of plants. The nursery supervised by Kathy Musial and her staff, housed a collection of plants from Dave Conway, Victor Daniels, Joe Solomone and many others. Here we were indebted to William McClelland ( his giggle was infectious). He had personally detailed records of all populations of Clivia growing in the Gardens, so explanations of history, species etc were a wonderful bonus. Of course, with a multitude of bequeaths, the Gardens fairly bloomed with museums and art galleries. I couldn't leave without a photo of the original Gainsborough "Pinkie" and "Blue Boy" to take home to Mum. Next time, I want to spend more time in the Cacti and Succulent Gardens. Sam literally dragged me round. It was over 42C so after 3 hours there, parched and thirsty it was getting fairly unbearable.. pity really as we didn't get to see it all. PS. The Japanese Garden is a tranquil piece of art.

I don't have the room or the space to tell you of all our visits. Saturday 20 March dawned bright and clear (but of course all the days do over there !). It was Show Day. Fullerton Arboretum was the venue. Public Gardens, similar to the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens in style. Unfortunately, the display plants were crammed into a small room with fluorescence light and low ceilings. Never mind, some of them looked spectacular. I would have to say that James Comstock's plants were exquisite. His Clivias were huge, clean and the blooms outstanding – more on Jim Comstock later.



*North American Clivia Society Clivia  
Show – Mar 04 at Fullerton Aboretum*

Jim Shields took a couple of the workshops, Eric Anderson one and Victor Murillo another. They were a resounding success, just as I knew they would be (it was my idea !). Fullerton's had an area outside with tiered seating. Jim Shields is a retired lecturer in Chemistry (I think). He sure knows his stuff. The crowd were "jaw dropped" listening to all the "% and quantities of this and that required to spray here and everywhere". Go Jim ! (he's a good guy, President of NACS and a member of NZCC). Eric talked about the history of his family in relation to Clivia. I am a great supporter of documenting the history of Clivias in a particular area. I believe we are custodians, here only for a moment of time, to look

*(left )Red Clivias at Huntington Gardens*



after and nurture the plants and pass the baton onto someone else. Eric reinforced my theories.



*One of Jim Comstock's growing areas*



*Jim Comstock*

Now, to James Comstock (Jim to his friends). We visited his home and his other shadehouses. What an amazing collection of Clivia and sub-tropicals ! From his cosseted seedlings under heat and auto-misters to his huge headed bronze blooming clivias, a rainbow of colours and symphony of variegated leaves was just the best ! If you have the book, 'Clivias' by Harold Koopowitz, you will recognise Jim as the photographer. The Clivia on the front cover is a massive plant. It was flowering with a multitude of scapes – fantastic (I have invited Jim out to NZ... hopefully he will be here fairly soon).



*Maris Andersens in Santa Barbara*

I spent some time talking 'NZ' to Harold as well. Hes a nice bloke, with a great sense of humour and most importantly of all, had my 'Clivia' book personally autographed by Harold and Jim... now I wonder how much I could get for it on E-Bay ? J

We travelled north via Santa Barbara to see Randy Baldwin, Maris Andersons and Dave and Nancy Conway. What a lovely hospitable couple. Was great to see my favourite of all Clivias in flower – 'Sabrina Delphine' – she's a stunner. The dark maroon tepals were so sexy. A second favourite was 'Freelove' – a raunchy bloom that lived up to its name. Dave names all his plants after the 'women in his life'. His family tree has an abundance of female names still unused. Another interesting thing Dave said – most of his plants are F1 and he does line breeding for specific goals. He endeavours to cross opposites ie. Tall/short, red/white an interesting concept I will be trying (I wonder how my tiny little red dwarf Belgium miniata will feel being crossed with a Lisa Mannion bred giant yellow miniata ? hmmm !)



*Dave Conway in his shadehouse & 'Sabrina Delphine' (sorry the bloom is nearly died out) Di's favourite clivia*



Well, by now I was feeling a little "clivied out" – it's a complex and painful syndrome to experience. Rashid, the heart surgeon travelling with us, prescribed the only treatment available - "shopping" . Wow.. so hit the shops we ladies did.. there was Barbara (Rashid's wife) from St Louis and Irma from Indiana. We had a blast ! Santa Barbara, Cambria, Carmel, San Marcos. The galleries, gift shops, beaches, golf course (no I didn't get a round at Pebble Beach L ) and of course we went to Hearst Castle (and the best shop ever).

The most amazing place high on a hill on the coast at San Simeon. We "shopped till we dropped !"



*A Clivia tunnel shade house at Monterey Nursery*



*The beautiful 'Pink Stars' grown at Monterey Nursery*

California without a stop at Solomone's Nursery. It was quite mind-blowing to see 3 acres of yellow clivia ! Sort of like being at 'Palmer's' and seeing potted colour for miles. Joe sends his regards to all his NZ friends. Unfortunately his health is not so good these days, but he spends most days in the shadehouse checking up on his 'babies'.



*Apricot Clivia Blooms tucked in under strelitzia and tree ferns at Joe Dana's*

So growers, hobbyists, enthusiasts, places we went, things we did, I haven't mentioned. Just quickly, Joe Dana had a wonderful garden crammed full of ferns, sub-tropicals and clivia. If it was variegated,

Monterey Bay Nursery and Joe Solomone's were the last of our Clivia stops. Fantastic 'Pink Stars' at Monterey, subtle pink clivia with white edges. Leun certainly knows how to grow his clivia in the heat and dust of northern California. We couldn't go to Joe had it. A wonderful guy ! Nuccio's was the place for camellias – I had to bring back a ton of photos for Bev Gow (shes a camellia nutter!), Getty Museum, Disneyland (yes I got there, even went on a ride, you know, the scary one – Mattahorn !), March Air Museum and on and on.. Was a wonderful time meeting all the enthusiasts. Many of them have been invited to NZ.. so hopefully we will see them down here soon. I know for sure, that our Clivias down here will be an "I want" experience. NZ is in a great place 'clivia-wise". We have vibrant colours, dark green leaves, robust plants, wonderful growing climate, great hybrids to die for.. NZ Clivia Enthusiasts, hold you heads up high ! we are up there with the best of clivia growers and hobbyists. ( and I reckon, in some cases – better!)



*Joe Solomone and his 3 acres of Clivia shadehouse*



Di Smith  
Auckland