



Nz CLIVIA CLUB INC

NEWZLETTER

Volume 5.2 Autumn 2007

KiwiClivia 2008 Takes Off

KiwiClivia 2008 is the logo we have chosen for a get-together with international clivia enthusiasts planned for our 2008 miniata season.

In April 2005 a number of our members travelled to Los Angeles for the NACS symposium, and more attended the conference in Pretoria in September 2006. We benefited greatly from the interchange with other growers from all over the world and saw some wonderful plants. Many overseas delegates expressed an interest in coming to New Zealand to see for themselves what we are up to here. Your committee feels that our club and members will equally benefit greatly by rubbing shoulders here on our home turf with these international growers.

Accordingly we are planning to host a 9 day KiwiClivia experience. Provisional plans are:

October 2008

Saturday 4th - Auckland Show & Dinner
Sunday 5th - Hammett Clivia ramble & workshop
Monday 6th - Tour of Auckland growers
Tuesday 7th - Paeroa ramble & Tauranga function
Wednesday 8th - Rotorua thermal fun day
Thursday 9th - Scenic drive to New Plymouth
Friday 10th - Pukekura Park & gardens
Saturday 11th - Clivia Show Ngamamaku Gardens
Sunday 12th - Return to Auckland.

The arrangements in Auckland, Tauranga and New Plymouth will provide opportunities for members to meet our international guests. We are hoping that members will also join the 9 day tour from Auckland by chartered bus and arranged accommodation along with our visitors.

Its early days and more information will follow in future communications. Diana Holt is the convenor and any enquiries should be addressed to KiwiClivia2008@xtra.co.nz

CLIVIA HUNTING IN CALIFORNIA

By Diana Holt

They say travel broadens the mind and on the journey friendships are made. At the conference in South Africa I buddied up with Marilyn Paskert from San Francisco and we have kept in regular touch since. (free phone calls often via Yahoo) She suggested I joined her in SF and drive down to Los Angeles for the 2008 North American Clivia Society (NACS) Show there, visiting Clivia growers on the way. Joubert van Wyk from SA was also to join us.

We headed out on a rainy day from SF down the Pacific Highway Road, first stop at Watsonville, the home of Solomon's beautiful Clivias. A number of hours later and a lot of strong bargaining (flowering named plants around \$US400 each) saw a number of plants moving into the back of the wagon. The other two were on a buying spree but I was lucky and was given some seed from Solomon Charm series. Solomon sends out many plants from here to all over the States, mostly in bud. There is where enthusiasts comb the Home Depot Stores, finding some incredible colours of his breeding.

Travelling on down the coast we experienced the most beautiful scenery of wild waters, high cliffs and rocky foreshores and lots of sharp corners!

First night was in Santa Barbara, so the next morning saw us at Nancy Conway's house viewing many more beautiful Clivias in the collection of the late Dave Conway. Dave Jr. was also there sorting out plants. Some of the names of plants had disappeared, making it difficult for me to see what was what as I took photos. Jean Delphine in particular is beautiful and I can see why everyone wants her. There was another beautiful plant flowering for the first time and I wonder who will give it a name as all the plants are named after women members of the family.

Elsewhere I have seen a photo of Tessa, absolutely beautiful, named after a grand daughter. More bargaining saw more plants disappearing into the vehicle. It was a warm spring morning and so nice to sit in the sun talking to Nancy about her life with clivias.

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KiwiClivia



The new KiwiClivia 2008 logo created by Helen Saunders, our Clivi-Arta artist.

Gardenii Show and Ramble

Saturday 26th May, 10.00am to 3.00pm
at Dr Keith Hammett's Gardens,
488C Don Buck Road, Massey, Ak.
Further details on Page 4 in the
Secretary's Piece.

Who's Got The Biggest Berry?



Bring your biggest berry along to the Gardenii Ramble for our big berry contest!



Marilyn Paskert and Joubert van Wyk at Solomon's

Cameron/Tipperary Peach

Rex Williams

Most of us are familiar with the well-known 'Chubb's Peach'. There have been other peach mutations discovered in the wild as well as several peach mutations turning up in different breeding programs around the world. While in South Africa last year I was struck by some of these peach mutations named Cameron or Tipperary Peach. The origin of this peach is well documented by Mike Christie in 'Clivia News' volume 15 number 2 April-June 2006.

Mike Christie discovered the original plant amongst Belgian hybrids some 25 years ago at his Tipperary Nursery near Nelspruit. The plant was named after Mike's friend and business partner Cameron McOnie who suggested they grow clivia as well as the subtropical fruit trees they were already propagating.

Unlike 'Chubb's Peach' which is a caramel peach colour, 'Cameron Peach' is a warm apricot peach colour not unlike Victor Murillo's 'Victorian Peach' line.

After 25 years of breeding there is some variation in flower colour and form as well as leaf form. One exceptional clone, which is a deeper apricot peach shade, was named 'Cheryl Apricot'. The basic flower form is typical of the Belgian hybrids being flared with little or no reflexing of the tepals. Umbels on some clones are very full and leaves can be quite broad.

Thirteen years ago Mike sold his nursery and moved half of his collection to Cape Town. In 2005 Mike decided to dispose of his entire clivia collection and with the help of Sean Chubb the 'Cameron Peach' mother stock was made available to the general public in 2006.

In 1996 Chris Welgemoed, a nursery manager at the Agricultural Research Council (Institute for Tropical & Subtropical Crops) made a visit to Rory Niven, the new owner of Tipperary Nursery regarding the grafting of Macadamia trees. Chris saw a peach clivia at the nursery and on asking for some pollen Rory invited Chris to breed clivia for him. There were fourteen peaches, of which half exhibited different flower colour and or leaf variation. From this base Chris has produced quite a range of peach forms known as 'Tipperary Peach'. Of the one hundred or so flowering plants we saw at Chris's, colours ranged from very soft to rich apricot peach with a number showing very pink overlays. A few were quite clear pinks and several had green throats. Overall most were still of typical Belgian form, but a few had reflexed tepals. Foliage tended to be more compact than that of the Cameron Peaches seen, with a few showing variegation.

The breeding potential of these peaches is very interesting. The clear soft pinks could lead to bright pinks as well as whites, with or without ice green throats. Compatibility with other peach groups is largely unknown, however recent correspondence with Sean Chubb hints at some possibilities. Sean writes; Of fifteen 'Cameron Peach' selfings which have flowered, only one with a pigmented base flowered orange. The other pigmented based plants flowered apricot, which produced red iron spots on the tepals when wet. The lightly pigmented and green based plants all flowered peach/apricot and mostly without the red iron spots. Sean has no knowledge of any crosses involving other peach types but reports green based seedlings when crossed with his Pretty Pink series. There has been much breeding activity in South Africa recently with Cameron/Tipperary Peaches crossed with type 1 and 2 yellows as well as a number of different peach types and pendulous species colour variants. The next few years will indeed see some interesting results, some of which we will hopefully see firsthand at our own shows.



CLIVIA HUNTING IN CALIFORNIA cont.

Onward to Pasadena where we were to stay awhile. Thursday and more people to see so headed of down south with first stop at Eric Anderson's place in Escondido just north of San Diego where he runs Seedco , a seed supply company, mostly palms by the look of it. He inherited his grandfathers Clivia collection but with his own business does not always get that much time to look after them. Heavy frosts last winter saw a lot of damage. Fun was had exploring all the plants and finding gems among them. A yellow in full flower with perfume like melted honey, a small multipetal cream etc. With the warm Southern Californian sun I could have easily stayed there for days just tidying up all the plants of their dead leaves. Appears that his grandfather was working on developing a clivia that could withstand stronger light conditions, and with what we saw, they needed to be very strong to survive!



Dave Conway Jr, Joubert, Nancy Conway and Marilyn at the Conways.



James Comstock's



Eric Anderson's

Evening saw us at Victor and Danielle Murillo's place in Fallbrook. He was having an open house to show his various plants in flower, so had a chance to meet up with other people that I had met in SA. Among many beautiful plants he had one on show "Sunrise-Sunset", a Conway plant with big berries. Yes, I was lucky and he gave me a couple of berries!

Victor's young son, Isaiah is following in fathers footsteps and we were to see him again with a plant of his own in the NACS Show.

Then a long drive back to Pasadena.

Friday morning and Marilyn had gone down with a bad head cold, so a day in bed for her. Joubert and I headed off to The Huntington Gardens. We found a lovely display of named Conway plants in flower among the Camellias. Joubert had a knack of finding big clumps of flowering Clivias that are scattered throughout the gardens. So much discussion and exploring. The Cactus and succulent area was incredible. It had been a long time wish to visit and it certainly didn't disappoint.

The NACS Show on the Saturday held at Huntington, bought together a lot of people and their plants. They will update their website shortly so will be worth a visit to see the big selection entered. www.northamericancliviasociety.org

James Comstock put on a 3D show of Clivias, with the Clivias standing out just wanting to be grabbed. I suggested he bring it down to NZ for our Show!

I did spend a bit of time with Joe Dana going through all his seeds for sale, one thing we can bring back into NZ.

Sunday saw us at the University of California Arboretum in Irvine visiting James Comstock and all his beautiful collection of Clivias. Brown Eyed Girl developed by a friend was a very highly desired plant. There were many others to look at, but none here for sale as he is still developing various lines and colours.

I did have a little wander through the area where rabbits just sit and look at you and the little Hummingbirds are working their hearts out for the nectar from all the flowers.

His friend Doug, who developed Brown Eyed Girl called in and offered to take us over to a place he manages called Rancho Los Alamitos in Seal Bay. A very old ranch now just as a show place of the old ranching days in California, with the stately home, beautiful gardens and all the farms buildings and equipment. All the land has now gone being swallowed up in new housing. He had his own nursery area there experimenting with various plants and cross breeding, plus having plants for all the various areas of the gardens.

We were pushed for time so with no time for a lunch break we headed off to Joe Dana place in Monrovia and luckily we were not too late to enjoy a snack and a cold drink.

Joe has an interesting place, with a very subtropical garden full of palms, mixed plantings and of course, lots of Clivias. Joe sells mainly seed and trades pollen. It was a very pleasant and relaxed visit in an interesting environment.

Monday saw us loading the wagon to head for SF. Careful packing of plants meant I still had a seat, but only just! A long drive up the middle of California where most of the fruit and vegetables are grown, acre on acre as far as the eye can see. As we came closer to SF the rain had started again. Arrived in Walnut Creek for dinner with Mary and Don Meeker, where she has a lovely collection of Clivias. Tom Wells also turned up as he had been visiting over at Solomone's. Lively discussions on Clivias all around once more.

My last full day had arrived so no Clivias as we headed up the Napa valley to view all the large vineyards and sample their wares in the company of two great traveling mates.

Marilyn was a great Hostess who gave me an incredible Clivia trip meeting people I had only read about, view plants I had only seen in books, and most of all the desire to grow and produce my own possible beautiful show stopper in time.



Brown-eyed Girl



Sunshine



Huntington Gardens

Secretary's Piece

There's lots happening and your small committee is hard at work. There has been a sharing of the load and responsibilities are divided as follows:

Diana Holt: Scribe; Librarian; KiwiClivia 2008

David Olsen: Newsletter Editor

Tony Barnes: Representative, the Clivia Society

Chris Webb: Treasurer

Alick McLeman: Secretary (Membership/Correspondence)

Ian Baldick: Chairman (Cracks the whip)

We have capacity to co-opt a few more committee members. Please let us know if you can assist. Many hands make light work.

Affiliation with the Clivia Society

At the conference in Pretoria last year international delegates effectively decided that the Clivia Society be the international body catering for global matters. Flowing from this your committee is to recommend to members that the New Zealand Clivia Club be the first non-South African Club to affiliate. A decision will be taken at the AGM which is to be brought forward to coincide with the Interspecific Day on 25th August 2007.

20 individual members are required to be members of the Clivia Society (We have 25 at present, but would like more).

Clause 9.1 of the Society's constitution reads, inter alia: "*The Society shall have no jurisdiction over any constituent Clivia Club or its members*" So if implemented we would remain fully autonomous but reinforce our ties to the world-wide clivia community.

(Members who have not already done so might consider joining the Clivia Society. Annual subs are NZ\$35.00 payable through our Club, in exchange for which you would receive the very desirable annual Yearbook, full colour newsletters and be kept up to date with international happenings)

Application to import *C mirabilis*

This application is now in the home stretch. A 12-page Maori consultation document has been submitted to **111** Iwi decision-makers throughout New Zealand and we await their comment. To date there has been no unfavourable comment. After another 60 days ERMA will weigh up the response and give us their final decision. NOT FOR THE FAINT HEARTED.

KiwiClivia 2008

Our thanks to Helen Sanders for giving us the benefit of her creative talents in designing the logo. We're also indebted to Helen for the Clivi-Arta cartoons which we hope will continue to be a regular feature of our newsletters.

Web-site

Your committee has decided to discontinue the Club's Website as we just don't have the time & expertise. If any member out there would like to manage a site on our behalf, please let us know.

Gardenii Show & Ramble

Saturday 26th May, 10.00am to 3.00pm

Dr Keith Hammett's plantation, 488c Don Buck Road, Massey

- Please display any flowering or foliage clivia you have.
- **Bring a picnic lunch & some wine or other refreshment**
Tea & coffee available.
- Clivia plants & seed may be sold but 10% (net of GST) must be donated to the Club. Set up your own stand.

Approximate programme:

10am - Showtime

11am - Garden ramble (*Bring suitable shoes*)

12pm - Lunch

1pm - Talk by Keith Hammett "Digital Photography of Clivia"

2pm - Garden ramble

Fun Seed Competition: 'Bring your Biggest Berry'

Most seeds will determine winner. (2 categories: 1 miniata & 2 other)



Clivias at Bev McConnell's garden 'Arylie's' in 2003, photos from Rita Watson.

What's Happening



Gardenii Ramble

At Dr Keith Hammett's Gardens, 488c Don Buck Road, Massey, on the 26th May.



Interspecifics

Show at Terry Hatch's Joy Plants, 78 Jericho Road, Pukekohe East, on the 25th August.



Spring Clivia Show

September 29th, at the Auckland Botanic Gardens, Manurewa.



Photos from one of our members, Rita Watson. Rita's daughter arranged a set of personalised stamps from NZ Post, from this photo.

