



Nz CLIVIA CLUB INC

NEWZLETTER

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CAPETOWN 2010 – IT'S ON!



The 2010 International Clivia Conference will be held in Cape Town, South Africa on Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 September 2010. It will be hosted jointly by the Clivia Society and the Cape Clivia Club and will be followed by the annual CCC Clivia Show from Friday 24 to Sunday 26 September. An auction of top plants will be held in conjunction with these events. For more information visit the Cape Clivia Club website <http://www.miniata.co.za> and click on "News".

Congratulations – Our Keith has done it again.

Last year, Dr Keith Hammett was awarded the Queens Service Medal (QSM) for his services to horticulture. Earlier this year he was awarded the highly prestigious Reginald Cory Cup by the Royal Horticultural Society for his pioneering work with Dahlias.

Now he has won the President's Award at the Chelsea Flower Show with his own bred Dahlia "Magenta Star" This Dahlia was selected from thousands of entries at the Show.

The Show is known as the world's premier horticultural event and attended by the Queen and Prince Charles.

'Magenta Star' is described as unique because of its vibrant magenta-coloured single petals, dark centre disc and brown to black foliage.

A great honor for Keith after 50 odd years dedicated to breeding flowers.

Now, I wonder what a magenta Clivia flower would look like.

Congratulations Keith, an honor well deserved - we are proud of you.

Dr Keith Hammett was a founding member of NZ Clivia Club and is now our Technical Adviser and Archivist



Magenta Star

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In terms of the clubs rules we hereby give notice that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 22nd August 2009. Venue: Joy Plants, 78 Jericho Road, Pukekohe East, Auckland. This will follow the earlier ramble through Ian Baldick's garden & sausage sizzle. The unaudited accounts of the club for the year ended 30th June 2009 are enclosed with this newsletter for your information. Please advise the secretary of any items you wish to see included in the agenda for the annual general meeting.

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Winter Surprises

by Rex Williams

While most Breeders work hard exploring the huge diversity of *C. miniata* in its myriad of plant & flower forms, little attention is given to the potential of the five pendulous species other than crossing them with *C. miniata* to 'improve' their smaller pendulous forms. Intraspecific breeding holds a lot of potential and should be explored by the curious. With increasing accessions of the various pendulous species being made available the time has never been better to explore their genetic potential.

Both this winter and last we have flowered some interesting *C. gardenii* cultivars that I would like to share. The first surprise was the result of a selfing of *C. gardenii* 'Harburg Blush', a well-known yellow form with a soft pink-apricot blush. Both the peduncle and the base of this clone show red pigment. From a group of seedlings one plant was selected as it was devoid of any red basal pigment. When this unpigmented plant flowered last winter it produced a soft peachy head of flowers atop an unpigmented peduncle, which we have named 'Wind Chimes'. Also of note was that several siblings of 'Wind Chimes' have produced two flower stems per growth this season, surely a trait worth breeding for. Unfortunately none of the pigmented seedlings produced the blushed yellow colour of the parent plant.



Harburg Blush



Wind Chimes



Green Goblin F1 x Green Goblin

The next surprise was a seedling of *C. gardenii* Green Goblin F1 x Green Goblin, a line bred *C. gardenii* originally collected from the Everton Falls area. It is said to have more green than the typical form from this area but is otherwise typically coloured for the type. Again an unpigmented plant was selected from a group of seedlings that were otherwise pigmented, as expected the unpigmented seedling has flowered this year with yellow and green flowers on a green peduncle. This was indeed a surprise, as no yellow forms are known from the Everton Falls area.

Some time ago we made a few Intraspecific *C. gardenii* crosses which have now begun to reach flowering size. The big surprise from these experiments came from a cross between a selfed seedling of 'Ruby Scented', a habitat plant from Upper Tongaat and a seedling from Alick McLeman's Everton Falls strain. All the progeny showed red-pigmented bases and were expected to produce typically coloured blooms of reasonable form and high flower counts. The flower colour range has been quite variable, from cream through soft pink to salmon/apricot, all with mid green tips. Such unexpected and varied outcomes are what drive the desire to further explore the potential of Intraspecific and interspecific breeding among the pendulous species.



Ruby Scented



Everton Falls – above

((Ruby Scented x self) x Everton Falls)-right



The mystery still goes on – *Clivia gardenii* at Kawau Island.

On one of those rare beautiful autumn days in May, I finally made my pilgrimage to Kawau Island to see the *C.gardenii* in flower and bring back samples to present to Dr Keith Hammett for his experienced assessment. Approval was given to remove these from the Island.

The following is Keith's report dated 25 May 2009.

"Today, Diana bought me flowers and leaves of *C.gardenii* from Kawau Island, which I was able to compare with the long standing accession, which is widespread in Northern New Zealand.

To my eye the two forms are indistinguishable, yet differ from a range of other accessions imported during the last quarter of a century.

Again, to my eye, the inflorescences and leaf tips closely resemble the original illustration of *C.gardenii*. Tab. 4895

Flowers seem to be similar in number and have a similar curvature/twist, plus terminal flaring of the tepals. Protrusion from the tube of stigmas and anthers seems comparable.

We are still left with a chicken and egg question. Are the plants at Kawau derived from an original importation made to that island, and have been subsequently more widely disseminated, or was the population established elsewhere and introduced to Kawau Island at a later date?

Without specific evidence, we are left with speculation."

Dr Keith Hammett – 25 May 2009

The first photo shows: Kawau population on left, long standing accession of *C.gardenii* on right.

(Photo by K Hammett)

The second photo is from the original plate of the species from Curtis's Botanical Magazine dated 1.1.1856.



C.Gardenii Bell Bird



C. Gardenii Entmeni Dwarf



C. Robusta Red

MAKING THE NEW COLOUR CHART MORE PRACTICAL

There has recently been some discussion on the Clivia Enthusiasts Group about the practicality of the new colour chart. The Northern Clivia Club (Pretoria) and Mick Dower of the Cape Clivia Club have made practical suggestions by assigning Colour Groups to each Swatch (e.g. Swatch 1 is Red). It is suggested that a sticker be placed on each swatch defining the colour grouping of that swatch as illustrated in the photo below. Colours could then be described in terms of the colour group and the chart numbers (e.g. peach/apricot 36/39 describing a peach in peach/apricot group, swatch 4, with the darker centre of petals 36 and the lighter outer edges 39). This idea has by no means been universally accepted but would certainly make for a better definition of colour.

The table gives the suggested colour groups, chart numbers and 'closest' Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart equivalents & descriptions. The club has 4 of the new colour charts in stock at a price of \$55 each. Any member wanting one should approach our librarian Diana Holt.

CLIVIA COLOUR CHART II

SWATCH 1 RED	RHS COLOUR	SWATCH 2 ORANGE	RHS COLOUR	SWATCH 3 BRONZE	RHS COLOUR
1	Orange-Red Grp N34A	11	Orange-Red Grp N30A	21	Greyed-Orange Grp 169A
2	Red Grp 50A	12	Orange-Red Grp 41A	22	Orange-Red Grp 31A
3	Red Grp 45A	13	Orange-Red Grp 33A	23	Greyed-Orange Grp 168B
4	Red Grp 44A	14	Red Grp 40A	24	Orange Grp 28A
5	Red Grp 43A	15	Red Grp 40B	25	Greyed-Orange Grp 168C
6	Red Grp 42A	16	Orange-Red Grp 33B	26	Orange Grp 28B
7	Red Grp 44B	17	Orange-Red Grp 32A	27	Orange-Red Grp 32B
8	Red Grp 42B	18	Orange-Red Grp N30B	28	Orange-Red Grp 31B
9	Orange-Red Grp 34A	19	Red Grp 42D	29	Orange-Red Grp 32C
10	Red Grp 41B	20	Orange-Red Grp 35B	30	Orange-Red Grp 32C
SWATCH 4 PEACH/APRICOT	RHS COLOUR	SWATCH 5 SALMON/PINK	RHS COLOUR	SWATCH 6 PINK/LIGHT YELLOW	RHS COLOUR
31	Orange-Red Grp 35C	41	Red Grp 41C	51	Red Grp 56A
32	Orange-Red Grp 33D	42	Red Grp 43D	52	Red Grp 56B
33	Orange-Red Grp 31C	43	Red Grp 38A	53	Red Grp 49D
34	Orange-Red Grp 32D	44	Red Grp 37B	54	Red Grp 56C
35	Orange Grp 29A	45	Red Grp 38B	55	Red Grp 36D
36	Orange Grp 29B	46	Red Grp 49B	56	Red Grp 56D
37	Orange Grp 28C	47	Red Grp 37C	57	Yellow Grp 11D
38	Orange Grp 29C	48	Red Grp 49C	58	White Grp N155B
39	Orange Grp 29D	49	Red Grp 36B	59	Yellow Grp 8D
40	Orange Grp 27C	50	Red Grp 36C	60	Yellow Grp 4D
SWATCH 7 YELLOW/LIGHT ORANGE	RHS COLOUR	SWATCH 8 CREAM/LIGHT APRICOT	RHS COLOUR	SWATCH 9 YELLOW	RHS COLOUR
61	Yellow Grp 10D	71	Yellow-Orange Grp 19D	81	Yellow Grp 3C
62	Yellow Grp 11C	72	Yellow-Orange Grp 18C	82	Yellow Grp 4B
63	Yellow Grp 12D	73	Yellow-Orange Grp 20D	83	Yellow Grp 1D
64	Yellow-Orange Grp 14D	74	Yellow-Orange Grp 19C	84	Yellow Grp 4C
65	Yellow-Orange Grp 16D	75	Yellow-Orange Grp 20C	85	Yellow Grp 5C
66	Yellow-Orange Grp 17D	76	Yellow-Orange Grp 19B	86	Yellow Grp 9C
67	Yellow-Orange Grp 19A	77	Yellow-Orange Grp 23D	87	Yellow Grp 12B
68	Yellow-Orange Grp 23C	78	Yellow-Orange Grp 23C	88	Yellow-Orange Grp 14C
69	Orange Grp 25C	79	Orange Grp 24D	89	Yellow Grp 11B
70	Orange Grp 30D	80	Orange Grp 25D	90	Yellow Grp 10C
SWATCH 10 GREEN	RHS COLOUR				
91	Green Grp 141B				
92	Green Grp 141C				
93	Green Grp 142A				
94	Green Grp 141D				
95	Green Grp 139D				
96	Yellow-Green Grp 144D				
97	Yellow-Green Grp 144C				
98	Yellow-Green Grp 144A				
99	Green-Yellow Grp 1B				
100	Green-Yellow Grp 1C				



Getting Rid of the Shakes & Blurs.

By Dominic Toon

Plants, especially clivia, are often photographed in shaded areas or even indoors, conditions often less than favourable. Whenever you take a snap there is a trade off between available light and a nice clear blur-free picture.

The first & simplest thing to try is steadying the camera. A tripod is best; a monopod second but these can be expensive and cumbersome.

A really good trick is to tie a 2 metre piece of string to the loop on your camera where the strap attaches. Point the camera ready to take the picture and stand on the other end of the string where it hits the ground then pull gently upwards to tension the string. You will find that this really is a great help keeping the camera steady. Keep the string in your pocket when it's not needed.

You can make this really fancy if you wish. The best I've seen is a length of light chain (similar to the type that keeps the bath plug from becoming lost) attached to a bolt that threaded into the tripod mount on the bottom of the camera. But I've never seen them for sale – maybe there is an opportunity awaiting!

Modern digital cameras have very clever auto-everything settings but you can do better if you dare to venture into the manual controls.

Even basic cameras often have a "P" or program position where you can adjust the ISO or sensitivity setting. Making this higher, say 400 or 800 allows the camera to shorten the time that the shutter is open and decrease the likelihood of picture blur – but at the expense of graininess.

Opening the aperture (making the "f" number SMALLER i.e. 2.8 – Yes, I know it works backwards) will allow in more light and also shortens the time that the shutter is open. This can upset the Depth of Field (the distance between foreground & background that is in focus) but is rarely a problem in small Point & Shoot cameras.

Another good idea is to increase the light either by moving the plant (if possible) into a better lit situation or using a reflector. A white sheet, a piece of polystyrene or tinfoil, may all be pressed into service to reflect a bit more light onto the subject.

Finally, if you've got the shakes, take along a young person as photographer. They probably know how operate the camera far better than you anyhow!

Club Library

We remind members that in line with our aim to disseminate information the club library maintains a stock of publications on clivia for sale at reasonable prices. The sale items are listed below and you will note that some items have been reduced in price:

Clivia Society Yearbooks #2; #3 & #4	\$25
Clivia Society Yearbooks #6, #7, #8, #9 & #10	\$25
Graham Duncan "Grow Clivia" (First edition) (Excellent information for the beginner)	\$15 (reduced)
Graham Duncan "Grow Clivia" (new edition) (His new book with a mass of new information)	\$25
"Cultivation of Clivia" by Clivia Society (Another excellent reference book)	\$15 (reduced)
For enthusiasts of the short, broad leaf Chinese clivia: "Changchun Clivia" (Great photos, with some English translation)	\$40 (reduced)
Other items: Clivia colour charts - Old basic style (Still very useful to determine colour)	\$10
Clivia colour charts – new swatch style (Wider variety of colours)	\$55
NZ Clivia Club T-Shirts (L & XL only) (Black with white trim and Logo)	\$20 (reduced)

***Note: We have now received reprints of Year Books but due to exchange rates the new price is \$25 each. This pricing is beyond our control.

***Note: We bring to our meetings, all the available books for sale along with the Library Books.

***Note: Please ask for quote for postage. 1-2 Year Book posted costs \$2.10.

The library also holds permanent copies of all the publications listed above which together with the following additional publications may be loaned by members. There will be a small charge for postage and packaging. (Please ask for quote when ordering) The additional publications are:

- Yearbooks #1 & #5
- "Clivias" by Harold Koopowitz
(Arguably the best book yet written on the subject)
- New Spectrum of Clivia with English translation



C. robusta Maxima



C. robusta "Brownie"

Club Meeting 29 April 09

Approximately 30 members attended our very pleasant evening meeting last April.

The main subject for the evening was a Power Point Presentation by Diana Holt of the KiwiClivia2008 tour last October. This brought back lots of fun memories of those that were involved in various aspects over that period.

We also held a ballot for the *C.mirabilis* that were imported last July and had been sitting in quarantine for members that had purchased them a long time back. As each plant had grown at different rates, allocating them this way was the fairest. It was like a lotto draw as each member waited excitedly to see the results. We will certainly look forward to seeing them on display at one of our Shows.

Earlier we had put forward a suggestion of a 2/3 day mini tour around the timing of our next Show, but have had no response so we asked the meeting if a one day mini tour to known Growers would be of interest. Many indicated an interest so this idea will be progressed closer to the time.

Plants in flower were displayed and discussed along with both other plants and club books for sale. We are happy if members want to bring any Clivia plants for sale as gives others a chance to build on their collection.

Our supper was like a dinner as Rao Kamineni donated a big heap of hot tasty pizzas along with other goodies from Frances McLeman. Thank you folks.

These meetings are a good social opportunity for catch up or meet with other members and end at a reasonable time.

Details of our next meeting are elsewhere in this newsletter so we look forward to seeing more members present.

What's Happening

Club Meeting

Wednesday 29th July 7.00pm 'Hybridisation strategies for the hobbyist', a discussion with slides led by Alick McLeman.

Venue is the AHC Building, 990 Great North Road, Western Springs, Auckland.

AGM

Saturday 22nd August 10.00 am. A tour of Ian Baldick's 'Ten Thousand Flowered Garden' and Sausage Sizzle at 1212 Great South Road, Ramarama, will be followed by the AGM at Joy Plants, 78 Jericho Road, Pukekohe East.

Tauranga Show

Sunday 27th September 1.00 – 4.00 pm at Plantstruck Nursery, 139 Te Puna Road, Te Puna.

Auckland Show

Saturday 3rd October at the Botanic Gardens, Hill Road, Manurewa 9.00am – 4.00pm

INCREASING PEDUNCLE LENGTH, BUNGY METHOD:

UHH...
SUPPOSE I AGREE
TO THE GIRAFFE POO?



C. gardenii from Ian Baldick's garden.

The Clivia Society

We were saddened to learn of the death on 13th February of the long time treasurer of The Clivia Society, Bossie de Kock. This disrupted the Society's administration and some New Zealand members may not have received the first Clivia News for 2009, Clivia News Vol. 18 No 1 Jan-Mar 2009. This was drawn to the attention of the Society and a fresh copy is in the mail to those who missed out.