



# Nz CLIVIA CLUB INC

## NEWZLETTER

Volume 7.4 Spring 2009

### CLIVIA SHOW PICS

Photos from the recent Auckland and Tauranga Shows.



The People's Choice- a multipetal from Rex Williams



Rex and Dee Williams with their winning multipetal clivia



Stunning arrangement from Barry Ferguson



Decisions, decisions. Renee White choosing a pollinator plant



Terry Hatch's Picotee



Maria Davis and blooms



Ian Duncalf's Cyrtanthiflora x miniata

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# BREEDING WITH “EUROPEAN” PEACHES

John van der Linde

There is a group of C.*miniata* which produces colours in the peach to apricot range when crossed among themselves whose origins can, in many cases, be traced back to seed from Europe. Some people refer to these plants as being “Group 2” peaches to distinguish them from Chubb peach, which they term a “Group 1” peach. As I show below, this latter terminology can cause much confusion, and so, for want of a better name, and because of their possible common origin, I am calling this group “European” peach to distinguish them from the other groups of peaches which exist.

The purpose of this article is very simple: Firstly to list some of the peaches falling into the “European” peach category; secondly, to set out which of these peaches can be crossed together so that there is a good chance of obtaining progeny which will also have peach flowers; and thirdly to suggest crosses that should be avoided – unless you wish to get orange flowers! I leave it to others to go into the genetic complexities behind this, and other, groups of peaches.

“European” peaches that are well-known to South African clivia enthusiasts include ‘Cameron’ Peach and others from the same stable, for example the ‘Tipperary’, ‘Niven’ and ‘Welgemoed’ Peaches. All four of these – *more correctly referred to as peach cultivar groups* - originated from seed imported from Europe by the then owner of the Tipperary Nursery, near Nelspruit. Another well-known one, the ‘Victorian Peach’ cultivar group, was bred in California, and plants imported from there are to be found in collections throughout the world. Other Californian peaches which appear to fall into the “European” peach category are ‘Helen’, ‘Tessa’, ‘Ellexa’ and ‘Sunrise-sunset’. You will find some lovely pictures and descriptions in Harold Koopowitz’s book “Clivias”. There are also plants in Australia and New Zealand which apparently fall into this peach category. Have a look at the picture of a cross between ‘Anderson’s peach’ and ‘Jelena’, taken by Helen Marriott. I hope that this article will encourage you to try breeding with “European” peaches. Your efforts may reward you with a magnificent plant like that.

## Distinguishing features of “European” peaches:

Let me hedge my bets by saying that this is a broad guide to identification. It may not be totally conclusive. The leaves of this group of peaches are typically a broadish dark and glossy green. They clearly look different to the lighter green narrower leaves of the typical Chubb peach. The range of colours and shape of the flowers also differs from the Chubb peach, as does their breeding behaviour. I am not good at describing colours, but the flowers of one plant were described by someone as “a rich, warm, peachy-apricot with pink highlights”. A diagnostic feature may be the appearance of small splashes of darker colour in the petals of some, but not necessarily all, of these peaches, possibly as the flowers age or if they are damaged in some way. I will mainly let the pictures with this article speak for themselves. Note the variations in colour within the range. Also, for comparison, note how different the narrower-petal flowers of the ‘unimproved’ Chubb-type peach are.

## Breeding results that can be expected:

What I say below is based on limited personal experience – a few crosses but no flowers yet. I have however read widely on the subject, have spoken with other breeders, and also rely on the views of an upcountry breeder with many years’ experience of working mainly with plants from the Tipperary “stable”. I believe that it is possible to save years by learning from his breeding results, especially his successes.



Amore Olivier's Cameron Peach



Anderson's Elizabeth Peach



Gordon Fraser's Tipperary Peach

## (1) Successes

If you cross plants *within* the “European” peach group, for example, ‘Cameron’ x ‘Cameron’, ‘Cameron’ x ‘Victorian’, or ‘Victorian’ x ‘Welgemoed’ then resulting seedlings with unpigmented bases will – I have been told – *in most cases* flower peach. Seedlings with pigmented bases may flower *any colour* between peach and orange, so do not be too quick to discard them! It is possible, as John Winter has found with seedlings grown from crosses between some plants of the ‘Cameron’ peach cultivar group that *all* the seedlings had pigmented stems, but nevertheless produced flowers in a range of peachy colours. One of these seedlings bloomed for me in 2008 with peachy apricot flowers and a green throat.

## (2) Crosses which will NOT flower peach

As a generalization, if you cross *any* of the “European” peaches with *any plant from outside that group* you will get seedlings that will flower orange. The young seedlings will all have pigmented stems. In particular, here are two examples of such crosses that I know a number of breeders have made:

‘Victorian’ Peach x ‘Chubb’ peach.

These two peaches are so genetically different that they combine to produce flowers which may be very attractive but do not reproduce the colours of either of the parents.

‘Cameron’ peach x Group 2 yellow.

Here the breeders were possibly misled by the use of the term “Group 2” for this peach. Perhaps they thought that the colour would be dominant over that of a “Group 2” yellow, in the same way that the Chubb peach (“Group 1” peach) colour is dominant over that of a “Group 1” yellow. Unfortunately, this assumption is incorrect! It is an easy mistake to make and that is why I prefer a term like “European” peach for this group of peaches.

## (3) All is not lost!

If you have a seedling that has flowered orange (say a ‘Cameron’ peach x Group 2 yellow), you *can* recover the peach colour in the next generation. Try to get hold of some “European” peach pollen and pollinate the flowers of your plant with that. You should get a good percentage (maybe as much as 50%) of seedlings that flower peach amongst the offspring. *My guess* is that they will have unpigmented stems while small and that those with pigmented stems will probably all bloom orange. You might be lucky and obtain some that have flowers in the peach to orange range.

If you now choose to breed further with any peaches ‘recovered’ in this way remember that there could be Group 2 yellow genes lurking in the background. These could emerge to give you a few yellows in subsequent generations, for example, if you were to cross siblings.

Unless you have plenty of room, you should rather not *self-pollinate* your original seedling because, although you will certainly get some offspring with unpigmented stems, some of these will be peaches and some will be yellows and you will have *to keep them all* until they flower to see which is which! Also, as before, remember that yellow genes could be lurking in the background of any peaches that you manage to ‘recover’.

By the way, if someone else comes up with a more appropriate name than “European” peach for this group of peaches I will be the first to accept it. I would like to thank all those people in several countries who have helped me in the preparation of this article and/or who have supplied photographs.

Finally, good luck with your “European” peach breeding.

(This is an updated version of an article written for the Cape Clivia Club e-newsletter “Cape Clivia News”)



John Winter’s Cameron Peach



Gordon Fraser’s Niven Apricot



Welgemoed Peach (John’s own)



John van der Linde's own Victorian Peach



Chubb Peach Cultivar

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### A Link in the Chain Dies

Part of the magic of plant breeding is that it is like a relay race. Individuals make a contribution and then hand on the baton to others.

The name Bodnant is important in the history of the development of *Clivia miniata*, especially yellows.

Bodnant is the estate of the Lords Aberconway, in South Wales. Several generations of Aberconways have been keen plantsmen and have been prominent in the Royal Horticultural Society.

Harold Koopowitz covers in some detail how around 1930, Lord Aberconway obtained some plant material of a yellow Clivia that was being bred at Kew. This led to 'Bodnant Yellow', which I believe Terry Hatch has in his collection, here in New Zealand. Both Koopowitz and Smithers establish that 'Bodnant Yellow' and 'Vico Yellow' arose ultimately from the work carried out earlier by Raffill at Kew.

Now of course Lords have gardeners, who actually do the work, and at Bodnant there has been a dynasty of head gardeners, the Puddle family.

In 1920 Frederick Puddle became Head Gardener and was in due course succeeded by his son Charles Puddle in 1947 and then by his grandson Martin in 1982.

I note that Charles Puddle died on 30 July this year aged 92.

A brief obituary appears in the RHS Journal "The Garden" for October 2009.

Keith Hammett,  
Auckland.



Bodnant Yellow Selfed. John Ingram's plant and photo.

# ShowPhotos



Tauranga Show C. miniata



John van der Linde miniata



Alick McLeman's Green Throat Peach



Brian Sherman's Cyrtanthiflora



Rex William's Ghost

## Website

We are pleased to let you know that the club now has an active website [www.nzclivia.org](http://www.nzclivia.org). At this formative stage the site provides links to other clivia organisations and forums, information about the club and its objectives, publications available through the club, a membership page, and a library of club newsletters in PDF format which can either be read on site or downloaded. In time the website will be expanded to include a photo page, an archive section and other information of value to clivia enthusiasts in New Zealand. Various committee members will be involved in the development of the website.

**Email Communication Forum**-In addition to the website the club has established an internet communication forum using a Yahoo group facility.

The address of the group home page is:  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nzclivioclub>.

The objective of the forum is to encourage the interchange of clivia information and photographs between members of the club. Membership is restricted to members of the New Zealand Clivia Club.

**How do you join?** All members who have email addresses registered with the club will have received an invitation via Yahoo to join the group. Just follow the instructions. If you have any problems, contact Alick at [clivia@xtra.co.nz](mailto:clivia@xtra.co.nz).

Questions, photos, comments related to clivia will automatically be circulated by email to all members of the forum, and any member of the forum may feel free to respond or comment. Because membership is limited to club members there should never be an overwhelming flood of messages as is the case with some international internet groups.

## Clivia Books for Sale

Graham Duncan's latest book on 'Grow Clivia' is an excellent book on all aspects of Clivia and is well worth a spot on your bookshelf. A 193 page volume packed with information including lots of quality pictures. A great read in a non technical way of writing, easy to pick up to just read a section of interest. One of those books that in rereading, you find points of interest missed in the initial read. This book has proven very popular at our meetings and sells out very quickly. We have a new shipment due shortly so would be a great Christmas gift for the Clivia enthusiast in the family. Cost: \$25 plus postage of \$3.

**Clivia Society Annual Year Books:** Each year the Clivia Society publishes a very comprehensive booklet that seems to get larger with each year. Year Book 11 just released has 112 pages. These are a mix of technical, general interest and photos of great Clivia. Each book is a valuable resource of information for both the amateur and serious grower.

**Yearbook 2 – 4 & 6 – 11 available. (Yearbook 1 & 5 out of print)** Cost: \$25 plus p&p of \$2.10.

To order any of these books please contact:

**Diana Holt at [dianah@edgeofeden.co.nz](mailto:dianah@edgeofeden.co.nz) or phone (09) 833 5769.**

**As our website develops, a direct link for ordering will be available.**

# What's Happening



Rex William's Bronze



Tauranga Show Pastel



Auckland Show Peach



Alick McLeman Pastel



Stephanie Blamey Alick's Peach x  
Wittig Pink



Stephanie Blamey Vico Yellow

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 7.00pm**

Subject to be advised.

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

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May 1.30pm.**

Dr Keith Hammett – 'Clivia – Myths & Truths'

Also 'The Biggest Berry' Competition

Also exhibit of gardenii & robusta in flower

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

**Saturday 7 August**

**AGM.** - A full day

Will incorporate a tour of 4 Clivia Gardens.

Details in next newsletter.

**Tuesday 21 September**

2010 International Clivia Conference in Cape Town,  
South Africa. Register now if interested in attending.

[www.miniata.co.za](http://www.miniata.co.za)

**Saturday 2 October 9am – 4pm**

Annual Clivia Show at the Botanical Gardens,  
Hill Rd, Manurewa.

**Late October/early November**

details and subject to be advised.

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

**Tauranga Show:**

Details to be advised.



**New Book release:**

**Clivia – Nature and Nurture.**

Our members who are also members of the Clivia Society in SA would have received details regarding this new book just published.

We have a small initial shipment arriving shortly. Cost of this book will be \$50 plus postage (yet to be calculated)

We will do a full review of this book in our next newsletter but in the meantime if anyone is interested in purchasing this book, please contact Diana Holt.