



Nz CLIVIA CLUB INC NEWZLETTER

Volume 8.4 Spring 2010

Show Photos

Photos from the recent Auckland and Tauranga shows.



People's Choice

A very happy Diana Holt with her winning plant 'Hirao'.



Is there room for another flower on this magnificent Peach?



Judy and Conrad, who together with Ian Duncalf organize the Tauranga show.



Heather Buckley and Sharron Booth



Two types of 'Four Mary's' in the one pot, from Murray and Bev Gow.



Tauranga Show



Green Throat



Keith Hammett making a point.

Contacts:

Chairman	Terry Hatch	hatch.clan@xtra.co.nz
Editor	David Olsen	d.olsen@pl.net
Secretary/Librarian	Diana Holt	dianah@edgeofeden.co.nz
Archivist	Dr Keith Hammett	khammett@clear.net.nz
Treasurer/Membership	Alick Mcleman	clivia@xtra.co.nz
Postal address:	26 Merfield Street, Glen Innes, Auckland 1072	
Website:	www.nzclivia.org	

Show Photos



There's **some** parking inside, but will there be enough for all?



Benching up at Tauranga.



Tony Barnes, Stephanie and Dick Blamey



Sharron Booth and Diana Holt



Lindsay Hatch and visitors.



Rao, Keith and Caroline White



Chairman's Report

New Zealand Clivia Club Inc.
Observations of Terry Hatch - Chairman

September 25th Saturday afternoon Dr Harold Koopowitz gave an impromptu talk at the Weston Springs Horticultural venue, attended by twenty Clivia Club members and six Rose Soc. members. An amiable time was had sharing aspects of horticulture, and plant trends world wide due to the electronic technology now dispersing information. It was also an eye opener to hear of the "throwaway plant society" (all types of flowering plants kept in pots and thrown out once the flower has finished) especially in Europe and America. Thanks to flowering clivia plants brought by Bev and Murray and Tony Barns and single blooms by Barry there was some interesting clivia discussion. Meeting closed with afternoon tea when all enjoyed a friendly chat .

September 26th Sunday afternoon members of the Tauranga area put on a spectacular Clivia Show. Our thanks go to Jude and Conrad for their organization. Ian Duncalf for use of his facilities and garden and other helpers, exhibitors and clivia sales people who helped make this small show a huge success. The display plants were amazing and Dr Harold Koopowitz would have been only too happy to take plants back to USA with him, best real pink he had ever seen! He gave a spontaneous and interesting discussion on the transglobal and movement of clivia and how various peoples had changed them to suit their cultures. The publicity by the local press and support from the community was astounding all plants were sold out well before the end of the show when we enjoyed lovely refreshments supplied by Jude. A small group of the 'Aucklanders' were privileged to be able to visit Rex and Dees wonderful collection at Paeroa. His breeding results blows the mind away and are a challenge for us all to continue our own efforts, thank you.

October 2nd Saturday Botanic Gardens Manurewa 9am-4pm. Clivia Show. This show would not happen without all the hard work that takes place on the Friday morning. Thank you to all those helpers who dedicate time and effort into getting another show set up that we and the public can drool over and be proud of. Sadly we do not get the overwhelming response experienced in the earlier shows despite this year no entry charge. It would be great if you have any ideas how we can lift our profile. Those exhibiting should be commended on their high standard and quality of plants the changes in colour breaks is extraordinary. Clivia Club members enjoyed camaraderie and refreshments throughout the day despite plant sales being slow. To end on a positive note, for many the highlight of the show would have been Diana Holt's first time flowering green clivia that won peoples choice~ There seems no boundaries that our efforts can produce.

Many thanks to the members coming up from Tauranga, Paeroa and New Plymouth who exhibited and a visiting member from Wellington .



Harold Koopowitz livening up the crowd at the show,(left), Keith, Dee, Rex with Harold and his partner Steve Hampson at Rex and Dee's garden at Paeroa (right).

Visits

David Banks is the owner of Hill District Orchids (at Northmead in the Hills District of north-west Sydney) and he has been growing plants for most of his life. He is the current Editor (since 1999) of the *Australian Orchid Review* (a much respected journal) and he also edited *The Orchadian* (the journal of the Australasian Native Orchid Society) from 1996 to 2002. He is heavily engaged in orchid breeding, especially of *Paphiopedilum* (the slipper orchids), and the nursery has a particular focus on orchid species and hybrids that will withstand outdoor conditions (in Australia and northern New Zealand). Like many orchid growers, David is also fascinated with other plants. In his case this includes *Clivia* (he has been breeding these for 10 years, focusing on a wide range of colours), *Nepenthes* (pitcher plants), succulents, hoyas and other unusual plants."

David will be giving a talk at our meeting on Friday the 21st of January, at the AHC rooms 990 Great South Road, Western Springs, Auckland.



Flowers from David Banks, clockwise from the far left – Carnival, Carnival x Tango, Krakatoa and Apricot Queen.



New Member Visits Auckland.

Over Labour weekend, Michael Loh from Palmerston North who has just joined us, made a visit to Auckland to meet various *Clivia* growers to learn more about the 'Plant' that has captured his emotions.

(Don't we all know about that problem?)

Michael is particularly interested in the variegated *Clivia* at this stage but sounds like he is quietly building up his own collection of various types.

It is noted he is our first member from Palmerston North. Welcome Michael.

Yellow Daruma Surprise

By Eddie Pang

It comes as something of a surprise to find out that my apparent yellow Daruma (Golden Sparrow) is not a true yellow hybrid!

Golden Sparrow is a premium quality Anshan blush yellow Daruma with Sparrow genetics. In fact, it is a good example of a "Sparrow Monkey". It has very dominant dwarf genetics and sparrow beak leaf tip like the common sparrow hybrids. However, its umbel does not emerge from the apical growing point, it flowers normally and will not end with growing point rot like common sparrows.

Unlike most of the Anshan blush yellow Darumas which would normally develop the blush color of various degrees between the 1st & 4th day of flower opening, my Golden Dragon (a green throat Anshan broad leaf blush yellow Daruma) shows the blush coloration even at bud stage.

My Golden Sparrow started its first flower of the current season on Sept 26th. That first flower is over 10 days old now & is still rich yellow in color. Most people who saw my Golden Sparrow during the last 11 days thought it is a yellow Chinese Daruma. However, a light pink color will develop along the petals' edge just before the flower drops! It is significantly different from all the Anshan blush yellow Darumas which I have seen in China. Sadly, I wish it was a yellow Daruma too!



Golden Sparrow



The group photo of "He - Golden Sparrow & F1" shows the Golden Sparrow (bottom LHS), and in a clockwise direction, the "F1 (Golden Sparrow X Changchun Cream)" ; "F1 (Golden Sparrow X US Yellow)" & "F1 (NM Cream X Golden Sparrow)".

This group photo demonstrates the dwarf genetics of the Golden Sparrow, it produced F1 with leaf length at 200 - 300mm when Golden Sparrow was used as pod or pollen parent. The Changchun Cream, US Yellow & NM Cream have leaf lengths at 650 - 800+mm. It is also interesting to see that, apart from the flower size, the F1 of the 3 sample crosses produce flowers of consistent pink/pastel picotee edges. The flowers of my "F1 (Golden Sparrow X US Yellow)" have the pink picotee edges from buds till now! No obvious change in the pink areas is observed.

Blush yellow Anshan Darumas are beautiful by themselves, but their seeds should not be offered as yellow Chinese Darumas with the expensive price tag.

Therefore, all potential buyers who intend to purchase seeds of yellow Chinese Daruma from Chinese resellers should ask the resellers to provide a series of photos to confirm that there is no blush color development in the flowers throughout the flowering period, till the last flower drops. The resellers should have no objection in fulfilling this request because genuine seeds of this category are offered at extreme price, and if they are genuine! Apart from a few rich Chinese entrepreneurs who have acquired the expensive yellow Chinese hybrids from Mr. Wang Dian Chun as their prestige collection, there are only a handful of Clivia breeders in China who have genuine yellow Chinese hybrids. Hence, buyers should be more cautious about what's on offer??



Golden Dragon



Clockwise starting bottom left – Golden Sparrow, Golden Sparrow x Changchun Cream, Golden Sparrow x US Yellow, NM Cream x Golden Sparrow.

A group of approx 20 people attended the last meeting of the year.

Keith Hammett did a very interesting presentation and discussion of some the Clivia on display at the Show. This was followed by a couple of videos from the 2006 International Conference in South Africa.

These included John van de Linde describing how the first explorers went out into the wild collecting plants to send back to England, Clivia included. This was followed by a presentation by Helen Marriott on the development of Clivia by the Japanese Plantsman, Yoshikazu Nakamura.

In discussing Japanese plants the question arose of where did 'Hirao', (a green flowered plant that was on show for the first time in New Zealand), come from and what is the background to this plant. Not knowing the exact facts, I got in touch with Helen to find out more in detail.

'Hirao' was named after Dr Hirao, an eminent plants person in Japan. Although Dr Hirao was involved with Clivia among other plant interests it was Toshio Koike from Japan that developed this plant and named it in his honour. Koike originally received seed from South Africa that was possibly from a Giddy's yellow (a Group 2 yellow) although this is not proven, and he now breeds extensively with Group 2 yellows, 'Hirao' being one of them.

Just when we think that there is no more to see in Clivia, a plant like 'Hirao' opens our eyes to what more can be developed.

Diana Holt



Hirao – Diana Holt's plant



Hirao – Japanese plant

Thoughts from the forum

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nzcliviaclub>

I know this is getting away from the problem of peduncle splitting but interested in Keith's comment from changing from Sierrablen Flora to Triabon.

From the early experiments as discussed by Peter, I did purchase a bag of Sierrablen and occasionally used it as a top dressing as I can be a bit slack feeding my plants and certainly not into Fertigation to get 'monsters'. This last autumn I purposely gave all my 4 to 5 year old plants a light sprinkle of Sierrablen around each plant and they are now looking in excellent shape and deep leaf colour with many showing signs of flowering. I guess I will need to wait until spring to see if any splitting occurs. It has been and still is a very wet winter and wonder if that can create the splitting? In looking at the formula for Sierrablen and Triabon, I note the differences are not that far apart from an amateur's perspective.

Sierrablen comes from the makers of Osmocote where as Triabon uses Nutricote in conjunction as an additive. Does one then have to purchase Nutricote and add separately?

I note, Triabon is easier to obtain through Daltons.

Comments from other regarding what they feed their Clivia when in pots would be interesting.

Diana

Sierrablen is primarily designed as a landscape fertilizer and was never specifically promoted for use in pots.

It did give good results in the initial pot experiments that Cindy and myself set up.

The reason I have moved away from it is that it can be misused by the inexperienced and I can not stand over everyone who works with me.

Sierrablen, like all the Osmocotes works by a bubble of resin eking out the release of the nutrients held within. The bubbles are primarily designed to be mixed into the potting medium where they are in close contact with the soil particles, are kept wet and are protected from the sun. They are not really intended to be used as a top dressing. They can be easily dislodged by watering and the resin can be damaged by the sun and give a sudden release of salts.

Triabon is a granular fertilizer that works by a gradual physical and chemical breakdown to release its nutrients over a three month period. I was involved in the promotion of this product when it first became available around 25 or more years ago. More recently, the distribution company Hort Fert Plus (Tel; 09 488 9368) has mixed Triabon with Nutricote, another granular fertilizer to extend the release period from three to eight months. Initially this was sold as Triabon/Nutricote Top Feed. Now, somewhat misleadingly, they market it as Triabon 6-8 month Top Feed.

There is now a tie up between Hort Fert and Daltons, but then the latter is fast moving to become dominant in the market, as is the wont of all corporations and totalitarian states.

The problem we found with Triabon was the short three month release period. It SEEMS likely that Clivias do not take up much in the way of nutrients in the colder and wetter winter months and the nutrients had leached out of the pots by the time the plants were able to use them. In contrast, in the SPECIFIC experiment that we carried out, Sierrablen had a longer release period (plus we had used it incorporated in the potting medium at the recommended rate).

We know virtually nothing regarding the growth cycles of Clivia, yet it is evident from when we have been taking root tips for cytogenetic work that the roots are actively growing at some times of the year and not at others. Once again basic and fundamentally important questions are not being tackled. Much more sexy to work with DNA and to make blinkered postulations regarding the supposed relatedness of species and cultivars.

Cheers, Keith.

Maybe because I used Sierrablen just as autumn was starting and we have had no dry periods since then, along with the natural burst of growth I have always found in this period, Sierrablen leached in the continued damp, enough to make a visible difference?

I know one group of my Clivia that are harder to get to and just left to their own devices over autumn and winter are far behind in development than the others of the same age that I feed in autumn. (Quality of growth, deep green healthy leaf structure, more leaves and buds showing) (No buds showing in the neglected plants – neglect meaning no additional food but similar growing conditions, shade, water etc)

I know this is not a scientific type result of any sort but an observation from the different types of treatment for the same aged plants! All plants discussed are outdoors under shade cloth. But it does tell me, that they do appreciate some sort of feeding in the autumn period where from my observations they have their biggest growth spurt! – Diana.

Flower Stalks Splitting

Just wondering if anyone else has problems with their flower stalks splitting or 'curling' before elongating and if anyone can shed some light on this. I know there are theories that 2 possible factors are overwatering/fertilizing (which is very likely as I do like to feed my plants) and also possible deficiencies. I have also seen mention of a type of rust or insect that may cause damage to the stalk before it starts to elongate and causing deformities.

I was wondering if this would be the clivia equivalent of bitterpit in apples and some of the problems experienced in broccoli and cauliflower associated with calcium and boron deficiency.

Any thoughts?

Antoinette.

A timely subject and I wish I knew the answer. I too was plagued with split peduncles last year. The literature seems to suggest a potassium deficiency and I have been feeding my plants with a high 'K', slow release Osmocote, but looking at the high proportion of split peduncles in early out of season blooms it hasn't made much difference.

On the overwatering, I have a lot of my plants under fibreglass and cut back watering in winter. So they are not getting rained on like the plants in the open shadehouses, yet suffer the same problem.

Simplistically, the problem seems to be one of irregular growth where one side of the peduncle elongates at a faster rate than the other, causing the peduncle to twist/bend and then split when the umbel tries to straighten up. And the problem is not unique to us here in New Zealand as I noted growers in Toowoomba complaining of the same phenomenon. In our case, perhaps it has to do with irregular climatic variation during the winter.

Another observation is that it seems to be more prevalent in plants grown in pots than in plants in my garden.

Any thoughts from the experts would be welcomed.

Regards, Alick in Auckland

hello Antoinette, I would suggest that whatever fertiliser you use should include trace elements, not to suggest a broccoli has got anything on a clivia but split or hollow stems in broc is cause by a lack of boron. Some time back Dr. Hammett did a study on fertilisers and decided sierrablén flora or osmocote gave the best results, the results were included in a club newsletter. 2.3spring 2004. On another tack just thinking, its always the easy answer, do you incorporate your fert in the mix or add it to one side of the pot, this might explain one side of a peduncle growing faster than the other, best regards Peter

Triabon comes from Germany and breaks down physically, chemically and by the action of soil microbes over a three month period. It is not coated.

Both Osmocote and Nutricote are coated products which release their nutrients through a resin coating by way of osmosis with soil moisture. Hence the desirability of having the fertilizer incorporated in the potting medium.

Osmocote comes from Holland and employs an Alkyl resin made from Soya product.

Nutricote comes from Japan and employs a thermoplastic resin.

The difference in the shape of the Nutricote and Osmocote granules/pellets is a function of the differing manufacturing processes. In both cases the fertilizer within the pellets/granules is solid, but goes into solution when the fertilizer is exposed to water.

Triabon 6-8 month Top Dress is a mixture of Triabon and Nutricote, the naming of which, to me at least, is a source of confusion, but apparently has some commercial logic.

Keith.

ORIGINS OF NAMED CLIVIAS SERIES

CLIVIA MINIATA 'ANDREW GIBSON' by Garry Murphie

The Karkloof Forest is situated in the Karkloof Nature Reserve, 22km from Howick in the South African Province of KwaZulu-Natal.

It is a large "Mistbelt Forest" of 936 hectares and is home to many rare and beautiful animals and plants, including the exceedingly rare Karkloof blue *Orachrysops ariadne* - a small blue butterfly classified as 'vulnerable', with only five colonies of the species ever recorded.

It is also home to one of the world's rarest clivias. It was in this forest sometime in the late 1980's or early 1990's (no one knows for sure when or where) that a keen bushwalker named Andrew Gibson came across a stand of *Clivia miniata* in bloom.

To his utter surprise, one plant had the most unusual *miniata* flowers he had ever seen - that plant now carries his name.

The plant that Andrew Gibson collected from the wild eventually found its way into the Heritage Collection of Clivias curated by Sean Chubb of Chubb Peach fame. This collection is aimed at preserving the best and rarest of today's clivias - to ensure that generations to come will have access to them. Sean is one of the world's best known clivia breeders and he runs his business from his property Thurlow Farm - where apart from the Heritage Collection and his own clivia collection, Sean raises cattle and grows fruit.

What makes 'Andrew Gibson' such a rare and sought after clivia is its very unusual arrangement of yellow petals with alternating sepals which are flushed with pink, especially on the outside.

The broad petals are recurved and the pink colouring is light sensitive. This clone has also been referred to as 'Andrew Gibson Pink', 'Andrew Gibson Picotee' and 'Gibson Pink' - but is officially known as 'Andrew Gibson' in the Register of Clivia Cultivar Names.

Sean Chubb has been line breeding for several years using Andrew Gibson, selfed seedlings and a similar plant called Candy Stripes. The F2 generation seedlings being produced have colouration remarkably like the parent Andrew Gibson. These plants are being marketed by Thurlow Flora as Chubb Splashes.

Andrew Gibson is still an extremely rare habitat clone with only a few offsets having been released to Clivia enthusiasts. A clone of Andrew Gibson in flower was sold at the Clivia Society auction held in conjunction with the 2006 International conference for a price of R9500.00 (over \$2,000 Australian). In late March 2010 well known

Cape Town breeder Mick Dower listed an offset of 'Andrew Gibson' for sale for R6,000 - so if you hurry, you might still be able to pick up a bargain.



What's Happening

CLIVIA MIRABILIS

A few years back the club imported a quantity of C mirabilis seed for members. Our experience at the time was as follows:

- The cost was \$10.00 a seed
- Not all the seed germinated well. I would put germination at about 75%
- Growth is extremely slow (perhaps slower than C nobilis) and a few seedlings were lost along the way, reducing the success rate to about 50%
- On the other hand comparing this with the \$350 a plant it cost to import & quarantine a number of C mirabilis plants through the club the foregoing result might appear acceptable

A few members have asked about importing another batch of seed. Anyone interested should advise Alick McLeman at clivia@xtra.co.nz or 26 Merfield Street, Glen Innes, Auckland 1072. The price will be the same as last time, \$10.00 a seed and orders should be for a minimum of 3 seeds. The club will place an order early in December and the seed will arrive about March/April 2011.

Friday 21st January 2011 7.00pm
David Banks Visit – meeting at AHC rooms 990
Great North Road, Western Springs, Auckland.

Wednesday 30th March 7.00pm.
New in 2010 – best new clivia in 2010 at AHC

Saturday 21st May 1.30pm
Talk and slideshow by Terry Hatch – Europe
Visit. Mini-show C. gardenii and C. robusta.

Saturday August 20th
AGM at Joy Plants, 78 Jericho Road, Pukekohe
East. Visits to other gardens.

Sunday 25th September
Tauranga Show, 139 Te Puna Road, Te Puna.

Saturday October 1st
Auckland Annual Clivia Show at the Botanical
Gardens, Hill Road Manurewa.

Wednesday November 9th
Club Meeting.



Ian Duncaif Cloudy Pink



Florid White Lips - Rex and Dee Williams