

WELCOME TO OUR MONTHLY PLANT SHOW AND TELL

4 October 2021

CLIVIA CRAZY!

Portion of the Clivia 'river' at Babylonstoren



Booted Clivia greet visitors to Babylonstoren



Yellow Clivia on the river bank



Jenny, Carla, Rob and Janet with the potted yellow Clivia display in The Puff Adder





On display in
The Puff Adder
this past week



Above: John van der Linde suspects this may be a Japanese-bred Green-throated Group 2 yellow. The green throats are maternally inherited. There are two main and different genetic mutations that inhibit the production of anthocyanin and hence the normal orange of clivias. If a Group1 and a Group 2 yellow are crossed they will “fix the problem” and produce normal orange babies.



Left: The leaf variegation is also maternally inherited.

Photos taken by Jenny at the Cape Clivia Club's Exhibition last weekend.



Also photographed by Jenny.

John van der Linde tells us: “The label says ‘Florid white lips’. The original was bred in Belgium by a professional nurseryman for the flowering potted plant market in Europe.

It is said to be quick growing and quick flowering. Seed-grown plants with that name do not necessarily have flowers that look the same, unless they are clones of the original.”



The Exhibition was not officially judged but there was a team of learner judges being taught how to judge. They chose these 3 as the best there.

Left: Bred from a plant found in the wild called "Andrew Gibson". As you see it has interesting colours in the petals.

Centre: A lovely peach.

Right: A plant bred by the late John Winter. He self-pollinated a light orange flowering Clivia collected from the Umtamvuma Reserve in Transkei (now held in the Kirstenbosch Collection) and obtained some yellow flowering seedlings, yellow being recessive to orange. This one was the best. This may be the original or an offset from it.



Rob and Janet's garden

Clivias – “best year ever”



Andrew and Glenda's garden

Yellow Clivia – “transplanted last year and bloomed this year”



Georgina's garden



Georgina says:

Left: "*Clivia nobilis* aka the green tip forest lily. I have no idea where I got this from. It has been standing in a pot for about 5 years and this is the second time it has flowered. It grows in semi shade behind a bottle brush tree."

Above: "Yellow *Clivia* which my neighbour gifted to me as a bulb 3 years ago. This is its first time in flower. If you look behind the flower you can see another little one beginning to grow."

Georgina's garden cont.

Right: "*Bletilla striata* or the chinese ground orchid. It is the first time it has flowered in about 5 years – probably because it was in a place in the garden it didn't like."



Far right: "*Veltheimia bracteata* aka the Forest lily. This plant has taken ages to flower but I think the wait was worth it . Judging by the leaves, the little snails like it too ."



Georgina's garden cont.

Left: "*Pelargonium echinatum* - this is a succulent perennial which has spiny stems and is summer deciduous. It is reaching the end of its flowering time now. The plant is about 8 years old."



Right: "*Pelargonium incrassatum*. This is another summer deciduous perennial which I bought from Jim Holmes at one of our garden shows about 8 years ago. This and *P echinatum* are grown in pots and kept on my pelargonium stand."



Right: "*Pelargonium odoratissimum* - this plant has been growing for about 6 years. It has really fragrant leaves and is one of my favourite scented pelargoniums."



Susan has questions about the plants in her garden:

This bulb I had on one of the last shows we had. The best ID Cherise came up with was *Hypoxis*, but confirmation is needed. Leaves are a blue-green



Scilla (now *Merwillia*) *peruviana*, one of a few *in pots* which seldom flower. Any ideas to improve the situation? Should they be repotted regularly? Have a few in the garden but no luck as yet.



Three colours of *Veltheimia* growing in pots and have done well for a few years. Dusty pink, lemon, and darker pink. The latter is in the sun so not showing up as it should.



Below: Glenda and Andrew's
Veltheimia "Lemon Flame"



Above: Cherry's Bromeliad *Aechmea* still going strong
(after many months), now accompanied by pink
Veltheimias along the path inside.





Cherry's garden

Aloe cameronii from Zimbabwe, known as the Red Aloe.

Cherry says: "I bought and planted this aloe in May. I loved the red, spiral leaves. Throughout ALL the subsequent winter rains it has remained this vibrant red. Most Aloes turn green in winter, and if the leaves change colour, they gradually go orange/red in the heat and drought of summer.

This Aloe hasn't flowered, nor reproduced yet, but I'm hopeful!

It's planted in the inside rockery."

Cherry's garden cont.

Left: *Lobostemon echioides* (or *fruticosus*). Bought from Fernkloof Nature Reserve about 3 years ago. Planted on the slope of the outside rockery. 'Invisible' when not in flower; just blends into the landscape but eye-catching when in bloom. Lasts a few months.



Right: *Merwillia peruviana*. Planted outside on the flat at the bottom of the slope (sandy soil). Spectacular when in flower, then the leaves turn yellow and it all disappears .



Jenny's garden

Dombeya rotundifolia "Wild Pear"



Flowers coming our of old wood.

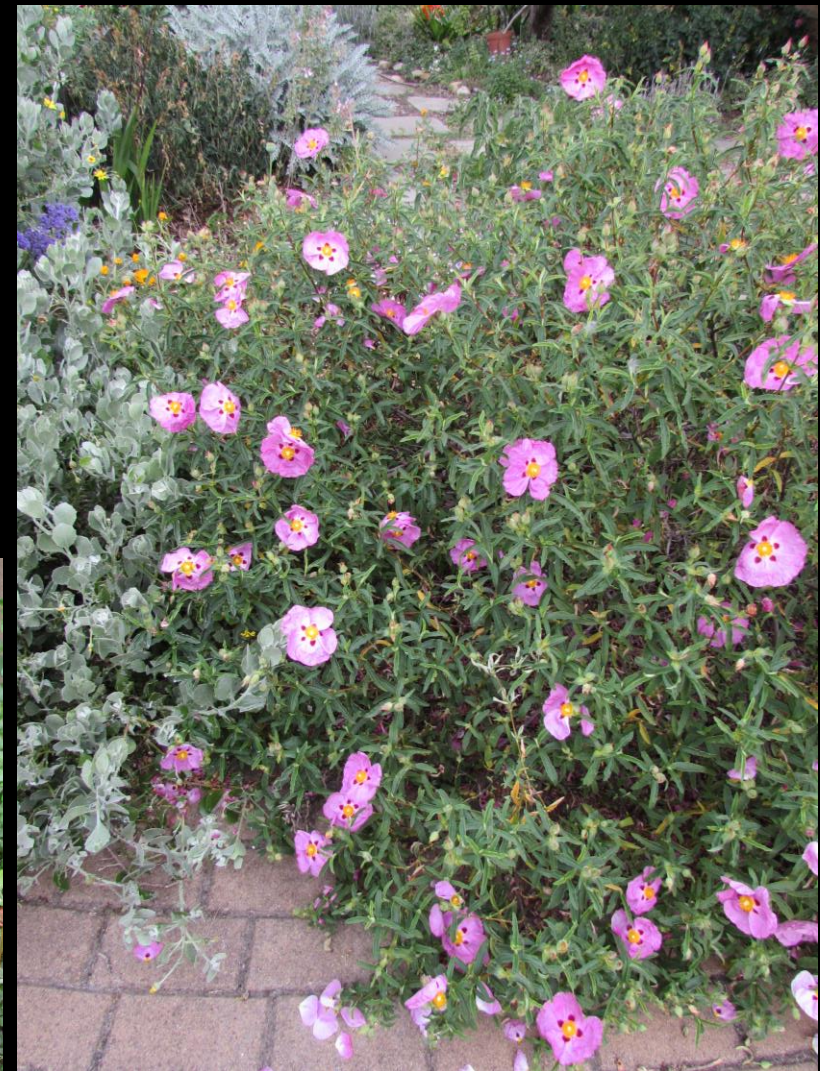




Above: *Pelargonium betulinum album*

Jenny's garden cont.

Below: *Cyrtanthus elatus*



Above: *Cistus*

Jenny's garden cont.



Adenanthos sericeus



Wilma's garden

"MY PLANT TABLE

What would spring be in the Western Cape without bulbs?

All these are indigenous, mostly to the Western Cape and those underlined are found in fields around our property.

1. From the back – one or 2 tall *Gladiolus tristis* (not easy to spot),
2. Next row - on the left and whitish – *Lachenalia unifolia* rescued from our farm road; next to that *Ixia* (pink) labelled *I curta* when bought.
3. Then the purple row – one of the *Babianas* next to *Sparaxis tricolor* from Tulbagh area.
4. Next row down – *Oxalis obtusa* (lemon form) next to *Lachenalia contaminata*
5. In front row – *Spiloxene serrata*, *Oxalis obtusa* (apricot form) and *Romulea exima*."

Wilma's garden cont.

"My West Coast challenge

A profusion of orange *Arctotis hirsuta* (from plants gifted by Errol and Jenny last year) and *Senecio elegans* from last year's scattered seed from the fields on our properties all around this area, and a few Bokbaai vygies in front.



Wilma's garden cont.

The Salvias have been particularly showy this year. The brown one with its velvety blooms is *Salvia africana-lutea* (R) and the blue one *Salvia africana-caerulea* (L) – both enjoyed by bees, small beetles and birds. There is also the lovely salmony pink *Salvia lanceolata*.





Wilma's garden cont.

Melianthus comosus

The Afrikaans name is very descriptive – Kruidjie-roer-my-niet (little herb not to be touched!) because of its disagreeable smelling leaves. *Melianthus major* has larger leaves and very showy brown bracts often used in flower decorations.

However the name *melianthus* is derived from the Greek, meaning 'honey flower' because of the copious amount of nectar it produces. If you look carefully, you will note a black spot at the base of the flower tube. People often think it has black nectar, but actually it is a nectar guide so even the birds without long beaks know just where to peck/pierce the floral tube to get at the nectar. (Thanks Anne Bean for teaching me that!) And yes, birds do love this shrub, especially the little Cape White Eyes.

The seeds are encased in papery balloon-like bracts.

There are usually plenty of seedlings that germinate if anyone would like some.

Isabella's garden

Oxalis snuggling under
Lampranthus "Bokbaai Vygies"



Dombeya rotundifolia



Left: *Gladiolus roujex*

Right: *Senecio* (now *Curio*) *articularis*



Isabella's garden cont.



The Athenaeum garden

Left: *Lavandula stoechas*

Right: *Pelargonium* 'Regal'

