

**Sheffield & District  
Orchid Society  
Newsletter  
November 2014  
WOC Special Edition**



**November Plant of the Month  
*Aerangis luteoalba*  
(Syn. *rhodosticta*)**

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## Editorial

WOW, it's a whopping WOC special edition this month with extra pages and pictures (sorry to those of you who print the newsletter off as you will be cursing me for the extra use of ink...). Enjoy it.

## Business

Plans for the upcoming AGM are now just about complete, with a vacancy still to fill for Secretary. A list is up for members to supply items for the finger buffet. Anyone still holding trophies should remember to bring them to the meeting. The accounts are appended to the newsletter.

Anyone who hasn't yet paid their annual subscriptions should do so ASAP. Richard Baxter has resigned from the Society, and was thanked for his many years of service.

The 2015 BOC Yearbook is now available for members to collect.

Details of the forthcoming EOC in London during April are appended to the newsletter.

This being Armistice Sunday 2 minutes silence was observed at 11am.

## The Table Show

Silvia gave this month's talk and started with *Calanthe vestita* 'Tokyo', with a very tall spike of mainly maroon flowers with white petals. A plant labelled as *Brassia verrucosa* was probably a hybrid from it with a tall spike and mottled flowers. *Onc. longipes* is a rambling plant with a mass of attractive yellow flowers. *Pleurothallis divaricans* is an unusual plant; or rather its flowers are as they hardly open. They tend to appear as just a row of orange globules on a longish spike. *Masd. ignea* f. *rosea* had tall flower spikes with 4 rose coloured medium sized flowers. It grows best in an alpine house.

C. Seagull's Minicat Heaven is a very compact orangey yellow type, which is becoming increasingly popular. Rlc. Cornerstone 'Conipage' was just the opposite being a large purple flower on a large growth. These older fashioned types were used as corsages in the 'old' days.

*Ascocentrum pumilum* was a tiny plant with a mass of tiny pink flowers. *Aerangis punctata* is a small plant with a large creamy flower with a very long spur, and is grown in intermediate conditions. *Aerangis luteoalba* (syn. *rhodosticta*) was a well grown plant with 4 longish spikes full of pale cream flowers. It is grown high up in the intermediate house where it develops good roots. It was adjudged to be the plant of the month (see front cover).

Paphs are now getting in season, with several species on show - *druryi* was a large plant that sadly had just a single yellow flower. Two plants of *wardii* showed both the normal form as well as the album one. *barbigerum* had a drooping flower on a small plant. *henryanum* had a decent sized spotted flower, and *helenae* was quite small. Wössner Tigerprim was nicely split between the parents (*tigrinum* & *primulinum*). A couple of modest complex plants weren't at their best with Cocoa Green and Vintage Harvest.

Den. Ellen is an old hybrid, and a specimen plant. It is reasonably compact with a mass of white flowers across the top (see back cover). An unnamed Den. was a thick caned type with a tall spike containing several attractive purple flowers. It would be nice to know what it is... Thank You Silvia.

# **WOC 21- Sandton, Johannesburg, SA**

History may not record this as a success compared to previous WOCs particularly Singapore which made a huge profit and had 500k visitors and a huge show. Singapore is a tourist destination as well as a large city whereas Johannesburg is just a large city- albeit with a new heart. Sandton is the heart with a shiny upmarket mall but with few customers. It is all designed to interconnect – hotels, malls and convention centre. The new Mandela square and adjoining hotels are exclusive; apartments here cost £1m+. Owners tend to arrive in flashy cars and often there are blacked out tactical support unit's cars and vans outside. These are OTT bodyguards with automatic firearms. The convention centre is a fairly modern building that can host several events simultaneously from -2 to 8<sup>th</sup> floor. Amazingly there were no posters or anything that advertised the event. The timing of the event I found odd. There is always an expectation of what you would expect to see- why go otherwise? I expected to see masses of Disas for filler plants as well as show ones and a huge number of those perfect white Angracoids. There were few to see as it isn't the summer rainfall season. Perhaps it may have been better earlier in the year and it may be that there are good reasons for this. The middle of September in the end of winter in the southern hemisphere and the weather throughout the event was warm and sunny – getting to mid 70's, and having a beer sat outside in the evening in shirt sleeves listening to the crickets and others was a good deal more pleasant than a sunny day in the middle of summer at home up in the south Pennines.

## **Lectures**

The programme appeared well balanced and structured. Prior to the event I thought that three streams were planned, however only two concurrent streams were delivered – but across the three themes. I heard a complaint that speaker didn't know in advance when they were due to speak, although the programme was agreed at least two to three weeks early so that the booklet could be published... as would be expected several lectures were on the rich orchid flora of South Africa and the floral hotspots and biodomes. There is a huge range of course and this is added to by the need for some to have the association of the bushfires that so much of the fynbos relies on. There are so many plant groups and habitats that it is impossible to cover in just a few notes such as this. Disas from the Cape region, deciduous plants from all over, Satyriums et al are all very

impressive etc. There were no aggressive lectures on things such as CITES, in fact CITES wasn't mentioned at all, so no one got hot under the collar. Maybe we are all tired of the subject, despite it being a constant in the life of collectors who want to expand beyond the norm. A decent amount of lectures contained slippers, so I was quite happy there, but some genera were totally missed out. Lauren Gardiner (Kew) gave a good lecture on the reasons why genres change as they have done so this past decade. Her own area of expertise (Phd) were on the Vandaceous group and her explanation makes perfect sense as to why almost all of this group are now straight forward. She has sadly had a load of 'hate mail' as a result. This was followed by Julian Shaw - the Orchid Hybrid Registrar. I hadn't heard him talk before and I have to say that he has a great style of delivery both humorous and informative talking about how he handles changes such as those above. Well done to them all, and especially Zoe Parfitt who had travelled alone from the UK to talk about the work of Writhlington School.



above *Satyrium carneum*

## The Show

There were some fine plants on display but in my opinion not so much about Africa but more about the plants we are so used to seeing in Europe

– Phals, Dendrobates, Vandas etc. The official layouts showed more displays than there were, so some were moved about to avoid large spaces etc, so they ended up with wide gaps and still a feeling of emptiness. The number of displays was a little disappointing as were some of the plants and staging. It was easy to see those who cared and were professional and those which were thrown together, some had some very good plants badly staged and generally labelling was only poor to okay. The judging as at most WOCs is done down to a fine level, and I felt that it was a shame that many lesser rosettes were just clumped together rather than put on the awarded plant(s) so that you knew which one to photograph.

The Best Display went to Indonesia whose exhibit went from the front of the hall to almost the rear. Of course they should be able to source plenty of warm growing plants, but they have to be congratulated for transporting that quantity this far! They had a bit of a problem with a leaking waterfall that required mopping up every few minutes when running, but the benefits outweighed the downside. Vandas of purple, red, orange, blue and off-white (*Vandachostylis Viboon Velvet*) were to the fore mainly draped over mossed trees, with sprays of yellow *Oncidiums* below. Large groups of *Paphs* and *Cattleyas* were the main supporting cast...

Many 'local' societies from Gauteng clubbed together to make a very large display that was based around the various mining industries, a track wound around the display with coal wagons containing the plants from each Society. Well thought out and well constructed, the carpenter was to be congratulated. This contained many fine plants, with a small but impressive specimen *Polystachya ottoniana* with small yellow flowers. *Cym. ensifolium* was a large plant with primrose yellow flowers. Other impressive *Cymbidiums* included Bulbarrow 'Friar Tuck' and the appropriately named Avant Garde. *Trichoglottis rosea* was a huge sprawling plant mounted on 'half a tree'. The flowers are however quite small and can only be appreciated close up which was hard to achieve. *V. Doctor Anek* was a superb crimson flowered plant.

The Tygerberg Orchid group mounted a tiered display with a blue backcloth to show off their better plants in picture frames. *Stenorrhynchos speciosum* was a fine specimen with flame coloured flowers. *Prostechea Beacon Fire* sounded as if it should be the same colour but was a pale yellow and very pretty. Initially the Wolkberg Society's display disappointed me as it featured a golf buggy in a walk through display that also had a large Happy Birthday message for someone. Oh dear! Their plants however were generally of a good quality with a huge

*Dendrochilum cobbianum* with flower spikes up to a yard long. An unnamed specimen complex Paph had 5 large tan flowers very much to my liking. The display's crowning glory was the exhibition's Grand Champion plant. Angulocaste Olympus 'Honey' was a worthy winner with huge yellow flowers that were well shaped and well presented (see back cover). Several Societies combined from Kwazulu-Natal. Their theme was on a boat washed up on a tropical island. It was probably the display with most plants per sq. yard, all decent but with nothing truly outstanding, although Paph. *spicerianum* with at least 21 open flowers takes some beating.

Plantae are an African company and had just about the first display that you saw when entering the hall. My eyes were drawn straight away to a small group of 3 Paph. Fumi's Delight, the best of which was the winner of the best Paph. hybrid in show, truly sumptuous. There were a number of native Stryiums with *carneum* and *oderum*. Afri Orchids had 2 separate displays, one of which was simply made up of the largest *Ansellia africana* that you would wish to see. One of these was the Reserve Grand Champion - 'Tiger Stripes'. There was a huge range of barring and spotting in the group as well as f. aureums. To be honest, all grouped together they didn't look over impressive - as they might have done individually as a centrepiece of a 'normal' display. Can something look just a bit too natural? Their other display was the type that annoys me tremendously! A number of square pillars white painted with graffiti on them was the format, with plants arranged in boxes. It looked as if it had simply been carried in and plonked down somewhat haphazardly. *Eriodes barbata* was a new plant to me (related to *Bletilla*), and is a deciduous 'bulb' with branching spikes of small hooded brown flowers. Den. *senile* was interesting as it was also deciduous, but with white hairs on the recent canes that gives it its name. The flowers are yellow, and produced singularly. *Jumellia Major* was the type of flower that I expected to see a lot of in the show, but sadly there were few of these related geniuses present. There was a smallish group of open flowered pink *Lycastes* with Abou Sunset and Abou First Spring to the fore. Together with the Grand Champion, I have almost developed an interest in this group, and might try some in due course...

The Lowveld Orchid Group put on a 'Pop up Orchid Shop' which was built out of 6x4 plywood which I thought was poor. Despite this they had some good plants with an exceptional Paph. Harold Koopowitz and a couple of contrasting *Guarianthe skinneri* vars. *coerulescent* and *albo-oculata* giving hints of blue. *Neomoorea wallisii* was another new plant to me, and had

tall spikes of small brown flowers. The genus is related to the *Lycastes*, but has flattish flowers with several per spike - very pretty (see page 10).

The Cape OS had a large split display with an old plant hunter/growers set of drawers and equipment with historical posters, followed by their own flower display which was modest and all cut flower spikes of *Cymbidiums* and *Paphs* with a few other bits and pieces. In a first (for me) there was a couple of cut flower *Masdevallias* on the display, and these were dead...

The Taiwan Growers put on a combined display to advertise their great range of sales plants, and also to support their bid for the next WOC (2020). It was mainly made up of *Phals*, and not necessarily the most recent as several names were ones that I recognised. This is probably down to them being left in South Africa after the show rather than returning to Taiwan.



**Above - *Ansellia africana* 'Tiger Stripes', Reserve Grand Champion**

Ecuador was confirmed as the hosts for the next WOC (2017), and mounted a large display mainly through Peruflorea (who operate in Ecuador as well as Peru). Their aim was to highlight native plants as well as promote the region. To that effect they had a large painted glass centre lit from inside. Whilst this didn't affect the plants, it did make it extremely difficult to photograph them. Ecuador rises from sea level to the top of the

Andes. The next WOC will be at sea level (Tourist destination), whereas the trade are best known for the high altitude cool growing miniatures which were highly evident. Many of these are now common in the UK as the climate does suit them, although sometimes we can't emulate altitude. Two different Telepogons looked stunning, as did many other pleuros and Masds. Several groups of Phrags looked good, although the flowers had fallen off the *kovachiis*. It was quite a large display, and they had an ingenious design for the separate units with slot-together corrugated trees with a flat top of glass. It would all have travelled flat packed. My only complaint was that whilst some of the wooden labels had been pre-printed, others had been written with black felt tip which had often run badly making them illegible.

Singapore who hosted the last WOC mounted a decent display of warm growing plants, with some reminders of the fabulous antelope Dendrobiums that were the main feature of their own show. RF Orchids had made the trek from Florida with a cut flower display of Vandaceous genuses. V. Fuch's Sunkist and V. Ken Slump were both very good.

Hsiang Chun had the best collection of Phals. It wasn't a huge display, but if you were looking for variety in mainly white and/or pink hybrids then this was where to come, and their array of small rosettes told its own story. The Western Australian Regional Orchid Organisation (what a mouthful) mounted a display supporting Perth who were also bidding for the 2020 WOC. I appreciate that there are great difficulties in getting any plants into, around the Country, and out of Australia due to their severe restrictions, but the display left me disappointed. Everything was cut flower, with several of the 'local' terrestrials 'planted' into an aluminium bucket of sand which made it difficult to match the flowers to their awful labels - these were printed on simple white paper which had curled all over the place. As well as the terrestrials, there were several Paphs and Cymbids.

### **Extracurricular bits, trips and forums.**

Several trips had been arranged for various things, Colours of Africa, meals and a cheetah trip. I didn't attend any of them as I had very little spare time after the show and lectures. Some feedback I heard was a little bit critical with shortage of transport, different times etc., and for what they delivered probably overpriced, on the back of this the organisation

was often questioned it seems such a shame and I cannot comment on any post conference trips, safaris etc.

Several forums followed the daily lecture streams. These included conservation forums which are very important to turn words into action. The only one I attended was the slipper forum of course! Not as well attended as at Singapore but interesting anyway, good questions and good answers.



Above - *Neomoorea wallisii*

The event was organised with the plant exhibition on the ground floor where it was convenient for the casual visitor, obviously. The exhibition hall is double height, so this effectively takes care of the first floor although the escalator points had had photographic and painting displays but they were masked and difficult to see. These continued onto the second floor-still hard to see. The second floor was the main conference floor with the two lecture halls and committee rooms.

-1 was the building restaurant and coffee shop. This was narrow as it enveloped a viewing platform for -2, another double height exhibition hall, this had more South African plant life including orchids and their endangered habitats especially the wetlands and the need for conservation.

Other indigenous plants had a place, with Proteas, Cycads and ferns having a place.

The final bit here was the cake display and floral arrangements; these were OK, not really my cup of tea but looked OK. Cake decorations conjoined with orchids is something I've only seen previously in Miami. Ranging from novice to grandmaster (eat your heart out Mary Berry!) there were some interesting examples and some that didn't really meet my expectations (OK, I'm not really that bothered!).

## **Conclusions**

Overall, it was both good and bad. The conference lectures were good, and the show was modest at best. It had a lot to live up to following Singapore, and I hope that the next WOC in Ecuador fares better. At the end of the conference it was announced that the hosts for the 2020 WOC would be Taipei. This is subject to ratification at WOC 22 in 2017. The choice is interesting as Beijing was also bidding for the event, (as they both did 3 years ago) and mainland China is no great ally of the offshore island...

## **Dates for your diary...**

### **Monthly meetings at Ranmoor – 10am**

**Dec 14<sup>th</sup>**                      **AGM & buffet. Please attend!**

**Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 2015**                **TBA**

### **shows/exhibits/conferences etc**

**Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>**                      Harrogate OS Annual show, Bramhope  
   \*\* SDOS exhibiting \*\*

Society website - [www.sheffieldorchids.org](http://www.sheffieldorchids.org)



Above - Den. Ellen (at Ranmoor)

Below - Detail of the WOC Grand Champion - Angulocaste Olympus 'Honey'

