



# Newsletter of the Species Orchid Society

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2008

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No Horticultural award this month due to WAOS, BUT surely Maxine's Grand Champion *Aerangis citrata* at the Spectacular deserves this place of honour. This orchid was also the Champion Vandaceous and the Champion Species, thus the winner of the prize donated by the Species Orchid Society of WA.

## **NOTES FROM YOUR COMMITTEE**

**Thank you to all those members who supported the Species Society display at the WA Orchid Spectacular. There were many positive comments about our display, and visitors to the show were amazed at the range of orchids on show. While there were too many helpers to name each (and there is a risk that I might forget someone), Adrian richly deserves special recognition. Adrian designed & sourced materials at no charge and single handedly constructed our display, transported it to the Spectacular, and took charge of pulling it down and taking it away.**

**To all those who helped assemble and disassemble the display, assisted on the plant sales stall, bought plants in and did all the odd jobs that need to be done, well done. You helped make the event a success and each of you can be justifiably proud of the great results. Congratulations to the hard working WAOS Committee who had the vision and drive to make the event happen - may there be many more!.**

**October is the silent auction. Now is the time that we need those divisions that you've been setting aside over the past few months. Remember, its not just orchids that are suitable - you can include books, pots, wine etc - in fact anything that people might bid for. For new members, this can be a great way to get your collection started, so bring your wallet and a box to take home your purchases.**

**Don't forget the parking - please ensure that you park your car in the bitumen parking area whenever possible as it will avoid a fine!**

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Home Visits: November - Adrian and Deanne's

## **SILENT AUCTION**

For those of you not familiar with the Silent Auction, a brief explanation follows:

Lots are set out on tables, and numbered. Each lot may contain a number of orchid plants, and other items that have been donated. Bidding is by way of a slip of paper with your name, the lot number and the price, and you place your bid under the lot (this is why we ask members not to water plants on the day!). At the end of the auction, the bids are collected and the highest bid wins - your name will be read out as the winner but no price. In the event of two equal bids, an open auction will be conducted with the member prepared to increase their bid by the most the winner.

Once the auction concludes, you need to see the Treasurer and pay you account before you pick up your plants. It's a great fun event and for new members, and excellent way to get a collection started. Many of us have purchased very good plants over the year, and I was able to sell some large Dendrobium speciosum in flower at WAOS that I purchased for next to nothing two years ago at the silent auction.



Maxine also owned the Champion Dendrobium, *Den lineale*.



**Champion Phragmipedium was *Phrag besseae* owned by Tony & Sandy**



**Graham Inspecting the Orchidaceous Books on Display**



**The front of the Display with some of our hard working members setting it up.**



**Many hands making for light work**

### WANTED/FOR SALE

Michael Zink is seeking *Aerangis verdickii* pollen as he has been unable to self-pollinate his plant over several years (the seed capsules are empty).  
If pollination is successful, he will send you a flask.  
Please contact Michael on (07) 46354939 or by  
e-mail zinkwithak@optusnet.com.au.

### IMPORTED PLANT NEWS

At the inspection just before WAOS, a number of plants from the March Thailand shipment were released. The July shipment plants are now growing well, but will benefit from another 4 weeks and I have arranged another inspection when we return from Hawaii. I will bring those plants released to the November meeting. While we are away, Tony and Maxine who are accredited with AQIS have kindly agreed to check on the plants in quarantine, and to be available if our house-sitter has any problems with the orchids - thanks both of you.

As you know, Hans Hermans did not arrive for WAOS, and neither Tony nor I have had any response to our e-mails to him. I suspect that this is the end of any hope that Hans would honour his promise to send the plants outstanding from the 2006 trip although I will continue to try to obtain some resolution. In this regard, it would be helpful if members on the 2006 trip could provide details of how much they paid for the plants - if you don't have a record of what you purchased please let me know and I can e-mail you the details that I have. I have to admit that I am no longer hopeful that there will be any satisfactory resolution to this but feel that we did give it our best shot.

Early in the new year, I am keen to bring another shipment in, although the volatile Australian \$ will make it more expensive than it's been for some time (how lucky were we that Tony and Mavis were able to bring plants in when the A\$ was nearly on par with the US\$ - seems like it might be a long time before that happens again!). For those of you that spend time surfing the net, should you happen to find a nursery that seems to have a good range of plants at reasonable prices, or find recommendations on a bulletin board, please let me know and I can investigate whether they provide us with an opportunity.

Ken

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## **The Last WAOS Bulletin!!**

### **Bulletin No 22 October 2008**

**IT'S DONE!! All over bar the shouting!! The WA Orchid Spectacular 2008 has come and gone as these things do. We have had many nice comments from our visitors, from local, interstate and overseas. A huge thanks to all the volunteers who manned the door, the sales tables, the kitchen, the Registration Desk, the bean counters in the back room, the minibus and hire car, the Lecture Room, the judging, the Judges, the set up and dismantling, and the many other tasks that go into making an event like our a major success.**

**An enormous 'thank you' to our Guest Speakers who gave so much of their time to pass on their orchid expertise for our benefit. The Lectures were a class above and were generally well attended by our Registrants.**

**The Proceedings of the 2008 WAOS are being put together right now with much of the Lectures with many photos from the Guest Speakers, plus pictures of many of the orchids on display. You can reserve your copy of the Proceedings on CD by sending \$25 plus \$5 to cover postage & handling to PO Box 58, COMO WA 6152**

**The displays this time round were of a quality that we have not seen before in WA and are a credit to the various Orchid Societies/Clubs and Commercial who put so much thought, time and effort onto them. Well done !!**

**The Bunbury Orchid Society Display surpassed their usual standard and was judged the Best Display in it's class as well as the best Overall Display. Our congratulations go to them, to Maxine for her Grand Champion Aerangis citrate and also Fran & John for their Reserve Champion Oncidium isthmii X leucochilum. See a full list of all the winners attached.**

**Did all go well? No, not all. There can always be improvements and your input and suggestions for improvement would be appreciated. We like to think that we will learn from the experience and your WAOS Committee will take a long hard look at the positives and negatives of WAOS 2008 in preparation for the 2012 Australian Orchid Conference, which will be held in Perth. Moves are already afoot in the planning for 2012 even though it is four years away. (It's amazing how time flies and planning for an event such as this can never begin too soon)**

**Our email database will be retained for future Conferences and updated as and when changes are required.**

**For any queries or questions, please write to, the Secretary, PO Box 4076, Alexander Heights, WA 6064, or email MAVIS.**

**To be included on our emailing list for further Bulletins, please contact TONY**

**Tony  
Publicity  
WAOS 2008**



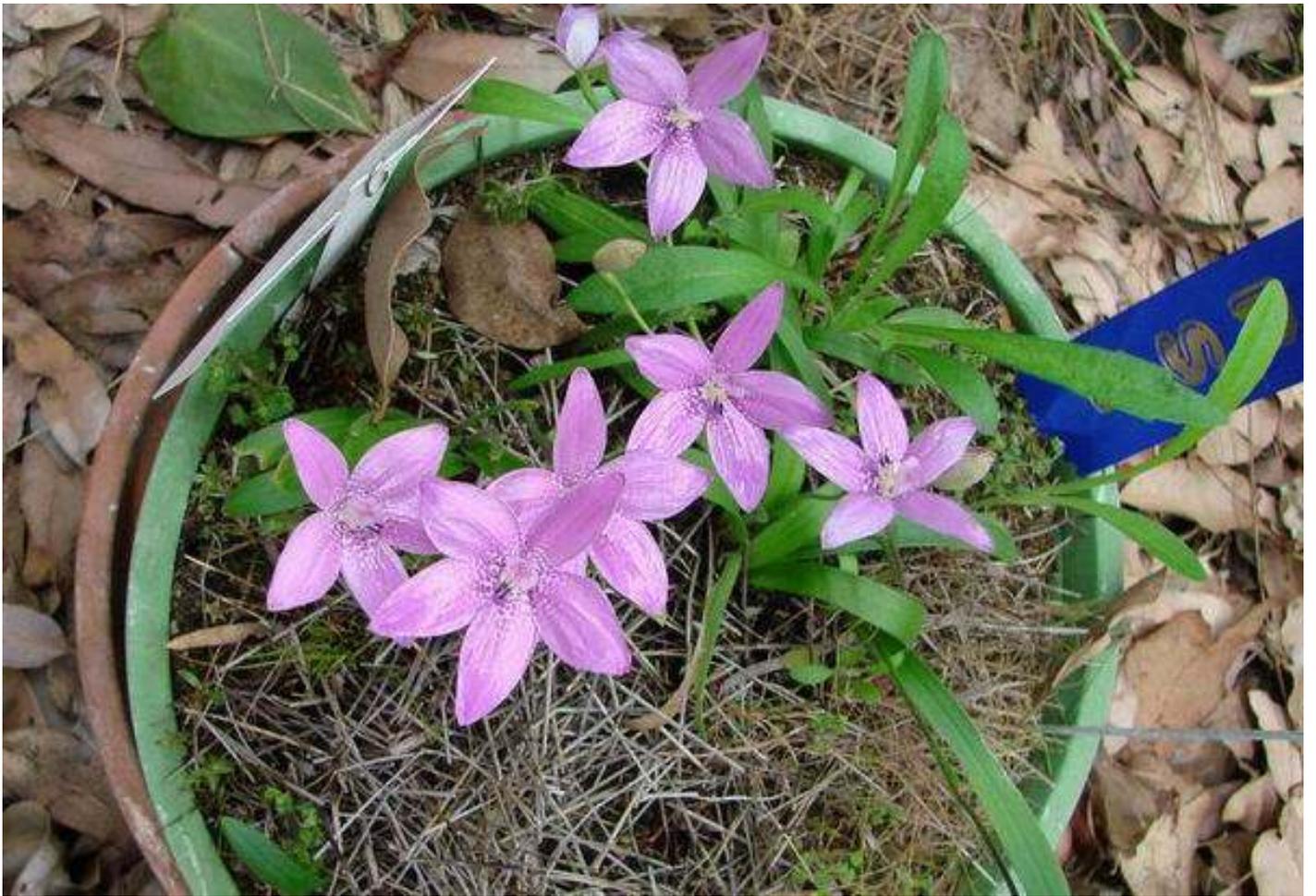
**Part of the front of the Societies Display which was 9mt wide in total.**



**Many of Ron Heberle's photos were displayed on the reverse side of the Display**



**Ken's *Den sanderae* Var Major** attracted many comments and offers to buy.



*Elythranthera emarginata*, the Pink Enamel orchid from WA



*Vanda tricolor Var Suavis*



*Sarcochilus falcata*

## **ECUAGENERA CIA LTDA**

Having been thoroughly entranced by Jose 'Pepe' Portilla's presentation at the recent WA Orchid Spectacular, and having space in this newsletter that needed filling, I thought that it might be interesting to research his company, and what they are doing in Ecuador to preserve and distribute the fascinating species orchids found in his country.

Ecuagenera was founded 50 years ago by the Catholic priest, Father Angel Andreetta in the Bomboiza sector in the village of Gualaquiza (Wal-la-kee' sah), in the eastern province of Morona Santiago. An enthusiastic, amateur botanist, Fr Andreetta began the process of researching, selecting and collecting orchid species. As a result of the work Fr Andreetta started in 1968 Ecuador participated for the first time in a world exposition of orchids in Colombia.

To ensure that his work continued, Fr Andreetta sought out others who would carry on what he had started. A young man who demonstrated a real love for nature: Mario Portilla became his understudy. In due course, there was a need to build a business that could support the conservation of orchids by propagating them for sale. In 1991, José (Pepe) Portilla, Mario's younger brother joined the business, which in 1992, was incorporated as Géneros Ecuatorianos Ecuagenera CIA, TDA. The Portilla brothers were the founding members and Fr Andreetta was their adviser, and this organisation took responsibility for the preservation of Fr Andreetta's extensive orchid collection. This collection is carefully preserved to support the maintenance and reproduction of Ecuadorian species. In 1993 Ecuagenera became the first Ecuadorian business to obtain CITES registration. Since then, Ecuagenera has become a business leader in the research, preservation, and conservation of the flora orquidacea of Ecuador, and is the largest orchid exporter in Ecuador.

More recently, Ecuagenera has purchased two areas of high mountain jungle, one somewhat lower in elevation than the other as reserves. They can be visited as part of a tour that Ecuagenera conducts and provide an opportunity to photograph flora and fauna in a natural setting, and better still, what you see and photograph in the wild in the reserves you can purchase in our nursery and take home.

Before acquiring these reserves, Ecuagenera planted back areas of primary forest, only to find that next time they visited, the newly planted orchids had vanished, stripped by unscrupulous collectors who sold them in the local markets.

Ecuagenera Co. Ltd. offers orchid tours throughout Ecuador, including their own reserves not far from Cuenca. Tours of up to 16 days can be arranged, or for those with less time, just the reserves will show a wide range of species orchids. These reserves show just how the primary forests are able to recover given time and protection as large parts were previously grazing land. In addition to the naturally occurring orchids, Ecuagenera re-establishes Ecuadorian orchid species specific to that climate to develop a botanical garden. These habitats are perfect to transplant orchids from our laboratory, and the count of species now exceeds 1000. For the enthusiast, there is also the opportunity to volunteer to assist with re-establishing orchids in the two reserves. Every week sees the replanting of more orchids and volunteers are welcome to help in the endeavour. Over time, it is hoped that these two reserves will contain most, if not all, of Ecuador's orchids. There is no better way of getting hands on experience!

In future, it is planned to construct unobtrusive and jungle-sympathetic bungalows to allow visitors to the reserves to spend a few days in Ecuador's high jungle, while enjoying fresh Ecuadorian coffee and hot chocolate and a hearty breakfast to prepare one for a day in the jungle.

In addition to providing employment for many Ecuadorians, Ecuagenera has built and financially supports the local school. What started out as primary school now provides primary, secondary and post secondary (university) education for local people that would otherwise have limited educational opportunities. Pepe Portilla is a frequent visitor at major events in Europe, Asia and USA creating more Ecuadorian orchid enthusiasts, and promoting his country and business. We were privileged to have him visit for WAOS, and in recognition of the friendship and support that he received, he gave the Species Society a DVD of his slide show (MS PowerPoint) that we will put into our library, so if you were not able to attend his presentation, you can look at his excellent photos of species orchids in situ.

Garrie and Lesley Bromley who were here for WAOS have been to Ecuador and toured with Ecuagenera, and are leading a tour there in March 2009. A few members are contemplating doing something similar - perhaps in 2010.

Ecuagenera's web site at <http://www.ecuagenera.com> is well worth a visit, and includes much of the information above, plus many fabulous photos of Ecuador's rich diversity of orchid species.